

Church hosts 'lament vigil' following Tower tragedy



A 'lament vigil' was held on Friday evening to help those grieving following the fire at Grenfell Tower in London.

Seventeen people have been confirmed dead but that number is expected to rise.

Searches are continuing for bodies inside the building, while a criminal inquiry's underway.

Organised by St John's Notting Hill and the British Pakistani Christian Association, the short interfaith service at sundown included an Urdu Bible recital, Arabic poem recital and a parishioner's lament.

Rev Dr William Taylor, Police Chaplain for the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea and Vicar of St John's Church, said: "We are aware of the grief, loss and pain of those affected.

"This has touched some raw nerves in the community's heart and we felt strongly that we needed to offer a space for the community to come and grieve together."

Wilson Chowdhry from the BPCA said: "The size and scale of the human tragedy left me feeling obliged to help and I have been involved in the local disaster recovery programme since the first day.

"Conversations with survivors and members of the local community indicated a universal desire

to remember the victims and share communal grief."

The Dean of Kensington says the Church should be involved in demanding justice for those affected by the Grenfell fire.

Speaking on Premier's News Hour, Rev Mark O'Donoghue said the Church is by definition political so should help with the inquiry the Prime Minister has announced will be judge-led.

Highlighting the importance of the Church in not shying away from politics Rev O'Donoghue said: "Where there is wickedness, and where there is error, and where there are serious breaches of basic care, I think we need to be calling people out on it.

"I have no hesitation as a keen Christian with saying we ought to be at the forefront."

C of I and neighbouring Catholic parish to share church

Two different Christian denominations in Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan, will be sharing the same place of worship during the next year in an example of neighbourliness and friendship.



St. Maeldoid's Church of Ireland Castleblayney.

When it was learned that St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church would be closed for a year for essential renovations, their church neighbours, St. Maeldoid's Church of Ireland parish at Muckno, Castleblayney, in Clogher Diocese,

offered the use of their beautiful gothic-style building.

This generous gesture by the Select Vestry of St. Maeldoid's along with their rector, the Revd Neal Phair and approved by the Bishop of Clogher, Right Revd John McDowell, was accepted by the Parish Priest of St. Mary's, Father Pat McHugh and his parishioners and from next Monday, 19th June, St. Maeldoid's Church will be used for both Church of Ireland services and Masses.

On Sunday mornings, the normal Anglican service will be held at 10am before the church is again used later in the morning, this time for Sunday mass at 11.45am. There will also be daily Mass from Monday to Thursday and at other times.

The Church of Ireland Rector of St. Maeldoid's, Revd Neal Phair said he was pleased to help. "I am absolutely delighted that we can be of assistance to our brothers and sisters in Christ at St Mary's by offering St Maeldoid's Church as a place of worship while the renovations to St Mary's take place until June next year.

"We celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity together and it is wonderful that we can further the unity we share by worshipping under

the same roof for the coming year,” said Revd Neal Phair.

Father Pat McHugh of St Mary’s has spoken warmly of the spirit of friendship from his Church of Ireland neighbours.

The Parish Priest of Muckno, Fr Pat McHugh said, “Our parish is blessed by the generosity of Bishop McDowell, Revd Neal, the members of the Select Vestry and the congregation at St. Maeldoid's Church. Their invitation to use St. Maeldoid's during the closure of St. Mary's is yet another example of the exceptional goodwill and wholesome spirit of Christian solidarity which we experience with our local Church of Ireland community.”

The current schedule of Masses and other liturgies and devotions will be adjusted on a weekly or monthly basis during the times that St. Maeldoid’s Church is available for the use of the St Mary’s parishioners.

St Patrick’s College president appointed to Irish College in Paris

The president of the national seminary St Patrick’s [College Maynooth](#), Msgr [Hugh Connolly](#), has been appointed chaplain to the



Msgr Hugh Connolly, a fluent French speaker, has completed the usual 10-year term as president at St Patrick's College, Maynooth.

Irish College (Collège des Irlandais) in Paris, Patsy McGarry writes in the Irish Times

[Msgr Connolly](#) has completed the usual 10-year term as president at [Maynooth](#). A fluent French speaker, he served on the [Fondation Irlandaise](#), the governing body of the Collège des Irlandais, for 10 years until 2007.

In June of last year Msgr Connolly was granted a year's leave of absence for study purposes while continuing as president at Maynooth. At the conclusion of his sabbatical he was to return as professor of moral theology.

Theological formation

In June of last year also [Fr David Marsden](#), vocational growth counsellor at Maynooth, resigned unexpectedly for reasons believed related to his concerns about theological formation at the seminary.

Controversy erupted later last summer following anonymous allegations about seminarian activities in Maynooth, including sexual harrassment and that some had been using a gay dating app. Dissatisfaction was also expressed at procedures for addressing complaints in the College.

The seminary said in a statement there was “no concrete or credible evidence of the existence of any alleged ‘active gay subculture’” at the College.

‘Poisonous atmosphere’

Last August Archbishop of Dublin Diarmuid Martin announced he would no longer send seminarians to Maynooth due the “poisonous atmosphere” there.

Three students from Dublin were sent to the Irish College in Rome instead.

Meanwhile, Ferns priest and regular contributor to this newspaper Fr [Chris Hayden](#) has been appointed editor of the Catholic Bishops' *Intecom* magazine.

He was the only survivor of four Irish priests who dealt with the formation of seminarians at the Irish College in Rome following an apostolic visitation there in 2011, led by Cardinal Archbishop of New York [Timothy Dolan](#).

Following removal of his colleagues at the college, Fr Hayden requested that he too be allowed leave.

Methodist Church Conference - Thursday

As a mark of respect, Thursday's Conference business session did not start until 2.00 pm to give members the opportunity to join the hundreds of mourners attending the funeral of the Rev Margaret Ferguson in Mountpottinger Methodist church, Belfast.

It was a moving service celebrating the vibrant life of a dedicated minister of the Gospel – one who touched many and was loved and valued by all who knew her. The Rev Jim Rea gave the tribute and the President expressed the



sympathies of the Methodist Connexion to Margaret's family, assuring them of our support and prayers.

The positive spirit and trust in God which Margaret demonstrated in the face of terminal illness came through in much of what was said, as did the passion and drive with which she had seized every opportunity to reach out to others and build God's kingdom.

That afternoon, back at the Conference church in Lisburn, that same sense of challenging circumstances calling for a demonstration of spiritual passion, trust and drive came through in many of the reports.

On the one hand were discouraging statistics and difficult issues – and on the other encouraging stories of Methodist people making a difference on the ground. Members of Conference were eager to come to the microphone to speak of what was happening in their locality, while PowerPoint presentations illustrated the positive difference being made in the lives of some of the world's most vulnerable people through the work of Methodist World Development and Relief.

Partnership and relationship were key words throughout – partnership with other departments within the Methodist Church in Ireland, with other agencies, with other denominations, with people from other cultures and backgrounds. It was agreed that from now on the Methodist Missionary Society (Ireland) would be called World Mission Partnership with a new vision 'Together, sharing Christ around the world'.

At the end of the evening Home Mission Secretary, the Rev Dr Heather Morris, summed up both the challenge the Church faces and the manner in which members need to respond saying: 'I sense in my spirit and my heart that we know what God is calling us to do. It's to be God's witnesses. It's to do it. Let us not delay in being the people God is calling us to be.'

Mission needs to be an instinct before it is a strategy, Methodist President



The Rev Dr Laurence Graham delivers his inaugural address.

The newly installed President of the Methodist Church in Ireland has urged Methodists to

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rediscover the 'rhythm of grace', meeting and sharing Jesus in a way that comes as naturally and instinctively as breathing.

Speaking at a service before the Conference, the Rev Dr Laurence Graham – whose doctoral studies were in methods of mission in the Early Church – referred to the symbols on his presidential scarf, explaining to the large numbers gathered in Fisherwick Presbyterian church, Belfast, that it showed 'an empty cross where we meet with the risen Jesus and then go from that empty cross to share him with others but also go back to meet him again. The rhythm of grace.'

In his inaugural address Dr Graham drew from a wealth of experience of mission at home and overseas. 'In 1999, sixty of us from Ireland went to be with the Methodist Church in Uganda. At that time it had only recently begun and there were five congregations. The Church in Uganda has lots of structural and organisational problems and very few resources but the fact is that five congregations in 1999 are 41 congregations in 2017,' he said.

Most recently he has revisited the Methodist Churches in Haiti where he took part in that Church's bi-centenary celebrations. Although

the Church there is 200 years old, it retained ‘an absolute instinct for mission, whether or not resources are available’, he told the congregation,

One of the key decisions to be taken by this year’s Methodist Conference is with regard to a change to the structure of the Church. ‘The idea behind these proposals is that they would better facilitate and enable mission through our Church,’ Dr Graham said. ‘However, in all of our talk at Conference about new structures and systems to manage for mission, let’s never forget that the structures for managing mission don’t matter if there is no mission to manage.’ Married to Karen, Dr Graham is currently superintendent of the vibrant, multi-ethnic Dublin Central Mission (DCM), and the DCM Praise Group took part in tonight’s service. Before entering the ministry, he worked in Haiti and Antigua and then as a lay pastoral assistant in Belfast before going on to minister in Longford, Cork and Killarney where he oversaw encouraging church growth.

Diocesan Evangelists commissioned in Down & Dromore

Five new Diocesan Evangelists were commissioned last night in a special service at Mount Merrion.

They are Wesley Johnston (St. John's, Orangefield), Leslie McKeag (Willowfield Parish Church), Rachel Irish and James Hardy (The Church of the Pentecost, Mount Merrion) and Robert Graham (St. Gobhan, Seagoe) who have completed the two-year distance learning course accredited by St John's College, Nottingham and run in collaboration with New Wine Ireland.

The service was led by the Revd. Adrian Green. Bishop Harold Miller, who commissioned the quintet of evangelists, was the preacher.

Wesley was commissioned as a Parish Evangelist (Orangefield).

Leslie was commissioned as a Lay-Evangelist (Willowfield).

Rachel was commissioned as the Community Outreach Worker (Mount Merrion).

James and Robert were commissioned as Diocesan-wide Evangelists.

This is the second-such commissioning, the inaugural eight-strong group – Colin Birnie, David Charleton, Janet Fleming, Jim Fleming, Simon Henry, Susan McFarland, John Menagh and Ian Morton – having 'graduated' in 2016. And another six Diocesan Evangelists currently

are in training; they are due to be commissioned next year.

In addition, a further group is scheduled to begin training in January 2018.

Dublin parish seeks organ scholar

St Paul's Parish, Glenageary, will be offering one organ scholarship and five choral scholarships for the coming academic year.

Applications are invited for the post of organ scholar at St Paul's Parish Church, for the academic year 2017/18

St Paul's has a long tradition of choral music and has a thriving SATB choir and one of the largest two manual organs in South Dublin.

The organ scholar shall support the Director of Music in the running of an effective music department and in the production of high quality music at all services and special events. The choir undertake at least one tour a year, as well as singing at various external engagements and neighbouring churches throughout Ireland.

Contact the Director of Music, Nathan Barrett, for further details and application pack.
barretna@tcd.ie 0868460658

Parish currach launched on Foyle

The Christ Church, Culmore, Muff and Saint Peter's (CCCMSP) group of parishes marked Saint Columba's Day, on Friday 9th June, by launching their newly-built currach on the River Foyle. The launch, from the jetty of Londonderry Marina, was the highpoint of a day of activities on the feast of the city's patron, which culminated in a Service of Confirmation for children at Holy Trinity Church in Culmore.

The 16-foot currach was built by clergy and parishioners of CCCMSP, in partnership with trainees and volunteers from the '4 R's Recycling Project' – a social enterprise initiative set up by the Resource Centre, Derry. The project was completed under the expert guidance of master boat-builder Donal Mac Polin from the Traditional Boats of Ireland Co-operative. The team used a combination of hazel, spruce and pine to form the frame of the boat, before covering its hull with ballistic nylon fabric sealed with pitch.



Two intrepid crew members – parishioner Linda Hughes and Deacon Rev Bob Wray – rowed the craft the four miles from the Foyle Marina to Culmore Point, where it was met by students from Thornhill College and pupils from Culmore Primary School. The latter – like Holy Trinity Church – is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year. The new Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District, Councillor Maolíosa McHugh, was also at Culmore to greet the two rowers.

The Pastoral Director of CCCMSP, Rev Katie McAteer, carried a cross wreathed in oak leaves as a procession of schoolchildren escorted the boat as far as Culmore P.S. The currach was then transported onwards to Holy Trinity Church.

Rev McAteer, said the team were considering including the currach in the Foyle Maritime Festival which takes place next month.

C of E General Synod to debate transgender re-naming services

The Church of England's General Synod is to consider whether to introduce a way to allow transgender Christians affirm their new identity in a church setting.

A motion has been brought by the Diocese of Blackburn which will be debated at July's meeting in York.

The Church will look at how an existing service for reaffirming baptismal vows may form the liturgical basis for services which help transgender Christians mark their gender transition publicly.

In a briefing, sent out ahead of the meeting, the Church said the Synod would look at "the liturgy for Affirmation of Baptismal Faith, contained in the Common Worship service book, may be used with people who have already been baptised" but who wish to "reaffirm their identity

in Christ after a significant personal transition, including gender."

The motion doesn't go as far as introducing "re-baptism" services outlining Church teaching that a person can only be baptised once.

It rules out the possibility of so-called "re-baptism" services, because Church of England teaching makes clear that baptism can only be received once.

News briefs

+++ RTE Sunday service - A Service from St. Michael's Church in Ballina, Co. Mayo, will be broadcast on RTÉ Radio 1 Extra on Sunday, 18th June, at 10.45am. The Service will be led by the Revd Stephen McWhirter, Rector of the Kilmoremoy Union, and the Revd Jennifer McWhirter, Priest-in-Charge of the Killala Union.

There will be an opportunity to meet Jerome and Mary Munyangaju, Bird of Paradise Ministries Mission Partners, on Monday June 19 at 7.30pm in Knockbreda Parish Hall.

+++ Bird of Paradise Ministries, Rwanda AGM
- Bird of Paradise Ministries is a Christian, non-

profit organisation which is committed to provide the basic needs of shelter and care to the elderly of Rwanda. Jerome is a former rector of Killyleagh Parish, Diocese of Down and Dromore, and a former Canon of St Anne's Cathedral. He and his wife Mary returned to their native Kigali, Rwanda, in 2011 to further the work of the charity they founded in 2010. The event on June 19 is also the Bird of Paradise Ministries Annual General Meeting.

+++ College of Preachers - The annual conference of the Irish College of Preachers will take place in the Church of Ireland Theological Institute in Dublin on 13–15 September. The residential conference is open to all who serve the church by preaching and is designed to encourage and equip those who preach. This year, the theme is God's Big Picture, to help preachers trace the story–line of the Bible. The guest speaker is Mark Smith, who pastors an Anglican church plant, City Church, in Dublin. Mark is a capable preacher and practitioner. Further details can be obtained from Bishop Ferran Glenfield at bishop@kilmore.anglican.org

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