



The first Catholic service will be held in the Chapel Royal at Hampton Court Palace since the reign of Henry VIII, report this issue

C of I bishops flood victims appeal

January 9

The C of I Archbishops of Armagh and Dublin have issued an appeal for flood victims on behalf of the House of Bishops. They state -

Extensive hardship is being experienced in many places across the island of Ireland as a result of recent floods. The Archbishops and Bishops are leading a Church of Ireland response to this crisis to raise funds to provide small grants to help people with immediate needs in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

People have been left without food, shelter, warmth and clothing as a result of flooding and water damage. The Archbishops and Bishops ask you to respond with generosity.

Clergy are being asked to draw this appeal to the attention of members of their parishes and the means of making donations is set out below.

If you, or someone you know, is experiencing hardship as a result of flooding, you can apply for assistance on a form that has been made available to your rector, or the rural dean or diocesan office (if you have a vacancy). The Church is being assisted by Protestant Aid, a charitable body with experience in the provision of welfare assistance in the allocation of funds. Where appropriate, parishes or other local and

charitable agencies will also be used to channel funds.

Individual donations may be made in the following ways:

- On line: www.ireland.anglican.org/flood
- Or by € or £ cheque to: The Representative Church Body: Bishops' Flood Appeal, Church of Ireland House, Church Avenue, Rathmines, Dublin 6
- Parishes may also provide an option of a special collection at Sunday services over the next two weeks.

Dublin and Glendalough diocese visit to the Diocese of Jerusalem

Archbishop Michael Jackson is currently leading a delegation from Dublin and Glendalough on a visit to the Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East. The Archbishop is travelling with the Revd Ken Rue, chairperson of the Diocesan Council for Mission and Linda Chambers and Jan de Bruijn of the United Society.

Dublin and Glendalough is entering into a partnership with the Diocese of Jerusalem which spans Jordan, Palestine, Israel, Syria and

Lebanon. An accord document will be signed by Archbishop Jackson and Archbishop Suheil Dawani during the visit.

This week the delegation will meet clergy and people of the Diocese of Jerusalem and visit churches, hospitals and schools. In particular they will visit Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza for which over €110,000 was raised in our United Dioceses in Advent 2014.

They also hope to learn more about the impact of the Syrian crisis throughout the region and to discuss how our schools and churches can link up with their counterparts there and how there could be pilgrimages to each others' dioceses. The Archbishop will also outline to them the Come&C project and work with them in doing a similar exercise around the Five Marks of Mission of the Anglican Communion.

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.

He continued, “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”.

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’,” he 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.

Launch of C of I conversation guide on human sexuality

The Church of Ireland’s Select Committee on Human Sexuality in the Context of Christian Belief will launch a *Guide to the Conversation* in

Dublin and Belfast on January 18 and 19, 2016. The new resource is designed to assist members of the Church in the ongoing process of listening, learning and dialogue on this issue. The *Guide*, which will outline the Church's listening process to date along with contextual essays and contributions from different viewpoints, will also be accompanied by Bible Studies and an Executive Summary.

The *Guide* will be launched by The Most Revd Dr Richard Clarke, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, at Church of Ireland House, Rathmines, Dublin 6 on Monday January 18 at 4:00pm and at the Library of St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast on Tuesday January 19 at 4:00pm. The Very Revd John Mann, Chair of the Select Committee, will also speak at the launch events.

Matthew Breen returns for Armagh organ recital

Matthew Breen will return to Armagh to give the next organ recital in the series. This will be held on Sunday 24 January 2016 at 4.15pm in St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral.

Matthew began his musical training as a treble in *John Dexter Harmony*. He went on to study piano with John Dexter, and in 2011 began organ studies with David Adams at the Royal Irish Academy of Music. In May 2014, Matthew completed the Archbishop's Certificate in Church Music.

Over the last three years Matthew has won the Feis Ceol Junior Organ, Senior Organ and Stanford prizes, in addition to the McAuley Cup for best overall organ performance. In 2014 he won the organ category in the Newry Musical Feis and, in August 2015, the intermediate category of the Northern Ireland International Organ Competition, which was held in Armagh Cathedral.

Matthew was organ scholar of St Paul's Church, Glenageary from 2013 to 2015, during which time he gave recitals all around the country and played for services in Dublin's two cathedrals. Last month he was appointed Organist and Musical Director of St Patrick's Church, Dalkey.

For his recital in Armagh, Matthew will play works by Johann Sebastian Bach, César Franck and William Walton amongst others.

The Dean of Armagh, the Very Revd Gregory Dunstan, said, "Since he first played here in 2014, Matthew's career has gone from strength to strength. We are delighted to welcome him back to Armagh, to give the recital that was awarded as a prize to the winner of the Intermediate category of last year's Organ Competition."

As is the format with recitals in the Cathedral, admission is free, with a retiring collection towards the further endowment of the Cathedral choir through the Archbishop's Choir Fund.

Cork cathedral Irish Language Service

An Irish Language Service is held on the first Saturday of every month in St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork at midday. All are welcome. The first Service of 2016 was held last Saturday, 2nd January, 2016.

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Ulster rugby players to speak about their faith

Ruan Pienaar, Wiehahn Herbst and Paul Marshall will be interviewed by the BBC's Mark Simpson at St Anne's Cathedral in Belfast on 25 January.

Three high profile members of the Ulster rugby squad are set to talk about their faith later this month at a service in St Anne's Cathedral in Belfast.

Ruan Pienaar, Wiehahn Herbst and Paul Marshall will be interviewed by the BBC's Mark Simpson on Monday, 25 January at 8pm.

There will also be a short time of worship, and personal prayer for those who would like to receive it.

Shane Logan, Chief Executive of Ulster Rugby, will also talk about his faith at the event which is being sponsored by Christian Vision for Men and Divine Healing Ministries.

Ruan Pienaar holds 88 caps for South Africa and played for the South African team that won the World Cup in 2007. He joined Ulster in 2010.



CVM CHRISTIAN VISION FOR MEN
Ulster Rugby Tour
IRELAND
In partnership with
Divine Healing Ministries

Join Ulster Rugby players;
Ruan Pienaar, Paul Marshall & Wiehahn Herbst
as they talk all things rugby and share their life changing stories

Monday 25 January 2016 - 8pm
St Anne's Cathedral
Donegal Street, Belfast BT12 2HB



Admission FREE
Doors open at 7:15pm - arrive early to avoid disappointment!
For more info t: 028 9045 7379 e: ireland@cvm.org.uk

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A devout Christian, he has said in the past, “I have always believed, with my Christianity, that there’s so much more to life than rugby. Being here gives me an enormous sense of purpose. I am not just here for rugby. I’m here to touch lives.”

Born in 1984 in the South African town of Bloemfontein, Ruan Pienaar's father was the Springbok fullback Gysie Pienaar. The family was a devout Christian one.

He told the Belfast Newsletter, "I grew up in a Christian home and always went to church on Sunday."

Since moving to Northern Ireland he has been a regular worshipper at the Christian Fellowship Church (CFC) in east Belfast.

Pienaar believes there is a heaven and a hell and after we die there's eternal life.

He tries to make time for Bible study every day.

"I think it's important to stay disciplined and obedient in what you have decided to do, so that is a routine I'm trying to follow – just to have the same time every day to have Bible study."

And is there a passage in the Bible which particularly resonates for him?

"I don't walk with a Bible underneath my arms and think I'm the perfect person. I make mistakes every single day and I'm not afraid to admit that. But I think it's just about trying to set

an example, trying to always be positive – that’s the way I try to live my life.”

Being a rugby star might seem as at odds with spirituality, but not for Pienaar.

“I don’t really think so, however you do get into occasions on the pitch where you get tempted to lose it a bit. We try and behave as well as possible, but it’s not always easy, but I definitely think there’s a place for Christianity in the sport that we play. “

Belfast-born scrum-half Paul Marshall made his debut for Ulster in 2006.

Raised in a Christian home, he made a commitment to Christ at the age of 10, but didn’t really understand the commitment he had made.

It wasn’t until his final year of secondary school that he really began to live for Christ.

Hearing about the death of a former team mate of the same age during a game, and hearing a non-Christian team mate say that Marshall acted differently around his rugby friends to his church friends, were turning points in his life.

Citing Colossians 3:23 as his favourite verse, [‘Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart,

as working for the Lord, not for human masters’] he is clear about what God wants him to do.

“God wants me to impact other rugby players and other people for him,” Marshall has said.

Wesley Burrowes, gifted writer whose dogs won crossword competitions

Wesley Burrowes, a gifted writer, died on December 31st. His funeral, in [Christ Church, Church of Ireland](#) church in [Bray](#), Co Wicklow, close to where he lived, was attended by about 300 people.

Irish Times - He was aged 85 and had been in poor health since a stroke in 2011. He was born in [Northern Ireland](#) and grew up in Co Down, but lived most of his adult life in [Wicklow](#).

During a long and highly successful writing career he was the creative force behind numerous successful RTÉ dramas beyond The Riordans, including Tolka Row, Bracken and Glenroe, and also wrote several plays, a musical, a film script and a memoir of The Riordans.

They heard from his friend, the rector, Rev Baden Stanley, that the essence of his writing ability was “to capture character”.

“Stories mattered to him,” noted Rev Stanley, recalling Burrowes’s reaction to a recent remembrance event in which the scene at [Flanders](#) was recreated inside the church. Burrowes stood back, surveying the display, a memorial to 168 men and boys from Bray who died in the first World War, and thought of the individual stories behind each death.

His daughter Ciara recalled how, even after his debilitating stroke, her father’s gentleness, wit and capacity to host remained undimmed. She listed his many loves – his family, dogs, writing, [Greece](#), bridge and crosswords, friends and music.

Her father entered many crossword competitions, using the names of pets.

“[George Burrowes](#), the loyal setter, won a case of wine,” said Ciara, amid laughter. “[Lucy Burrowes](#), the spaniel, won book tokens. My dog, [Sid Burrowes](#), won a lovely weekend away in a posh hotel.” More at -

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/ability-of-wesley-burrowes-to-capture-character-recalled-1.2486872>

Catholic vespers will be celebrated in Henry VIII's chapel for first time in 450 years

The first Catholic vespers will be celebrated at Hampton Court Palace next month for the first time in 450 years.

On Tuesday February 9 Cardinal Vincent Nichols will celebrate Vespers in King Henry VIII's chapel.

The Vespers, at Hampton Court Palace's Chapel Royal, will be celebrated in the Latin Rite and the Anglican Bishop of London will deliver a sermon.

The service will be dedicated to St John the Baptist, as the Chapel Royal was built by Cardinal Wolsey on the site of a chapel of the Knights of St John Hospitaller, dedicated to that saint.

The music will be performed by Harry Christophers and his ensembles The Sixteen and Genesis Sixteen.

Before Vespers is celebrated, Cardinal Nichols and the Bishop of London will host a discussion on the bonds between their churches and the dialogue they have had over the centuries.

Two organisations, the Genesis Foundation and the Choral Foundation, are behind the historic ceremony.

John Studzinski, founder and chairman of the Genesis Foundation, said: “Dialogue between faiths is much needed and welcomed in these turbulent times. We need to recognise that we have more in common than not.

“I’m therefore delighted that the Genesis Foundation is enabling the Catholic and Anglican churches to engage in dialogue on this site that is so rich in history, both theological and musical. It will be an unforgettable occasion and is genuinely one for the history books.”

Michele Price of the Choral Foundation said: “The Chapel Royal at Hampton Court played centre stage to the religious changes in the 16th century. Its musicians and composers met the challenge of serving the spiritual needs of Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary I and Elizabeth I, by producing new and beautiful music and in so

doing became the cradle of English church music.

“This historic occasion enables us to explore our rich heritage and bring together Christian traditions as we celebrate 500 years of Hampton Court Palace.”

Pope Francis visits site of world's first Nativity scene

Pope Francis made a surprise visit to the place where his namesake, St Francis of Assisi, created the world's first Nativity scene.

“He wanted to visit the sanctuary and places where St Francis, on Christmas Eve in 1223, represented the first living Nativity in history,” Bishop Domenico Pompili of Rieti told ANSA, the Italian news agency.

The Pope had nothing listed on his official schedule, and so he used the free day to visit the Franciscan shrine in Greccio, a town 60 miles north-east of Rome and 56 miles south of Assisi.

The bishop said he and the shrine's prior were the only people informed a few days ahead of

time of the Pope's plans to make the January 4 visit.

As the Pope arrived in a blue Ford Focus accompanied by two plainclothes security guards, the shrine's guardian said he was caught completely off guard. "I didn't even have my habit on and I quickly went to the refectory to put it on. Then I opened the gate for the Pope," Franciscan Father Alfredo Silvestri told the Italian bishops' TV2000.

The Pope also made an unannounced stop at a local youth meeting organised by the diocese. Amid loud cheers and chants of "Francesco," some participants were moved to tears.

The Pope told the some 150 young people that their bishop had told him it would be a good idea to pray at Greccio during the Christmas season. "So I came to pray. But I won't say what white lie he used to lure me here," the Pope joked.

In impromptu remarks, the Pope told them to reflect on two important signs associated with Christ's birth: the star of Bethlehem and the baby in a manger.

“The sky is full of stars, isn’t it? But there is one that is special,” the star that inspired the Three Wise Men to leave everything behind and begin a journey into the unknown, he said.

The Pope asked the young people to be on the lookout in their own lives for a “special star that calls us to do something greater, to strike out on a journey, to make a decision.”

“We have to ask for this grace of discovering ‘the star’ that God today wants to show me because that star will lead me to Jesus,” he said.

The second sign, which the angels tell the shepherds about, is a baby born in a manger, he said.

This shows, the Pope said, how “God lowered himself, obliterated himself to be like us, to walk before us, but with smallness, that is, you can say, humility, which goes against pride, self-importance, arrogance.”

The Pope asked them to think about whether their own lives were “meek, humble, (one) that doesn’t turn up its nose, that isn’t full of pride.”

The Three Wise Men were very smart “because they let themselves be led by the star. All the splendour of Herod’s huge palace” did not fool

them because they were able to sense right away that the promised king they were looking for was not there, the Pope said.

He told the young people he hoped their lives would always be guided by these two signs — two gifts from God. He asked they always have that star that will guide them and “the humility to rediscover Jesus in the little ones, the humble, the poor, in those who are a cast off by society and from our own life.”

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

Church events in January to highlight 1916 centenaries

Irish Times

Two of the main churches in **Ireland** have organised seminars on the centenary events of 2016 to take place later this month in Dublin, Belfast, and ...

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/church-events-in-january-to-highlight-1916-centenaries-1.2488685>

IRA's numerous atrocities cast a long shadow over Rising centenary

Belfast Telegraph

Nelson McCausland writes

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/opinion/debateni/nelson-mccausland/iras-numerous-atrocities-cast-a-long-shadow-over-rising-centenary-34341581.html>.

Arlene Foster - Easter Rising was 'a violent attack on the United Kingdom'

Irish News

http://www.irishnews.com/news/2016/01/08/news/republicans-disappointed-over-foster-rising-commemoration-remarks-375953/?mc_cid=87c83bb4cd&mc_eid=23f2f80c40

ChildLine warns that social media is giving children low self-esteem

Belfast Telegraph

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/childline-warns-that-social-media-is-giving-children-low-selfesteem-34342147.html>

A grave business: The rise of alternative funerals

BBC News

A growing number of people are asking for alternative funerals when they pass away, leading to a new type of funeral director businesses, reports Suzanne Bearne.
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-35235590>

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