



Elections slow down the journey away from cynicism, Abp Welby

The Archbishop of Canterbury began on a humorous note on *Thought for the Day* for Radio 4.

He said :

On the understanding that nobody will pass this around I confess that I am less and less cynical about politics.

Elections are, I admit, times when the journey away from cynicism sometimes slows down a bit.

We know that a certain level of exaggeration and manipulation is going on, but beneath the shouting and spin, I rather think on the whole that there are very decent human beings trying to find a way to be effective in making our country better. Even, making the world better.

They want a country where we or our children or grandchildren can go safely to concerts.

They want a society where people are valued even if they can't, for one reason or another, make a huge economic contribution.

They want a country where those I saw on the streets of London late last night have a different option than sleeping rough.

They want our country to contribute significantly in the world so that we can go on being proud of it.

They want many more things, and generally they do not ask a huge amount in return, beyond a chance to come to the end of life feeling they have used their time well.

We all want our life to count. A sense of it having been worthwhile. Not in terms of recognition but in terms of a contribution that makes a difference.

Yet in ourselves, in our communities, in our country and world we too often sense the forces of disruption and chaos that defeat the good we long to see.

Read the rest.

Cycle for Freedom with Ruan Pienaar

On Wednesday, June 14, Ruan Pienaar's Cycle for Freedom will take place on County Antrim's spectacular north coast road.

It's a 90-km Tearfund-organised bike ride in the company of Ulster's soon-to-depart South African rugby legend, the aim being to raise £1,000 per kilometre to help protect children at risk.

That's the target – £90,000.

Highlighting the event and its purpose, Tearfund's Interim Northern Ireland Director, Paul Francis, recalled the words of Frederick

Buechner who once wrote: *“The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.”*

Paul added: “At Tearfund, we want to help you find the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.

“Perhaps you’re a keen hiker, or baker, or banjo-player. But if cycling is your passion, do not miss this opportunity: sign up to raise £500 or more, thereby helping protect up to 2,500 children like Mazna while doing something you love!

For full details of the event, to read Mazna’s story and to ride with Ruan in Tearfund’s Cycle for Freedom, sign up [here](#).

C of I cleric to minister to Presbyterians and Methodists in his new parish

On Thursday June 1 friends, colleagues and parishioners gathered in Boyle Parish Church to welcome Revd. Edward Yendall as the new Minister-In-Charge (part-time) of the Boyle Group of Parishes.

In his new position Edward will be serving the Church of Ireland, Methodist and Presbyterian communities in the area. It is, perhaps, a unique arrangement in Ireland.

In his address, the Revd. David Bruce, Secretary of the Board of Mission in Ireland for the Presbyterian Church, spoke of church unity. He said that those who come to Jesus attain a new citizenship which sits on top of our differences in culture, politics, nationality or religious practice and allows for unity. This unity is not about our attempts to relate well to one another but rather about how Christ relates to us – our unity comes from Him. This unity in the body of Christ is a powerful witness of the transformative power of God in this world.

Following, the address prayers were said by the Rev. Dr Heather Morris, Home Missions Secretary of the Methodist Church.

The service was led by the Rt. Revd. Ferran Glenfield, Bishop of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh assisted by the Ven. Isaac Hanna, Archdeacon of Elphin and Ardagh.

Edward has joined the Diocese from North Wales where he has served in a number of positions of ministry over the past 29 years. Before he was



ordained, he worked in accountancy and in the printing industry before going to St John's College, Durham, to train for ministry. He completed his degree there and was also the College's Organ Scholar.

Edward was ordained at Bangor Cathedral in 1988 and served as Curate at Bangor and Minor Canon of the Cathedral. He then went on to serve in a number of positions across Wales including at Llanrhaeadr where the Bible was translated into Welsh.

At a post-service reception in the church further words of welcome were expressed to Edward by the Revd. Canon Jerry Hanley on behalf of the Catholic Church, David Gillespie on behalf of the

Boyle Group of Parishes and the Ven. Isaac Hanna on behalf of the Diocese.

A presentation was also made to Adam Norris who has been faithfully looking after the Boyle Group of Parishes during the vacancy.

Edward thanked everyone for the warmth of their welcome and said he is looking forward to pastorally caring for the parishes of the Boyle group and to helping others develop their own ministries. It is his prayer that Christ will lead us onward through the power of His Holy Spirit as he undertakes his new task.

The proceedings ended with Jean Payne, a friend from Glynceiriog in Wales where Edward served before coming to Ireland, paying tribute to his ministry.

Dublin Ecumenical Bible Week

Ecumenical Bible Week 2017 is underway this week with the theme, from Romans 10:17: “Faith Comes by Hearing the Word of Christ.”

Ecumenical Bible Week is a major ecumenical initiative in its fourth year, led by the Archdiocese of Dublin and United Dioceses of Dublin & Glendalough and other Christian Churches in



Dublin. It provides a localised programme of reflection on scripture and a number of core events – Thinking Allowed, Symposium, Pentecost Project for children, and online resources.

This year the programme honours the 5th centenary of the Reformation and will begin yesterday (Sunday) evening in Lutherhaus, Adelaide Road, with Sung Lutheran Vespers. The week will close on Sunday 11 June at 7:30pm in the same venue with a film entitled *Martin Luther: Heretic*, followed by a reflection and discussion.

This year there will be 23 separate events, 25 presenters in various venues (Holy Cross College Clonliffe, Lutherhaus, Rathgar, Glasnevin, Swords, Arklow, Clondalkin, and Ballyfermot). There will be debate, discussion, talks, music and hopefully lots of participation.

The 2017 Symposium takes place on next Friday 9th at 2pm in the Holy Cross Diocesan Centre, Clonliffe Road, where there will be papers by Prof Tony Lane, Prof Salvador Ryan and a discussion chaired by Archbishop Michael Jackson. Also on Friday in the same venue, 'Thinking Allowed', at 7.30pm, will be a chaired panel representing leaders in the different churches and traditions and an opportunity for audience on the theme, 'Is the Reformation Over?'

The Pentecost Schools Project 2017 takes place in Ballyfermot and Chapelizod. Pupils are learning the stories of Acts using various creative media and will create a printed booklet. A Launch and Presentation night will take place next Tuesday at 7pm in Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Ballyfermot.

For more information – www.bibleweek.ie
Facebook – www.facebook.com/bibleweek
Email – hello@bibleweek.ie

Book for Symposium online at www.bibleweek.ie
or phone 01-808 7533

Clean sweep award for Derry Parish's Acorn Centre

Christ Church, Culmore, Muff and St Peter's parish hall, the Acorn Centre, has been awarded the highest food hygiene rating possible by inspectors from Derry City and Strabane District Council. The Rector of the CCCMSP Parish Group, Ven Robert Miller, Archdeacon of Derry, says he's "delighted but not surprised" by the award, which followed an inspection in May. Council Inspectors award premises a rating between the lowest possible score – 0 – and the highest 5.

CCCMSP has invested more than £100,000 over the last couple of years bringing the Acorn Centre up to the necessary health and safety standards. Among the improvements made was a new kitchen – which proved perfect and timely for the new 'Thursday Club' introduced in March. "We're keen to see it the Acorn Centre used as fully as possible by the whole community," Archdeacon Miller says. "The Acorn Centre's already established itself as a



significant local hub, with a variety of groups – church-based and others – using it for their activities. We, at CCCMSP, are eager to reach out further – in mission and friendship – to the community” Archdeacon Miller says the Thursday Club offers outstanding value for those who choose to come along. “They’ll get to have some fun, make new friends, enjoy good food and fellowship – where else would you get that nowadays for £3.00?”

Limerick organ recital

The lunchtime organ recital in St Mary’s cathedral, Limerick, on Wednesday will be given

by Daniel Battle, Organist of the Sacred Heart Church, Limerick, who will play the famous sonata on the 94th Psalm by Reubke.

Glendalough Children's Choir Festival

On Thursday morning the Archbishop of Dublin will attend the Glendalough Children's Choir Festival at the Jonathan Swift National School, Dunlavin. This year marks the 200th anniversary of Dunlavin parish church, which was consecrated on 14 October 1817 and the 125th anniversary of the school. Dunlavin is part of a group of parishes in Co. Wicklow which also includes Donard and Domnoughmore. The rector is the Revd Neal O'Raw.

Presbyterians to install new Moderator tonight

Around 800 Presbyterians from across Ireland, civic dignitaries and guests from churches at home and overseas will gather in Belfast this evening for the installation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland's new Moderator, at the Opening Night of the denomination's General Assembly.

Holywood minister Rev. Dr. Noble McNeely, will be installed as the 178th Moderator since 1840,



The new Moderator Rev. Dr. Noble McNeely is pictured with a bust of the first Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, (1840) Rev. Dr. Samuel Hanna.

and only the second to come from the County Down town.

Dr. McNeely, a former teacher who was minister of First Ballymoney Presbyterian Church from 1984-1997 and minister of First Holywood Presbyterian Church for the last 20 years, will address the General Assembly after has been

formerly elected and installed at a special service at the church's Assembly Buildings.

Speaking in advance of the service, Dr. McNeely said, "I am sincerely humbled. I have served the wider church in a number of roles and I see my role as Moderator as another opportunity to serve Christ and His church. At the same time, I recognise the responsibility that has been entrusted to me and I pray that with God's help and the prayers of the Church, I will be able to fulfil expectations."

The annual weeklong Assembly will involve ministers and elders from its 500-plus congregations across Ireland discussing close to 100 resolutions on a variety of issues. These range from plans to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, relationships with other denominations, the role and ministry of chaplaincy in Ireland, concerns over education proposals and abortion in the Republic of Ireland and the political situation in Northern Ireland.

Rev. Trevor Gribben, Clerk of the General Assembly, and General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, said, "This is very much the Presbyterian family in Ireland coming together for a week of worship, prayer, Bible

study, celebration, debate and decision-making.”

“As a Church we are involved in many aspects of day-to-day life across Ireland and the resolutions that come before our governing body reflect these and in some cases the concerns that we have,” he said.

Some of the overseas guests, the representatives from the Presbyterian Church in South Sudan and National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon, churches ministering and bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ in very difficult situations, will take part in a special presentation on Wednesday called, ‘Listening to the global church – Leadership in the crucible.’

This evening’s installation and most of the public sessions of the Assembly will be streamed at www.presbyterianireland.org. Proceedings can also be followed on a live Twitter feed @pciassembly using the hashtag #PCIGA17.

Tonight’s installation is open to the public and will also be broadcast live from 7pm on BBC Radio Ulster 1341 Medium Wave.

Rev. Dr. Noble McNeely, B.Ed., B.D., DD



Noble McNeely was born in 1954. Ordained as assistant minister in 1982 in Fisherwick Presbyterian Church in Belfast, he was installed in First Ballymoney in 1984 where he ministered

for 13 years before being called to First Holywood in 1997, where he is the current minister. He convened the Youth Education and Mission Committee from 1990 to 1994, City Area Committee from 1996 to 1998, Ministerial Studies and Development Committee from 2007 to 2010, Board of Christian Training from 2010 to 2014 and the Council for Training in Ministry from 2015 to 2016.

During his year in office Dr. Neely will travel throughout Ireland and overseas to see the work and ministry of the Church and encourage its members. By tradition, the Moderator is selected by the Church's 19 presbyteries on the first Tuesday in February. This took place on 7th February 2017. Dr. McNeely is the second Moderator to come from a Holywood congregation, the first was the Very Rev. Dr. John Ross, of High Street Presbyterian Church in 1995.

Presbyterian Church in Ireland

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland has over 225,000 members belonging to 539 congregations across 19 presbyteries throughout Ireland. The Presbytery of Monaghan and the Presbytery of Dublin and Munster are located in the Republic of Ireland, while the Presbytery of Derry and Donegal is cross border with congregations located in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

The Presbyterian form of Christian faith is best described as 'Reformed' with its strong emphasis on the Sovereignty of God, the Kingship of Christ and the authority of the Bible. It is the largest Protestant denomination in Northern Ireland.

Irish Presbyterianism had its origins in Scottish migrations to Ulster in the early 17th Century. Ballycarry Presbyterian Church in County Antrim is the oldest congregation dating back to 1613. The newest, Donabate Presbyterian Church in County Dublin, opened its doors in 2010. In 1840 two Presbyterian Churches, the General Synod of Ulster and the Secession Synod formed the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, with Rev. Dr. Samuel Hanna elected as Moderator of the new church.

Today in Christian History, June 5

June 5, 754: English monk Boniface, missionary to Germany, dies with 50 other Christians in an attack by angry pagans. The missionary, famous for smashing pagan idols, also established a monastery at Fulda that is still the center of Roman Catholicism in Germany.

June 5, 988 (traditional date): Rus's Grand Prince Vladimir orders his people to be baptized into the Orthodox Christian faith. He personally oversaw the baptism of the majority of the population of Kiev, the capital of his realm

June 5, 1191: England's Richard I (the Lion-hearted) of England sets sail for Muslim-controlled Acre in the Third Crusade. After

helping Philip II, king of France, capture the city, Richard took Jaffa and negotiated Christian access to Jerusalem, also Muslim-controlled .

June 5, 1305: Bertrand de Got, who as Pope Clement V (1305-1314) moved the seat of papal power to Avignon, France, is born in Villandraut, France.

June 5, 1414: Bohemian reformer Jan Hus appears before the Council of Constance. Instead of allowing him to state his beliefs, the council only permitted him to answer trumped-up charges of heresy. Hus was condemned and burned the following July.

June 5, 1661: English mathematician and physicist Isaac Newton is admitted as a student to Trinity College, Cambridge. But the "greatest scientific genius the world has ever known" actually spent less of his life studying science than theology, writing 1.3 million words on biblical subjects.

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