



***Youth leaders and coordinators at the launch of Legends of Faith residential 2016 at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute. See report this issue.***

## **Top US post for expert on C of I Prayer Book**

The General Theological Seminary in New York has announced that the Rev. Dr. Kevin John Moroney has been appointed as Associate



Professor in the Rev. Dr. H. Boone Porter  
Liturgics Chair.

Moroney received his M.Div. from General Seminary in 1992 and his Ph.D. in Liturgy from Milltown Institute of Theology and Philosophy, Dublin, in 2008. His doctoral dissertation was an assessment of the full revision of the Irish Prayer Book happening at that time. He taught Liturgics at The Church of Ireland Theological College in Dublin from 2000-2005 and is the author of many published papers on liturgics and related fields.

He currently serves as Associate Rector at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, Gladwyne, Pennsylvania, having moved there recently after concluding a long-time position as Rector of Christ Church Ithan, in Villanova, Pennsylvania. Moroney also served as Visiting Professor at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, and he continues to serve as Affiliated Professor of Liturgics at Nashotah House Seminary.

Commenting upon his appointment, Professor Moroney said "General Seminary was my mother in ministry. I came here with a deep faith and a sense of call. General stretched me in the ways I needed to be stretched, and deepened and enriched me in areas that mean the world to me,"

Moroney says of his time as a student at General. "I am honoured and excited to join the long line of scholars who have made liturgical formation one of the hallmarks to life and learning at General Seminary. Serving as an Affiliate Professor this past year has given me a wonderful chance to reconnect with the Seminary, while establishing new relationships with students, faculty, and staff. I look forward to deepening those ties as I join the faculty of General full time, beginning this summer."

## Confirmation preparation resource launched at Synod



On the first day of the C of I General Synod, the Bishop of Meath and Kildare, The Most Revd Pat Storey, launched a new Confirmation resource called 'I Believe' to be used by Rectors and those involved in preparing young people for Confirmation.

In commending the resource, Bishop Pat praised Andrew Frame and Amy McCrea of the C of I

Youth Department who have spent a number of months preparing the material.

‘I Believe’ has been created in response to a perceived need for this type of resource. The Youth Department are regularly asked for help or advice on Confirmation Preparation and the alternatives currently available are either outdated or not specifically relevant to Confirmation in the Church of Ireland.

The resource is 12 sessions long and is based round the Confirmation Service, the Ten Commandments and The Apostles’ Creed.

Topics include ‘Who is God?’, ‘Why we need a Saviour’, ‘The Sacraments’ and ‘Serving God/ Serving others’.

Each session offers a blend of teaching, games, worship and prayer activities and discussion questions. The sessions are aimed to last between forty and ninety minutes at the discretion of the facilitator and the resource offers the flexibility for sessions to be tailored to the needs of the particular context.

As well as a well-designed Leader’s Manual, an interactive Participant’s Guide has been developed to complement the course and it is hoped that young people will enjoy using this as they undergo their Confirmation preparation.

Each Parish will receive a complimentary copy of the Leader's Manual and a Participant's Guide. Further copies will be available for purchase through the CIYD office and other outlets.

## **New African challenge for veteran Presbyterian missionary**

In July of last year, Diane Cusick from Bushvale Presbyterian Church near Ballymoney, completed 20 years' service in the east African nation of Malawi and has now moved westward, for a new calling in Zambia.

Working with the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian's (CCAP) Synod of Livingstonia, Diane spent her last few years in Malawi developing and co-ordinating the church's early childhood development ministry.

After two decades in Malawi, Diane sensed God's call to move on to a new challenge. Following enquiries, she was invited by the CCAP's Synod of Zambia to help them to develop their early childhood development ministry, similar to what she had been doing in



northern Malawi. Diane will be the Synod's Early Childhood Development Co-ordinator.

Diane will leave for Lusaka, the capital of Zambia on Monday, but speaking before her departure, she said, "I will be setting up some Early Childhood Centres to run alongside the church's existing Community Schools. I am very excited about this, about learning a new culture and finding out about a new country.

"Of course I have been in Zambia many times, but only as a tourist, which is quite different from

actually living there. I will be starting all over again, having to set up a home, find transport, and learn to live and work in a new culture. So it is exciting, but also challenging. Please join with me in prayer in this new journey!”

The education and development of its children and young people has always been a priority of the Church in Malawi and Zambia. Today tens of thousands receive their pre-primary, primary and secondary education in schools run by the churches.

Relations between CCAP and the Presbyterian Church in Ireland began in the mid-1950s. For Diane’s general prayer points, monthly bulletins and to find out more about her work you can [visit Diane’s profile page](#).

## **‘Legends of the Faith’ theme for C of I youth residential**

‘Legends of the Faith’ will inspire the young people who attend Anois 2016 which takes place from October 29 to 31. Anois is an annual residential weekend organised by the Church of Ireland Youth Department (CIYD) for young



people of secondary school age from across the island.

The venue this year is Wilson's Hospital School, Multyfarnham, County Westmeath and the Anois team will be encouraging young people to explore faith 'Now'. During the weekend they will learn from the Bible, praise God, pray and have as much fun together as they can possibly squeeze into one weekend.

This year's theme 'Legends of the Faith' will focus on exploring the stories of Old Testament heroes and look at how their stories can inspire Christians to live out their faith in their everyday lives. This year's main speaker will be the Revd Alan Breen, a former youth leader and a Curate in the United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough.

Anois 2016 was officially launched last Saturday at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute in Dublin during a Connect day for youth leaders. Speaking at the launch, one of the organisers, Edward Hardy, said that Anois 2016 would be the 12th gathering and they had featured a range of speakers in a range of venues over the years. "Anois has grown to become an all island event and it has been wonderful to see the numbers increase and new people come. Many young

people return again and again and later come back as leaders,” he commented.

CIYD Youth Ministry Development Officer (southern region), Amy McCrea, explained that the theme ‘Legends of the Faith’ was based on Hebrews 11 and 12 and would help young people learn from the inspirational lives of faith in the Old Testament. She urged all the youth leaders present to go out and tell people about the event.

Over the weekend there will be Bible teaching, sung praise and worship, small group times for exploration, discussion and prayer, inflatable’s and activities, a chill zone, pamper zone, giant games, a sacred space, paintballing and much more.

The cost of booking is €80 with a 50 percent discount for siblings. Transport to and from Wilson’s Hospital will be available from almost everywhere in Ireland. This costs €20 per child and will be supervised so that small numbers of young people travelling without a leader will be accommodated.

Online booking and payment will be available at [www.ciyd.org/anois](http://www.ciyd.org/anois). Bookings must be received no later than Sunday October 23.

## Archbishop Clarke on task force on deep Anglican differences

A task group has been appointed to “maintain conversation” among the Primates of the Anglican Communion as requested during the Primates’ Gathering and Meeting in Canterbury Cathedral in January. The Primates asked the Archbishop of Canterbury to establish the group as part of their commitment to “walk together” despite “deep differences”.

The primates requested the group “with the intention of restoration of relationship, the rebuilding of mutual trust, healing the legacy of hurt, recognising the extent of our commonality and exploring our deep differences, ensuring they are held between us in the love and grace of Christ.”

The secretary general of the Anglican Communion, Josiah Idowu-Fearon, confirmed during the recent Anglican Consultative Council meeting in Lusaka that the group had been established. Today, the Anglican Communion Office confirmed the membership of the group.

It includes seven primates, drawn from across the globe, a suffragan bishop, a provincial

secretary and the former vice chair of the Anglican Consultative Council.

The group will meet together at least once each year; with additional meetings held electronically. Its terms of reference including working out “the modalities for the implementation of the requests from the Primates” and to provide regular briefings to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The members of the Archbishop of Canterbury’s task group are:

Archbishop Richard Clarke from the Church of Ireland; Presiding Bishop Michael Curry from the Episcopal Church; Bishop Govada Dyvasirvadam, Moderator of Church of South India; Archbishop Ian Ernest, from the Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean; Archbishop Philip Freier, from the Anglican Church of Australia; Archbishop Ng Moon Hing, from the Province of South East Asia; Canon Rosemary Mbogo, the Provincial Secretary of the Anglican Church of Kenya; The Rt Revd Linda Nicholls, Coadjutor Bishop of Huron in the Anglican Church of Canada; Canon Elizabeth Paver, from the Church of England, the former vice chair of the ACC; Bishop Paul Sarker, the Moderator of the Church of Bangladesh.

The secretary general of the Anglican Communion, Josiah Idowu-Fearon, will serve the group as secretary. No date has been set for the group's first meeting.

Furthermore, two Anglican Communion leaders and some outgoing members of the Anglican Consultative Council are at odds about what exactly happened on the last full day of last month's ACC-16 meeting in Lusaka, Zambia.

## **Week of prayer for evangelism has “touched a chord” says Archbishop Welby**

The call for Christians across England to prayer for our nation to know Jesus Christ has “touched a chord”, the Archbishop of Canterbury has told *Premier Radio*. Archbishop Justin Welby spoke to *Premier* about prayer, evangelism and *Thy Kingdom Come*.

With tens of thousands of Christians taking part across throughout England and beyond this week, Archbishop Justin Welby said people are “motivated and excited” about praying together for those they love to know Jesus.



The week of prayer ahead of Pentecost was called for by Archbishop Justin Welby and the Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, in November last year.

This week cathedrals and churches across England – and across the traditions – are hosting 24-7 prayer rooms, putting on special services, running prayer meetings, doing prayer walks, and many other activities. Churches overseas have also spontaneously responded to the call, with congregations in Belgium, New Zealand, South Africa, Israel and other countries joining the wave of prayer.

In the interview, the Archbishop said: “This week of prayer seems to have touched a chord that none of us really expected to the degree it’s happened. Port Stanley Cathedral in the Falkland Islands has joined in Thy Kingdom Come. There’s people in Israel and all across the UK. People find they’re motivated and excited about praying with others for those who they long to find the love of Jesus Christ.”

The week of prayer will culminate this weekend with special ‘Beacon’ worship events in numerous cathedrals around the country, led by bishops and contemporary worship leaders. The event at Canterbury Cathedral, led by Archbishop Justin Welby, Pete Hughes and Hannah Heather, with worship led by Seth Pennock and Tim Hughes, will be [broadcast live on Facebook](#), from 7pm BST (6pm GMT) on Sunday 15 May.

## **News briefs international**

Bishop Michael Smith will lead a group of over 50 young people from the Diocese of Meath to the World Youth Day gathering with the Pope in Krakow next July. Some of the participants took part in a preparation day in Mullingar on Sunday,

organised by Fr Kevin Heery (Navan) and Fr Robert McGivney (Mullingar).

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The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia has postponed until 2018 a decision on whether or not to permit the blessing of same-sex marriages. The proposal had been made by the church's "Way Forward" group, which had been mandated by the 2014 General Synod to come forward with proposals; but after days of discussion at this year's synod, the decision has been delayed.

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Moves by the Church of England's investment arm, the Church Commissioners, to force global oil giant ExxonMobil to be more transparent in its plans for responding to climate change have received a boost with the news that the two leading proxy advisers, ISS and Glass Lewis, have declared their support for the move.

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Today, Saturday, May 14 marks four weeks since the 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck Ecuador causing the death of more than 650 people, injuring more than 4,600 and displacing some 30,000. Recovery from the loss of life and the



estimated \$2 to \$3 billion in damages will take years.

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The Anglican Church of Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia is to establish a “clear resilience strategy” to strengthen its response to future natural disasters in the Pacific islands. The move, adopted at the Province’s General Synod, came as researchers announced that five pacific islands have completely disappeared and a further six are experiencing “severe shoreline recession” as a result of rising sea levels.

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The World Council of Churches General Secretary, the Rev Dr Olav Fykse Tveit has issued a statement urging the international community to put an end to the “culture of impunity” in Syria. The statement followed news reports from Syria of an air strike that targeted the Kammouneh Syrian refugee camp On 7 May 2016.

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The President of Nigeria, Muhammadu Buhari, yesterday made a visit to Lambeth Palace, the London home of the Archbishop of Canterbury, where he met Archbishop Justin; the secretary

general of the Anglican Communion, Dr Josiah Idowu-Fearon; and the Bishop of Guildford, Andrew Watson.

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Extremists burned down a church in Minya, North Egypt, on Thursday according to a local Coptic Bishop. "St Mary's Church in the village of Esmaelia al-Bahreia was burned down completely after an attack carried out by extremists," said Bishop Macarius of Minya. Egyptian media, which reported the fire, has claimed an electric short-circuit caused the incident. However, the Bishop has claimed the fire was arson, according to World Watch Monitor. St Mary's Church was a makeshift church made from wood, located six kilometres North of Minya City. It was used in lieu of a "proper church" due to government restrictions: "The makeshift church has been used for worship for over a year... since a proper church is yet to be authorised by the government since 2009," the Bishop said on Facebook.

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Pope Francis, addressing a conference of nearly 1000 senior nuns from all over the world, told them he is to set up a formal investigation into whether women can be ordained into the first of the three orders of deacon, priest and bishop.

NCR reported his answers to four questions at the triennial assembly of the International Union of Superiors General, Pope Francis agreed that it would be helpful to set up a commission that might study the question of women deacons. He said: "It would do good for the church to clarify this point. I am in agreement. I will speak to do something like this." Later he added: "It seems useful to me to have a commission that would clarify this well."

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## **Burma's cardinal: after decades of Calvary we are entering a season of hope**

After decades of suffering, Burma is entering a "season of hope", Cardinal Charles Maung Bo has said.

During a Mass at Westminster Cathedral Burma's first ever cardinal compared the recent history of his country to Good Friday, Easter and Pentecost.

He said: "Our country was taken to five decades of Calvary by evil men. Every one thought this was a country without an Easter. You have



***The cardinal greets people outside Westminster Cathedral***

witnessed from afar the suffering of this nation. Those times many countries did undergo the way of the Cross. There was an iron curtain. But our country was under what was called a bamboo curtain.”

The cardinal described how the country, which was placed under oppressive military rule in 1962, singled out the Church for persecution. He described how “our Calvary was marked by enforced starvation, denied education to the youth, arrest and incarceration of thousands for asking for basic rights, the death and disappearance of thousands.

“The country closed itself. The Catholic church was singled out for persecution. Overnight the missionaries serving the poor and the vulnerable were expelled.”

Following decades of rule under the military junta, President Htin Kyaw was sworn in in March, marking the first democratic elections.

Cardinal Bo said that throughout the hard years “God did not abandon our nation” and that in fact the number of Christians increased despite suffocation oppression.

“The church was like a mustard seed but like the Biblical example it grow into a tree ... Amidst one of the most suffocating oppressions, the Church grew. From just three dioceses we grew into 16 dioceses. From 100,000 people we are now 700,000 faithful, from 160 priests we are now 700 priests, from 300 religious we are now more than 2,200 religious, 60 percent of them below the age of 40.

“A young and vibrant Church is extending social support through 16 Caritas networks. God walked with us in our way of the Cross ensuring that our Easter was enriched in faith. We are a confident and growing Church in southeast Asia and recently started sending missionaries to

other countries. We are not yet totally free but we have proved that we cannot be pruned from history.”

The cardinal also praised Nobel laureate and pro-democracy campaigner Aung San Suu Kyi, who endured decades of house arrest and intimidation by military rulers without ever giving up on her peaceful campaign against them.

He said: “Her moral courage shook one of the [most] arrogant [armies] in the world. With her silence, with her redemptive suffering as a prisoner, she melted decades of oppression. A nascent democracy is born in this nation.

“Myanmar is proud today that its Easter moment came in the most peaceful manner, through a woman whose belief in peace and non-violence stands in stark contrast to the violent conflicts in many parts of the world. It is a great inspiration that peace is possible and moral power still can overcome all human suffering.”

He concluded: “This is an Easter season for the world. Despite the bad news in the Middle East, the world is waking up to a new Pentecost phase. This season culminates in the Pentecost. Pentecost is the birth of Christianity.”

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

### **History shapes us all - Church of Ireland Primate**

Belfast Newsletter

Archbishop Richard Clarke during his presidential address at the **Church of Ireland** General Synod in Armagh.

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/northern-ireland-news/history-shapes-us-all-church-of-ireland-primate-1-7380501>

### **School religious ed will suffer under new Govt plan – experts**

The Irish Catholic

Questioning the course's presupposition that it is possible to teach about **religions** and ethics from a neutral position, he told The **Irish** Catholic that ...

<http://irishcatholic.ie/article/school-religious-ed-will-suffer-under-new-govt-plan-%E2%80%93-experts>

### **Tánaiste faces tough questions at UN over Ireland's human rights record**

Irish Times

In Geneva today, **Ireland's** freshly-minted minority Government faces the first international test of its leadership when Tánaiste and Minister for Justice ...

<http://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/t%C3%A1naiste-faces-tough-questions-at-un-over-ireland-s-human-rights-record-1.2642498>

## **Rise in the number of serious sexual assaults, and child exploitation cases in NI**

### News Letter

There has been a rise in the number of serious sexual assaults, domestic violence and child exploitation cases in Northern Ireland according to the latest crime figures.

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/rise-in-child-exploitation-and-sex-crime-in-northern-ireland-1-7380413>

**TES/Guard/Christian Today** - Reports that the C of E has expressed interest in utilising the new apprenticeship levy to fund the recruitment of ordinands. The Church is in talks with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (Bis) about potentially using money to help train the next generation of vicars. The move was first mentioned by Caroline Spelman, the Second Church Estates Commissioner, as she told MPs that the C of E "supports the government's drive to increase the number of apprentices" and that it, "would very much like to see the levy being used to train more ordinands." William Nye, the C of E Secretary General is quoted (from earlier in the year) in the *Guardian*.

<https://www.tes.com/news/further-education/breaking-news/use-apprenticeship-levy-train-new-vicars-says-church-england>



<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/may/12/anglican-church-wants-to-train-new-clergy-with-apprenticeship-fund>

**INews/Tel/Guard (scroll down) -**

Reports that the C of E has apologised after it advertised job roles advising people on becoming vicars which did not require the successful candidates to be Christian. The lack of such a requirement for the National Young Vocations Adviser and National Minority Ethnic Vocations Officer, which were advertised on Wednesday, upset some members of the church. The Revd Arun Arora, Director of Communications said it was a "mistake" to say the roles did "not have an occupational requirement to be a Christian" and the jobs will be re-advertised soon. [Read the full response.](#)

<https://inews.co.uk/essentials/news/uk/vicars-shocked-church-england-job-role-not-require-christian-faith/>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/05/12/wanted-man-or-woman-of-god-to-help-save-the-cofe--atheists-welco/>

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/may/12/anglican-church-wants-to-train-new-clergy-with-apprenticeship-fund>

**Premier** - Reports that a group of faith leaders, including David Ison, Dean of St Paul's Cathedral, have written to the Prime Minister urging him to tackle the "moral outrage" of government corruption. The letter has been signed by 14 representatives from Christianity, Islam and Judaism and calls on David Cameron to "significantly reduce illicit financial flows". It's been published as world leaders attend a two-day summit on corruption in London.

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Faith-leaders-write-to-PM-ahead-of-corruption-summit>

**Southport Visiter** - Reports that the Church Commissioners have said that they wouldn't receive financial benefit for allowing geophysical surveys into potential gas and oil reserves to be carried out in West Lancashire. The Head of Responsible Investment for the Commissioners, Edward Mason is quoted.

[churchnewsireland@gmail.com](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.com)

<http://www.southportvisiter.co.uk/news/southport-west-lancs/church-wont-benefit-west-lancashire-11321666>

**BBC/Mail/Mirror/Guard/Exp -**

Reports that the 96 victims of the Hillsborough disaster, the former Liverpool manager Kenny Dalglish, and former Bishop of Liverpool James Jones are to be awarded the Freedom of Liverpool later this year. Bishop James led the Hillsborough Independent Panel.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-merseyside-36276885>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-3587967/96-Hillsborough-victims-posthumously-awarded-Freedom-Liverpool.html>

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/hillsborough-victims-given-freedom-city-7957542#ICID=nsm>

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2016/may/13/hillsborough-victims-honoured-freedom-of-liverpool>

<http://www.express.co.uk/sport/football/669836/Hillsborough-Disaster-Campaigners-Given-Freedom-Liverpool-DalGLISH-Jones-Scraton-News>

**ITV/Stv** Reports that senior Yazidi leaders have met with the C of E in a bid to have their religion formally recognised. Despite dating back thousands of years, the Yazidi tradition - considered a distant cousin of Christianity - is not classed as a world religion because none of it has been written down. This means that despite persecution and genocide at the hands of ISIS, they cannot be considered a "persecuted religious group". The Bishop of Derby, Alastair Redfern, is quoted.

<http://www.itv.com/news/2016-05-12/church-of-england-leaders-agree-deal-to-help-yazidis-become-an-official-religion/>

<http://stv.tv/news/international/1353921-church-of-england-leaders-agree-deal-to-help-yazidis-become-an-official-rel/>

**Leicester Mercury** A profile and interview with Martyn Snow, the new Bishop of Leicester who is enthroned on Saturday.

[http://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/  
Martyn-Snow-new-Bishop-Leicester-Dire-  
Straits/story-29260503-detail/story.html](http://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/Martyn-Snow-new-Bishop-Leicester-Dire-Straits/story-29260503-detail/story.html)

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