



# CNI



## **Irish pilgrims prepare for International Eucharistic Congress in the Philippines**

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, Archbishop of Dublin, celebrated Mass in Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth last Saturday 9 January with the Irish pilgrims who will be attending the 51st International Eucharistic Congress in Cebu in the Philippines from 24 – 31 January.

A total of 26 pilgrims, representing 11 Irish dioceses, will travel to Cebu with the majority of

this delegation departing Ireland on Thursday 21 January.

Saturday's Mass was part of a final preparatory meeting which is being hosted by Bishop Kevin Doran, Bishop of Elphin. Bishop Doran was secretary general of the 50th International Eucharistic Congress which was hosted in Dublin in June 2012.

The theme of the 51st International Eucharistic Congress is 'Christ in You, Our Hope of Glory'.

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, who was President of IEC2012 in Dublin, will be the principal celebrant for the main Congress Mass on Friday 29 January in Cebu. Bishop Kevin Doran will be the main celebrant for the English language Mass on Wednesday 27 January. There will be fourteen language Masses in various parishes around Cebu that afternoon.

Other Irish pilgrims involved in the Cebu Congress are Father John Coughlan from the Diocese of Elphin who will be speaking at the Theology Symposium and Ms Frankie Berry, Chaplaincy to Deaf People, who will be speaking at a workshop on Thursday 28 January. Ms Anne Griffin, General Manager of IEC2012, will be attending the Congress as part of the Holy See delegation along with Archbishop Piero

Marini, the president of the Pontifical Committee for International Eucharistic Congresses, and his team.

Bishop Kevin Doran said: “Christians are a small minority of the population of Asia, but a very significant presence in the Philippines. This gives the Congress in Cebu a strong missionary dimension. The theme is a reminder to the Filipino Church that through Christ who lives in them, they are carriers of Hope for the whole of Asia. The pilgrimage to Cebu will be an opportunity for the Irish delegation to consider how we can become once again carriers of hope, not just for ourselves, but for the people of Europe.”

For more information on the 51st International Eucharistic Congress please see [www.iec2016.ph](http://www.iec2016.ph).

## **Presbyterian Moderator congratulates new First Minister on her election**

The Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Rt. Rev. Dr. Ian McNie has congratulated

Arlene Foster MLA on her election yesterday as Northern Ireland's First Minister.

Dr. McNie said, "The call to leadership in the public square can be an onerous responsibility bringing with it many challenges and opportunities to work for the common good of all the people of Northern Ireland.

"The Bible calls on all Christians to pray for those in authority and as she assumes the joint responsibilities of leadership with the Deputy First Minister, both Mrs. Foster and Mr. McGuinness can be assured of my prayers and the prayers of many throughout our Church."

## **Dublin Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2016**

Dublin Council of Churches' Inaugural Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2016 will take place in St Paul's Roman Catholic Church, Arran Quay, Dublin, on Monday January 18 at 8.00 pm. The preacher will be the Very Revd Kenneth Newell, former Moderator of Fitzroy Presbyterian Church, Belfast. All are very welcome to attend.

The programme of services for churches throughout the greaterDublin area is available at

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<http://www.dublinchurches.ie/WPCU-2016.pdf>

## **Silenced priest frustrated by lack of support from bishops**

Fr Tony Flannery has spoken about his frustration at the lack of support from the Catholic bishops since being withdrawn from public duties over his views on reforming the church.

Irish Examiner - The founder of the Association of Catholic Priests said his experience of the last four years, having been ordered by the Vatican not to minister publicly or to speak or write about his views, makes it hard to have much faith in the Church.

Fr Flannery spoke of the lack of process surrounding his dealings with the Vatican, which demanded he make public statements renouncing his views in relation to women priests and homosexuality, issues on which he opposes Catholic policy.



“I just think it’s so frustrating, the Irish bishops have never even contacted me in the last four years. Never shown me any element of support,” he told Miriam O’Callaghan on RTÉ Radio 1.

“They are in senior positions in an institution that is conducting affairs in a totally unjust and abusive fashion and they do nothing about it and I find that intolerable.

Last August, Bishop of Cloyne William Crean prevented the Redemptorist priest giving a talk at a community hall in east Cork. The bishop said he was unable to approve a parish pastoral council’s invitation, because a priest who is out of ministry cannot exercise a public ministry.

Fr Flannery also raised concern that the Association of Catholic Priests, which now has more than 1,000 members, is still unable to meet with the Papal Nuncio to Ireland.

He said that, instead of leaving the Catholic Church or the priesthood, as some suggest he should, he has got involved in an international effort to reform the Church, which is now also developing in Ireland.

“I’m now at this stage very involved in the international church movement, which is extremely stimulating and exciting and has opened up a whole new world to me,” he said.

“And in some ways this is the best period of my life right now.”

More at -

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/ireland/silenced-priest-frustrated-by-lack-of-support-from-bishops-375435.html>

## **President of Down and Dromore Mothers’ Union commissioned**

Bishop Harold Miller commissioned June Butler MBE as Diocesan President of Down and Dromore Mothers’ Union at a service in her home parish of Saintfield on Sunday on 10 January.

Former MU Worldwide President, Lady Christine Eames, gave the address and Phyllis Grothier, All-Ireland President, also attended, having travelled from her home in Fenagh Co. Carlow.



***June Butler MBE, Diocesan President of Down and Dromore Mothers' Union***

June succeeds Joy Silcock, who held the position from January 2013. Joy's hard work and leadership were acknowledged and applauded during the service and afterwards during the speeches in the hall.

The MU in Down and Dromore has 60 branches with some 2,200 members. Lady Eames spoke of the many challenges that will face the new



Diocesan President in what has become a multi-faceted job in an organisation undergoing huge change.

June, however brings many skills and much experience to the task. She will be known to many as Diocesan Secretary of Down and Dromore and Connor, having previously held the post of Assistant Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland. She has also served the MU in various capacities over the years.

In a short speech, June thanked the many people who had guided and encouraged her throughout her MU journey, not least her husband and daughters whose support had been invaluable.

June also said she hoped that MU members would be able to express the joy of being part of a worldwide organisation which reaches across boundaries of class, culture and wealth.

“I hope that there will be many smiles and even laughter as we move forward into the years ahead”, she said, finishing with a quote from Mother Theresa: “Joy is prayer; joy is strength: joy is love; joy is a net of love by which you can catch souls.”

## **Dublin C of I delegation forge links with Jerusalem diocese**

The Church of Ireland Archbishop of Dublin and Glendalough has signed a significant accord with the Diocese of Jerusalem's Archbishop Suheil Dawani which is aimed at bringing the two dioceses into closer partnership.

Archbishop Michael Jackson is currently in the Middle East with a delegation from Dublin and Glendalough which includes the Rev Ken Rue, Jan de Bruijn and Linda Chambers of Us.

The Diocese of Jerusalem spans Jordan, Palestine, Israel, Syria and Lebanon.

During the course of the visit, the Irish delegation has been meeting clergy and people of the Diocese of Jerusalem and visiting churches, hospitals and schools.

They visited Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza which the Diocese of Dublin and Glendalough raised over €110,000 for in Advent 2014.

A particular aim of the visit is to learn more about the impact of the Syrian crisis throughout the region and to discuss how schools and



churches in Ireland can link up with their counterparts in the region.

There are also hopes that the new accord could foster pilgrimages to each others' dioceses.

Archbishop Jackson has also been outlining the workings and successes of the Come&C project with a view to working with the Church in Jerusalem towards doing a similar exercise around the Five Marks of Mission of the Anglican Communion.

Last Wednesday (6 January) Archbishop Jackson preached in St George's Cathedral in Jerusalem for the Feast of the Epiphany. He spoke of the importance of geography, place, history and presence.

“Those of us who come from afar to mark and celebrate the Epiphany with you in the Land of the Holy One are very conscious of our rootedness in, our dependence on you and on your faith in often impossibly hard times and circumstances in this place and in this lived and living history. Your witness inspires and embodies the witness of millions of Christian people worldwide; and for it we are profoundly grateful,” he said.

“You rightly describe yourselves as Living Stones: Living Stones, as the hymn writer expresses it, by God appointed: appointed to watch and pray and live and respond. Each one of you is part of the building, the edifice, of witness and salvation. Both witness and salvation are chiselled out in the story of faith that all of you share with all of us: a story of God becoming human in order that we might, through his self-emptying and self-giving in love and service here in the Galilee and in Jerusalem, share in his divinity,” he commented.

The Archbishop also spoke of those who had been forced to flee the region and the Anglican diocese in the Middle East, particularly Syria and said that Europe was not coping very well.

“Western society has become very individualised, very compartmentalised and very fond of its own space. It has also lost touch with the sense that God infuses our public spaces for the common good. Many people simply do not want neighbours; they want privacy. This makes it terribly difficult to do anything that makes a difference in love for the people who are in greatest need. It has also made us unsure of ourselves as we relate suddenly to a ‘them’ who are now an ‘us’,” Dr Jackson stated.

In 2016 the people of Ireland would need to develop a compassionate approach and a sustained response to those who come in fear and trauma, he suggested.

Those people who come here would also long for human acceptance and recognition of their identity that takes on board who they are and who they will become in Ireland.

“This is a grace we need to accept and to re-discover. Our hope is that, as an island people, we might do this with good grace and that, as a nation of people who have emigrated time and again, we might somehow understand and be sensitive to the fears in arriving somewhere new together with the bereavement of leaving all we ever knew behind,” he said.

## Fire damages Dunmurry Parish Church

Firefighters were called to St Colman's Parish Church in Dunmurry shortly after 1am following reports that the church building was on fire. A firefighter was taken to hospital after being injured tackling a blaze at a church in the Dunmurry early yesterday morning. The Rector of the church, the Revd Adrian McLaughlin, was also taken to hospital to be treated for the effects of smoke inhalation. Neither was seriously injured; but the damage to the church is said to be "significant."

The fire was spotted by the Rector of St Colman's Parish Church, the Revd Adrian McLaughlin, in the early hours of this morning when he spotted a "glow" from the rectory.

"He attempted to tackle the blaze but the fire quickly took hold and Adrian had to flee the building," a spokesman for the Diocese of Connor said. "He was later treated in hospital for the effects of smoke inhalation."

Seven fire appliances from Cadogan, Lisburn, Springfield and Central fire stations attended the

blaze alongside the Fire Emergency Support Service appliance. The Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service said that the firefighter who had been taken to hospital received “non-serious injuries” when he was hit by falling masonry.

“I got up to let our cat in and spotted what I thought was a light in the church,” the Revd Adrian McLaughlin said. “I pulled my boots on and went over. The place was full of smoke, so I searched for the source, and got the hose while my wife Christine called the Fire Brigade.

“But it was like putting petrol on a bonfire. The place literally exploded in my face. The building dates to 1908 and everything in it was so dry. I had to run for my life. The roof just went up and the zinc pipes in the organ melted like chocolate in front of me.

“I have learned a valuable lesson, and it is a lesson for everyone. When you see a fire, you have to get out.”

The rector praised the Fire Service, describing their actions as “superb.”

The fire, which was extinguished by 5.20am, is being treated as “accidental.” The extent of the

damage is being assessed today, but McLaughlin described it as “significant.”

“The stonework and the arches were burned, the organs have gone and we were gifted a chandelier before Christmas and it has been destroyed,” he said. “The furniture in the choir stalls was destroyed, and the keyboards, the lectern, in fact everything is sodden and stained with tar and water.”

Adrian said that other local churches had been quick to offer their support and this was appreciated by the parish.

“I am very upset for the people of Dunmurry Parish, but we will get through this and it will pull us together as a congregation,” he said, adding: “It was a very, very frightening experience, and I hope and pray that through it other people will learn that if there is a fire, you have to get out.”

See also -

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/northern-ireland-news/firefighters-tackle-overnight-blaze-at-church-of-ireland-1-7153614>

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/belfast-church-blaze-leaves-minister-and-firefighter-hospitalised-34353385.html>



## Justin Welby: Anglican split over homosexuality would be a failure but 'not a disaster'

Schism over homosexuality in the Anglican Communion would not be a disaster but it would certainly be a failure, the Archbishop of Canterbury said yesterday.

Speaking as he and 38 other Primates from Anglican provinces take part in a worldwide meeting in Canterbury, the Most Rev Justin Welby said: "Certainly I want reconciliation. Reconciliation doesn't always mean agreement. In fact it very seldom does. It means finding ways of disagreeing well and that's what we've got to do this week."

The Dean of Newcastle, the Very Rev Christopher Dalliston, is among senior churchman to sign [a letter calling on the Church to repent](#) for discrimination against lesbian and gay Christians. More than 3,200 people have now signed the letter, on top of the 105 senior Anglicans who were the original signatories.

Archbishop Welby told BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme: "There's nothing I can do if

people decide that they want to leave the room. It won't split the Communion."

He indicated that imminent schism was not likely, however. There is a lengthy and complex process which has to be gone through if a province wishes to leave the Communion, he said. "We want to stay together to listen to each other in service to Jesus Christ and to focus on, not only the issue of sexuality, but also the huge issues that are affecting people around the world – conflict, persecution, religious violence. Those are also really important on the agenda."

However, he did note that the reality of a possible walk-out must be faced. "The Church is a family and you remain in a family even if you go your separate ways. That's always been the case and it always will be. God puts us together and we have to work out how we live with that and how we serve God faithfully in a way that shows that you can disagree profoundly and still love and care for each other."

He said the African churches were doing some "extraordinary work" around poverty and development and Aids in a way that was "quite remarkable".

He admitted: "A schism would not be a disaster... God is bigger than our failures. But it

would be a failure. It would not be good if the Church is unable to set an example to the world of showing how we can love one another and disagree profoundly because we are brought together by Jesus Christ not by our own choice. This isn't a form of club or a political party. It is something done by God."

## **News links to reports on faith, politics and education**

### **Arlene Foster: I want to make sure our children grow up in a better Northern Ireland than I did**

Belfast Telegraph

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/opinion/arlene-foster-i-want-to-make-sure-our-children-grow-up-in-a-better-northern-ireland-than-i-did-34351059.html>

### **Gerry Adams not quit as leader, says Sinn Fein**

Belfast Telegraph

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/politics/gerry-adams-not-quit-as-leader-says-sinn-fein-34351648.html>

### **Good Friday Agreement of 1998 must change how we commemorate the 1916 Rising**

Irish Examiner - John Bruton writes

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/viewpoints/analysis/good-friday-agreement-of-1998-must-change-how-we-commemorate-the-1916-rising-375426.html>

## **Suicide rates hit new heights but Stormont task force fails to meet**

Irish News

<http://www.irishnews.com/paywall/tsa/irishnews/irishnews/irishnews//news/2016/01/11/news/stormont-group-tackling-suicide-fails-to-meet-for-almost-a-year-378710/content.html>

## **31 trafficked women in Republic of Ireland sought help last year**

Belfast Telegraph

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/republic-of-ireland/31-trafficked-women-in-republic-of-ireland-sought-help-last-year-34350391.html>

## **BBC/Ind/Sky**

Reports that the leaders of the global Anglican Communion are to confront their very different views on sexuality when they meet in Canterbury later today. The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby arranged the gathering last year. The Anglican Communion is made up of some 80 million people around the world in more than 160 countries.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-35278124>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/african-anglicans-may-trigger-formal-schism-of-church-at-canterbury-meeting-a6805176.html>

<http://news.sky.com/story/1620245/gay-division-talks-to-save-church-from-split>

### **Times/Int Business Times/Guard/Tel/BBC**

Further coverage of a letter sent to the Archbishops of Canterbury and York. The letter, signed by more than 100 mostly retired senior Anglicans, says the Church has “failed in its duty of care” towards gay and transgender Christians and calls for an apology. The letter is timed to coincide with the Primates meeting in Canterbury Cathedral, which starts today.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/faith/article4661501.ece>

<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/senior-anglicans-call-church-england-repent-anti-gay-discrimination-1537077>

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jan/10/senior-anglicans-call-church-of-england-repentance-lgbti-sexual-discrimination>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/12091565/>

[Church-must-repent-for-treating-gays-like-second-class-citizens.html](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/12091565/Church-must-repent-for-treating-gays-like-second-class-citizens.html)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-35274944>

### **Ind**

An international group of mainly Catholic bishops are in Jordan at the start of a tour of the region, highlighting the plight of the “forgotten” Christians of the Middle East. They will use their journey around the region’s beleaguered Christian communities to draw world attention to the harsh conditions faced by Iraqi Christians who were driven from their homes by the Isis advance in the summer of 2014. The British bishops among the group are expected to use their visit to renew calls for the UK Government to admit more than the

20,000 Syrian refugees so far agreed to by David Cameron.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/plight-of-iraqi-christians-bishops-highlight-harsh-situation-of-refugees-from-isis-persecuted-for-a6805206.html>

### **Comment**

**Telegraph:** Charles Moore writes under the headline, “This is the week that the Anglican Communion might fall apart”.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/12092153/This-is-the-week-the-Anglican-church-might-fall-apart.html>

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