



Archbishop of Dublin inspired by unity at Burundi maize project



Bishop Seth and Archbishop Michael at the maize project in Vitezi village, Diocese of Matana.

In a blog update from Burundi, the Archbishop of Dublin, the Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson, has shared how he was

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inspired by a visit to a community maize project in the rural highlands of Burundi.

Matana Diocese supports a Church-based agricultural co-operative in the village of Vitezi. It sees Anglicans, Roman Catholics and Pentecostals working together as one family, using parish land to grow and process maize. Archbishop Michael writes: 'The communities were clear about their differences from one another. They were also clear that whatever might separate their community, they will fight it. I could only hear a voice in the direction of parochial and community life in Ireland in this utterance of determination.'

Archbishop Michael is in Burundi on a partner visit facilitated by the Church Mission Society Ireland (CMSI). He is accompanied by CMSI's Mission Director, Jenny Smyth, and former CMSI Trustee, the Revd Dr Paddy McGlinchey, of the Church of Ireland Theological Institute.

At every point we have found the Church to be lively and joyful and the people inspiring in their faith and witness. Having arrived in Burundi's capital, Bujumbura, on Friday 13th, the team travelled to Makamba Diocese on Saturday, where they joined the Archbishop of Burundi and Bishop of Makamba, the Most Revd Martin Blaise, at his brother's wedding celebration.

On Sunday morning, the team brought greetings and participated in a Eucharist service in Makamba Cathedral. Archbishop Michael also preached, with Archbishop Martin interpreting. His message was well received and he was even congratulated on his Burundian-length sermon.

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After visiting diocesan projects in Makamba on Monday, the team travelled to Matana Diocese – a global partner of CMSI – where they have been hosted by Bishop Seth Ndayirukiye, learning more about the diocese and visiting the maize projects. On Wednesday, the team return to Bujumbura for the final part of their programme.

Speaking about the first part of the visit, Archbishop Michael said: ‘Jenny, Paddy and I have had a most interesting and inspiring introduction to Burundi. At every point we have found the Church to be lively and joyful and the people inspiring in their faith and witness.’

To read more from Archbishop Michael and Paddy McGlinchey, visit their blogs on the CMSI website: www.cmsireland.org

Westminster Abbey dedicates stone to Nelson Mandela

A memorial stone to Nelson Mandela has been dedicated at Westminster on the centenary of the former President of South Africa's birth.

A ledger stone in the central aisle of the nave of the central London church now commemorates him.

The inscribed slab was officially unveiled during a service held at 3pm on Wednesday afternoon. Theuns Pauw from African Enterprise International - an evangelistic mission - told in a radio broadcast that Mr Mandela made a last impact on his country.



Speaking from South Africa, he said: "I can unequivocally say that Nelson Mandela's legacy is still alive and strong in our nation, and still inspiring hope and change for the good."

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Nelson Mandela was held at the Abbey on 3rd March 2014, following his death on 5th December 2013.

Referring to Mr Mandela's release from prison in 1990, Mr Pauw went on to say: "It was remarkable that he came out of 27 years of incarceration with zero signs of bitterness.

"[It was] absolute spirit of forgiveness, something really Christ-like that he came out with.

"He was seeking to bring reconciliation."

Mr Mandela played in a leading role in trying to overthrow a pro-apartheid government in South Africa, before going on to serve five years as the nation's President (1994-1999).

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Urging people to pray for South Africa ahead of national elections next year, Mr Pauw added: "Right now, in our country, we're building up towards our national elections...

"There are a lot of people who are pushing the racist ticket and really polarising the different ethnic groups in our country, so it's a very crucial time for us and we really covet prayer for our country at this time." See also News Briefs

Islamic prayer centre in Swords gets the go-ahead

Local Muslim community successfully renews planning permission for new hub - Planning permission for an Islamic prayer and cultural centre in Swords, north Co Dublin, has been approved by [Fingal County Council](#).

Members of the Muslim community in Swords had sought to renew planning permission to convert a former [An Post](#) sorting office into a centre for prayer and cultural events.

An initial application for the single-storey building located off the Rathbeale Road was approved in late December 2015, on the basis it would need to be renewed in two years' time and despite more than a dozen residents objecting to the plans over fears it would increase traffic flows into a small area.

An appeal against the centre to [An Bord Pleanála](#) was unsuccessful the following April.

A report in March 2016 by An Bord Pleanála's planning inspector had advised that permission should not be granted for the centre.

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The inspector said the prayer centre would increase traffic congestion in the secluded area where it was to be located. The report said the amount of people using the centre was likely to grow with the increasing Muslim population in [Ireland](#), and concluded that the proposal would have a “potential negative impact” on the existing residential area.



However, the board voted by a two-thirds majority against their inspector’s recommendation, and approved the plans.

Down-linked Bird of Paradise Ministries’ new home for elderly in Rwanda

Founders of the charity, Bird of Paradise Ministries, Jerome and Mary Munyangaju, write with good news from their home in Kigali, Rwanda...

One of the challenges of our ministry has been about waiting/and in that space of waiting remain as hopeful and optimistic as ever. The Psalmist says, “Let no one who waits on you be put to shame” (Psalm 25:3). We have been prayerfully searching for God’s direction, as well as looking for a plot to build a home for the elderly. Now the Lord has provided in his time and we are grateful for that.

The Promised Land

We are happy to report to all our supporters that finally BPMR in Rwanda has purchased ½ an hectare piece of land. The family who sold to us, very generously gave an added ½ hectare as a donation, free of any restrictions or

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conditions.
The two halves together, are in same area and they form one unit.
This means we have 1

hectare of land adequate for a dwelling for the elderly when we can build.

It is located near the capital city and is now in the process of being re-registered so as to allow for a residential area (formerly a farming only). A huge thank you to this family and not least to our BPMR supporters for the funding.

We have paid fees so that a cadastral plan of the area can be sketched out. In this process, the boundaries will have been drawn before the building permission can be obtained. The Notary will sign the necessary papers followed by the lands Registrar issuing the title deeds in the name of Bird of Paradise Ministries in Rwanda. The time scale will not be very long as some of the fees have been paid and paperwork is expected to be complete soon. Water pipes are going in and will soon be having running water and is connected to electricity supply already!

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We believe God's hand is in this for very obvious reasons and in particular for this ministry of care and outreach for the elderly.

While we feel excited by this new development, it is still a big challenge to reach the goal of having a place for the elderly. The answer to this challenge is to keep trusting in God. He is faithful and just!

September Visit

We are delighted for another visit to Northern Ireland this September, it is home coming and exciting to see family, friends and supporters. What a privilege to belong to Rwanda and Northern Ireland, the two very beautiful places!

Whilst in Northern Ireland, if you who would like a visit from us for an update of our work we will be delighted to see you. You might like to let [Mrs Mavis Spiers](#) know so that it can be on our itinerary.

Religious education report is an 'attack' on Catholic schools

A bishop has condemned a report on religious education in Britain, saying it has "little regard" for the Catholic Church and its recommendations are "unacceptable".

Bishop Marcus Stock of Leeds, who is the lead bishop for Religious Education on the bishops' conference, said the report would "dictate" what the Church can teach in Catholic schools, and treats religion as a purely sociological matter.

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The report, titled 'A New Settlement Revised: Religion and Belief in Schools', was written by former Education Secretary Charles Clarke and Lancaster University professor Linda Woodhead for Westminster Faith Debates.

The 60-page booklet says that the current syllabus for religious education in British state schools is outdated, and calls for the subject to be renamed Religion, Beliefs and Values.

While the report says that Religious Education (RE) should be mandatory for all state school students, its content should be comparative. Faith schools could provide additional teaching on top of this, it adds.

However, Bishop Stock said the recommendations had "little regard for the approach taken by the Catholic Church to the teaching of RE."

"Not only are their recommendations largely incompatible within our sector, they were compiled with the knowledge that the Catholic community would find them unacceptable; this was explicitly stated in their report," he said.

In a statement, Bishop Stock said there were two main problems with the report: "Firstly, that the State can impose a national RE curriculum, which would dictate what the Church is required to teach in Catholic schools. Secondly, the curriculum they suggest contains no theological content, which is at the core of Catholic RE."

He added: "We accept there is a need to improve RE in all schools and Catholic teachers and academics have been

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actively contributing to this discussion, producing suggestions that would work within the plurality in our country's schools sector, allowing for all schools to choose between RE as a theological discipline and Religious Studies as a sociological discipline.”

“Catholic schools are the most successful providers of Religious Education in the country. This is because we take it seriously as a rigorous, theological academic subject. However, rather than look at the sector that does it the best they have opted for a reductionist approach which is exclusively sociological and has no consensus amongst RE professionals.”

Christian charity encourages churches to go beyond food banks



Christian charity Church Action on Poverty has encouraged local communities and churches to start food pantries as a long-term solution to tackling food poverty in their area.

The charity, along with homeless service Stockport Home, started the Your Local Pantry project four years ago in Stockport. New research has found that the pantries increase people's health and wellbeing, build community, and reduce social isolation.



Members of the pantry pay a small weekly fee, typically £2.50, for which they can choose at least ten items of food each week, along with additional opportunities of volunteering and training.

Laura Jones, pantries programme officer at Church Action on Poverty, told Premier it's a step on from a food bank model.

"It just goes beyond giving people shopping baskets and cupboards," she said.

"People have the opportunity to socialise before and after the pantry is open, but also receive debt advice or housing advice and we signpost people to different services.

"Membership is ongoing as well. It's not limited. It's not an allocation of three or four times they're able to come. In addition to that, there are volunteering opportunities, training opportunities and a chance to become a real part of the community as well."

The study found that the pantries helped improved the financial positions of its members. Also, for every £1

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invested that pantries have generated a £6 return in social value.

One pantry member said: "With the food bank, I feel like I'm lowering myself. I'd rather go without food. And it's local, people I know are there. The pantry feels different because you have paid and you are making a choice on the food you take home."

News briefs



+++ Why on earth? - Why do people want to be part of the church & what might a life-giving church today look like? Get why on earth... ? for FREE to help small groups look at this & other difficult topics together: whyonearth.me
#whyonearth @SPCKPublishing

+++Manx choir in Armagh - The Cathedral Choir from the Isle of Man will visit Armagh later this month. They will sing Evensong on Thurs 26 & Fri 27 July at 5pm, on Sat 28 they

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sing the Vigil Mass in the Roman Catholic Cathedral, and on Sun 29 they will sing the 11am Eucharist and Evensong (3.15pm).

+++WCC concern for Middle East - The Central Committee of the World Council of Churches (WCC) has expressed its concern at the “alarming and rapidly deteriorating situation of Christians in the Middle East.”
bit.ly/2mdVpf8

+++Worship through the ages - Will take place from 20–24 August at 5.30pm in St Patrick’s Cathedral, Dublin. Worship has been offered daily in Saint Patrick’s for centuries – so come and join in this Heritage Week as the choir and fellow participants journey through 800 years

+++Mothers Union CEO 100 mile fundraiser - Only two weeks to go until @MU_ChiefExec takes on a 100 mile bike ride through London and Surrey raising money for us
[@RideLondon https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/bevjullien ...](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/bevjullien)

+++Leader to Leader - Lead On is CPAS - Churches Pastoral Aid Society - FREE monthly email with leader-to-leader input This month's edition features an article from our Director of Ministry, Graham Archer, 'My people are too busy. I don't like to ask them to do things' [#LeadOn http://ow.ly/l5Nj30kNAgY](http://ow.ly/l5Nj30kNAgY)

+++Mandela’s address to WCC - On the 100th anniversary of Nelson Mandela's birth read his address in 1998 to the [#WCC](http://www.wcc-coe.org/wcc/assembly/or-mand.html) to mark its 50th anniversary [http://www.wcc-coe.org/wcc/assembly/or-mand.html ...](http://www.wcc-coe.org/wcc/assembly/or-mand.html)

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+++In remembrance Jane Haining -

On 17 July 1944 Jane a Church of Scotland a missionary in Budapest died in the German Auschwitz camp. Jane (b. 6 June 1897) was arrested in Budapest by the Gestapo and later deported to Auchwitz. On 14 May 1944 she was

registered in the camp as prisoner 79467. She is the only Scot recognized by Yad Vashem as Righteous Among the Nations. Her last message to friends was a postcard asking for food. She ended her letter with the words: "There is not much to report here on the way to heaven."



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