



15,000 victims of rape and sexual assault receiving support in NI

It is estimated that one in four people suffer sexual abuse in their lifetime. We know this includes men and women across Northern Ireland, ranging in age from babies to people in their 90s.

Kathy Torney writes in The Detail - The Detail has analysed data held by leading counselling charity Nexus and we also visited Northern Ireland's sexual assault referral centre based in

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the grounds of Antrim Hospital to speak to staff helping victims on a daily basis.

We have mapped the home postcode district of almost 14,000 people supported by Nexus over the last six years. Our map illustrates the scale of abuse inflicted on people living in towns and cities across Northern Ireland.

Some sought help shortly after being raped or assaulted but for many it was years or even decades before they spoke out about what had happened to them.

High profile cases like the serial abuse carried out by TV presenter Jimmy Savile have brought the issue into sharp public focus.

But, despite more open public debate, we know that our map gives only a snapshot of the true impact of sexual abuse here. For many victims, their abuse will remain a secret known only to them and their perpetrator.

More than 1,100 people have been supported by Northern Ireland's sexual assault referral centre since it opened its doors in May 2013.

The Rowan, based in the grounds of Antrim Hospital, is jointly funded by the Department of Health and the PSNI.

More at -

<http://www.thedetail.tv/issues/369/the-rowan/15000-victims-of-rape-and-sexual-assault-receiving-support-in-ni>

NUI Galway Study on violence against women world-wide

Some 4,500 women in conflict zones and poor communities are to be asked to detail their life experiences as part of an international project to count the cost of violence against them.

Belfast Telegraph - In-depth interviews are planned with survivors of rape, torture and abuse in Ghana, Pakistan and South Sudan to calculate personal losses and the price family households, local communities and countries ultimately pay.

Dr Nata Duvvury, lead researcher and co-director of Centre for Global Women's Studies at the National University of Ireland Galway (NUI Galway), said the study could drive ideas on preventing abuse.

"Violence against women and girls is a global issue. We need an immediate, pragmatic,

informed and coherent response across nations," she said.

"We understand today, more than ever before, the debilitating impact it has on individuals, families and communities.

"What we now need to understand are the myriad impacts of violence on the economy and society, we can then identify which interventions need to be prioritised for the benefit of individuals and society as a whole."

The £1.5 million, three-year project, funded by the UK's Department for International Development, aims to shift the focus of violence against women away from domestic abuse to an assessment of the economic and social cost.

Ghana, Pakistan and South Sudan were chosen to represent fragile, conflict-hit or low-middle income states.

More at - <http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/republic-of-ireland/study-on-violence-against-women-30982674.html>

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin 'appalled' by religious order delays



Dr Diarmuid Martin has said he is appalled at the delays

RTE.ie - Archbishop of Dublin Dr Diarmuid Martin has said he was appalled to hear of delays by some orders in fully implementing standards and guidelines of child protection.

The National Board for the Safeguarding of Children said seven of the nine orders it has just completed inspections on have a poor record of management, making any assessment of their current practice difficult.

The Catholic Church's child protection watchdog says opportunities to safeguard children were missed and known abusers allowed to remain in ministry in 1990s.

In a statement, Dr Martin said: "The failure of any single Church organisation to implement the common norms casts a shadow over the credibility of the entire Safeguarding efforts of the Catholic Church.

"Survivors trying to regain their confidence in the Church will be disillusioned once again.

"The many lay men and women who work voluntarily in Church safeguarding structures in our parishes must feel disheartened.

"Failure of any Church organisation to implement fully and robustly the agreed clear norms is a direct affront to the desire of Pope Francis, repeated only one week ago, when he wrote that."

In an Overview of its latest tranche of reviews, the Chief Executive of the National Board for the Safeguarding of Children in the Catholic Church, Teresa Devlin, says she's disappointed that most of the Orders have only been "bedding down" the whole area of safeguarding in the last couple of years.

Her spokesman said the following seven had significant problems: the Augustinians; The Passionists; The Discalced Carmelites; The

Franciscan Friars and Brothers; The Servites; and the Marist Fathers.

The Sacred Heart Fathers of Jesus and Mary and the Dominican Sisters complied well with child protection standards and have demonstrated their commitment to responding promptly to allegations of abuse.

More at -

<http://www.rte.ie/news/2015/0210/679127-franciscans/>

Irish Times - It was “appalling” that some major religious congregations had delayed in fully implementing the **Irish Catholic Church's** child protection guidelines ...

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/child-protection-findings-appalling-diarmuid-martin-1.2098370>

<http://www.irishnews.com/news/archbishop-appalled-at-child-safeguarding-failures-1412496>

www.thejournal.ie/catholic-church-franciscan-1930402-Feb2015?utm_source=twitter_self

Church body ‘disappointed’ at tardy compliance by orders

Irish Times - The failure by some male religious congregations to comply with the Catholic Church's own child protection guidelines has been criticised by the Church's own child protection agency in its latest review.

[Teresa Devlin](#), chief executive of the Maynooth-based National Board for Safeguarding Children (NBSC) said: "I'm disappointed that, for the majority of Orders, the whole area of safeguarding is only being bedded down in the last couple of years."

She was referring to the Augustinians, Passionists, Franciscan Friars, Franciscan Brothers, the Servites, Discalced Carmelites, and Marist Fathers. She also found that where some congregations were concerned known abusers were allowed to remain in ministry in the 1990s while, when it came to delays in reporting abuse to civil authorities "for some practice did not improve until 2013."

More at -
<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/church-body-disappointed-at-tardy-compliance-by-orders-1.2098183>

Plan to draw up sanctions for bishops in abuse cases

Irish Times - The Holy See's Commission for the Protection of Minors officially acknowledged yesterday that one of the first issues it intends to address is "bishop accountability".

Essentially, this entails the implementation of disciplinary sanctions against those bishops who cover up for abuser priests and who fail to impose zero-tolerance policies in their dioceses.

Since the emergence of the clerical sex abuse phenomenon 20 years ago, the [Catholic Church](#) has, slowly and with much difficulty, developed tough accountability measures for priests found to be sex abusers. Speaking at a UN hearing in Geneva a year ago, the Vatican's UN ambassador, [Silvano Tomasi](#), pointed out that in the course of just two years, 2011 and 2012, [Pope Benedict](#) had "defrocked" nearly 400 priests for offences relating to child abuse.

More at -

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/plan-to-draw-up-sanctions-for-bishops-in-abuse-cases-1.2097456>

Child porn priest went on to hold senior role - Irish Examiner

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/ireland/child-porn-priest-went-on-to-hold-senior-role-311906.html>

C of I bishop at 150th anniversary of US Anglican order



Bishop Harold Miller of Down & Dromore recently preached at the 150th anniversary of the Community of St Mary in Greenwich, New York.

St Mary's Convent is set on a hillside overlooking Christ the King Spiritual Life Centre, a ministry of our [link Diocese of Albany](#). The sisters' ongoing churchnewsireland@gmail.com

witness to a life of prayer make Christ the King unique among conference centres of its kind in the United States.

The Community of St. Mary was founded in 1865 in New York City and is the oldest indigenous Religious Order in the Episcopal Church.

Contemplative and Benedictine in ethos, the sisters of the Eastern Province centre their life together in corporate worship, personal discipline and study, and simple work – with mission flowing outward from this stable anchor.

The first profession was 150 years ago on the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple. Bishop Harold's sermon from Luke 2 focused on the Patience of Waiting in God's Presence; the Power of the Prophetic Word (through Simeon and Anna) and the Piercing of Pain in Mary's heart, as the opposition to Christ and his sacrificial death are foretold.

Methodist Mission's Puddleducks win best nursery award

The team at Puddleducks are still coming down to earth after winning 'Best Nursery in inner Belfast' at the Families First Awards last week! Puddleducks Manager Sharon Bushe said, "I am

absolutely delighted that Puddleducks has been recognised as the Best Nursery! The team are super proud of everything that Puddleducks offers all our little ducklings day in, day out and it is brilliant that Families First have seen this too! Wow we are on cloud nine! A massive thank you to everyone who voted ... Puddleducks rocks!!!



"A special mention to one of our Nursery assistants Lindsay McBride who was recognised during the awards ceremony for her unfaltering enthusiasm and dedication to providing the highest level of quality care and learning experiences to the Little Chicks!"

Cindy Scott Head of Care at BCM said, “BCM is very proud of Sharon and the Puddleducks team who have won this award as the nursery approaches its 3rd birthday in June.

Puddleducks is about high quality care with an emphasis on education and development and the team work diligently to ensure this underpins everything they do for the children in their care. This accolade is a wonderful achievement.

Thank you to the Puddleducks team and to everyone who voted for us. What a way to start 2015!”

C of I clerical appointments

Around 500 people from across Clogher C of I diocese and beyond gathered in St Macartin’s Cathedral, Enniskillen on 8th February, for the Installation of three members of the clergy to the Chapter of the two Cathedrals in the Diocese. The Dean of Clogher, the Very Revd Kenneth Hall installed the Revd Canon John Stewart as Chancellor, the Revd Canon Brian Harper as Prebendary of Tyholland, and the Revd Canon Mark Watson as Prebendary of Devenish at the special Service of Holy Communion, which was celebrated by the Bishop of Clogher, the Rt Revd

John McDowell. The Preacher was the Very Revd Gregory Dunstan, Dean of Armagh.

A new Rector has been appointed to Kilmoremoy Union of Parishes Revd Stephen Joseph McWhirter.

Revd Stephen grew up in the parish of Bangor Abbey, Diocese of Down and Dromore, where he was a chorister and a Sunday school teacher. While training for ministry he served in a number of parishes including St Molua's Stormont, St. Mark's Dundela and Seagoe on the outskirts of Portdown. His most recent appointment has been as curate assistant in St. Paul's, Lisburn, Diocese of Connor.

Stephen is married to Jennifer, who is also an ordained priest, and he has two daughters, Harvest and Kizzy. Stephen lists as his interests reading, walking, sailing and country sport. He is also interested in creative welding, dress making and knitting.

Stephen's institution has been provisionally set for Friday 27 March in St. Michael's Church, Ballina.

The enthronement of Bishop Kenneth Kearon at St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick took place on Saturday 7th February.

The new bishop preached the sermon and the congregation included a large number of guests from across the community.

GB Churches launch flagship credit union



Clergy from churches in GB join the Archbishop of Canterbury in launching new credit union

CMCU - a UK wide Churches Mutual Credit Union LTD - was launched by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, at Church House, London.

He was joined by the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, John Chalmers and the President of the Methodist Conference, Ken Howcroft to celebrate their respective churches' collaboration in forming the flagship credit union.

CMCU is a joint drive to promote access to responsible credit and savings.

At least 60,000 individuals, notably ordained ministers, licensed lay ministers, elders, employees and trustees of churches (e.g. Parochial Church Council members) and church charities are eligible to join, along with churches and Anglican and Church of Scotland charities as corporate members.

The CMCU will offer a range of savings and loan products and fairness will be at the heart of its values. Initially members will be able to invest in the 'Founder Member's Bond' with ordinary savers accounts and loans becoming available in March. In due course CMCU will offer ISA savings accounts.

The Archbishop of Wales, Dr Barry Morgan, said, "The Church in Wales has a long-standing interest in credit unions, including helping to establish many, so we are very pleased to

welcome this addition to the credit union family in Wales.

“We hope it will strengthen the movement and encourage more people to make use of this local, ethical source of savings and loans.”

Archbishop Justin said: “My congratulations go to all involved in establishing the Churches Mutual Credit Union as it is launched today.

Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori Lent Message 2015

Lent is a season of Christian reflection that begins on Ash Wednesday (February 18) and concludes on Easter (April 5). The Presiding Bishop also noted Lent is “a journey that is about enlightenment if we’re willing to think about it that way.”

The following is the Presiding Bishop’s Lent Message 2015 -

Lent is about to begin. That word in English comes from an Old English word that means “to lengthen,” and it’s a reminder of the days getting

longer as we move toward summer out of the dark of winter.

But in a number of other languages, particularly Spanish and French, the word for “Lent” reflects “forty days,” “cuaresma.” Forty days of wandering in the desert, forty days of Jesus out in the desert.

It’s also about a journey. And it’s a journey that is about enlightenment if we’re willing to think about it that way.

Lent is an ancient tradition of solidarity and preparation for those who look forward to Baptism at the Easter Vigil. It has always been a time for prayer and study, fasting, self-denial, and alms-giving, sharing what we have with those who do not have. Prayer is an opportunity to reflect on who walks with us in the desert, who brings light into the world. Study is an opportunity to do the same kinds of things looking at the history of our tradition, where have human beings found light and direction in their journey through this world. Fasting and self-denial are an inward-reflection on what it is that keeps us in the dark, or what it is that keeps us directionless, or that keeps us overly self-focused. And it becomes an invitation to turn outward and share what we have with those who

have not. To build solidarity among God's people and the rest of the earth.

One of the most memorable Ash Wednesdays I ever spent was in San Jose, Costa Rica, in a school for children. I was asked to place ashes on the foreheads of toddlers. It was a provocative experience in the deepest sense, reminding very small children that they are mortal.

That cross that comes on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday is a reminder of the cross that's put there at Baptism. You are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own forever. The cross that comes at Ash Wednesday is a reminder that you are dust and to dust we shall return, that we share that dust with every other human being who has ever walked this planet, that we share that dust with the stars and the planets, that we share that dust with all that has been created. We are made for relationship with creator and creation.

Lent and cuaresma is a journey to walk toward that light. May it be a blessed one this year.

Media digest
Belfast Telegraph

Jesus being ruled out of order in Northern Ireland town halls - Alf McCreary writes

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/opinion/columnists/alf-mccreary/jesus-being-ruled-out-of-order-in-northern-ireland-town-halls-30981718.html>

Yahoo News

This loved-up couple received a special Valentine's blessing today - St Valentine still working in Dublin

<https://uk.news.yahoo.com/only-one-third-irish-people-believe-couples-children-125743389.html>

News Letter

Ford: Raise age of criminal responsibility in NI to 12

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/ford-raise-age-of-criminal-responsibility-to-12-1-6572491>

BBC News

Orange Order museums 'will not be propaganda'. The curator of a £3.5m Orange Order heritage museums project says it will not be a propaganda exercise for the order.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-31373779>

BBC News

Manannán Mac Lír: Limavady council votes to replace sea god statue. Councillors vote to

replace a statue of a Celtic sea god that was stolen from a County Londonderry mountainside.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-foyle-west-31391544>

Irish Times

Bishop warns of groupthink 'danger' on same-sex marriage poll

www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/bishop-warns-of-groupthink-danger-on-same-sex-marriage-poll-1.2098574?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter

Church Times

Lift burden off rural clergy, C of E study recommends

www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2015/6-february/news/uk/lift-burden-off-rural-clergy-c-of-e-study-recommends

BBC

The former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams responds to Stephen Fry's interview with Irish broadcaster RTE about God. Dr Williams, speaking to Newsnight presenter Evan Davis, explained that the same protest voices appeared in the book of Psalms and Job in the Bible.

<http://m.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-31360903>

BBC

Report that the Bishop of Kensington Paul Williams, is to be the new Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham. It states the 47-year-old bishop has led the church in Kensington, London Diocese, since 2009. The Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, praised Bishop Williams for his "imaginative ministry to children and young people".

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-nottinghamshire-31354763>

News reports from General Synod

Tel/Times

Reports on discussion at General Synod calling for a new approach to stop the rural church disappearing by using the church's multi-billion investments to fund a modernisation drive. It states members were told that the church could be "eliminated" in its heartland unless it urgently attracts new members. It quotes John Spence, chairman of the Church's finance committee, who detailed research showing that regular attendees are declining by around one per cent per year and that two thirds of members are now over 55.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11404412/Church-of-England-Rural-churches-could-disappear-within-ten-years.html>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/faith/article4350487.ece>

Times

Further report from General Synod on comments by John Spence, of the Archbishops' Council that the Church of England is at risk of extinction if present trends continue for the next 40 years.

http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/faith/article4350487.ece?CMP=OTH-gnws-standard-2015_02_10

Mail

Report on speech of an Iraqi archbishop who warned the General Synod that there was now a threat of the "extinction of Christianity as a religion and as a culture" in Iraq. He said Christians in Iraq "do not have much time left," he said, adding that the conflict with the Islamic State group had created a crisis of "chronic urgent need". He said the vibrant church was dissolving and compared the plight of Christians in Iraq to World War II genocide.

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-2948284/Iraqi-archbishop-urges-military-action.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490

Guard/Tel/Times

Reports on General Synod debate say Samuel Margrave, a lay member of the synod and local Labour councillor, asked whether, "the expensive, lavish, opulent cost of bishops' housing is good value for money". They state

that the 42 houses used by diocesan bishops had an average value of £2.26m in December 2013 and that 11 bishops still have chauffeurs, four who double up as gardeners. Andreas Whittam Smith, First Church Estates commissioner, said: "Nowhere in the Church, and this includes bishops, is there any excessive spending. People do the best they can, I think." *Times* mentions properties could be hit by Labour's proposed mansion tax.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/feb/10/church-england-questioned-lavish-spending-bishops-homes>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11404122/Personal-chauffeurs-and-episcopal-mansions-life-for-Church-of-Englands-good-shepherds.html>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4350475.ece>

Times/Mail/Mirror/Tel/Eve Standard

Further reports on an accident in Bath when a scania truck crashed out of control killing four people, including a four year old girl. They state pushchairs were lined up outside All Saints Church in Weston yesterday morning as hundreds of sympathisers gathered for a prayer service for the victims of the accident. Rev Patrick Whitworth told the congregation: "I cannot answer the question why and I don't think anything else can either."

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4350473.ece>

www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-2948550/Tributes-truck-crash-tragedy.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490
<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/bath-lorry-crash-tears-sorrow-5141166>
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/11404299/Tributes-paid-to-four-year-old-girl-killed-in-Bath-truck-crash-tragedy.html>
<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/feb/10/family-pay-tribute-to-girl-killed-by-bath-tipper-truck>
<http://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/bath-tipper-truck-crash-girl-victim-four-years-old-mitzi-rosanna-steady-10036192.html>

Guard

Further comment on HSBC and tax evasion scheme says Britain must invest in enough people to enforce evasion laws that work. Mentions that HSBC's former chair, who was also the chair of the HSBC Swiss private bank that is alleged to have arranged the fraud, now advises the Archbishop of Canterbury.

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/feb/10/we-want-to-solve-the-problem-of-hsbc-but-whos-willing-to-tackle-the-city>

BBC

Report that the Church of Scotland has launched a credit union, claiming it will offer a 'fairer' alternative to banks and payday lenders. The Churches Mutual Credit Union (CMCU), is a

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collaboration with the Church of England and other denominations. About 35,000 people in Scotland, including church ministers, elders and employees can join initially.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-31369335>