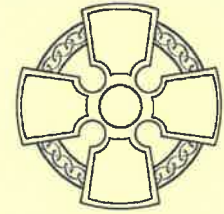




YR EGLWYS THE CHURCH
YNG NGHYMRU IN WALES



ARCHBISHOP OF WALES and BISHOP OF SWANSEA AND BRECON.
THE MOST REVEREND JOHN D E DAVIES
ARCHESGOB CYMRU ac ESGOB ABERTAWE AC ABERHONDDU.
Y PARCHEDICAF JOHN D E DAVIES

The Right Rev'd Dr. Paul Colton,
Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross,
Bishop's Palace,
Bishop Street,
Cork,
T12 WEY1,
Ireland.

Dear + Paul,

22nd November 2020 – Christ the King.

Even though some of the alleged incidents in their lives sometimes have about them the ring of either impossibility or improbability, the lives of some of the saints who people the history of our ancient churches have much to teach us. It's too easy to dismiss them simply because, in some cases, various events in those lives may, over the years, have become embellished to the point where belief is tested to breaking point. We should, more properly, remember that this frequently happened because of the sheer love and respect with which these individuals were viewed. They were men and women of tangible holiness, gifted with the wonderful ability to make the faith live in the hearts, souls and minds of others. They mirrored Christ and drew others to learn of him and to grow into his image.

Fin Barre was moulded in such a cast, becoming both teacher and bishop, and, as such, one to whom others were drawn to learn of and to come to know and love the Lord Jesus; and it is both right and good that he is honoured as the patron of your magnificent Cathedral Church. In common with the whole people of God, that building has seen many changes and chances down the generations since the first foundation on the present site, but its continuing presence in each and every one of its forms has spoken of, and still speaks of, the consistency and continuity of faithful witness to Christ and of a love for the Gospel.

On behalf of your sister, disestablished church here in Wales, and as a mark of our shared heritage and communion, I send my warmest greetings as you mark the 150th anniversary of the consecration of the present building. Your disestablishment and ours took place against a background of no small amount of political and social unrest but, throughout everything, we have done our utmost to remain hopeful and faithful - and long may it be so!

The essence of the celebration of any anniversary is that, while giving due and proper thanks for the witness and heritage of the past into which we have entered, we look forward to creating a living heritage into which future generations may, as we have done, enter both faithfully and positively. May this be so for you on this your day of celebration.

+ John Camboris

The Most Rev'd John Davies - Archbishop of Wales

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