



*Mother Teresa was a frequent visitor to Ireland*

## **Archbishop Martin celebrates mass tonight with the sisters of Mother Teresa**

Archbishop Eamon Martin, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, yesterday welcomed the news that Pope Francis has announced that Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta will be canonised a saint on Sunday 4 September.

Archbishop Eamon said, “It is wonderful news that Pope Francis has signed the decree for canonisation today, and that from September the Universal Church will formally acknowledge Blessed Mother Teresa as one amongst the communion of saints. Blessed Mother Teresa is much loved in Ireland having been a frequent visitor to our country during her lifetime. At the age of eighteen, she came to study English and begin her life as a nun with the Loreto Sisters of Dublin. In this Year of Mercy, I am especially conscious and express my profound gratitude to the Missionaries of Charity, the religious congregation founded by Blessed Mother Teresa, for their selfless outreach and ministry serving the homeless and hungry here in the Archdiocese of Armagh.

“I will celebrate Mass tomorrow evening at 7.30pm, on the vigil of our patron Saint Patrick, in Saint Malachy’s Church, Armagh, for Blessed Mother Teresa and for the four sisters of the Missionary of Charity – Sisters Anselm, Margherite, Reginette and Judith – and the twelve people, who were brutally murdered in a home for the elderly in Aden, Yemen, on 4

March. Their faith, life and death provide a very strong witness to all Christians at this time.”

Archbishop Eamon concluded, “Tomorrow’s Mass in Saint Malachy’s will be attended by sisters of the Missionaries of Charity living locally, and will be offered for the intentions of the 4,500 worldwide members of the congregation. All are welcome.”

## **Leading politicians and sportsmen write in diocesan St Patrick’s Day Centennial magazine**

A magazine reflecting on the 2016 centenaries will be launched tomorrow at the annual St Patrick’s Day pilgrimage organised by Down and Dromore diocese from Saul to Down Cathedral.

“100: Our Story of Healing, Honour and Hope” is a collection of thoughts, interviews and essays that pause to reflect one hundred years on from the Easter Rising and the Battle of the Somme, while looking forward to a hope-filled story for the next one hundred years in our land.

Among a wide variety of features, the magazine includes interviews with the First Minister and Deputy First Minister, Arlene Foster and Martin McGuinness, the Attorney General for Northern Ireland, John Larkin, and Ulster Rugby player, Ruan Pienaar. Other contributors include the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, former Lord Mayor of Belfast, Nichola Mallon, and artist, Ross Wilson.

The magazine forms part of a larger movement of prophetic prayer – 100 days of prayer for 100 years of history. This decade of centenaries has the potential to divide our community. We believe this is a significant moment for the church to unite and lead society in response to the historic events that have shaped the story of our land.

Our prayer is that this magazine helps move the conversation forward and, in a small way, contributes to *healing* of the past, *honour* in the present and *hope* for the future.

[Find our more about the 100 days 100 years movement here.](#)

[Find details of our annual St Patrick's Day celebrations here.](#)

## **Church leaders' condolences to prison officer's family**

The Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Rt. Rev. Dr. Ian McNie has expressed his condolences to the family of Adrian Ismay, on hearing the news that the prison officer and father of three injured in a car bomb explosion 12 days ago, died yesterday.

“This is devastating news for Mr. Ismay’s family. In offering my deepest sympathy and condolences to them, I pray that they would know God’s love and comfort at this intensely difficult time.”

The Rt Revd Harold Miller, Bishop of Down and Dromore, and Chair of the Church of Ireland Northern Ireland Community Relations Working Group said, ‘I am deeply saddened by the death of Prison Officer Adrian Ismay and wish to express my sincere and heartfelt condolences to his family. I pray that they would be deeply aware of God’s grace, consolation and blessing, and ask for continued support for them in prayer in the days that lie ahead.

“The attack on Prison Officer Ismay was a deplorable and terrible act. I commend all those who serve in the Northern Ireland Prison Service on behalf of our community. They deserve our fullest support.’

## **Presbyterian community outreach in Dromara**

Andrew Dawson, one of the six Community Outreach Workers supported by CMI, works alongside Second Dromara Presbyterian Church in Co. Down. He had the opportunity to speak at the first Mission in Ireland evening of the year, held at Downshire Road Presbyterian earlier this month.

“For me personally, the Lord’s great command to go into all the world and make disciples still stands. Under God, Dromara and the surrounding area is the part of the world where He has placed Jennifer, my wife and myself. We are grateful for this role and to be able to work alongside the congregation allows us to be involved in this great task.

“I am grateful for the grants that CMI give to provide part of my support as a Community Outreach Worker. Not only that, I am thankful for

the prayer support that is co-ordinated through CMI. For that reason, to be able to speak at a Mission in Ireland evening is a delight. I know there are many people prayerfully and practically providing for the work of Community Outreach Workers. The evening gave me the opportunity to thank them for their unseen but vital involvement.”

“Through these evenings, the church and community can see the people behind that face on a poster, or prayer report, and the advantage of this is that prayer can then be more specific and the challenges more understandable”, Andrew said.

## **Belvoir parishioner volunteer's experience at refugee camp in Serbia**

David Maganda from Belvoir Parish, Belfast, has recently returned from 4 weeks volunteering alongside an Operation Mobilisation (OM) team in Sid (Serbia). Since November 2015 the team has been based on the Serbian/Croatian border, working with refugees fleeing from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan. As David speaks Arabic, he was requested by OM to come and help with

translation as they offer food, clothing and emotional and spiritual assistance to hundreds of mainly Syrian refugees.

Thousands of refugees pass through the camp each day. The trip from their country normally takes about a month or more, so when they arrive they are weary, hungry, sick, dirty, and despairing. Once in Sid, they board a train that will take them into Croatia, and then pass into Slovenia and Austria, and eventually on to Germany. This is one of five routes that refugees are taking into Germany right now...

...One family that David met had travelled all the way from Homs in Syria. He asked them why they had risked their lives to cross over the water from Turkey to Greece when many of them couldn't even swim. The father, Nazir, told David that he had been tortured by the Syrian security and army. While he was speaking, his wife was quietly crying. He told David that he'd rather risk his life and those of his family on a boat, than die at the hands of ISIS or the Syrian army. They lost many people on the way – but all were determined to flee the tyranny of the Syrian regime.



The refugees are traumatized, exhausted and desperate to find respite from their arduous journey. Many are frightened and scared of where they are going and often they think life in Europe will be like going to heaven. They have escaped and don't want to look back. David was able to share his life story of how he lived as a refugee in Sudan in the early 80s. This helped people to open up and share their hopes and fears with him. He was also able to give them a realistic view of what it's like to live in Europe, encouraging them to integrate and get fully involved in the life of the community where they will eventually settle.

“As I reflect back on my month in Serbia, says David, “there are many stories I cannot share and I've struggled to get my head round them. Please continue praying for our governments to have compassion and that the Church will demonstrate the love and grace of God to those who land on their doorsteps.”

David is hoping to go back in April to help out with the team, as they are in desperate need of mature volunteers (over the age of 20) in Serbia who can cook, clean, listen and play with kids. The need is great.



*George McDowell*

## **58 years as organist in Knocknamuckley remembered**

A special service of praise and thanksgiving was recently held for the life and service of George McDowell who was the organist and choirmaster in Knocknamuckley Parish Church for 58 years. George's widow and choir member Vera, unveiled a plaque which was dedicated in George's memory.



***Mrs Iris McKeown (Peoples Churchwarden), Canon Brian Blacoe, Mrs Vera McDowell, Reverend Jim McMaster, Miss Emma Patterson (Organist), Mr Eddie Quinn (Lay Reader) and Mr Rodney Adamson (Rectors Churchwarden)***

George was an extremely talented musician with a wide repertoire. He trained and prepared choirs, led praise groups, accompanied soloists and Sunday School children, all with skill, sensitivity and feeling.

In all the outstanding service he gave to Knocknamuckley, George consistently kept himself in the background. Seeking no praise or recognition, he was content to serve God and the people of the church of which he was a lifelong member.

George was always reliable, approachable, flexible and co-operative and was a pleasure to work with over the years. He made an immense contribution, not only to the life of the Church but also to individuals and families going through important times in their lives. His music on such occasions was an uplifting source of comfort and strength to those who needed it and when occasions demanded it, a means of joy and celebration. Many have expressed their admiration and gratitude for what his music meant to them at such times.

George McDowell passed away on 27 March 2015.

## **Holy Week and Easter music in Dublin**

**Sandford Church, near Ranelagh, Dublin 6 – Fridays at 6.30pm**

The short Office of Compline will be sung on Fridays, March 18th, 25th and continue in April. On **Good Friday**, the Evening Service at 8pm will include the traditional Tenebrae (*Shadows*) Liturgy.

Evensong will be sung by the Sandford Choral Scholars at 6.30pm on March 5th and April 1st.

Contact: [David O'Shea](mailto:David.O'Shea@sandford.dublin.anglican.org), Director of Music. w:  
[sandford.dublin.anglican.org](http://sandford.dublin.anglican.org)

## **Passion-tide – Holy Week – Easter-tide**

**“The Crucifixion” by John Stainer.** *‘Come-and-sing’* performance in aid of Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza. Monday, March 21st, 8pm, Christ Church Cathedral. 5.30pm rehearsal for participating singers, who should register in advance with Ian Keatley, Director of Music.

[ian@christchurch.ie](mailto:ian@christchurch.ie) (01) 677 8099. Audience tickets €20 from [www.christchurchcathedral.ie](http://www.christchurchcathedral.ie)

**“The Crucifixion” by John Stainer.** Good Friday, March 25th, 8pm. [St Paul’s Church,](#) Silchester Road, Glenageary. Parish choir. Soloists, Andrew Irwin, Pádraic Rowan. Organist, Matthew Breen. Directed by [Nathan Barrett](#)

The following websites provide details of some of the regular church services in the Dublin area:

Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin:

[www.christchurchdublin.ie](http://www.christchurchdublin.ie)

St Mary’s Pro-Cathedral: [www.procathedral.ie](http://www.procathedral.ie)

St Patrick’s Cathedral, Dublin:

[www.stpatrickscathedral.ie](http://www.stpatrickscathedral.ie)

St Bartholomew’s Church, Clyde Road, Dublin 4:

[www.stbartholomews.ie](http://www.stbartholomews.ie)

The Chapel of Trinity College, Dublin:

[www.tcd.ie/Chaplaincy/chapel.htm](http://www.tcd.ie/Chaplaincy/chapel.htm)

The weekly music list of music in cathedrals and some other churches is listed on [irishtimes.com/church-services](http://irishtimes.com/church-services)

## **Glenstal Abbey Organ**

### **Improvisation Summer School**

**Ansgar Wallenhorst** will be back in Ireland in July to lead an Organ Improvisation Summer School from 12th to 14th July in Maynooth College.

[Glenstal Abbey Improvisation Summer School](#)

## **Welsh churches to mark Earth Hour**

Churches across Wales are being urged to switch off all lights or hold candlelit vigils to mark Earth Hour at 8.30 pm on Saturday 19 March. In doing so, they will join in with people across the world in what has been described as “a symbolic act to shine a light on climate change and the need to protect our environment.”

An estimated half-a-million people across Wales took part in the 2015 Earth Hour, and half of Welsh local authorities supported the campaign.

Key landmarks across the country, such as the Senedd, Caerphilly Castle and Welsh universities and churches went dark for the hour.

They joined the international landmarks such as the Eiffel Tower and Sydney Opera House in 172 participating countries across the globe.

Earth Hour is organised by the WWF charity and this year marks its 10th year. Participating churches are being asked to register their involvement and add themselves to the online Earth Hour map.

The first to register is St Peter's Church in Carmarthen town centre.

“We’re encouraging all churches and parishioners to mark Earth Hour,” the Bishop of Swansea and Brecon, the Rt Revd John Davies, said. The bishop, who speaks on behalf of the Church in Wales’ environment group, CHASE (Church Action for Sustaining the Environment), added: “Switching off our lights for an hour or holding a candlelit service is a small gesture which has huge implications. It reminds us of the part all of us have to play in combating climate change and being responsible stewards of the wonderful gift that is creation.”

Anne Meikle, the head of WWF in Wales, said, "Earth Hour won't solve climate change, but it presents a stepping stone to further action, by encouraging people to go beyond the hour.

"Churches can play a vital role in raising awareness of Earth Hour, engaging with your community and inspiring others to live sustainably."

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

### **Mixed marriage association refused funding by Stormont - Irish News**

Ireland's only provider of mixed marriage support has been turned down for government funding aimed at building a "more united and shared society".

The Northern Ireland Mixed Marriage Association (NIMMA) has branded the decision by Arlene Foster and Martin McGuinness's office to refuse funding as "pure pantomime".

Chairman Ken Dunn said he was "amazed that an organisation such as ours which, by its very nature, is totally cross-community can be ignored to this degree".  
<http://www.irishnews.com/news/2016/03/15/news/ireland-s-only-mixed-marriage-association-refused-stormont-funding-450424/>



## **De La Salle College in Andersonstown: Third of teachers absent at school on one day - BBC News**

About a third of the teaching staff at one of west Belfast's biggest secondary schools were absent on Monday, the BBC understands.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-35805749>

### **BBC/Exp/Mail/Mirror**

Reports that the Queen has called for people of the Commonwealth to "support those in need", as she attended a Westminster Abbey service on Commonwealth Day. Writing in the Order of Service she said that people should help those who "feel excluded in all walks of life". Former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan told the congregation the Queen had shown "steadfast devotion".

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-35800692>

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/royal/652497/>

[Commonwealth-Day-Queen-Kate-William-Prince-Harry](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/video/news/video-1273923/Kate-Middleton-Royals-gather-Westminster-Abbey.html)

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/video/news/video-1273923/](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/video/news/video-1273923/Kate-Middleton-Royals-gather-Westminster-Abbey.html)

[Kate-Middleton-Royals-gather-Westminster-Abbey.html](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/video/news/video-1273923/Kate-Middleton-Royals-gather-Westminster-Abbey.html)

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/prince-william-kate-middleton-prince-7555629#ICID=nsm>

### **Sun (Mon)/Premier**

Reports that the Archbishop of Canterbury has met with baking and television personality Mary Berry. Archbishop Justin met *The Great British Bake Off* star at Lambeth Palace to film a special Easter programme; *Mary Berry's Easter Feast*. The TV baker bought the Archbishop a Simnel cake. The programme is on BBC 2 tonight.

<http://www.thescottishsun.co.uk/scotsol/homepage/news/6998571/Archbishop-gushes-over-Mary-Berry.html>

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Mary-Berry-bakes-up-Easter-treat-for-Justin-Welby>

### **Christian Today/Premier/Pink News**

Further reports that Canon Jeremy Pemberton, who last year lost an employment tribunal against the CofE, has said he has won the right to appeal the decision. Last year it was ruled he was not discriminated against when he was stopped from taking up a new post as a hospital chaplain after marrying his partner, Laurence Cunnington. But he said that he has heard from the Employment Appeal Tribunal that they had accepted his application for an appeal and there would be a two day hearing later in the year.

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Gay-clergyman-wins-right-to-appeal-failed-employment-tribunal>

<http://www.pinknews.co.uk/2016/03/14/gay-clergyman-wins-right-to-appeal-against-church/>

### **Scottish Business News**

A report on the UK forestry investment market notes the sale in 2015 of 16 properties by UPM to the Church Commissioners for around £50 million.

<http://sbnn.co.uk/item/9430-value-of-uk-forestry-investment-market-has-grown-by-200>

### **Christian Today**

Reports a re-imagining of the Stations of the Cross devotion which focuses on refugees' journey of suffering. The project, on display in St Martin-in-the-Fields in London's Trafalgar Square, tells the story Christ's journey to the cross through the lives of refugees.

## **Times**

Reports that a collection of 22 ornately carved oak panels in a Bedfordshire parish church belonged to Anne of Cleves, Henry VIII's fourth wife. The panels have puzzled historians since they were installed in St Leonard's church in Old Warden 175 years ago. A team of specialists found three identical panels on Anne's tomb in Westminster Abbey. Originally the panels would have adorned one of Anne's private residences.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4712995.ece>

## **Comment**

**Mail Online:** Robert Hardman on the strength of the Commonwealth, as the Queen marked Commonwealth Day at a service at Westminster Abbey.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3492568/Forget-Brexit-union-nations-Queen-NEVER-want-leave-ROBERT-HARDMAN-Commonwealth-close-monarch-s-heart.html>

**Times:** Hugo Rifkind writes that politicians are witnessing creeping antagonism towards Jews from the left and do nothing about it. He notes the letter written by the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams on the issue of anti-Semitism.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/columnists/article4713176.ece>

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March 16

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