



Irish and GB news

25th January 2014

CORK ECUMENICAL SERVICE

The annual Cork Ecumenical Service for Christian Unity will take place in St. Luke's Church of Ireland, Douglas, on Sunday, February 2nd at 7pm.



The service will be led by the Cork ecumenical Standing committee which comprises: Rev. Geraldine Gracie, Methodist Church; Canon Daniel Nuzum, Church of Ireland; Valerie Fletcher, Presbyterian Church and Fr.Christy Fitzgerald, Roman Catholic Church.

The sermon will be preached this year by Fr. Christy Fitzgerald.

HOLOCAUST DAY SERVICES

St Anne's Church, Shandon is marking Holocaust Memorial Day with a special Service on Sunday, 26th January 2014 at 10.30 a.m. to which all are invited.

The rector, the Reverend Brian O'Rourke gives the background to the Service: *We observed Holocaust Memorial Day for the first time last year. We will do so again this year on Sunday 26th January.*

Why should we remember? The Holocaust was the murder by Nazi Germany of six million Jews. While the Nazi persecution of the Jews began in 1933, the mass murder was committed during World War II. It took the Germans and their accomplices four and a half years to murder six million Jews. They were at their most efficient from April to November 1942 – 250 days in which they murdered some two and a half million Jews. They never showed any restraint, they slowed down only when they began to run out of Jews to kill,



and they only stopped when the Allies defeated them.

There was no escape. The murderers were not content with destroying the communities; they also traced each hidden Jew and hunted down each fugitive. The crime of being a Jew was so great, that every single one had to be put to

death – the men, the women, the children; the committed, the disinterested, the apostates; the healthy and creative, the sickly and the lazy – all were meant to suffer and die, with no reprieve, no hope, no possible amnesty, nor chance for alleviation.

Most of the Jews of Europe were dead by 1945. This is why we should remember. I would ask parishioners to make a yellow badge (star of David) and wear it in church on the 26th.

Tomorrow (Sunday) Holocaust Memorial Day will be marked in the Mansion House where the C of I Archbishop of Dublin will be represented by the Rector of St Ann's, the Revd David Gillespie.

FOUR CORNERS, 4 STORIES

The 4 Corners Festival established last year, consists of innovative events during and around the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

The events entitled 'Four Corners – Four Stories' are designed to entice people out of their own corners of the city and into new places where they will encounter new perspectives, new ideas and new friends, and to inspire people from across the city to transform it for peace and prosperity of all.

Belfast South Methodist Church is pleased to be hosting again this year one of the events in the 4 Corners Festival, on Monday 27 January at 7.30 pm in the Agape Centre. Four church leaders from 4 different traditions and 4 corners of the City will tell their story against the backdrop of the theme for

Christian Unity this year i.e. 'Is Christ Divided', which is a particularly pertinent question to ask in this divided city?



A full programme of events can be found at <http://www.4cornerfestival.com/events/>

This Year's Theme

The theme for this year's week of prayer for Christian Unity is the rhetorical question put by Paul to the church in Corinth: "Is Christ Divided?" In this special event church leaders from four different traditions and four corners of the city tell

their personal stories against the backdrop of the question "Is Christ divided in this city?" The church leaders are:

- 1 Bishop Harold Miller: Anglican Bishop of Down and Dromore (East Belfast resident)
- 2 Rev. Dr. Norman Hamilton: Former Moderator and Minister of Ballysillan Presbyterian (North Belfast)
- 3 Father Ciaran Dallat: Assistant Priest in St. Peter's Catholic Cathedral (West Belfast)
- 4 Rev. Dr. Heather Morris: President of the Methodist Church in Ireland and Director of Ministry at Edgehill Theological College (South Belfast).
- 5 Chaired by Prof John Brewer (Queens University)

Date: Monday, 27 January, 2014 - 19:30 to 21:30

Venue: Belfast South Methodist Church, Lisburn Road

Email: martinjmagill@gmail.com Website with Further Details: <http://www.belfastsouth.org/4-corners-festival/>

Celebrations in Waterford

This weekend there will be a series of events to mark the twinning of the Church of Ireland and Roman Catholic cathedrals in the city of Waterford.

Both cathedrals are dedicated to the Holy Trinity and both are the work of the Waterford born architect John Roberts. Described as ‘possibly the finest classical church in Ireland’ the Church of Ireland cathedral was built in the late 1770s while the Roman Catholic cathedral, on which work began in 1793, was the first Catholic cathedral built in post–Reformation Ireland.

Today (Saturday) there will be a tour of both cathedrals, led by Julian Walton, who in the afternoon will give talks in both places. Mattins will be sung in the Catholic cathedral and there will be a candlelit Choral Evensong in the Church of Ireland cathedral. The day will conclude with the launch of a chapter of the Irish Georgian Society in Waterford to promote the twin cathedrals within the city and throughout the south–east of Ireland.

The Dean of Waterford, the Very Revd Maria Jansson, and the Administrator of the Catholic cathedral, the Very Revd Paul Waldron, will also launch a new ecumenical Gospel Choir, named ‘Trinity’ which will sing in both cathedrals and in the wider community. The weekend will also mark the beginning of a campaign for World Heritage status for the twin cathedrals.

ARCHBISHOP HIGHLIGHTS POPE'S MESSAGE ON WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY

Archbishop Eamon Martin, Chairman of the Irish Bishops’ Council for Communications, has welcomed this year’s message from Pope Francis for the 48th World Day of Social Communications.

The theme for this year’s communications message is: ‘Communication at the Service of an Authentic Culture of Encounter’. The message, which is the first from Pope Francis, was presented this week at a press conference in the Vatican Press Office ahead of the Feast of Saint Francis de Sales, patron of journalists, writers and editors

Commenting on the newly released message Archbishop Eamon said: “Pope Francis is inviting us to reflect on what it means for us, despite our limitations, to encounter others in the light of the Gospel. He makes use of the parable of ‘The Good Samaritan’ to challenge us, in all our communications, to become ‘neighbours’ to one another, and especially to those who are isolated or excluded in any way. In his message Pope Francis sets out a challenge when he says “As I have frequently observed, if a choice has to be made between a bruised Church which goes out to the streets and a Church suffering from self-absorption, I certainly prefer the first. Those “streets” are the world where people live and where they can be reached, both effectively and affectively.”

I very much echo the Pope's sentiments when he says that it is not enough to be a passerby on the digital highways. I encourage people of faith to be present as neighbours in the digital media, and to bring the message and compassion of Christ to all those they meet online. I applaud those in Ireland who witness to their love of Jesus on Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and a host of other digital platforms. Many of our parishes and dioceses are developing a strong presence on the world wide web through webstreaming of Mass and other liturgies, sacred prayer spaces online, short video testimonies and discussion forums on the Word of God and other matters of faith. The digital highway is one of "those streets" which Pope Francis describes as "a street teeming with people who are often hurting, men and women looking for salvation or hope. By means of the internet, the Christian message can reach "to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

The conclusion of this year's message for World Communications Day offers us a gentle and beautiful challenge from our Holy Father: "Let our communication be a balm which relieves pain and a fine wine which gladdens hearts. May the light we bring to others not be the result of cosmetics or special effects, but rather of our being loving and merciful "neighbours" to those wounded and left on the side of the road". I am particularly taken by Pope Francis call: "Let us boldly become citizens of the digital world. The Church needs to be concerned for, and present in, the world of communication, in order to dialogue with people today and to help them encounter Christ".

NEW CANONS

The Right Reverend Dr Paul Colton, Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross has announced his appointment of the Reverend Daniel Nuzum as a Canon of both St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork and St Colman's Cathedral, Cloyne.

Canon Nuzum, who continues as Healthcare Chaplain at Cork University Hospital, Marymount University Hospital and Hospice, and the Bon Secours Hospital, Cork has been appointed to the ancient Prebendal Stalls of St Michael and Inniskenny in St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork and to that of Brigown, in St Colman's Cathedral, Cloyne.

Canons are non-residential members of the Cathedral Chapter (the ruling body of the Cathedral) appointed by the Bishop as a mark of their contribution in ministry to the work of the Diocese.

The role is an honorary one; Canon Nuzum will be continuing his valued ministry as healthcare chaplain, as Rural Dean, and as Diocesan Ecumenical Officer.

Canon Nuzum's Installation in St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork will take place during Evensong at 7 p.m. on Sunday, 26th January, 2014. All are invited to attend.

There will be installations, also, in St Edan's cathedral, Ferns, where the Very Revd Katherine Poulton, Canon Patrick Harvey and the Revd Arthur Minion will be installed as canons.

GB NEWS

REVOLUTIONARY NEW GLASS PROTECTS YORK MINISTERS GREAT EAST WINDOW



York Minster's stunning Great East Window will be preserved for many generations to come thanks to a revolutionary new glass being utilised to protect it.

The medieval masterpiece was designed by artist John Thornton and dates back to the 15th century.

It is the size of a tennis court and the largest single expanse of medieval glass in Britain.

The window has been removed from the cathedral and is being painstakingly conserved by York Glaziers Trust.

The trust is harnessing a cutting-edge UV resistant glass as part of the external protective glazing for the 15th century window.

York Minster has the privilege of being the first building in the UK to use the special glass. More at -

<http://www.christiantoday.com/article/revolutionary.new.glass.protects.york.minsters.great.east.window/35513.htm>

WORK OF ARCIC IRRELEVANT TO MOST CHRISTIANS - LORD CAREY

Catholics and Anglicans involved in formal ecumenical dialogue might as well be “talking on the moon” because no one is listening to them, a former Anglican leader has said.

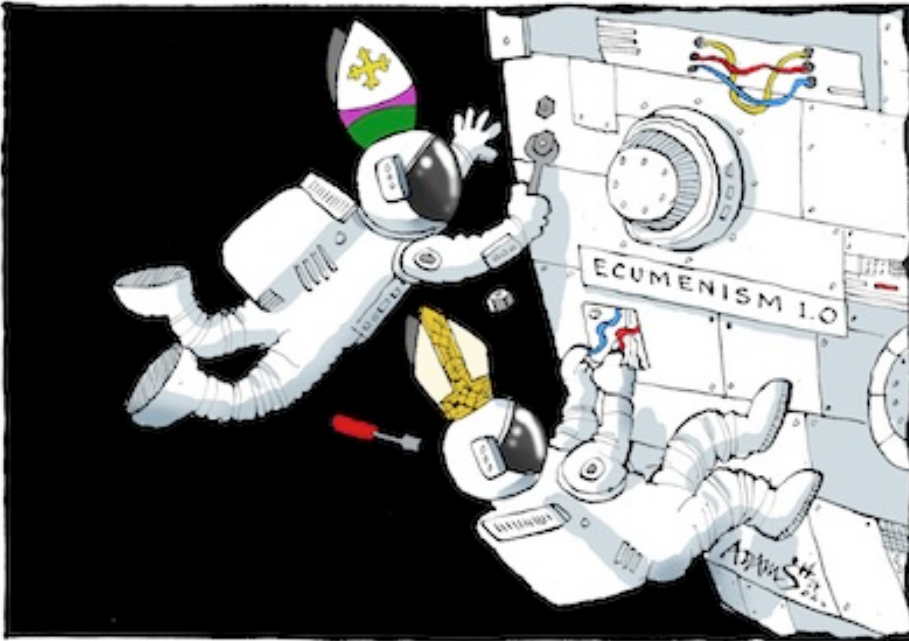
Lord Carey of Clifton said the work of the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC) was “irrelevant” to most Christians, who were motivated by relations at grassroots level. He suggested that financial grounds alone might justify the abandoning of the ecumenical project in favour of local projects underpinned by good will and a shared commitment to charity.

The former Archbishop of Canterbury said 45 years of attempts to bring about visible unity by bridging theological differences had “run into the sand”. “I don’t know what is going on,” he said. “If you take the latest ARCIC document, I think it is so irrelevant to the ordinary Christian – Catholic, Anglican or Methodist – that it might as well be talking on the moon.” The comments came in an interview with the Shrewsbury Catholic Voice just minutes before he delivered a homily in Chester Cathedral on Sunday during a service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

He used his homily, entitled “Is Christ Divided?”, to question the financial burden of ecumenism, particularly to the Church of England, which spends almost £500,000 a year on ecumenical projects.

“It makes one wonder: are we really getting value for money?,” said Lord Carey, who served for 10 years as leader of the worldwide Anglican

Communion. “If the churches had an equivalent of George Osborne that person would, I am sure, be asking: ‘What value are we getting for such an outlay year after year?’,” he said. “Or to change the image, no keen football supporter (and I speak as an Arsenal fan)



would be convinced by an argument that goes: ‘Well, we spent £30 million on that striker: I agree he hasn’t scored all season but what a lovely mover!’

“If you are not delivering, then logic suggests that we put ecumenism on the backburner, and spend the money on more pressing things. It is a tempting argument.”

He continued: “In the nearly 50 years I have been involved in formal ecumenism we have witnessed amazing political events happen: we have seen the Cold War end between West and East, the Berlin Wall removed, Apartheid destroyed in South Africa, deepening harmony in Northern Ireland – and, ingloriously, no substantial acts taken to bring Christian unity about.”

But Lord Carey said the deepening of ecumenical relationships must continue by “doing things together”, such as helping the homeless and evangelising. “These are the stepping stones that are going to lead us to visible unity,” he said.

His comments on ARCIC, set up in 1969 to foster ecumenical dialogue, come three years after talks between Catholic and Anglican leaders entered their third phase.