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Irish church links recalled in Archbishop of Dublin's visit to Indian Orthodox Church



Outside the ancient St Mary's Orthodox Syrian Church in Kottayam.

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Archbishop Michael Jackson is currently visiting the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church, also known as the Indian Orthodox Church. The church is based in the Indian state of Kerala and during his visit the Archbishop will worship in a number of parishes. He will also attend a number of presentations and talks. This is the first of his accounts from his visit.

Day 1 – Sunday July 28

On Sunday the Archbishop worshipped in one of the oldest parishes in Cheripally, Kottayam, in the Orthodox Tradition with the people, the clergy and the bishop. As Kottayam stands on the historic Silk Road, the church shows a range of international architectural influences down the centuries, European, Chinese and Islamic. It is dedicated to St Mary. It has very ancient wall paintings on the north and south sides of the sanctuary depicting the fall of Adam and redemption through the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ

The Gospel was St Mark 3.20–30 where the family of Jesus express their anxiety about his overwork and the stress that it causes to them and to others; the Scribes are more forthright and describe him as being possessed by Beelzebub.

The Archbishop spoke of the reality of stress in the lives of everyone and encouraged the congregation, through prayer and through focus on self-care and on the person of Jesus where possible, to consider ways of using and harnessing stress as an energy and putting it to good and powerful purpose.

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Archbishop Michael Jackson preaching in St Mary's Orthodox Syrian Church in Kottayam.

He went on to speak of the sin against the Holy Spirit, as had St Mark. He encouraged those present to take up the invitation of St Paul: the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace and to be children of God who live in the Spirit, walk in the Spirit and work in the Spirit. During the afternoon, the Archbishop participated in a seminar on Mission in Perspective in Sopana Theological Academy, Njaliakuzhy, Kottayam. He was able to speak on the contribution of the Church of Ireland to India through mission at the seminar.

Day 2 – Monday July 29

Following the opportunity to discuss aspects of mission shared in common between the Indian Orthodox and the

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Anglican traditions, there was a chance to see something both of the history of Christianity in Kerala and of the contemporary mission of the Indian Orthodox Church in the Kerala region.

St Mary's, Niranam, is one of the oldest churches founded by St Thomas the Apostle of India. There is evidence of four churches in succession on the site including the present church. When the Archbishop arrived, a baptism was in full flow and he was invited by the parents to bless the child during the baptism as they made their way to the font which dates from at least the tenth century.

Next there was a visit to the shrine of St Gregorius of Parmala where a stunning modern icon written by the Archbishop's host radiates from the sanctuary wall. There he met Mr Sushant Agrawal, Director of the Church's Auxiliary for Social Action, a member of Act Alliance, whose sister runs an outstanding facility for creative arts for young people with disabilities in Ranchi which the Archbishop had visited when he went to North India with the Dublin University Mission to Chota Nagpur two years ago. Like Ireland, India is a small world! St Gregorius was renowned as a healer and the next visit was to a hospital specialising in the diagnosis and treatment of cancers while also providing more general medical services. The hospital is dedicated to St Gregorius and is supported entirely by church donations as a private hospital offering its services both free of charge and at a very low cost by voluntary donations by members of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church to those of any faith tradition or culture.

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The opportunity to talk both to the director of the hospital and the chaplain along with specialists in oncology gave an insight not only in to the treatments offered but the educational camps provided throughout the community irrespective of class or faith. This is a living and working example of the contemporary mission of the church in the complex world of today where in India, as in Ireland, lifestyle is playing larger and larger recognised role in cancer itself. From there the Archbishop was brought to meet members of Salem Bhaban, an ashram whose members are destitute and challenged by a variety of psychological needs and ailments. The saddest thing for them is that living directly with their families in their communities is no longer possible while they are ill. The ashram seeks to enable them, through the application of best of contemporary psychological care and active community life, to work towards return to family life; and family members are able to visit on a regular basis.

There was a profound sense of the dignity of the human person both as an individual and as a valued member of the community of the ashram. It was also clear that there was a strong ethic of trust between the members and the staff.

The priest who led the community had worked for four years in CTBI (Churches Together in Britain and Ireland) in London before returning to India. He had expected to write and to teach but his Bishop had pointed him in this direction of servant–leadership and he had never regretted it. The Archbishop met a priest working in a local parish and lecturing part–time in the seminary in Nagpur, the home of CNI (Church of North India) who had for seven years been in Dublin and studied liturgy in Maynooth.

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The Archbishop had lunch with the members of the ashram and prayed with and for the community in the chapel which is adorned with icons written in the West Syrian style.

A glorious Reek Sunday on Croagh Patrick



Organisers of this year's Reek Sunday pilgrimage to the top of Croagh Patrick in Co Mayo were delighted with how the day went.

Those who tackled the mountain early had to contend with wet conditions on the summit, while it was covered in cloud. But as the day progressed the clouds dispersed, the sun

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came out and pilgrims were rewarded with magnificent views of Clew Bay from the 764m-high vantage point.

Bishop Fintan Monahan of Killaloe, who celebrated the midday Mass on top of the Reek, tweeted “A glorious day, thank God!”

Mayo Mountain Rescue (MMR) reported that they had to deal with 15 casualty incidents, none of them serious. In nearly all cases of injury, those hurt or feeling the effects of exhaustion were able to recover and walk off the mountain themselves.

The Order of Malta and members of the Civil Defence were also on hand to provide first aid, but it is reckoned that out of the 5,000 or so who made it to the top, no more than two

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dozen people suffered any form of injury during their climb or their ascent.

An Air Corps helicopter was involved in evacuating two people off the mountain as a precautionary measure. One of these was a cardiac patient who needed to be transferred to a specialist care unit.

There was a touch of “happy landings” to one of these Air Corps operations, as it led to a reunion between Mayo Mountain Rescue volunteer Odette Duignan and helicopter crew member Tracey Walsh, who hadn’t seen one another since 1994, when they were both in army recruit training together.

Among those who made the pilgrimage was Luc Abel from Flanders, who has spent the last three months walking from his home in Belgium to this holy spot in the west of Ireland.

The Archbishop of Tuam, Michael Neary made it to the summit to celebrate Mass there at 11am. Afterwards he described the pilgrimage as “a parable on life itself”.

“There is a cooperative dimension and a willingness to make way for others who might be finding it more difficult.”

Methodist President visits Portrush and reflects on holidays on the moon

The President of the Irish Methodist Church visited the congregations in Portrush and Portstewart last Sunday taking part in morning worship and a Singalong in Portrush in the evening.

Reflecting on holidays, the President wrote, “Holidays are very much to the fore at the present time. If you’ve had your

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annual summer break I hope you found it enjoyable and refreshing.

“If, like me, you are still looking forward to your away days, then I hope you’ll have a wonderful time. And if, like many and for sad reasons, you won’t get the chance to have a holiday, then I pray you will nevertheless have some opportunities to relax and to be renewed and refreshed during these summer days.

“I have read that holidays on the Moon will eventually become commonplace. Perhaps some of my grandchildren will live to enjoy such a fantastic possibility.

“That will be a giant leap from the ancient idea of pilgrimage, which arguably was the first form of holiday. Back in those distant times people really only travelled for work, for war or,

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if you could afford it, for religious reasons: but even in those days ordinary people were allowed to rest on holy days - from which we get our word holiday. May all our holidays be holy days and may God be our Adventure on holiday as well as at work and at home. Every blessing.”

The President’s Diary -

Sunday 28th July: Portrush 10.30am and Portstewart 11.45am

Portrush Sing-a-long at 8pm`

Monday-Thursday: Connexional pastoral calls and preparation

Friday: Rest Day

Saturday: Rest Day

Sunday 4th August: Castlewellan Holiday Service am

Supreme court justice becomes Ghana’s first female lay cathedral canon

A justice of the Supreme Court in Ghana, who has also acted as a United National Appeals Tribunal judge, Justice Sophia Adinyira, is to become the first female and lay Canon of the Cathedral Church of St Peter in the Anglican Diocese of Koforidua.

Justice Adinyira, who has been the Provincial Chancellor of the Church of the Province of West Africa (CPWA) in the Anglican Communion since 1993, has served under three different archbishops during her 26 years in post. She will be installed and licensed on 1 September 2019 at the

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Cathedral
in
Koforidua.

During her
years in
office she
has been
actively
involved in
many
justice
issues
from child
protection
and

human rights to juvenile justice and human trafficking.

After graduating in law from the University of Ghana, Justice Adinyira, was called to the Ghana Bar in 1973 and worked at the Attorney-General Department until she moved to the High Court in 1989. She also served as a Judge of the United Nations Appeals Tribunal, sitting in New York and Geneva.

She is a member of the International Association of Women Judges and chairs the National Multisectoral Committee on Child Protection. She received a national award for her contribution towards enhancing the destiny of the Ghanaian child from the Ministry of Women and Children on the 20th anniversary of UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in Ghana.

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She has been involved in drafting a juvenile justice policy for Ghana supported by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection and UNICEF.

A frequent public lecturer both at home and abroad, Sophia Adinyira speaks out on issues, including human rights, women's empowerment and access to justice, child protection, juvenile justice, human trafficking, HIV/AIDS, constitutional review, human rights, law reform and judicial independence. She is also passionate about integrity, tackling judicial corruption and reducing delays in the resolution of disputes.

She has been actively involved in church ecumenism, having served as a vice moderator of the World Council of Churches (WCC) in Geneva, and as a member of its Central Committee from 2006 to 2013.

July 30 - Today in Christian

July 30, 1718: William Penn, founder of Pennsylvania as a colony for Quakers to enjoy religious liberty, dies.

July 30, 1956: "In God We Trust" becomes the official motto of the United States by an act of Congress signed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

July 29 - News briefs

+++ Connor Streetreach - Great fun was had by more than 60 children who attended a Summer Scheme run by churchnewsireland@gmail.org

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Ramoan and Culfeightrin Parish in Ballycastle from July 1-4. Activities included Bible stories, crafts, sports, games, dancing, a beach trip and a visit to an indoor play area. Well done to all the leaders for making this such a fantastic experience for the young people who attended.

+++ St Molua's Day Open-air service - Sunday 11th August at Magheracloone, Clogher diocese, at 3pm providing an opportunity for people from all churches to come together to celebrate and give thanks for those who have gone before us and particularly of the influence left by St. Molua on the area. Guest speaker: Monsignor Joseph McGuinness.

+++ Food for thought: Church Army founder - Wilson Carlile was born in 1847 in Brixton. He suffered from a spinal weakness all his life, which hampered his education. He entered his grandfather's business at the age of thirteen but soon moved on and learnt fluent French, which he used

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to good advantage in France trading in silk. He later learned German and Italian to enhance his business, but was ruined in a slump in 1873. After a serious illness, he began to take his religion more seriously and became confirmed in the Church of England. He acted as organist to Ira D Sankey, during the Moody and Sankey missions and in 1881 was ordained priest, serving his curacy at St Mary Abbots in Kensington, together with a dozen other curates. The lack of contact between the Church and the working classes was a cause of real concern to him and he began outdoor preaching. In 1882, he resigned his curacy and founded the Church Army, four years after the foundation of the Salvation Army. He continued to take part in its administration until a few weeks before his death in 1942.

July 30 News Links

Church of Ireland marks 150 years since end of role as state church

Irish Times

The daily prayer service at St Ann's Church, Dawson Street, Dublin. 'The identification of the Church of Ireland with the **Church of England** reflects ...

Tread carefully' with the Irish border, church leader warns PM

ChristianToday

The bishop of a diocese that straddles the border between Northern **Ireland** and the Irish Republic has warned Boris Johnson to "tread carefully" with ...

[Atheist parents take primary school to court as they say assembly prayers breach children's human ...](#)

[Telegraph.co.uk](#)

ODST is a multi-academy trust that runs 33 schools, all of which are **Church of England** bar four, including Burford Primary, which are designated as ...

[Couple fight to make school hold non-believers' assembly](#)

The Times

Parents who object to their children attending Christian assemblies at a non-religious primary school run by the **Church of England** are trying to force it ...

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Protesters blasted for 'chanting anti-Catholic taunts' near Glasgow **church** during Republican flute ...

The Scottish Sun

PROTESTERS have been blasted for chanting "anti-Catholic taunts" near a **church** while a Republican flute band walked past. A 20th anniversary ...

Magnus **Church of England** Academy, Newark, celebrates journey made possible with hope

Newark Advertiser

The importance of hope in the journey of Magnus **Church of England** Academy, Newark, over the past three years was highlighted by the head, Mrs ...

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