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## **Mayor and Archbishop of Dublin return from Israel–Palestine**

The archbishop of Dublin spent two full days in Israel–Palestine at the end of May (May 28th – May 31st) with the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Brendan Carr, and Ms Fanchea Gibson of The Lord Mayor’s Office.

They went at the invitation of Archbishop Suheil Dawani with the purpose of observing first hand the interaction of the three World Faiths: Judaism, Christianity and Islam and their contribution to Israeli–Palestinian society. The first person with whom they met formally was Rabbi David Rosen, former Chief Rabbi of Ireland, immediately on their arrival (May 28th). After a number of meetings with various faith leaders they stated they had gained an in–depth impression of the public expression of the three Faiths in Jerusalem in the period between Ascension Day and Pentecost, during Ramadan and just ahead of Shavuot.

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## **Blessing of the roads highlights need to protect life**

Bishop Fintan Monahan of Killaloe has urged all road users to take extra care this June bank holiday weekend. After 11.30am Mass on Sunday Bishop Monahan will lead a 'Blessing of the Roads' ceremony in Clonlara parish, Co Clare, and offer prayers for the safety of all road users. Bishop Monahan has invited parishes in the Diocese of Killaloe to join with him in prayers over the weekend.

Bishop Monahan said, "I am aware that many county councils and civic groups, especially the Road Safety Authority, work very hard to promote safety on the roads. But in truth we all share this responsibility to protect human life on our roads.

"Up to this morning, 63 people have died this year on roads across the State. This loss of human life is heart-breaking for the loved ones of the deceased and a tragedy for our society as a whole.

"Road safety awareness is the parable of the Good Samaritan in action within our communities today. I am thinking here of all

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road users: motorists, motorcyclists, cyclists and pedestrians, and every one of us has a role in helping others even if we are not known to each other personally.”

## **Events to strengthen Belfast parish bonds with Uganda**

St. Finnian’s, Cregagh, will be hosting the New Beginnings Orphanage Children’s Choir from Uganda on Tuesday, August 29.

The visit further underlines the ties between St. Finnian’s and Uganda, with some parishioners having already visited the orphanage as part of a team from Fields of Life. In addition, the Wilson family, who have been working in Kiwoko Hospital with CMS, have recently returned to Northern Ireland from Uganda. They will be joining the Cregagh congregation on Sunday, June 18 for Sunday School prize-giving followed by the parish barbecue.

## **Trocaire’s garden is a medal winner at Bloom festival**

Trócaire has won a Silver Medal for its show garden at this year’s Bloom festival in Phoenix Park, Dublin.

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Trócaire's show garden highlights its work with communities fighting for their land rights in Central America.

This is Trócaire's first time at Bloom, and its garden with a conscience also features a live art installation. The Bloom mural, designed by Wexford artist Yohan, illustrates loss of land and violence against indigenous communities in Guatemala and brings all the elements of the garden together. The piece of art will be created and completed over the five days of Bloom.

Bloom was launched by Bord Bia in 2007 primarily as a promotional vehicle for horticulture; providing a showcase for garden plants, garden design, construction, horticulture and gardening as a hobby. Based on similar successful formats such as the RHS Chelsea Flower Shows and RHS Hampton Court Palace shows, Bloom has numerous highly creative gardens and plant displays which are used to inspire and excite the public about gardening and garden design.

## **St Columba's Choir in concert**

The choir of St. Columba's Parish Church (Knock) will be staging a concert on Saturday, June 24 (7pm).

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The choral director is Joe McKee, the organist is Nigel McClintock and the soloists are Caroline McCartney (soprano and piano) and Ramesh Wilson (tenor and violin).

While there is no fee, voluntary donations in aid of parish funds will be accepted gratefully. Following the concert there will be light refreshments on the lawn.

## **C of E anger after Trump walks away from Paris climate change deal**

The Church of England has branded Donald Trump's decision to withdraw the US from the Paris Agreement as "extreme carelessness" signifying an "abject failure of leadership".

Its lead bishop on the environment, Bishop of Salisbury Rt Rev Nicholas Holtam accused the leader of being "trapped in old world thought and action".

Bishop Nicholas said: "I am, frankly, very disturbed by President Trump's decision to revoke the United States' commitment to the Paris Agreement, which was a global commitment made in good faith."

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President Trump claimed the deal was "less about the climate and more about other countries obtaining a financial advantage over the US". He argued it would be good for US workers and businesses.

Bishop Nicholas went on to say: "How can President Trump look in the eye the people most affected, including the world's poorest in the places most affected by climate change now, and those affected by increasingly frequent extreme weather in parts of the USA?"

## **Christian Aid welcomes EU - China response to Trump's climate assault**

Responding to the statement by the EU and China recommitting to the Paris Agreement, Christian Aid's International Climate Lead, Mohamed Adow said:

"Today we are witnessing the start of the fightback to Donald Trump's assault on the world's climate. China and the EU are clearly not going to stand by and allow one man to set the agenda on international climate action.

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“This is one of the strongest bilateral statement on climate change by two major world powers I’ve ever seen. The EU and China are clearly accelerating their climate cooperation and taking on the baton of leadership.

“Having two of the world’s three largest economies outlining their determination to lead the transition to a low carbon economy shows the direction of travel is only moving in one direction. US isolationism on climate policy isn’t going to stop that.

“This bodes well for the G20 coming up at the end of the month which will likely see other countries rallying to the cause.”

## **Bishop 'over the moon' at football team promotion**

The Bishop of Huddersfield says everyone's over the moon that the town's football club has won promotion to the Premier League.

Huddersfield Town beat Reading in their Championship play-off final at Wembley yesterday. It was a nervy affair, going right down

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to penalties after extra time. It's reported that victory is worth around £170m in extra revenue next season.

The Rt Revd Jonathan Gibbs told the press it's great for the entire local community and for bringing people together:

## **Jewish congregation finds new home in Episcopal Church**

An American Jewish congregation who were forced to sell their synagogue after it fell into financial difficulties, has found a new home in a neighbouring Episcopal Church. On Sunday, the congregation of Or Chadash (New Light) will process from their former Synagogue in Pawtuxet, Rhode Island, to the nearby Trinity Episcopal Church. They will be joined by church members as they carry the Torah scrolls to their new home. The former synagogue of Am David was sold after going into receivership. It was bought by a Buddhist community and converted into Rhode Island's first Buddhist temple. Under the sale agreement, the Jewish congregation were able to continue to meet their until they found a new home.



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## **Catholic order files for bankruptcy protection in US amid abuse cases settlement**

A Roman Catholic order in the United States has filed for bankruptcy protection as it announced a \$25.5 million settlement for dozens of alleged child sex abuse victims.

The Crosier Fathers & Brothers filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection at a US Bankruptcy Court in the District of Minnesota on Thursday.

Attorney Mike Finnegan from Jeff Anderson & Associates PA said: "We applaud the strength and courage of all of the sexual abuse survivors who have come forward and shared their truths.

"The Crosiers are doing the right thing by working with survivors in order to facilitate a transparent and fair resolution for everyone involved."

The Crosier Fathers & Brothers, which was founded in the 18th century, has been dealing with 43 child sexual abuse cases.