



The Rt. Rev. Dr. Frank Sellar was born in 1958 and is currently the Minister of Bloomfield Presbyterian Church in east Belfast. He was ordained as assistant at Hamilton Road, Bangor in 1988 and was installed as minister of Adelaide Road Presbyterian Church in Dublin in 1990. He was called to Bloomfield in 2007.

New Presbyterian Moderator calls Church to be a ‘Community of global concern’

Speaking in Belfast at his installation as Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland yesterday evening (Monday 6), the Rt. Rev. Dr. Frank Sellar called on the Church to be a 'community of global concern' that challenges injustice, poverty and oppression.

The Minister of Bloomfield Presbyterian Church in east Belfast is the 177th Moderator and the 64th Moderator to come from Belfast. He was addressing over 800 Church members, guests and civic dignitaries at the Opening Night of the 2016 General Assembly, the Church's governing and decision-making body that is meeting in the City until Friday.

Dr. Sellar took for the theme of his address the well-known Old Testament story of Jonah, who was reluctantly sent by God to the people of Nineveh, in what is now modern-day Iraq.

Drawing on the theme for his year in office – 'A Community of Global Concern' the new Moderator said that unlike the reluctant Jonah, the Church is called to act with compassion, in particular, as a "A community of global concern, learning from and sharing with our brothers and sisters in the world church, while recognising with them those issues of concern for our stewardship of the world's resources where

together we must challenge injustice, poverty and oppression in Jesus' name," the Moderator said.

Dr. Sellar connected a range of global issues from the story, saying that in failing to honour "... the God of this world by his actions, or rather lack of actions, Jonah was failing to live as the steward of God's creation."

Talking of the world we find ourselves in today, the Moderator said, "...every time any species of plant or animal is obliterated, or the sea and dry land subjected to rising temperatures due to selfish human activity... the poorest peoples of this world suffer most..."

Dr. Sellar also spoke specifically of Jonah's bigotry, selfishness and lack of care for the spiritually lost and for God, who created the environment. Failures, the Moderator said, that he also saw at home, in Ireland, North and South, failures that needed to be 'acknowledged and confessed'.

In closing Dr. Sellar said, "...Christ Jesus extends His invitation to repent. To be converted all over again. To find re-priority and receive a brand new start. Bigotry matters. People matter.

The God of our environment matters. Right and wrong matters.

“This year, may we as the people of God repent of our lack of care for these critical issues highlighted here in Jonah, and with His strength as a branch of Christ’s church in this island at this time, be a community of Global concern.”

Earlier in the evening, the outgoing Moderator, Very Rev. Dr. Ian McNie, focused in his address on the unique role that the Church plays in society.

“The Church today has been entrusted with a responsibility and message from Jesus Christ, that no other organisation or institution has been mandated by Him to share. It is the unique message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, His birth, life, teaching, death and resurrection, and the implication of this for everyone.”

Dr. McNie also spoke of the importance of having the freedom to disagree in a society of competing ideologies and touched on some of the public square issues of the day. These included freedom of conscience and the Church’s historic and Christian understanding of marriage. In conclusion, the former Moderator encouraged the Church to step out into the

world as 'radical disciples' to proclaim the 'agenda of the Cross'.

Speaking in advance of the service, Dr. Sellar said, "I'm humbled that the Church has trusted me with this responsibility. It has been a huge privilege to have been involved in a lifetime of leadership in local congregations, both in the south and north.

"I am looking forward to my year as Moderator, especially as it coincides with the General Assembly theme for 2016 which is 'A Community of Global Concern'. Christians are never permitted to be isolationists. We are called to learn from and share with our brothers and sisters in the worldwide Church, participating with them in the urgent task of world evangelism, stewardship of the earth's resources and challenging injustice, poverty and oppression. At the same time, it is vital that people hear that Jesus is the antidote to all the bad news, which is so prevalent in a broken society." he said.

Following the installation, there then follows three and a half days of worship, prayer, Bible study, celebration, debate and decision-making, by ministers and elders from the Church's 545 congregations across Ireland, taking decisions

that will set the direction for the life and ministry of Church.

Rev. Trevor Gribben, Clerk of the General Assembly, and General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, said, “Much of what will be discussed is routine; matters that affect only the Church and the way we operate, but are, nonetheless important.”

The installation and the vast majority of the public sessions of the Assembly are streamed at www.presbyterianireland.org. Proceedings can also be followed on Twitter via @pciassembly using the hashtag #PCIGA16.

New priest ordained for Cork and Ross

Bishop John Buckley ordained Rev Pat Nugent to the priesthood on Saturday for the diocese of Cork and Ross. The ordination took place in Church of the Real Presence, Bishopstown on Saturday 4 June and Fr Pat celebrated his First Mass of Thanksgiving on Sunday in the same parish.

A native of Co Clare, Fr Pat has spent most of his life in Cork where he taught at post-primary and at third-level before becoming a candidate for the priesthood and studying at St Patrick's College Maynooth. He is one of nine ordinations taking place in the Irish Church this year and the only one for the Munster region.

Cork and Ross has three men studying to minister as priests in diocese. Their studies are spread across a seven-year programme, so that between now and 2022 the diocese will have, at most, four new priests.

Moderator addresses RUC GC Service in Enniskillen

The Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Rt. Rev. Dr. Ian McNie, was in Enniskillen on Sunday afternoon (5th June) to preach at the annual Royal Ulster Constabulary George Cross Day service.

RUC GC Day, the first Sunday in June each year, marks the service and sacrifice of the RUC family. Her Majesty The Queen announced the award of The George Cross in November 1999 to “recognise the collective courage and

dedication to duty of all of those who have served in the Royal Ulster Constabulary and who have accepted the danger and stress this has brought to them and to their families”. The Queen presented the RUC with the George Cross at a special ceremony at Hillsborough Castle in April 2000.

Speaking on his last full day as Presbyterian Moderator before the interdenominational service, which took place at Enniskillen Methodist Church, Dr. McNie said that he was honoured to have been asked to speak.

“On this last Sunday before I hand over the responsibilities of Moderator of the General Assembly, I would like to say how much I value the opportunity and privilege of sharing in the annual RUC GC Service.”

“Standing alongside many police families, colleagues and friends of those who had been murdered during the Troubles is a memory that will not be easily forgotten. Neither will the police funerals and pastoring wives and children when a husband and father was unnecessarily taken.

“I know that many who have been widowed and orphaned have sought God’s help to rebuild their lives. As I prepared for today’s service the

memories returned and my appreciation for their sacrifice, and that of their, loved ones deepened.”

Dr. McNie preached on the ‘Heroes of Faith’, found in the Book of Hebrews, especially chapter 11:17-40, which he said, “collectively point to the greatest hero of all, the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Trócaire/Poetry Ireland poem winners announced

This year’s theme was ‘Forced to Flee’ which inspired a moving and thought-provoking selection of poems on the themes of displacement and seeking refuge.

The finalists in Trócaire’s annual poetry competition, run jointly with Poetry Ireland, gathered at the National Library in Dublin on 26 May last to share their award-winning work.

The competition, which is held annually, uses the arts to raise awareness about the leading global justice issues of the day.

It is open to entries from mid-January to Easter each year, with an awards ceremony in the National Library of Ireland in May.

Poets of all ages, as well as those published and unpublished, are welcome to participate.

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According to Trócaire, "A great human tragedy continues to unfold in Syria and in the wider Middle East."

The charity said that over 250,000 people have died in the Syrian conflict, 12 million are homeless and more than 4 million of them are refugees, mostly in Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan.

"A river of distressed humanity flows into the heart of Europe from this conflict. While the overwhelming European response is to welcome these people, there is also a realisation that something important and irreversible in taking place before our eyes."

"It is the strong sense that we can no longer isolate ourselves in our secure and wealthy

fortress Europe from the rest of a humanity suffering poverty, war and injustice.”

There are six categories in the poetry competition: two for adults and four for children and teens: published and non-published adult poets; first level junior and senior cycle students; and second-level junior and senior cycle students.

Over the years, the panel of judges has included well-known established Irish poets such as Mary Shine Thompson, John F Dean, Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill and Theo Dorgan.

The poetry competition is funded through Trócaire’s Irish Grant Scheme (Mobilising for Justice), which is designed to support community and voluntary organisations in Ireland to take action on global justice issues.

Ethiopia Drought Christian Aid Ireland Appeal

More than 10 million people in Ethiopia urgently need access to food supplies and water as the country faces its worst drought in three decades.

Christian Aid Ireland reports - “Farmers haven’t been able to harvest any crops for two

consecutive planting seasons, and supplies are dwindling.

“In the hardest-hit communities, families are going hungry as they struggle to find enough food to eat. [More than 400,000 children are experiencing severe malnutrition.](#)

“Without urgent funding to address the food shortages, the humanitarian situation will deteriorate even further.

“Millions of vulnerable people urgently need food assistance. We must act now.”

Christian Aid outlines its response - “We’re responding where we can, to ensure that people don’t go hungry. Earlier this year we released €62,000/£50,000 of emergency funds to help some of the most vulnerable members in the hardest-hit communities.

Our partner HUNDEE used this money to provide school meals for more than 4,000 children whose families do not have enough food to give them even one meal a day. We have also made sure that 700 children in two more schools have access to safe drinking water. Much more needs to be done. We’re currently doing further assessments to plan the next steps in our emergency response.

Information and means of donation at -

<http://www.christianaid.ie/emergencies/current/ethiopia-drought-appeal/index.aspx>

Cathedral, choral and musical

A new exhibition entitled '***Where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt***' – an alternative history of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, will be launched today Tuesday 7 June 2016 at 6:00pm in the cathedral.

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Down Cathedral presents a **Piano Recital by Gustavo Romero** (America) on Sunday 12 June at 4.00 pm - '*A pianist of genius*' Washington Post. Admission Adults: £15. Tickets available from Down Cathedral Office, Down County Museum and The Saint Patrick Centre. Tickets also available from Matchett's, Belfast, Michael McCracken (07773846028) and may be purchased at the door. Proceeds towards the Down Cathedral Organ Restoration Appeal.

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Diocesan Healing Service - Sunday 12th June 2016 in **St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh** at 3.15pm. Thursday 23rd June – **Healing Service**

in **St Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen** at 1.05pm.



Singers and musicians from Lisburn Cathedral pictured prior to taking part in 'Lisburn Worship Together.'

Singers and musicians from Lisburn Cathedral were among four of the city's churches taking part in 'Lisburn Worship Together' in Lisburn City Centre on Saturday June 4. First to take to the city centre stage was First Lisburn Presbyterian Church (11-12noon), followed in turn by Lisburn Christian Fellowship (12noon to 1.00pm), Lisburn Cathedral (1.00pm to 2.00pm) and Lisburn City Elim Church (2.00pm to 3.00pm).

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Rostrevor Choral Festival took place from June 1 - 5. The Grand Festival Concert held on Saturday evening included two of **Morten Lauridsen's** best-known works in the presence of the composer as part of the Festival Chorus. Also taking part was the **Enchiriadis Chamber Choir** from Malahide, Co. Dublin. The whole four-day event was most impressive and a great tribute to the festival organiser, Siubhán Ó Dubháin.

News briefs

Mullavilly Church of Ireland Parish (Armagh diocese), will be holding a “**through the wars**” **exhibition** on June 15th to 19th. The exhibition will look at life on the front and at home during WW1 and WW2. The parish has a proud history of men and women who served in both wars but as yet, there is no official memorial to those who died. The centenary of the Great War has renewed interest in that period and now with the help of local knowledge, historians and Church records, the people of Mullavilly are working on a permanent war memorial. The exhibition is open to all, with a suggested donation of £2.50. For up to date details, please visit the Church facebook page at www.facebook.com/Mullavilly

Christ the Redeemer Parish Mission - In preparation for the Ordination of Rev. James O'Reilly to the Priesthood on 12th June 2016, you are warmly invited to Christ the Redeemer Parish Mission from the 8th to the 10th June at 7.30pm in Christ the Redeemer Church Lagmore. 81 Lagmore Grove Dunmurry, Belfast, Lisburn BT17

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You are warmly invited to a **Flower Festival in Bangor Parish, Co Down** from 17–20 June 2016, on the theme “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full”. The artistic director is Heather White

Programme outline -

Friday: 10.00 am–5.00 pm

Opening Service: 7.00 pm

Saturday: 10.00 am–8.00 pm

Sunday: 2.00 pm–5.00 pm

Thanksgiving Service: 7.00 pm

Monday: 10.00 am–6.00 pm

Light refreshments will be served all day.

Booking is essential for coach parties and groups (6+).

Bangor has excellent road links, from the greater Belfast area onwards to the Ards Peninsula for those who wish to visit local attractions such as:

Bangor's Walled Garden, North Down Museum, Mount Stewart, The Somme Centre, The Titanic Trail, Castle Espie.

For further information please contact Hazel Darragh:

Tel: 07961653042 or
email hazeldarragh01@hotmail.co.uk

www.bangorparishchurch.org.uk

Proceeds to: Bangor Parish (Charity Ref No: NIC 102615) and South American Mission Society (Charity Ref No: NIC 103806).

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The Parish of **Ahoghill and Portglenone** organised a Senior Member's Street Party at St Colmanell's on Saturday June 4 to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's 90th birthday. As part of parish outreach the residents from the nursing home next door were invited to join in the fun. Entertainment included a quiz on the Queen's life, old time singing lead by (not the

real!) members of the Royal family and an epilogue.

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On Sunday, **St Mark's Armagh** held a Children's Day and a Parish Picnic. Next Sunday there is another special service, this time celebrating HM The Queen's 90th Birthday (10.30am). Everyone will be very welcome.

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From 10 Jun 2016 — 12 Jun 2016 Bishop Harold Miller and a group from the **Diocese of Down and Dromore** will be guests of the **Diocese of Albany** in the USA, and will attend their link diocese's annual convention at Camp of the Woods NY.

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MA in Catholic School Leadership - Working in Partnership with Saint Mary's College, Twickenham, the Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre will offer the MA in Catholic School Leadership, beginning Autumn 2016. This is a post graduate degree dedicated to the professional development and spiritual formation of Catholic school leaders.

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

Falsely accused priest felt 'cut loose' by Cloyne diocese

Irish Times

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/falsely-accused-priest-felt-cut-loose-by-cloyne-diocese-1.2673804>

Archbishop Eamon has 'no objection' to married priests

Irish Catholic

<http://irishcatholic.ie/article/archbishop-eamon-has-'no-objection'-married-priests>

Bruton plan backs Church to transfer primary patronage

Irish Times

[http://www.irishtimes.com/news/education/bruton-plan-backs-church-to-transfer-primary-patronage-1.2673582?
utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter](http://www.irishtimes.com/news/education/bruton-plan-backs-church-to-transfer-primary-patronage-1.2673582?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter)

Return to academic selection 'ludicrous' – Bishop

Irish Catholic

<http://irishcatholic.ie/article/return-academic-selection-'ludicrous'---bishop>

Queen's University awarded Regius Professorship

Belfast Telegraph

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/queens-university-awarded-regius-professorship-34775122.html>

Memorial to Fermanagh's VC soldiers unveiled in Enniskillen

BBC News

A publicly funded memorial to 10 men from County Fermanagh who received Britain's highest military honour is unveiled in Enniskillen.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-36456105>

Wall Street Journal

News article on the Church Commissioners focusing on the £7 billion investment fund and how it, and other investors, push the ethical agenda. Article includes comment from First Church Estates Commissioner, Andreas Whittam Smith.

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/the-church-of-englands-blessed-investing-1465178520>

BBC/Ind/Tel/Mail

Further coverage that asylum claims from people who have converted to Christianity are being rejected because UK officials are testing them on Bible trivia. A report by the all-party parliamentary group on international religious freedom says the Home Office is ignoring its own guidelines on how to assess cases, meaning that genuinely persecuted Christians are being let down. The Revd Mark Miller, who has a congregation

of Iranian converts in Stockton-on-Tees and has advised the Home Office on how to handle such claims, is quoted.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-36454701>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/christian-convert-asylum-seekers-asked-to-name-colour-bible-cover-mps-warn-claims-assessed-trivia-a7065956.html>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/06/05/asylum-claims-from-christian-converts-being-rejected-if-they-can/>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3626269/Officials-REJECTING-asylum-claims-Christian-converts-unable-recite-Ten-Commandments.html>

Christian Today

Report on the CofE's Anglican Communion links with Nigeria, particularly focusing on Liverpool diocese.

Oxford Student

Reports that St Peter's College, Oxford has unveiled its first portraits of women to hang in its Dining Hall; these feature Bishop Libby Lane and Professor Christine Greenhalgh. Bishop Libby, the first female bishop in the C of E, matriculated in 1986 and read Theology at St Peter's. During her time at St Peter's she served as chapel clerk and met her future husband, George Lane.

<http://oxfordstudent.com/2016/06/05/st-peters-unveils-first-portraits-women-hall/>

Tel

Reviews the hotel and area of Chantilly, North West of Paris at which the England football squad will be staying at for the 2016 European Championships noting that the churchnewsireland@gmail.com

nearest Anglican church, St Peter's, is a five minute walk away from their luxury base. The English vicar, the Revd Nick Clarke, says: "They'd be very, very welcome and if I can offer any kind of support for them, the doors are open." Article also notes he wishes the team good luck with will be praying for them.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/football/2016/06/05/euro-2016-england-will-find-tea-marmite-and-racing-in-their-chan/>

New Statesman

Author AN Wilson writes a first person account about his return to faith. This article was first published in April 2009 in a *God Special* issue.

<http://www.newstatesman.com/religion/2009/04/conversion-experience-atheism>

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