

Reporting on diversity and dedication



St Mary's Church of Ireland National School, Carrigaline, County Cork held a special Assembly for this year's Women's World Day of Prayer on Friday 7 March. This year's Service which was written by the women of Egypt, was led by the children of 4th Class who, along with the rector the Revd Elaine Murray, were dressed in Egyptian style.

New Catholic university could open this year

A Catholic university for Ireland could be in operation as early as this September, one of the project's backers has revealed.

The Irish Catholic - Speaking to The Irish Catholic this week, Kathy Sinnott the former MEP who has championed US-backed plans for what will be called Newman College Ireland said "the time is right" for the establishment of such an institution.

"The time has been right for a Catholic university in Ireland for a number of years," she said, adding "there's a window of opportunity now and we don't want to see that close."

While refusing to be drawn on a projected number for students for a first intake for the proposed Newman College, Ms Sinnott pointed to the example of already established Catholic institutions elsewhere which have grown dramatically from initially small cohorts.

“Many have started small,” she said, “such as Christendom College [in Virginia] which began with an intake of 26” and now has hundreds of students.

Ms Sinnott further revealed that a group has been established in the United States to fundraise both for the Irish university and scholarships for potential students.

“Our hope is that no student will pay more than in any other Irish college,” she said in relation to the question of costs of attendance.

According to a temporary website for Newman College Ireland, the institution will offer “a curriculum primarily in the liberal arts”.

“Modelled on the new American colleges and universities qualifying for membership in the Newman Guide, the college will adhere fully to Ex Corde Ecclesiae, the Apostolic Constitution on Catholic colleges and universities promulgated by Pope John Paul II in 1990.” This ensures what the colleges teach is faithful to Catholic teaching.

The site adds that a search for a campus site is ongoing while faculty staff are being recruited.

“The campus will be a residential one, and faculty and staff will be expected to accompany students on their journey to mature Catholic adulthood.”

Referencing the naming of the new university in honour of Cardinal John Henry Newman, Ms Sinnott described as “ironic” the fact that Cardinal John Henry Newman had penned his ‘foundational text’ on Catholic education, *The Idea of a University*, in Ireland, “but this country has not seen a full Catholic university”.

Holocaust survivor to tell her tale

Tonight a Holocaust survivor is to tell a Banbridge audience how she survived the horrors of the holocaust.

Banbridge Leader - Students and the public are invited to Iveagh Movie Studios, Banbridge on Friday March 14, at 10am to hear the moving and inspiring testimony from Holocaust survivor, Joanna Millan.

This free event has been arranged as part of a visit organised by Banbridge District Council Good Relations Programme through the Holocaust Educational Trust.



Banbridge District Council Chairman Cllr Junior McCrum pictured with Holocaust Survivor Joanna Millan

Following her testimony, Joanna will take part in a question and answer session

to enable those attending a better understanding of the nature of the Holocaust and to explore its lessons in more depth.

Council Chairman Oliver Mercer, said: “It is a privilege for us to welcome Joanna Millan to our district.

“This will be her third time to come and give her testimony as a powerful reminder of the horrors so many experienced.

“We are grateful to the council’s Good Relations Programme for co-ordinating the visit and we hope that by hearing Joanna’s testimony, it will encourage our students to learn from the lessons of the Holocaust.”

Joanna was born Bella Rosenthal in August 1942 in Berlin, Germany.

In June 1943, Bella and her mother were taken from their home and sent to the Theresienstadt ghetto.

In 1944 when Bella was two, her mother contracted TB, leaving Bella orphaned and alone in the camp. On May 3, 1945, the Red Cross took over control of the camp and Bella was liberated by the Russians.

After liberation Bella and five other surviving orphans were flown to England. After living in a series of children’s homes, Bella was adopted by a Jewish couple living in London.

They decided it would be better for Bella to have a less German-sounding name so it was changed to Joanna. J

Joanna was told not to mention that she was Jewish or that she was born in Germany and to pretend that she was their natural daughter.

Joanna went on to marry a Jewish man and has three children and eight grandchildren.

Speaking of the event Dolores Donnelly, Banbridge District Council Good Relations Officer stated: "by hearing Joanna's testimony, those attending will have the opportunity to learn where prejudice and racism can ultimately lead."

For further information or to reserve a seat please contact Banbridge District Council Community Services Dept on 028 4066 0605 or email dolores.donnelly@banbridge.gov.uk.

Saint's Day Church of Ireland services in Irish

The Church of Ireland will be holding St Patrick's Day services in the Irish language across the island on Monday, including the 10am Celebration of the Eucharist in St Patrick's Cathedral in Armagh.

Belfast Telegraph - In [Belfast](#) there will be Holy Communion in Irish in St George's Church. There will also be Irish language services in Co Cork, Kilkenny, Limerick and Killaloe on Sunday, March 16.

The services have been organised by the Irish Guild of the Church.

It was founded in 1914 to promote the use of the Irish language in the Church.

It also promotes within the Church the spirit of the ancient Celtic Church and is a focus for all members of the Church of Ireland inspired with Irish ideals.

The guild also collects from Irish sources suitable hymns and other literature and encourages the use of Irish art and music in the Church.

Noye's Fludde in Limerick

Noye's Fludde, will be presented in St Mary's Limerick from 28th March to 1st April inclusive.

The children's opera Noye's Fludde (Noah's Flood) by Benjamin Britten retells the well-loved story of Noah and his Ark. The libretto is taken from a

medieval Chester Miracle Play, and the opera takes us from the initial depiction of God's wrath and the subsequent storm and flood through to the peace of God's covenant with his people at the conclusion, all magically reflected in Britten's masterly score.

Mask and costume making workshops have been taking place in schools in preparation for the production and rehearsals are also underway. This production involves many children from across Limerick, as there are solo roles for children and also a chorus of children playing the parts of the animals! There are also young people playing in the orchestra.

Peter Barley - We are very grateful for the generous financial support of Limerick Regeneration, of Limerick City of Culture, the Buckley Foundation, the Allchurches Trust and the Trench Trust, together with other well-wishers.

Falsely Accused Priest Returns to Ministry With Joy

Father Eugene Boland was accused in 2010 of indecent assault on a teenage girl, and he was acquitted by a jury in 2012.

Ulster Herald - A priest exonerated of sexual-assault charges against a teen girl will return to his parish with "great joy," almost four years after he left public ministry and two years after his acquittal.



"It is with a sense of great joy and anticipation that I return to public ministry in my parish of Cappagh with my good name and standing in the Church fully restored," Father Eugene Boland told the [Ulster Herald](#) March 9.

He said his exoneration was a "long and painful" journey that involved both a civil and a canonical process.

Father Boland will be reinstated as pastor at an anticipated Mass March 15 at St. Mary's Church in Killyclogher in Northern Ireland. Father Boland is a priest

of the Diocese of Derry, which straddles the border of Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

“I am eagerly looking forward to celebrating the sacraments with my parishioners once again and being involved with all the ministries for which I was ordained 44 years ago,” he said. “I ask God and his Blessed Mother to continue to bless and guide me in the priestly ministry amongst his holy people.”

Father Boland was charged in 2010 with five counts of indecent assault on a 14-year-old girl on unknown dates between June 1990 and June 1992. He subsequently stepped down as parish priest of Cappagh.

He was acquitted after an eight-day trial in 2012. After his acquittal, he told BBC News that he had been “devastated” by the case, but forgave his accuser.

“My faith was strong, and I always believed the truth would come out in the end.”

With the conclusion of the canonical process, the priest voiced his gratitude to Archbishop Eamon Martin, coadjutor archbishop of Armagh, who was previously vicar general of the Derry Diocese, the *Herald* reported.

Father Boland thanked the diocese’s chancellor, Father Paul McCafferty, and also expressed his “heartfelt thanks” to Father Francis Bradley, the diocesan administrator, whom he said “worked tirelessly” to conclude the case.

“Throughout this journey, I have been sustained and encouraged by the countless prayers and support of my family, colleagues, parishioners past and present and many friends,” Father Boland told the *Herald*.

“In all of this, I only had one goal in mind: namely, to return as soon as possible to my parish of Cappagh and resume the priestly ministry.”

Church Counselling Centre thanks PCI for support of its ten-year life-saving ministry

The [Church of North India \(CNI\)](#) Diocesan Counselling Centre in Gujarat, recently completed ten years of ministry in Gujarat!

The centre, located in the city of Ahmedabad in CNI's Diocese of Gujarat opened ten years ago. A



second centre in the city of Surat in southern Gujarat, was opened in 2009.

Rev Julias Khristy and his wife, Deaconess Anita Khristy spent a year studying in Ireland at [Union Theological College](#), Belfast taking courses in Counselling and Theology, before setting up the Centre.



They continue to lead this expanding ministry and on the tenth anniversary of the opening of the Ahmedabad centre they have written to [Presbyterian Mission Overseas](#), as follows:-

"We rejoice in the Lord for this life saving ministry in CNI Gujarat Diocese.

We are indeed grateful to God for all His goodness in dealing with people and providing our needs.

We are indebted to the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, the Board of Mission Overseas and Union Theological College for the help we received to be trained in Belfast without which we can't think of the existence of the Counseling centre"

Our special thanks to all the Churches who supported us and prayed for us and all those who visited our centre.

You will be glad to know that we have been able to provide personal counselling to 8,432 persons till now and we have trained 252 volunteers.

There were more than 800 persons who either attempted suicide or contemplating suicide but after counselling they are able to live normal life."

A special thanksgiving service was held on 22nd February 2014.

Syrian conflict in-depth: our response

The latest update on the Syrian refugee crisis and details of how our partners are responding in Syria, Iraq and Lebanon.

More than 9.5 million people are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance as the conflict in Syria deepens.

Many families are living in cramped and overcrowded conditions in countries struggling to cope with the overwhelming number of refugees. Inside Syria

itself, millions of people have been displaced from their homes, forced to seek sanctuary in other, safer, parts of the country.

Our [emergency appeal for Syria](#) is enabling our partners in Lebanon and Iraq, and within Syria itself, to respond to the desperate humanitarian needs of some of the most vulnerable displaced communities.

They are providing essentials such as food, hygiene and sanitation kits, water containers, fuel for cooking and infant kits, as well as psychological support for those who are suffering as a result of the conflict.

In the months ahead, as the conflict deepens, our partner REACH in Iraq will be expanding their work to support vulnerable refugee communities to access livelihoods opportunities, enabling individuals to provide for themselves and their families.

In Lebanon, our partner the Lebanese Physically Handicapped Union (LPHU) will be supporting Syrian refugees with disabilities to access specialist support such as physiotherapy and occupational therapy, as well as vocational training.

[http://www.christianaid.org.uk/emergencies/current/syria-crisis-appeal/crisis-in-syria.aspx?
utm_content=buffer0a808&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/emergencies/current/syria-crisis-appeal/crisis-in-syria.aspx?utm_content=buffer0a808&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer)

Fancy a 'Two Week Stint' this summer in the South of France?

[Wycliffe Bible Translators](#) are looking for people to go on a special *'Two Week Stint'* from Sunday 20th July to Friday 1st August 2014, near Valence in the south of France.

A holiday with a mission impact!



Bi-lingual, cross-cultural plus sun!

It will be an excellent opportunity for language students and others to explore the work of Bible translation, literacy, use their creative skills – and have some fun in France.

Two Week Stint is being organised jointly by [Wycliffe UK](#) and Wycliffe France.

For more details on *Two Week Stint* and to register go to www.wycliffe.org.uk/twoweekstint

PRAYER FOR TODAY

Lord, grant we pray that amidst all discouragements, difficulties, dangers, distress and darkness of this mortal life, we may depend on your mercy and on this build our hopes. We are lonely, but you do not leave us. We are feeble in heart, but you do not leave us. We are restless, but with you there is peace. In us there is darkness, but with you there is light. And Lord, make us know the reality that you are with us always, even unto the end of the age.