

## Silver cross bequest for first woman bishop

**Ireland's first woman bishop has been bequeathed a silver cross by a campaigner for the ordination of women.**

Bishop Pat Storey was presented on Monday with the cross that Daphne Wormell left in her will to the first woman bishop of the Church of Ireland.

Ms Wormell's daughter, Julia Turner, presented the cross to the bishop at a service in Christ Church in Dublin.



Mrs Storey, consecrated last month as Bishop of Meath and Kildare, told a

packed Christ Church Cathedral she expected to bring her husband to the Lambeth Conference in 2018 for the gathering of bishops from all over the Anglican Communion.

She said she felt a bit of a fraud receiving the cross as she "did not have to fight to get to her current position".

"I am here today because Daphne did it for me. I haven't had to fight because of all the women who did that," Mrs Storey said.



***Julia Turner presents her mother's silver cross to Bishop Pat Storey, the first woman to be consecrated as a Church of Ireland bishop***

The campaigner wrote in 1970 that "bishops may yet be bringing their husbands to Lambeth".

Ms Wormell's prediction was written 20 years before the first ordinations of women in the Church of Ireland.

"I've been described in the last couple of months as a trailblazer, but Daphne was the trailblazer.

"I am thankful to Daphne and those who worked with her because she paved the way for me. I hope to fulfil her desire because in 2018, I hope to bring my husband to Lambeth."

[Daphne Wormell](#), a campaigner for women's ordination in the [Church of Ireland](#), had left the cross for the first woman bishop. A teacher of history and art appreciation, she first made the case for women priests in 1970 when she wrote that "bishops may yet be bringing their husbands to Lambeth". In the early 1970s she was invited by the then archbishop of Dublin, Dr [Otto Simms](#), to write on the ordination of women. In 1975 she and four others became the first female lay readers in the dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough. Later she started the Women in Ministry group and was chair of a group which in 1986 organised a conference on women's ministry at [Trinity College](#) Dublin.

In 1996 she was awarded an honorary MA by TCD for her work in this area.

She died in November 2001. Her biography, *With Dignity and Grace*, written by herself and her daughter Julia, was launched by [Bishop Storey](#)

## Christ Church Carols by Candlelight

**Christ Church Cathedral has announced the return of the annual Christmas Concert featuring the resident Cathedral Choir on Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th December at 8pm.**

Under the direction of *Ian Keatley*, Director of Music at Christ Church Cathedral, the choir will be accompanied by acclaimed organist and composer, *David Bremner*. Truly there is no better way to celebrate the season than by enjoying Christmas in the magnificent and beautiful setting of Christ Church Cathedral.

Singing a wide variety of classic carols and modern favourites, the renowned choir will inspire and entertain, whilst the rousing audience carols will really get you into the Christmas spirit. Complimentary mulled

wine and mince pies will be served during the interval. Sing along with old favourites such as O Come, All Ye Faithful, be inspired by glorious choral gems such as Good King Wenceslas and Silent Night along with the sterling voices of the Cathedral Choir in a beautiful candle-lit setting. This year, to celebrate Benjamin Britten's centenary, the choir will sing his choral masterpiece, A Ceremony of Carols, which will be accompanied by acclaimed harpist, *Dianne Marshall*.

Tickets are selling fast and there is still limited availability from [entertainment.ie](#).

### **Sunday 15 Dec - Advent III**

11am The Cathedral Eucharist sung by the Cathedral Choir

### **Sunday 15 December Five Lessons and Carols**

3.30 pm Choral Evensong sung by the Cathedral Choir

### **Monday 16 December**

8pm Nine Lessons and Carols  
With the Cathedral Choir. Doors open 7.15pm  
Admission free (any donations will be gratefully received) but ticketed. Apply in writing to the cathedral office, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope.

### **Wednesday 18 December**

6.00 pm Choral Evensong sung by the Cathedral Girls' Choir

### **Thursday 19 December**

6.00 pm Choral Evensong sung by the Cathedral Choir

### **Sunday 22 December - Advent IV**

11.00 am The Cathedral Eucharist sung by the Cathedral Choir  
3.30 pm Choral Evensong sung by the Past Choristers

### **Christmas Eve**

11pm First Eucharist of the Nativity - Choral Evensong sung by the Cathedral Choir

### **Christmas Day**

11am Festival Eucharist - Solemn Mass sung by the Cathedral Choir

*These services are in addition to the usual weekly schedule of choral services:*

Thurs 6pm, Sat 5pm, Sun 11am & 3.30pm  
and weekday said services of Matins at 10am,  
Peace Prayers at 12pm, Eucharist at 12.45pm  
and Evening Prayer at 5pm (when there is no  
choral service).



## Kalaedoscope of family worship

**Ross Union Parish has introduced Kaleidoscope - a worship service organised especially for families - when parents and children can learn about God in a fun way.**

Each session has music, crafts, games and more. These family services are held in the Cathedral Narthex once a month and are followed by games and hot chocolate in the hall.

At the last Kaleidoscope service participants made beautiful Advent envelopes to hang on twine and open each day receiving a good deed/feel good instruction for the day like, bake a batch of cookies and deliver them to a neighbour, dance to Christmas carols in front of the Christmas tree - as well as a few lines of the Christmas story to read.

Together with the Ross Youth Group, Inspire, an Advent service for families was in the Cathedral Narthex on 1st December at 6pm. Christingles were made and after the

service there was hot chocolate, chips, cakes and time together.

## Restoration of Great Organ of Maynooth

**The great organ of Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth, has been completely restored.**

The firm of *Fratelli Ruffatti* of Padua, Italy, was selected to do the work which took two years. The organ was dismantled in September 2011 and transported to Italy. The rebuilt instrument returned in September 2013 and after extensive 'voicing' and 'fine tuning' is now fully ready for service.

Earlier this week, at a special Sunday Evening Vespers in Maynooth, at which the new instrument was blessed and dedicated, the President of Saint Patrick's College, Monsignor Hugh Connolly said to the over 200 people in attendance, "Above all this organ will be a servant of the liturgy, the Eucharist that gives our campus community the weekly rhythm for our lives here upon our pilgrim path. Its music will help us to bring the whole spectrum of human experience to our daily prayer. Its pure notes and perfect pitch will soar heavenward as students, staff and passersby pause to reflect here on their daily lives bringing their prayers of loss and fulfilment, doubt and trust, confusion and conviction, happiness and grief, gratitude and praise to God."

The original organ of the College Chapel was built by the *Stahlhuth* firm of Aix-la-Chapelle, Belgium around 1890. After 120 years of great service, it needed a total rebuild, as many of the 3,000 pipes were no longer playable. The organ has had two major rebuilds in its life, in the 1920's and again in the 1970's. In addition, it has been regularly maintained, with several modifications.

The organ's magnificent music features at all the great liturgical events during the college year including the Easter ceremonies, ordination to the diaconate, opening of the academic year mass, Pontifical graduation ceremonies and annual carol services and choral concerts. The organ is also used by some of the seminarians and students of Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth, and their colleagues in National University of Ireland, Maynooth, who are pursuing studies in music.

The considerable restoration costs were, for the most part, independently fund-raised by Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth. The project was capably supervised by Professor Emeritus Gerard Gillen and Dr John O'Keefe, Director of Sacred Music.

The President Monsignor Connolly also thanked the extraordinary generosity of those whose donations helped make this extraordinary dream become a reality.

## Bible reading event in Newtownards Parish

**With a deep breath, and a prayer from Bishop Harold Miller, 72 hours of continuously reading the Bible aloud began in St Mark's Parish Church Newtownards at 9.00 am on Thursday 28 November.**

Bishop Harold was the first of over 200 people, representing schools, churches, businesses and public services in the Newtownards community, who came and read a portion of the



Scriptures.

An amazing time followed as children, pensioners, MLAs, families and friends read, in various languages, of the people and places in God's story.

The tales of Moses, Ruth,

the prophets, kings and their kingdoms, Jesus and the Church, shed new light upon our knowledge of them and of God, and upon our own lives which we saw mirrored in theirs.



Over the 72 hours there was silence, laughter, tears, and at times the hairs on the back of our necks stood up as we responded to what we heard read.

The scene was set for morning worship on Advent Sunday with the final reading from Revelation 22; 'Amen. Come, Lord Jesus'.

Readers made the following comments in a visitors' book:

*'Humbling and inspiring...', 'a privilege...', 'a pleasure...', 'awesome', 'a blessing...', 'made my day', '15 minutes well spent', 'encouraged to study the Psalms in further detail' '...my first time reading in church', 'read bits I never looked at before..', 'amazing watching my children read from the Bible..' and 'Thank you!'*

As well as bringing church members together, the event strengthened our contact with the community and other churches in the town – really valuable in view of the forthcoming Year of Mission – and we also raised some money for the Philippines Bible Society’s ‘God is Our Shelter’ Project.

## Killala Installations

**The new Dean of Killala and Achonry and Canons of the Chapter of St Patrick’s Cathedral, Killala were Installed during a Service of Lessons and Carols on Advent Sunday 2013.**

The service was led by Canon Neil O’Raw who is also Rector of Killala Union of Parishes. Archdeacon Alan Synnott installed Dean Alistair Grimason who then installed Canon Maureen Ryan, Canon Doris Clements and Canon Kathy Trimby.

Readings appropriate to the great themes of Advent were read by Mrs Enid Good ( Killala ), Mrs Myrtle Nairn ( Ballysadare ), Mrs Karen Duignan ( Achonry ), Mrs Anne Synnott ( Skreen ) and Mr Norman Reid ( Kilmoremoy ). Splendid Advent hymns were played by Mrs Daphne Higgins on the cathedral organ.

Bishop Rooke thanked and congratulated all those who had contributed to the service. We were privileged to have Bishop Mark Strange of our link diocese of Moray, Caithness and Ross with us to pronounce the closing Benediction.

## Primus pays tribute to Nelson Mandela



**The Most Rev David Chillingworth, Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld & Dunblane and Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church says “To stand in the tiny cell which Nelson Mandela occupied for so many years was to wonder - to wonder how he could have emerged from such confinement with a warm personality and a generous and forgiving spirit.**



“In the death of Nelson Mandela, the world has lost its greatest statesman. South Africa has lost a father figure, the founder of the post-apartheid nation. People everywhere who dream of peace and reconciliation mourn a person who showed that such dreams can become reality - but a reality born only of costly suffering and forgiveness.

“We give thanks today

for Nelson Mandela and what he taught a troubled world through the depth of his character and his humility. We share the sadness of all who mourn his loss today - particularly with rainbow peoples of South Africa.

“May he rest in peace.”

## WCC general secretary in South Africa for the Mandela memorial service

**The general secretary of the World Council of Churches (WCC), Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit, arrived in Johannesburg, South Africa, Monday morning 9 December, to attend events in honour of Nelson Mandela.**



Monday afternoon Tveit visited the Mandela home in Houghton, where he laid roses and then offered condolences to the Mandela family. Afterwards he shared in a prayer service with the family. The service also involved South African church leaders.

On Tuesday, Tveit attended the memorial service for Mandela held at the First Bank Stadium near Johannesburg. Nearly 100 heads of state attended the ceremony.

“It is important that the WCC was present in South Africa during the time when South Africans and all of us mourned the passing of one of the great leaders for justice and peace in our time,” Tveit said.

“For the church it is a moment to recognize the long-term relationship that the WCC had with Mandela during the struggle against apartheid and the future of the church as we gain inspiration from his example in working for equality,

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reconciliation, justice and peace,” Tveit said.

Mandela visited the WCC offices in June 1990, only a few months after his release from prison and in December 1998 spoke at the WCC 8th Assembly in Harare, Zimbabwe.

On Wednesday, Tveit participated in an interfaith service in Pretoria. Tveit returns to the WCC offices in Geneva on Thursday and prepare for a memorial service for Mandela at the Ecumenical Centre on Monday, 16 December.

## Moves afoot to re-open Vatican Embassy?

**Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs Eamon Gilmore has given the strongest indication yet that he is willing to reverse his decision to downgrade diplomatic relations with the Vatican.**

The Irish Catholic - Mr Gilmore said this week he would react positively if the Holy See were willing to consider allowing Ireland to site both its embassies to Italy and the Vatican in the one location.

The sectarian wing of the Labour party was delighted when the Government

announced that it was closing the embassy in 2011. Their actions have resembled those of generals fighting the last war, and they won't be pleased about the embassy re-opening in any configuration.

It's a far from ideal option to present to the Vatican and one that doesn't really take account of the unique nature of diplomatic relations with the Holy See. At the same time, from a political point of view, Mr Gilmore needs a face-saving way to re-open an Embassy to the Vatican which doesn't look like a complete reversal of his 2011 decision.

The Holy See is likely to react with caution to any proposal that would see two ambassadors situated in the same building. Having two embassies in one is an unusual situation and the Vatican is likely to seek strong assurances from the Government about the independence and autonomy of any future Irish diplomatic mission to the Holy See. If, for example, the new arrangement resembled the Embassy to the Holy See being seen as an office within the Embassy to Italy, the Vatican would surely object to such an intolerable arrangement.

Mr Gilmore must be careful not to try and give the impression that there are different layers of embassies with some deserving autonomy and others acting as an off-shoot.

Britain, which has increased its diplomatic presence at the Holy See, houses its Embassy to the Vatican in the same compound as the British Embassy to Italy. The United States recently announced that that it too would move the Vatican Embassy to a larger secure compound in Rome that houses the Embassy to Italy and the US Mission to the United Nations offices, Politico reported.

Both Britain and the US have cited legitimate security concerns and the British Ambassador to the Holy See maintains an

entirely different residence at which to host receptions. The same will be true of the US representative to the Vatican after their Embassy moves to the secure compound.

The Holy See remains an important global player on many fronts. Mr Gilmore's decision to close the Embassy dented Ireland's international reputation among other countries. The re-opening of an Embassy to the Vatican is an opportunity for Ireland to move towards a more mature relationship with the Holy See and the wider Catholic Church built on mutual respect.

Writing this week, Britain's Ambassador to the Holy See Nigel Baker observed that: "Yes, the Holy See is not a standard power. It is not a nation state. Yet its global impact is extensive, its voice respected, and its influence real.

"If we did not have an Embassy to the Holy See, I would want to know the reason why".

Many Irish people have been asking the same question of our own Government.

## **Derry ordination**

### **A Derry man was ordained to the priesthood in the city last Sunday.**

James Devine, a 30-year-old deacon from Prehen in the Waterside, was ordained by Bishop Francis Lagan in St Columba's Church, Long Tower. A former pupil of St St Columba's College he began his studies for the priesthood at Maynooth in 2004.

After becoming a deacon, Rev Devine has served in a number of parishes in the diocese including St Eugene's Cathedral, Waterside and Limavady where he will minister following his ordination. He also spent six months at the Basilica of St Mary Magdalene in France before going on a five-week tour with the relics to Chicago in America.

## C of E bishops - Crown Nominations Commission leaks again

**On Monday, Ruth Gledhill published a report concerning the recent Crown Nominations Commission meetings to select a new Bishop of Exeter.**

The original report is behind the paywall of *The Times*.

Much of its content is reproduced in this article in *Pink News*: [Times claims Church of England 'on the brink of appointing its first openly gay bishop'](http://www.pinknews.co.uk/2013/12/09/times-claims-church-of-england-on-the-brink-of-appointing-its-first-openly-gay-bishop/)

<http://www.pinknews.co.uk/2013/12/09/times-claims-church-of-england-on-the-brink-of-appointing-its-first-openly-gay-bishop/>

...The paper claims the Dean of St Albans, Dr Jeffrey John, came within one vote of being recommended as the new Bishop of Exeter. It is thought to be the first time that Dr John has made the shortlist for a diocesan post, although he has been tipped for promotion several times before.

The successful candidate to succeed the Right Rev Michael Langrish as the Bishop of Exeter is to be announced soon. Although he has missed out on the position, *The Times* claims Church sources say that it is only a matter of time before Dr John gets a diocesan post.

This year the Church of England dropped its prohibition on gay clergy in civil partnerships becoming bishops. That was the change that allowed Dr John to be considered again after effectively being banned from the episcopacy since 2003.

The Crown Nominations Commission met in October to choose the new diocesan bishop for Exeter. The meeting was

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chaired by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev Justin Welby, who would have had the casting vote in the event of a deadlock. There are already meetings scheduled to choose the bishops to fill six diocesan vacancies next year. These are Europe, Hereford, Liverpool, Guildford, St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, and Southwell and Nottingham. Besides Europe, Hereford and Guildford also have liberal traditions that might make Dr John an acceptable candidate...

The original article says that this is believed to be the first time the Dean of St Albans has been shortlisted for a diocesan bishopric. But back in 2010, when the bishopric of Southwark was under consideration, the contemporary reports suggest otherwise, see:

*Telegraph* [Jonathan Wynne-Jones Gay cleric in line to become bishop in Church of England](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/7870158/Gay-cleric-in-line-to-become-bishop-in-Church-of-England)

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/7870158/Gay-cleric-in-line-to-become-bishop-in-Church-of-England.html>

*Australian* reproducing *The Times* [Gay bishop to divide Anglicans](http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/world/gay-bishop-to-divide-anglicans/story-e6frg6so-1225888211541)

[www.theaustralian.com.au/news/world/gay-bishop-to-divide-anglicans/story-e6frg6so-1225888211541](http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/world/gay-bishop-to-divide-anglicans/story-e6frg6so-1225888211541)

## After The Bible, History Channel to air show on Jesus the exorcist

**The History Channel will be depicting Jesus as an exorcist in a planned drama series entitled "The Lost Years".**

Focusing on the time between Jesus's pilgrimage to Jerusalem when he was 13, and his ministry which began when he was approximately 30, the episodes will be speculating on an area of his life not covered in detail by the Gospels.





The announcement of the planned series comes after the unexpected success of "The Bible", an epic telling of several key moments of scripture over five episodes each lasting two hours.

The series drew 11.7 million viewers in the US over the course of its three and a half week run, with its finale rivalling the critically acclaimed "Walking Dead" series on the AMC network.

The series was nominated for an Emmy, but lost out to HBO's "Behind the Candelabra" biographical series covering the last 10 years of Liberace's life.

The series appears to be going in a horror direction, with Eli Roth and Eric Newman announced as producers, and Scott Kosar being named to write. It is based on an original idea by Kosar who previously has worked on the 2004 psychological thriller "The Machinist", the 2003 remake of the "Texas Chainsaw Massacre", the 2005 remake of "The Amityville Horror", and the 2010 remake of George A Romero's ultraviolent horror "The Crazies".

Mr Newman's previous credits also include a George A Romero remake, in the form of the 2004 remake of "Dawn of the Dead", as well as the 2006 film adaptation of P D James's novel "Children of Men", and the 2011 remake of John Carpenter's classic

"The Thing". Mr Roth is most famous for the oft labelled 'torture-porn' franchise "Hostel". He and Mr Newman have worked on representations of demonic possession before, collaborating to create the franchise "The Last Exorcism".

Contrary to what has been reported in the Daily Mail, there are Biblical grounds for the idea of Jesus as an exorcist – if perhaps a little different from today's popular culture depictions of exorcism.

Accounts of Jesus driving out demons appear in the Gospels, with perhaps the most famous incident to be found in the book of Matthew chapter 8, where Jesus meets a man possessed by two demons in the region of Gadarenes. To save him, Jesus forces the demons out and drives them into a herd of pigs nearby, who then promptly run into a nearby lake and are drowned.

The History Channel has also announced another miniseries to be set in the ancient world. Academy Award winner Halle Berry is reported to be producing a miniseries covering the life and times of Hannibal Barca, the general from ancient Carthage who famously crossed the Alps with war elephants.

At the present time, it is unclear how long the series will be, or when it will premiere.

## Prayer for Today

Holy God,  
Guide us in the path of discipleship,  
so that, as you have blessed us,  
we may be a blessing for others,  
bringing the promise of the kingdom near  
by our words and deeds. Amen.