



Dean of Cork, the Very Reverend Nigel Dunne,

Cork cathedral gets security to combat on-site drug abuse

One of Cork's most important places of worship has been forced to beef up security to combat open drug dealing and drug abuse on its grounds.

Irish Examiner - Dean of Cork, the Very Reverend Nigel Dunne, called this week for an

increased garda presence in the area following a surge in anti-social behaviour.

“We need more gardaí on the beat in key areas at key times,” he said. “They are under-resourced and they have told us to keep contacting them, but when they get here, the problem has often moved on.”

Dean Dunne said the cathedral grounds are being used “day and night” by drug dealers, with addicts shooting up in the shadow of the protected national monument.

“We do daily patrols and have had to train our staff, and supply them with specialist equipment and sharps disposal boxes, to safely collect used needles and swabs,” he said. “But we are concerned about the impact this behaviour is having on the whole area — not just the cathedral grounds.”

The landmark cathedral attracts up 25,000 visitors a year and this has been one of its busiest, but Dean Dunne said he is now concerned the rise in anti-social behaviour could affect it.

The cathedral grounds are also being used by street drinkers, and by an aggressive and intimidating group of parkour, or free runners, who use the building exterior, and monuments in the graveyard, for their form of acrobatic running.

“They are drinking and sitting on grave stones. People seem to treat it as a public park. But it’s not. It’s a graveyard,” Dean Dunne said.

Drunken students who have also caused disturbances in the area close to UCC, are also believed to have toppled a three-quarter tonne stone urn from one of the cathedral’s gate pillar. The repair bill topped €2,500.

Dean Dunne said the closure of Barrack Street Garda Station in 2013 marked the beginning of an upsurge in the anti-social behaviour in the area.

Fine Gael councillor John Buttimer, who raised the issue with senior gardaí at the Cork City Council Joint Policing Committee meeting this week, said a comprehensive garda response is needed and that the council and HSE must also do more to tackle the issues.

Historic Belfast church faces demolition for flats



One of Belfast's oldest churches may be flattened and the site turned into an apartment block, it can be revealed.

Belfast Telegraph - Macrory Memorial Presbyterian Church in Duncairn Gardens - straddling a peace line - has been standing since 1896.

It just about survived - with a touch of rebuilding - the Belfast Blitz and the Troubles, but now a

developer wants to demolish the empty north Belfast place of worship and build a modern block of 12 two-bedroom apartments.

The former congregation was amalgamated with a nearby church in 2005 to form Fortwilliam and Macrory Presbyterian Church, and the building later fell into disuse.

Belfast City Council's planning committee is to consider the application for demolition next Tuesday.

St Catherine's (CORE) on RTE's Sunday Worship tomorrow

The congregation, musicians and singers of St Catherine's Church (CORE), Thomas Street, will lead RTE's Sunday Worship programme, this Sunday, December 13.

The service recorded in RTE studios, Donnybrook, will feature contemporary worship songs, an interview with Linda McCabe whose husband and son were both separately murdered in 1995 and 2006, and a sermon called: "There's a Miracle in the Mess" by the Revd Craig Cooney, Minister in Charge of St Catherine's.



Craig Cooney commented: “When we were asked to take part in the RTE service, we considered it a great opportunity to share a message of hope with a wider audience. At a time when there is much in our world to be discouraged about, we believe that the coming of Jesus into our world in his incarnation brings light, life and hope in every circumstance. Like with young Mary, when told she was carrying a child before her marriage to Joseph, even when things look like a mess, God can work to bring forth a miracle.”

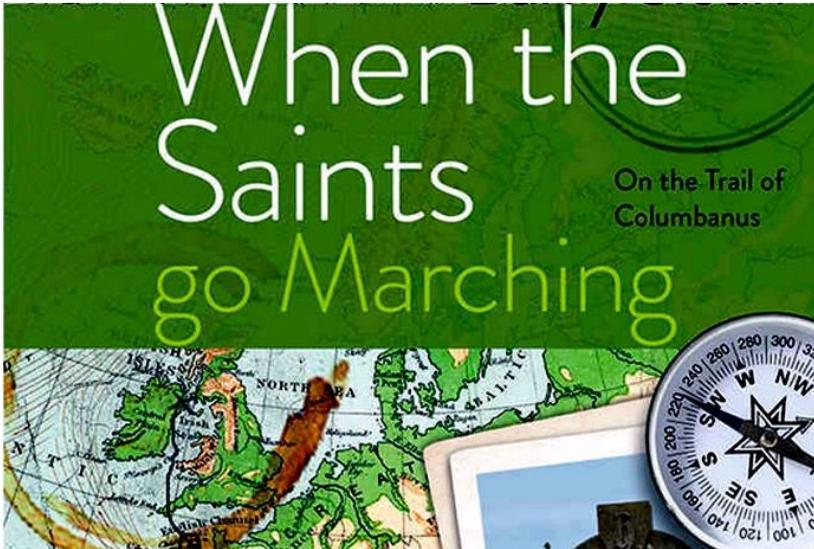
The programme will be shown on RTE 1 this coming Sunday at 11.00am

New book on hitchhiking in the footsteps of St Columbanus

Barry Sloan, an ordained Methodist minister currently serving as a mission partner has just published an inspiring, witty and challenging book called. "*When the Saints go Marching*". The book tells the story of his pilgrimage in the footsteps of Saint Columbanus, the missionary monk from Bangor who re-evangelized Europe in the 6th century. Weaving history, politics, theology, and personal narrative together in a humorous and readable way, he tells the fascinating story of Columbanus and his colleagues from Bangor and their legacy in uniting Europe. The telling of both the stories - the monks' and Barry's - are framed in the drama of his means of transport for the journey - hitchhiking.

Profound moments of reflection, insight and food for thought are punctuated with hilarious episodes of breakfast with Vikings, an attack by monster bees, and lunch with a talking horse!

Barry had three aims in writing this book. Firstly, to write a book about his Christian faith that



would just as easily be read, understood and enjoyed by non-Christian. Secondly, to make a contribution to the peace process and idea of a shared future in Northern Ireland. And lastly, to help us reclaim the amazing missional heritage of those 6th century Bangor monks that we have for too long ignored.

Barry Sloan is an ordained Methodist minister born in Carrickfergus, currently serving as mission partner with the United Methodist Church in Germany.

All proceeds from book sales go to mission projects in the German United Methodist Church. If you would like to support mission to Germany you can order the book from Tim Dunwoody,
MMS timdunwoody@yahoo.co.uk OR
at www.amazon.co.uk The book costs £10 or 14€ plus postage.

Barry J. Sloan, born in Carrickfergus in Northern Ireland, is married and has two children. He is an ordained Methodist minister, currently serving as mission partner with the United Methodist Church in Germany.

Death of former auxiliary Bishop of Dublin

The death has occurred, after a lengthy illness, of the emeritus auxiliary Bishop of Dublin, Dermot O' Mahony, Titular Bishop of Tiava. He was aged 80.

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin expressed his sympathy to the family and friends of Bishop O' Mahony and said priests of the Archdiocese were saddened by the news of his passing as he held,
churchnewsireland@gmail.com

over many years, several roles of leadership and responsibility in the Archdiocese of Dublin and nationally.

Bishop O' Mahony was ordained a priest by Archbishop John Charles Mc Quaid in Holy Cross College, Clonliffe in 1960. Like many Dublin priests, he went on to study at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome for four years following his ordination.

He served for a brief period as an assistant priest in Clonskeagh parish before being appointed Professor of Holy Cross College in Clonliffe in 1965. He would also serve as Dean and Director of Students in Mater Dei Institute of Education.

In 1970 he was appointed Curate in Grange Park parish and also became a member of the Priests' Council in the Archdiocese. In 1974 he was made parish administrator in Donaghmede and would also be elected Vicar Forane for the Howth deanery.

On Sunday 13th April 1975, he became one of the youngest Bishops ever appointed in Ireland when he was made auxiliary Bishop aged just

40. The following day he was appointed Vicar General in the Archdiocese of Dublin.

A Canon Lawyer, Bishop O' Mahony was made Chancellor of the Archdiocese in May 1975, a position he would hold for the following six years.

At national level, he chaired the Irish Bishops' Commission for Justice and Peace during a turbulent time in Northern Ireland. He was active in supporting prison chaplains in the Maze prison, also known as Long Kesh. The Chaplains praised the support work carried out by Dermot O' Mahony at this time in a ministry that has been described one marked by integrity and appreciated by prisoners, their families, and the prison authorities.

Bishop O' Mahony was also a member of the Dublin Diocesan College of Consultors and the Metropolitan Chapter. He retired as Auxiliary Bishop of Dublin on health grounds in June 1996 but despite this continued to play an active role in Diocesan life.

He lived the latter years of his retirement in Swords. He is survived by his brother Gerry O' Mahony, sister-in-law Berna, niece Fiona, and

nephew Tony. He was predeceased by another nephew, also Dermot.

His funeral will take place next week. Archbishop Diarmuid Martin will receive the remains at 6.30 pm on Monday December 14 in St. Anne's Church, Shankill in Dublin. The Funeral Mass will take place at 12 noon on Tuesday December 15 with burial afterwards to Shanganagh cemetery.

Belfast parish's generous support for Hospice

The parish of St Mary's, Crumlin Road, Belfast, will present a cheque for £2,550 to the Northern Ireland Hospice at a service on Sunday December 20.

The Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev Alan Abernethy, will be guest speaker at this Christingle service, on a day the parish has named 'Hospice Sunday.'

A representative of the Hospice will attend to receive the cheque from the rector, the Rev Robin Moore, who will lead the service.



Northern Ireland Hospice

This fantastic amount has been raised largely due to the generosity of the late Miss Molly Crothers, a parishioner of St Mary's. In her will, Molly had requested that her furniture and some personal effects be sold and the proceeds given to the parish and then donated to the NI Hospice.

That sale raised £2,050, and the parish added to this the sum of £500 raised by parishioners who, instead of filling their church with fruit and vegetables at Harvest time, made a donation for the Hospice.

This is the second year that the parish has raised funds for the Hospice at Harvest.

The cheques will be presented during the 11am Christingle Service.

Saturday Night Live programme for youth groups in Down and Dromore

‘Saturday Night Live’ – a new series of events for youth groups in Down and Dromore – will run bi-monthly and include worship, prayer, Bible teaching, food and a chance for groups to mix with others from around the diocese. The first took place on Saturday, 5 December, at St Finnian’s parish church, Cregagh, and there’ll be three more events up to June in various locations.

‘Saturday Night Live’ is a grassroots initiative that has sprung from discussions with young people and youth leaders, some of whom have gone on to organise the programme.

Diocesan Youth Officer, Tim Burns, says:
“There’s a great sense of excitement about how God will use these evenings. We’re taking the theme of ‘Kingdom Culture’ for this series and we’ll explore what it looks like to live out our faith in a world where that is counter cultural. We want to bring groups together and to compliment and encourage what is happening in our parishes.”

2016 Programme

6 February – Faith: You've got to give it away ...

9 April – An indiscriminate act of kindness

4 June – All your heart, soul, strength and mind

Painting raises £550,000 to help Us support refugees in Europe

A painting auctioned at Sotheby's has raised nearly £550,000, which will be channelled through the Anglican mission agency Us (for and the Anglican Diocese in Europe to provide shelter, food and medicine to refugees in Europe, with a particular focus on Greece.

A painting auctioned at Sotheby's has raised nearly £550,000, which will be channelled through the Anglican mission agency Us (formerly USPG) and the Anglican Diocese in Europe to provide shelter, food and medicine to refugees in Europe, with a particular focus on Greece.

The oil painting 'A Grotto in the Gulf of Salerno', by Joseph Wright of Derby, was donated by Godfrey Meynell, of Derbyshire. The idea for

donating the painting, which has been in his family since 1840, came from his son, also called Godfrey.

Mr Meynell said: 'We're delighted with the sale. We had a family celebration. We feel this gift comes from the whole of Derbyshire.'

The painting depicts Julia, who historians believe was the granddaughter of Roman Emperor Augustus, and married to Paullus. It is claimed the emperor discovered Julia was having an affair, so he exiled her to the small Italian island of Trimerus. However, an alternative theory suggests Julia was exiled for her part in supporting an attempted revolt against Augustus.

Us Chief Executive Janette O'Neill said: 'The income from this sale means that we can answer the biggest humanitarian crisis this century in ways that we couldn't have otherwise dreamed of.

'We will work to ensure this God-sent gift will help create a better future for marginalised and vulnerable who are fleeing from war and destruction.'

The Rev Tim Harford, Us Director for Fundraising and Communications, said: "The fact that Julia is a refugee makes the donation especially poignant. The proceeds will help to restore the lives of refugees arriving in Greece having fled persecution and war."

* Us (also, known as United Society) is a Christian charity working alongside Anglican churches around the world. They work with local communities to improve health, put children in school, tackle discrimination, give a voice to women, and much more. Us was founded in 1701, changing its name from USPG in 2012.

* Us www.weareUs.org.uk

Christian Aid welcomes progress at Paris climate summit

As the COP21 climate summit in Paris draws to its close on 11 December, Christian Aid's Senior Climate Advisor, Mohamed Adow, said: "The new Paris Outcomes text represents good progress. It is much cleaner and presents clear options to help ministers get tougher and resolve the sticky issues."

As the COP21 climate summit in Paris draws to its close on 11 December, Christian Aid's Senior Climate Advisor, Mohamed Adow, said: "The new Paris Outcomes text represents good progress. It is much cleaner and presents clear options to help ministers get tougher and resolve the sticky issues.

"Lots of brackets have been taken out and the substance is progressing. In particular, progress has been made on climate adaptation and capacity building. But still more attention needs to be given to adaptation finance to give effective support to the most vulnerable countries.

"The next 24 hours are critical. This is where the real negotiations will begin. We really need countries to fight to keep in the high ambition options on climate finance, the long term decarbonisation goal and a ratchet mechanism to ensure the agreement evolves to meet the needs of a changing world."

Mr Adow also welcomed the announcement earlier today by the US that it would be doubling its adaption funding. He said: "It is welcome to see rich countries at these talks stepping forward to provide practical support which will make a real difference to some of the poorest people

facing droughts, floods, sea level rise and extreme weather events.

"This shows that countries are engaging with each other and rich nations are listening to the needs of the poorest. Starting to deliver on previous finance commitments will build trust between countries at this crucial juncture. This will hopefully now start a snowball effect with other rich countries potentially following suit."

* Christian Aid <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/index.aspx>

Media digest

Religion in school: 'She feels excluded and different' - Irish Times

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-in-school-she-feels-excluded-and-different-1.2462201>

Labour pandering to a tiny minority with latest attack on faith-based schools - Irish Independent

<http://www.independent.ie/opinion/columnists/david-quinn/labour-pandering-to-a-tiny-minority-with-latest-attack-on-faithbased-schools-34277719.html>

Anger as Education Minister John O'Dowd axes youth body funds - Belfast Telegraph

December 12

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/anger-as-education-minister-john-odowd-axes-youth-body-funds-34277567.html>

Get CNI headlines on Twitter each day
Click on logo at CNI Home page

Become a Facebook Friend of CNI
Click on logo at CNI Home page