



## **Presiding Bishop Michael Curry meets backstage with U2, Bono to talk about Reclaiming Jesus**

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Presiding Bishop Michael Curry met backstage this week with U2 and front man Bono at New York's Madison Square Garden, where the Episcopal Church leader and the globally renowned rockers discussed Curry's [Reclaiming Jesus initiative](#), reports David Paulsen of Episcopal News Service

The meeting happened in the evening June 25 just before the first of a series of U2 concerts in New York on [the band's Experience + Innocence tour](#). A photo released by the band shows the foursome posing with Curry.

"I know of no other group that has sung and witnessed more powerfully to the way of love than U2," Curry said June 27 in a written statement to Episcopal News Service. "It was a real blessing to sit with them to talk about Jesus, the way of love, and changing our lives and the world. They are an extraordinary community gift to us all."

U2, which formed in the late 1970s, has been one of the most popular rock bands in the world for more than 30 years, and Bono – among that rarefied group of musicians known globally by a single name – makes headlines these days as much for his support for humanitarian causes as for his music.

Curry, too, has become something of a minor global celebrity since his sermon on the power of love at the royal wedding on May 19. After the wedding, he was invited to discuss the sermon on a [dizzying variety of media outlets](#), from the BBC to celebrity gossip site TMZ. Curry told ENS last month that he sees the sudden attention as a unique opportunity for evangelism, as he tries in interviews to bring

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the conversation around to what he often calls the “Jesus Movement.”

Reclaiming Jesus is a [new initiative he spearheaded this year](#) with the Rev. Jim Wallis of Sojourners to address “a dangerous crisis of moral and political leadership at the highest levels of our government and in our churches” and to affirm what it means to be followers of Jesus in today’s world.

U2 and Bono have not yet commented publicly on Reclaiming Jesus, though Curry said he spoke with them about its origins and intention.

“I shared with them our commitment to reclaim Jesus of Nazareth as the center of Christian faith and life,” Curry said in his statement to ENS. “And this means a way of faith with love of God and Love of neighbor at the core. A love that is not sentimental but a disciplined commitment and spiritual practice infusing every aspect of life, personally, intra personally and politically.”

Curry didn’t say whether he was a fan of U2’s music, though he stayed June 25 to attend the concert at Madison Square Garden. He had at least one prior connection to the songs before this week: A sermon he delivered in 2006 at a U2charist service in Columbus, Ohio.

The U2charists were a popular trend in the Episcopal Church at that time, structured as a Eucharist that incorporates songs from the band, whose catalogue is thoroughly infused with Christian imagery.

Celebrating a U2charist also held a deeper purpose, calling attention to the push to achieve the United Nations’

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[Millennium Development Goals](#), such as eradicating extreme poverty, reducing child mortality and fighting HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. The ONE Campaign, co-founded by Bono, was a key advocate for the Millennium Development Goals – U2’s megahit “One” became its rallying cry – and the Episcopal Church endorsed the organization’s work in [a 2006 General Convention resolution](#).

More than 700 attended the U2charist in Columbus in 2006. Curry, the bishop of North Carolina at the time, preached in support of the Millennium Development Goals and the ONE Campaign, telling those gathered to “be a witness” for Christ. He called the goals “a way for us to discover life again as a Church ... a compelling vision of the world God intended from the beginning,” according to [an ENS report on the service](#).

It wasn’t clear whether Curry referenced U2’s music directly in the sermon, though in [one unconfirmed transcription](#) of the sermon he is quoted as referring to the band’s leader as “Brother Bono.”

## **Physical and spiritual visionary leadership needed, Bishop tells Limerick Synod**

After the formal opening of the Limerick and Killaloe Diocesan Synod at Villiers School on 24 June, the two invited guest speakers, from very different parts of the Christian spectrum, gave essentially similar messages showing just how much we have travelled down the ecumenical journey.



**Niki Downes, Chair; Andrew O'Brien, Secretary; Ed Hardy, Treasurer; United Diocesan Youth Council of Limerick & Killaloe.**

The Very Revd Canon Donough O'Malley, late of St Joseph's Parish, Limerick, representing Bishop Brendan Leahy, spoke of that journey, which has demonstrated how ecumenism in action can help us better serve the human condition. The Revd. Ruth Watts, Methodist minister from Adare emphasised the effectiveness of joint engagement in mission, especially and importantly at local levels.

In his presidential address, Bishop Kenneth Kearon underlined the need for visionary leadership if we are to address the needs – both physical and spiritual – of a country in which the economy is growing from strength to strength, yet which struggles with severe problems of homelessness and inadequate hospital beds. Additionally, the phenomenon of rural depopulation is affecting most parts of the country apart from the East coast; agricultural employment is decreasing, jobs in tourism are by their

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nature seasonal and rarely form part of longer-term community growth.

In the light of these issues, he said that it is increasingly important that as a church we 'remain present' and play a full part in local community life, using all our resources and buildings for the good of the whole community. This drives our mission both here and abroad. Our Long Term Church initiative encourages us to extend our welcome within our congregations into those outside it; the Spiritual Tourism project helps us offer a faith experience drawn from the wonderful history and sense of spiritual place across the beauty of God's creation in this part of Ireland.

Bishop Kearon went on to explain that the foundation for this lies both in our continuing desire to learn more about our faith through continuing education, and the maintenance of an appropriate structure in which to operate. The proposal to move towards joining our Diocese with the Diocese of Tuam, Killala and Achonry (which was later agreed upon by Synod) is a reflection of this need.

Echoing the messages from the Synod guest speakers above, he emphasised that we must continue to seek to remove any remaining barriers to greater co-operation and interchange across our various Christian denominations.

In closing, the Bishop reminded us that as we review the year that has passed and look forward to the year to come, we must continue to thank God for the privilege of being part of His Church and welcome the opportunities for service it provides.

## **I believe in allowing women to become priests' - Taoiseach weighs in on unholy row between Josepha Madigan and Archbishop**

Taoiseach [Leo Varadkar](#) has backed one of his ministers who is engaged in an unholy row with the Archbishop of Dublin, saying women should be allowed become priests., Kevin Dowle writes in teh Irish Independent.

Asked about dispute between Culture Minister Josepha Madigan and Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, the Taoiseach responded by saying he has a "very interesting and diverse cabinet".

"According to the papers anyway, [Children's Minister] Katherine Zappone has practiced witchcraft in the past and now Minister Madigan is saying Mass. I'm not sure if either of those things are quite true," he said.

The Church versus State row developed after Ms Madigan stepped up to lead prayers at her south Dublin church last Saturday when a priest failed to show up.

Speaking afterwards, she warned that the shortage of priests means the Catholic Church will have to embrace the idea of ordaining women. She also advocated allowing priests to marry.

- *Read More: ['All it takes for evil to flourish is for good men to do nothing' - Josepha Madigan hits back at Archbishop's comments](#)*



Her comments were met with a strong response from the Archbishop, who has denied there is any shortage of priests.

“Her expressed view that a mix up in a Dublin parish on one particular Saturday evening should lead to the Universal Church changing core teachings is bizarre,” Archbishop Martin said.

He went on to advise the Minister to consider “listening to the voices of those people who disagree with her public comments” and “the hurt she has caused to parishioners who deem her actions deeply disrespectful”.

- *Read More: [Archbishop launches astonishing attack on Josepha Madigan after culture minister led prayers when priest was a no-show](#)*

Mr Varadkar told reporters today that he has spoken with somebody who attended the service to get a first hand version of events.



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"I think what she did was a very nice thing and I believe she received a round of applause for doing so," Mr Varadkar said.

"As regards female priests, I believe in equality in all things and equality in the workplace. That would include priests to marry and allowing women to become priests.

"I also strongly believe in the separation of Church and State so that is not something the Government is going to be legislating about," he said.

See also -

<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/taoiseach-backs-ordination-of-women-as-catholic-priests-1.3545471>

<http://www.rte.ie/news/ireland/2018/0627/973655-josepha-madigan-water/>

## **Britain's first Trappist beer launched**

Mount Saint Bernard Abbey in Leicestershire is to become Britain's first Trappist brewery, after years of research and experimentation.

Monks at the abbey began investigating the idea after relinquishing their dairy business in 2013, it no longer being economically viable.

As part of their research, the Brothers visited ten of the eleven existing Trappist breweries, and engaged the help of a Dutch master brewer, Constant Keinemans. They began producing experimental brews of twenty litres at a time. The first was on St Lutgarde's Day; Saint Lutgardis of Aywières



### **Monks at the abbey raise a glass of Britain's first Trappist ale**

was known for conducted seven-year fasts, surviving on bread and weak beer alone.

The final result, Tynt Meadow, comes in at 7.4% ABV (alcohol by volume). and is named after the meadow where the abbey is based. It will be on sale at the abbey and beer shops next month.

According to BBC News, Dom Erik Varden, abbot of Mount Saint Bernard, said he was “very relieved” to see the brewery up and running, and hoped it could help them extend their community work.

“Beer is a good, honest, nurturing drink – our Belgian friends said more than once it should be liquid bread and not coloured water, and that’s what we’re aiming to live up to,” he said.

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The abbey is the first permanent monastery to be founded in England since the Reformation, and the only Cistercian house in England.



**Obit -  
Major  
General  
Corran  
Purdon  
CBE MC  
CPM**

Described as “The coolest man to have served in the Army” has passed away. Major General Corran Purdon CBE MC CPM.

Born in Cork, Commissioned into the Royal

Ulster Rifles 1939. Volunteered to serve with the Army Commandos winning a Military Cross on the St Nazaire raid where he was taken POW. He escaped several times from Nazi captivity including being 10 days on the run in

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occupied territory. He was eventually incarcerated in Colditz Castle.

Post war he served in Malaya Cyprus and Borneo. He was Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion Royal Ulster Rifles and was a Brigadier for the Sultan of Oman during the Dhofar campaign where he was awarded a CBE.



He ended his military career as GOC Near East. From here General Corran became Ass Chief Const Royal Hong Kong Police during their reorganisation in the 1970's where he was further honoured with a Colonial Police Medal (CPM).

He was a one time Training Major, Hon Colonel and Association President of the London Irish Rifles. As Hon Colonel he was in his early 70's, everyday he would complete one sit up and one press up for every birthday he'd had.

Unbeknown to him the London Irish Rifles called him 'Gripper' due to his firm fixing handshake. He was a true

living legend and utter gentleman. We have lost an exceptional man.

## **News briefs**

### **+++Teddy Bear service in Kenmare**

St Patrick's Church, Kenmare, will hold its annual Teddy Bear Service (followed, of course, by a BYO Teddy Bear's Picnic) at 12.00noon on Sunday, 12th August. Teddies of all shapes, sizes, ages and nationalities are very welcome to join us, bringing their owners with them. Cuddly seals, lions, tigers, snakes, elephants and pigs are also invited. It's always good to know that your teddy bear will always love you unconditionally; even if he's been in a cupboard or suitcase under the bed since your childhood. You'll always get a hug and the opportunity to tell him your troubles and share your joys knowing that he will keep a secret and forgive you for sometimes forgetting him. He'll even take the blame for something you did. (It wasn't me who took the last jammy dodger out of the biscuit tin Mum, honest...) Now who does that remind you of?

### **+++Kilmore priest in charge appointed**

The Rev. David Moses has been appointed Bishop's Curate for the Drumgoon group of parishes – Cootehill, Ashfeld, Dernakesh and Killesherdoney. David, from Omagh, Co Tyrone, has just completed his theological training at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute in Dublin. He is married to Catherine and they have three children, Sarah (22), Rachel (20) and Jonathan (17). David has been a Diocesan Lay Reader in Armagh Diocese for the past 27 years. Before commencing training for ordained ministry he

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was a sheep farmer, and also kept pigs until 2001. For the past year David has been Deacon Intern in the parish group of Monaghan, Tydavnet and Kilmore, working with the rector, Canon Ian Berry. This has been a very positive and enjoyable experience for him as he got to know the members of the congregations and helped each Sunday in the services. David will be ordained priest at a service in Kilmore Cathedral on Sunday 9th September at 4.00pm. Everyone is very welcome to attend.

### **+++Down & Dromore Annual Bible Week**

12th Annual Bible Week from Tuesday 28 – Friday 31 August 2018 with Bishop Grant LeMarquand. Taking the title, *Enter the Throne Room*, Bishop Grant will teach in the Book of Revelation. The venue this year is Willowfield Church, Belfast and each session begins at 7.45 pm. Programme: • Tuesday 28 August: A Vision of God (Rev 4–5) • Wednesday 29 August: A Vision of the Church (Rev 7) • Thursday 30 August: A Vision of Judgement (Rev 20) • Friday 31 August: A Vision of the New Heaven and the New Earth (Rev 21–22). The Bible Week is open to anyone. All are welcome to come along and many do! Bishop Grant LeMarquand is Formerly Area Bishop for The Horn of Africa, He is a Canadian missionary and a gifted Bible teacher. He and his wife Wendy most recently served in Gambella, Ethiopia.



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