



***Peace campaigner Máiread Maguire has criticised the use of violence in the Easter Rising.***

## **Nobel Peace laureate criticises the Easter Rising as "ethically and morally wrong"**

In a statement assessing the Rising, Ms Maguire, who won the 1976 Nobel Peace Prize with Betty Williams for founding the Peace People, said she

[churchnewsireland@gmail.com](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.com)

believed the 1916 leaders "had a democratic right to their dreams of Irish self-determination" but should not have used violence.

Irish News - The peace campaigner called on religious leaders to "theologically assess blood sacrifice in Irish history."

Ms Maguire said: "Whilst we can feel a deep sadness for the suffering the men of 1916 (and Irish people) endured at the cruelty and violent military/political occupation of their country by the British, and understand their wish for justice and Irish freedom, their blood sacrifice was not the way of love, which is the only power to transform the forces of domination and control.

"I believe it is important to say this very clearly and affirm that religious leaders need to theologically assess blood sacrifice in Irish history."

She added: "Tragically, we Irish are trapped on a wheel of violence, as is indeed the human family."

Arguing against hardline nationalist positions, Ms Maguire said that if "elevated above human life...we are in danger of losing sight of the sanctity and dignity of human life and each other."

"Patrick Pearse, I believe, regarded his cause of Irish freedom as a holy cause, and put it above the life of both himself and others....(continuing) to feed the myth of redemptive violence in Irish history," she said.

"Therefore, I believe violence is always wrong and there are always nonviolent alternatives to bring about justice and build peace.

## **Over 300 'Street Pastors' take to the streets on weekend nights in Ireland**

Over 300 'Street Pastors' take to the streets on weekend nights in Ireland to "care, listen and help" people who are out and about, coming from pubs, restaurants and night clubs.

The volunteers come from many churches and see their work as "the Church in action" in Belfast, Ards, North Down and Cork.

On 2 May, two Street Pastors information meetings will be held in Dublin (10am at The Exchange, 50 Gardiner Street and 7.30pm at the Dublin Central Mission, 9c Lower Abbey Street), with a view to beginning the service in Dublin.



In Belfast, Street Pastors gather every Friday and Saturday evenings at 10:45pm to pray and prepare their equipment (flip flops, first aid kits, water, gloves for picking up bottles).

After a cup of tea, they head out into the streets in teams of 3 or 4 and spend the night picking up bottles and broken glass, giving out flip flops, calming anti-social behaviour and staying with vulnerable people until they have a safe way home.

In the Republic, the Street Pastors have been operating in Cork since July 2012 with between 20 and 25 volunteers.

A group of three to five people patrols the centre of Cork on Saturday nights and special occasions like St Patrick's night, Leaving Cert results night and Rag week, staying in touch with



a base team who offer advice and “take up things in prayer”, coordinator David Hoey from Cork’s Street Pastors told CatholicIreland.net.

“Every Saturday night there are incidents. We ring the team. They go and pray and it usually happens straightaway that we get a resolution of the situation.”

The team of volunteers includes Quakers, members of the Independent Churches, Presbyterians, Methodists and Catholics.

Their thirty hours of training covers safety awareness, non confrontational intervention, drug and suicide awareness, First Aid and a

session with the Gardaí on the protocols of working in the same space as the police.

When the Pastors were starting in Cork, according to Mr Hoey, the Gardaí were a bit uncertain about having a group of “uniformed do-gooders” on the city streets, but they assuaged their concerns.

“They nominated us for a Community Award last year and we won it,” said Mr Hoey.

The volunteers pick up thousands of bottles and have given out 2,000 pairs of flip flops since July 2012, but Mr Hoey insists that it about people not bottles.

“If we only deal with one person and stay with him till 4.30am, that is fine. We want to bring Jesus’ attitude to the city.”

Having said that, picking up the bottles is important. “People come out of night clubs and cut their feet on broken glass. Also the bottles can be used as weapons.”

While the Pastors in Cork have no statistics to prove it, Mr Hoey believes they have contributed to making the streets a little safer. “We are bringing respect where it might not have been previously.”

Drink is at the root of the vast majority of incidents, he says. “We are not anti-drink but we do think there is an issue that needs to be addressed and that encompasses the entertainment and hospitality industries, people like ourselves, the Samaritans and others on the street who are helping out.”

He would like to see the stakeholders getting together without any preconditions.

“To ask [questions like] ‘What is happening? Exactly how do you monitor people inside your hotels, bars and nightclubs when they drink too much? If you put them out on the street, do you make sure that they are alright?’”

Mr Hoey said that some bars call the Street Pastors, explaining they have someone ‘in a bad state’ and ask for their help. “I’d like to see more of that, that these groups link up a little better.”

Stories from Belfast Street Pastors annual report vividly illustrate their work: “‘M’ was hunched in a doorway. His dad had been diagnosed with cancer the previous day. His mates didn’t care. He later said, ‘I can’t believe you even noticed me here’.”

“We found a young girl very drunk with a man twice her age trying to pick her up. We helped

her away and after police intervention got her to safety.”

Street Pastors was started in Brixton, London in 2003 and there are now over 250 schemes and over 9,000 volunteers in the UK and other countries.

## **Calls for Dáil prayer to be scrapped**

There are calls to scrap the prayer currently recited by the Ceann Comhairle at the start of every Dáil sitting.

It comes amid efforts at introducing and agreeing Dáil reform ahead of the formation of a new government.

The Anti Austerity Alliance / People Before Profit TD Paul Murphy and Green Party leader Eamon Ryan are among those calling for the prayer to be scrapped.

It has been suggested that [the prayer](#) could be replaced by a minute's silence.

Katherine Zappone told *The Irish Times* that the Seanad has already introduced a minute's silence alongside the prayer.



Speaking to *Newstalk Breakfast*, Deputy Murphy said that while this was last item on their list for the Dáil reform agenda, "we do think it's an important issue to be discussed. In some ways it's symbolic of items that are very important - which is that we don't have a separation of church and state in this country".

Deputy Murphy suggested that "we should have a secular society... with everybody free to practice whatever religion they want, without the state promoting or endorsing any one particular religion".

He acknowledged that the upcoming census will likely reveal a majority of the population identify as Christians. However, he said, "a democracy is not a dictatorship of the majority.

"We are about tolerance. I think tolerance would mean we don't have an explicitly religious moment of reflection at the start of the day," he added.

## **New C of I Chief Officer begins work**

The new Chief Officer Designate of the Representative Church Body, David Ritchie, has begun work in Church of Ireland House, Dublin,

where he will succeed Adrian Clements as Secretary General and Chief Officer following Mr Clements' retirement in June.

Mr David Ritchie is a civil engineering graduate of Trinity College Dublin and a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants. He holds a Masters in Business Administration from University College Dublin and served as Executive Director of De Lage Landen Ireland (DLL Ireland) where he was responsible for developing new markets and finance product development.

He has a keen interest in overseas development and is a non-executive Director of Concern Worldwide. He previously worked as an engineer for Concern in Cambodia and Rwanda, where he helped to manage the construction of refugee reception centres. Mr Ritchie has a qualification in applied theology and is an active member of St Catherine's church, Dublin, where he assists as a Sunday School teacher.

## **Renowned musician to play in Armagh cathedral**

An internationally renowned organist is set to play in Armagh Cathedral next month.

Philip Scriven, who is widely regarded as one of the finest organists of his generation, will travel to Armagh to perform with the Armagh City Choir on Friday, May 6.



Philip will accompany the choir as they perform Duruflé Requiem in St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral.

Highly respected as a choral, orchestral and operatic conductor, Philip is currently the organist in residence at Cranleigh School in England and assistant conductor and accompanist of the world-renowned Bach Choir.

Combining these posts with a freelance recital career has taken the musical master right across the globe. As an organist, Philip has held positions in Westminster Abbey and St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle.

Next month's concert is set to be a wonderful evening of musical masterpieces, including several pieces by Mendelssohn and the young Northern Irish baritone, Brian McAlea, as the soloist. Tickets are available from the Armagh Visitor Information Centre or at the Cathedral on the night.

## **YWCA Peace and Justice Training**

The YWCA is running a training course for young women on peace and justice between 12th and 15th June 2016 in Newcastle Co. Down. As part of the training, young women aged 30 and under from Ireland, the UK, Palestine and Denmark will come together to discuss their experiences of peace and justice and to learn skills and to develop their expertise in order to become effective peacemakers in their communities, countries and internationally. This training is fully funded by the World YWCA Power to Change Fund, however, places are limited.

The full details of the training are here: <http://ywca.ie/applications-open-ywca-peace-justice-training/>.

The closing date for applications is 22 April 2016.

## **Reprint of User's Guide to the Book of Common Prayer now available**

A reprint of *The Desire of our Soul – A User's Guide to the Book of Common Prayer* by Bishop Harold Miller has just been released and is available to purchase from The Book Well online Christian bookshop.

The book is a companion to the Church of Ireland 2004 *Book of Common Prayer*. In this guide, Bishop Miller leads the reader through the different services in the Prayer Book, especially the ones newly introduced in 2004. He enables the reader to understand something of the meaning of the liturgies, the reason why they are as they are, and the way in which they can provide the people of God with words which can deepen both public and personal devotion.



The publication also includes a series of charts laying out the structure of many of the services, and a set of questions at the end of each chapter which may be used for group discussion or personal reflection. As was said by the publishers at the time of the first print-run, 'When both spirituality and understanding come together, rooted in the Bible, then the worship of the people of God will be attractive and

compelling. This book may be one of the helps on the way to that goal.'

This reprint of *The Desire of Our Soul* is an initiative of The Book Well in conjunction with the Church of Ireland Literature Committee and the General Synod Royalties Fund.

The book will appeal to general readers, churchgoers and students alike. The book costs £14.99 stg and is available online [here](#) or you can contact The Book Well by emailing [info@thebookwell.co.uk](mailto:info@thebookwell.co.uk) or telephoning +44 (0)75 811 43596 or calling at 73 Belmont Road, Belfast BT4 2AA.

## **Seminars on church building maintenance**

The Dioceses of Down & Dromore and Connor are hosting a half-day seminar for clergy and/or those in parishes with responsibility for the maintenance of church buildings.

The aim is to promote understanding of the statutory and Church of Ireland procedures for managing and approving alterations and repairs. The seminar will look at maintenance issues and



typical defects noted during the last round of Quinquennial Inspection, and consider some of the remedies.

The speakers will include the Diocesan Surveyor as well as architectural heritage specialists from the NIEA and the Ulster Historic Churches Trust.

The seminar is free and will be held once in Down & Dromore and once in Connor.

The dates and venues are:

- Wednesday 13 April in Antrim Parish Centre, registration at 9.30 am



- Thursday 14 April in Moira Parish Centre, registration at 9.30 am

## **News links to reports on faith, politics and education**

### **Enniskillen school head lashes out at 'Taliban' and 'sectarian' allegations from outgoing principal**

Belfast Telegraph

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/school-head-lashes-out-at-taliban-and-sectarian-allegations-from-outgoing-principal-34612074.html>

### **'Curriculum overload' fears threaten religion class plans**

Irish Times

“One thing which has come out of the consultation is a view that what's needed is something that is compatible with the **Irish** education system and ...

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/education/curriculum-overload-fears-threaten-religion-class-plans-1.2601046>

### **A former priest-training college could be home to a new Educate Together school**

The Journal.ie

<http://www.thejournal.ie/all-hallows-school-2706127-Apr2016/>

## **Welby speaks of redemption after revelations about his true father**

Church Times

<https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2016/8-april/news/uk/welby-speaks-of-redemption-after-revelations-about-his-true-father>

## **Outpouring of respect for Archbishop Justin Welby after DNA paternity 'surprise'**

Daily Telegraph

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/04/09/outpouring-of-respect-for-archbishop-justin-welby-after-dna-pate/>

## **The truth ruined my father's life, so I admire how Welby has embraced it**

Daily Telegraph

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/opinion/2016/04/10/the-truth-ruined-my-fathers-life-so-i-admire-how-welby-has-embra/>

## **Mail/S Tel/S Exp/S Times/Mirror**

Range of reports on how bishops and other faith leaders have praised the Archbishop of Canterbury for how he responded to the news that his father was not Gavin Welby, as he had always believed. Justin Welby said in a personal statement yesterday it was "a complete surprise" to find through DNA evidence that his father is the late Sir Anthony Montague Browne but stressed his mother has been a wonderful part of his life and continues to be so, praising her determination for overcoming alcohol addiction. He also speaks about his identity in Jesus Christ.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-3532164/Archbishop-Canterbury-hailed-response-DNA-test-shock.html#ixzz45PLyd9gA>  
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/04/09/outpouring-of-respect-for-archbishop-justin-welby-after-dna-pate/>  
<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/659637/Bishops-rally-Justin-Welby-Archbishop-of-Canterbury>  
[http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk\\_news/Society/article1686438.ece](http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk_news/Society/article1686438.ece)  
<http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/focus/article1686290.ece>  
<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/archbishop-canterbury-only-concerned-mum-7725377#ICID=nsm>

## **Comment on the above**

### **Tel**

Justin Welby's personal story of courage is better than a thousand sermons

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/opinion/2016/04/08/justin-welbys-personal-story-of-courage-is-better-than-a-thousan/>

### **Times**

Welby's moral authority will remain intact

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4730369.ece>

### **Mail on Sun**

Jonathan Aitken describes the response as an inspirational example of personal and spiritual strength

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3531935/Response-Welby-mother-inspirational-example-personal-spiritual-strength-says-JONATHAN-AITKEN.html>

## **S Times**

The father, the son and the man from the FO

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/the-father-the-son-and-the-man-from-the-fo-9qfrlxtzd>

God, stand up for bastards and vice versa

<http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/comment/leaders/article1686218.ece>

## **Ind**

What the revelation about Justin Welby's paternity tells us about the Church of England

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/justin-welby-paternity-might-tell-us-about-the-church-of-england-a6976731.html>

## **S Mirror**

Report that China is tearing down thousands of crucifixes from its buildings in what the paper describes as a crackdown on the country's growing Christian minority.

Officials in the coastal province of Zhejiang say the crosses are being forcefully removed because they violate regulations against 'illegal structure.

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/china-tears-down-crucifixes-buildings-7724425#ICID=nsm>

## **Mail on Sun**

Report that former Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Carey has warned Jeremy Corbyn he will be unfit to govern unless he eradicates anti-Semitism from the Labour Party. The comments were made when he was speaking at a synagogue in New York.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3531855/You-not-fit-govern-don-t-end-shocking-attacks-Lord-Carey-warns->

[Corbyn-never-PM-unless-eradicates-anti-Semitism-dark-corners-Labour-Party.html#ixzz45PRsCMNt](#)

### **Ind/Guard**

Further coverage of a pastoral letter issued by the bishops of the Church in Wales which apologises "unreservedly" to gay couples for discrimination they may have faced within the Christian community. Introducing the letter, the Archbishop of Wales says, "We are not ready, as a church, to take the step of authorising same-sex marriage, the debate is not over."

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/welsh-anglican-church-apologises-to-lgbt-people-but-still-wont-let-them-marry-a6973241.html>

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/apr/07/welsh-anglican-church-apologises-gay-lesbian>

### **BBC/Premier**

Reports that Christian NHS worker, Victoria Wasteney, yesterday lost her appeal against a ruling which suspended her for giving a Christian book to a Muslim colleague, praying with her and asking her to church . She was found guilty by her employer, the East London NHS Foundation Trust, in 2014 of "harassing and bullying" the colleague. She was suspended for nine months and given a written warning. Ms Wasteney challenged the decision at an employment tribunal last year, but it ruled that her employer had not discriminated against her.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-35988115>

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Christian-who-gave-prayer-book-to-Muslim-loses-tribunal-appeal>

### **Mail**

Further coverage of the decision by Chancellor of the Diocese of Bristol who refused a request from parents to have an engraving of Thomas the Tank Engine on their three-year-old son's gravestone. Justin Gau, declined a request by the parents of Max Gainard, who died last February after developing a rare complications when he caught mumps. In his judgment, the Chancellor said churchyards were consecrated ground and memorials had to be consistent with that status.

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3527783/Church-England-tells-parents-three-year-old-son-died-complications-mumps-t-five-inch-picture-Thomas-Tank-Engine-gravestone-s-not-appropriate.html?ITO=1490&ns\\_mchannel=rss&ns\\_campaign=1490](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3527783/Church-England-tells-parents-three-year-old-son-died-complications-mumps-t-five-inch-picture-Thomas-Tank-Engine-gravestone-s-not-appropriate.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

### **Christian Today**

Report that repairs to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem are starting. The renovation will cost \$3.4 million and will see the shrine at the centre of the church, which dates back to 1810, completely rebuilt. The Greek Orthodox, Armenian Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches will each pay a third of the cost.

### **Economist**

Article reflecting on China's relationship with Christianity and examines signs of rapprochement with the Vatican.

<http://www.economist.com/news/china/21696511-two-articles-examine-chinas-often-troubled-relationship-christianity-first-looks-signs>

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