



Barbara Bush remembered as active member of her church

Barbara Bush, George H.W. and their children have been **members** of St Martin's Episcopal Church since the early 1950s, when there were only 250

people in the congregation, Jose Grinan of Fox news writes.

"President Bush was a very active lay leader in his early years here. But it was not uncommon to see him serving **coffee** on Sunday morning. Both of them taught in our Sunday school program. Both of them been involved in our outreach ministries," recalls Rev. Dr. Russ Levinson, Sr. Pastor at St. Martin's Episcopal Church.

Since the 1950s, St. Martin's has grown exponentially, creating a need for more space and other contemporary worship buildings



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and pastoral sites on campus. and, a much larger sanctuary for members of the congregation who preferred the more traditional church service.

"It's the largest Episcopal Church in United States and the largest, I say, the largest expression of Anglicanism in North America. We're just shy of 9,300 members and some our average Sunday attendance is probably between 1,800 to 2,000 average weekly attendance is about 2,500 to 2,700 because with midweek services."

Despite its growth, whatever Barbara Bush and her family to St. Martin's more than 60 years ago, has kept their spiritual interest and helped mold their religious lives.

"There are plenty of times when we were really crowded, which is a great problem as a church. And you would see the president or Mrs. Bush or both of them get up and offer their seat to somebody else or scoot over so that people can squeeze in."

It seems every week, Mrs. Bush loved talking to other parishioners about all of her children. She shared stories about a son who became president, who much, much earlier had appeared in children's pageants at church.

She was like every other church member and never used her status as the wife of a famous U.S. politician.

Barbara and H.W. Bush were not the only high-profile members of St. Martin's. Former Secretary of State James Baker and his wife are also among the worshippers.

Now, with the former first lady's passing, she will definitely be remembered by many who attend this magnificent Houston church.

Communicating the family can be counter-cultural, says Archbishop Eamon Martin

Archbishop Eamon Martin is convinced that a constructive culture of engagement, rather than a pointless culture war, is the best way



to ensure that the voice of faith, communicating the Family, can be heard.

The Church's vision of the family as a faithful loving relationship between a man and a woman, open to the gift of children, is "Good News" for society and the world.

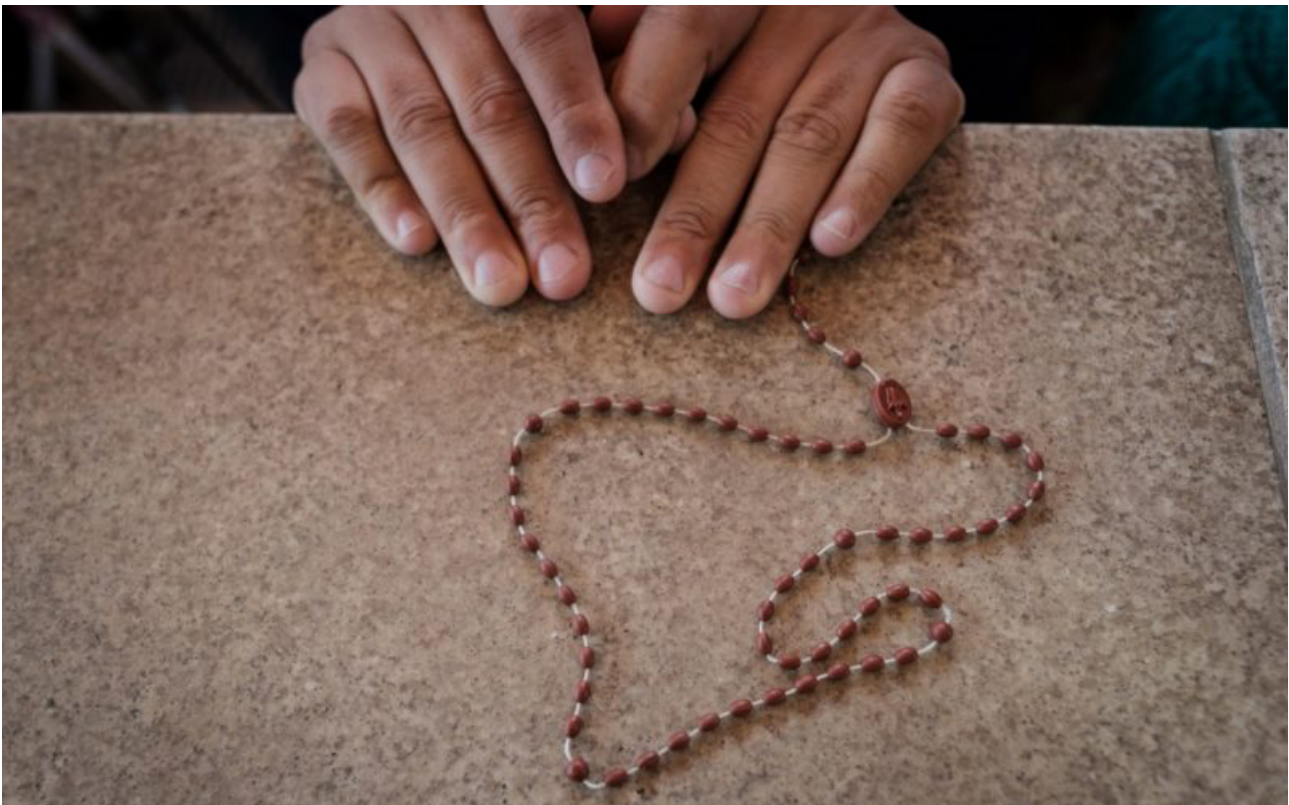
This was the assertion of Archbishop Eamon Martin, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland in an address at the 'Dialogue, Respect & Freedom of Expression in the public arena' conference in the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross, Rome.

"Communicating the family in this way can appear increasingly counter-cultural in many parts of the world, including Ireland," he added.

There has been a departure in public discourse from the "philosophical and anthropological underpinning of marriage," he said, and "the erosion of social supports for traditional marriage" such as in the constitution and legislation.

In addressing the conference on Tuesday (17 April 2018), the Archbishop stated that Irish eyes were smiling when Pope Francis announced that Dublin would host the World Meeting of Families in 2018 (WMOF), but they smiled even more when Pope Francis announced his intention to attend the event. He went on to address how such a "joyful" message could be addressed in an increasingly secular Ireland.

Today is very different from when the then Pope John Paul II visited Ireland in 1979. Secularisation can be seen in the steady decline in church attendance and vocations, he said. In Ireland now, faith is considered just one of many options.



“There are ongoing calls from some quarters for the removal of the Church’s perceived remaining influence in schools, healthcare and public policy making,” he said. Then, in the aftermath of child abuse scandals and what he called “other shameful episodes of the past”, there are people who feel they can no longer trust the message of the Church.

“The sins and crimes of sexual abuse in the Church have not only had tragic consequences in the lives of victims and their families, but have also, as Pope Benedict XVI put it in his Pastoral Letter to the Faithful of Ireland in 2010, ‘obscured the light of the gospel’,” he said.

In this negative environment the Church is challenged and must work alongside those of other faiths and none, to encourage conversations at a national level on the challenges and opportunities in family life. He said he is convinced that a constructive culture of engagement, rather than a pointless culture war, is the best way to ensure that the voice of faith, communicating the Family, can be heard.

“It begins with our conviction that, among the many types of family that are out there, the Catholic Church’s vision of the uniqueness of a faithful and exclusive union between a married man and a woman

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and their children, is not simply for the privacy of our homes and churches. The Gospel of the Family is meant for mission. It is not to be cloistered away from the cut and thrust of public discourse.”

He suggested that the Church’s vision of the family is best communicated by families. “It is in the family that values are transmitted, the wisdom of generations is passed on, the choices between right and wrong are evaluated, connections with the past are made, links with other families are made and upheld. It is in the family that we first are loved and where we first learn how to love,” he said.

He said that movements, associations, basic Christian communities and many other networks that guide and nourish the marriage and family ‘vocation’ need to be part of WMOF.

“For a while I thought that the task of proclaiming the Gospel of the Family in the Church was primarily up to me as a bishop or as a priest, but I have become more and more convinced that the Church’s vision of the family is best communicated by families, and in families, to families. At the 2015 Synod on the Family, I learned that the family is not simply the object of ministry and evangelisation, but it is a powerful agent of evangelisation,” he said.

He concluded that the World Meeting of the Families offers an opportunity to communicate the Gospel of the Family as good for society and good for the Church; it is, as the event theme suggests, a message of Joy for the world.

44 good causes assisted by St Patrick’s Cathedral, Dublin

The work of 44 charities and organisations was celebrated on Tuesday evening (April 17) at St Patrick’s Cathedral, Dublin. Almost €125,000 from the cathedral’s Community and Charitable Fund has been distributed among the local, national and international charities and their contribution to society was honoured at a reception following Choral Evensong.

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The fund, which was generated through collections at the Eucharist and donations at the candle stands during 2017, was allocated to charities working in the areas of Christian faith in action, health and wellbeing, alleviation of suffering, community support, inclusivity and education.



Speaking to the gathered representatives, the cathedral's Dean, the Very Revd William Morton, said they were conscious of God's blessing that through the ancient place of worship and the tradition of excellence of worship, history and faith, people continued to be drawn to the cathedral and be inspired by it.

"It is so good that, through their response to the church and their experience of spirituality here, that what they contribute we in turn offer back to God by helping you, charity and community partners, to bring aid and support to those on the fringe, to those most in need of help," he stated.

"So, in a real sense, this evening's event is an opportunity to showcase your wonderful work in channeling resources to those who need help most. We are not wishing to 'blow our own trumpet' churchnewsireland@gmail.org

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so to speak but, rather, express our gratitude at the extent of how others benefit. And they do so daily through the life of this cathedral through all the different aspects of our work here. And what is being done is forging and building up the community in terms of relationships,” the Dean added.



A total of €124,269.57 was collected in the Community and Charitable Fund in 2017.

Organisations who received support include: Alzheimers, An Cosan, ARC Cancer Support Services, Barnardos, Bru York Service, CAP – Care After Prison, Carmichael Centre, Christian Aid, Dioceses of Dublin & Glendalough – Dublin’s Fair City, DSPCA, Dublin Rape Crisis Centre Fundraising Account, Dublin & Glendalough Housing Appeal, Dublin University Mission to Chota Nagpur, Fettercairn York Horse Project, Focus Ireland Day Services, Irish Cancer Society, Irish Landmark Trust, Irish Penal Reform Trust, ISPCA Childline Services, Kevin Street Garda Youth Division Fund, Laura Lynn Children’s Hospice, Liberties Afterschool

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and Breakfast Club, Mageough, Merchants Quay Ireland, Mia Hair Restoration, Our Lady's Hospice & Care Services – Hospice Coffee Morning, Palmerstown Wildcats Special Olympic Club, Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre, Peter McVerry Trust, Pieta House, POS Children's Education Fund, Protestant Aid, RADE, RAF Benevolment Fund, RAF Benevolent Fund – Battle of Britain, Royal British Legion, SARI (Sports Against Racism Ireland), Shannon's Hopeline, South West Inner City Network, SPCK Prayers on the Move, Spirasi, The Alice Leahy Trust, The Asra Hawariat School Fund, The Hospice Foundation and The Mendicity Institution. Support was extended in other ways than direct funding, including collaboration with other organisations such as the Road Safety Authority of Ireland, Dublin Fire Brigade, An Garda Siochana and many more.

Portstewart rector installed as Canon of Belfast Cathedral

The Rev Stephen Fielding, rector of Agherton Parish, Diocese of Connor, was installed as a Canon of Belfast Cathedral on Sunday April 15

Family, friends and parishioners travelled from Portstewart for the service, which took the form of Choral Evensong. A number of clergy colleagues from the north coast also attended, including Father Austin McGirr, Parish Priest, Star of the Sea Parish, Agherton.

The new Canon, who until his appointment was a Minor Canon of St Anne's, was installed by the Dean, the Very Rev Stephen Forde – the new Dean's first installation service since he arrived at the Cathedral on March 4.

A native of Londonderry, Stephen has a degree in Economics and Geography from the University of Ulster and worked as a geological technical assistant in London before studying theology at Trinity College, Dublin.



Dean Stephen Forde with St Anne's new Canon Stephen Fielding, centre, and Stephen Fielding's wife Julia and children Christopher and Sarah.

After his ministry training he was curate in the parish of Bangor Abbey, Diocese of Down, and in 1997 he was appointed to the parishes of Templepatrick and Donegore, Diocese of Connor. He was instituted as rector of Agherton in April 2007.

Stephen's links with Belfast Cathedral go back to the days when he was a chorister at St Columb's Cathedral in Londonderry, and visited St Anne's each year for the Four Choirs' Festival, which has since been discontinued. He has been a Minor Canon since 2002.

Stephen said he was delighted to have been offered the Canonry by the Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev Alan Abernethy. "It is lovely to have the chance to serve the Cathedral in a different way and I am looking forward to working with Dean Stephen Forde and other members of the Chapter," he said.

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Speaking after the announcement of Canon Fielding's appointment, Dean Forde said: "For many years Stephen has been a Minor Canon in the Cathedral and has lent his voice to lead worship on many important occasions.

"As Dean, I am looking forward to welcoming him as the newest member of the Cathedral Chapter and seeing him take his place within the life of the Cathedral."

Putting God's Will First in Donagh

"Denying ourselves means putting God's will first", Bishop Ken Good said, as he confirmed a young parishioner from the Movice Group on Sunday afternoon. It was the second of two services the Bishop had taken part in that day; he had earlier been at Conwal Parish Church in Letterkenny.

Bethany Turner was confirmed at a service in Donagh Parish Church, in Carndonagh, in front of her immediate family and members of the wider parish community. The Bishop's Curate for the Movice Group of Parishes, Rev Suzanne Cousins, who had prepared Bethany for confirmation, led the service, and Bethany's sister, Katie, performed a solo.

In his sermon, Bishop Good spoke to the congregation about Stanford University's 'Marshmallow Test' – an experiment in delayed gratification – in which 600 children were offered the choice to have one small treat – a marshmallow – immediately, or two if they waited for quarter of an hour. In the test, a third of the children waited long enough to get the extra reward.

The Bishop said follow-up studies suggested that the more restrained children – those who were able to delay gratification – fared better in education.

"Jesus said one of the keys to being a follower of his was being able to deny yourself," Bishop Good said, as he produced a small tray with a number of marshmallows on it. "Learning that discipline of denying ourselves and doing what he wants, rather than doing what we want, is very important. And there are times when being a follower of his is difficult, like when our friends want us to do what



they're doing right now, and you say, 'No, I don't think I should do that.' Or when we ourselves want to give into temptation because we think that could be great fun, and we say 'No, being a follower of Jesus I'm going to say "No" to that; I'm going to do what he wants me to do.' to do.'

"Denying ourselves means putting God's will first," Bishop Good said, "and learning to live life his way, rather than for our own gratification. It affects the values we hold, the choices we make, the lifestyles we opt for, and the way we develop relationships. All of these things are affected by this marshmallow test."

Bishop Good said we were in danger of being too influenced by what happened on social media, or what our friends thought was true, or what public opinion said. But followers of Jesus took a longer view than that.

He showed the congregation the Bible his mother presented to him when he was 16 years old. "Inside the front cover, my mother wrote: 'To Ken, with very much love from Dad and Mum, 1st November, 1968'. I'd been confirmed not that much earlier, and at the bottom of the page my mother wrote these words: 'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not rely on your own understanding.

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In all your ways acknowledge him and he will make straight your paths.'

“The point is this: this book is old, but I find it contains real wisdom and truth that social media doesn't have. This has stood the test of time and I find that leading my life based on this makes far more sense than leading my life based on Instagram or Twitter. Delayed gratification? This is an example of it. We can easily be influenced by what we see on TV or what magazines say or what our friends think is true, but actually it hasn't stood the test of time, whereas this [Bible] has.”

Bishop Good concluded by advising Bethany that living as a follower of Jesus was the best way to live her life. He reminded the teenager of Jesus's words in the Gospel reading (Matthew 16: 24-27): “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

After the Confirmation Service, refreshments were served at Donagh National School, about half a mile from the church.

