



Refugees and Asylum Seekers Welcomed in St Patrick's on World Refugee Day



Almost 280 people who live in Direct Provision attended a special dinner in St Patrick's Cathedral to mark World Refugee Day.

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World Refugee Day was marked around the globe on Wednesday past, June 20. In Dublin there was an open air prayer service and later in the evening 270 people who live in Direct Provision were given an Irish welcome and an almost unique opportunity to dine in St Patrick's Cathedral.

Guests in the cathedral came from 32 different countries and are seeking refuge or asylum in Ireland for many reasons. The food was produced and served by the cathedral's corporate partners, volunteers and staff.

The cathedral's Dean William Morton was joined by Former President of Ireland and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson and Judge Bryan McMahon who led the working group which reported to Government on Direct Provision and the asylum process. Also present was Canon Horace McKinley who was involved in establishing Dublin & Glendalough's refugee accommodation.

Addressing the guests, Mrs Robinson said it was a pleasure to share a meal with so many courageous men, women and children who had risked so much to seek a safe and secure life for themselves and their families.

She spoke of the terrible reality of the Irish famine and evoked the images of An Gorta Mór – the workhouses and the coffin ships. “We must look at those images anew and translate them into the images of the present day suffering of people coming to Ireland. How willing are we to listen to the voices of those living in Direct Provision?” she asked.

Mrs Robinson related the story of ‘Angel’ who came to Ireland in 2016 in the hope of finding a safe home. However,

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she found her life limited by such unfair conditions which severely restricted her access to work. She described the isolation and uncertainty and the desire to work and be responsible members of society. “Let us remember that we still have a lot of work to do in Ireland to make it the home it should be,” she concluded.

Dean Morton said that he was keen to ensure that the cathedral was a place of welcome, inclusiveness, friendship and acceptance, regardless of race, gender, age, orientation or any other factor. “This is really an evening to celebrate solidarity in suffering and supporting those who are struggling to be the best version of themselves and to create a more harmonious and wholesome society,” he commented.

The Interfaith Prayer Service took place earlier in the evening at the Famine Memorial on Custom House Quay. During it, true stories of real refugees were read by leaders and representatives of Dublin’s faith communities. The service was organised by Dublin City Interfaith Forum (DCIF) and those present remembered and prayed for migrants and acknowledged the journeys taken by millions of people who are forced to leave their homes in search of a better and safer life.

DCIF’s Colm Reilly said no one chose to leave their own home and risk everything unless they had to. He added that it was fake news to say that migrants could not bring value to their new home countries. He said the challenge to society was not only how we treat each other but how we treat those who are new to our shores.

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DCIF chairperson, Hilary Abrahamson, said that so many Irish people, including herself, came from migrant families. She hoped that Ireland would continue to be a place of welcome for migrants and refugees.

Canon Susan Green to be Dean of Cloyne

Canon Susan Green has been appointed Incumbent of the Cloyne Union of Parishes, in the United Dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross. She is currently the Church of Ireland Chaplain at Kilkenny College.



The Bishop of Cork, Dr Paul Colton has also announced that he intends to appoint Canon Green as the new Dean of

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Cloyne in succession to Canon Alan Marley who is now Church of Ireland Chaplain at University College Cork. Susan Green grew up in a busy family home in Glenageary Co. Dublin, the 4th of 5 children. She attended Newpark Comprehensive School. She studied Biblical Studies and Sociology in Trinity College Dublin followed by a H.Dip. in Education, and theological college. She was ordained deacon in 1992 and priest in 1993. While studying in TCD she also taught RE in Rathdown School.

She served her curacy in All Saints, Antrim from 1992-1995. This was followed by five years as Diocesan Youth Officer in Cashel and Ossory Dioceses. On moving to Dublin in 2000, she worked as Hospital Chaplain in Tallaght Hospital (2000-2010). In 2010 she returned to Cashel and Ossory Diocese and took up a post as School Chaplain in Kilkenny College. She has also been a member of Diocesan Council, General Synod, and Standing Committee, and diocesan committees to do mostly with education, youth work and communication. During her time in Kilkenny College a new chapel was built, situated at the heart of the school.

In all these roles her focus has been on developing relationships, communication and growing community. Susan is married to Andrew Orr and they have three (adult) children, Rachel 21 Patrick 19 and Ciara 17.

Susan is delighted to be taking on this role. She said, "I'm thrilled at the prospect of being rector of the Cloyne Union, and very much looking forward to getting to know both the people and the area. At the same time, I am truly sad to complete my time with both Kilkenny College and the Diocese of Cashel Ferns and Ossory which have been so

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wonderful to work and minister in, with supportive people and a fabulous Bishop.

“As we turn our eyes Southward we know that we will find a new spiritual home and a vibrant and welcoming diocese and Bishop.”

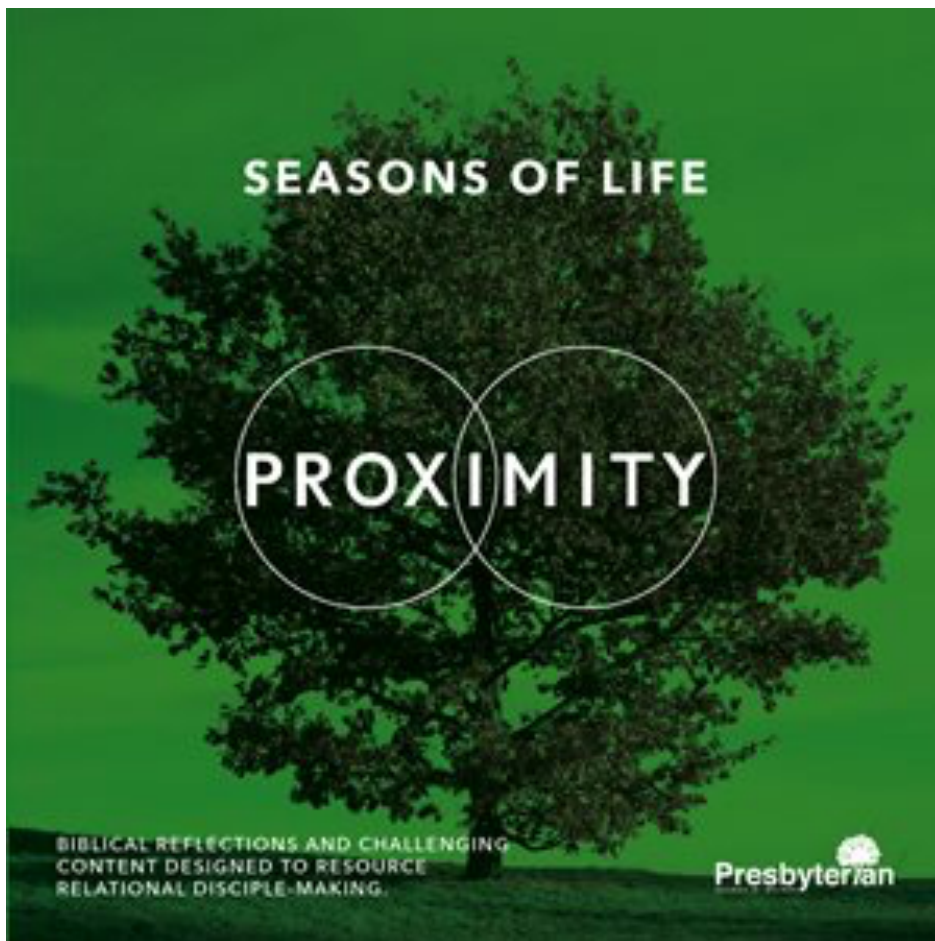
Bishop Paul Colton said, “I am delighted that Susan Green will be taking on the incumbency of Cloyne Union which is centred on the town of Middleton, County Cork with its extensive and busy East Cork hinterland, and is now, in many ways, part of the region increasingly being referred to as the metropolitan Cork area. It is an important parish in the Diocese, and Susan Green will bring her experience as well as her many, many gifts to bear on her new ministry here.

“In her role as Dean of Cloyne Susan will contribute much, not only to that historic Cathedral, but also to our work together throughout Cork, Cloyne and Ross.”

Susan’s husband Andrew who is archdeacon of Ossory and rector of Tullow group of parishes has been appointed to a shared post as Priest in charge of Youghal Union and chaplain to Middleton College.

Discipleship resource to be launched by Presbyterian Church

“Proximity” is a series of small booklets providing relevant and challenging content for the context of relational discipleship. This resource is designed as coffee



conversations ideal for either one-to-one or smaller discipleship groups and will provide biblical content and practical questions on a wide range of key discipleship themes. The 4 series of Proximity will

explore the Seasons of Life, the Story of God, the Rhythms of Devotion and the Places of Mission. Each series of Proximity will include 6-8 sessions that each dig into bible study, personal reflection and practical conversation. The first of the series, "Seasons of Life", will be available from September, however they can be used in any order and in a flexible timeframe. This series focuses on how followers of Jesus face the different circumstances of life such as suffering, change, disappointment and grief.

The Proximity resources are about mobilising the many and not just the few when it comes to the task of making disciples. This is not about a resource or a programme, but about the outworking of the Great Commission. This is about putting simple tools into the hands of ordinary believers to resource relational discipleship in a wide variety

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of contexts. Whether it's investing in a few younger Christians, meeting one on one with a wiser Christian for meaningful conversation or developing deeper accountability among Christian friends, Proximity aims to spark and resource a culture of relational and intentional disciple-making across the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

Proximity will be available from this September and will be launched in several different locations across the denomination. These launch nights will happen in the locations where the "Disciple Makers Network" has taken place, aiming to follow up this training by putting a specific and practical resource into people's hands.

The dates are:

- [Tuesday, 18 September - Assembly Buildings, Belfast](#)
- [Thursday, 20 September - Ballygawley Presbyterian Church, Ballygawley](#)
- [Monday, 24 September - First Ballymoney Presbyterian Church, Ballymoney](#)
- [Thursday, 27 September - Ballydown Presbyterian Church, Banbridge](#)
- ***(A Dublin Launch event will also be arranged and confirmed soon.)***

The purpose of each launch night is to share the vision of Proximity, make the resource available and share some helpful ways of using it.

Those intending to attend are requested to complete a response on the church's web site.

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Archbishop of York lays foundation stone for new Priory at Whitby



There has been a monastic community in the North Yorkshire coastal town of Whitby since at least AD 657. The monastery is famous as the venue of the crucial Synod that brought together the different strands of Christianity in the Saxon kingdom of Northumbria to agree the date of Easter, amongst other things. The decision to adopt the Roman calculation over the Celtic formula was eventually adopted across Britain. The original monastery now lies in ruins, but this week the Archbishop of York, John Sentamu, laid the foundation stone for a new priory in the town.

The new Priory is being built in the grounds of Sneaton Castle, Whitby for a group of Anglican Sisters, the Order of the Holy Paraclete. The Priory is being built by Leeds-based Castlehouse Construction and should be completed by the

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end of the year. The new Priory will become the new Mother House of the Order, which has been part of the Whitby community since 1915. Its current Mother House looks across the east cliff to the monastery founded by St Hilda.

The new Priory will include private accommodation for the Order, including a new Chapel, infirmary wing and associated external works within its grounds.

‘The new Priory is the fulfilment of much prayer and planning over the years,’ Sister Carole, the Order’s Prioress, said. “We are thrilled that the move is imminent and look forward to welcoming more people than we can at present.”

The Project Manager for Castlehouse Construction, Andrew Lyon, said: “It is a real honour to work with the Sisters to deliver a modern new Priory for the Order to call home. When complete, the new facility will provide a great base from which they can continue their valuable work in the Whitby community and beyond.”

News briefs

+++Learning Disability Week

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland has reiterated its call during Learning Disability Week (18-24 June) for increased provision of support services for people with a learning disability in the post-19 age group. You can read more here: <http://bit.ly/2tsEOay>

+++New Diocesan Readers for Armagh

On Sunday 17th June, three new Diocesan Readers were commissioned in St Patrick’s Cathedral, Armagh, by

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Archbishop Richard Clarke. All three Readers – Rodney Blair, Valerie Newell and Edwin McCambley – belong to the Parish of Drumcree in Portadown, so this was a very special day too for the parishioners of Drumcree and their Rector, the Revd Gary Galway.

+++East Belfast Mission fundraiser thanks

On Tuesday members of our Church & Community groups worked together to 'Walk & Roll' 250 miles in total around Victoria Park!

A huge congratulations to all those who walked, pushed prams or rollator, rode their bikes or came in their wheel chairs. What an achievement to reach this goal together, and in the pouring rain no less! And to all those who sponsored us... wow, thank you - we have raised just over £1000 already, with more sponsorship still coming in!

+++Children's Craft Workshop at St Canice's Cathedral

Connecting children with our Cathedral's history through story and historical craft. During this year's National Heritage Week St Canice's Cathedral will host a special children's workshop, where children will discover how the Cathedral was built? Who were the monk, knights and Normans who played such a big part of our Cathedral's past? Activities will include: A Scavenger Hunt to find the Cathedral's story, Design your own Crest, Build a Round Tower, Draw a Celtic Knot and much more. The Children's Craft Workshop will take place on Tuesday 21st August from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. and costs €5. Contact St C's on 0567764971.

<https://www.heritageweek.ie/whats-on/event/childrens-craft-workshop>

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+++Heritage graveyard tour at St Canice's

On Tuesday 21st August for a special Graveyard Tour for Heritage Week at St Canice's Cathedral. Explore the Cathedral's grounds, discover the stories of the people who rest in the graveyard and the meaning of the symbols that adorn their ornate tombs.

<https://www.heritageweek.ie/whats-on/event/graveyard-tour>



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