



## **GAFCON set to reveal missionary bishop to UK**

GAFCON, a worldwide group of conservative Anglicans, will this week announce who it has appointed as missionary bishop to oversee churches in the UK.

Last month, it revealed plans to bring in somebody to minister to those who feel the Church of England and the Scottish Episcopal Church have become too liberal in their stance on homosexuality.

Addressing the issue on Premier's News Hour, Most Rev Peter Jensen, GAFCON's General Secretary and a former Archbishop of Sydney, said: "There are many issues that divide us, where we have diverse opinions, and that's OK - but some of them are so important that a stand has to be taken. A painful and costly stand.

***"...to embrace the view that the practice of homosexuality is OK is wrong according to the Bible..."***

"The Primates believe that this present matter is one of those things and the Bible is as clear as can be - that to embrace the view that the practice of homosexuality is OK is wrong according to the Bible.

"It's a very significant matter in our view and puts the authority of the Bible at stake."

It's unclear whether the bishop will be British or from overseas.

They'll be announced on Thursday - the day the Scottish Episcopal Church votes on whether to redefine marriage in order to oversee gay weddings.

It comes just weeks after it was announced Rev Jonathan Pryke from Jesmond Parish Church in the North East of England was made a bishop by the Reformed Evangelical Anglican Church of South Africa.

He will also provide oversight to churches who are unhappy with developments in the Church of England.

## **Opening Mass of the Lough Derg Pilgrimage Season**

Last Friday evening the Diocesan Administrator of the Diocese of Clogher, Monsignor Joseph McGuinness, was the chief celebrant of Mass in Saint Patrick's Basilica, at Saint Patrick's Purgatory, (Station Island) Lough Derg, Co Donegal. The Mass marked the beginning of the three-day pilgrimage season for 2017. This will last until 15 August next. During the Mass a new organ, to assist the various liturgies in the basilica, was blessed and dedicated.

Monsignor McGuinness in his homily said: 'One of the many legends which surround this ancient and sacred island of pilgrimage relates to the meaning of its name – Lough Derg. It is said that



the name comes from the Irish *Loch Dearg*, meaning the “Red Lake”, because Saint Patrick, when he came to the lake, struggled against a fearsome monster that lived in its waters. Saint Patrick, having already dealt successfully with the entire national snake population, wasn’t to be bested by a water monster and it was duly slain. The waters of the lake were stained with its blood, and hence the “Red Lake”.

‘Nowadays the waters may appear more grey than red, but the image of struggle which the story presents is no less real. For centuries hundreds of thousands of people have come to this place to struggle with the challenges of hunger, sleeplessness and physical penance.

And all of you present here this evening are continuing that unbroken tradition. What you are doing is what would be called in modern terms counter-intuitive and counter-cultural. In societies of relative affluence such as our own, physical deprivation and discomfort are things to be avoided, not embraced. The notion of embracing the challenges of Lough Derg would appear to be nonsense. But it is glorious nonsense – it is the most wonderful witness to the most profound spiritual values.

***“...this place bears witness to the need for healing and hope in a wounded and broken world...”***

‘What this place bears witness to is the need for healing and hope in a wounded and broken world. From the mass horrors of war to the intimate hurts of our own hearts, the need for gifts of mercy, forgiveness, human empathy and generous love is unending. Pope Francis has famously described our Church as being like a field hospital, offering healing for the heart and balm for the spirit. If so, then Lough Derg provides some intensive care for the soul, and there are many, both believers and unbelievers who have found here a real sense of restoration and peace.



‘I don’t know what each of you carry with you in your hearts this evening; I don’t know what joy you may be thankful for, or painful burden you may bear. But here is the place to bring it, where the needs of the body are disregarded and the yearnings of the spirit are addressed. May you find in this ancient place, as so many have done before you, an increase in your joy and thankfulness, and a relief from pain of heart and anguish of spirit. May the grace of the Purgatory of Saint Patrick give all of us ease with the greater and lesser purgatories that we must sometimes live through.

‘Behind me in the sanctuary is a very large representation of the traditional Penal crucifix, sculpted by Imogen Stewart. One noticeable



feature of it is that the halo surrounding Christ's head is carved right through the wood, leaving an empty space. The sculptor has said that this space allows light to shine through, reminding us that there is no darkness, not even in the death of God's Son, that the power of God cannot overcome. It is a great symbol of hope, at the heart of this island of hope.

'I wish for all of you, and for all who care for the pilgrims in this place, a share in the hope and healing that Christ promised us through the power of his Spirit. May we find it here, and with it, the blessing, protection and peace of God's Spirit.

Monsignor Joseph McGuinness is the Diocesan Administrator of the Diocese of Clogher, pending the appointment of a new bishop. He is also the Administrator of the Parish of Tyholland.

The Diocese of Clogher encompasses all of Co Monaghan, most of Fermanagh and portions of Tyrone, Donegal, Louth and Cavan. It has a Catholic population of 88,000, across 37 parishes, which are served by 66 priests. There are 85 churches in the diocese.

Saint Patrick's Purgatory at Lough Derg, is near Pettigo in County Donegal. The three-day pilgrimage season runs from 1 June until 15 August each year. One-day pilgrimages are also held outside of this period. Lough Derg is under the control and direction of the Diocese of Clogher. Father Owen Joe McEaney is the current Prior. Further information on the island, as a place of prayer and pilgrimage, can be found on [www.loughderg.org](http://www.loughderg.org)

Lough Derg is a place apart, a remote place where God is present in a very special way; a place of pilgrimage dedicated to Saint Patrick, with whom it has very close



connections. Since the time of Saint Patrick, millions of people have come to Lough Derg for prayer and solitude, to be renewed in spirit and life. Stories about Lough Derg span the centuries and have inspired writers as varied as Shakespeare, Dante, Yeats, Kavanagh and Heaney.

The Basilica at Lough Derg, dedicated to Saint Patrick was built between 1925 and 1931 to the design of Professor William A Scott of University College Dublin. The basilica is built on ground reclaimed from the lake and its style is Hiberno-Romanesque. Saint Patrick's was constituted a minor basilica by Pope Pius XI in 1931.

## **Pipeworks Seeks Singers to be Part of 'Singing Audience'**

Pipeworks Festival is calling for parish choirs and singers to join them in Christ Church Cathedral later this month to be part of their 'singing audience'. The concert is on Saturday June 24 and is part of a larger feast of music celebrating the organ and its music. This year's festival celebrates the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.



The concert in Christ Church will explore some of the most popular pieces by Martin Luther in a variety of forms and settings from over four centuries. It centres around organ improvisations from gifted young Dutch organist Gerben Mourick. The Mornington Singers, under the direction of Orla Flanagan will sing.

A feature of the concert will be its participatory nature with the audience invited to join in the singing of some of the chorales, taking the role of the congregation in a traditional Lutheran service. Pipeworks is offering a special discount for singers who would like to attend an afternoon introductory rehearsal followed by a pre-concert talk on Martin Luther and his legacy. The rehearsal will be taken by Orla Flanagan who will

also conduct the combined forces in the concert.

The cost of the entire experience including rehearsals, refreshments, talk and concert is €10 (a discount of €8 on the full ticket price for the concert). To sign up please email [adminpipeworks@gmail.com](mailto:adminpipeworks@gmail.com).

The format of the afternoon will be:

3.30 pm – Introduction and rehearsal; 4.45 pm – Tea; 5.15 to 6.30 pm – Rehearsal in the cathedral. Break; 7.30 pm – Talk; 8.00 pm – Concert.

## **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 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.

“Donald was appointed as a member of Bord na Gaeilge in 1975 during the chairmanship of Dr TK Whitaker. He served as Bishop of Meath and Kildare from 1976 to 1985 before being elected as Archbishop of Dublin. He was Chairman of Coláiste Móibhí, the only all-Irish Protestant secondary school in the State.

“Donald spoke at many Irish language cultural events over the years, including Éigse na Máighe in Co. Limerick, the launch of the Maynooth Irish Bible, the service in Trinity College in 1993 for Conradh na Gaeilge’s centenary Ard Fheis, Éigse Thomáis Bháin in Inis Meáin in 1996, among others. He also translated a number of hymns into Irish for the Church Hymnal.

“He retired as Archbishop in 1996. In 2000, the late Risteard Ó Glaisne included a chapter on Donald Caird in his book “De Bhunadh Protastúnach”. In 2006, Donald lectured on Douglas Hyde at the Celtic Revival Summer School on Inis Oírr.

“In retirement, he lived with Nancy in Dún Laoghaire. From time to time he celebrated the Eucharist in Irish in Christ Church Cathedral as the request of the Irish Guild of the Church and he faithfully attended the annual Interdenominational Service in Irish during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, organised by Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise and Pobal an Aifrinn.

“In 2010, Dónall celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination and the 40th anniversary of his election as Bishop. He was presented with the Patrick Pearse Award (Gradam an Phiarsaigh),



on 22nd April 2010 in recognition of his contribution to the promotion of the Irish language, accepted by Nancy on his behalf. In 2014, he was present at the launch by Judge

Catherine McGuinness of his biography (written by Aonghus Dwane) in Christ Church Cathedral.

“In recent times he resided at Brabazon House in Dublin.

“May he rest in peace and rise in glory.”

“Is cúis mhór brón dúinn cloisint faoi bhás an Easpaig Donall Caird. Meala mór a bhás dá chlann uile, agus go háirithe dá bhean cheile fial, Nancy. Fear uasal, lách, séimh a bhí ann, tírghráthóir de chineál dílis oscailte, mac dílis d’Eaglais na hÉireann, ceannaire pobail agus Gaeilgeoir go smior.

“Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam uasal...

“...D’éirigh sé as mar Ardeaspag i 1996. Sa bhliain 2000, scríobh an t-údar Risteard Ó Glaisne nach maireann, caibidil faoi Dhónall ina leabhar “De Bhunadh Protastúnach”. I 2006, thug Dónall léacht faoi Dhúghlas de hÍde ag Scoil Samhradh na hAthbheochana Ceiltigh ar Inis Oírr.

“Bhí cónaí air agus é ar scor i nDún Laoghaire le Nancy. Ó am go chéile, rinne sé ceiliúradh ar an Eocairist i nGaeilge in Ardteampall Chríost do Chumann Gaelach na hEaglaise, agus bhí sé i

láthair ‘chuile bhliain ag an tSeirbhís Idirchreidmheach Gaeilge do Sheachtain na hAontachta Críostaí, a eagraíonn Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise agus Pobal an Aifrinn.

“In 2010, bhí Dónall ag ceiliúradh 50 bliain ó ceapadh mar reachtaire é, agus 40 bliain mar Easpag. Bronnadh Gradam an Phiarsaigh air ar an 22 Aibreán 2010 mar aitheantas dá chuid oibre don teanga, agus ghlac Nancy leis ar a shon. I 2014, bhí ceiliúradh in Ardteampall Chríost nuair a sheol an Breitheamh Catherine McGuinness beathaisnéis ar a shaol le Aonghus Dwane.

“Le blianta beaga anuas, bhí cónaí air i dteach altranais Brabazon i mBaile Átha Cliath. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam uasal.”

## **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 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 is being 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.

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](mailto:turasolumabanus@gmail.com).

## Today in Christian History, June 6

**June 6, 1654:** Christina, Queen of Sweden, abdicates her throne and joins the Roman Catholic church. She spent the rest of her life engaged in religious thought (though she twice attempted to resume the crown).

**June 6, 1844:** English merchant George Williams founds the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) out of his London meetings for prayer and Bible reading.

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