



Epiphany 2008 No. 48

Irish Ecumenical News

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*An occasional ecumenical information resource for the 3,250 faith communities of the 16 churches in membership with the Irish Inter Church Meeting and Irish Council of Churches (*see below); for an informal network of local and regional inter-church groups; and for interested laity and clergy on the island of Ireland and across the waters.*

Member Churches

The Catholic Church in Ireland, The Antiochian Orthodox Church in Ireland, The Church of Ireland, The Coptic Orthodox Church in Ireland, The Greek Orthodox Church in Ireland, The LifeLink Network of Churches, The Lutheran Church in Ireland, The Methodist Church in Ireland, The Moravian Church in Ireland, The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland, The Presbyterian Church in Ireland, The Religious Society of Friends, Rock of Ages Cherubim and Seraphim Church, The Romanian Orthodox Church in Ireland, The Russian Orthodox Church in Ireland, The Salvation Army (Ireland Division).

"An ecumenical resource for Christian pilgrims on the island of Ireland"



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2008

Happy New Year to all our readers. May 2008 stimulate us to give greater priority to Christ's prayer 'to be one' in our personal, denominational and ecumenical witness with each other and our neighbours.

This abbreviated edition of *Irish Ecumenical News* has been hastily brought together primarily to provide information about interdenominational services, conferences and events that are planned to take place around this island this month to celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The main services in Belfast and Dublin are identified in 'box format'.

This is by no means an exhaustive list, but hopefully provides awareness of inter-church services taking place in various regions, which will help readers to be informed, participate and support in their prayers. Please circulate this around your networks. It may inspire further local initiatives elsewhere this month or next year. I'm interested in any feedback

*In order to unite with one another, we must love one another;
in order to love one another, we must know one another;
in order to know one another, we must go and meet one another.* (Benedictine Monastery, Rostrevor)

Consider taking the opportunity this Week of Prayer to offer table hospitality to some of those you don't know within your local ecumenical family. Invite different neighbours from your local churches/community to a meal in your home. Help to build God's Kingdom and new relationships in your local community

Churches in both jurisdictions on this island join with churches throughout the world in committing themselves to 'Pray without Ceasing' as the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2008.

This year's theme "Pray without ceasing" is taken from 1 Thessalonians 5: 12a, 13b-18)

But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters... Be at peace among yourselves. And we urge you, beloved to admonish the idlers, encourage the faint-hearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Background: Graymoor in Garrison, New York (USA) was the location where the first Church Unity Octave was observed by Fr Paul Wattson (Anglican) from 18-25 January 1908, during the period between the Feasts of St Peter and St Paul. A fuller account of this interesting background story to this week can be found on the following website http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/chrstuni/

Click Spiritual Ecumenism at the International level.

The initial draft of this year's materials was appropriately prepared by the Graymoor Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Institute in New York. It was then adapted by an international preparation group appointed by the Commission on Faith and Order (World Council of Churches) and the Pontifical Council Promoting Christian Unity. Finally, a small four-nations group from the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland fine-tuned the material for local use.

Resources for private reflection and public inter-church services on this theme can all be freely downloaded from www.ctbi.org.uk. Translations into Irish and Welsh are also offered this year. For each day, a theme is provided with reflection, prayer, action and suggested Scriptural readings.

Be inspired that in meeting together this month across our different individual church traditions (Orthodox, Catholic, Anglican, Protestant, Evangelical, Pentecostal), we are connected to the Church world-wide, like the multi-coloured lights we had on our Christmas trees. Pray without ceasing that we may be faithful in keeping our shared light together shining and being obedient signs of the Body of Christ in the richness of its unity and diversity. Thanks be to God.

January 15th in Belfast

The Clonard-Fitzroy fellowship are hosting a *'Presbyterian-Roman Catholic conversation on the fullness of the Eucharistic Mystery'* at 7.30pm at St Mary's University College, 191 Falls Road, West Belfast. Rev Professor Stephen Williams (Union College, Belfast) and Rev Dr Ron Casey (Leader of the Irish Redemptorists) will be speaking with Rev Dr Richard Clutterbuck (Edgehill College) chairing. Contact details: Fr Gerry Reynolds ph. 028 90 445950

January 17th in Derry/Londonderry

at 7.30pm at St Eugene's Catholic Cathedral, Creggan St, L/derry. Preacher: Archbishop Alan Harper (Church of Ireland Primate). Contact details: Fr Michael Canny, ph. 028 71 262894

January 18th in Ballymena

at 8pm at Ballymena Methodist Church, 40 Ballymoney Road, Ballymena. Preacher: Fr Paul Symonds OBE (Catholic). Contact details: Rev. Trevor Jamieson, ph 028 25 656693

January 18th in Dublin

at 8pm in St Mary's Pro-Cathedral, 83 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1. Preacher: Most Reverend Alan Harper, Church of Ireland Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland. Contact details: www.procathedral.ie Rev Brendan Leahy ph.01.708.3498

January 18th in London

at 5pm in Westminster Abbey. Contact details: Churches Together in England, ph 0207.529.8133

January 20th in Ballycastle Co Antrim

at 7pm in the Holy Trinity Church (Church of Ireland) in the Diamond, Ballycastle, Co Antrim. Contact details: Thelma Dillon (Ballycastle Church Action), ph.028.2076.2359 email: thelma171@yahoo.co.uk

January 20th Belfast (south)

At 7pm in Windsor Presbyterian Church, off Lisburn Road. Contact details Rev Paul Erskine ph. 028 90 666785

January 18th - 23rd in Rostrevor, Co Down

To celebrate the tenth anniversary of their arrival in Rostrevor, the Benedictine Community are organising a series of Evening Services at 7.45pm at the Holy Cross Monastery, 119 Kilbroney Road, Rostrevor Co. Down BT34 3BN. The Monastery is situated on the main Rostrevor-Hilltown Road. Contact details: Ph (028) 4173 9979 www.benedictinemonks.co.uk
The theme of their six-day Ecumenical Mission is: **'Rejoicing in each others' gifts ...Sharing and celebrating the treasures of our particular churches'**

Fri 18th January

Rev Desi Maxwell
Xploration Ministries
(Presbyterian)

Sat 19th January

RevFr Gerry Reynolds CSsR
Clonard Monastery
(Roman Catholic)

Sun 20th January

Rev Dr Norman Taggart
(Methodist)

Mon 21st January

Servants of the Word,
Belfast (International
Ecumenical Brotherhood)

Tues 22nd January

Rev Mary Hunter, Dublin
(Presbyterian)

Weds 23rd January

Rt Rev Alan Abernethy
Bishop of Connor
(Church of Ireland)

January 20th in Cashel Co.Tipperary

Time tbc at Cashel Cathedral (Church of Ireland). Preacher will be a local Roman Catholic priest. For more information please contact: Ms Denise Hughes at office@cashel.anglican.org

January 20th in Dublin

at 11am in Christ Church Cathedral, Christchurch Place, Dublin. Preacher: Ms Gillian Kingston (President, Irish Council of Churches). Contact details: Rev Mark Gardner, ph. 01 6778099

January 20th in Kilkenny

At 11.15am at St.Canice's Cathedral, the new RC Bishop of Ossory, Bishop Seamus Freeman, will visit the Cathedral for the first time. An Ecumenical lunch will follow. Contact: Ms Denise Hughes at office@cashel.anglican.org

January 20th in Larne, Co. Antrim

At 3pm in Larne Leisure Centre there will be an ecumenical service featuring music groups from local churches as well as a short drama by the YMCA youth group "CD2". The service will be lead by Fr Dermot McKay PP and the preacher will be Rev Harold Sharpe

(Church of Ireland). Refreshments will follow the service. Details: Sr Catherine Kealy 028 28 279428

January 20th in Marshallstown Co. Wexford

At 7.30pm at Marshallstown Roman Catholic Church. Christian Unity Community Service. Preacher: Rt Revd Michael Burrows. Contact: Ms Denise Hughes at office@cashel.anglican.org

January 20th in Co. Monaghan

at 7 pm at St Patrick's Catholic Church, Ballybay, Co Monaghan. Contact details: Fr La Flynn ph. 042 97411032

January 20th in Navan

at 7.30pm at St. Mary's Church of Ireland, Church Hill, Navan. Preacher: Sr. Consilio Rock RSM. Contact details: Fr. William Coleman email stmarysnavan@eircom.net

January 20th in Co. Offaly

at 7.30pm at the Methodist Church, Birr, Co. Offaly. Preacher: Rev. Geraldine Gracie (Methodist). Contact details: Rev Geraldine Gracie gracieno1@hotmail.com

January 20th in Omagh

at 7pm at Trinity Presbyterian Church, John Street, Omagh, Co Tyrone. Preacher: Rev John Brackenridge (Presbyterian). Contact details: Rev Robert Herron, ph 028 82 243776

January 20th in Stradbally, Co. Waterford

Time tbc at Stradbally Church of Ireland. Community Service with a sermon by a local priest. For more information please contact: Ms Denise Hughes at office@cashel.anglican.org

January 20th in Waterford

at 7.30pm in the Catholic Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity, Barronstrand Street, Waterford. Contact details: Fr Gerry Langford, ph 051 392666

January 21st in Drogheda

45th Greenhills Ecumenical Conference will meet from 10.30 - 3.45 pm at Our Lady's College, Greenhills, Drogheda, Co Louth. This year's theme is "*God in Secular Society*". Keynote speaker: His Excellency Mr Francis Campbell, British Ambassador to the Holy See in Rome. Rev Dr Ruth Patterson will be chairing and other panel members include Rev Canon Patrick Comerford and David Quinn. Cost with lunch €20/£15. Contact details: Rev Tom Kingston 0505 47595.

January 21st in Lucan

at 8pm at St Andrew's Church of Ireland, Lucan. Preacher: Very Rev Donal Roche (Catholic). Contact details: Rev David Godfrey 00353(0)1.624.1906

January 22nd in Armagh

at 8 pm at St Patrick's Roman Catholic Cathedral, Cathedral Road, Armagh. Preacher: Bro. Fintan Lyons OSB, Glenstal Abbey. Contact details: Fr Eugene Sweeney ph 028.3752.2802

January 22nd in Bray

at 8pm at Christ Church (Church of Ireland) parish, Church Rd, Bray, Co Wicklow. Preacher: Senator Martin Mansergh. Contact details: Rev Badon Stanley, ph 00353(0)1.211.6644

January 22nd in Cork

at 7.30pm at St. Luke's, Douglas, Cork: Preacher: Fr. Liam O'Regan
Contact details: Rev Geraldine Gracie gracieno1@hotmail.com

January 22nd in Loughrea Co. Galway

at 7.30pm in Loughrea Library, Loughrea, Co. Galway. Preacher: Mrs Diane Holt. Contact details: Claire Besnyoe (Oak House Christian fellowship) ph. 00353(0)91 843004

January 23rd in Belfast

at 8pm at St Anne's Cathedral, Lower Donegall Street, Belfast. Preacher: Bro. Fintan Lyons OSB, Glenstal Abbey. Contact details: www.belfastcathedral.org, ph. Dean Houston McKelvey 028 90 328332

January 23rd in Dublin

at 5 pm at the Chapel of the Church of Ireland Theological College, Braemor Park, Dublin 14. Preacher: Fr. Godfrey O'Donnell (Romanian Orthodox Church)
Contact details: www.citc.ie 01 4923506

January 24th in Enniskillen

at 8pm in the Presbyterian Church, East Bridge Street, Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh. Preacher: Rev David Nesbitt (Presbyterian). Contact details: Kate Doherty (Fermanagh Churches Forum) ph.028 66 324896

January 24th in Co Mayo

- St Michael's Church of Ireland, Ballina, Mayo at 12.30. Bishop Richard Henderson (Church of Ireland) will be leading the prayers: Contact details: Bishop Richard Henderson 096 31317
- St Michael's Church, Foxford, Co. Mayo at 8pm. Preacher: Canon Doris Clements (Church of Ireland).
Contact details: Very Rev Joseph Gavigan CC josephgavigan@hotmail.com

January 24th in South Down

at 8pm at Church of St John the Evangelist (RC), Hilltown, Co Down. Preacher: Very Rev David Clarke (former Moderator, Presbyterian Church). Contact details: Rev Dr Gordon Graham, ph 028.4272.6175

January 25th in Cork

at 7.30 pm in the St. Patrick's Hospital, Wellington Road, Cork. Preacher: Fr Christy Fitzgerald (Catholic). Contact details: Rev Geraldine Gracie gracieno1@hotmail.com

January 25th in Dublin

Irish Language Unity Service in Christ Church Cathedral, Christchurch Place, Dublin 8 will be held at 8 pm and organised by Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise, Pobal an Aifrin. Preacher: An t-Athair Caoimhin Mórdha. Contact details: www.cccdub.ie

January 25th in Sligo

at 8pm in Sligo Roman Catholic Cathedral. Preacher: Bishop Ken Clarke (Church of Ireland). Contact details: Fr Pat Lombard, ph. Sligo 00353(0)71.916.2670

January 27th on RTÉ 1

At 11.15am on RTÉ 1 will be led by staff and students from the Irish School of Ecumenics. Further details: Canon Albert Ogle, ph. 01.260.1144

January 27th in Tralee, Co Kerry

at 7pm at St John's Catholic Church, Castle Street, Tralee, Co Kerry. Contact details: Mgr Den O'Riordan, ph. 066.7122.522

January 30th in Youghal, Co Cork

at 8pm at St. Mary's Church of Ireland, Youghal, Co. Cork. Preacher: Rev. Geraldine Gracie (Methodist). Contact details: Rev Geraldine Gracie gracieno1@hotmail.com

Reflections

Gracious Father, we pray for your church throughout the world. May she be a sign of your Kingdom, living with diversity yet displaying the unity and love for which Jesus prayed. Where she is strong, may she act humbly and with sensitivity and where she is weak may she act with confidence and with courage. Grant that all who name Jesus as Lord may grow in knowledge and love of him and of one another. Amen.

As we seek to express our unity, O God, help us to see beyond those things which divide us to those things we have in common, then having found friendship, explore in Christian love those things which do divide. Then perhaps the world will believe. Amen

"The Walls of Separation do not reach to Heaven"
(Cornerstone Community)

Extracts of contributions from Irish church leaders to this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (extracted from Thoughts and Prayers from ecumenical leaders and patrons of the Irish School of Ecumenics, with permission)

"The Week of Prayer reminds us that, even when things seem at their most dark and problematical, the initiative remains with God and that if we persevere in praying in accordance with the mind of God, the outcome is not in doubt. Many have spoken about a sense they have that we are in something of an ecumenical winter. To my mind this is far from the case. In fact, I can hardly remember a time when, at the personal as well as the institutional level, the work of seeking unity among Christians has been more productive and collaboration among Christians more productive...."

Most Reverend Alan Harper, Archbishop of Armagh, Church of Ireland

"Unity for me is akin to a patch-work quilt as opposed to a grey army blanket. It's about working together with those who, in so many characteristics, are different from me and yet when it comes to the basics of faith, are one with me.... For me, unity is not about

uniformity. It is about unity of purpose – that of sharing the Good News to all who will listen...

Rev Roy Cooper, President Methodist Church in Ireland

"In many ways, 2007 has been a good year for inter-church relations in Ireland....we owe much to Christian leaders who patiently prepared the scene for dialogue in Northern Ireland which has transformed Northern Ireland from being a seed bed of intolerance and carnage into a workshop on reconciliation..... Ecumenical dialogue in recent years has changed society all over Ireland. In a period of just over fifty years we have moved from a situation of minimal contact and social politeness to one where there are many signs of cooperation, mutual respect and recognition..... Ecumenical dialogue cannot compromise regarding the truth. Its task is rather to allow the Spirit to guide us more fully into the truth, through reflection on the word of God, through prayer and through common witness to our real yet still imperfect unity. Ecumenism is not the activity of an elite or 'the purely learned', but of pastors and believers who become interested in ensuring fellowship, friendship and collaboration on a day to day level... Ecumenical dialogue must offer the possibility for committed practitioners and ordinary believers to renew repeatedly their commitment to working together. We work together to witness to the same Jesus Christ...The reality of our unity is linked in a special way to recognition of our common baptism....Dialogue between Christian confessions is always for mission

Most Reverend Diarmuid Martin, Archbishop of Dublin, Roman Catholic Church in Ireland

"Christian unity is not only about church structures; it is about people finding community across sectarian and cultural barriers. The church is uniquely such a community when people recognise in Christ their common humanity and find enrichment in diversity. So let us pray without ceasing that Christians can find ways of expressing that unity that will act as a model for inclusive community, North and South.

Reverend Alan Martin, Presbyterian Church in Ireland

"The ever present danger is that we pay lip service to Christian Unity for one week in January and then revert to our accustomed patterns for the remainder of the year. The command of Jesus to his disciples was that they should love one another. We cannot begin to obey that command until we make the effort to get to know one another at a level which is more than superficial...."

Reverend Donald Ker, Methodist Church in Ireland

Resources

Black UK Christian Directory 2008: the UK's leading publication for black faith is publishing their first annual directory with resources for the 4,000 black majority and black-led churches providing services for black and minority ethnic Christians in the UK. Cost £10. Contact: ph. 01284 760033, email admin@keepthefaith.co.uk

Religious knowledge surveys on this island

'Levels of religious knowledge in Northern Ireland are even lower than in the Republic of Ireland, according to a new opinion poll conducted by Millward Brown Ulster on behalf of the Iona Institute and Evangelical Alliance in NI and the Republic'. (Karen Jardine, page 5 of Church of Ireland Gazette, 11 January 2008)

Lent 2008 (February 10th - March 20th):

Join an innovative journey through Lent with BBC Radio 4, BBC local radio and the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI). The journey will offer participants 'insights into six different pathways to come to God, each offering a different perspective on approaching God through prayer...each exploring major tradition of Christian spirituality.' Explore the path of Holiness, the path of Social Justice, the Devotional path, the Sacramental path, the Contemplative path, and the Charismatic path. Those preaching on these themes include Commissioner Betty Matear (Salvation Army), Canon Bob Fyffe (General Secretary, CTBI) and the Church of Ireland Bishop Kenneth Clarke (on February 24). Each pathway will start with Sunday worship on BBC Radio 4 at 8.10 am for 40 minutes and be complemented by additional daily programmes (Monday to Thursday) on BBC Radio 4 Daily Service (198 Long Wave) from 9.45-10am, as well as by BBC local radio and downloadable resources (prayer guides, etc) for groups and individuals. Pathways of Prayer are intended to be accessible by anyone who is interested in spirituality and prayer, wherever they currently are on their journey with God. Further details can be found on the CTBI website: www.ctbi.org.uk

Ecumenical Congratulations to:

- **Cardinal Seán Brady** for his recent elevation to the College of Cardinals at the Vatican
- **Roger Childs** as newly appointed Editor of RTE's Religious Programmes (Radio and TV)
- **Rev David Cornick** as General Secretary of Churches Together in England. He will take over from Rev Bill Snelson in April.
- **Rev Harold Good OBE** for being presented with the 2007 World Methodist Peace Award 'for his lifetime commitment to peace, justice and reconciliation.'
- **Rev Fr Paul Symonds OBE** for his award in the New Year Honours for 'his leadership role in engaging with people across barriers of denomination and background' in Ballymena.

Ecumenical Diary

January 9th – 19th March in Belfast

A course of six alternate Wednesday evenings from 7.30pm to 9.30 pm for women on "Churches as Communities of Resistance" to be held at the Irish School of Ecumenics, 683 Antrim Road, Belfast BT15 4EG, ph +44 (0)28 90770061 or email: poolea@tcd.ie

January 11th in Belfast

Ryan Moore (Ballymoney) will present a slide show during his talk on '*Standing in Solidarity with the Middle East*' when he will share his experience of being an Irish Ecumenical Accompanier for 3 months last year in Yanoun village on the West Bank. From 12.30-2pm at the Inter-Church Centre, 48 Elmwood Avenue. Further details: Rob Fairmichael, ph 028.9066.3145

January 14th – 23rd in centres around N.Ireland

Celebration of Hope are organising Follow-up and Discipleship seminars at various locations in Ballymena, Bangor, Belfast, Carrickfergus and Enniskillen for ministers, pastors, congregational mobilisers and small group leaders. No cost and no registration. Further details www.celebrationofhope.co.uk or 028.9022.0862

January 18th - 19th in Dublin

A conference on immigration organised by the Church of Ireland's Hard Gospel will be held in the Emmaus Retreat centre, Swords (near Dublin Airport). Speakers addressing the conference theme '*A Pilgrim People*' will include Conor Lenihan TD (Minister for Integration), Archbishop Alan Harper, Archbishop John Neill, and a number of EU clergy serving in the Church of Ireland. The conference will include workshops and a visit to a local migrant ministry project. Cost £10/€15 for day visitors. Further details: www.hardgospel.net

January 22nd -23rd in Dublin

The trustees of the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland will be arriving from this island, Scotland, England and Wales for their first meeting of the year at the Emmaus Retreat Centre, Swords. This will be the Trustees' first visit to Ireland. Gillian Kingston, Hilton Henry and Bishop Richard Clarke are the Irish trustee observers appointed by ICC.

January 24th in Belfast

As part of the ISE's winter series of public lectures in Education for Reconciliation, Dr Johnston McMaster will be speaking on '*Commemoration for a New Future*' from 7.30-9.30pm at the ISE campus, 683 Antrim Road, Belfast. No fee but spaces limited. Further details: Arlene Poole, Irish School of Ecumenics 028.9077.0061

January 31st in Belfast

A public meeting about the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill will take place at 7.30pm in the Spires Conference Centre, Wellington Street. Lord David Alton, local politicians and church leaders will be amongst those speaking about their deep seated concerns about this bill. Further information: www.hfebill.org ph 01925.220999, email: gill@epihany.org.uk

January 31st in Co Galway

Dairthech/Oak House Inter-Church Fellowship are holding a time of prayer, Bible Study, sharing and ministry at 7.30pm in Ballygduggan, Loughrea, Co Galway. Further details: Claire Besnyoe 091.843.004

February 4th - March 1st in Ballynahinch, Ballymena, Belfast, Carrickfergus, Lurgan

Christian Life and Witness courses are being organised at no cost by Celebration of Hope. Further details www.celebrationofhope.co.uk, or ph 028.9022.0862

February 4th - April 21st in Belfast

Cruse Bereavement Care is offering church members and community groups an introduction to Grief and Bereavement Awareness in 9 sessions being held from 7-9pm at 18B Newforge Lane, Belfast. Cost £150. Contact details: Laura St John, ph. 02890 43.4600.

February 6th in Coleraine

The General Secretary (ICC) will be speaking at the Coleraine Borough Churches Forum at 11am. Details: www.cbchurchesforum.co.uk

February 6th (Ash Wednesday) at Lough Derg

An Ecumenical Day is being held on the island at Lough Derg at 11.30am. Speaker: Rev Dr Ruth Patterson (Restoration Ministries, Belfast). Enjoy the opportunity to have a walk around Ireland's most ancient place of pilgrimage before or after the service.' Boats depart from 10.30am. Light lunch served. Donation only.' Contact Monsignor Richard Mohan (Prior) to register. Details: www.loughderg.org ph 00353.71.9861518.

February 10th - March 20th

Please refer to Resources section (above) for details of a Lenten series being offered by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland in partnership with BBC Radio 4. Details: www.ctbi.org.uk

February 18th in Dublin

The Irish Commission for Justice and Social Affairs are organizing a conference at the Croke Park Conference Centre on the theme 'Who is my neighbour?' with a focus on Pope Benedict's Encyclical letter *Deus Caritas Est* (God is Love). Speakers include Professor Conor Gearty (LSE), Lucy Fallon-Byrne (national centre for Partnership and Performance) and Bishop Donal Murray (Limerick). Contact details: Sandra Garry 01.505.3102, sandra.garry@iecon.ie

February 28th - March 7th in the Middle East

Sabeel Spring Witness visit. Further details: world@sabeel.org

March 13th in Belfast

As part of the ISE's winter series of public lectures in Education for Reconciliation, Dr Geraldine Smith OP will be speaking on 'Healing Through Remembering' from 7.30-9.30pm at the ISE campus, 683 Antrim Road, Belfast. No fee but spaces limited. Further details: Arlene Poole, Irish School of Ecumenics 028.9077.0061

March 14th in Belfast

AGM of the Irish Ecumenical Church Loan Fund will be held at the Inter-Church centre, 48 Elmwood Avenue. Contact: Rob Fairmichael, ph 028.9066.3145

March 23rd - Easter Sunday (Western church tradition). BBC 1 is broadcasting a major drama series during Holy Week on the last days of Jesus. Andrew Graystone, Director of the Churches Media Council, is encouraging the Christian community to welcome the BBC's *Passion*, which is told from the point of view of Caiaphas, Pilate and the disciples. 'Obviously it's a work of drama not theology ... but it springs from the story of the gospels ... and will prompt believers and unbelievers to think about Jesus. It promises to be the most honest and challenging account of Jesus seen on TV in many years.' The Council is providing briefing notes and suggestions for churches on how to use the series which may be seen by 8 million viewers. Further details: ph.0845.6520027, www.churchesmediacouncil.org.uk

March 27th - 30th in Dublin

Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. Contact details: Alan Pim, Yearly Meeting Clerk, ph 051.396132

April 2nd in Bray, co Wicklow

The AGM of the Irish Council of Churches will be held in the Bray Methodist church from 10.30-4.30pm. Its theme will be 'Witnessing together in a changing Ireland.' Further details: Inter Church office 028.9066.3145

April 12th in Co Down

The annual Women's Link Fellowship Day will be held from 10-4pm at the Quaker Centre in Moyallen, 117 Stramore Road, Portadown, Co Down. Revd Canon Katharine Poulton will be speaking on the day's theme 'Who is my Neighbour?' Further details: Joyce Bond, ph.028.2586.1215, email jfa.bond@btinternet.com or through the Inter Church office in Belfast, 028.9066.3145, email irish.churches@btconnect.com

Articles for next edition

The next edition of *Irish Ecumenical News* will be published in the Spring 2008. Contributions that would interest local faith communities and the wider ecumenical movement on this island, and are no more than 150 words, are invited to be sent to the Inter-Church Centre **before March 20th**. (Please include local contact details.) Help to contribute ecumenical information that's useful and relevant to others on this island and which advances the Gospel mandate to be one.

Extend the links

When you have finished reading this newsletter, do pass it on to others to share in your community so we can strengthen our networking as an ecumenical movement. New readers are invited to send us their email address so we can include them in future mailings. Any comments about this edition, what's useful or otherwise, are welcomed.

Michael Earle, Editor

General Secretary, Irish Council of Churches
Executive Secretary, Irish Inter-Church Meeting
January 2008

(See front page for full contact details for the Inter-Church Centre office)