

Scottish Episcopal Church: Guidance on Marriage and Civil Partnership



First female bishop - and only five years old!

A medieval custom was revived at the weekend by a North Yorkshire church when a five year old girl donned mitre and cope and was made a bishop.

Rosie Wilson of Selside near Horton-in-Ribblesdale volunteered to become the 'Bairn Bishop' during the evening service at St Oswald's Church, Horton-in- Ribblesdale. She was re-enacting being one of the 'bairn' or 'boy' bishops who, before the Reformation, would be elected on the Feast of St Nicholas (December 6th) and held office until the Feast of the Holy Innocents (Childermass – December 28th). During that time the bairn

bishop would be dressed in specially made, boy-sized, vestments. Some even went on visitations in the city and collected offerings.

The custom spread to parish churches and was only put a stop to by Henry V111 in an edict, saying "it was a childish observance when little childer be strangely decked to counterfeit the Ordinary".

That didn't stop Rosie, who stepped forward when Priest-in-charge, the Revd Stephen Dawson asked for a volunteer during his sermon. "The ceremony started by accident" said Stephen. "I talked about the Bairn Bishops, their visits to parishes in their Diocese, especially on horseback in York, their authority to declare holidays and deliver sermons (written for them).

"We made a mitre from red card and I asked if anyone wanted to try on the chasuble. Rosie, as the youngest present at Evening Prayer quickly left her back pew near the font and walked right up to the chancel."

Now that Rosie has volunteered, Stephen says that, just as in medieval times, he hopes her 'duties' won't stop with dressing up at the front of church. "Rosie will be doing it again for school assembly this week and I hope she will be at the carol services and Christingles."

St Oswald's is one of the most complete Norman churches in Yorkshire and sits in the shadow of Penyghent, the smallest of The Three Peaks. Stephen said that although there were no long term plans to revive the centuries old tradition, it was certainly an appropriate venue to hold the service.

We choose to remember the explosion at the Droppin' Well disco, Ballykelly, in 1982 - Bishop Donal McKeown at inter church service

"The problem for our politicians is not so much that they can't agree on a new economic strategy. The real core problem is that they are still fighting over which narrative about the past will obtain supremacy. History is told by the victor.

"While the war is over, the conflict is alive and well ... Because of the victory of Jesus we do not need to be victorious, only to speak the truth for it is that alone that will set us free" – Bishop McKeown

Bishop McKeown was speaking in the C of I parish church in Ballykelly on Sunday past. He said -

"For older people of my vintage it can actually be hard to imagine that a very large proportion – about one third – of our population is under twenty-four years of age and has little or no memory of the Troubles at all. In the lives of those who were involved in any way at the Droppin' Well bomb, the traumatic events of those days will be seared into their memory.

“But for nearly half our population, the event that we remember today occurred before they were even born. So, for the bulk of our 1.8m people, what is important about 6 December 1982 is not so much what happened, as how we choose to remember what happened. That is why today is not just remembering a past event and lost lives. How we remember those events is a significant factor in how we help our younger people to envision the future. In our still contested political space, commemorations like this can be not so much sentimental as seminal.

“The stories that we tell about the past in this country have tended to be characterised by tales of victimhood and heroic resistance. It was Chesterton in *The Ballad of the White Horse*, who suggested that we are all mad, because “all their wars are merry/ And all their songs are sad.” Yesterday the Apprentice Boys of Derry celebrated the 326th anniversary of the shutting of the gates by thirteen apprentices against the forces of King James in December 1688. In this, the decade of centenaries, we will hear many calls to commemorate heroic resistance or generous sacrifice. And it is important that we remember those whose lives and life chances were snuffed out by the brutality of others. But any Christian religious service can never be about promoting a selective, myopic recalling of the past, allowing ourselves to be used to serve other current political or personal agendas. The prophetic voice, speaking the truth in love, invites us all to see the past through the lens that hung on the cross of Calvary and looks at the world in a different light because the Resurrection of Jesus from the dark, lifeless grave. During this Advent season we encounter such an uncomfortable prophetic voice of hope in John the Baptist.

“The first message of Advent hope in the midst of human stupidity is simple. Today’s celebration is focused on trusting that the dead are in the fine strong hands of the Lord who made them in love, and on us finding peace with what has happened so that we can be architects of a better future rather than prisoners of the past and its pain. We can do that because, as Christians we believe that the most important battles were not fought in Ballykelly, the Bogside, on Bazentin Ridge or Baghdad but on Calvary and in the hearts of each of us...

· Bishop Donal McKeown is Bishop of Derry, which can be followed on Twitter @dioceseofderry. Website www.dioceseofderry.org. This homily was preached on 7 December 2014 in the Church of Ireland church in Ballykelly.

C of I Cleric collared by cops for speeding told Gardai he didn't give a f***



Irish Mirror - A cleric collared by cops for speeding told Gardai he didn't give a f**k and they could chase him if they wanted.

Church of Ireland Canon Bob Hanna, 68, the rector of St Columba's Church in Ennis, [Clare](#) , told a female officer he was on his way to a Communion ceremony.

He was caught traveling at 135 km/h in 100km/h zone and was put off the road for six months by a judge.

Judge Patrick Durcan described the cleric's abusive conduct towards the Garda as "despicable".

In her evidence to Ennis District Court, Garda Elizabeth McDonagh told the court she stopped Canon Hanna's car during a speed check on the dual carriageway at Bunratty West, Shannon, on April 17 last.

The Reverend was not present in court during his case last Friday but was represented by a legal team.

Garda McDonagh said Canon Hanna asked why he was being stopped and became verbally abusive towards.

The court heard Canon Hanna told the Gardai he was on his way to a Communion service.

The judge asked Garda McDonagh to explain to the court what Canon Hanna said to her.

She said Canon Hanna responded to claims he was speeding and said: "I don't give a f***. I'm late."

He “snapped” his driver’s licence back from her, got back into his car and started repeatedly revving the engine.

At this point, Garda McDonagh said Canon Hanna said: “I’m leaving, chase me if you want.”

He added: “Religious week, I hope you’re prosecuting everybody.”

Judge Durcan said he regarded the cleric’s conduct as “despicable”.

He said: “Now that I know the defendant is a Minister of Religion, I am even more appalled.”

He imposed a €500 fine and, by way of ancillary order, disqualified Canon Hanna from holding a driver’s licence for six months.

When contacted, Canon Hanna said he had “no comment” to make on the court case.

It is not the first time Canon Hanna has hit the headlines.

Only last month, he issued a statement denying that a character reference he wrote for pervert school principal Pat Barry, 80, was a defence of the notorious paedophile.

Barry, of Well Road, Kilkee, Co [Clare](#) , was sentenced to six years in prison after being found guilty of indecently assaulting young girls at Moyasta National School in west Clare between 1964 and 1985.

In February, Canon Hanna was criticised in court by a barrister for the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) after giving a character reference for a woman convicted of stealing of almost €27,000 from an Ennis nursing home resident.

<http://www.irishmirror.ie/news/irish-news/crime/cleric-collared-cops-speeding-told-4777196>

See also -

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/courts/speeding-reverend-told-gardai-i-dont-give-a-f-30815777.html>

Pop-up movies at the Dock Cafe. Book soon!

What’s your favourite Christmas movie? Retro (It’s A Wonderful Life), modern (Elf), slushy (Love Actually) or left-field (Die Hard)? Does it have to have



Santa (Miracle on 34th Street) or Muppets (Muppet Christmas Carol) to qualify as a proper Christmas classic?

Whatever your tastes, we've got you covered in the Titanic Quarter this Christmas. The Dock's very own pop-up DOCK Market (as well as running loads of market days to help you with your Christmas shopping – click [here](#) for details) is playing host to a brand new venture called Pop Up Film Club – showing big-screen Christmas

movies in the midst of a Winter Wonderland every evening from 13–21 December.

Click [here](#) for details of dates and films, or to book a ticket – <http://www.popupfilmclub.co.uk/>

and here's the pitch:

Pop-Up Film Club presents a week-long Christmas extravaganza to set alight your festive spirit. This is so much more than just watching a movie! From the minute you arrive you will be welcomed through our Narnia inspired Wardrobe into our enchanting Winter Wonderland bedecked with snow, fairy lights and plenty of Christmas flavour. Before you take a seat stroll through the Candy Cane Forest where you can try some of the finest gourmet food Belfast has to offer. We bring the Christmas Market to you!

Scottish Episcopal Church: Guidance on Marriage and Civil Partnership

The Scottish Episcopal Church has issued guidance in relation to the [Marriage and Civil Partnership \(Scotland\) Act 2014](#). The substance of the guidance is very similar to that issued in February by the Church of England House of Bishops.

In a communication by the General Secretary, John Stuart, to all clergy and lay readers, it is stated : “Later this month key parts of the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 will come into force. Conscious that the Scottish Episcopal Church is currently in a period of discussion regarding its understanding of same-sex relationships, the College of Bishops has produced guidance to support and inform clergy and lay readers in the exercise of their ministries and in their provision of pastoral care.”

A copy of the document is available here -

<http://www.thinkinganglicans.org.uk/uploads/College%20of%20Bishops%20Guidance%20re%20Marriage%202014.pdf>

Pope: No one questioned indissolubility of marriage at family synod

No one at the Extraordinary Synod on the Family questioned the Church's teaching on the indissolubility of marriage, Pope Francis has said.

Speaking at his general audience this morning, Pope Francis thanked the media for the "abundant" coverage of the synod which took place at the Vatican in October but said that sometimes stories sounded like the synod was a sporting event with opposing teams.

According to Catholic News Service, he said that none of the speeches delivered questioned the Church's teaching on the indissolubility of marriage and openness to life.

Pope Francis added: "Were there fights at the synod? I wouldn't say fights, but there were strong words, yes" but he went on to say that disagreement was normal and that each bishop should have and could have spoken from his heart.

Pope Francis went on to ask for the faithful's prayers for next year's synod on the family.

Production company seeks Ireland's centenarians for new documentary

Do you have a centenarian in your parish? [Snackbox Films](#), producers of a landmark documentary called 'Older Than Ireland' would like to make contact with men and women the length and breadth of Ireland who have reached the milestone age of one hundred.

They'd like to know what it means to have



lived a century in Ireland and to be part of a very exclusive club of centenarians that are dotted the world over. 'Older Than Ireland' will tell the stories of these extraordinary men and women.

So if you're 99 about to hit 100, over a hundred years old already or a relative of someone who has hit the century mark they'd love to hear from you.

Email: hello@snackboxfilms.com or tel: +353 (0)1 4100500

Former South Australian premier, Lynn Arnold ordained an Anglican priest

[[Telegraph Australia](#)] The Rev Lynn Arnold, who was Labor premier from September 1992 to December 1993, was one of seven deacons ordained to the Order of Priests at a ceremony at St Peter's Cathedral on Saturday.

Mr Arnold can now authorise baptism, be solely responsible for Holy Communion, pronounce Absolution (God's forgiveness after confession) and give the blessing.

Priests may be placed in charge of parishes or can do other forms of ministry, such as chaplaincy.

Mr Arnold, 65, who will continue his role with the "Faith in the Public Square" project at St Peter's Cathedral, said he felt the same sense of awe as when he was ordained as a deacon last year.

"This has been no light decision but its follow-on will be no less easy," he said.

"My vision, or what I feel I am being called to, is to help the church articulate the call of Christ for a world where the hungry are fed, the homeless sheltered, the sick and the prisoners visited and the stranger at the gate welcomed."

In early 2012 he left his job as chief executive of Anglicare because he felt the call to the next phase of his life and enrolled in theological studies.

"I want to be a part of conveying a message that nothing can be more relevant to this life than a faith that understands eternity," Mr Arnold said.

Media Digest

News from the Archbishop of Canterbury

Archbishop Justin writes in Christmas issue of Radio Times

<http://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/articles.php/5461/archbishop-justin-writes-in-christmas-issue-of-radio-times>

News from the Archbishop of York

Archbishop Sentamu delivered his BBC Radio 2 Pause for Thought about 'Love Life Live Advent'.

<http://www.archbishopofyork.org/articles.php/3191/bbc-radio-2-pause-for-thought>

News from the Anglican Communion

Amazing response to Communion's global advent calendar

<http://www.anglicannews.org/news/2014/12/amazing-response-to-anglican-communions-global-advent-calendar.aspx>

Tel

Report on comments by the former Archbishop of Canterbury Lord Williams in an [interview with the Church of Ireland Gazette](#) in which he said leaving the EU would be a "deeply regressive" step. He said: "Going it alone could turn the country into an "offshore financial facility". The former Archbishop said it was becoming impossible to have a "reasonable conversation" about immigration in the UK at present, saying hostility towards the EU was being fuelled by an increasingly assertive sense of English identity.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11283445/Former-Archbishop-Rowan-Williams-wades-into-EU-withdrawal-debate.html>

Mail/Sun/Guard

Further reports and comment around the issues and findings of the 'Feeding Britain' report including comments by Lady Jenkin a member of the all party group who produced the report. The Archbishop of Canterbury is also quoted.

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-2867873/QUENTIN-LETTIS-Absurd-Chilling-Lady-Jenkin-s-remarks-food-banks-speaks-uncomfortable-truth-forced-apologise.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490

<http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/suncolumnists/janemoore/6169103/Obesity-and-food-banks-are-the-two-sides-of-modern-Britain.html>

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/dec/09/children-starve-state-food-banks>

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/dec/09/children-starve-state-food-banks>

Tel/Times/Mail/Express

Reports that the Prince of Wales has stepped up pressure on internet providers over the spread of Jihadist beheading videos saying everyone had a "duty of care" to the victims and their families to ensure that the graphic images are not shared or broadcast. The Prince's comments came as he visited a church in west London to meet Iraqi Christians whose families have fled the threat of genocide. He also spoke with passion about his own Christian faith, speaking of the need to "love our enemies and pray for those who persecute".

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/prince-charles/11282255/Prince-Charles-Dont-share-beheading-videos.html>
<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/royalfamily/article4292788.ece>
http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2867001/We-risk-return-dark-ages-public-executions-warns-Prince-Charles-condemns-graphic-images-murder-terror-groups.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490
<http://www.express.co.uk/news/royal/545487/Prince-Charles-Warning-ISIS-ISIL-Islamic-State-Public-Video-Executions>

Mail

Report that South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu has cancelled all travel plans for the rest of the year in order to battle cancer. The 83-year-old Nobel peace laureate will embark "on a new course of medication to manage the prostate cancer he's been living with for the past 15 years," a statement from his foundation said. Tutu had been scheduled to attend a Nobel Peace Laureates Summit in Rome this week.

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-2867331/Tutu-cancels-travel-plans-battle-cancer.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490

Guard

Article on the discovery of a letter from CS Lewis inside a secondhand book. It states, the letter to a "Mrs Ellis" was written by Lewis on 19 August 1945, and sees the author unpicking the concept of joy, saying, "real joy ... jumps under ones ribs and tickles down one's back and makes one forget meals and keeps one (delightedly) sleepless o' nights". Three years later, Lewis would expand on the subject in his memoir *Surprised by Joy: The Shape of My Early Life*, the account of his conversion to Christianity.

<http://www.theguardian.com/books/2014/dec/09/unseen-cs-lewis-letter-defines-joy-surprised-by-joy>

Ind/Mail

Articles on how a 'Freedom of Thought' report, published by the International Humanist and Ethical Union, claims atheists and humanists are increasingly being targeted as distinct minorities in "hate campaigns" across the globe. They state the report welcomed moves made earlier this year by the Church of Scotland and Humanist Society Scotland to work together to replace compulsory "religious observance" with inclusive Time for Reflection.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/politics/how-the-right-to-deny-the-existence-of-god-is-under-threat-globally-9913662.html>

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/reuters/article-2867786/Governments-turn-heat-atheists-report.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490