



***An artist's impression of the new civic square in east Belfast, due to be completed next summer***

## **CS Lewis: Narnia sculptures to be erected in Belfast**

The Belfast-born writer CS Lewis is to be honoured by his native city with a series of new sculptures depicting characters from his most famous novel, *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*.



***Belfast City Council has commissioned the artist Maurice Harron to create the installations***

BBC News - Belfast City Council has commissioned six new pieces of public art, including Aslan the Lion and the White Witch.

They will be erected in a new civic square, currently under construction, at the Hollywood Arches in east Belfast.

The development is part of the new Connswater Community Greenway.

Clive Staples Lewis was born in east Belfast's Dundela Avenue in 1898 and was baptised by his grandfather, rector of the nearby St Mark's Church of Ireland.



***The White Witch  
is among six  
new sculptures  
planned for  
Belfast***

He spent much of his early childhood at his family home, Little Lea, just off the Holywood Road, and the area is believed to have inspired some of his novels.

When he was nine years old, his mother died from cancer and Lewis was sent to boarding school in England, but he still maintained strong links with Belfast.

The council has commissioned the artist Maurice Harron to create the installations, whose previous works include the Reconciliation/Hands Across the Divide sculpture in Londonderry.

"I'm delighted to step 'through the wardrobe' and take on the challenge of recreating the

magic of Narnia, right on CS Lewis' own doorstep," the artist said.

"These artworks will be central to the civic square and provide a fitting tribute to one of Belfast's most famous sons."

As well as the lion and the witch, the six pieces of art also include sculptures of Mr Tumnus, Jewel the unicorn, Mr and Mrs Beaver and the Stone Table.

The highlight of the project will be a 10ft (3m) high sculpture of Aslan the Lion  
They will be placed close to an existing Lewis-inspired artwork at the Holywood Arches.

The bronze sculpture, known as The Searcher, recreates the fictional wardrobe that provided entry to the magical land of Narnia.

The six installations will be set on wooded areas within the new public square and the artist said their locations would "reflect each character's role in the story, inviting visitors to 'turn the page' as they explore this new space".

"I want to recreate the emotions within Lewis' world, so that - like Lucy, Edmund, Peter and

Susan - you never quite know what's around the corner," he added.

## **First ordination in 14 years for the Diocese of Ossory**

Last weekend saw four dioceses across the island celebrate an ordination to the priesthood, including the first ordination in 14 years for the Diocese of Ossory.

On Sunday, Fr Brian Griffin, from the parish of Slieverue, was ordained in St Mary's Cathedral in Kilkenny by Bishop Seamus Freeman.

In his homily Bishop Freeman noted that it was 14 years since the last ordination in Ossory and that the diocese cannot wait 14 more for the next one and still be able to serve the people of Ossory. He encouraged all those present to support people, especially young people, in living out their faith so that some of them too "might respond generously to the call to priesthood someday".

Fr Brendan Ward, a native of Edeninfagh, Glenties, was ordained for the Diocese of Raphoe by Bishop Philip Boyce in St Eunan's Cathedral in Letterkenny. Bishop Seamus



***Fr Brian Griffin with his family at his ordination in St Mary's Cathedral in Kilkenny.***

Hegarty, retired Bishop of Derry concelebrated the Mass along with priests from the diocese and from other parts of the country.

Bishop Boyce thanked Fr Ward's parents, John and Kitty, for supporting his vocation and prayed that God would "send another seminarian to fill the place you leave vacant in the seminary".

Fr Robert McGivney (28) was ordained to the priesthood on Sunday in St Mary's Church, Navan by Bishop Michael Smith of Meath. Robert is a native of Navan, and his father Gerry is a retired teacher and well-known local GAA

referee, and his mother June, passed away last October.

Fr Conor McCarthy (27) was ordained for the Diocese of Down and Connor at a ceremony held in St Anne's Church, Derriaghy, Belfast, by auxiliary Bishop Anthony Farquhar. Fr McCarthy studied for a Bachelor's Degree in Music (Bmus), which he completed in 2009, and was then accepted to study for the priesthood in St Malachy's Seminary, Belfast. He also studied in the Maryvale Institute in Birmingham and the Pontifical Irish College in Rome.

## **Candles and prayer in St Anne's for Tunisian victims**

Candles were lit inside the Chapel of the Holy Spirit in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, at noon yesterday, Friday July 3, in remembrance of the victims of the Tunisian massacre.

The names and photographs of all known British and Irish victims were displayed, and a candle was lit for each one.

This was an opportunity for people from across Belfast and beyond to come and pray in silence for those killed when a gunman began killing

indiscriminately on the beach in Sousse, Tunisia, last Friday. Prayers were also be said for their families and for those who were injured.

The period of prayer in St Anne's began at noon, at the same time as a nationwide minute's silence for the victims gets underway.

The Dean of Belfast, the Very Rev John Mann, said: "Many times we light candles in remembrance of those who have died or who we bear in our thoughts and prayers.

"On Friday at 12 noon we slit candles for those who tragically lost their lives or were injured on a Tunisian beach just a few days ago. We reflected in silence then tried and articulated in spoken prayer our response before God to this terrible event that has shocked us all and brought such sorrow to the families affected."

## **Carrick rector blogs from Arctic**

The Rev Mike McCann, rector of the Parish of Kilroot and Templecorran, and his wife Sarah are settling in to their new life in the Canadian Arctic.

In his first blog Mr.McCann writes, "It's now five days since we arrived here and we have been through one Sunday. In many ways it is all a bit overwhelming. Iqaluit is the main city of the



territory of Nunavut with 6000 inhabitants and all the facilities: Supermarkets, cinema, hotels, gift-shops, museums, and library. However it is still a frontier town, rough around the edges. There is a ring-road of 3 miles of tarred road but the rest of the roads are gravel or compacted clay. Most people drive trucks, 4×4 vehicles, rather than cars because the roads are tricky and in the winter it gets down to -50C. And yet 1 in 3 of the cars is a taxi as most people can't afford to own a car....”

Mike has been granted a sabbatical by the Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev Alan Abernethy, and he and Sarah are working for the summer at the Cathedral Church of St Jude in Iqaluit on Baffin Island.

This sabbatical has been arranged by the Rt Rev Darren McCartney, Suffragan Bishop of the Arctic, who formerly served in the Diocese of Connor as curate in St Nicholas Church in Carrickfergus.

Mike and Sarah have been recording their experiences in a blog – extracts from which can be read below. To read Mike and Sarah's blog in full, visit [arcticinsummer.blogspot.co.uk](http://arcticinsummer.blogspot.co.uk).

## **Sr Stan named ‘Ireland’s National Treasure’**

Sr Stanislaus Kennedy has credited the charities she founded and works with for her selection as ‘Ireland’s National Treasure’.

Interviewed by Ray D’Arcy on his RTE Radio 1 show, the Religious Sister of Charity nun paid tribute to the workers of Focus Ireland, Young Social Innovators, the Immigrants’ Council of Ireland and the Sanctuary.

“I am delighted (to receive this accolade) for the people who have worked with me in different ways,” she said as she thanked the Irish public for supporting these charities.

Sr Stan rejected the suggestion that her recent public announcement that she was in favour of same sex marriage had helped her win the ‘National Treasure’ award.

Ray D’Arcy asked if she had received ‘hate mail’ due to her Yes vote in the referendum.

“I lost a few people, not an awful lot, but some people who thought I was going against the wishes of the Church and what the bishops told



***Sr Stan Kennedy with RTE presenter Ray D'Arcy***

us. But the bishops didn't tell us, they just gave their views and left it to ourselves."

"I've disagreed with the Church before. That is because in the past the Church has said things about gay people, for example that gay people were 'intrinsically disordered'," the nun who joined religious life in 1958 said.

"No I didn't get hate mail but I got some letters from people who said they were taken aback," she said.

She explained that she was never "easy" around inequality or injustice and she felt that there was a great inequality and marginalisation of gay people.

“I just felt that this was an opportunity to show acceptance of gay people and to give them the opportunity to marry and to have the rights of every citizen and I did not think it would take from the sacrament of marriage at all or from other marriages.”

She has not lost her passion for helping the homeless. She founded Focus Ireland 30 years ago having lived with some homeless women.

She told Ray D’Arcy that there are 5,000 or more homeless people at any one time in Ireland. It will take at least 18 months before promised social housing is completed, and yet every month more people become homeless simply through rising rents.

“One of the most appalling things is that families are becoming homeless, and last month 70 families became homeless. That is two or three new families every day,” she said.

“They arrive with their children and their few belongings at Focus Ireland and the only place we can offer them is a room in a hotel or a B&B. So you have, as we speak now, families of 4,5,6 cooped up in one room in a hotel. So that is staggering, and at this moment there are over 1 thousand children in emergency accommodation in Dublin.”

## Service of Thanksgiving for referendum decision

An ecumenical service of thanksgiving was held in St. Audoen's Cornmarket Dublin 8 on Saturday 27 June. The service was organised to coincide with Dublin's Gay Pride festival. The thanksgiving was focused on the work of the many volunteers and campaigners involved in the referendum on the extension of civil marriage rights to LGBT people in the Republic of Ireland.

The service was led by Canon Mark Gardner, Rector of St. Audoen's and Leo Kilroy from Rathdrum in Co. Wicklow. It was supported by Changing Attitude Ireland (CAI), Faith in Marriage Equality, Gay Catholic Voice Ireland and We are Church Ireland.

During the service Leo Kilroy invited eight members of the congregation to speak to guide the thanksgiving.

Dublin man Frank McMullen spoke of the flourishing that he noticed in people during the campaign from his vantage point of the US and was followed by a very moving and prayerful

input by Mrs. Dora Clarke from Co. Roscommon, a mother of gay children.

Moninne Griffith, former director of Marriage Equality gave thanks for the political will and the hours of dedication by volunteers in the campaign, while the Rev. Brian O'Rourke of Porlaoise Union gave thanks for diversity and for the openness of people to be supportive and inclusive.

Canon Dr. Virginia Kennerley offered thanks for the courage of gay people, particularly clergy and asked for prayers for the work of the Select Committee on Human Sexuality in the Church of Ireland, while Dr. Richard O'Leary, chairperson of CAI was thankful for the campaign itself and the conversations it enabled.

Aonghus Dwane spoke in Irish about the journey that the campaign had enabled. The final input was from Fr. Martin Dolan who was thankful for the acceptance of his own congregation during the campaign, his feeling of inclusion in Irish society and his hope that one day the church would be fully inclusive.

Scripture was read by Ruth Elmes and Garth Bunting, and a poem by Tony Regan. There was a good attendance, with the church nearing capacity. It was a very prayerful and emotional event for those present. Afterward a large group, including several members of the clergy, some from Iceland, marched in the gay pride parade behind the Changing Attitude Ireland and Faith in Marriage Equality banners. This year's parade attracted a crowd of over 80,000 people.

## **Christ Church Kilkeel celebrates 200 years**

The foundation stone for Christ Church, on Newry Street, Kilkeel, was laid 200 years ago in 1815. On Sunday 28 June the parish celebrated these 'Sure Foundations' and 200 years of ministry with a special day of worship and events.

Sunday began with a short service of Holy Communion at Carginagh before a celebration in Christ Church attended by clergy and parishioners past and present.

The rector, Revd Ken McGrath, led the worship assisted by Kilkeel Silver Band and the church choir. The choir welcomed former members into



***Mr Willie Shields, Bishop James Mehaffey, Revd Ken McGrath and Revd Willie Orr.***

their ranks and sang an anthem, ‘Praise Him, Praise Him’.

The parish was delighted to welcome 3 former rectors and their wives to the service – Bishop James Mehaffey, who gave the blessing, Archdeacon David McClay who led the prayers and Revd Henry Pedlow.



Parishioner, Mr Richard Sproule, gave the Old Testament reading and 83 year old Mr Willie Shields, who has spent a lifetime in Christ Church Kilkeel, reflected (with some humour) on the tenure of past rectors.

Two former parishioners, now ordained, also took part – Revd Isaac Hanna gave the New Testament reading and Revd William Orr gave the address. Revd Orr was preaching only yards from the choir vestry where he had given his life to Christ in 1994. Speaking from Philippians 3 and Revelation 2 he urged us as individuals to stay strong in the faith and as a parish to keep looking ahead and press on into the future for the glory of God.

Bishop Ken Clarke, Mission Director SAMS UK & Ireland, continued the theme of living boldly for Christ and ‘finishing well’ when he preached in the evening. JIMS, the parish youth outreach in Kilkeel, had brought their ‘Souled Out’ band and format to Christ Church and led a wonderful time of informal worship at 8.00 pm.

Well over 300 people stayed on after the morning service for a BBQ lunch served in the sun and a chance to catch up with old friends. Tea, coffee

and celebration cake went down a treat in the hall whilst the children were entertained by a puppet show upstairs in the lounge.

How do you convey 200 years of parish life? With a dedicated team led by parishioner Mrs Margaret McBride, and lots of folk willing to share their photos, cuttings and memorabilia.

‘Exhibition 200’ – remembering 200 years of Christ Church Kilkeel in words and pictures – was a huge attraction and will be open each evening from 7–9pm for the next week.

Mrs McBride also compiled a Christ Church history book which is still available for a suggested donation of £5.00 with all profits going to ‘Inspired Hope Uganda’.

## **Irish Churches Peace Project resources online**

With the conclusion of the Irish Churches Peace Project on 30th June, the key resources that have been developed over the lifetime of the project have now been made available here on the Irish Council of Churches website.

Visit ICC's [Resources Section](#) for downloadable copies of these reports, handbooks and directories. If you want to order a hard copy of any material found in this section, please contact the ICC directly at - <http://www.irishchurches.org/news/contact>

## **Green Flag for South Abbey National School, Youghal**

The children, staff and families involved in South Abbey National School, Youghal, County Cork worked really hard during the past year to achieve their first [Green Flag](#). This ancient Church of Ireland school, based on a new site for a number of years, is a hub of activity and diversity. Among the 100 or so pupils at the school there are 18 nationalities and 14 languages spoken.

The patron of the school, the Right Reverend Dr Paul Colton, Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, visited the school in June for a Service of Celebration and to raise the school's first Green Flag. Bishop Colton said:

The energy and creativity in this school is amazing and is a real tribute to everyone



***Assisted by children from South Abbey National School, Youghal County Cork, Bishop Paul Colton prepares to raise the school's first Green Flag.***

associated with it, particularly the pupils and teachers. I was delighted to have the honour of raising the school's first Green Flag. After all, one of what we call 'The Five Marks of Mission' of the Church is 'to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.'

## Archbishops of Armagh joint visit to Rome

Archbishop Eamon Martin and Archbishop Richard Clarke recently met with members of the Sant'Egidio Community in Rome.

The Community of Sant'Egidio is a lay community based in Rome but now established in over 60 countries throughout the world. It roots its community life in prayer and the reading of the Scriptures, but is also involved in major initiatives of social outreach and reconciliation initiatives in many countries.

Archbishop Richard, as those who have attended his autumn Roadshows in the diocese of Armagh over the past couple of years will know, has had a long involvement with the Community, but this was Archbishop Eamon Martin's first meeting with them.

The occasion of Archbishop Richard's visit to Rome was an invitation from Archbishop Eamon Martin to join with him as he received his 'pallium' from Pope Francis. The pallium (a narrow woollen strip of cloth worn over the shoulders) is the insignia given to Roman Catholic archbishops. Although not worn by

Anglican archbishops it is nevertheless seen on the Armagh and Dublin diocesan coats of arms.

## **Former Tipperary hurler will be ordained to the priesthood**

A former Tipperary hurler will be ordained to the priesthood this weekend.

Vincent Stapleton (33), a former underage hurler with Tipperary and a cousin of current Tipperary corner back Paddy Stapleton, will be ordained today, Saturday, in the Cathedral of the Assumption in Thurles by Archbishop Kieran O'Reilly of Cashel and Emlly.

The former primary school teacher, who still lines out for his village club Borrisoleigh, will say his first Mass in his home village at 6pm on Sunday.

Speaking about his forthcoming ordination Rev Stapleton said that becoming a priest was something he always wanted to do, long before he entered the national seminary in Maynooth in 2009.

“After my First Holy Communion, I can remember playing Mass at home wrapped in a bed sheet, using my new communion missal, bits of Stapleton’s bread and an ironing board.

There was even another young boy whose job it was to ring the bell at the right time. I was an avid reader and I knew every story from the children's bible inside out," he said.

Of his decision to join the priesthood he said, "Trying to fit in and be cool is a priority for any teenager and I judged that a vocation to the priesthood would not set my star rating very high."

"Coming up to the Leaving Certificate I consciously buried the desire to become a priest under the surface and put my energy into hurling and other pastimes."

He pursued a career in primary school teaching and graduated from Mary Immaculate College in Limerick in 2003 working as a 5th and 6th class teacher at Templederry National School in Co Tipperary.

"I loved teaching and especially the teaching of religion. I found great joy in passing on the bible stories that I loved as a child. All of the children had their individual strengths but I came to the belief that religion or some kind of belief was the one subject they could all benefit from."

He added, "When some of the kids said to me that I would make a good priest I could no

longer suppress the call and contacted the vocations director for the diocese of Cashel & Emly – Fr Pat Coffey.”

He began his seminary studies at St Patrick’s College Maynooth on 23 August 2009. “I really enjoyed my time there,” he commented.

Rev Stapleton will be ordained at 3pm today.

Sunday will see Rev Aidan Matthews and Rev Brian Slater ordained to the priesthood for Armagh diocese and Rev Leo Creelman ordained for Clogher diocese.

## **Church spokespersons condemn Orange Hall attack**

The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, the Right Reverend Dr. Ian McNie, has condemned Thursday night’s arson attack on Ballytryone Orange Hall in Loughgall, County Armagh.

Calling for respect and tolerance of one another’s traditions and to what each holds dear Dr. McNie said, “The attack on this Orange Hall is not just a senseless sectarian attack on one particular communities’ tradition, but an assault on all



traditions and has no place in the Northern Ireland we all want to see.

“I deplore this and any attack on any property belonging to any group in our community, especially at this time as we approach the Twelfth of July itself, and pray that those who did this come to their senses and understand the hurt they have caused and the wrong they have done.”

Dr. McNie also appealed for anyone with any information to pass it on to the Police Service.

The Right Revd Harold Miller, Chairman of the Church of Ireland’s Northern Ireland Community Relations Working Group, said:

‘Last night’s arson attack on Ballytyrone Orange Hall in Loughgall is a wholly unacceptable and disgraceful sectarian act. Such wilful destruction of the property of others is never justified and it is both very sad to see and deeply unhelpful to community relations at this particular time of year in the run up to the Twelfth of July.

‘Like others, I would call on everyone in Northern Ireland to respect one another’s community traditions and value one another. I also join in the

appeal for anyone with any information about this attack to pass it on to the PSNI for investigation.'

### **Pleas for no retaliation after rural Orange hall wrecked by blaze**

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/pleas-for-no-retaliation-after-rural-orange-hall-wrecked-by-blaze-1-6831643>

## **Media digest**

### **Mail/Wash Post**

Report that the Archbishop of Canterbury has rebuked American Anglicans for recognising same-sex marriages and referring to God in 'gender-neutral' language. It states Justin Welby told leaders of the US Episcopal it was the wrong time for disputes over gay rights and sexism in services and that they should be 'looking outwards' to mourn for the victims of Islamist terror attacks instead of returning to the Anglicans' decades old disputes over sex. ([Archbishop's statement](#))

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3147872/Archbishop-Welby-rebukes-U-S-Anglicans-recognising-sex-marriages-referring-God-gender-neutral-language.html#ixzz3enbXOsf3>

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/religion/anglican-head-expresses-concern-about-episcopal-vote-on-gay-marriage/2015/07/02/61dcc656-20e8-11e5-a135-935065bc30d0\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/religion/anglican-head-expresses-concern-about-episcopal-vote-on-gay-marriage/2015/07/02/61dcc656-20e8-11e5-a135-935065bc30d0_story.html)

## **Times/Star/Express/Mail**

Articles on the minute's silence for beach terror victims. *Times* states the youngest casualty was 19, the oldest 80 and at noon today, the nation will stop to honour the 18 men and 12 women killed. Papers pay tribute to many of the victims with profiles and reports on their return to UK on RAF flights. [Prayers for Remembrance.](#)

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4486628.ece>

<http://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/latest-news/451574/tunisia-terror-terrorism-dead-beach-silence-memory-honour>

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/588455/Tunisia-terror-attack-British-victims-of-beach-massacre-return-home>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3147344/Tunisian-beach-massacre-victims-flown-home.html>

## **FT**

Further article on the appointment of the Revd Peterson Feital as chaplain to creative industries for the Diocese of London. It quotes the [Bishop of Stepney](#), Adrian Newman, who is behind the Capital Vision 2020 project, which aspires to reach new people and engage with the creative arts to find fresh ways to convey the church's message. It states Mr Feital aims to set up a performance and exhibition space called, *The Haven* to create "a community of peace and tranquillity in the heart of turbulent London".

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/1040485a-1f3e-11e5-aa5a-398b2169cf79.html#axzz3ecFFM1Vn>

## **Express**

Further reports on the christening of Princess Charlotte which notes previous christenings at St Mary Magdalene church including George VI's younger sister, Princess Mary and her late grandmother Diana, Princess of Wales, who was christened on August 30, 1961. They also state service on Sunday will be conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/royal/587671/church-of-st-mary-magdalene-princess-charlotte-kate-middleton-christening-royals>

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/princess-charlotte-christening-flowers-historic-5988503>

## **Guard**

July 4

Article on Transport for Christ (TFC) which has set up mobile chapels for truckers and currently boasts 35 across the US, two in Russia and one in Zambia. It states the long hours and unpredictable schedules of drivers make it nearly impossible to catch a service at their home churches, so TFC brings its chapels to the parking lots of travel plazas and trucking events. It also publishes a monthly magazine, [Highway News and Good News](#), and offers a prayer hotline in case a trucker needs quick guidance.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jul/02/transport-for-christ-trucker-chaplains>