



CNI

Church of Ireland Theological Lectures at Queen's 2017

Sola Scriptura

Prof. Mark Noll (Notre Dame, USA)

Monday 6th & Tuesday 7th February 2017

Monday: 'Sola Scriptura' lecture, Prof. Noll

Tuesday: A Conversation with Prof. Noll and Bishop Brendan Leahy
(Catholic Diocese of Limerick & Former Principal of Maynooth College)



Reformation focus of C of I Annual Theological Lectures at Queen's 2017

2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation - a seismic and defining moment in the history of the Christian church.

The C of I chaplaincy will host Professor Mark Noll (University of Notre Dame) to Queen's for two nights. In 2005, Mark Noll was named as one of the 25 most influential evangelicals in America

by *Time* magazine. As Francis A. McAnaney Professor of History at Notre Dame, he is recognised as a leading authority on the history of Christianity in North America, and received the National Academy of Humanities medal from the White House in 2006.

On Monday 6th February, Prof. Noll will speak on *Sola Scriptura*, its influence, and its critics.

On Tuesday 7th February, Prof. Noll will be joined by former Principal of Maynooth College, and current Catholic Bishop of Limerick, Brendan Leahy, for further discussion and debate.

Both events will take place in the stunning surrounds of the Isdell Courtyard at QUB's Riddel Hall. Car parking is available on site.

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The Chaplaincy anticipate a heavy demand for these two events, and would encourage attendees to reserve their place as soon as possible. Please note we have limited the number of tickets to two tickets per person. Once full, we will also maintain a reserve list to transfer returned tickets. (This option will become available as events become full).

Cathedral concert in Banbridge NS Presbyterian Church

The choir of St Anne's Cathedral Belfast Girls' Choir and Lay Clerks, conducted by Master of the Choristers Mr David Stevens, will sing in a free concert in Banbridge Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church on Wednesday December 14 in celebration of the 300th anniversary of the founding of the church.

A warm welcome is extended to anyone who would like to join the Minister, the Rev Norman Hutton, the session, committee and congregation for this evening of Christmas music.

While the First Presbyterian Church was founded 300 years ago, 2016 also marks the 170th anniversary of the opening of the present church building in Downshire Road. The original church was in Lurgan Road, in what is now known as Old Meeting House Green. The congregation worshipped there until 1846, when they moved to the impressive new church. A special 300th anniversary service was held in the church in September.

The concert begins at 7.30pm on December 14. Admission is free and there will be an opportunity to make a voluntary donation to the St Anne's Cathedral Cross-Community Choir Schools Project which offers free choral singing to schoolchildren from north Belfast, and to the Dean of Belfast's Black Santa Appeal, now in its 40th year.

Bishop of Dromore launches report on religious persecution

The Bishop of Dromore, Bishop John McAreavey, recently hosted the launch of a report highlighting global religious persecution.



Bishop John McAreevey

The launch of the report, entitled ‘Religious Freedom in the World Report 2016’, was held in the Newry Conference and Banqueting Centre in Newry, County Down.

The report, compiled by Aid to the Church in Need (ACN), covers 196 countries and highlights 38 states where there is evidence of ‘significant’ violations of religious freedom.

Speaking at the launch, Bishop McAreavey said the document was “imbued with a love and concern for the entire human family.”

He said “I would like to begin with the words of Father Jacques Mourad, a Syriac-Catholic priest who was held by ISIS for five months. Father Mourad states in the foreword to this report that if religion teaches us anything it is the value of the human person, the need to respect each other as a gift from God. So surely it must be possible both to have a passionate faith in one’s religious beliefs as well as to respect the right of others to follow their conscience, to live out their own response to the love of God who made us all.”

Bishop McAreavey added that Father Mourad’s words and the report as a whole encapsulated “a foundational aspect of Christian teaching, namely a deep and deliberate love for all human beings regardless of differences in social position, racial background or religious faith.”

He added that “this impressive report, far from being a selective piece of research concerned only with our own Christian family, is imbued with a concern and love for the entire human family.”

He continued: “It provides a rounded overview of religious freedom around the world by assessing the situation of many faith communities who are under attack, including Yazidis, Jews, Ahmadiyya Muslims and of course Christians ... [T]his report serves a very simple but powerful role: it is a plaintive statement of wrongdoing. It is a raising of our voices for those who have no voice. It seems to me that without first identifying exactly the nature and the extent of wrongdoing, one can never fully address the wrongdoing.”

He said that “Strangely, this report gives us hope by allowing us to examine the extent and full horror of those who suffer for their faith across the world. Our work now – thanks to the efforts of ACN – must surely be to challenge religious intolerance and persecution as a fundamental breach of human rights.”

Irish Inter-Church Meeting focus on suffering of the churches in the Middle East

The 27th Irish Inter-Church Meeting (IICM) took place on 24–25 November at Mount Saint Anne’s Retreat Centre, Portarlinton Co Laois.



The IICM is the formal meeting between the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference and the Irish Council of Churches which allows for Christian churches in Ireland to pray and reflect together on issues of shared concern.

It includes senior church leaders and lay representatives from across 15 denominations in Ireland, ranging from Roman Catholic to Reformed, migrant-led, independent and Orthodox traditions. The theme chosen for the 2016 meeting was: 'Forsaken? The suffering of the churches in the Middle East'.

This meeting had as its backdrop increasing fragmentation and hostility in international relations. Christians of the Middle East region

and experts in international relations, development and humanitarian aid, spoke at the meeting to help delegates to discern what should be the appropriate responses of the Irish churches to this crisis.

The delegates stated: “As is reflected in the title ‘Forsaken?’ we approached this meeting with an uneasy conscience, concerned that we are not doing enough to demonstrate to our fellow Christians that they are not forgotten.”

They felt challenged by the scale of the suffering and the urgent need for a response from the international community, but recognised that the complexity of the problems mean there are few obvious, externally imposed solutions.

They were encouraged to hear that their spiritual solidarity in prayer and pilgrimage means a great deal to those who are experiencing persecution.

The work of Christian development organisations helps displaced people to rebuild their lives, in the hope of one day being able to return home.

Delegates were inspired and humbled by the courage of those who have risked everything to remain true to their faith.

Archbishop of Canterbury visits centre for refugees



Meeting with the staff and clients of Coventry Refugee and Migrant Centre, Archbishop Justin spoke of the joy of seeing such practical work of reconciliation in action.

A huge banner proclaims 'Refugees welcome here', and every individual who arrives fleeing war, persecution and conflict can find peace and

sanctuary, receive help with housing, employment, education, and finding their way through the process involved in becoming part of the community.

People from many parts of the world including Sudan, Congo, and Eritrea as well as Syria use the centre, and Coventry has welcomed more Syrians than any other city. The Director of the centre, Sabir Zazai, is himself a former refugee.

The Archbishop was moved by the work of the staff in enabling those who have suffered to find healing and a sense of belonging.

He said: “It’s been an inspiring day seeing how generously Coventry is welcoming Syrian refugees. These are people who are coming from some of the worst suffering anywhere in the world at the moment. Coventry has a tradition of doing this – it’s a city of peace and reconciliation. Having lived and served here I know Coventry is a city that will welcome them, and will also find they contribute hugely to its future.”

News briefs

+++ St. Patrick’s Cathedral, Dublin Christmas services

Sunday 11 December at 15.15 - CAROLS FOR ALL
sung by the combined forces of the Cathedral and School
Choirs

Sunday 18 December at 15.15 - A FESTIVAL OF NINE
LESSONS AND CAROLS sung by the Cathedral Choir
(Boys' & Men's voices)

Saturday 24 December at 16.00* A FESTIVAL OF NINE
LESSONS AND CAROLS sung by the Cathedral Choir
(Boys' & Men's voices). *ticket holders only – the service
is also broadcast live on RTÉ Radio 1

Sunday 25 December at 11.15 - CHRISTMAS DAY
EUCCHARIST sung by the Cathedral Choir (Boys' & Men's
voices)

+++ Dublin international carol service - St
George and St Thomas's Church on Cathal
Brugha Street, Dublin, will hold their parish and
the diocesan International Carol Service on
Sunday December 11 at 11.15 am. The
Archbishop will preach and there will be input
from St George's Brass Band, Discovery Gospel
Choir and Zamar Ecumenical Choir.

**+++ Carols by Candlelight at St Peter's
Cathedral, Belfast** - The annual candlelit service
of carols and readings takes place at St Peter's
on Sunday 18th December at 4.30pm followed

by festive refreshments afterwards in the Cathedral Hall.

+++ St Mary's University College Carol

Service 2016 - December 14, 2016 @ 7:30 pm
St Mary's University College, Belfast, Falls Rd,
Belfast BT12 4PY

+++ History of St George's - A new book on The History of St George's was launched on Thursday December 8 by The Select Vestry of St George's Parish Church, High Street, Belfast, and the Trustees of the Ulster Historical Foundation. The book, sub headed 'Two Centuries of Faith, Worship and Music,' is written by Prof Brian Walker. Speakers at the launch were Prof Walker, from Queen's University, and Fintan Mullan of the Ulster Historical Foundation. Guests were entertained with music from the St George's Church Choir.

+++ Visit from Ballymena Mayor - Members of the Ballymena Parish Wednesday Morning Club had a visit from the Mayor this week! Mayor Audrey Wales MBE called in to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and the meet the Rev Mark McConnell. The Wednesday Club, which was formed nine years ago, has gone from strength

to strength. One of its members recently told the Mayor about this little club which meets each Wednesday following Holy Communion for a cuppa and chat, and the borough's First Citizen said she would like to come and visit members and meet the Rev Mark. Mayor Wales also met the Rev John McClure and the Rev Dennis Christie, Ballymena Parish's two curates, and spent an hour at the Wednesday Club meeting.

+++ Rural Dean of Clones - The Bishop of Clogher, the Rt Revd John McDowell, has appointed the Revd Alan Capper, Rector of Lisnaskea, as Rural Dean of Clones to succeed the Ven Cecil Pringle, Archdeacon Emeritus, who has held the position over the past two years. The Bishop thanked Archdeacon Pringle for his very efficient exercise of his duties and wished the new postholder well as he embarks on a range of duties which are important for the good ordering of the Diocese.

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

It's time to start outlawing the charging of fees for State schools

Irish Examiner

Criticism of Protestant managed schools

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/viewpoints/columnists/victoria-white/its-time-to-start-outlawing-the-charging-of-fees-for-state-schools-434212.html#>

‘Snob value’ pushing school-leavers to universities – professor

Irish Times

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/education/snob-value-pushing-school-leavers-to-universities-professor-1.2898771>

Someone has to take responsibility for RHI fiasco

Belfast Newsletter

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/your-say/someone-has-to-take-responsibility-for-rhi-fiasco-1-7723884>

New poll shows 'overwhelming support' for Ashers in 'gay cake' case

Belfast Newsletter

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/new-poll-shows-overwhelming-support-for-ashers-in-gay-cake-case-1-7725143>

Campaigners say data collection on domestic violence in Ireland at 'crisis point'

Journal

A one-day conference in Dublin is urging agencies to gain a better understanding of violence against women in Ireland.

<http://www.thejournal.ie/women-violence-prevention-3129544-Dec2016/>

About chime too as Ballymena's century old church bell fixed for Christmas

Belfast Telegraph

Yesterday church sacristan Barney McKeown - a former member of ... funeral of a churchman associated with St Patrick's **Church of Ireland** in the town.

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/about-chime-too-as-ballymenas-century-old-church-bell-fixed-for-christmas-35276709.html>

Sex-assault allegations at Dublin school probed

Church Times

It is under **Church of Ireland** patronage, and the board of governors includes the Archbishops of Armagh and Dublin, and also the Bishop of Meath ...

<http://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2016/9-december/news/world/sex-assault-allegations-at-dublin-school-probed>

Spectator

Reports on answers to prayers, recounted by a number of public figures including the Archbishop of Canterbury and Cardinal Vincent Nichols. In the article Archbishop Justin recalls a recent event. "I was going to see some incredible work done by a group of young women helping trafficked sex workers. I prayed that I could find, in my complete bafflement, something hopeful

and good to say to the young women with whom they worked. Some words came, and for at least one woman I know much changed. That was the best Christmas gift of that year.”

Ind

Report that the people of Torrington, North Devon have organised a massive collection of clothes and toys for Syrian refugees in the area.

Hundreds took part in the collection, and the local theatre was filled with provisions. The article contrasts these actions with negative publicity and stories written about the area’s reaction to the arrival of the refugees.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/syrian-refugees-devon-torrington-unleashed-its-anger-a7463946.html>

BBC/Tel/Sun

Reports that an entire village has been recreated in cake by residents of a village who are trying to raise £100,000 to restore a church roof. A team led by amateur baker Lynn Nolan began baking in June for the display, based on Youlgrave, Derbyshire and made up 35 cakes. The model village is now on sale at All Saints Church in village where it is hoped it will raise enough money to repair the roof.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-derbyshire-38237606>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/12/08/amateur-baker-recreates-derbyshire-village-using-35-whisky-soaked/>

<https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/2362461/villagers-create-edible-model-of-their-home-out-of-cake-to-raise-100000-for-church-repairs/>

Christian Today

Further coverage that Canon Jeremy Pemberton, who lost his employment tribunal case of claims of discrimination and harassment against the retired Bishop Richard Inwood, former acting Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham, has had his appeal to the Employment Appeal Tribunal (EAT) dismissed. A spokesperson for the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham is quoted.

Christian Today

Report on the Advent pastoral letter issued by Most Rev Nicholas Okoh, Archbishop, Metropolitan and Primate of All Nigeria and chairman of the GAFCON Primates Council. In the letter, Archbishop Okoh warns that the Communion is at a "critical point." and writes: "Will it return to the ancient paths or sleepwalk into fatal compromise?"

Comment

Huff Post: Theresa May's Christianity - Another Way Of Dividing The Country.

http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/bob-morgan/theresa-mays-christianity_b_13457768.html