



Temperance brings balance and prevents excess getting a grip, Bishop Éamonn Walsh

Yesterday, Sunday February 7 was observed as a Day of Prayer for Temperance, which said Bishop Éamonn Walsh “Was a day which offers us an opportunity to reflect on our relationship

with alcohol and a day on which we can take time to pray for those who suffer from addiction.”

Writing about temperance in the current issue of *Intercom* magazine Bishop Éamonn Walsh, Vice-chair of the Irish Bishops' Drugs Initiative said:

We live in a world where many people wish to march to the beat of their own drum. Where freedom and tolerance means, 'let me do what I want and you can do what you want, as long as it does not interfere with my freedom'. When a society takes down the protective banks so that everyone can be totally free, we could easily become a lazy lake with people floating around doing their own thing but really going nowhere. Once there is a focus in life, floating aimlessly disappears. A purpose develops with its own safeguards, priorities and balance. It is this balance that we associate with temperance. It may demand sacrifices to attain a goal for self or others. Once the habit of temperance is formed in one area of life, it can be drawn on whenever required.

Temperance has an unpopular image, it is perceived as a restrictive, a sort of kill-joy and spoil sport. Nothing could be further from the

reality. Temperance brings balance and prevents excess getting a grip. Bad tempered behaviour or intemperate language is neither accepted in sport nor in social behaviour. Society is all too aware of how drugs, including alcohol, have done such damage to sport, recreation, working and family life. It has become so difficult for people to resist the culture of artificial and chemical enhancement for all kinds of performances and entertainment.

Bishop Walsh also suggests a concrete way of assisting young people in forming the habit of balance through the *Confirmation Commitment*. The *Confirmation Commitment* encourages candidates, with the assistance of their sponsors, to make a commitment to themselves and to others to lead a healthy lifestyle, respect themselves and others, and to use the knowledge about alcohol and drugs to stay safe. The gifts of wisdom, knowledge, right judgement and courage are called on to take, and to keep, their commitment.

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Bishop Colton's regret at closure of Cork Synagogue

'It is with immense sadness and a heavy heart that I read the news, on this Sabbath Day, that the last religious Service is to be held in the Synagogue on the South Terrace in Cork this weekend.

'On behalf of all of us in the local Church of Ireland community, I extend prayerful greetings of solidarity, and friendship in faith, to Mr Fred Rosehill, Chairman of the Trustees and also to the members of the Cork Hebrew Congregation as they gather with their guests from further afield for this emotional occasion

'The people of the Church of Ireland in County Cork, having closed a number of churches over the years, know well the emotions and responses that are associated with the closure of a place of worship; especially a place in a locale that has figured prominently in the pilgrimage of faith, as well as in the big occasions on life's journey.

This is all the more the case when it is the last such place of gathering of a religious congregation in a community like Cork.



‘Thousands of Corkonians drive or walk past the Cork Synagogue every day. To our shame, perhaps, many have engaged with or known little about this minority community of faith in our midst, yet we do recognise too the immense contribution of members of the Hebrew congregation to our life in Cork, at least since the 18th Century, particularly since the 1880s, and subsequent the Consecration of the Synagogue in 1905.

‘Growing up in Cork, I remember well Jewish neighbours and school friends in Cork Grammar School, and how living and learning alongside

them taught and enriched me and my contemporaries. The change in circumstances – demographics and practical realities – which bring about the closure of the Synagogue are sad not least because the closure represents a diminution of the religious pluralism in Cork at a very time when, in Ireland as a whole, greater religious diversity than ever before is a mark of our nation.

‘I wish all the members of the Hebrew Congregation *Shalom aleikhem* (peace upon you all) for the journey of faith that lies ahead’

Moyross Jesuit parish priest selected as an Envoy of Mercy by Pope

Moyross parish priest Fr Tony O’Riordan SJ is among a group of priests from around the world chosen by Pope Francis to play a special role in the Holy Year of Mercy which began on 8 December.

Fr O’Riordan has been invited to come to Rome on Monday 8 February to receive the special mandate in person during an Ash Wednesday ceremony in St Peter’s Basilica on 10 February.



Fr Tony O'Riordan invited to Rome to receive the special mandate in person from Pope Francis during an Ash Wednesday ceremony in St Peter's Basilica.

During the ceremony he will be mandated as a Missionary of Mercy and receive a special mission from Pope Francis to preach and teach about God's mercy.

Fr O'Riordan says as PP of Moyross in Limerick, his selection is a symbolic affirmation by Pope Francis of the need of the Church to be with and serve the people on the outskirts and the margins.

The initiative of Pope Francis is part of this special or Holy Year proclaimed by the Pope which began on 8 December and it runs until 20 November 2016.

Pope Francis had said he would designate 'Missionaries of Mercy' to be unique signs of God's mercy.

They have been selected for their ability to preach and practice mercy and to be good confessors.

Pope Francis is giving them special authority to pardon sins that carry penalties that only the Holy See can lift.

The appointed missionaries were invited to Rome for a special meeting with the Pope on Tuesday next.

C of I Historical Society offers postgraduate prize

The W G Neely postgraduate prize is for a postgraduate student interested in wishing to have an essay considered for publication in an internationally recognised peer-reviewed journal.

The W. G. Neely Prize, named in honour of the Society's founder, offers postgraduate students a chance to win €150 and the possibility to have their work published with *Irish Historical Studies*. The winner will also be required to present their

work at the Church of Ireland Historical Society's conference in Armagh 2017.

The prize is open to postgraduate students pursuing a major research thesis. Interested candidates may write on any topic of his/her choosing relating to the history of the Church of Ireland. Essays should be no more than 5,000 words (including footnotes). The deadline is **Friday, 26th August 2016**. The prize also includes €150

For more information, including terms and conditions, please click here: [Neely Postgraduate Prize](#)

<http://churchofirelandhist.org/w-g-neely-prize-2015-3/>

Pope Francis to hold historic meeting with Russian patriarch in Cuba

The Pope is to hold a historic meeting with the Russian Orthodox leader Patriarch Kirill, the Vatican has announced.

After almost three decades of tense Catholic-Russian Orthodox relations, Pope Francis will



Russia's Patriarch Kirill at the Cathedral of the Assumption at Cathedral Square in the Kremlin, Moscow

meet Patriarch Kirill of Moscow February 12 in Cuba on the Pope's way to Mexico.

It will be the first-ever meeting of a pope and Moscow patriarch, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, told reporters today.

As Pope Francis travels to Cuba and as Patriarch Kirill makes an official visit to the island nation, the two will meet at Havana's Jose Marti International Airport and plan to sign a joint declaration, Father Lombardi said.

The meeting “will mark an important stage in relations between the two churches,” said a joint declaration on the meeting.

Holding a simple meeting with a Moscow patriarch, spiritual leader of the world’s largest Orthodox church, was a failed dream of St John Paul II and an opportunity that escaped retired Pope Benedict XVI as well.

Repeatedly after the Soviet bloc began dissolving in 1989 and the once-repressed Eastern Catholic churches began functionally publicly again, Russian Orthodox leaders insisted there could be no meeting between a pope and a patriarch as long as Catholics were “proselytizing” in what the Orthodox considered their territory.

The Vatican insisted the Catholic Church rejects proselytism, which it defines as actively seeking converts from another Christian community, including through pressure or offering enticements.

The Russian Orthodox had insisted such types of proselytism occurred in both Russia and Ukraine, although the Vatican said that when asked, the Orthodox provided no proof.

St John Paul re-established the Latin-rite Catholic hierarchy of Russia in 2002, which led to the Russian Orthodox withdrawing from dialogue with the Vatican for several years.

Even as tensions over the Catholic presence in Russia waned, the Russian Orthodox insisted a bigger example of proselytism was the loss of its churches in the newly independent Ukraine.

The Vatican recognised there were some instances of excessive zeal early on, but rejected the use of the term “proselytism” as a blanket description for the re-establishment of the Ukrainian Catholic Church.

The Ukrainian Catholic Church was outlawed by the Soviet government in the 1940s and its property was confiscated by the government, which in turn gave some churches to the Russian Orthodox.

Byzantine-rite Catholics who once could worship only in a Russian Orthodox church, returned to Catholic services and sought the return of church property.

Jesuit Father David Nazar, rector of Rome’s Pontifical Oriental Institute and a Ukrainian Catholic from Canada, told Catholic News

Service: “If this were to take place, it would be big news in the Year of Mercy. To make a step in this direction is beautiful, but also irreversible.”

Especially for Catholics in Russia and Ukraine, he said, relations with the Russian Orthodox are complicated, including because of the close relationship between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Russian government, which annexed the Crimea and is supporting fighting in Eastern Ukraine.

Father Nazar described his reaction to the news as “cautiously optimistic” and said he hoped it would mark “a new beginning” in Catholic-Russian Orthodox relations.

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

Tribute to The O’Donovan, Gaelic clan chief and churchman

Irish Times

<http://www.irishtimes.com/life-and-style/people/gaelic-clan-chieftain-who-returned-to-his-ancestral-home-1.2524439>

UN insists Ireland must end discrimination in competition for school places

Irish Mirror

It also said yesterday children should be able to opt out of **religion** class and that appropriate alternatives are put in place. The UN Committee On The ...

<http://www.irishmirror.ie/news/irish-news/un-insists-ireland-must-end-7310990>

Publisher pulls all copies of controversial new book on C of E

Religion News Service

“It is the sort of scandal-obsessed diatribe that dying religious communities — one thinks of the Catholic **Church** in Italy or **Ireland** — are too weak and ...

<http://www.religionnews.com/2016/02/05/publisher-pulls-copies-controversial-new-book-church-england/>

Critic refuses to quit Vatican sex abuse commission

BBC

An outspoken British member of a Roman Catholic commission on sexual abuse refuses to quit, denouncing his treatment by the Vatican as "outrageous".

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-35514071>

Recruitment crisis in Scottish Catholic schools

Herald Scotland

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14258192.Recruitment-crisis-in-Scottish-Catholic-schools/>

Church of England vicar's son died fighting for Islamic State

Premier

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Church-of-England-vicar-s-son-died-fighting-for-Islamic-State>

Mail

Piers Morgan column where he reflects (lightheartedly) on the Archbishop of Canterbury's turn on the *Good Morning Britain* sofa the previous week.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/home/event/article-3432082/PIERS-MORGAN-witnessed-King-Elton-Cruella-Furnish-s-dismissive-antics-GQ-Awards-year-ve-seen-petulant-dummy-throwing-kindergarten-Easter-egg-hunt.html>

BBC

Charities have said new rules on how they spend government grants could silence their cause. From May, charities and organisations will no longer be allowed to spend taxpayers' money on lobbying ministers. Includes comment from former Bishop of Oxford, Lord Harries, who chairs a commission which has looked into charity lobbying - the Commission on Civil Society and Democratic Engagement - and said the "polarisation" between charities' direct work and policies they wanted to change was "very, very unhelpful".

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-35509117>

Sun

News-in-brief on the Bishop of Durham's speech and subsequent answers to questions in the House of Lords last week on the CofE's Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure.

<http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/6914277/Reverend-defends-Bishop-paedos.html>

S Times

Case study looking at CofE priest Norman Jones and his wife Sue, focusing on re-retirement savings advice given to them by HSBC.

<http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/business/money/savings/article1665039.ece>

Christian Today

Comment article on the Church of England attacking Government plans to liberalise Sunday trading including ref to statement from Bishop of St Albans, Alan Smith.

BBC

Report that Hereford Cathedral is finally replacing a missing cross - centuries after it vanished. The Tudor Booth Porch of the cathedral is believed to have been missing its cross since 1518, shortly after it was put in place. The new 4ft (1.22m) stone cross will complete nine months of restoration work on the cathedral's roof.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-hereford-worcester-35512338>

S Exp

Feature on head teachers asking parents to provide evidence of those who park illegally on the school run. Includes a letter from the head at Hope Hamilton CofE primary school, Leicester, who has written to parents asking for “photographs of illegally parked cars, along with registration numbers”, which the school will pass to police.

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/641742/Heads-tell-mothers-to-snitch-on-selfish-school-run-parkers>

S Times

Feature on sleep research programme on the iPhone generation of teenagers which is using Northumberland CofE academy as its case study, looking at the possibility of later school start times and the problem of dropping off in lessons.

<http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/newsreview/education/article1665048.ece§>