

**The essential daily brief
on the Irish churches**

**C of I rector will attend C of E
ordination of women celebration**

The Rev Mercia Malcolm, Vicar of Carnmoney, is one of 700 women priests taking part in a national celebration to mark the 20th anniversary of the ordination of women to the priesthood in the Church of England.

Mercia, who has been Vicar in Carnmoney since 2003, was among some 1,200 women priested between March and July in 1994.

The Church of England first allowed women to become deacons in 1987, but it was seven years before they were permitted to be ordained as priests.

Mercia, who left Northern Ireland to study at university in Scotland, worked as a teacher and a civil servant before undertaking theology training in London. She was ordained a deacon in 1987, and served four years as a curate in Dartford, Kent, in the Diocese of Rochester. Her second post was in the team ministry of St. George's, Stockport, in the Diocese of Chester.

In May 1994 Mercia, along with 31 other women in her diocese, was ordained a priest in Chester Cathedral. She believes that between March and July that year around 1,000 women were priested in various dioceses across the Church of England.

Mercia returned to Northern Ireland in 1995, and was a curate in Jordanstown and part time chaplain at the University of Ulster in Jordanstown. She later



became full time university chaplain, and in 2003 was instituted as Vicar of Carnmoney.

Twenty years after those first ordinations, the Church of England has organised a national anniversary service to take place in St Paul's Cathedral, London, on May 3.

This will be preceded by a picnic at Westminster Abbey and a Walk of Witness through London from the Abbey to St Paul's Cathedral. Here, after a photocall with the Archbishop of Canterbury, the robed women priests will take part in a service of celebration.

Seven hundred of the original 1994 ordinands will be at the service. "A number of those who were ordained to the priesthood with me in 1994 would have been in their 50s or 60s, so some may no longer be alive and others might be quite frail," Mercia said.

"I still hope I will recognise some faces, although I think I may be the only one travelling from Ireland."

Looking back to 1994, Mercia said: "Each ordination was an amazing occasion. There were some anxieties around the services as there was considerable opposition at the time, so it felt like a big deal."

She added: "It is nice that the Church of England is celebrating the anniversary. That is quite powerful, particularly in the year that the Church of England has agreed to have women bishops. Twenty years on this is a great affirmation."

Service marking 20th anniversary of Rwandan Genocide

A service to mark the 20th Anniversary of the Rwandan Genocide will take place on Monday 7th April at 7.30 p.m. in St Anne's Cathedral Belfast.

The speaker will be the Presbyterian Moderator, The Rt Revd Dr Rob Craig.

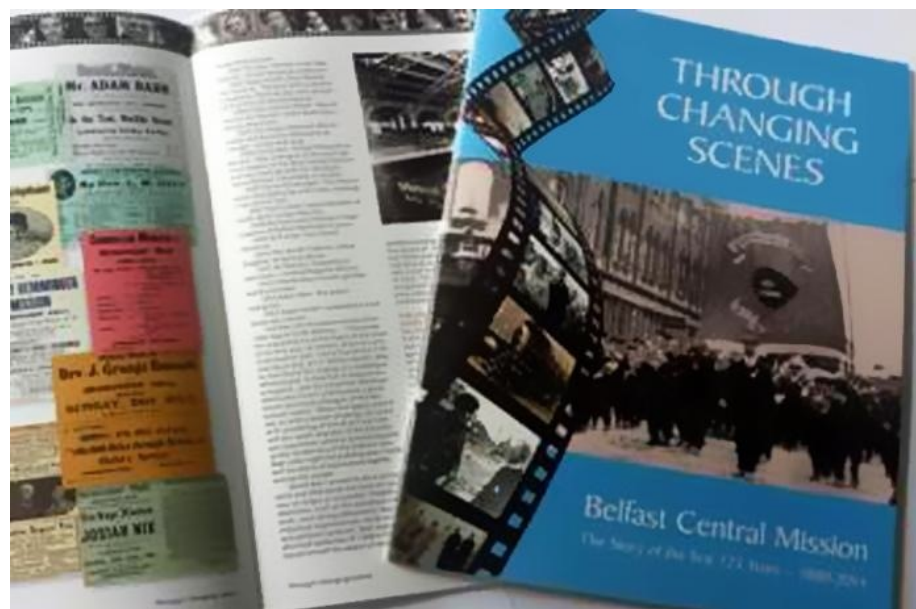
The Revd Canon Jerome Munyangaju, Rector of Killyleagh, who – along with the Dean of St Anne's, the Very Revd John Mann – will also participate in the service, said in advance of it: 'This year, the 7th of April marks the commemoration of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda. This 20th anniversary is an important occasion on which we remember over a million

lives brutally lost in just 100 days. Their cries should have been answered, yet the international community, aware of the desperate situation, chose not to intervene. The country and its people have scarring memories of the violent killings, pain and trauma. *Kwibuka* (remembering) of our past helps toward the healing of our future. We invite the people of both Rwanda and the world to give this anniversary a positive meaning of learning more about forgiveness, unity and renewal, and commit to praying and working to ensure the adage “Never Again” is a reality rather than rhetoric in our world.’ He continued, ‘Thankfully, this sad chapter of our history has been acknowledged in imaginative and creative ways. A new story of reconciliation and nation building is an inspiring lesson which can be replicated across many parts of our divided world. Our past has divided us by focusing on ethnic stereotypes and other forms of sectarianism, hence the catastrophic consequences of disregard of life. Forgiveness has come to be the key in rebuilding Rwanda, and 20 years later, we are seeing the tremendous results.’

Dean Mann says, ‘This service is such an important occasion, but is unlike many that we hold at Saint Anne’s, in that it is reaching out in Christ to those who have suffered deeply in a situation far beyond our imagination. It is a commemoration in which prayer will be placed at its heart, and the plea for compassion and hope held as its intent’.

BCM 125th Anniversary Book Launch

This year brings in Belfast Central Mission's (BCM) 125th Anniversary. To mark this accomplishment, BCM archivist Wesley Weir, has written "*Through Changing Scenes*" which tells the story of the first 125 years of BCM from 1889-2014.

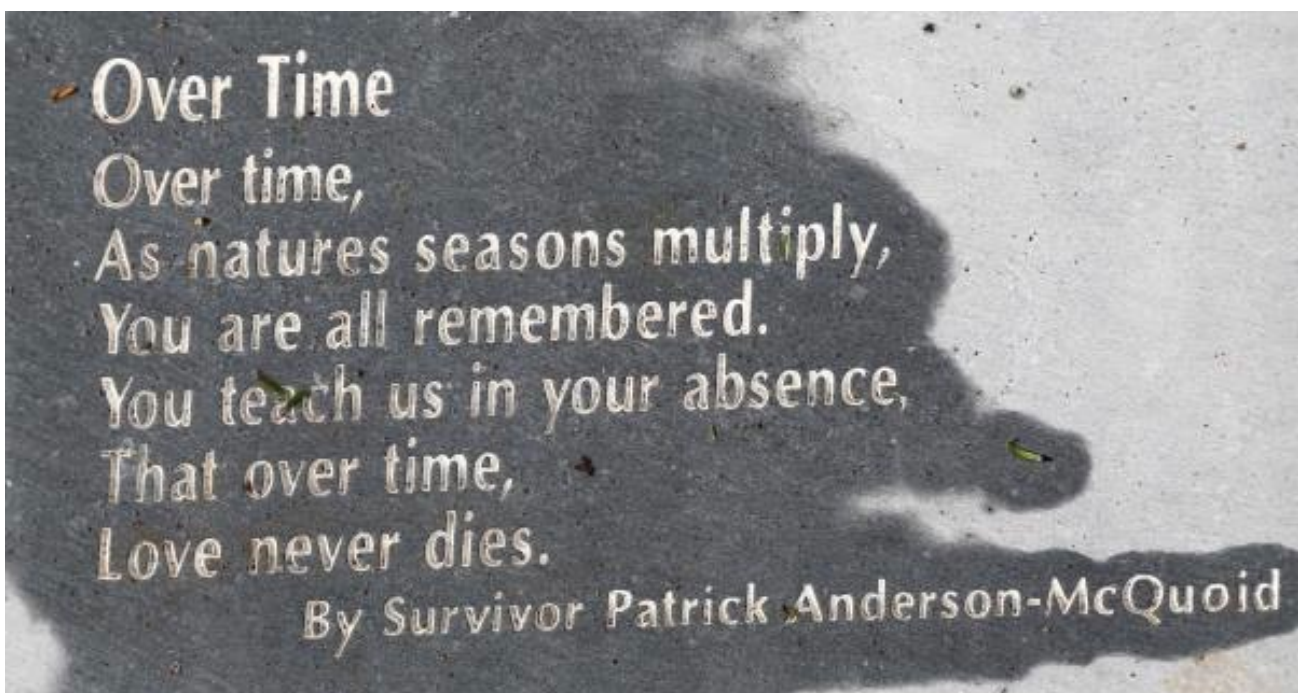


The book charts the vast and varied history of BCM from its conception in 1889, through conversion, both World Wars, socialism, the Troubles and right

up to the development of Copelands, Dementia & Nursing Care project in Millisle, which is one of BCM's latest projects.

The book is a brilliant read that engages the reader and provides him/her with an understanding of the journey BCM has taken professionally and spiritually. It really should not be missed. The book is free of charge but BCM are asking readers to donate towards the Buy-A-Brick campaign which raises money for Copelands. People can do this by visiting www.belfastcentralmission.org/buyabrick/

If you would like to request a book please contact Marc Pyper on (028)90 241 917 or alternatively email mpyper@belfastcentralmission.org



Monument to Bethany Home's 222 dead children unveiled

As a monument is unveiled today to the 222 children who died at a Protestant children's home and were buried in unmarked graves, survivors of the home have pledged to continue their fight for justice.

Irish Examiner - The Department of Justice offered the Bethany Survivor's Group up to €25,000 towards their memorial, but has refused to include them in the redress scheme that was offered to the survivors of Magdalene laundries.

“To help fund the memorial was the right step on the behalf of the Department, but we want them to know it is only the first step. The State had a duty of care to us, yet we suffered enormous abuse and that must be acknowledged,” said Derek Leinster, chairman of the Bethany Survivor’s Group.

A Church of Ireland service at Mount Jerome Chapel will precede the unveiling of the six foot sculpture at the adjoining cemetery at Harold’s Cross, Dublin, today.

Toys and trees are carved on to the Kilkenny limestone sculpture. The toys represent the childhood the Bethany children never had, the trees the length of time they have waited for their story to be acknowledged. A robin is also carved into the six foot monument.

“The robin is highly symbolic as it’s known for always coming back to feed its young and is a survivor despite its diminutive size. It’s also known as having the loudest voice for such a small bird,” says Derek Leinster, chairman of the Bethany Survivor’s Group.

Coleen Andrews, a survivor of another Church of Ireland home, Westbank House in Bray, will play the organ at the unveiling and survivors and their families from the North, Scotland, England, Wales, Australia and Portugal will attend.

Local TD and Junior Minister at the Department of Foreign Affairs Joe Costello will also be present, as will Sinn Féin deputy Mary Lou McDonald who will be one of a group who will cut the ribbon to the sound of Eamonn Walsh’s pipeplaying.

“It will be a day that we will always remember. We have been 16 years seeking acknowledgment for what was done to us,” said Mr Leinster.

The Church of Ireland will be represented by Church of Ireland priest Canon Mark Gardiner and the Catholic Archbishop of Dublin, Diarmuid Martin, is also sending a representative. Fr Peter McVerry, long-time champion of the homeless, will attend.

More at -

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/ireland/monument-to-bethany-homes-222-dead-children-unveiled-263971.html>

See also -

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/viewpoints/columnists/victoria-white/we-need-to-fight-for-the-truth-about-bethany-survivors-263343.html>

Social media training

A number of Diocesan youth workers and communications officers from the Church of Ireland came together at Church of Ireland House, Dublin on Monday to focus on the opportunities and challenges of communicating through the internet and social media particularly with young people today.



L–R: Amy Mc Crea, Jonny Phenix, George Walker, Annette McGrath, Jim Gamble, Renee English, Bishop John McDowell, Margaret Yarr, Rev Ian Ellis (Paul Harron/Church of Ireland Press Office)

Jim Gamble, Chief Executive of INEQE and expert in child protection and contemporary communications, was the guest speaker and spoke about the need to embrace social media ‘while ensuring that credibility and reputation are assured through appropriate usage – knowing who you are, what you’re doing and why you’re doing it’.

The Revd David Rock, Team Leader for the Irish Methodist Youth & Children’s Department, also spoke about developing effective guidelines at the training day and acted as facilitator for group discussion which focused on issues relating to the development of further guidelines for the Church’s work in these areas – these will now be progressed. The event was organised by the Church of Ireland’s Child Protection Officers, Renee English and Margaret Yarr, the Education Secretaries, Ken Fennelly and the Revd Ian Ellis, and the Church of Ireland Press Officer, Paul Harron.

Armagh institution

His new parish may be just a few miles down the road but moving still feels like a very big step for the Rev Malcolm Kingston.



Rev Malcolm Kingston who will be instituted as rector in St Mark's, Armagh, with his wife Claire and children Susanna (3), Matthew (9) and Isaac (6)

Portadown Times - Malcolm, who is rector of Kilmore and St Saviour's, will be swapping his small but active country parish of around 240 homes for an urban one of 600 when he takes up the position of rector of St Mark's, Armagh.

The father-of-three has been in his current post for almost seven years and while he is looking forward to a new challenge, he is not relishing the farewells.

His final Sunday services will be this weekend while a Service of Institution will be held in St Mark's, Armagh, next Friday, April 4 at 7pm.

He said, "It has been a great seven years. The people have been very generous, very open and very supportive. As a minister you go through a lot with families, sometimes very emotional occasions, and you become attached to them."

Before moving to Kilmore and St Saviour's, Malcolm was curate in St Mark's, Portadown, for three years, "so I feel I've really been here for 10 years" he added.

Originally from Enniskillen, Malcolm graduated from Queen's University Belfast with a BSc Hons degree in Geography followed by an MSc in

Environmental Engineering, before taking up a job with a civil engineering firm.

However, while he enjoyed the job he knew “within weeks” that it was never going to be long-term career and increasingly felt called to the Ministry.

Before entering the Church of Ireland Theological College in Dublin, he and Claire, a physics teacher, who had met during their university days, married.

They have three children, Matthew (9), Isaac (6) and Susanna (3), all of whom are looking forward to the institution next week.

The service will be led by the Archbishop, the Most Rev Richard Clarke, and among the clergy taking part will be Canon Mark Russell, Malcolm’s friend and best man.

In attendance will be Malcolm’s parents Trevor and Ethel, brothers Rodney and Craig, sister Stephanie, nephew, nieces and family.

Retirement of PCI missionaries

31st March marked the retirement of [Robin and Helen Quinn](#), who have spent much of their working lives serving as overseas missionaries through the Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI).



Robin was ordained into the Presbyterian Ministry in 1981 and, following an assistantship in Craigyhill Presbyterian Church - Larne, he and Helen first left for Malawi in March 1982.

Robin worked in Zomba Theological College (ZTC) as a minister of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP), Synod of Livingstonia, and also as Chaplain at Chancellor College of the University of Malawi; whilst Helen Quinn served as a teacher at the Wives' School at ZTC, taught English at the College, and helped with the English Language Sunday School in Zomba.

They returned to Ireland in August 1990, and following a period of home assignment Robin took up pastoral ministry in Christ Church Presbyterian Church, Dundonald. They served there until 2004 when they again

responded to the call to serve God in Malawi - the land they both love so much.

From 2004 until December 2013, they served with the CCAP's Livingstonia Synod, Robin as a lecturer, and later Assistant Dean, at the College of Theology in Ekwendeni; and Helen in the Synod's Women's Empowerment Programme - a Small Business Management training project.

They returned to N Ireland at the end of December, and for the past three months have undertaken a number of speaking engagements in various PCI congregations about Malawi, what God is going there, and their involvement in it.