

Carol services for LGBT community in Ireland



Archbishop Martin says celibacy not Vatican dogma and could be changed

Dublin's
Archbishop
[Diarmuid Martin](#)
says the celibacy
of [Catholic](#)
priests is not part
of the Vatican's

dogma and, therefore, is an issue in the church that could be addressed.

The Archbishop acknowledged that "celibacy is a difficult and challenging thing."

He added that most priests he knew "live their celibacy very faithfully with all the challenges that are there."

Martin was speaking to the [Irish Independent](#) following a prayer service attended by more than 1,000 priests, nuns and brothers in Dublin. The service marked the opening of the [Catholic](#) Church's special Year for Consecrated Life.

He was questioned about the new book "[Thirty-Three Good Men: Celibacy, Obedience and Identity](#)," which claims to reveal intimate facts about the lives of priests in modern Ireland, including their sexual relations.

Although the [Archbishop](#) said he was unaware of the research he said, "I know what is going on with my priests. I know good priests and I know priests who struggle - I support all of them."

He added, "I don't think if people fail that you abolish celibacy."

The book, by Dr John Weafer, claims that most Irish priests do not support compulsory celibacy.

It was not until the 12th century, at that the Second Lateran Council, was mandatory celibacy for priests adopted.

One of the priests interviewed said he felt the rule of celibacy had endured as it allowed the [Catholic](#) Church to "crack the whip."

Another said, "Because of a Church law that is a 'kind of a deformity', [priests] now lack the support that other men receive from their wives and families. It is an unnecessarily lonely life."

The priests interviewed, who were ordained in the 1970s and 80s would not have a problem if their colleagues did not live an entirely celibate life. One added it was "less serious than many other sins." Another said that it only become serious if a child was conceived.

One priest, ordained in the 1980s, said the rule of celibacy meant the Church had more control. He said, "I have been moved five times in my life and if I had a wife, the bishop would not have had that freedom." He added that having married priests would also raise issues for the [Catholic](#) Church in accommodating spouses after the priest's death.

Taoiseach's drink in gay bar 'shows world has changed'

Irish Examiner -
Gay rights activist
Rory O'Neill has
said the presence
of Taoiseach
Enda Kenny in a
gay bar this week



"is a first...that shows how times have changed".

Mr Kenny joined the Fine Gael LGBT group who were having a Christmas get-together drink last night in Pantibar in Dublin's Capel Street.

In a [facebook post](#), gay rights activist Rory O'Neill, aka Panti Bliss said: "It's a changed world in many ways."

He added: "Why'd I post the picture? Because the Taoiseach in a gay bar is a first. It's significant because only a few years ago a Taoiseach wouldn't have dared, so it shows how times have changed."

Franck, Rinck and Bach to feature in Armagh Organ recital

The fourth organ recital in the current series will be given by Mr Orly Watson at St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral, Armagh on Sunday 14 December 2014 at 4.15pm.

Orly, who has taken part in the two previous recital series at the Cathedral, is currently studying at the Royal Academy of Music in London, having graduated in Music from Oxford earlier this year.

The programme will include works by Cesar Franck, Christian Heinrich Rinck and J S Bach. He will also play works with a Christmas theme and one of his own organ compositions. In drawing up the programme, Orly says, *"I have chosen Franck's Choral No 3 which I regard as one of the greatest works ever written, and which was one of the reasons why I started learning the organ properly. This will be the first time that I will perform it in public. I pay tribute to Rinck, one of the very few great organ composers of his generation, by including his work Variations on 'Heil dir im Siegerkranz', a crowd-pleaser on a well known theme. My own piece is my first serious attempt to write for the organ and I welcome the opportunity to perform it in Armagh."*

The Very Revd Gregory Dunstan, Dean of Armagh, said: *"Since his last recital in the Cathedral, Orly's move to the Royal Academy of Music marks another step in a promising career. Time at the Cathedral organ has been an important part of his musical development. We look forward to his return, and to a recital with a very personal flavour."*

As with all the recitals in this series, admission is free, with a retiring collection towards the further endowment of the Cathedral Choir through the Archbishop's Choir Fund.

Carol services for LGBT community in Ireland

On Thursday, December 18, at 7:30pm. Carol Service in St Anne's Shandon. Music shall be supplied by:

Organists: Victor Sullivan . Choir: Choral Con Fusion Igbts Choir Cork.

Soloists: Jack O Rourke, Darragh McGann and Claire Spillane Music

Changing Attitude Ireland has announced that there are 3 Carol Services in the coming weeks organised by and for the LGBT community (friends and family welcome of course)

The Service in Belfast will take place in All Souls Church, Elmwood Avenue, Belfast on Thursday 11th December at 7.30pm when the speaker will be the leader of the Corrymela Community, Padraig O'Tuama.

Dublin's service will be hosted by the Unitarian Church, St Stephens Green on Saturday 13th December at 8pm. Singing will be lead by the Dublin Gay Men's Chorus.

There will be service in Cork on 18th December, and further details will be available over the next few days.

Schools mini-masterpieces in Exhibition of Art and Photography in Cork Parish

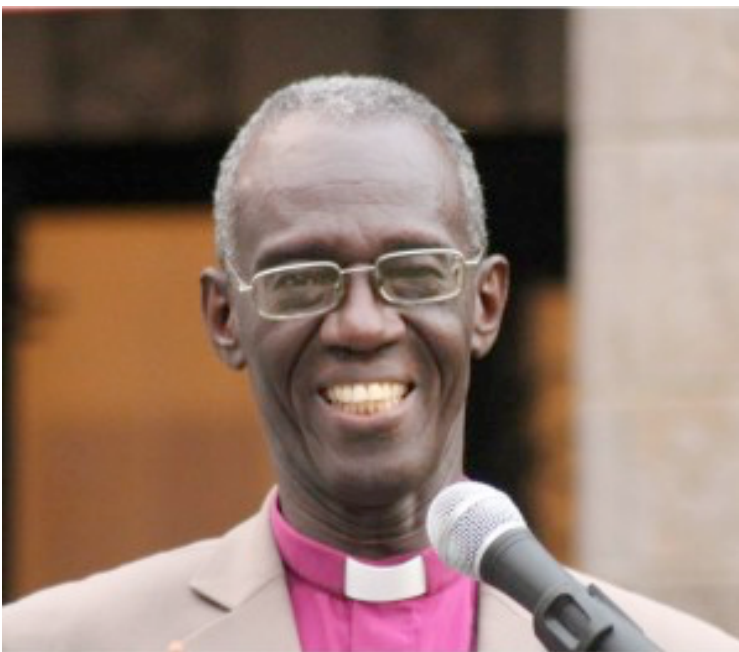
The Douglas Union of Parishes recently held their second Art & Photography Exhibition in the Canon Packham Hall, Douglas, County Cork.



A great weekend began with a wine reception and official opening by artist Glynnis Trinder. Glynnis commented on the great variety and quality of artwork on display and said the exhibition provided a welcome platform for artists to show their work. The exhibition attracted a wide range of artists and this year showed the work of several photographers.

Children from St. Luke's and St. Michael's schools came along to see their entries to the 'Mini Masterpieces' competition. This second year of the exhibition showed increased momentum with red dots spreading around the Canon Packham Hall throughout the weekend. The fantastic display of art again provided a colourful backdrop to a great parish social occasion.

In his latest pastoral letter, the chairman of the GAFCON Primates' Council, Archbishop Eliud Wabukala, has disagreed with what he refers to as the spiritual and moral bankruptcy of the 'good disagreement' bid to maintain institutional unity in the Anglican Communion.



Dialogue is no substitute for doctrine - Anglican Gafcon leader attacks 'bankruptcy of good disagreement' strategy

Writing to members of the Global Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans, the Primate of Kenya demonstrates that lack of

agreement on primary biblical issues should never be perceived positively by professing Christians. Striking an Advent theme, he said:

"For the New Testament writers, the expectation of Christ's return was an encouragement not to waver from sound doctrine or godly living, but on crucial issues such as sexual morality and the uniqueness of Jesus as Saviour and Son of God we are in a Communion where there is no longer a common mind."

Archbishop Wabukala then contrasted this spiritual reality to the approach taken by the Consultation of Anglican Bishops in Dialogue which met in Coventry, UK, in May:

“Some say this does not matter. For instance, the ‘Bishops in Dialogue’ group after their Coventry meeting earlier this year claimed that we must maintain visible unity despite everything because ‘now we see through a glass, darkly’ (1 Corinthians 13:12). In other words, things will only become clear in heaven. This is a bad mistake. It is true that there is much about our future state that we do not yet understand, but God has given us the inspired Scriptures as a lamp to our feet and a light to our path (Ps.119:105). Our future hope cannot be turned into an excuse for compromise or silence when Scripture is clear.”

In a summary that is faithful to the biblical approach and the historic Anglican formularies as they reflect the doctrinal clarity of Scripture, Archbishop Wabukala said: “Dialogue is no substitute for doctrine.”

Such a confessing Anglican approach is manifestly antithetical to the current ‘good disagreement’ strategy, which relies on a highly managerial treatment of people in theological disagreement. The proponents of ‘good disagreement’ insist on a ‘safe space’ for the deniers of primary biblical truth.

In the ‘facilitated conversation’, safe space practically translates to a virtual refutation-free zone in which spiritual and moral errors will not be challenged with the doctrinal robustness of the New Testament and the historic Anglican formularies. The ‘good disagreement’ managers are in fact now becoming increasingly hostile towards the clear ‘truth-error’ categories of the Bible and historic Anglicanism.

Imagine the Apostle Paul in a facilitated conversation where the deniers of primary matters of apostolic truth were being offered a refutation-free zone. He certainly refused to offer the errant Corinthians such a ‘you’re-not-allowed-to-upset-me’ space in a comfy dialogue lounge...

New UK rules for extractive industries a welcome blow against corruption - Christian Aid

Christian Aid welcomed the entry into force this week of new regulations requiring extractive industries to report the payments they make to governments as an important move against corruption, and a significant first step in reforming corporate transparency.

The new rules, which implement the EU Accounting Directive (Chapter 10), require oil, gas, mining and logging companies to report both on a country as well as a project basis any payments to governments in countries where they operate, or plan to set up business.

Christian Aid's Senior Economic Justice Adviser Joseph Stead said: "The UK government deserves credit for being the first EU member state to implement these regulations, which will help identify and tackle corruption in many developing countries.

"Many poor communities in areas rich in resources have been calling for this information for many years so they can start to hold both governments and companies to account for their activities.

"We hope that other EU countries will follow the UK lead and implement the rules as quickly as possible. We hope too it will galvanise the US into action. Similar regulations have been on the statute book there for the past four years, but have not been enforced following an appeal by oil companies."

Greater corporate transparency

The new UK regulations should be followed by further measures towards greater corporate transparency, added Mr Stead.

They should be extended to all sectors, not just the extractive industries, and multinationals and other companies trading across borders should also be required to report publicly on the profits made and tax paid in every country where they operate.

"There is currently a proposal on the table from the OECD and G20 for all companies to provide country by country reporting of a wider range of data, but only to tax authorities," said Mr Stead.

"Christian Aid and many others are calling for this information to be made public, to help identify bad practice and start restoring trust and accountability to tax systems around the world.

"Only with greater transparency will communities have the information to hold governments and companies fully to account for corruption and tax dodging.

"Having led the world on implementing this first step with extractive industries, the UK should show similar leadership with increased transparency for all multinationals."

Has the church a Role In Decade Of Historic Commemorations? - New publication

Does the Church have any relevant role as we journey through a decade of historic commemorations in Ireland? This is the subject of “Moving Beyond The Pale; Church and the Decade of Commemorations”, a new publication by Earl Storey. The publication and the research behind it was supported by the Community Relations Council which has been working with a range of partners to explore ways in which communities can come together to revisit and reflect upon the key events that shaped the current cultural and political landscape. As a key part of community life the Community Relations Council believes that Churches have a positive role to play in addressing the issues of our shared history.

The years 1912 to 1922 saw historical events on these islands, the memory of which has burrowed deep into our sense of identity and psyche. Whether we are talking about the fault line of civil war politics, the resonances of the Easter Rising or the sacrifices of The Somme the effects are still felt today. They put something in the DNA of our psyches, sense of identity and how we relate to one another in the here and now.

Moving Beyond The Pale: Church and the Decade of Commemorations asks whether commemorating events of 1912 to 1922 presents an opportunity or a risk. Whichever of these it is then what values should guide us as we look back? It asks whether the Church now has anything useful to bring to historical reflection, as well as looking at the pressures and opportunities that reflection presents to the Church.

Earl Storey says, “Like it or not we have begun to live through a decade of commemoration, when momentous events of one hundred years ago shaped our sense of self and relationships on these islands are remembered. Is it an opportunity for something good and constructive? It is if we choose it to be.” He continued, “A generation on this island is growing up that has had no experience of violent conflict. This is something to celebrate, but also to be wary of. It leaves a generation open to the romantic myth of violence – myths that are easily reinforced by calling up the ghosts of a decade long past.”

Jacqueline Irwin, Chief Executive of the Community Relations Council, says “We are still dealing here with the consequences of the conflicts that took place a hundred years ago and we must all try to be aware of the wide range

of stories and experiences and be sensitive to the impacts they had on all sides.

“For this reason the Community Relations Council and Heritage Lottery Fund developed principles for commemorations and remembering in the public space: firstly that we should all start from the historical facts; recognise the implications and consequences of what happened; understand that different perceptions and interpretations exist; and try to show how events and activities can deepen understanding of the period.

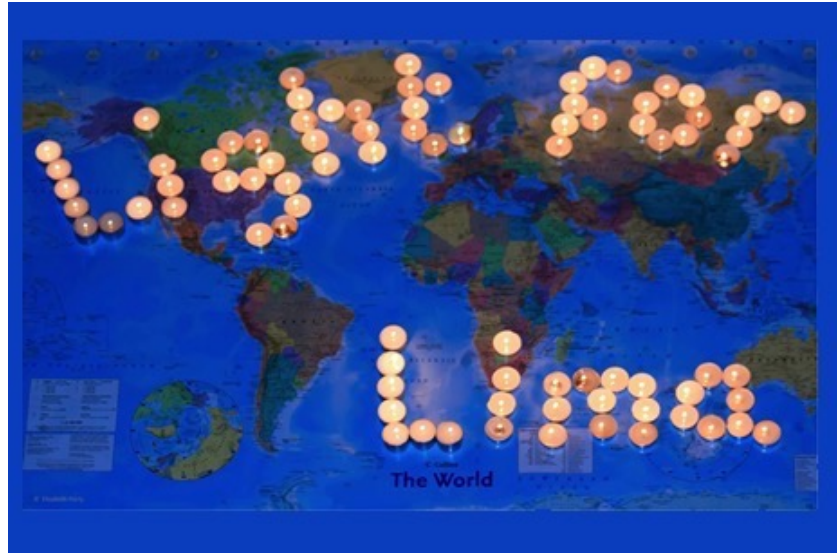
“The Churches have an important role to play in discussions and practical action to help ensure that commemorations are constructive and part of the healing process that takes us to an inclusive and accepting society. CRC is pleased to have been able to support the research and publication of Earl Storey’s report which will be a useful resource for churches and others involved in commemorations.”

Moving Beyond The Pale was launched at an Irish School of Ecumenics event in Belfast last week It is available free–of–charge from the Community Relations Council, 6 Murray Street, Belfast. Copies can also be downloaded from www.topstorey.org/publications

Calling churches and communities to hold their Light for Lima vigil on Sunday 7th December

On Sunday
7th December 2014
the [Our Voices](#) campaign
is asking churches and
faith communities

worldwide to hold a vigil at 8pm local time and mark the climate discussions in Lima, Peru.



From 1st December 2014 world leaders will meet in Peru to discuss climate negotiations in what is a pivotal moment towards December 2015, when they will meet in Paris, France, and finalise their commitments.

At the Paris meeting leaders will sign a climate treaty and make commitments to reduce carbon emissions, finance the Green Climate Fund, and take other initiatives to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

[An Advent Light for Lima prayer resource is available here.](#)

<http://clients.squareeye.net/uploads/anglican/Advent%20Light%20for%20Lima%20with%20action.pdf>

This has been created by Elizabeth Perry for Christian Concern for One World and provides a fantastic guide for your prayers and vigils.

Light for Lima will bring faith groups together in every region of the world as churches and other faith communities hold vigils lit by solar lamps and candles, and mark the climate discussions in Lima, Peru, calling on governments to take action to reduce climate emissions and help the most vulnerable as they respond to the effects of climate change.

You can take part and sign up at <http://www.ourvoices.net/lima> - look for a vigil that is already taking place in your town or city, or organise your own by gathering members of your local church to light candles and say a prayer for the meetings in Lima and the future of our planet. You will be joining a global movement is coming together to seek climate justice.

Do send your news and photos to anglicanalliance@aco.org or post them on their [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages.