



## **Irish immigrant council calls for law to protect trafficked sex workers**

The Immigrant Council of Ireland (ICI) has launched a campaign to lobby TDs ahead of the publication of a law to combat the exploitation of woman and girls in prostitution and human trafficking.

The Sexual Offences Bill, which is expected to come before the Dáil in September, has at its centre the decriminalisation of those selling sex and the criminalisation of those who buy sex.

In a statement, the Immigrant Council of Ireland (ICI) and 73 Irish organisations under the banner of *Turn off The Red Light Campaign* stated that the expected publication of the new Sexual Offences Bill will be an opportunity to “wreck the business model” for pimps and traffickers and ensure that Ireland is no longer a safe haven for such crimes.

The campaign is calling on all local TDs and Senators to support the proposals, which are similar to those which came into force in the North in June.

Campaigners expect that the Bill will include laws to target the buyers of sex whose actions, they say, are fuelling these crimes and such laws have already been successfully implemented in other countries.

Chief Executive of the Immigrant Council of Ireland, Brian Killoran added, “We eagerly await the publication of the bill and in particular the provisions on purchasing sex. It is our firm hope that the Minister for Justice, Frances Fitzgerald TD, will incorporate recommendations unanimously backed at the Oireachtas Justice Committee for laws focusing on buyers.”

“The bill is the culmination of an exhaustive review process during which all the complex issues involved were fully examined – more than 800 written submissions were studied and months of hearings were held in the Dáil,” he said.

The campaign has united 73 Irish organisations and many individuals including doctors, nurses, frontline emergency workers, trade unionists, members of Macra and the ICA, employers, human rights campaigners, women’s and children’s rights groups.

They say this bill will bring Ireland into line with international trends, but also with the laws that have been in force in Northern Ireland since 1 June and prevent the trade from moving south into the Republic of Ireland.

“The time to act has arrived. We have been greatly encouraged by the level of local support and are now calling on politicians from all sides to unite and send out the message loud and clear that Ireland is no longer a soft target for pimps, traffickers and thugs,” said Brian Killoran.

Amnesty International voted earlier this month for the decriminalisation of sex work, or prostitution — including those who buy sex.

Groups who help sex workers and those who have been trafficked, such as Ruhama, had lobbied Amnesty members not to adopt this position but they went ahead and voted in favour of it.

The Irish Examiner reported that in spite of the Amnesty vote, Minister Fitzgerald plans to proceed with the legislation to criminalise people who pay for sex. However, the Bill will have to be “substantially discussed” in the Oireachtas in the Autumn.

## **New suite of parish halls for Dunboyne & Rathmolyon Group**

Dunboyne & Rathmolyon Group of Parishes is about to open a beautiful new suite of halls. The new hall is built around, and incorporates, the old parish hall at the gates of St Peter's Church in Dunboyne.

This grouping of parishes covers a large geographical area in East County Meath and North County Kildare. It is the largest parish in the Diocese of Meath and Kildare and has experienced a substantial growth in young families moving into the area, owing to the parish's proximity to Dublin and to the high property prices in the city.



The parish comprises three suburban and three rural churches. While each of the suburban churches, St Peter's in Dunboyne, St Mary's in Maynooth, and St Seachnall's in Dunshaughlin would have worship services every Sunday, the rural churches of Rathmolyon, Rathcore and Agher form one congregation and move round the three rural churches.

The new hall displays up to date facilities in a modern building. It is the result of great commitment and sacrificial work by parishioners and some very imaginative planning teams.

The Rector is Rev Janice Aiton and the curate assistant is Rev Colin Maconaghie.

## **Connor Archdeacon on the airwaves**

The Archdeacon of Connor, the Ven Dr Stephen McBride, featured on BBC Radio Ulster's Thought for the Day on Sunday August 16.

Archeacon McBride, who is Vicar of Antrim, will also be on Thought for the Day for the next three Sundays, August 23, 30 and September 6.

## **Tipperary church's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrated**

A small community in Co Tipperary recently celebrated the 150th anniversary of its local Church and the huge community sacrifices which were made to build it.

A number of events were held over a weekend to mark the sesquicentenary of the Church of the Assumption in Lattin.

These included a concert in the Church by renowned performer Fr Liam Lawton, and the launch of a special commemorative booklet on the church's history as well as a performance by the Tipperary Gospel Choir.



Speaking about the weekend's events, Lattin Parish Priest Fr Tom Egan said, "We owed it to those people who have gone before us. It is only right and fitting that we should celebrate their great endeavours, their great accomplishments. Let us never forget the quarry we are hewn from, as we recall the sacrifices they made."

Indeed such sacrifices were huge at the time of much land agitation in Ireland with many evictions taking place in the parish.

All of these are documented in the souvenir booklet produced by the committee which gives a fascinating insight into what life was like in the 1860s when the building of the church commenced.

According to the book's author, Gerard Riordan, "During this period of great turmoil and uncertainty the parish priest and main driving force behind the project, Fr John McGrath continued to push ahead with the building."

"For several weeks in August and September 1861, weekly notices appeared in various newspapers inviting builders to tender for the new church until they eventually succeeded in getting somebody at the right price."

Indeed the contract to build the new church for the sum of £2,493 was awarded to the Kilrush-based building firm of Edmond Walsh and brothers. They had also been employed on the construction of churches in nearby Ballysteen and Killmallock.



The church which was built just as the area was recovering from the Great Famine is built entirely of stone from a local quarry.

And the parish, which is the birth place of former Tipperary hurling manager and player Nicky English, moved the time of its Sunday morning Mass from 11am to 8am to facilitate those travelling to the All-Ireland hurling semi-final between Tipperary and Galway.

## **Cambridge tour for Finaghy parish choir**

The choir of St Polycarp's Parish Church, Finaghy, travelled to Cambridge for its summer tour, singing Choral Evensong in the Chapels of Trinity, Emmanuel and Queens' Colleges.

On the Sunday morning of their visit, choir members, accompanied by spouses and relatives, attended Sung Eucharist in the iconic setting of King's College Chapel.

On the Sunday evening, the choir, conducted by St Polycarp's Director of Music, Simon Neill, sang Evensong in Emmanuel College, which included Harwood's settings of *Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis in A flat* and the anthem, *Greater love hath no man*, to a setting by John Ireland.



***St Polycarp's choir outside Emmanuel College Chapel, Cambridge, following Choral Evensong.***

In Queens' College on the Tuesday evening, Evensong included Philip Stopford's *St Polycarp Evening Canticles* – which had been commissioned by Mr Neill in June 2013 in honour of St Polycarp's choir's President and Honorary Patron, Suzi Digby (Lady Eatwell) OBE – and the anthem, *I was glad*, by Parry.

The service in Queens' was led by the College Chaplain, the Rev Tim Harling, who said that the

choir had 'excelled in support of the liturgy in their sacred, prayerful and yet dynamic delivery.'

Prior to the Tuesday evening service, the visitors were entertained at a garden party hosted by Lady Eatwell at her home in Queens' President's Lodge. Her husband, the economist, Lord John (Baron) Eatwell, is President of Queens' College.

Speaking following Choral Evensong in Queens', Lady Eatwell said that she had welcomed this 'exceptional choir' to Queens' with the greatest pleasure and, especially given her presidency of the choir and the canticles which had been commissioned in her honour, said the pleasure of experiencing its singing was 'very personal.'

Lady Eatwell continued: "Although Queens' College is one of the great ancient colleges of Cambridge, founded in 1448, our Chapel was built by the renowned Victorian architect, George Frederick Bodley, and has one of the most outstanding acoustics in Cambridge.

"The choir sang with great quality, commitment and passion under the skilful direction of Simon Neill."

Simon said that members had had a wonderful experience, ranging from singing in the College

Chapels to sightseeing around Cambridge itself and punting on the River Cam.

He described the choir as one large talented family with a great musical and social life. “As always I was extremely proud of its achievements and wonderful music making in Cambridge,” Simon said.

He added: “In thanking the members of the choir and those spouses and friends who accompanied them, I would also like to pay tribute to our organ accompanist, Tyrone Whiting, who is Director of Music at St Mary’s parish church, Battersea, London, and a former organ scholar of Nigel McClintock, Director of Music at St Peter’s Roman Catholic Cathedral, Belfast.”

## **Cathedrals in England welcome over 10 million annually**

More than 10 million people visited Cathedrals in England in 2014, according to new figures published today in the [Church of England's Cathedral Research and Statistics report](#). Research shows that the highest motivating factors for Cathedral attendance were peace and contemplation, worship and music and friendly atmosphere.



***Inch Parish Holiday Bible Club, is well underway. The 'Monsters Link' club is running in Inch Parish Hall, near Downpatrick each evening between 6:30 and 8:30 pm and everyone's having a great time so far!.***

In 2014 the average number of adults and children attending Cathedral services each week was 36,000. This has increased by more than a fifth in the last decade. The three regions showing the strongest growth are Yorkshire and the Humber, London and the South East. Key aspects of growth that have been identified were creating a sense of community, quality of worship, service, preaching and music, exploring

new patterns of service, spiritual openness and emphasis on families and young people.

Bev Botting, Head of Research and Statistics at the Archbishops Council, said: "Over the last decade we have seen growth in both visitors and worship at Cathedrals. Cathedral promotes spiritual openness, inclusivity and diversity in membership and outreach. Christmas and Easter are particularly busy times but we have also seen the increase of adult and child mid-week attendance. Cathedrals continue to play an important role in religious life, education and music."

The number of young people attending educational events at cathedrals increased by nearly 14% between 2004 and 2014. At the centre of cathedral life is the daily offering of worship and praise. 4000 child and adult choristers were involved in providing traditional choral music in 2014, half as volunteers. Indeed over the last ten years the number of volunteers supporting the mission and ministry of cathedrals has risen to 15,200.

The Very Reverend Christopher Dalliston, the Dean of St Nicholas' Cathedral, Newcastle, said: "One of the things we've done is to try to respond to the number of tourists and visitors.

We've developed a chaplaincy scheme so as well as having welcomers to help people who want to come and explore we can articulate clearly the spiritual dimension of the cathedral and we have found that's been enormously appreciated.

St Nicholas has also developed to meet the needs of the night time economy and for several years has hosted the street pastors scheme in the cathedral and outside to care for the vulnerable members of the night time economy and people who need pastoral care. The cathedral has introduced a night church model and from time to time is open on Friday nights to enable people to come and find stillness, peace and spiritual exploration in an informal context. Two to three hundred people have been attending a late night compline service.

The Dean continued: "What people have really discovered is that when they drop in to worship or visit they find a community that is welcoming, open and inclusive. I think that's one of the things that's been really significant in cathedral growth in every respect: in worship, developing groups and responding to the needs of the community. It's the fact that permission is offered for anyone to come whenever and for

whatever purpose but that there is an opportunity to engage at a deeper level."

## **Church of Scotland urges members to sign global education petition**

Church of Scotland leaders have urged members to sign a declaration which calls on governments around the world to ensure that every child is able to go to school.

The Right Rev Dr Angus Morrison, Moderator of the General Assembly, and Hannah Mary Goodlad, Moderator of the National Youth Assembly (NYA), are appealing to people to support the "#Up for School" petition which is being championed by former Labour Prime Minister Gordon Brown.

Dr Morrison said signing it would help ensure that around 59 million youngsters in troubled parts of the world who were being denied a basic education would "receive their rightful start in life".

Miss Goodlad said people had a "collective responsibility" to stand up for those with no





***Former PM Gordon Brown with Rt Rev Angus Morrison, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Hannah Mary Goodlad, youth moderator, and delegates to the national youth assembly.***

voice because education was "lifechanging and life-saving".

Spearheaded by the Global Faiths Coalition for Education and signed by around nine million people so far, the petition calls on governments to make the political commitments and financial investments needed to ensure all children get the best start in life.

Mr Brown, whose father John was a Church of Scotland minister, claimed the issue amounted

to a "civil rights struggle" because around 500 million people across the globe do not finish primary and secondary school like children in the UK do.

The 64-year-old, who stood down as the MP for Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath earlier this year after a 32-year Westminster career, said it was his hope that the current crop of youth Church members would become the "first generation in history" to deliver real change, particularly to the lives of girls.

Mr Brown, a United Nations Special Envoy for Global Education, said youngsters in countries like Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Libya were often trafficked and forced into labour and early marriages.

He described it as a "tragedy of biblical proportions" because hundreds of thousands of children and young people in unstable nations were also denied food, shelter and healthcare.

Mr Brown, who has travelled to countries like Lebanon, South Sudan and Kenya to examine the impact of the situation first-hand, issued a heartfelt plea for action in an address to around 100 young people at the annual youth assembly at Gartmore in Stirlingshire on Monday.

"When I talk about education, I am talking about what we can do as citizens of the world to make it possible for every child to have the basic thing we take for granted - the right to a decent education that will give them a proper start in life," he said.

"It is in our power to make a change in the conditions that affect people's lives."

Mr Brown also urged delegates to follow in the footsteps of about 1,000 people from 190 countries and become youth ambassadors to spread the message.

"We have to see this as a civil rights struggle and we have to support girls in different countries who are fighting intolerance and prejudice," he added

"Let us be the first generation in history where we do bridge the gap between what people are and what they have within themselves to become by ensuring that they have universal education."

Dr Morrison said Church of Scotland members were "heirs to a rich tradition of support for the right of all children to education" because

following the Reformation in 1560, one of the first decisions of the General Assembly was to establish a school in every parish.

"The purpose was not only to enable everyone to read the Bible for themselves, but to give each child a solid start in life. In time that strategy led to the transformation of Scottish society," he added.

## **New warden for retreat house on Cumbrae**

The board of directors of Island Retreats Limited has announced the appointment of Andrew Wright as the new warden of their retreat house, the College of the Holy Spirit, on the Isle of Cumbrae.

Andrew, who presently works as a lay chaplain and administrator at St John's Episcopal Church in Princes Street, Edinburgh, will take up his post in September. He has previously had roles including working in the Iona Community and as a primary school teacher. He is married to Amanda, who will join him on Cumbrae, and they have two sons, presently studying.

The College of the Holy Spirit is a retreat house in Millport on the Isle of Cumbrae. The College is a combination of a Visit Scotland 3 Star Guest House and a Christian Retreat House. It is located next to Britain's smallest cathedral, The Cathedral of The Isles. Both were built at the same time in 1851 by the architect William Butterfield. The College was originally built for students of theology in the Scottish Episcopal Church.

The College of The Holy Spirit (with the Cathedral) offers a centre for spiritual development and artistic expression for individuals and groups, and hospitality for guests and for the local community on Cumbrae.  
[www.island-retreats.org](http://www.island-retreats.org)

## Media digest

### **Mirror**

Report on how children are going hungry in the school holidays, mentioning a lunch club at St Francis Church in Norwich. It links to the UK Inquiry into Hunger and Food Poverty and the Feeding Britain report, along with information from the Trussell Trust on foodbanks.  
<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/school-holiday-hunger-kids-living-6275078>

## **BBC**

Report that a homeless charity has announced it is to build 20 houses as part of a £1.5m development for the homeless. It states St George's Crypt has formed a development company for a proposed site near St Hilda's church, Cross Green, in Leeds to build "half-way houses" to help future residents become fully independent.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-leeds-33972411>

## **Ind & Mirror**

Reports on accusations by Labour about the government allegedly fabricating quotes from benefit claimants in support of sanctions. They mention a report by Church Action on Poverty in 2014 showing more than 100,000 children were also estimated to have gone hungry due to sanctions.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/iain-duncan-smith-is-pretending-that-sanctions-are-working-with-fake-quotes-labour-says-10461010.html>

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/dwp-admits-fabricating-stories-benefit-6273524>

## **Times/Tel/Exp/Guard/BBC**

Reports that the Catholic Church in Scotland has apologized to victims of child abuse by its priests and other members. They state a recently released report by the McLellan Commission called on the church to make changes in how it handles allegations as well as issuing an apology.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/scotland/article4531555.ece>

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/599211/Scottish-Catholic-leader-says-sorry-sinful-and-criminal-abuse-priests>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11810454/Catholic-Church-issues-profound-apology-to-victims-of-child-sex-abuse.html>

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/aug/18/catholic-church-in-scotland-must-support-abuse-survivors-review-says>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-33973183>

## **BBC**

Report on skeletons found at St Piran's Oratory - at Penhale Sands, near Perranporth - believed to be among the oldest places of Christian worship in Britain. It says Archaeologists say the finds confirm an early Christian presence there.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-cornwall-33976002>

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