



Archbishop Philip Tartaglia apologies to church abuse victims

Independent report into sex abuse in Catholic church in Scotland released

The findings of the McLellan Commission, set up to investigate the issue of abuse in the Catholic church, was published yesterday.

The Roman Catholic Church in Scotland has issued a "profound apology" to victims of child abuse.

Archbishop Philip Tartaglia said Scottish bishops were "shamed and pained" by the suffering of those who had been harmed.

His apology followed the publication of [a report from the McLellan Commission](#), which was set up to investigate abuse.

It called on the church to make an "unmistakeable and unequivocal" apology and "heal the hurt" of victims.

In response, Archbishop Tartaglia said: "As the president of the Bishops' Conference, and on behalf of all the bishops of Scotland, I want to offer a profound apology to all those who have been harmed and who have suffered in any way as a result of actions by anyone within the Catholic Church.

"Child abuse is a horrific crime. That this abuse should have been carried out within the church, and by priests and religious, takes that abuse to another level.

"Such actions are inexcusable and intolerable. The harm the perpetrators of abuse have caused is first and foremost to their victims, but it extends far beyond them, to their families and friends, as well as to the church and wider society."

He told survivors that the Catholic Bishops of Scotland were "shamed and pained by what you have suffered".

And he added: "We say sorry. We ask forgiveness.

"We apologise to those who have found the church's response slow, unsympathetic or uncaring and reach out to them as we take up the recommendations of the McLellan Commission."

Dr Andrew McLellan, a non-Catholic, led an independent review of how the Church handles allegations of abuse. A number of abuse victims were interviewed during the course of the commission's investigations.

Dr McLellan, who is a former moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland, was asked to come up with proposals to make Scotland's Catholic Church "a safe place for all".

Others members of the commission include Malcolm Graham, assistant chief constable of Police Scotland, and Kathleen Marshall, former commissioner for Children and Young People.

The setting up of the McLellan Commission followed a number of scandals in the Scottish Church, including Cardinal Keith O'Brien resigning as Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh two years ago following allegations of sexual misconduct. Alongside the review, the Scottish Church has pledged to publish annual audits of abuse allegations it receives – it has so far published two – and it has also announced a review of historic abuse allegations between 1947 and 2005, the findings of which will be published at a later date.

Prayer request for team from Dromore parish in Thailand at present

A team from the the Anglican Mission agency Crosslinks with UFM is currently working in Thailand. It includes Revd Andrew Thompson, curate in Donaghcloney Parish and MTS Apprentice, Thomas Murray.



They are working with Johnny and Ann McClean (UFM/IFES) with Thai and International students in the universities around Bangkok. Another bomb went off near the Chao Phraya River, where the team travel by boat to the universities.

Down and Dromore dioceses has requested prayer for the people of Thailand, for peace and the continued protection of the team (Andrew Thompson, Thomas Murray, Alex Lee, Jonathan Machin and David Morrow); and that God would continue to use the team to share the gospel with those they meet.

The team can be followed on **Facebook** where their latest post says: “Team are hard at work prepping for campus evangelism and FRESH camp at the end of next week.. Bombs may have kept us indoors for now.. But they won’t stop us working for the sake of the gospel!”

More Action Needed to Tackle Homelessness - C of I

The Church and Society Commission of the Church of Ireland issued a statement yesterday:

“The news that a family of five, including three young children, had to sleep rough in Dublin on Monday night last highlighted, once again, the scandal of homelessness in Ireland, one of the richest countries in the world.

“There were more than 1,100 children in over 500 families living in emergency accommodation, bed and breakfasts and hotel rooms in the past six months and the numbers continue to rise.

“This has a serious negative effect on children and their futures because they cannot stay in one school when they are moved from place to

place as charities and local authorities try to find accommodation for them and their families, often on a day-to-day basis.

“The Church and Society Commission of the Church of Ireland is very concerned at the plight of people living in these conditions and calls on the Government to prioritise spending of available resources and focus its efforts on resolving the crisis – so that those in need of shelter will be adequately housed and children will not be disadvantaged because of their family circumstances.”

Church focus on northern education

Education representatives from the three member churches of the Transferor Representatives' Council (TRC) have met at Assembly Buildings in Belfast to discuss matters relating to transferor governors and the TRC constitution, following the establishment of the new Education Authority (EA).

Speaking after the meeting, Rev. Trevor Gribben, Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and a TRC member said, “This was the first opportunity for



(Left to right) Rev. Dr. Fred Munce, Dr. Peter Hamill and Rev. Trevor Gribben.

the three of us to meet together since Dr. Peter Hamill came into post in the Church of Ireland and Rev. Dr. Fred Munce in the Methodist Church in Ireland.

“The Transferor Representatives’ Council is made up of members from the Church of Ireland, Methodist and Presbyterian Churches in Ireland and represents the interests of the three Churches in the education system, following the statutory transfer of our church schools to the first government of Northern Ireland in the 1920s and 1930s.

“Seventy years on, we continue to nominate members to the Boards of Governors of Controlled Schools throughout Northern Ireland and seek to ensure that a warm open Christian ethos remains to the fore,” he said.

The Education Authority took over all of the roles and responsibilities of the former Education and Library Boards earlier this year. The EA’s 20-member Board has four members who are nominated by the Transferor Representatives’ Council to represent the interests of the Transferring Churches.

Northern Ireland teachers to attend training school at own expense following government cutbacks

About 350 teachers will attend a training summer school in Belfast that they have arranged themselves following cutbacks by the Assembly’s department for education.

BBC News - ‘NI Ed Camp’ was set up after the Education Authority (EA) cancelled an annual training event due to a lack of funding.

It takes place at Stranmillis College but will be attended by teachers from across Northern Ireland.

It includes a range of courses, seminars and workshops in areas of primary and post-primary teaching.

The Regional Training Unit (RTU) summer school had been running for more than a decade, and was attended by around 2,000 teachers every August.

The summer school cost £50,000 to run in 2014, and was cancelled by the EA in June in response to budget pressures.

It was popular with teachers because they could get training without having to arrange cover for their classes.

In response to its cancellation, a group of teachers decided to set up their own training school.

Beverley Cripps from Ashfield Girls' School is one of the organisers, and she says that the RTU summer school was important to the profession.

"Teachers willingly used part of their summer holiday to improve their practice so they had

something new and innovative to bring to pupils in the new school term," she said.

"We thought it was a shame that the summer school was cancelled, and we were determined to put something in its place so thousands of our pupils would not lose out.

"Teachers coming to NI Ed Camp are willing to give up their own time to make things better for their pupils."

Topics covered in the camp include classroom leadership, e-safety, helping pupils with dyslexia, using Minecraft in teaching, pastoral care and effective science teaching.

The EA is facing a cut in its budget from £405m in 2014/15 to £396.6m in 2015/16.

In addition, the RTU's budget was also cut by 25%, from £1.2m in 2014/15 to £893,000 for 2015/16.

Tenth annual visual arts project at Lismore Cathedral

Marking the tenth year of visual arts projects at Lismore, Lismore Castle Arts is hosting an ambitious, multi-sited group exhibition, curated



Skip, powder coated metal plate, natural stones by Gabriel Kuri. Courtesy the artist and Galleria Franco Noero

by The Common Guild, Glasgow, entitled 'The Persistence of Objects', which includes works by leading international artists, in a range of new and recent works in diverse media. The Persistence of Objects (Lismore Castle Arts) runs to 30th August

'The Persistence of Objects' offers an observation of concrete things that defy change, through a range of approaches and perspectives.

These may be objects that have endured through ages or generations, the immutable remnants of previous times – such as the 9th–11th century stone carvings found in St Carthage's Cathedral, Lismore – or simple, timeless, constants occurring in nature in the face of radical and dramatic changes in the world they inhabit.

Reaching beyond the Castle grounds for the first time, the exhibition is intended to create new routes for audiences into contemporary art.

New healing service at First Lisburn

A Healing Service will be held at First Lisburn Presbyterian Church on Thursday September 3 from 1pm until 1.30pm and everyone is welcome to attend.

Ulster Star - The service will be followed by the opportunity to receive personal prayer.

The speaker at the first service will be Brother David Jardine from Divine Healing Ministries.

Brother David Jardine is a Church of Ireland clergyman and also a member of the Society of St. Francis, a religious community in the

Anglican Church. He is a former chaplain in Crumlin Road Prison, Belfast (1975 - 1985) and from 1985 to 1988 he worked in two churches in New York.

Along with a group of others David Jardine founded Interdenominational Divine Healing Ministries in 1992. Since then, on an interdenominational basis they have been praying for the healing of individuals and of our land.

Brother David has led the formation of an extensive Team of trained healers, who by invitation have attended many churches and associated venues throughout Ireland.

You can receive prayer for any need in your life - loneliness, past hurts, anxiety, stress, recovery from sickness, physical healing, broken relationship, your relationship with God, someone you are concerned about, temptation, guidance over a decision.

A member of First Lisburn Presbyterian Church is encouraging people to find out more about the power of healing prayer. "I had problems with my sight and really feared that I would lose it after being diagnosed with Macular Degeneration.

“The prayer ministry team in the church were fantastic in their support and thanks to their ongoing prayer my vision has been restored beyond even the expectations of the doctors.

“I know that people can sometimes be nervous to ask for prayer but I would encourage everyone to go along to the service to find out more about it. There is no pressure and everyone on the team are very friendly and welcoming.”

The services will be held on the first Thursday of each month, with the next service being held on October 1.

Everyone will be made very welcome and tea and coffee will be available.

Archbishop warns over immigration scaremongering

The leader of the Catholic Church in Ireland has appealed to Irish people not to exaggerate the level of immigration in order to "create fear".

Irish Independent - Speaking in Knock, Co Mayo, after delivering a keynote homily at the nine-day novena, Archbishop Eamon Martin expressed concern over the use of words such as "swarms" in relation to immigrants.

This was a term controversially used by the British Prime Minister David Cameron.

"We have to be careful that we are not exaggerating the numbers. In the last three years, how many young Irish people have left this country? Probably up to 40,000," said the Archbishop.

He said that the number of people entering Ireland through immigration was not as high as some would suggest.

Dr Martin added: "We have to be careful of the fear factor that is sometimes generated on this issue and instead look at more creative ways of welcoming people into the country."

He said the Government should be encouraged to keep playing its part in the Mediterranean through the Navy, and he applauded the work of the naval vessels the LÉ Eithne and the LÉ Niamh.

"Irish people have an understanding of emigration and an understanding of how you can be welcomed and make it in another country.

"But increasingly we are also beginning to understand immigration," said the Archbishop.

"We have a lot of new communities who are actively growing up in Ireland - and I think we have a lot to do and learn about how we can integrate our 'new irish' more into community life, parish life and Church life."

He admitted it is "a struggle for us in the Church". In his own diocese of Armagh, Dr Martin said many parishes had large numbers of new residents - but the challenge was to get those new residents to feel a part of their parish and become members of church choirs and parish councils.

He said: "We have to find more ways of integrating our new communities and harvesting, in a good sense, the contribution and the riches and diversity that they can make to this country because that is what other countries managed to do with the Irish who came to them."

He suggested that last week's visit of almost 200 US pilgrims to Ireland with Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York had shown how Irish people had contributed to American life and society.

One group of young American nuns in Knock told him on Saturday: "We're here because of what Irish Sisters did for us."

Mothers Union welcomes Age Ratings being added to UK Music Videos

Mothers' Union has stated its delight at the announcement by Government yesterday, 18th August 2015, that it will introduce age-ratings on streamed music content produced within the UK.

The charity has been campaigning for policy and industry changes that will help protect childhood from commercialisation and sexualisation since 2010. Earlier this year Mothers' Union's Bye Buy Childhood 2015 report highlighted that 86 percent of parents are concerned about sexualisation.

Welcoming the announcement today, chief executive, Beverley Jullien said "Providing guidance on age-appropriateness on music videos will enable parents and children to make an informed decision about material their children access online. We know that parents are concerned about sexualised content viewed online – including in music videos. We know that a third of parents we've spoken to are concerned that they have little or no control over

what their children view on the internet. Our hope now is that other countries, particularly the massive US music industry, will see this as a positive step that they want to emulate.”

The charity’s **Bye Buy Childhood** campaign seeks policy change to support parents as they enable their children to develop resilience against pressures placed on childhood by commercialisation and sexualisation and encourage industry to maintain a responsible approach.

Media digest

Tel

Report on a [blog](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11806193/Bishop-you-can-give-terminally-ill-a-dignified-death-without-killing-them.html) by the Bishop of Bristol, Mike Hill about the Assisted Dying Bill saying he cannot support the legislation nor the views of the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Carey, who has expressed support for it.
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11806193/Bishop-you-can-give-terminally-ill-a-dignified-death-without-killing-them.html>

Times

Article on analysis of census figures which shows seaside areas in the UK have the highest divorce rates. It found many resorts had high

levels of deprivation and notes that similar conclusions were found in a study by the Church Urban Fund in 2013.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4530213.ece>

Exp/Mirror

Reports on plans for the funeral of Cilla Black saying hundreds of people are expected to line the two-mile route as the cortege travels to St Mary's Catholic Church in Woolton village, Liverpool, for the service at 1pm on Thursday.

<http://www.express.co.uk/celebrity-news/599004/Cilla-Black-farewell-fans>

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/3am/celebrity-news/cilla-black-funeral-details-two-6269793>

Mail

Report on funeral of seven-year-old Esmee Polmear at St Pirin's Church in Cornwall, where parents and other mourners were dressed as characters from her favourite Disney films, with music from the films included in the service.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3201189/Parents-remember-Disney-loving-girl-7-dressing-favourite-cartoon-characters-funeral-sudden-death-school.html#ixzz3j8gsCUhk>

Eve Stand

Further article on how South West Trains suspended a cheap ticket offer on VJ Day raising train fares for veterans who travelled to London. It says Stagecoach denied the move had been motivated by profit and that the London Taxi Benevolent Association for War Disabled has called for the company to make a donation to the Royal British Legion.

<http://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/charity-calls-on-south-west-trains-to-donate-profits-to-royal-british-legion-following-charging-a2871821.html>

Times

Article on how a statue has been unveiled of Olympic runner and missionary Eric Liddell in a town in China. It mentions the new film, a sequel to *Chariots of Fire*, starring Joseph Fiennes as Liddell and called *The Last Race* - charting his life as a missionary and Japanese prisoner of war.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4530292.ece>

Get CNI headlines on Twitter each day

Click on logo at CNI Home page

Become a Facebook Friend of CNI

Click on logo at CNI Home page

August 19