



Papal nuncio Archbishop Charles Brown has been criticised again by the Association of Catholic Priests.

Papal nuncio ‘out of sync’ with Irish reality, say priests

A group which claims to represent almost a third of Ireland’s Catholic priests has severely criticised papal nuncio Archbishop [Charles Brown](#) over his selection of bishops. It just stopped short

of asking for him to be replaced, writes Patsy McGarry in the Irish Times.

The Association of Catholic Priests (ACP) said it was “reluctant to call for Archbishop Brown’s removal” but felt it “instructive that his appointment was a central part of Rome’s response to the problems of the Irish Church”.

Archbishop Brown’s appointment by [Pope Benedict](#) in November 2011 followed the publication of four reports into clerical child sex abuse.

It “was widely interpreted as an opportunity of disciplining the Irish Church” the ACP has said.

Since his arrival in [Ireland](#), Archbishop Brown has been involved with the appointment of 10 bishops and is in the process of appointing six more.

“That’s 16 (or 60 per cent) of the 26 dioceses in Ireland,” the ACP noted.

It also repeated criticisms that it previously levelled at him. The policies he pursued in choosing bishops were, “in the main, inadequate to the needs of our time, at odds with the expectations of people and priests and out of

sync with the new church dispensation, ushered in by the election of [Pope Francis](#) over three years ago and the changed perspective of his renewed commitment to the spirit of the [Second Vatican Council](#), ” the ACP said.

It expressed “grave disquiet” at the “lack of consultation” involved, as well as a “preference for candidates drawn from a particular mind-set”.

There was also what it described as “an apparently haphazard policy of appointments to distant dioceses that pays little regard to the traditions and heritage of a diocese; and the choice of candidates who seem to be out of sync with the realities of life in Ireland today and uncomfortable with the openness of Pope Francis to change and reform the Church,” it said. The ACP also regretted that Archbishop Brown refused to meet them “though the issue at hand is of compelling concern not just to our own membership – we represent over 30 per cent of Irish priests – but to the vast majority of Irish priests”.

Priests say Vatican's representative in Ireland is "out of sync" with the realities of life

The Journal.ie

The Association of Catholic Priests said the appointment of appropriate bishops is vital for the survival of the Catholic Church.

<http://www.thejournal.ie/vatican-rep-ireland-out-of-sync-2938756-Aug2016/>

Priests hit out at selection of new bishops

Irish Independent

Speaking to the **Irish Independent**, Fr Brendan Hoban, a spokesman for the ACP, warned that given the "critical circumstances" of the **Irish Church** at ...

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/priests-hit-out-at-selection-of-new-bishops-34980622.html>

Maintaining and growing Irish Presbyterian relationships in Africa

The Reverend Uel Marrs, Global Missionary Secretary of the Irish Presbyterian Church is visiting Africa the month.

The main purpose of the visit is to attend the 17th Biannual Synod meeting of the [Church of Central Africa Presbyterian](#) (CCAP) Synod of Zambia, which takes place from 24th to 28th August in Lusaka, the capital of Zambia. The CCAP Synod of Zambia has over 65,000 members in around 70 congregations.



The Reverend Uel Marrs

On his way to Zambia, the Global Mission's secretary will meet with General Assembly officials of the [Presbyterian Church of East Africa](#) (PCEA) in Nairobi, Kenya, which has around 4 million members in over 1,000 congregations. While in Kenya he will also spend time with PCI overseas mission personnel serving in the country.

I am looking forward to visiting our partners and personnel in Zambia and Kenya. A number of their leaders and representatives have been to

our own General Assembly and visited our Church in recent years,” Rev. Marrs said before leaving.

“It is an honour to be invited by PCI’s partners in Zambia to participate in their Synod meetings and to meet once again with the leadership of the Presbyterian Church of East Africa.

“While there is much we can do to support and encourage our partners in their mission endeavours, we also need to grow in our own awareness of just how much we can learn from our vibrant and growing partners in Africa,” he said.

During his visit to Zambia, Rev. Marrs will also have the opportunity to visit [Diane Cusick](#) who began working with the CCAP Synod of Zambia in May 2016, following over 20 years serving in Malawi.

A member of Bushvale Presbyterian Church, Diane has been settling in well to her new home in Lusaka and is currently working with the Synod Executive as they draft a plan for Early Childhood Development.

The Irish Presbyterian Church has developed partnership links with other churches, Christian institutions and international mission agencies in more than 20 countries around the world.

Clogher parish creates Famine Memorial Garden

Over recent years the people of Irvinestown (parish of Devenish) have created two new beautiful gardens to mark and honour various aspects of the Christian heritage and the shared past of the local community. On Saturday evening, they marked the official opening of a Famine Memorial Garden adjacent to the Sacred Heart church.

The ceremony was led by the Bishop of Clogher, Most Rev Liam S MacDaid, who blessed the new garden before celebrating the Vigil Mass. The faithful gathered at the garden for earlier for music and reflection.

Like the church itself, the Famine Memorial Garden is located adjacent to the site of the old workhouse, a place that featured so prominently in the harrowing scenes of over a century and a

half ago. The new memorial builds on the work already done by a local cross-community group in restoring a famine graveyard nearby and follows from the earlier creation in 2010 of a Garden of the Celtic Saints at Sacred Heart church. Appropriately too, much of the artistic work on these projects is due to the skill and talent of local man Jonas Raiskas, who came to the locality from Lithuania in recent years and who was commissioned by the parish to create some 20 carvings in the Garden of the Celtic Saints plus those in the new memorial garden.

The Famine Memorial Garden has four distinct parts, namely, the potato field, the famine kitchen, the workhouse door and the emigrant ship. These are marked by eight carved pieces by Jonas Raiskas.

Commenting, local parish priest Canon Michael McGourty said: 'This memorial calls all of us in the community and beyond to reflect not just on our past but on our present. It calls us to address the poverty and famine in our own world today and constantly answer the call of the Gospel to reach out to those in need. Its location and its art does so in a way that brings both the traditional message and the history of Irish Christianity into focus in a profound way. All are

welcome to come to these gardens to pray and reflect.”

Cathedral and music

Theo Saunders memorial organ recitals in Armagh

The new organ recital series, in memory of Mr Theo Saunders, the former organist of St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral, Armagh, will begin on Sunday 4 September 2016 at 4.15pm in the Cathedral.

The recitalist will be the Cathedral's Assistant Organist, the Revd Dr Peter Thompson who said, "It is a particular privilege to give the inaugural recital in memory of Theo, because it was Theo who encouraged me to return to the organ bench after almost a decade of not playing at all. In 2010 he asked me to play for two weeks while he was unwell, and after much coaxing and encouraging I reluctantly agreed. Two weeks became four, four became eight, and the rest, as they say, is history!"

Peter has chosen works to reflect the significant anniversaries which occur this year, including the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the birth of the composer Charles Wood, the one hundredth anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, and the ninetieth birthday of the Queen. Each of these events has inspired the programme, which will open with Elgar's 'Imperial March' and conclude with his famous 'Pomp and Circumstance March No.1', also known as 'Land of Hope and Glory'. Between these two ever-popular marches there will be a selection of pieces by Charles Wood, by his teachers Hubert Parry and Charles Villiers Stanford, and by his pupils Herbert Howells and Ralph Vaughan Williams, each relating to one or more of the anniversaries.

The Dean of Armagh, the Very Revd Gregory Dunstan said, "It is fitting that this new series of organ recitals is given in Theo's memory. His thirteen years of service at this Cathedral marked the summit of his musical career, and he found great happiness among the people of Armagh. His work endures especially in those whom he taught, and it is particularly appropriate that many of the recitals in these Cathedral series are given by people towards the beginning of their musical

careers,”

As with all the recitals in this series, admission is free. The retiring collection will go towards the cost of a new piano for the Cathedral Choir’s rehearsal room.

+++ The Charles Wood Festival and Summer School began yesterday (Sunday) with an opening concert in St Patrick’s cathedral, Armagh, by organist Martin Jean from Yale with the New Dublin Voices. On Wednesday the Charles Wood Singers will sing Evensong in memory of the former cathedral organist, Theo Saunders, and on Thursday Choral Evensong with the Charles Wood Singers will be recorded for BBC Radio 3.

+++The final ‘Summer Music at Sandford 2016’ - will be a piano duet by Jonathan Lycett and Stuart Nicholson in Sandford parish church, Ranelagh, on Friday at 1.10pm.

+++ RSCM Ireland event at Christ Church Cathedral - RSCM is inviting all singers to attend a special singing day and festival service entitled **‘With Sainly Shout and Solemn Jubilee’** which will be held in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin,

on Saturday 27 August. Music will include pieces by MacMillan, Harris, and Harwood, Taizé style music, responsorial psalms and hymns celebrating the saints. The event will be directed by Andrew Reid, Director of the RSCM, and will start with rehearsals at 11am, with the service taking place at 5pm. Booking is necessary for this event – details from the RSCM Ireland coordinator, Mark Bowyer, at mbowyer@rscm.com or on +353(0)85 166 1627.

West Cork C of I Parish produces Garden Fete video

The annual Durrus Fete is the biggest family event in West Cork, and the largest fete to take place outside the city of Dublin. Held every year in the garden of the Rectory of the Church of Ireland in Durrus, the Fete is one of the highlights of the West Cork summer.

Thanks to a hard-working team, and massive community support, this event has grown in popularity over the last decade, and visitor numbers attending have now reached no fewer than 1,250 adults and 700 children on the day of

the Fete. In its unique way, the Durrus Fete is today one of the major West Cork Festivals.

The Fete is unique in being a hugely successful community event that relies entirely on a willing team of volunteers, local men and women who erect the marquees, bake for the cake stall, fund-raise to assist with costs, and who then man the stalls during the Fete, before dismantling everything in the following days.

The video, available on Vimeo, produced by Sam Hunter, is a celebration of the day.

<https://vimeo.com/178895967>

The rector, Canon Paul Willoughby, said the following, after the Fete; “Our deepest thanks to everyone who came along and supported us at our annual garden fete. We were blessed with a lovely day and are truly thankful. As always, we are truly grateful to parishioners for their support on the day and for their help and hard work in setting things up and taking it all down again. We are also grateful to those who help behind the scenes in very many ways. Thank you so much to the Bantry business community for their very generous support without whom we would not be able to survive.

“We would also like to express specific specific thanks to Locallink (formerly West Cork Rural Transport) for the free Park and Ride bus service, Durrus & District Community Council for allowing us to use the pitch for parking Meals on Wheels (Bantry) for allowing us to use their wonderful kitchen facilities to prepare all the food and Bantry Red Cross for looking after the safety of our visitors and guests. Our thanks also to the local community, The Gardai and the local residents for their invaluable assistance and kindness to us this and every year.”

News briefs

+++ Broughshane institution - On Wednesday the Bishop of Connor, the Rt Revd Alan Abernethy, will institute the Revd Andrew Campbell as Rector of Skerry, Rathcavan and Newtowncrommelin, a group of parishes based on Broughshane in Co. Antrim. Mr Campbell, who was ordained in 2012, has been curate assistant in Bangor Abbey since 2013.

+++ Nigerian Christians and Muslims open historic peace centre - Nigerian Christians and Muslims gathered on 19 August to open the International Centre for Inter-Faith Peace and

Harmony (ICIPH). The centre is located in Kaduna, where more than 20,000 people have died in various conflicts over the last three decades. Amid a growing number of interfaith initiatives in Nigeria, the new centre has a unique goal: to systematically document interfaith relations to inform national and international policy-making. Key local Nigerian organizations, the Christian Council of Nigeria and Jama'atu Nasril Islam, led the effort to open the centre, which was preceded in 2014 by a consultative forum held in Abuja that drew about 40 Muslim and Christian leaders. Many supporters were recognized at the grand opening, among them Dr Emmanuel Josiah Udofia, primate of the African Church and president of the Christian Council of Nigeria, Sultan of Sokoto Sa'adu Abubakar, and Dr Khalid Aliyu, secretary general of Jama'atu Nasril Islam.

+++ Brazil's Anglicans protest destruction of indigenous land

- Hundreds of indigenous Guarani-Kaiowá and Terena people have been violently evicted from their homes in the central western state of Mato Grosso do Sul. The vacated land is being used for agricultural businesses, including soya plantations and cattle raising. Now, the Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do

Brasil (IEAB – Episcopal Anglican Church of Brazil) is joining with other churches to in a coordinated ecumenical campaign to fight for the rights of indigenous peoples. Brazil's Indigenous Council reports that 390 Guarani-Kaiowá and Terena people have been brutally murdered and more than 500 committed suicide in the past 12 years as part of the campaign to remove indigenous families from their homelands to make way for agri-businesses. Last month, members of the IEAB joined Christians from other churches in a public demonstration outside the Mato Grosso do Sul state parliament to express their “total support for the indigenous cause” and to demand “an immediate end to the killing and resolution of the conflict.” As a result of the protest, the state's attorney general met with church leaders and representatives of the indigenous communities. “The indigenous leaders took the opportunity to bring their grievances, and the ecumenical mission committed itself to following up the process,” the IEAB said.

[News links to reports on faith, politics and education](#)

Canon Edgar Turner: pioneer of ecumenism

Irish Times

<http://www.irishtimes.com/life-and-style/people/edgar-turner-church-of-ireland-pioneer-of-ecumenism-1.2760666>

Priest killer buried in France in a discreet funeral

The Journal.ie

France has wrestled with the conundrum of where to bury the terrorists.

<http://www.thejournal.ie/priest-killer-funeral-2938994-Aug2016/>

Same-Sex Couples More Likely to Ask Presbyterian Pastors to Marry

Christianity Today

http://www.christianitytoday.com/gleanings/2016/august/lgbt-wedding-church-participation-survey.html?utm_source=ctweekly-html&utm_medium=Newsletter&utm_term=9511533&utm_content=458426174&utm_campaign=email

The BBC's decision to ignore Usain Bolt's faith is another sign of anti-Christian bias

Premier Christianity

David Robertson responds to the controversy surrounding the BBC's lack of reporting on the faith of Christian athletes at the Olympics.

August 22

http://www.premierchristianity.com/Blog/The-BBC-s-decision-to-ignore-Usain-Bolt-s-faith-is-another-sign-of-anti-Christian-bias?utm_source=Premier%20Christian%20Media&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=7451986_Christianity%2019%2F08%2F16&utm_content=BBC&dm_i=16DQ,4FPZM,K9APJB,GCD3Q,1

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