



**Streamed services from St Patrick's cathedral this sunday
Dublin parish goes Victorian
Honours for laymen
Churches to be blood and organ donating
Pope's masses to be open to his diocese**



Connor visit to Sudan postponed

A visit to Yei by the Rt Rev Alan Abernethy and a team from Connor Diocese has been postponed due to unrest in South Sudan.

The Bishop of Connor and the 10-strong team were due to depart for Yei, travelling via Entebbe in Uganda, on Thursday January 16.

The META (Mission Experience Team Abroad) was facilitated by CMS Ireland. Jenny Smyth, CMSI's Partnership Co-ordinator, spoke to Bishop Hilary of Yei, on Monday January 6 when Bishop Hilary confirmed that Yei Diocese had decided to postpone its planned Youth, Clergy and Young Family Members conferences, which would have been supported by the Connor team, until the political situation is calmer.



Jenny Smyth, CMSI

The decision to postpone the META was taken by Jenny, Bishop Alan and CMSI Mission Director Ronnie Briggs following discussion and prayer. It is also likely that a trip by a team from Down and Dromore to Maridi Diocese, also in South Sudan, scheduled for February 6, will be postponed.

In an email to the Connor team, Jenny said that when the first fighting broke out in Juba [in mid December] and spread north there were hopes it would be contained, but over the weekend there had been more disruption in Juba and on Saturday January 4 there were further incidents in Yei and Morobo, between Yei and the Uganda border. The road from Yei to Juba and from Yei to the Ugandan border had closed for a time, making the southern area of South Sudan far more volatile and vulnerable.

“Bishop Hilary and Bishop Justin [of Maridi] assure us that they are both safe but are much in need of our prayers as they speak out for peace in a troubled situation,” Jenny said.

A training evening for both the Yei and Maridi teams will go ahead as planned on Tuesday January 7, however the focus will be on prayer and sharing rather than training.



Streamed services from St Patrick's this Sunday

Streamed services this Sunday

At 11.15am for a service of Choral Matins sung by the girls and gentlemen of the Cathedral Choir with music by Elgar (Te Deum in F) and Berkeley (Look up sweet babe).

A service of Choral Evensong at 3.15pm sung by the Cathedral Consort with music by Murrill (Evening Service in E) and Vaughan Williams (Fantasia on Christmas Carols).

Both services will be streamed live via the Cathedral website. <http://www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/live-screening.aspx>



St Columba's Whiterock GB 20th anniversary

The Girls Brigade has celebrated its 20th anniversary. In 1993 there were no youth organisations for young girls at St Columba's.

Recognising the increasing need in the parish for something for young girls, four Girls' Brigade Officers from a neighbouring church, two of whom were parishioners of St Columba's, formed the 150th Girls Brigade Company.

In April 1994 the parish held its first company night and on that first evening 63 young girls came along!

Over the next 20 years, the company grew from strength to strength. Competitions were entered, new officers appointed, displays enjoyed, sleepless nights at camp, friendships blossomed, but above all girls and young women grew to Seek, Serve and Follow the Lord Jesus Christ.

There have been some challenges along the way, but there have also been many blessings, not least watching so many young girls with a Godly foundation growing into responsible young adults.

Today St Columba's GB Company has a membership of 110 girls. The company looks forward to the future, while embracing the memories of the past. St Columba's is celebrating this milestone with various events throughout the year, the highlight being the 20th Anniversary Display in May, when the girls hope to be joined by special guests and past members.

Honours

Mr Bill Montgomery has been awarded the OBE in the Queen's New Year's Honours. His citation is for Services to the Community in Northern Ireland.



Dame Mary Peters, Her Majesty's Lieutenant for Belfast makes the presentation to Vaughan Rosbotham

Bill is one of three Church of Ireland Senior Trustees and a former member of the Diocesan Council (to which he will shortly return). He worships in the Parish of Greyabbey & Kircubbin, is a Director of Sotheby's, member of The Goldsmith's Company, landowner and farmer. Bill has also been on the Church of Ireland's Representative Body.

Vaughan Rosbotham,
Captain of the 115th Boys
Brigade Company at St

Columba's, Whirerock (Connor), was awarded a British Empire Medal for services to Young People in Northern Ireland in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

Vaughan is the longest serving Officer in the company, having joined it at its foundation in 1956. He has been the Captain since 1971.

To mark the occasion and to pay tribute to Vaughan for his many years of dedicated service to the company, Minister of St Columba's, the Rev Chris Easton presented him with a gift of an inscribed clock from the church members at the annual Enrolment Service.

Talk on dyslexia for parents and teachers

Timolin National School warmly invites everyone to a free highly informative talk being given by Lauren Burns, an Educational Psychologist working with the Dyslexia Association of Ireland.

Topics covered will include helping your child with homework, identifying dyslexia in and out of the classroom, remediation strategies for reading, spelling and maths, self-esteem and building self-confidence, transition into secondary school and exam accommodations. A question and answer session will also follow.

Date: Monday 27th January 2014. Time: 7.30pm. Location: Timolin School Hall, Timolin Village, County Kildare

Free refreshments will also be served.
For more information please visit Timolin National School's website www.timolinns.com or visit their facebook page



Time Travelling Parishioners Recall Foundation of Their Church

Parishioners in Rathmichael stepped back in time for a Victorian Tea Party on Sunday past. Many arrived in full Victorian regalia for the event



Marian Conboy and Peter and Anne Markham at the Victorian Tea Party in Rathmichael Parish

which marked the start of celebrations for the 150th anniversary of the foundation of Rathmichael Parish Church.

The church opened on December 12 1864 with the Revd Edward Burton as incumbent. Burton was considered a very good man and was chaplain of the workhouse in nearby Loughlinstown which later became Loughlinstown Hospital. A cross was erected to his memory outside the

church and in the graveyard of the workhouse, which has recently been restored.

He was also an ecumenist. He studied medicine but left to join the ordained ministry. However, when the local parish priest became ill with small pox, Burton nursed him. The current rector, Canon Fred Appelbe, spoke about his predecessor on Sunday morning.

The Victorian Tea Party was the brainchild of Sonia Appelbe who organised a similar Edwardian event for Nollaig na mBan two years ago. She was ably assisted by a band of volunteers.



Paisley's life laid bare in TV series

The career and legacy of former first minister Ian Paisley has been analysed for a new two-part BBC documentary being screened this month.

According to an article in a newspaper Dr

Paisley, now known as Lord Bannside, is reported to have agreed to a request from journalist Eamonn Mailie for unprecedented access to the iconic unionist leader and Free Presbyterian Church co-founder.

The first of the two programmes is due to be broadcast on BBC1 NI at 10.35pm on Monday, January 13, with the second on January 20.

BBC Choral Evensong today

Peterborough Cathedral

(rpt Sun 12th January)

Introit: Illuminare Jerusalem (Judith Weir)

Responses: Matthew Martin

Office Hymn: Bethlehem, of noblest cities (Stuttgart)

Psalm: 145 (Walmisley)

First Lesson: Joel 2 vv28-end

Magnificat octavi toni (David Bevan)

Second Lesson: Ephesians 1 vv7-14

Nunc dimittis tertii toni (Victoria)

Anthem: Look up, sweet babe (Berkeley) & In the bleak midwinter (Rodney Bennett)

Hymn: Brightest and best of the sons of the morning (Liebster Immanuel)

Organ Voluntary: Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern (BuxWV 203)
(Buxtehude)

Robert Quinney (Director of Music)

David Humphreys (Assistant Director of Music)

Peace and friendship at Epiphany service

Two Muslim sheikhs were at a Welsh church on Sunday to take part in an Epiphany service as a sign of friendship and peace with Christians.

The service at St Mary's Church, Wenvoe, near Cardiff, was joined by Dr Abdalla Yassin Mohammed, originally from the Sudan and now a member of the Muslim Council of Wales, and Sheikh Elnayyal Abu Groom, from Jordan.



(l-r) Sheikh Elnayyal Abu Groom, Canon Robin Morrison and Sheikh Abdalla Yassin Mohammed at St Mary's Church, Wenvoe

Instead of a sermon, Canon Robin Morrison interviewed Dr Mohammed about shared concerns in a world of religious violence and division.

Sheikh Abu Groom joined in prayers during the service and received a blessing at communion.

The two sheikhs and their families were at the service as part of the Open Tent project set up by Canon Morrison and Dr Mohammed to counter Islamic

sectarian division.

The project aims to promote the "common humanity" of people of the two faiths and follows a series of 10 joint conferences called Finding a Common Voice between the Church in Wales and the Muslim Council of Wales that took place between 2006 and 2011.

Canon Morrison said, "The epiphany message of a God who manifests the nature of God as Love calls us to take seriously 'our common humanity in and under God' and to work in practical ways to achieve that vision.

"Epiphany celebrates the magi, the wise ones – scientists, astrologers and cosmologists - following the light of a star, as they sought for new meaning and hope, enlightenment and understanding in the birth of a baby in Bethlehem.

"This was a good context for representatives of Islam to meet with Christians and share a mutual concern for new understanding, peace and love between people of all faiths, within all faiths and in relation to the main challenges of violence and conflict facing the world in 2014."



Churches asked to be blood and organ donor churches

Churches up and down the UK have been challenged to become 'donor churches' and encourage blood

and organ donation in their communities through a new campaign.

The call has gone out from NHS Blood and Transplant as part of its ongoing FleshandBlood campaign.

The first of its kind, the fab (fleshandblood) Church Challenge launched this week in a partnership with the Church that hopes to inspire congregations to consider blood and organ donation as part of their giving.

Approximately 1,000 people die every year in the UK as a result of organ shortage, and 7,000 units of blood are needed every day to meet hospital demand, which means an extra 225,000 extra blood donors are needed per year.

Despite these shortages, research indicates that 70 per cent of Christians consider blood and organ donation to be part of their core 'Christian giving' or are at least open to the idea of it.

Almost one in 10 Christians have given blood in the past 12 months compared to four per cent of the eligible population over the last two years, but there is still more work to be done in mobilising churches to increase the number of donors.

Campaign Director Juls Hollidge says her team have been encouraged by the number of churches who have so far got involved.

"We have seen an amazing response in the UK Church over the past 12 months," she notes.

"It has been a privilege for us to bring together the Church and NHS Blood and Transplant under the shared value of generosity, developing a partnership to encourage personal acts of generosity that could save the lives of many in our communities."

In the past year, an estimated 30,000 churches of all denominations have received information about the fab campaign, and many have taken part in raising the profile of donation. They are equipped to be long-term advocates of donation and provided with practical tools and resources to help churches donate together and generate conversation and discussion about blood and organ donation.

"What we need now is a long-term commitment that continues to support the ongoing demand for blood and organs that the NHS faces every year," says Hollidge.

In response to the introduction of the Church Challenge, Chief Executive of NHS Blood and Transplant Lynda Hamlyn has thanked churches for giving their support, saying it will bring hope "to all those who depend on our life saving work".

Reverend Dr Martyn Atkins, General Secretary of the Methodist Church, has called the challenge "an exciting opportunity" for churches, and has highlighted the significant role the church can play "in transforming the lives of others through donation".

World

Parishioners in Rome diocese to attend Francis's daily masses

Members of parishes in Rome will be able to attend Pope Francis's private morning Masses in 2014, the Vatican has announced.

Fr Federico Lombardi, the Vatican spokesman, said the cardinal vicar of Rome would tell parish priests how to apply on behalf of their parishioners beginning in January, according to a report by Vatican Radio.

The Pope celebrates Mass every morning in the Vatican guesthouse, where he lives. Excerpts from his short, off-the-cuff homilies there have attracted worldwide attention for their frank, spontaneous style and have occasionally made news with remarks on such controversial topics as the salvation of atheists and the credibility of purported Marian apparitions.

Most of Pope Francis's morning congregations so far have consisted of Vatican employees. The guesthouse chapel was constructed to accommodate 120 cardinal-electors and a few attendants during a papal conclave. Fr Lombardi said parishioners would probably be admitted in groups of 25 at a time.

Blessed John Paul II and retired pope Benedict XVI celebrated Mass every morning in a private chapel in the Apostolic Palace. Blessed John Paul's congregation frequently included invited guests.

Prayer for Today

**Lord God, friend of those in need,
your Son Jesus has untied our burdens
and healed our spirits.**

**We lift up the prayers of our hearts for those still burdened,
those seeking healing,
those in need within the church and the world.**

**Hear our prayers
that we may love you with our whole being
and willingly share the concerns of our neighbours. Amen.**

