



Rabbi Kris McDaniel-Miccio, Prof. Linda Hogan, Dr Richard O'Leary, Bishop Michael Burrows, Canon Ginnie Kennerley

Church of Ireland Bishop and Rabbi support 'yes' vote in upcoming same-sex marriage referendum

'The rights of gay people have become, very properly, the great justice issue of our time just as the abolition of slavery and the emancipation of women were in the past': Church of Ireland Bishop Michael Burrows.

Church of Ireland bishop of Cashel, Ferns & Ossory Michael Burrows reiterated his support for a yes vote in the upcoming referendum on May 22.

He was speaking at the Marriage Equality: The Religious Case for a Yes Vote on Saturday which was hosted by Faith in Marriage Equality at the School of Ecumenics, Trinity College Dublin, The [Irish Times](#) reported.

Referring to gay rights as 'the great justice issue of our time', he said, 'I have long believed that the churches should take the trajectory of human rights law very seriously – all too often we have allowed ourselves to be left behind defending the essentially indefensible.'

'The call for same sex marriage is a logical and timely development in the march of law reform and equality.

'I am convinced that it will be a contribution to a fairer and more truly equal Ireland, and I cannot

see any way in which it could be considered repugnant to the common good, or indeed to the vital role of the family.

'I have come to believe that the rights of gay people have become, very properly, the great justice issue of our time just as the abolition of slavery and the emancipation of women were in the past. I could not vote against this proposal because of my utter abomination of homophobia.

'I have come to feel that homophobia must be fought in our society as an evil.'

In 2012 he along with Bishop of Cork, Dr Paul Colton, [voted](#) against a Church of Ireland synod motion which confirmed its position rejecting same-sex marriage. However, the motion was still passed.

Trinity College vice-provost Prof Linda Hogan said at the same event that there were no theological impediments to gay people marrying.

'Theologically speaking, there are no impediments to gay and lesbian people marrying in a civil ceremony,' the Times quoted her as saying.

'People of faith can exercise their freedom of conscience to vote yes to lesbian and gay people marrying in a civil ceremony.

'This debate is being framed as religious people being no voters with everyone else voting yes. This couldn't be further from the truth. People of all faiths support sharing the freedom to marry with gay and lesbian couples.

'The Christian tradition affirms the fundamental equality and dignity of all people, whether we are heterosexual or gay. Faith leaders should not marginalise or exclude people who are gay rather they should promote equality and inclusion.'

Sociologist Dr Richard O'Leary told the conference there was a danger of a "smaller, more anti-gay" church emerging from the public debate in relation to the referendum.

"I predict there will be a price to be paid by the Catholic Church after this referendum," he said. "Because of the negative stance taken by the bishops, the church as an institution could emerge as a smaller, more anti-gay, more conservative denomination. Some of the bishops might be satisfied with that outcome, but many

people might feel that it would be a regrettable and avoidable outcome.”

Rev Canon Dr Ginnie Kennerley said the stance adopted by religious institutions may be related to “conflicts between factuality and scripture”.

“There has always been disagreement on what is and is not permitted by the bible,” she said.

“There have been conflicts between factuality and Scripture as we have understood it down the centuries – over the flat earth, over slavery, over evolution, over apartheid, over the position of women.”

Reference -

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/catholic-church-will-pay-price-for-stance-on-gay-marriage-1.2172982>

<http://sluggerotoole.com/2015/04/12/the-religious-case-for-marriage-equality-conference-at-tcd/>

Christ Church to mark Magna Carta's 800th

This year marks the 800th anniversary of the signing of Magna Carta or ‘Great Charter’, one of the most important documents in history.

The charter established the principle that everyone, even the king, is subject to the law

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and guaranteeing all subjects the right to a free trial.

As part of the worldwide Magna Carta 800th celebrations, Christ Church Cathedral in Dublin has announced that the cathedral will be putting its own Magna Carta on display.

A rare 14th century copy of Magna Carta, contained within the cathedral's *Liber Niger* or 'Black Book', which is an eclectic mix of literary, theological, administrative and annalistic material created by the Canons of Christ Church, will form the centrepiece of the interactive family-friendly exhibition in the crypt.

The exhibition is exclusive to Christ Church Cathedral.





MAGNA CARTA

AT CHRIST CHURCH

"To no one will we sell, to no one deny or delay right or justice"

A brand new exhibition
COMING SOON...

WWW.CHRISTCHURCHCATHEDRAL.IE

The display will explain the significance of Magna Carta from 1215 to the present day, the

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importance of Christ Church's special copy and how Magna Carta was, and still is, relevant in Ireland.

The effects of this inspiring document are still felt today, whose foundation principles are clearly seen in the 1791 American Bill of Rights and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, penned after the Second World War.

Clause 40 of Magna Carta states, *'To no one will we sell, to no one deny or delay right or justice'*.

The exhibition will explain why Magna Carta was necessary, how Dublin came to be associated with the charter, and the surprising link between Magna Carta and one of Irish history's most famous couples, Strongbow and Aoife.

Alongside this exhibition, the cathedral will be organising a series of public events on the theme of human rights with high profile speakers, historical lunchtime lectures, free workshops for schools, calligraphy classes and much more.

Christ Church Cathedral has received funding from the Magna Carta Trust to assist in the creation of this exhibition.

The Magna Carta Trust's 800th Anniversary Committee is charged by the Magna Carta Trust

to co-ordinate activities, raise the profile of the anniversary and deliver a number of key national and international aspirations. For more information, visit www.magnacarta800th.com.

For more information email magnacarta@christchurch.ie

Middle ground Anglicanism in an age of extremism

Richard Giles will be delivering the annual Dublin & Glendalough Theology Circle Lecture after the 6pm Evensong at Christ Church cathedral, Dublin, on Thursday evening. The title of this lecture is 'Holding the Middle Ground: Following the Anglican Way in an Era of Extremism' and all are welcome for Evensong, light refreshments and the lecture. He will give another presentation, entitled 'Smiling when the Shoe Pinches: Celebrating Transformational Worship in Unhelpful Buildings' on Monday 20 April at 10.30am in St Lasarian's cathedral, Old Leighlin.

Richard Giles was canon theologian for the Diocese of Wakefield, working with parishes to rethink and redesign their buildings as part of mission strategy. His particular expertise in the design of liturgical space bore fruit in the

publication of *Re-Pitching the Tent*, now in its third edition, *Creating Uncommon Worship* (2004) and *Times and Seasons* (2008). From 1999 to 2008 he was Dean of Philadelphia Cathedral in the Diocese of Pennsylvania, USA, where he oversaw the radical renovation of the cathedral to become a place of transformative worship. In 2008 he became a Visiting Fellow of St John's College, Durham. He now lives in Tynemouth, and continues to work as a facilitator of transformative worship and a consultant in liturgical design.

Irish archbishop in Milwaukee for Lutheran consecration

In Mount Zion Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, on Friday the Most Rev Dr Michael Jackson, Archbishop of Dublin, will represent the Porvoo Communion at the consecration of Lauma Zusevics as the next Archbishop of the Latvian Evangelistic Lutheran Church Abroad, Richard Giles, *Re-Pitching the Tent*,

Relaunch of Dublin branch of ecumenical BVM society

The Dublin branch of the [Ecumenical Society of the Blessed Virgin Mary](#) hosted a talk in the National Gallery of Ireland on Saturday last. The talk, by Fr Martin Browne OSB, from Glenstal Abbey, was on the icon, 'Mary Hodegetria' an early 14th century work from the Constantinople school which was acquired by the National Gallery in 1858. The talk also covered the history of icons. The chair of the re-launched Dublin branch is Dr Mary Frances McKenna (dublin@esbvm.org.uk).

Bishop Visits Bogside Murals

The Bishop of Derry and Raphoe has paid tribute to the work of the Bogside Artists, whose renowned murals, depicting scenes from the conflict here, have attracted thousands of visitors.

Bishop Ken Good viewed The People's Gallery – as the murals are officially known – during a one day event called 'Art, Faith and Peace – The Bogside Artists: the Story Behind the Murals'. It was organised jointly by the Garden of Reflection, the Irish Churches Peace Project and Contemporary Christianity. The organisers said the event offered an opportunity to learn about the story of faith and hope that lay behind "the

city's well known – but often little understood – Bogside murals”.

The event included an hour-long guided walking tour of the People's Gallery, led by one of the three men who painted the murals, Tom Kelly.

Tom – who leads the Wellspring Christian Community in the Bogside – recounted his personal journey of faith, which led him to become a committed Christian. He also took part in an 'In Conversation' event with the Cambridge-based philosopher of art, Dr Adrienne Chaplin, in which he discussed the role of faith in his work, and the potential of art and storytelling to promote healing and peace.

The event concluded with a talk by Dr Chaplin called 'Art, Faith and Truth', which explored how the murals – and other art through the ages – could “disclose truth beyond words”.

Bishop Good said his tour of the murals “gave a fresh insight into a distinctive gallery of art, unique to this city, which is recognised internationally but maybe less so locally”.

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Sanctity of life is top issue facing voters, say Scottish catholic bishops

The sanctity of human life is the “fundamental issue” facing voters at the general election, according to voting guidance released by the Scottish bishops’ conference.

The guidance, which was read out at 500 Catholic churches in Scotland last weekend, describes abortion and euthanasia laws as “unjust”, adding: “The dignity and value of every human being should be at the heart of politics. The sanctity of human life, protected from its beginning to its natural end, is not a single issue.

It is the fundamental issue. It demands that we proclaim the Gospel of Life in all places and at all times, for if human life is not sacrosanct then no other human right makes any sense at all.

“Laws which permit abortion, euthanasia and assisted suicide are profoundly unjust. We do not want to accept the continued existence in our society of such fundamental violations of human rights and we commit ourselves to work peacefully and tirelessly to oppose and to change them.”

The bishops’ document also expressed sadness about the number of politicians who claim to be Catholic but do not speak out on “grave ethical” injustices. It reads: “Our politicians enter public service with good hearts and give of their best to build up our lives and our country. Sadly, however, on serious issues, some politicians who profess a Catholic faith remain silent – or even surrender – in the face of grave ethical injustice. As Catholics, we can never separate how we act from what we believe without undermining what we believe and damaging who we are.”

It continues: “The time has come for a new generation of Catholics to join political parties and to dedicate ourselves to political service in a

way that remains faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, laying the foundations for a new civilisation of Love that serves the common good of all, especially the most vulnerable in our society.”

On the subject of “peace”, the voting guidance also states that nuclear weapons “continue to represent a grave threat to the human family” and “Pope Francis reminds us that peace is better fostered by greater equality – not least by fairness towards the poor, refugees and migrants – rather than by increased spending on arms.”

Pope encourages religious to be witnesses

Pope Francis met with an international group of formators of religious life on Saturday at the Vatican, encouraging them to be witnesses of the beauty of consecrated life.

The group of about 1,300 was in Rome to participate at the five-day conference in Rome, which had as its theme “Living in Christ according to the way of Life of the Gospel.” The conference was organized by the Congregation for Consecrated life and Societies of Apostolic Life and is meant to coincide with the Year for

Consecrated Life, which Pope Francis proclaimed last November.

In his prepared remarks, the Pope urged these religious to “transmit the beauty of consecration with their own witness.” He said the witness of a novice master begins with “a strong friendship with the only Master” — Christ.

He reminded them of the privilege of working as a formator, calling it a participation “in the work of the Father, who forms the heart of the Son in those whom the Spirit has called.”

The Pope urged them to be attentive to every aspect of formation, including vocational discernment so that “the crisis of quantity” in vocations might not become “a crisis of quality.”


The Pope cautioned them not to get discouraged by failures, for even failures can help the formator to grow. Though they may feel unappreciated at time, the Pope reminded them that the Lord follows them with love and the entire Church is grateful for their work.

How to Use Voice for Life - a new guide to the RSCMs successful singing programme

The Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) has just published *How to Use Voice for Life*, the latest volume in its widely acclaimed *Voice for Life* series.

Voice for Life is a comprehensive vocal training scheme designed for choir directors and trainers, and for the choirs and singers they work with – whether in schools, churches or other establishments. Used all over the world, it provides a robust yet flexible framework to encourage and enable good singing and all-round musicianship skills. At the heart of the scheme are five graded workbooks for singers, which are supported by a wide range of additional resources and repertoire.

How to Use Voice for Life is written specifically for those who are using *Voice for Life* to train singers. It guides readers systematically through all aspects of the scheme, enabling them to deliver it efficiently and effectively. Easy to read and simple to navigate, it addresses such issues as:

 How to establish and run a *Voice for Life* scheme

☒ How to motivate, train and assess singers

☒ How to use the workbooks and other resources to maximum effect

☒ How to understand and share technical, theoretical and musical knowledge

☒ How to create and maintain a choral community

Packed with information and practical, usable advice for choir trainers and directors, *How to Use Voice for Life* is an essential resource for any *Voice for Life* practitioner.

Singers in the *Voice for Life* scheme move through five different levels, represented by different colours (white, light blue, dark blue, red, yellow). These are punctuated by optional graded exams (bronze, silver and gold) in the RSCM's Awards Scheme. In each "colour level" there are five different modules. The first three are concerned with singing technique, music theory and musicianship, and repertoire. Two further modules focus on what it means to be a responsible choir member, and, more broadly, the role of the choir in the community it serves.

Voice for Life is the modern version of the RSCM's Chorister Training Scheme which was launched in the 1960s. "*Voice for Life* is an all-age scheme," says Andrew Reid, the RSCM's Director. "It develops individuals within a choral group."

Like all the other publications in the *Voice for Life* series, *How to Use Voice for Life* is available to order online through the RSCM's own outlet www.rscmshop.com.

How to Use Voice for Life

RSCM Catalogue number: F0121. RSCM order number: GOO38. ISBN: 978 0 85402 217 5. Price £25.00 (discounts available for RSCM affiliated members and individual members)

Media digest

Belfast Telegraph

Easter Rising commemoration should be multi-cultural : If you want to see the ruins of ethnic cleansing, come to Dublin.

After an initial ill-preparedness, the Irish government has unveiled an exciting and imaginative programme for the upcoming 1916

centenary. Ironically, much of the credit for this turnaround should go to the Cavan-born culture minister, Heather Humphreys, an Ulster Presbyterian, from the border area, who took hold of the 1916 centenary and refused to let it be taken over by flag-waving tribalists and paramilitaries...

...This is doubly ironic and disturbing, given that the "missing guest" in all of these 1916 celebrations so far is our long-vanished Protestant minority.

We've had lots of talk of inviting the British royals and of restoring respect for those who fought in the First World War in 1916. But this is mainly about those Catholic, Home Rule-supporting soldiers who enlisted.

We haven't heard much about the Irish unionists who opposed Home Rule and enlisted and whose surviving brethren then had to work within the new Free State, many of them very loyally and successfully.

They are not just missing from the conversation. They are also physically missing. As I walked home from O'Connell Street, I passed the many empty churches and halls of the now departed Irish Protestants, such as the so-called 'Black

Church' on Mountjoy Street (the nickname says it all) and the old Methodist graveyard overgrown with weeds, and the lovely Presbyterian church in Phibsboro, adorned with the stone heads of Latimer, Tyndale and Hus - and now a solicitors' office. If you want to see the ruins of ethnic cleansing, come to Dublin.

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/debateni/blogs/easter-rising-commemoration-should-be-multicultural-31133405.html>

Is too much emphasis put on Church leaders' importance?

Alf McCreary's column - In the past, [it](#) was unthinkable that the Pope should retire, but Pope Benedict broke the mold when he shocked people by retiring over three years ago, because he was too frail to carry on.

The modern precedent has been set and Pope Francis may, decide soon that he has done all he can in the past three years to try to liberalise the Catholic Church.

All of this raises the important question about how the main churches elect their leaders and about how long they should stay in office - in the best interests of all concerned.

The Anglican Church has set its own precedent quite recently, when Archbishop Rowan Williams retired at a relatively young age to concentrate on Biblical scholarship amid the cloisters.

Archbishop Welby is young and vigorous and is unlikely to retire any time soon, but high office at that level - whether in the Church, or [politics](#), or commercial life - makes huge demands on a person's stamina.

... All of which begs the further question: do we actually need Church leaders and, if so, what should they do? Recently, I asked several [current](#) affairs people, whom I thought would know the identity of our Church leaders, and hardly anyone could name even one. How many could you name - without using Google? Now that is something to think about.

www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/opinion/columnists/alf-mccreary/is-too-much-emphasis-put-on-church-leaders-importance-31133278.html

Irish Mirror

Bono's pain as his father's final words are revealed

“Here in the 1960s was a Catholic, who drove his Protestant wife and two kids to a little

Church of Ireland chapel in Finglas every Sunday, attended ...

<http://www.irishmirror.ie/whats-on/music-nightlife-news/bonos-pain-fathers-final-words-5498689>

Irish Times

Our wedding story: ‘Despite the nerves, I think we knew there were wedding bells on the horizon’

One day in February 2014, he passed St Catherine's Church (Church of Ireland) on Thomas Street and signed up to join a group travelling to Kolkata ...

<http://www.irishtimes.com/life-and-style/our-wedding-story-despite-the-nerves-i-think-we-knew-there-were-wedding-bells-on-the-horizon-1.2170241>

Irish Independent

We should support the Pope's crusade against Islamism

Ruth Dudley Edwards - People of all religions and non-believers must unite to protect persecuted Christians

Islamism is not reactive: it's aggressive. It's an ideology that threatens all of us, of all religions

and none. And if the Western world doesn't face up to that, we'll have a lot more to worry about than cake.

Which is why I was delighted to see the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Pope, Ayaan Hirsi Ali and Shaykh Umar Al-Qadri of Blanchardstown addressing the issue of the persecution of Christians.

In case — what with water charges and all — you haven't noticed, Islamists are on the rampage in many parts of the world and Christians are being murdered or driven out of the Middle East. Isil, like Boko Haram, Al-Shabaab, Al-Qaeda and all the other murderous Islamist nutters, have one aim: they want to impose the rule of Allah on us all by whatever means they choose. And we say little about it because we're afraid of being beheaded or of hurting Muslims' feelings.

<http://www.independent.ie/opinion/columnists/ruth-dudley-edwards/we-should-support-the-popes-crusade-against-islamism-31135605.html>

Republicans accused of covering up deaths of IRA 'child soldiers'

Republicans have been accused of trying to cover up the deaths of IRA child soldiers - some

19 children between the ages of 12 and 16 - during the Troubles.

Recruiting and using child soldiers is defined as a war crime and against the Geneva Convention, as is the forced disappearance of victims in conflict. Anyone responsible for recruiting, training and using child soldiers in armed conflict can be tried before the International War Crimes Court in the Hague.

The youngest recorded member of the junior IRA to die in the Troubles is thought to be 12-year-old Cathleen McCartland. She was killed in what was described as a "roof-top" accident in west Belfast in August 1973. She was claimed at the time as a member of the female junior IRA wing, Cumann na gCaillini, but her name has been removed from republican memorials.

Another girl soldier, Eileen Mackin (14) from west Belfast, was killed by the accidental discharge of weapon during an arms training session in Ballymurphy in May 1973. Her name too appears to have been expunged from official republican records.

The majority of those 'junior' members of the Fianna na hEireann and Cumann na gCaillini killed in the Troubles died by accidental

discharges of weapons or bombs, some during what were described as training sessions.

Six were shot dead by the British Army during gun battles in Belfast and Derry. The youngest boy to die, Sean O'Riordan (14) from the Lower Falls area, was killed during an attack on soldiers. Locals said he had been active in the IRA and used as a sniper and for transporting guns for up to a year at the time. Two others were shot during clashes with loyalists.

A further 23 17-year-olds in the IRA were also killed throughout the Troubles.

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/politics/republicans-accused-of-covering-up-deaths-of-ira-child-soldiers-31135408.html>

Belfast Newsletter

Mrs Thatcher 'was a Christian'

Margaret Thatcher had a serious Christian faith, her biographer has said.

Charles Moore was writing in the Spectator magazine, in a review of the book 'God & Mrs Thatcher' by Eliza Filby,

Mr Moore said: "Not all who knew Mrs Thatcher agree that she was religious. In a way, they are

right. She was not churchy or denominational". He said the former prime minister "was not sacramental (she once told me that her twins were baptised but 'didn't have the water') or spiritual".

"But [her husband] Denis thought she had a serious Christian faith, and I think he would know."

Mr Moore wrote: "Her religion was of a kind which once dominated England. God's word, expressed in the Bible, set out how to live. People should try to follow this, not only in their private lives, but in the ordering of society. This was a lifelong, exacting duty, requiring ceaseless work to improve oneself and serve one's country. Material wealth was part of the good harvest which the country needed.

"Somewhere inside these thoughts was an almost Jewish idea of a chosen people: her talk of Victorian values was partly a romanticised folk memory of a special, British (or rather English) Christian order."

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/politics/latest/mrs-thatcher-was-a-christian-1-6680377>

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