



*Dean June with Bishop John Davies*

## **It is a woman bishop for Llandaff**

One of the most senior and experienced church leaders in the UK will be the next Bishop of Llandaff.

June Osborne, who has served as Dean of Salisbury for the past 13 years, has been chosen as the 72nd Bishop of Llandaff, a diocese which

serves most of Cardiff, the South Wales Valleys and the Vale of Glamorgan.

A ground-breaking figure in the Church of England, Dean June was the first female Dean to be appointed to a medieval cathedral, having served as Salisbury Cathedral's Canon Treasurer for nearly 10 years. She has been active in the national life of the Church of England, serving for many years on General Synod's Standing Committee, including sitting on the Panel of Chairs.

The announcement was made today (April 27) by the Church in Wales Bishops who became responsible for the Bishop of Llandaff appointment when no candidate nominated at the Electoral College in February secured enough votes for election.

The appointment will be confirmed on July 14 at a meeting of the Sacred Synod of Church in Wales Bishops in Brecon Cathedral where Dean June will be consecrated as Bishop the following day (July 15). She will be enthroned at Llandaff Cathedral on July 22.

Welcoming her appointment, the Church's Senior Bishop, the Bishop of Swansea and Brecon, John Davies, said, "In June Osborne,

both the Church in Wales and the Diocese of Llandaff will find themselves to be richly blessed. June's track record admirably demonstrates her passion for Christian ministry modelled on the Gospel imperatives of love, justice, inclusivity and openness. All of these are qualities which I and my fellow bishops warmly support and welcome. She is known as a leader with clear vision, a pastoral heart and a strategic mind, all of which commend the Church to the wider community. In this way and through her teaching, her preaching and her leadership, she reveals herself to be someone who I am confident will provide for the Diocese of Llandaff excellence in leadership and oversight. I look forward, with keen anticipation, to her arrival amongst us and to her contributions to the work of the Bench of Bishops."

Dean June, said, "It is a very great privilege to be nominated as Bishop of Llandaff, an ancient post with many noble predecessors. It will be something of a homecoming for the family, particularly because my husband is from Cardiff and it is a place we know and love.

"Leading a diocese that is so diverse, in an area that is both historic and beautiful, will be challenging but I have an enormous appetite for the task and am deeply honoured to have the



opportunity to join a diocesan team which is strong and imaginative. These are turbulent times across the world and the need for faith, and for the confident, distinctive leadership of the Church has never been more important.

“I will, of course, be sad to say goodbye to Salisbury. It has been my home, both spiritually and as a family, for over two decades. I have been surrounded by wonderful colleagues, staff and volunteers, who have made my job a joyful

undertaking. It has been a great pleasure to witness how the Cathedral has developed and flourished over the years and to have shared our wonderful Magna Carta 800 celebrations. I am immensely proud of what has been achieved here and wish all at the Cathedral and its diocese well in the years to come.”

The Bishop of Salisbury, Nicholas Holtam, described June as an “outstanding Dean”. He said, “June Osborne is one of the Church of England’s leading clerics. For the last 13 years she has been an outstanding Dean of Salisbury. She has made significant contributions to the wider Church of England including helping to organise the Leading Women group which has been massively influential in growing women into positions of leadership in the Church. I am delighted she has been appointed Bishop of Llandaff. The whole of the Diocese of Salisbury will join me in giving thanks for the enormous contribution she has made to this Diocese where she has served for 22 years. We wish her well as Bishop of Llandaff and pray for her and her family as they prepare for all that lies ahead.”

One of the first women to be ordained as a priest in England in 1994, having been a Deaconess since 1980, Dean June’s ministry has been characterised by her passion for equality and

diversity and she was a founder of the Church's Leading Women programme.

She is also deeply concerned about global poverty and has worked with the Episcopal Church of the Sudan on health, theological education and advocacy. She continues to play a key role in the Anglican Communion's commitment to implementing the Millennium Development Goals, and is a member of the Government's Advisory Panel for the Commemoration of WW1.

Dean June will celebrate her final Sunday at Salisbury Cathedral on July 9.

A graduate in Social Sciences from Manchester University, Dean June trained for ministry at St John's College, Nottingham and Wycliffe Hall, Oxford. She was made a Deaconess in 1980 and served at St Martin-in-the-Bullring in Birmingham before moving to the Old Ford parishes in East London in 1984. Following her ordination as a priest she served as Canon Treasurer at Salisbury Cathedral and was Acting Dean of Salisbury for two years before being appointed Dean in 2004.

In her time at Salisbury, Dean June has overseen the majority of the Cathedral's 30-year Major

Repair Programme of essential work to restore the fabric of the Cathedral and safeguard it for the future. As Canon Treasurer and Dean she was instrumental in the commissioning of Salisbury Cathedral's much-loved and admired William Pye font. In a Cathedral that has often been pioneering and had already established the first girls' choir in an English cathedral, she championed the installation of the girl Chorister Bishop in 2015, another historic first for the Cathedral. She played a significant role in the Magna Carta 800 celebrations two years ago, enjoying the huge range of events delivered by the Cathedral during that year. She has also been a deputy lieutenant of Wiltshire.

Dean June is married to barrister Paul Goulding QC and they have two children, Megan and Tom. Her interests include the arts and football. A lifelong supporter of Manchester City, she is looking forward to adding rugby to her portfolio of interests.

## **Service of Remembrance for those who died in the Armenian Genocide**

A service of remembrance to mark the 102nd anniversary of the start of the Armenian Genocide took place in Christ Church Cathedral,

Dublin, on Monday evening, April 24. Archbishop Michael Jackson presided and also present was the Revd Bill Mullally, President of the Methodist Church in Ireland along with Dean Dermot Dunne, Canon David Gillespie and the Revd Ken Rue. The president of the Jewish Representative Council, Mr Leonard Abrahamson was also in attendance.

During the service, which started with a minute's silence in remembrance of all atrocities, disasters and the Armenian Genocide, there were Bible readings in English and Armenian and there was beautiful Armenian music. Three speakers addressed different aspects of the Armenian Genocide.

Professor Maria Bagramian (School of Philosophy at UCD), an Armenian philosopher born in Iran, gave a talk entitled 'The Denial of Genocide Perpetuates Testimonial Injustice'. She said that genocide had shaped the collective psyche of the Armenian people. People who denied the genocide robbed the bearers of testimony of their identity and humanity, she stated. [You can read the full text of her talk here.](#)

Sunniva McDonagh SC is a barrister practicing principally in the area of judicial review and fundamental rights. She spoke about human





***Ms Hayarpi Dermeyan, Consul at the Embassy of Armenia in the UK and Ireland lays a wreath at the Khachkar Memorial***

rights and human rights law and said the failure to acknowledge properly the wrongs perpetrated upon the Armenian people has had a huge effect on the world afterwards. She said the term ‘genocide’ could be applied to the events of 1915. She also spoke of transitional justice as a means of society’s attempts to come to terms

with large scale events to get justice and reconciliation. [You can read the full text of her talk here.](#)

Ms Hayarpi Drmeyan, Consul of the Armenian Embassy to the UK and Ireland referred in her remarks to the tragic destiny of the Armenian people in the Ottoman Empire. She mentioned that the pain and memory of the first genocide of the 20th century will live forever in the hearts and minds of all Armenians. The representative of the Embassy underlined that the impunity of the perpetrators of Armenian Genocide, its denial and inaction at that time to condemn and recognize this crime against humanity prepared grounds for the Holocaust, Rwanda genocide and other mass atrocities against humanity, including what we witness today in the Middle East. She also stressed the importance of the concerted efforts in preventing future genocides. Consul of the Armenian Embassy appreciated the efforts of those countries, which became a shelter for the survivors of the Armenian Genocide and also contributed to the international recognition of the Genocide of Armenians.

Dean Dermot Dunne helped to draw the strands of the evening together. “With the need for acknowledgement that the genocide happened,

the question remains – what about forgiveness?” he asked.

Archbishop Jackson concluded the service by thanking everyone who had enabled the service of remembrance and guided meditation which brought those present into the heart of what it is to be Armenian and to carry the pain of genocide. The evening concluded with the laying of flowers at the Khachkar Memorial which is located in the cathedral grounds.

## **Invitation to Silent Retreats**

The Fellowship of Contemplative Prayer is hosting two Silent Retreats.

These take place as follows:

- Weekend Retreat: Friday June 16 – Sunday June 18.
- Midweek Retreat: Monday June 19 – Wednesday June 21.

Both Retreats will be held in The Church of Ireland Theological Institute, Dublin, and the cost of each is €115. The Witness will be Carol Casey. Further details or a booking form available from the Membership Secretary Ms Nuala Dudley, Old Golf Course Road, Donegal

town, Co. Donegal, F94 H5F7 or email:  
[nualadudley@eircom.net](mailto:nualadudley@eircom.net)

Everyone is welcome at these Retreats.

## Derry Family Retreat

Families are invited to a retreat day on Sunday 11th June in St Patrick's College Maghera (St Mary Building) from 10am-5.00 pm



The day will include Mass, Talks, Prayer, Groups session for all ages and games.

Booking essential and numbers limited.

For more information or a booking form email  
[info@livingfamily.ie](mailto:info@livingfamily.ie) or call Yvonne 0044  
7584422903

Guide Donation €70/£55 per family. Meals included. [Download File](http://www.derrydiocese.org/news/entry/news/living-family-retreat-day)  
<http://www.derrydiocese.org/news/entry/news/living-family-retreat-day>

## **Lough Derg reopens for 2017 pilgrimages**

Lough Derg will reopen for the 2017 pilgrimage season on Monday 1 May. Lough Derg, the sacred Sanctuary of Saint Patrick, is very much a living part of Irish Christian Heritage. A unique island, rich in prayer and faith, an island which has been calling pilgrims for over a thousand years, an island which Saint Patrick himself was called to. Lough Derg lies about four miles north of the village of Pettigo in County Donegal. Station Island, the location of the Pilgrimage, is often referred to as Saint Patrick's Purgatory or simply Lough Derg is set in calm lake waters, offers no distraction, no artificialities or interruptions. Instead you are warmly welcomed and cared for.

The island, made holy by the prayers of millions of pilgrims over the centuries, continues to provide a safe haven for rest, reflection and renewal to all who wish to 'Come away to a quiet place and rest a while' (Mark 6:31).



For many people Lough Derg provides an opportunity to step back from their lives, to take stock and examine the direction which their lives are taking. For many others it is a time to come closer to God through prayer and reflection.

The island will reopen to welcome pilgrims for the 2017 pilgrimage season on Sunday 1 May. The staff on Lough Derg are extending a special invitation to pilgrims to join them in this Jubilee Year of Mercy called by Pope Francis. Saint Patrick's Basilica on Lough Derg will be a Jubilee Church and those who make a pilgrimage to Lough Derg can cross through the Holy Door of Mercy there.

The sacred space and peaceful setting make the Island a truly extraordinary place to celebrate the

extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy. Walking on the hallowed ground, feeling the energy of the prayers of millions of pilgrims and being touched by the grace of this sacred Island is part of the experience. On crossing over to the Island a calm descends upon people as they join with others, falling into the centuries-old ritual of reflection and prayer, switching off and gaining an overwhelming sense of serenity and ease – an antidote to the stresses of modern living.

If you wish to find out more about the 2017 season or if you wish to organise a group to make a pilgrimage to the island for a One Day Retreat or a Group Tour the staff on Lough Derg will be delighted to help you.

Tel/Fax 00353 (0) 71 9861518 (from Northern Ireland 028 68632391)

Email: [info@loughderg.org](mailto:info@loughderg.org)

The full list of pilgrimage dates for both the one day retreats and the three day pilgrimage season are available at:

Website: [www.loughderg.org](http://www.loughderg.org)

**[See this week's events diary on CNI](#)**

## Catholic Church in Ireland must move away from ‘service station’ model

Fifteen years on from the publication of his influential book, *The End of Irish Catholicism?*, theologian Dr Vincent Twomey has warned that one of the factors contributing to the demoralisation of the clergy in Ireland is the still prevalent pre-Vatican II attitude to the Mass. In a new paper published in the Jesuit journal, *Studies*, the professor emeritus of moral theology at St Patrick’s College Maynooth warns that the Sunday obligation has produced “what could be called the ‘service station’ model of church, which, with the declining number of clerics, is putting a huge strain on their time and their limited energy”.

He highlights the assumption “by all concerned” that the Church will provide certain services to the faithful, so that the laity can fulfil their obligations.

“The (remaining, mostly elderly) faithful are satisfied, once they have ‘been to Mass’” and often the attitude is, the shorter the Mass, the better.





***Fr Vincent Twomey, former professor of moral theology at Maynooth.***

As a result, Fr Twomey comments, clergy, conscious of this, are anxious to reduce the ritual to a minimum.

As to the proposals put forward by the Association of Catholic Priests to alleviate the shortage and ageing profile of priests, Dr Twomey warns that these proposals are “predicated on the same traditional model, namely providing the requisite pastoral services to the people, as in a service station. The net result is a desiccated liturgy.”

The Divine Word missionary observes that the main object of Eucharistic ministers is, it seems,

to reduce the time needed for distributing Communion.

“Readers read scriptural texts that evidently make no sense to them. Very often, they are indistinct or inaudible. As with the Eucharistic ministers, their presence seems to be a token recognition of lay involvement, in particular by women, with little or no awareness that readers, Eucharistic ministers, choir members (if they exist), and sacristans all need theological training as much as the clergy need ongoing formation and education.”

The net result of all of this, according to Fr Twomey, is that the “source and summit of the Christian life has been reduced to an obligation to be satisfied with the least pain for either priest or people.”

He adds that generally speaking, the state of the liturgy in Ireland is “uninspiring” and says it is no surprise that youth feel bored, if they attend.

Elsewhere in his paper he explains that his book, *The End of Irish Catholicism?*, sparked considerable discussion, particularly of its radical proposal for a restructuring of the dioceses by reducing them from twenty-six to twelve, or even six.

Though it was debated in the Bishops' Conference and in Rome, it was rejected by the Irish bishops, who he claims "dissuaded Rome, arguing that, if the diocesan boundaries were now changed, they would in future always be associated with the stigma of the clerical scandals."

In his paper, as in his book, the former Maynooth professor argues that traditional Irish Catholicism was, for all its extraordinary achievements in education and healthcare, neither fully Catholic nor fully Irish.

His basic thesis is that the fundamental weakness of the Irish Catholic Church has been its anti-intellectual bias and consequent lack of self-criticism.

"It contained within itself the seeds of its present demise. Living among the debris of a distorted cultural expression of Catholicism, the worst expression being the scandals and cover-ups, we are, as the Church, experiencing the end of a cultural phenomenon."

On the other hand, the greatest achievement of the Irish Church was its missionary tradition, which saw Irish Catholic missionaries leave everything to go to the ends of the earth, first in the seventh to twelfth centuries, and then in the

nineteenth and twentieth, “to bring good news to the poor, heal the broken-hearted – and, incidentally, build up societies in every continent through their involvement in education and healthcare.”

But today, missionary vocations have dried up completely, he acknowledges.

The lack of spiritual leaders and the dearth of missionary vocations, according to Dr Twomey, point to the source of the real crisis facing the Church: a crisis of faith.

“It has been posited that what we are facing is really a crisis of identity caused by our post-modern, post-truth world. Perhaps, one could more accurately say that the present crisis is probably a combination of a crisis of faith *and* a crisis of identity.”

He adds that though prayer is the way out of a personal crisis of faith, he is not convinced that prayer, however needed, is alone sufficient to overcome the present crisis of faith that has enervated the Church.

## **Today in Christian History,**

**April 28**

**April 28, 1789:** In the South Pacific, a band of hedonistic sailors stages the famous mutiny on the Bounty. The mutineers then sailed to uninhabited Pitcairn Island, where they soon fell into drinking and fighting. Only one man and several women (taken earlier as slaves) and children survived. The man, Alexander Smith, discovered the ship's neglected Bible, repented, and transformed the community. The Bible is still on display in a Pitcairn church.

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