



## **John Kerry wins Tipperary International Peace Award**

US Secretary of State John Kerry is to receive the 2015 Tipperary (Ireland) International Peace Award.

The announcement was made by the Tipperary Peace Convention through its Honorary Secretary, Martin Quinn.

Speaking about Mr Kerry's selection, Mr Quinn said that Secretary Kerry was chosen "for his work on a global basis for bringing about an end to conflict in many countries most particularly in Syria".

He noted that the US politician's efforts had led to negotiations which led to the destruction of Syria's declared chemical weapons.

He has also helped establish the International Syria Support group which is a group of over 20 countries which are working together to find a political solution to end the conflict in Syria.

He said they also looked at his work in Iran, Afghanistan and South China.

Responding to the news of his selection, Secretary Kerry said, "I am grateful to be selected for the Tipperary Peace Award. I am truly honoured to be listed among the remarkable

past recipients who have contributed so much to the cause of creating a more peaceful world.”

The Award will be presented to Secretary Kerry at a ceremony at Ballykisteon Hotel near Tipperary Town later this year.

Mr Quinn said that Mr Kerry “would be coming to Tipperary to accept the award and the Convention were currently working to put a date together for when Mr Kerry could come to Tipperary to accept the award.”

Previous recipients of the Tipperary International Peace Award include former South African President, the late Nelson Mandela; Live Aid organiser Bob Geldof; former US President Bill Clinton; former Prime Minister of Lebanon, the late Rafic Hariri; Afghan Human Rights Activist, Dr Sima Samar; former Prime Minister of Pakistan, the late Benazir Bhutto; US Ambassador Jean Kennedy Smith and her brother the late Ted Kennedy; former President of Ireland, Professor Mary McAleese and her husband Senator Martin McAleese; Pakistani schoolgirl and Nobel Laureate Malala Yousafzai; American Diplomat Dr Richard Haass and last year’s recipient, Secretary General of the UN, Ban Ki Moon.

## **US seminarians to transfer to the Pontifical Irish College, Rome**

From September, fifteen seminarians from the Saint John Vianney College Seminary (SJV), from the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, will pursue their academic formation at the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas, Rome, and are to transfer their residency from the university's Bernardi campus to the Pontifical Irish College, Rome. The new arrangement will initially run during the academic year 2016/17.

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, Archbishop of Dublin and the Chair of the Board of Trustees for the Pontifical Irish College, along with the board of Saint John Vianney College, approved the new partnership at their June meeting. Welcoming the seminarians Archbishop Martin said, "The presence of these United States' seminarians will enrich and consolidate the seminary community in the Pontifical Irish College, under the overall leadership of its rector, Monsignor Ciaran O'Carroll. Together with Archbishop Bernard Hebda of Saint Paul Minneapolis, I wish the project every blessing and success."

According to SJV Rector Father Michael Becker, “This new partnership is a testament to the strong collaboration between the University of Saint Thomas’ Catholic Studies Rome Program and Saint John Vianney College Seminary. Our association with the Pontifical Irish College will only enhance what has already been established.”

Father John Bauer, SJV formator and spiritual director, will also take up residence next month in the Pontifical Irish College along with the fifteen seminarians. Father Bauer said, “It is hoped that this formative experience will connect SJV seminarians with both Irish seminarians and the international community of post-graduate priests who live at the college. It will also provide SJV seminarians, as they continue their studies in the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas, with an opportunity to experience the vitality of the universal Catholic Church, and form intercultural friendships, while pursuing their studies.”

Founded in 1628, the Pontifical Irish College, Rome, is home to 50 students, with fourteen coming from Ireland and the others representing many different nations. The College is home to a

seminarian community and a post-graduate community. Four Irish diocesan priests make up the staff of the college, led by the rector Monsignor Ciaran O'Carroll.

## **Online Launch of The List of C of I Parish Registers**

At a reception in St Audoen's parish church, Dublin, on Wednesday, the Director of the National Archives, John McDonough, launched *The List of Church of Ireland Parish Registers*: an online colour-coded resource featuring live links to other relevant online resources.

The list accounts for all Church of Ireland parochial registers of baptism, marriage and burial – noting what survives, the dates covered, and where they are located. Where registers were destroyed in the burning of the Public Record Office of Ireland (PROI) during the Irish Civil War in 1922, the list records details about abstracts, transcripts and where they are held.

The original list was the work of Margaret Griffith, Deputy Keeper at PROI, who in the 1950s used extant parochial returns (dating from the 1870s)

to compile a hand list of Church of Ireland parish registers known to exist in 1922. In the ensuing decades the list was heavily annotated by PROI staff with notes about abstracts, transcripts and locations of microfilms. Latterly, from 1984 onwards, when the RCB Library was designated as the official place of deposit for Church of Ireland registers in the Republic of Ireland, the updating of the list was carried out by Library staff in conjunction with the National Archives and the Public Records Office of Northern Ireland.

The new online version of the list interpolates all previous work into an accessible, colour-coded resource. Additionally, it now includes live links to other websites holding indexes, transcripts and scanned images of parish registers. Ultimately the list will further link to the RCB Library's detailed in-house hand lists of the collections of parochial records – including the registers but also the wide variety of other records such as vestry minute books, preachers' books, accounts and magazines.

In producing this new resource, the RCB Library has collaborated with the Irish Genealogical Research Society (IGRS) as a project to

celebrate the latter's 80th anniversary. Widely known for her online genealogy blog, *Irish Genealogy News*, Claire Santry, a Fellow of the IGRS, painstakingly reworked the list to create a one-stop search tool that links easily to online information.

IGRS Chairman Steven Smyrl said: "Parish registers are a vital tool to genealogists and the loss of so many in 1922 has been an ever-present handicap. This new online resource, highlighting the existence of so many surviving registers, along with abstracts and copies of those that do not, will prove invaluable. Its launch today is a terrific way to mark the IGRS' 80th anniversary."

Dr Susan Hood, Librarian and Archivist at the RCB Library, said: "For a small record repository like the RCB Library, collaboration with committed organisations like the IGRS whose volunteer members have such an interest in Church of Ireland records (most especially the parish registers) is positive and rewarding." She thanked Claire Santry who had worked so hard on the project and expressed the hope that there will "future opportunities to work so constructively for mutual benefit."



The list is available at [www.ireland.anglican.org/library/archive](http://www.ireland.anglican.org/library/archive)

## **Dialogue between Church of Scotland and Jewish community**

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The topics to be discussed in these dialogues include possible areas for collaboration such as education, shared social action, theological similarities and differences, geopolitical matters that affect Jewish-Christian relations such as Israel and Palestine, and antisemitism and joint action to respond to it. It is envisaged that the result of this dialogue might be a joint resource with agreed theological terms and references, including an exploration and examination of differences and diversity in belief and scriptural interpretation, a glossary of theological terms that

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are widely misunderstood, a protocol for alerting one another to issues that might damage the positive relationship between the communities, and a list of areas of future collaboration.

The group will have around 10 members representing a wide range of views within each community. Among other things, the group will seek to address issues arising out of the publication of the Inheritance of Abraham Report and the Church of Scotland's involvement in the Balfour Project that led to a strain in the relationship. It will meet regularly from autumn of 2016 with a view to producing a report by the autumn of 2017, and a steering group of three members from each community has been established to take the proposal forward. Commenting on the initiative, the Rev Richard Frazer, of the Church of Scotland said, "Alongside others from within the Church of Scotland, I am looking forward to embarking on this important piece of work together with our colleagues from within the Jewish community. We hold a great deal in common as people whose shared faith is rooted in the story of Abraham. That faith inspires us to work together for a better world as well as striving for a deeper

understanding and greater mutual respect for one another.'

Ephraim Borowski, Director of the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities, added, "we very much welcome this initiative to re-establish the close relationship between the Church of Scotland and the Jewish Community and repair the damage caused in recent years. We look forward to constructive and productive discussions that will have the lasting legacy of resources that will continue to support better understanding for generations to come."

## **Pax Christi commemorate Hiroshima and Nagasaki anniversaries**

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In the UK, Pax Christi members will participate in vigils and services of remembrance for Hiroshima and Nagasaki around the country.

Pat Gaffney, General Secretary of Pax Christi said, "This year it is all the more important that we draw attention to the impact of that first use of nuclear weapons – the death toll, the contamination of the land, the genetic damage caused by radiation. Our Government has just voted to renew our nuclear weapons programme, Trident, at a huge cost. Perhaps we need to remind the public and our politicians of the humanitarian and environmental costs of nuclear war and nuclear weapons testing. We must refocus our efforts now to bring our Government in line with their nuclear disarmament commitments under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty."

Globally, Pax Christi sections around the world will also mark the day. In a statement issued on 1 August 2016, Pax Christi International said:

"The profound immorality of nuclear weapons is no longer a subject open for debate..Peacebuilding efforts aimed at increasing our collective security are undermined when the

military powers of the world community continue to manufacture and possess nuclear weapons. It is time to pursue a peace that is rooted in the practice of justice and solidarity rather than dependent on the threat of mutually assured destruction

"The global community has settled for empty promises, lofty rhetoric and weakened half-measures toward nuclear disarmament for far too long. The enthusiasm among a growing majority of states in favour of a nuclear weapons ban is encouraging, especially as nuclear-armed countries move to modernize their arsenals. The recent decision of the British Parliament to renew and expand the Trident submarine program over the next half-century is a case in point."

## **News briefs**

### **+++ Diocesan Administrator for Galway, Kilmacduagh and Kilfenora -**

This week at a meeting of the Diocesan College of Consulters of the Diocese of Galway, Kilmacduagh and Kilfenora, Canon Michael McLoughlin, the Parish Priest of Moycullen, was elected as Diocesan Administrator. Canon McLoughlin takes up his new responsibility

immediately. After his election Canon McLoughlin expressed his gratitude to Bishop Martin Drennan – who retired as bishop of the diocese last Friday – and acknowledged Bishop Drennan’s dedicated ministry to the diocese over the past eleven years. Canon McLoughlin said that Bishop Drennan was held in high affection by his priests and people alike, and that he could rely on their prayerful support in the years ahead. A diocesan administrator is elected to oversee a diocese when a bishop dies, retires or resigns, pending the appointment by the Holy Father, Pope Francis, of a new bishop for the diocese. While a diocesan administrator has many of the responsibilities of a bishop, he does not have the authority to make significant changes or innovations. Canon Michael McLoughlin is a native of Galway City, and he studied for the priesthood at Saint Patrick’s College, Thurles, Co Tipperary. Canon McLoughlin was ordained to the priesthood in 1982.

### **+++ 8 Cathedrals Marathon Cycle to Raise Mental Health Awareness -**

A County Tyrone clergyman, who lost his mother to suicide 30 years ago, is finalising preparations for a three–day cycle around the

eight Church of Ireland cathedrals in Northern Ireland and Donegal to raise funds for a mental health charity and for his parish hall.

The Rector of St James, Donaghedy, the Reverend Doctor Robin Stockitt, will be joined on the trip by thirteen friends from the Donemana area. The group – who meet up twice a week to cycle – will set off on Friday morning (5th August) and will cover 240 miles over the three days. Their itinerary includes visits to the Church of Ireland cathedrals in Derry/Londonderry, Raphoe, Enniskillen, Clogher, Armagh, Dromore, Lisburn and Belfast.

Dr Stockitt says the friends belong to different Christian churches in Tyrone and funds raised will be split evenly between their two chosen projects. The first is to renovate Donaghedy Parish Hall and bring it up to modern day standards, making it a venue for all to use. The second is the charity Cycle Against Suicide, which raises awareness about mental health.

Rev Stockitt says his interest in mental health stems from the loss of his mother, 30 years ago this week, and from contact with parishioners who have also been bereaved through suicide.

Last week, the Belfast-based investigative news website, *The Detail*, reported that the number of suicides registered in Northern Ireland last year – 318 – was the highest annual total on record. The website said more than 7,500 people had taken their own lives in Northern Ireland since records began in 1970.

Dr Stockitt says Northern Ireland has the highest suicide rate in the United Kingdom at 16.5 per 100,000. This means that in the 18 years since the 1998 Good Friday peace agreement, more people have died through suicide than were killed in the 30 years of ‘The Troubles’.

You can support Dr Stockitt’s cycle, by donating online at [www.sponsorme.co.uk/robinstockitt/eight-cathedrals-sponsored-bike-ride.aspx](http://www.sponsorme.co.uk/robinstockitt/eight-cathedrals-sponsored-bike-ride.aspx)

### **+++ Church in Wales review of Archbishop’s role -**

The Church in Wales has launched a review into the role and responsibilities of the province’s Archbishop. Currently, the Archbishop is elected by and from the six diocesan bishops in the principality, meaning that the Archiepiscopal see



can move around Wales. But a review into the structure of the Church in Wales, carried out by a team led by the former Bishop of Oxford, Lord Harries of Pentregarth, recommended that the Archbishop should always occupy the See of Llandaff, supported by an area bishop who carries out most diocesan functions. This would be similar to the model adopted by the Archbishop of Canterbury, whose functions within the diocese are carried out mainly by the Bishop of Dover.

### **+++ Brighton churches embrace UK's biggest Pride Festival -**

Anglican Churches in Brighton have created a range of inclusive events to celebrate the UK's biggest Pride Festival at the weekend on Saturday 6 August. St John's Church near Preston Park and St. Luke's Prestonville are among a number of churches across the City with open doors to celebrate all that the Pride Festival stands for. St John's will be hosting a special service for all LGBT people, their family, friends and supporters at 2pm and will open its doors at 1pm with space for picnics, free refreshments and access to toilets. To download a poster take a look at their website [here](#). St

Luke's is holding a Pride Teaparty on Saturday from 5pm-8pm and members of the church will be taking part in the parade in the morning and attending a celebration service at St. John's church Knoyle Road at 2pm. The tea party is designed as an alternative to the party atmosphere of the event in the park and will offer a space for conversation and sharing of experiences around faith and sexuality.

### **+++ Church tackles child marriages and female poverty -**

The Church of Bangladesh is helping women out of poverty, in an area where child marriage was rife, by providing accommodation for female students. The Diocese of Kushtia has two women college hostels – one in Rajshahi and the other in Meherpur – providing accommodation for some 21 students, aged between 17 and 19. The students are mainly from districts within the Bollovpur deanery, where very few girls previously received a good education. The Bishop of Kushtia, Samuel Mankhin, said that the percentage of women who received education in the districts of Meherpur and Chuadanga were very low in comparison to the rest of the country.

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

### **Catholic bishops voice their support for Maynooth**

Irish Times

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/catholic-bishops-voice-their-support-for-maynooth-1.2744378?mode=sample&auth-failed=1&pw-origin=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.irishtimes.com%2Fnews%2Fsocial-affairs%2Freligion-and-beliefs%2Fcatholic-bishops-voice-their-support-for-maynooth-1.2744378>

### **Is a religious education better for students?**

The Journal

‘Catholic schools are more strict, the academic side of things follows in that pattern then.’

<http://www.thejournal.ie/religious-education-better-2897079-Aug2016/>

### **Religion in the classroom: How other countries in the EU deal with it**

The Journal

Ireland is not the first country to experience these types of issues around religion and education.

<http://www.thejournal.ie/religion-classroom-eu-examples-primary-divestment-2887905-Aug2016/>

### **"It's not something that should be up for vote" - can the problem with religion in Irish schools be solved?**

### The Journal

96% of Ireland's national schools are still run by religious orders with the divestment of education proceeding at a snail's pace.

<http://www.thejournal.ie/divestment-solutions-2893668-Aug2016/>

### Christian Today

Report that the UK is "unlikely" to resettle 20,000 refugees by 2020. The Home Affairs Committee said there was "scant evidence" the government is on track to meet its commitment as it revealed for the first time the number of Syrian refugees resettled in each local authority area. The committee of MPs criticised government ministers and said they should "show leadership" by taking encouraging their own local authorities to take more refugees. The Archbishop of Canterbury described the migration crisis as "colossal" and previously told the committee, "This is one of the greatest movements of people in human history. Just enormous."

### Northern Echo

Reports that the jury in the case of Granville Gibson, the former Archdeacon of Auckland, will return to Durham Crown Court today to resume their deliberations. The 80 year old denies six counts of indecent assault and one further

serious sexual offence, dating from the period when he was vicar at St Clare's Church, in Newton Aycliffe, in the late 1970s and early eighties.

## **Tel**

Coverage of the advice on the potential use of social media apps offered to the C of E in a [blog](#) by Tallie Proud, digital officer for the Archbishops' Council. "It's not a question of if your church should be on social media, but how is your church going to make a difference through social media - and when," she explained.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/08/03/the-gif-of-god-church-of-england-issues-eight-social-media-comma/>

## **Times**

Reports that Justice Goddard, who is leading Britain's independent inquiry into child sexual abuse (IICSA), spent three months on holiday or abroad during her first year in the job. A spokesman for the hearings said that the judge had been on "inquiry business" in Australia and New Zealand and remained "in constant contact" with her office in London. The Anglican Church in England and Wales is one of the 13 inquiry strands being looked at by IICSA.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/anger-at-inquiry-judge-s-absence-pxjjg0cmm>

### **Newcastle Chronicle**

Reports that a Newcastle law firm Sintons have advised the Church Commissioners on the £23.8m sale of the Reedswood Retail Park in Walsall to the BP Pension Fund. Rosemarie Jones, deputy surveyor at The Church Commissioners is quoted.

<http://www.chroniclelive.co.uk/business/business-news/newcastle-law-firm-sintons-advise-9928028>

### **BBC**

Reports that stone removed from Canterbury Cathedral during restoration of a 15th Century window is to be sold at auction. More than 140 pieces will be sold, some large enough for garden ornaments and smaller pieces that can go in a home. Heather Newton, head of conservation, said successful bidders would own of a piece of history. The proceeds will go to the future conservation of the Cathedral.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-kent-36964503>

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