



Armenian Community gathers to remember victims of genocide



Clergy and members of the Armenian community in Ireland at the Khachkar Memorial.

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A service of remembrance marking the 103rd anniversary of the start of the Armenian Genocide took place in Christ Church Cathedral Dublin on Sunday evening (April 22).

The service was organised by the Armenian Orthodox Church and Community in Ireland and their bishop, Bishop Hovakim Manukyan, travelled from London to preside. The service was attended by the Archbishop of Dublin, Dr Michael Jackson, Dean Dermot Dunne, and Fr Kieran McDermott, Administrator of St Mary's Pro-Cathedral.

Following a welcome by the Dean, the service opened with a greeting from the chairperson of the Armenian Church and Community, Ayda Sarafian-Lundon.

The Honorary Consul of Armenia in Ireland, Ohan Yergainharsian, gave a history of the Armenian Genocide in which 1.5 million people died. He said that Armenian people worldwide gathered on or near April 24 each year to remember and honour the lives of their ancestors who died in the genocide and to celebrate the survival of those who went on to build anew and create afresh and to contribute to Armenia and their communities around the world. He said many countries had recognised the Armenian Genocide and called on Ireland to do the same.

Dr John Paul Newman, a lecturer in Twentieth Century European History in Maynooth University, spoke about the parallels between the Armenian Genocide and the Balkans who were also part of the Ottoman Empire.

In his reflection, Bishop Hovakim Manukyan prayed for justice for the victims of the Armenian Genocide. He said that they continued to witness in hope that the victims of genocide would be recognised and remembered.

After the service, flowers were laid at the Armenian Khachkar Memorial in the grounds of Christ Church Cathedral.

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Townsend St Presbyterian to be 'All shook up' for Children's Hospice

If you are 'lonesome' this Saturday night (28th April) - 'blue suede shoes' optional - Townsend Street Presbyterian Church is the place to be as the church will be rocking with Elvis impersonator and retired Anglican vicar, Rev. Andy Kelso, with all profits going to the Northern Ireland Children's Hospice.

Located between the Shankill and the Falls Road beside the Peace Line in the city, this isn't the first time that there has been rocking in

the aisles, as local minister, Rev. Jack Lamb explained. "Four years ago the songs of Elvis Presley had people dancing in the aisles when we had a similar night, which was a great success.



"Andy looked and sounded like the 'King of Rock 'n' Roll', as he wowed the crowd with classic Elvis songs and nuggets of information about his life. The good news for Elvis fans is that Andy is

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bringing Las Vegas back to Townsend Street with his tribute act on Saturday 28th April at 7.00pm. This show will include the story of Elvis' life and The King's love of gospel music.

“The last time we had a few hundred people from all parts of the city and further afield coming along, so I hope we can do even better this time around as all the profits from this event will go to the Northern Ireland Children's Hospice. Everyone is welcome” Jack Lamb said.

No tickets are required for the show as admission will be by voluntary donation at the door. Refreshments will be available at the interval and the peace gate will be open for the event with car parking supervised throughout.

Iona's John Bell for C of I General Synod

John Bell, a member of the Iona Community, Presbyterian minister, broadcaster, hymn-writer and international lecturer will be the Changing Attitude Ireland speaker at this year's General Synod lunch-time session on Friday May 11th.

He has chosen the title, “God, Delight and Diversity”, and plans briefly to explore three subjects: problematic approaches to scripture, the created order as diverse by design, and the need for the laity to have their intelligence, experience and aspirations inform the Church's deliberations on sexuality.

Bell was largely responsible for the Church of Scotland's most recent hymnal, and with his colleagues has produced songs and liturgical materials which are used and have been translated across the globe. He regularly speaks at the Greenbelt Festival on issues relating to scripture, spirituality and justice. His work has resulted in the conferring of several academic and ecclesiastical honours, most recently the Thomas Cramner Award for Worship from the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Last year, in response to the story of the teenager Lizzie Lowe, who took her own life rather than tell her parents about her sexuality,

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John Bell publicly came out as a gay man, admitting that he had remained single in order to work without compromise as a public Christian.

A new chapter in work of Kilbroney Centre in Rostrevor

The Kilbroney Centre in Rostrevor has opened a new chapter with the appointment of Jan Peach (photo below) to the post of Development Officer.

The centre is well known as the venue for our highly successful Kilbroney Adventure Camps each summer and hosts groups of youth and children and adults throughout the year. The buildings have undergone some significant improvements over the past 18 months and Jan in the new post of Development Officer will help the centre achieve long-term sustainability and, most importantly, to reach out to many more people through this ministry.



Speaking of her new role, Jan said, “Having been involved in Christian residential ministry both here and in Scotland at the Abernethy Trust for over 28 years, I am delighted God has brought me back full circle to the Mournes. As a family we love the Kilbroney Centre,

primarily through the work of Kilbroney Camps and it is a privilege for me now to help develop the Centre during this next stage. The Kilbroney Centre has so much potential yet to be utilised and a strong foundation laid by the local church in Rostrevor. I look forward to building on this for the glory of Christ and His Kingdom.”

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Diocesan Development Officer and Kilbroney Board Member, Andrew Brannigan, said, “We are delighted that Jan Peach has taken up this new post as Development Officer for the Kilbroney Centre. Jan brings a wealth of experience in a residential centre setting, a passion for the ministry and also an involvement with the Kilbroney Centre over several years. It’s our hope that the Centre will grow markedly in its provision with new activities, new programmes and new people year on year and Jan is the person to help us do this. If any parishes are thinking of using a residential centre please get in touch with her.”

Jan is already in post and can be contacted by email at: booking@kilbroneycentre.com and on mobile 07342 883538. Find out more about the centre at www.kilbroneycentre.com.

Ashers case ‘could impact Christians in their day to day life’

Almost 600 people turned out to show their support for the family at the centre of the ‘gay cake’ row in Portadown on Monday evening. The McArthur family, which owns Ashers Baking Company in Belfast, is challenging a ruling that their refusal to make a cake with the slogan ‘Support Gay Marriage’ was discriminatory, with an appeal to the Supreme Court to taking place in Northern Ireland on May 1 and 2.

The Christian Institute, which is providing legal support to the family, has organised a series of support meetings this week, though the McArthurs will not be attending in person.

With 20 minutes to go before the start of the meeting at the Seagoe Hotel on Monday, it was clear that the 360 seats were not going to be enough. Staff hurried to bring in extra seating to cope with the eventual crowd of 550 people.

Outside, drivers abandoned cars in the packed car park while others parked outside down the road. The meeting opened in prayer and the mood was dignified.



Some 550 people attended a Christian Institute meeting in support of Ashers Bakery at the Seagoe Hotel on Monday evening

After speaking to many of those present, it was evident to Christian Institute Northern Ireland officer Callum Webster why the turn-out had been so large.

“People are concerned about the MacArthur family, but they are also very anxious about what is happening and see the wider issues at stake,” he said. “They see how they could impact on them and their businesses and how they live out their Christian faith in their day to day lives.”

Those attending were given a presentation on the organisation, which was started by teacher Colin Hart and now employs 43 staff, campaigning on issues such as sexuality, abortion, euthanasia and abortion.

Then deputy director Simon Calvert told the audience: “I know that the McArthur family will be so encouraged that so many of you turned out tonight to show your support for them”.

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He voiced concern that anti-discrimination legislation which had been drafted to protect people of faith now risked “being turned into a sword when it was meant to be a shield of protection”.

And he noted that the McArthurs had drawn the support of gay rights campaigners Peter Tatchell and Jeffrey Dudgeon.

In the course of hearings to date, he said, one judgment against the McArthurs had also rebuked the Equality Commission for failing to offer the family legal guidance.

The precedent being set, he said, could in the future see atheists, Muslims, Roman Catholics and the gay community itself all caught in similar discrimination cases where they feel unable to provide business services which might compromise their convictions.

Further meetings have been organised this week: Wednesday at 1pm in Marine Court Hotel, Bangor, Co Down, and 8pm in Templeton Hotel, Newtownabbey, Co Antrim; Thursday at 8pm in Roe Park Resort, Limavady, Co Londonderry; Friday at 8pm in Corick House Hotel, Clogher Valley, Co Tyrone. Report and photo - courtesy News Letter

The White Angel of Dieppe - Sister Agnes Marie

It is with deep sadness that we have recently heard of the death of sister Agnes Marie at the age of 103 - 'the white angel' had rescued many injured during the Dieppe Raid on August 19, 1942.

As a young nun and nurse, she had provided assistance to wounded soldiers during the raid on 19 August 1942.

She was a figure, a symbol and a memory that greatly exceeded her, modesty and reserve. In 1936, Agnes-Marie Vallois was distinguished by her courage during the Anglo-Canadian raid of 19 August 1942 by providing relief to the wounded, challenging the iron authority of the Nazis occupying the territory to provide first aid to the injured.

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Since this heroic episode, sister Agnes-Marie's figure was a true symbol for the dieppois, but also for the veterans of the raid.

Matters musical

The Priests Swimathon fundraising for Cancer Research and Marie Curie

Fr Eugene has just signed up for this weekend's Swimathon 2018 fundraising for Cancer Research UK and Marie Curie. He'll be in

Queen's PEC pool on Sunday morning at 9am aiming to complete 2.5km. You can make a donation at <https://t.co/x1Qr9zSiou>



DOWN CATHEDRAL'S WONDERFUL ORGAN NEEDS YOUR HELP.

Come along to our **HOG ROAST** on 26 May 2018 and enjoy an evening of good food, fellowship and fun. You'll be contributing to the protection of this beautiful instrument too!

26 MAY 2018
LAKESIDE INN, DOWNPATRICK, 7PM

TICKETS:
£15 ADULTS / £8 UNDER 12s

Available from Down Cathedral Office and choir members

DOWN CATHEDRAL
**ORGAN
APPEAL**

Choristers of St Patrick's, Dublin, launch their latest CD on Friday

The Choristers of St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, will be launching their latest CD on Friday April 27 at 6.15 pm. 'How can I keep from singing?' is a mix of Irish song, sacred

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gems and a little jazz. They recorded it last year to help raise funds...[youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

Charles Wood Singers application date extended

The closing date for applications to become a member of the Charles Wood Singers has been extended to 25th May.

