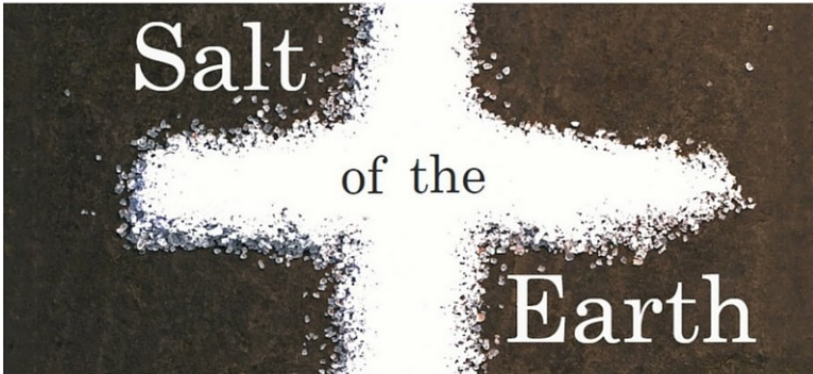




CNI



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18-25 January 2016

**Opportunity for Christian traditions
in Ireland to express visibly their
underlying unity in Jesus Christ,
says Bishop McDowell**

The 2016 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity takes place between **18th–25th January** and is an opportunity for Christians from a range of traditions to join together in worship and share

stories of God at work throughout the wider Church.

The Chairman of the Church of Ireland's Commission for Christian Unity and Dialogue, the Rt Revd John McDowell, said: "I would encourage as many Christian communities as possible to involve themselves in some common act of worship during the forthcoming Week of Prayer for Christian Unity as it provides an opportunity for the many Christian traditions in Ireland to express in visible terms their underlying unity in Jesus Christ.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed from the 18 to 25 January – the octave of Saint Peter and Saint Paul. The theme chosen for 2016 is 'Salt of the Earth' which is inspired by the verses from Peter's letter and Jesus' metaphors of salt and light.

The 2016 resource material was prepared for worldwide use by the Christians of Latvia, and adapted by the Britain and Ireland writers group, based around the verses 1 Peter 2:9-10. Peter's first letter is an encouragement to the newly baptised to live holy lives and to answer the calling shared by all the baptised to proclaim the mighty acts of the Lord.

The resource includes an order of service, daily reflections and background information. Some of the resources are available in the Irish language.

Downloads

[English pamphlet](#)

[Order of Service \(Irish language\)](#)

[Reflections for the eight days of Christian Unity Week](#) (Large file of 10MB)

Text only version of the file above [WPCU-2016-English-8-Days-text-only](#)

[Reflections for the eight days of Christian Unity Week \(Irish language version\)](#)

Click on the link to download a poster for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity [WPCU-2016-Poster-English](#)

Twitter

You are invited to support Christian Unity by posting unity messages and details of your events to the our [Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Twitter wall](#) – simply add the #wpcuwall hashtag to your Twitter post (note they take 15 minutes to appear). You can also find updates about the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on Twitter by following the [#wpcu2016](#) hashtag.

Immigration is here to stay, Bishop Buckley

The Bishop of Cork and Ross has reminded Irish people of the tough times they had as emigrants ahead of World Day of Migrants and Refugees on Sunday.

In a statement, Bishop John Buckley said some people will be coming to Ireland hoping it will be a place where they are safe and can begin the process of rebuilding their lives.

“It is important that the local church be at the forefront of efforts to welcome them,” the bishop emphasised.

In his message, Bishop Buckley referred to scripture reminding the faithful that one of the key phrases of Chapter 5 of Matthew’s Gospel is Jesus’ statement: ‘I was a stranger and you took me in’.

He said that in the Bible we are repeatedly told to welcome the stranger as in Chapter 24 of Deuteronomy which states, ‘You shall love the stranger for you are strangers in Egypt’.



"Remember you too were treated harshly abroad, building London's underground, the mines of Yorkshire, in the docks of Boston or in the new cities of Sydney and Perth."

“We Irish have much to learn from this,” he said and added, “The Lord could well say to us: ‘Remember you too were treated harshly abroad, building London’s underground, the mines of Yorkshire, in the docks of Boston or in the new cities of Sydney and Perth’.”

Dr Buckley also highlighted that “St Patrick was a refugee, a slave, someone who was trafficked for profit” and that Pope Francis has said that the city, the town, the village that does not welcome the stranger has forgotten to care for itself.

He underlined that immigration is a phenomenon which is here to stay for the foreseeable future linked to the fact that today millions are displaced by war, hunger and oppression.

He said that in Cork various ethnic groups have enriched the city with their talents and heritage.

“Indeed much of our local economy is highly dependent on the contribution of immigrants” and he also paid tribute to the “great work of Religious Congregations and others including NASC and Cois Tine”.

World Day of Migrants and Refugees is an occasion to heighten the awareness of the current phenomenon of immigration and the challenges facing migrants coming to our country, the leader of the Church in Cork & Rossa said.

Though he also pledged respect for the rights of the State to devise procedures to address the situation.

Sunday “is an occasion also to pray for all who are experiencing great suffering, remembering especially, the persecuted Christians of the Middle East and Africa,” he said.

Film season on social justice at Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin

In a new development this February, Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin will screen a series of films based on a social justice theme.

The showings will take place in the recently refurbished music room, entered via the dean's gate at the top of Lord Edward Street. Admission is free and all are most welcome. Wine and refreshments will also be available.

Four films will be shown in all, on each Monday in February at 7.30pm. The series will open with a classic; '12 Angry Men', the 1957 film concerning the jury of a homicide trial. Appropriately, it will be introduced on Monday 1 February by barrister and film buff, Dermot Manning.

The second film, 'Citizenfour', to be shown on Monday 8 February, is a topical documentary made in 2014 concerning Edward Snowden's revelations of the abuse of power and trampling of privacy rights by intelligence agencies all over the world. It will be introduced by Dr TJ McIntyre, a lecturer in law at University College Dublin and the chairman of Digital Rights Ireland.



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL PRESENTS

A SOCIAL JUSTICE FILM SERIES

ADMISSION FREE. ALL WELCOME.

Mondays in February 2016 @ 19.30
The Music Room, Christ Church Cathedral

Wine and refreshments available

Monday 1st February
12 ANGRY MEN (1957)
Introduced by Dermot Manning, Barrister

Monday 8th February
CITIZENFOUR (2014)
Introduced by Dr T.J. McIntyre, UCD Law & Chairman, Digital Rights Ireland

Monday 15th February
PERSEPOLIS (2007)
Introduced by Canon Patrick Comerford, former Foreign Desk Editor, The Irish Times

Monday 22nd February
CATHY COME HOME (1966)
Introduced by Mike Allen, Director of Advocacy, Focus Ireland

E: ruth@christchurch.ie | W: www.christchurchcathedral.ie

The third Monday, 15 February, will see the screening of 'Persepolis', a 2007 film based on Marjane Satrapi's graphic novel about her life in pre and post-revolutionary Iran and then in Europe. It will be introduced by a cathedral canon, the Revd Patrick Comerford, who is a former Foreign Desk editor at the Irish Times.

The series will conclude on Monday 22 February with the iconic 1966 film, 'Cathy Come Home', concerning homelessness. Directed by Ken

Loach in a gritty documentary style, it will be introduced by Mike Allen, Director of Advocacy at Focus Ireland.

For any queries about the series, please contact the cathedral education officer, Ruth Kenny at ruth@christchurch.ie

Details of the series will be available online at www.christchurchcathedral.ie

Successful sponsor a slate appeal for Connor church

A Sponsor a Slate Appeal organised by St Colmanell's Parish Church, Ahoghill, raised just over £45,000.

This sum was further boosted by a Christmas Tree Festival held in late November which raised £15,000, with the money split between the NI Hospice and the Church Building Fund.

Work has now been completed on the roof of the historic church – consecrated in 1865.

Mrs Jean Boyce, representing NI Hospice, attended a service in St Colmanell's where she was presented with a cheque for £7,500 by Mrs Rosemary Frayne, organiser of Christmas Tree



Mrs Rosemary Frayne, organiser of Christmas Tree Festival, and the Rev Gary Millar present a cheque for £7,500 to Mrs Jean Boyce of the NI Hospice.

Festival, and the rector of Ahoghill and Portglenone, the Rev Gary Millar.

Parenting children for a life of faith

Rachel Turner, Family Life Pastor at St Paul's Church, Hammersmith, and author of a number of books on parenting, will be delivering two training sessions in Connor Diocese.

These take place on January 22 and January 23.

Both sessions will be held in the Old School House, Victoria Street, Ballymoney. The Friday January 22 session will be at 7.30pm and will be for parents and guardians. Rachel's session on Saturday January 23, at 10am, is for Sunday School teachers and youth leaders.

Rachel is passionate about children rooting themselves in God, experiencing and pursuing relationship with Him daily, growing in the Word, and living and ministering in the power of the Spirit.

Rachel loves investing in and equipping parents and carers in their role as the primary spiritual influencers in their children's lives. She is a witty and down to earth speaker who will give us practical help in how to share our faith with our children on a day to day basis. All are very welcome. To reserve a place, please email the Rev Brian Howe at brianmoorehowe@gmail.com.

Funeral of Mr Theo Saunders

Yesterday CNI sadly reported that Mr Theo Saunders, Organist and Master of the Choristers of St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh until his retirement in May 2014, had died on 12th

January in the Hospice in Newry.

His funeral will be in the Cathedral tomorrow, Saturday 16th January, at 1.30 p.m., in the context of the Eucharist. The service will be sung, at Theo's request, by the choir of Wallace High School, Lisburn. The preacher will be the Revd Canon Michael Kennedy. Interment will follow at St Mark's Parish Churchyard, Armagh.

Prayers to Saint Dymphna for Blue Monday promoted

The third Monday in January is often dubbed 'Blue Monday' – the most depressing day of the year – due in part to debt levels, bad weather, divorce rates and the number of days since the Christmas holidays.

For those suffering from longer-term depression and mental illness, January may be just a bit harder to bear.

In the run up to Blue Monday, the Mental Health Project of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has been raising awareness of St Dymphna – the patron saint of those with mental or nervous disorders or mental illness and of the



The Mental Health Project of the Bishops' Conference of England & Wales is raising awareness of the patron saint of mental illness.

St Dymphna Befriending Group- a support group for those facing mental health challenges.

Joanne Bird, a mental health practitioner and the co-ordinator of the befriending group says:
“Mental distress can strike at any time in anyone’s lives, and that’s when it’s so helpful to have someone kind nearby who will listen to you and support you.”

Gail Sainsbury who works on the Mental Health Project at the Bishops Conference said, “I will be praying on ‘Blue Monday’ for all those who are in particular need at this time.”

Publication of C of E pilot audits on safeguarding arrangements

The outcomes of four pilot independent audits into safeguarding arrangements in the Church of England have been published yesterday.

The dioceses of Blackburn, Durham, Portsmouth and Salisbury all volunteered to be part of the House of Bishops commissioned project to take a look at current safeguarding practice. The audits will now be rolled out across all other Church of England dioceses during 2016/17.

The independent audits were carried out by The Social Care Institute for Excellence, SCIE, a charity and leading improvement support agency specialising in safeguarding. SCIE has pioneered a particular collaborative approach to conducting case reviews and audits in child and adult safeguarding called Learning Together focusing on the reasons why things go well, the cause of any problems and solutions.

The audit process in each diocese involved examination of safeguarding leadership arrangements, local policies and practice guidance, the quality of case work, recruitment

and training. The auditors also looked at the progress being made in reaching nationally agreed standards informed by central House of Bishops approved policies.

The National Safeguarding Team has welcomed the pilot overview report and considerations for its future work.

The Bishop of Durham, Paul Butler, lead bishop on safeguarding said: “These audits are part of our commitment to making the Church a safer place for all, ensuring that all dioceses have the best possible practice in place. I commend the four dioceses, including my own, which came forward to be pilots as it is not easy to be the first under the spotlight. We all have lessons to learn. The audits show how each diocese can improve while also commending good practice that is already in place.

“Our policies and practice must start from the place of seeking the very best for all. This includes them being survivor-informed. SCIE’s experience in safeguarding will help us to do that. We have published these pilot audits as we are committed to being open about where we have got it wrong and where we need to improve. The pilot process will also inform further improvements in the auditing process

itself for the next round. The audits, both individually, and as a whole, will form an important part of our work as the National Inquiry gets underway.

We must always remember that safeguarding exists to enable the Church to ensure that the vast range of work with children, young people, the elderly, disabled and all people are the very best that they can be for everyone who wants to be involved.”

Tony Hunter, SCIE chief executive said: “SCIE commends the Church of England for taking such a proactive approach to auditing their safeguarding policies and practice. It’s so important that influential organisations - such as the Church - recognise their role in safeguarding children and adults. SCIE auditors were impressed by the openness of staff in the four pilot areas, and their willingness to share and learn. We look forward to continuing to work with the Church of England as we support rollout of their audit process across all dioceses.”

Anyone who is affected by a safeguarding issue, particularly in light of today’s reports, should feel free to come forward in confidence and they will be listened to. Details of how to report concerns and find support can be found [here](#).

[More information on SCIE](#)
[Report on Blackburn Diocese audit](#)

Seafarers' mission "horrified" at Indian anti-piracy convictions

The international Anglican mission agency which supports seafarers through missions in 260 ports around the world, has spoken out against the conviction of 35 crewmen of the anti-piracy ship MV Seaman Guard Ohio (SGO) by a court in India. The 10 crew and 25 guards have been sentenced to five years in an Indian prison for carrying illegal arms; but the Mission to Seafarers say that the crew were entitled to do so under international law.

“I am horrified and filled with anguish at this decision which is deeply unfair and unjust,” Mission to Seafarers’ director of justice and public affairs, Ken Peters, said. “These men are seafarers but it seems the court did not accept the basic fact that the ship was and is an anti-piracy vessel.

“The men carried arms in accordance with international maritime law for the purpose of ensuring the merchant fleet was protected



The MV Seaman Guard Ohio at Singapore in July 2012

properly from the very real risk of pirate attacks and hijack. The men have already suffered so much so this is a terrible outcome. It is beyond belief.”

Mission to Seafarers (MtS) has been supporting some of the crew and their families and say that “The men and families are deeply shocked and devastated at this decision and are stunned that the evidence has not irrefutably proven that the men were acting legally under international maritime law.

“The SGO is an anti-piracy support ship that carries crew and guards to protect merchant shipping.”

Mr Peters added that “We understand that the men's defence team are examining the possibility of an appeal.”

The crew were convicted of carrying illegal arms, illegal refuelling and unlawfully entering Indian waters off the coast of Tuticorin on 18 October 2013. They have been held in India ever since and have vehemently protested their innocence.

Be courageous in building a world of peace, Pope Francis urges teenagers

Don't fall for hate and fear-mongering from others, make new friends instead and always help and show concern for others, Pope Francis has told the world's teenagers.

“Be brave and go against the tide, be friends of Jesus, who is the prince of peace,” he said in a written message for the Jubilee of Mercy for Young People, scheduled to be celebrated in Rome and dioceses around the world on April 23-25.

In his [written message](#), released by the Vatican this week, the Pope said the Year of Mercy was open to everyone so they may experience “a time of grace, peace, conversion and joy”.

God invites everyone, he said, because “there are no walls or distances which can prevent the father’s mercy from reaching and embracing us.”

While three days in April have been set aside for those between 13 and 16 years of age, every day of the jubilee year marks “a chance for us to grow in holiness”.

It is also a time to realise “that life together as brothers and sisters is like a great party, perhaps the most beautiful party we can imagine, the endless party that Jesus has taught us to celebrate by his Spirit”.

However, the Pope said: “I cannot forget those of you who are living in situations of war, extreme poverty, daily troubles and loneliness. Don’t ever lose hope! The Lord has a great dream which, with your help, he wants to come true.”

Other young people around the world have not forgotten about those who are less fortunate and they “are working for peace and justice for everyone everywhere”, he said.

“Don’t be taken in by the messages of hatred or terror all around us. Instead, make new friends. Give of your time and always show concern for those who ask your help,” he said.

Pope Francis reminded young people that preparing for a pilgrimage or jubilee celebration didn’t just mean getting backpacks and banners ready, “but your hearts and minds as well”.

He urged them to grow closer to Jesus and draw nourishment from the sacraments. Becoming more merciful during the Year of Mercy means not only growing “in a love which is courageous, generous and real”, it is means greater spiritual growth, too.

“You are preparing to be Christians capable of making courageous decisions in order to build daily, even through little things, a world of peace,” he said.

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

**Catholic body -CCMS - calls for 'radical
overhaul" of NI curriculum**

BBC

The body that oversees Catholic education criticises the current Programme for Government (PfG) as "short-termist" and "populist".

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-35306225>

Youth leading youth to the heart of the Church

The Irish Catholic

Youth leading youth to heart of the **Church** ... "Basically I am directing all of **Ireland**, managing the prayer group, liaising with all the national council ...

<http://www.irishcatholic.ie/article/youth-leading-youth-heart-church>

Protestant cleric dismisses criticism of Pope's NI visit

The Irish Catholic

Canon Ian Ellis, editor of The **Church of Ireland** Gazette, told The Irish ... clamour from the usual suspects for him [the Pope] to visit Northern Ireland", ...

<http://www.irishcatholic.ie/article/protestant-leader-dismisses-criticism-pope%E2%80%99s-ni-visit>

Synod conference will face controversial family questions

The Irish Catholic

In **Ireland**, as in many other parts of the world, the consultation found that **Church** teaching was either poorly understood or poorly followed (and quite ...

<http://www.irishcatholic.ie/article/synod-conference-will-face-controversial-family-questions>

A Rising fantasy

The Irish Catholic

It is worth remembering this when considering last week's claim by **Church of Ireland** Archbishop of Dublin, Dr Michael Jackson, that the Easter Rising ...

<http://www.irishcatholic.ie/article/rising-fantasy>

Cancer charity's €7.4m payroll under review to fund hardship scheme

Irish Independent

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/cancer-charitys-74m-payroll-under-review-to-fund-hardship-scheme-34363464.html>

Cardy parents prayed for murderer of their daughter

[News Letter](#)

The parents of one of the victims of serial child killer Robert Black would have loved him to know “the beautiful peace of God” they said.

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/jennifer-cardy-parents-prayed-killer-black-would-know-peace-of-god-1-7159577>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-35299217>

Who's driving high abortion rates? It's the religious right

The Guardian

In Northern **Ireland** the new first minister, Arlene Foster, who took office on Monday, has vowed to ensure that the Abortion Act 1967, which covers the ...

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jan/13/whos-driving-high-abortion-rates-religious-right>

Rugby star Ruan Pienaar's Christian faith persuaded him to stay with Ulster

Belfast Telegraph

A devout **Christian**, Pienaar's original choice to move to Northern **Ireland** was heavily influenced by his **religious** faith, and it was a desire to share his ...

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/rugby-star-ruan-pienaaars-christian-faith-persuaded-him-to-stay-with-ulster-34359541.html>

Tel

Report on the Primates' meeting and gathering at Canterbury Cathedral which says some Primates had taken 'time out' from the meeting, but had returned. The article speculates on how the meeting has been structured.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/12098501/Archbishops-treated-like-children-in-church-gay-crisis-talks.html>

Guard

Report previewing the World Economic Forum which will take place in Davos next week. It mentions that the Archbishop of Canterbury will be among the delegates. The article says the invitation-only event will include a cast of politicians, digital pioneers, activists and Hollywood actors.

<http://www.theguardian.com/business/2016/jan/13/dicaprio-world-economic-forum-davos-kerry-trudeau-lynch-archbishop-canterbury-uber>

churchnewsireland@gmail.com

Guard/Mail

Researchers at Oxford University say the introduction of same-sex marriage has not had the same impact as civil partnerships. The research concludes that most same-sex marriages involve couples already in civil partnerships, and 1 in 8 civil partnerships have been converted into marriage.

<http://www.theguardian.com/society/2016/jan/13/most-same-sex-marriages-england-wales-already-civil-partnerships>

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3398453/Civil-partnership-converted-marriage-rate-one-eight.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490

Sun/Mail

Two hundred people paid their respects to a war veteran who himself had travelled to the funerals of young soldiers. Harry Thrush who was ninety-two, spent a decade honouring the lives of soldiers who died in Afghanistan. His funeral was held at St Mary's church in Beeston

<http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/6859130/WW2-gunner-that-spent-decade-attending-funerals-of-young-soldiers-given-military-service.html>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3397851/World-War-Two-hero-92-spent-final-years-attending-funerals-veterans-laid-rest-hundreds-mourners-returning-favour.html>

ITV

Children at a Church of England school in Shropshire are raising money for one of their class-mates who has been in hospital after being diagnosed with cancer. Matthew Cooper, who is paralysed, can't come home until his

home has been adapted, so the schoolchildren and local community are trying to raise the money needed.

<http://www.itv.com/news/central/update/2016-01-13/thousands-needed-to-get-11-year-old-cancer-patient-home-from-hospital/>

CT

Article quoting Richard Dawkins as saying that Christianity may be the best defence against forms of religion that threaten the world.

<http://www.christiantoday.com/article/richard.dawkins.says.christianity.is.worlds.best.defence.against.radical.islam/76416.htm>

Times

In an opinion piece, Edward Lucas asks whether the worst enemy of British Christians is themselves. He argues that much of the Christian church in Britain has lost its conviction, and therefore its power to convince.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/columnists/article4664724.ece>

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