



CNI

May 18 - Evening News briefs

Coptic Orthodox Leader, His Holiness Pope Tawadros II, visits Archbishop of Dublin

His Holiness Pope Tawadros II, visited the Archbishop of Dublin, Diarmuid Marti today, Thursday 18 May. It is the first time that Pope Tawadros, Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of the See of Saint Mark, has visited Ireland as head of the Coptic Orthodox Church whose membership remains predominantly in Egypt. Last month, Pope Francis visited Cairo at the invitation of Pope Tawadros and the grand imam of the mosque of al-Azhar, Sheikh Ahmed Mohamed el-Tayeb, as well as Catholic Bishops and the Egyptian government. Coptic Christians currently represent 80% of Christians in the Middle East.

Pope Tawadros ends UK visit with Prince Charles meeting

Wrapping up his first pastoral UK visit, the Coptic Church leader Pope Tawadros II has been welcomed to Clarence House by the Prince of Wales. The event on Wednesday followed other meetings with figures including the Queen, the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Egyptian ambassador to the UK. Commenting on the visit, His Grace Bishop Angaelos, General Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Church in the UK, said: "It has been a blessing for the Coptic community here in the United Kingdom to engage with their shepherd.

"It was also an opportunity for His Holiness to meet his flock and to encounter some of the work being done under the various ministries within the Coptic Orthodox Church in the United Kingdom."

Most senior GB family court judge calls for online divorces

The most senior family court judge in England and Wales has said divorces should be able to be conducted online. In a review sent to lawyers, Sir James Munby also wrote that the divorce process should be separated from a couple's disputes over money. The judge said the proposed reform would alleviate the administrative pressure within the family court.

He wrote: "Has the time not come to bring about a complete de-linking - separation - of divorce and 'money so that they are started and pursued by completely separate processes, albeit, of course, that the timeline for ancillary relief is determined by the progress of the divorce? My view, which I have been propounding for some time, is an unequivocal and emphatic yes!"

Scots Moderator to abseil off Firth of Forth bridge

Dangling 165ft off the ground above the Firth of Forth attached to a rope is not for the faint hearted. It takes guts and nerves of steel to willingly abseil off one of the world's most iconic rail bridges. But that is what the Moderator of the General Assembly plans to do to raise at least £10,000 for the Church of Scotland's social care arm, CrossReach. Right Rev Dr Russell Barr is standing down from his year-long ambassador role on Saturday and is looking forward to abseiling off the Forth Rail Bridge in aid of a good cause.

[Donate to support the work of CrossReach by clicking on this link.](#)

Dr Barr has done a charity parachute jump before but this is his first abseil.

C of I rector and organist perform country gospel

A country/gospel concert was held in Trinity Methodist Church and Community Venue, Lisburn, on Friday May 12 featuring local radio personality and country and gospel singer, Warren Smyth. Among those taking part were the Rev Jason Kernohan, rectpr of Eglantine Parish, Lisburn, and Simon Neill, Director of Music at St Polycarp's Parish, Finaghy, Belfast. Other performers included Gerard Dornan (Country Harmony), Kate Weir, and James Boyd.

Pope for audience with families with Huntington's Disease

Irish families and a mother and daughter from the home town of Pope Francis are among those attending an audience in Rome. This is the first Pope to publicly recognise Huntington's Disease (HD) as he attends the world's largest gathering of people with the disease. This event, promoted as HDdenomore (Hidden No More), was planned as a thanks to families from Colombia, Venezuela and Argentina who, more than 25 years ago, provided the samples that led to the identification of the HD gene. "It will be the first major international public recognition of a disease from which as many as a quarter of a

million Catholics also suffer,” stated Patricia Towey, information and services co-ordinator, Huntington’s Disease Association of Ireland, in a column in the *Irish Times*. Around 750 people suffer with HD in Ireland and there are more than 3,000 at risk. Pauline Doran (67), her son Joe and daughter Anne are travelling from Longford to Rome for the audience. Pauline lost her husband John to HD in 1999, and their son Joe has also being diagnosed with the disease. As his health has deteriorated, he has had to give up work and driving. Pauline Doran is his carer, and her siblings and extended family have been very supportive. Some of