



## **Fr Shay Cullen wins 2016 Hugh O'Flaherty Humanitarian Award**

Well known Irish Columban missionary Fr Shay Cullen has been selected as this year's winner of the Hugh O'Flaherty Humanitarian Award.

Fr Cullen has worked tirelessly over his lifetime in the Philippines battling for the rights of children to be respected and trying to stem the depredations of child traffickers, paedophiles and the sex industry.

The award was set up in honour of Monsignor Hugh O'Flaherty, an Irish prelate, who was based in the Vatican from 1938 until 1960, and who courageously helped save the lives of 6,500 Jews and Allied soldiers from the Nazis via the Rome Escape Line.

In 1974, Fr Cullen set up the PREDA Foundation to help child victims and trafficked women who were being exploited in the sex trade that flourished alongside the huge United States Naval Base on Subic Bay in Olongapo City and at the US Clarke airbase in Angeles City.

He uncovered and exposed widespread child sexual abuse and human trafficking involving children as young as 9 years abused by US personnel and sex tourists including local men.

Believing that poverty, violence and child abuse are barriers to peace and give rise to extremism, he strives to eliminate child abuse and promote respect for children's rights.

He works for peace by working to change the unjust economic political and social structures and attitudes that allow such abuse.

His mission for justice and peace is ecumenical; open to people of all faiths. It is based on taking a stand for human rights and protecting the dignity of every person, in particular exploited women and children.

Announcing the Hugh O'Flaherty Memorial Committee's decision, chairperson Jerry O'Grady said, "Fr Shay has given his life to protecting the human rights of oppressed and exploited children and has fearlessly challenged those who were not prepared to shoulder their responsibilities, including local vested interests, local and national government in the Philippines and the USA Government."

Fr Cullen said the award was a recognition of the children PREDA has rescued and "those human rights workers who, like Monsignor Hugh [O'Flaherty], continue to work for the unjustly imprisoned, the refugees trying to escape from Isis and war and those risking their lives to help them escape."

This year's award will be presented to Fr Shay Cullen by Cllr Brendan Cronin, Mayor of Killarney on Saturday evening November 5th 2016 at a ceremony in the Killarney Avenue Hotel.

## **Justin Welby outlines vision for youth ministry**

The Archbishop of Canterbury has outlined the priorities he'd like to see youth workers make in the UK going forward.

Justin Welby has written a special editorial for Premier Youthwork magazine as the magazine marks its 25 anniversary.

In it he describes himself as "no expert in Christian youth work" but says he'd love to see young people becoming disciples of Jesus, witnesses to Jesus and servants of the kingdom.

"Imagine seeing hundreds of thousands of young people thriving as disciples, as whole lives are lived towards him," he said. "Across the Church it can be our tendency to offer experiences, good times or fulfilment. But Jesus calls us to follow him and there is no greater challenge."



***The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby with young people from central and southern Africa at a youth discipleship and environmental conference in Lusaka, Zambia, earlier this year. This month the Archbishop has spoken of his hope to see young people being disciples of Jesus, being witnesses to Jesus and being servants of the Kingdom.***

The Anglican leader called on churches to focus more on evangelism with young people at the centre.

He said: "It is still the case that the majority of those who profess faith do so before the age of 21.

"Let's set our sights higher than just trying to hold onto those born into Christian families and

maybe reaching a couple of their friends (something youth work is great at).

"God has the eyes of his heart on every young person, and so should we. This is the task of the whole church. We are all called to be witnesses to Jesus Christ."

Justin Welby recently addressed thousands at the Soul Survivor youth conference and was subsequently prayed for by the teenagers there. The Church of England is investing heavily in youth evangelism and has recently appointed a worker to oversee the area alongside a giving the Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham Rt Rev Paul Williams responsibilities for evangelism with young people.

[Click here](http://www.premieryouthwork.com/Past-Issues/2016/September-2016/Editorial-Justin-Welby-Archbishop-of-Canterbury) to read Archbishop Welby's full article. <http://www.premieryouthwork.com/Past-Issues/2016/September-2016/Editorial-Justin-Welby-Archbishop-of-Canterbury>

## **Closure of Catholic colleges mark beginning of new era**

New institutions are needed to address a new era says Archbishop Diarmuid Martin. The

Church's response to the radical change in society has to be more than just "tweaking" the Archbishop of Dublin has said. In the past it invested in solid buildings which were the way to train people, but today buildings have "soft walls and are flexible", he said.

Archbishop Martin was speaking at a mass marking the closure of the Mater Dei Institute in Drumcondra on Thursday.

Founded by Archbishop John Charles McQuaid, Mater Dei has trained RE teachers for Catholic Secondary schools since 1966. Since 1999 it has been a linked college with Dublin City University (DCU).

Last month All Hallows College also closed. Both Mater Dei and St Patrick's teacher training College (for primary school teachers) in Drumcondra are to become incorporated into Dublin City University.

"There are those who say that all this is the end of an era and a sign of a less optimistic, enthusiastic and forward-looking presence of the Church in Irish society," Archbishop Martin told the congregation in the Mater Dei College chapel on Wednesday.

It is the end of an era, he agreed “but not in the sense of a definitive end to the presence of Christian faith as a constitutive part of Irish society.”

The institutions of one hundred and fifty years ago have to be replaced and renewed to be effective and incisive in the world of the 21st Century, said Archbishop Martin.

## **Cork bishops’ sympathy on the death of Peter Barry**

The Church of Ireland Bishop of Cork, the Right Reverend Dr Paul Colton, has issued the following statement upon hearing the news of the death in Cork of former Tánaiste and former Minister for Foreign Affairs, Peter Barry:

“I am sad indeed to hear the news of the death of Peter Barry, former Tánaiste and former Minister for Foreign Affairs. As a child and teenager growing up in Cork, I remember well his calling to the door to canvas for a vote. As a recently ordained curate living in Northern Ireland in the 1980s I recall his contribution to the Anglo–Irish Agreement. As Church of Ireland Bishop of Cork, like my predecessors in this office, I have





appreciated his friendship and support for the Church of Ireland in this Diocese over many years.

“On behalf of us all in the United Dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross I extend our deepest sympathy and assurance of our prayers to Mr Barry’s family, and most especially to his daughter Deirdre Clune, M.E.P., and her husband Conor who has been, first a neighbour, and family friend here in Cork since the 1960s, and to all their family circle.”

Bishop John Buckley, Bishop of Cork & Ross, said that he was saddened to hear of the death of Mr Peter Barry.

Peter Barry, Bishop Buckley said, “was a man of great integrity and faith who, following in his family tradition, was deeply committed to public service. Peter Barry was a hugely respected figure in Cork, throughout Ireland and further afield. This respect was a deserved tribute to Peter’s dedication to public service as a former Lord Mayor, Dáil deputy, as Minister for Foreign Affairs and for his invaluable work in the Peace Process including the Anglo Irish Agreement.

“Faith was an integral part of Peter’s life, the practice of which was very important to him, to his late wife Margaret and to their family. That faith motivated his spirit and success in public, private and commercial life. Cork people of all political hues greatly admired Peter Barry for his many gifts. He was a generous supporter to local sports, voluntary and charitable organisations. While Peter’s passing will be felt most acutely by his own family, he will also be mourned by the people of Cork who regarded him as one of their own in every sense.”

Bishop Buckley said that the prayer from the *Order of Christian Funerals*, “Blessed are those who die in the Lord, let them rest from their labours for their good deeds go with them” is

most relevant to Peter Barry, and he prayed that the Lord would welcome Peter into eternal life.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dilís.

## Cathedral and choral

**+++ Concert in Calary** - The next concert in Calary Church will take place at 8 pm on Thursday September 8 when Musici Ireland will play works by Beethoven, Boccherini and Dohnanyi. The performers will be Helena Wood (violin), Beth McNinch (viola) and Grainne Hope (cello). Their programme will be Beethoven's Op. 3 in Eb followed by Boccherini's String Trio in D major, Op.14, No.4 and ending with Dohnanyi's Serenade Opus 10. Tickets, which are €18 and €15 for concessions, can be booked by ringing John at (01) 2818146 or by email to [derekneilson@eircom.net](mailto:derekneilson@eircom.net)

## News briefs

**+++ Church in the public space** - "Where were the ethics in the Referendum discourse?" is the title of the first of a series of informal discussions over coffee led by the Rev. Dr. Johnston

McMaster. Monday, 12 September, 2016 - 7.30 pm - 9.00 pm. Venue: 407 Lisburn Road, Belfast. Email: [online@irishmethodist.org](mailto:online@irishmethodist.org)

**+++ Secular challenges to Gospel** - Dr Paul Coulter from The Belfast Bible College is the Guest Speaker at the “Headway Ireland” Autumn Lecture. His topic is “Challenges to the Gospel in a Secular World”. The venue is Edenderry Methodist Church Portadown. Event Date: Wednesday, 14 September, 2016 (All day)

**+++ Cafod praises historic Columbia peace deal** - The aid agency Cafod has welcomed a historic peace deal between the government and guerrilla rebels in Colombia. The agreement between the two sides was made on Wednesday in Havana, Cuba where peace talks finally concluded after four years. Government troops and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) had been engaged in conflict for over 50 years. Clare Dixon, Cafod’s Head of Latin America said, “We hope this deal will bring an end to the violence and fear that has devastated the lives of over 7 million people, particularly those living in rural areas; farming communities, Indigenous and Afro-Colombian Peoples.” The 52-year long conflict killed over a quarter of a

million people in the South American country and displaced millions. Cafod praised the Catholic Church's role during the four-year peace talks. Dixon reported that the Church had served as a mediator between the two sides. Earlier this summer, the bishops' conference chose 60 representative victims to go to Havana to have their voices heard during the discussions.

**+++ Jordanian prince and Jewish academic decry plight of Middle East Christians** - Prince Hassan of Jordan, a Muslim, has teamed up with Dr Ed Kessler, the Jewish interfaith expert, to issue a joint denunciation of the persecution of Christians in the Middle East. Writing in [a joint opinion piece in the UK's \*Daily Telegraph\*](#), they denounce as "incredible" claims by Daesh that Christianity is a Western import to the region. "Christianity has been part of the essential fabric of the Middle East for two thousand years", they say, ". . . it was born here and exported as a gift to the rest of the world. Christian communities have been intrinsic to the development of Arab culture and civilisation. "This central role in our region and civilisation is why it is abhorrent to us, as a Muslim and a Jew, to see Christianity and Christians under such savage assault across our region." They say that they are "appalled" by

attacks on Christians and add that “to lose Christianity from its birthplace would be to destroy the richness of the tapestry of the Middle East and a hammer blow to our shared heritage. “The reality is that we are all one community, united by shared beliefs and history. But this is increasingly denied, with [Daesh] taking the lead both in justifying and carrying out these attacks.”

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

**Up to 1,400 people have turned up in Kilkenny to see a pastor who claims prayer can 'cure' gay people**

[TheJournal.ie:  
http://www.thejournal.ie/pastor-kilkenny-2948600-Aug2016/](http://www.thejournal.ie/pastor-kilkenny-2948600-Aug2016/)

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/kilkenny-protest-over-claim-to-cure-homosexuality-via-prayer-1.2767468>

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/south-africa/kwazulu-natal/kzn-preacher-saddened-by-scottish-ban-2059694>

**How minister made tracks close to his heart**  
Belfast Newsletter

Not only was the Reverend Doctor Robin Stockitt travelling across over 240 miles in just three days, but he was journeying between **Church of Ireland** ...

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/how-minister-made-tracks-close-to-his-heart-1-7543314>

## **Kylemore Abbey sets the scene for Notre Dame's newest campus**

Irish Times

... Leenane and Letterfrack, and cleaning a **Church of Ireland** graveyard, as part of a community engagement programme, according to the university.

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/education/university-of-notre-dame-opens-campus-in-connemara-1.2768727>

## **Martin says Maynooth must change as 'we're in a different world'**

Irish Times

The change that has been taking place in **Irish** culture and **Irish religious** culture is radical change and the response to radical change has to be 'more ...

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/martin-maynooth-must-change-as-we-re-in-a-different-world-1.2768015>

## **Grammars praised for 'bucking trend' of falling GCSE grades**

Daily Telegraph

[http://digitaledition.telegraph.co.uk/editions/edition\\_U0zeQ\\_2016-08-26/data/201917/index.html?](http://digitaledition.telegraph.co.uk/editions/edition_U0zeQ_2016-08-26/data/201917/index.html?)

## **Christian Today**

Report that the Archbishop of Canterbury is expected to meet Pope Francis in Rome in early October. <http://www.christiantoday.com/article/archbishop.of.canterbury.to.meet.pope.francis.in.rome/93922.htm>

## **Christianity Magazine**

Sam Hailes meets the young people who have spent the past year shunning materialistic culture by living a monastic life at Lambeth Palace. <http://www.premierchristianity.com/Topics/Church/Mission/A-Year-in-God-s-Time-Why-these-young-people-have-been-living-a-monastic-life>

## **Independent, Guardian, Mail**

Reports of beach party outside French Embassy in London to protest against burkini ban laws include comment from Rev Jenny Dawkins

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/burkini-ban-uk-women-hold-beach-party-outside-french-embassy-in-london-to-protest-against-ludicrous-a7209706.html>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/aug/25/protesters-throw-beach-party-protest-in-london-against-burkini-ban>



[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/ap/article-3758395/Some-30-demonstrators-London-protest-French-burkini-ban.html?ITO=1490&ns\\_mchannel=rss&ns\\_campaign=1490](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/ap/article-3758395/Some-30-demonstrators-London-protest-French-burkini-ban.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/reuters/article-3758237/France-burkini-battle-cultures.html?ITO=1490&ns\\_mchannel=rss&ns\\_campaign=1490](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/reuters/article-3758237/France-burkini-battle-cultures.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

## **Blogs**

**Threads:** Slow discipleship

<https://www.threadsuk.com/slow-discipleship>

**Think:** Now the party's over

[http://thinktheology.co.uk/blog/article/now\\_the\\_partys\\_over](http://thinktheology.co.uk/blog/article/now_the_partys_over)

**Eurobishop:** Prayer for Italy after the quake

<http://eurobishop.blogspot.co.uk/2016/08/prayer-for-italy-after-quake.html>

and

<http://europe.anglican.org/news/news/post/1131-prayers-and-concern-after-italian-earthquake>

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