

Church funeral on Barra for Manchester attack victim

Around 1,000 came to a church in the Outer Hebrides yesterday morning for the funeral of a teenager killed in the Manchester attack. Eilidh MacLeod from Barra was among 22 people who died in the blast at an Ariana Grande concert two weeks ago. Dozens of others were injured. Local priest Fr John Paul McKinnon of the Church of Our Lady, Star of the Sea in Castlebay, said: "She was an island girl, she was proud of her island roots and a fun loving, good girl. She's that wee ray of light that will never go out." The 14 year old's friend and fellow pupil at Castlebay Community School, Laura MacIntyre, remains in hospitals after being seriously injured in the suicide bombing.

Justin Bieber praises God during Manchester concert

Justin Bieber ended his performance at the benefit concert held in the wake of the Manchester attack by praising God.

June 5

The Christian pop star preached to 50,000 music-fans gathered at the "One Love Manchester" saying "God is good in the midst of the darkness". The all-star show was put together to remember victims of the suicide bombing at Ariana Grande's concert on 22nd May. He also told the crowd while being visibly emotional: "God is good in the midst of the evil." "God is in the midst, no matter what is happening in the world, God is in the midst and he loves you and he is here for you." Other musicians joined him to encourage those mourning and help raise money for victims.

Blessing the boats at Rathlin Island

The Rev Patrick Barton, rector of Dunseverick, Ballintoy and Rathlin, took part in the annual 'Blessing of the Boats' on Rathlin Island on Friday May 26. Patrick said this now annual event is a very fitting start to the 'Rathlin Sound Maritime Festival' where the communities of Ballycastle and Rathlin Island celebrate the area's rich and diverse maritime history. The festival ran until June 4. At the blessing, Patrick and Fr Brian Daley (Parish Priest in Ballycastle) led prayers for seafarers, the Mission to Seafarers, the shipping industry and for the family and friends of islanders who have lost

June 5

their lives at sea. Rathlin Ferry Pilot/Skipper Douglas Cecil read Psalm 107 (The Sailors Psalm), “for those who go down to the sea in ships...” The Island choir ‘Rathlin Sound’ which was only formed a few months sang two songs ‘The Enchanted Isle’ and ‘Dulaman’ which they sang in Gaelic. The prayers culminated with a prayer of blessing prayed jointly by Patrick and Fr Brian.

Turas Columbanus commences

A special commemorative walk throughout Ireland remembering the Irish monk Columbanus got underway on Sunday 4 June. The ‘Turas Columbanus’ is the Irish segment of the European Columban Way and will be led by Simon Derache, the coordinator of the European Cultural Path of Columban. St Columban is arguably the best-known Irish person to have visited the European continent. Born on the Carlow/Wexford border about AD 543, he studied under Sinell of Cleenish, whose monastery was on an island on the River Erne, in modern Co. Fermanagh. Later he joined the monastery at Bangor under the Abbot Comgall and was ordained a priest. At age 51, with a number of companions, he set sail for Europe to become a pilgrim for Christ. He later travelled all over Europe founding a number of monasteries.

June 5

The walk started from Bunclody in Co. Wexford and will pass through Carlow, Portlaoise and Cadamstown in Co. Laois over the course of the first week, before arriving in Ferbane, Co. Offaly on Friday 9 June. At the weekend it will make its way from Ferbane to Ballinamore Bridge in Co. Galway, before recommencing on Monday 12 June, when it will continue on to Mohill, Co. Leitrim. The second week of the pilgrimage will see the walk travel through Bellanaleck, Co. Fermanagh, Lisnaskea and Clones, before arriving in Armagh on the second Sunday. Finally, the third week of the walk will go through Newry, Newcastle and Downpatrick, reaching its final destination in Bangor on 24 June.. For more information on the walk, contact turasolumabanus@gmail.com.

C of I Gaelic speakers' tribute to Archbishop Donald Caird

Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise has paid tribute in Irish to the late Archbishop Donald Caird. The tribute commenced: "It is with great sadness that we learned of the death of former Archbishop of Dublin Donald Caird. His passing represents a great loss to his family, particularly his devoted wife Nancy. He was a gentleman, kind, warm and open hearted, a patriot in the best, open and inclusive sense, a loyal son of

June 5

the Church of Ireland, a leader of his community and a committed Irish speaker.

“Bishop Donald Caird was well known in many circles beyond the Church of Ireland community. He took a keen interest in the Irish language and in many other fields including education and philosophy.

Donald was born in December 1925. He attended Wesley College from 1936 to 1944 and it was during this period that he first became interested in the Irish language.

“He attended services in St. Patrick’s Cathedral and was enthralled to hear the congregation worship in the Irish language. He paid his first visit to the Gaeltacht in West Kerry, and became acquainted with Corca Dhuibhne and the Great Blasket Island. He discovered the local Protestant community worshipping in the church of Kilmalkeadar and his love of the language continued to grow from that point.” Further report in CNI News tomorrow.

Medical Missionaries of Mary campaign against rising tide of plastic pollution

The Medical Missionaries of Mary (MMM) are highlighting the damage being done to the

June 5

environment by the indiscriminate use of plastic as part of events marking World Environment Day today, Monday 5 June.

The United Nations (UN) has been marking today as World Environment Day since 2005 and this year it is on the theme 'Connecting People to Nature'.

This year environmental issues are very much at the top of the political agenda because of the decision by the President of the United States Donald Trump to renege on his country's involvement in the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

Among Catholic religious, environmental issues are very much to the fore because of Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'* (a copy of which he presented to Mr Trump when the American President was in Rome last month).

In the latest newsletter for supporters of the order founded by Irishwoman Mary Martin 80 years ago, the MMM's director of communications Carol Breslin quotes from the encyclical: "Let ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace."

June 5

Mothers' Union Scottish dancing taster

There was a Scottish flavour to Connor Mothers' Union's Mid Belfast Area Social held in St George's Parish Church on St Comgall's Day. All the branches in the area were represented. During the evening, Liz Waring gave a short history of St Comgall, and the Belfast Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society performed demonstration dances and invited members of the audience to take part. Daphne Murphy recited poems and readings by Jenny Joseph, Hilaire Belloc, Ogden Nash and Percy French. There was a musical treat from Janine Burnside who sang 'Let there be peace on Earth', 'We cannot measure how we heal,' 'The Lord's my Shepherd' to the tune of 'The Rowan Tree,' and 'Danny Boy' before finishing with An Irish Blessing.

Pentecost prayer call from Jerusalem by WCC leader

The fellowship and unity that Jesus' disciples once experienced praying together during a time of fear in Jerusalem at Pentecost "spelled a new beginning" for the mission of the Church, the general secretary of the World Council of Churches (WCC) has reminded Christians worldwide from the Holy Land.

June 5

“It happened to a community in fear. They lived under occupation and oppression.... The signs of the Holy Spirit described in the Pentecost story points indeed towards unity and just peace,” noted WCC general secretary Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit.

He was preaching at a prayer service in Jerusalem for justice and peace in the Holy Land on 5 June at the Dormition Abbey in Jerusalem during Pentecost celebrations.

The prayer, initiated by church leaders in Jerusalem, is being held worldwide 50 years after Israel began its occupation of East Jerusalem, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights after a six-day war in 1967 by Israel and the neighbouring states of Egypt, Jordan, and Syria.

Jerusalem is a holy city and it has been for Christians over centuries and even millennia said Tveit, noting, “So it is also today. Followers of the three Abrahamic religions, Jews, Christians and Muslims see this as a holy city and pray here to the One Holy God.”

The World Council of Churches called for Christians all over the world, while they are

June 5

celebrating the feast of Pentecost, to join in a prayer for justice and peace.