



## **Apostolic Nuncio visits St Killian's College, Garron Tower**

The Apostolic Nuncio to Ireland, Archbishop Charles Brown, paid his first visit to Co Antrim on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> when he accepted an invitation to visit St Killian's College Garron Tower.

The New York native met pupils and staff on his arrival before concelebrating Mass for the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes in the school chapel. He then addressed the student body in the Gym, before joining staff and invited guests for lunch.

Archbishop Brown was joined on altar by Bishop Noel Treanor, Fr Tim Bartlett (chairman of the Board of Governors) and a number of former students of Garron Tower including Frs David Delargy, Martin and Eugene O'Hagan (aka The Priests) and Fr Dermot McKay and Fr Darren Brennan from the Parish of Ballymena.

Archbishop Brown in his homily spoke of the young age of both Mary and of Bernadette in Lourdes when they were called to God's ministry, not much different from the ages of the students in front of him. He made reference to the former students of Garron Tower who were now ministering in the Church, including the priests concelebrating the Mass and Bishop Donal McKeown of Derry and Fr Paddy Delargy both of whom attended later in the afternoon. They all most likely got their calling to God's ministry at a young age as well.

He noted the College motto "Caritas et Veritas" – Nurturing and Truth – and asked the students to

be mindful of this motto in their lives both at present and in the future.

During the celebration of Mass, Archbishop Brown commissioned the new St Killian's College prayer which had been composed by Junior students of the College earlier this year. He expressed his pleasure that young people were taking ownership of the spiritual direction they were receiving in St Killian's.

Mr Jonny Brady, Principal of St Killian's College said...

"This is an historic day in the life of the young St Killian's College (founded 2010) and we are honoured to have Archbishop Brown among us to officially commission our new school prayer. We as a staff and a student body have been impressed by his interest in us and I am sure that this day will live long in the hearts and memories of those who were present."

Fr Tim Bartlett, Chairman of the Board of Governors, said ...

"To have the representative of Pope Francis visit St Killian's is a tremendous honour but also a comment on the very high regard in which this outstanding educational community, led by the Principal Mr Brady, is held.

“The Nuncio was clearly moved by the prayerfulness of the pupils, by the outstanding music of the choir and the beautiful surroundings. It was a truly great day for the whole school and for the Church on the Antrim Coast. I warmly congratulate all those involved, especially the young women and men of St Killian’s who did themselves very proud today.”

The Nuncio was presented with College cuff links and a specially commissioned wooden ciborium, carved by past pupil Robert O’Connell from a branch that had fallen during a storm from a 160 year old Eucalyptus tree in the College grounds, the oldest of the species in Europe.

Video at -

[www.larnetimes.co.uk/news/local-news/video-papal-nuncio-visits-st-killian-s-college-1-6573935](http://www.larnetimes.co.uk/news/local-news/video-papal-nuncio-visits-st-killian-s-college-1-6573935)

## **Irish Language Bill is ‘lifted from PIRA aims’ - C of I cleric**

A Church of Ireland clergyman has voiced concerns that Sinn Fein’s use of Irish through the departments of education and culture are a continuation of the Provisional 1996 constitution.

News Letter - Rev Alan Irwin from Co Fermanagh said: “Even my friends and family who are fluent Irish/Gaelic speakers are concerned by SF’s Irish Language Act proposals.”

He said the proposals are “a political tool” in SF’s hands. “We already live in a multilingual society where many languages are spoken, taught and learnt. Why can Irish not be taught in schools like every other language?”



“But SF want to elevate Irish above all other languages – as demonstrated by its efforts to create an Irish language medium secondary

school in Limavady for 14 pupils against the advice of all educational bodies.

“The IRA constitution has as one of its objectives: ‘To promote the revival of the Irish language as the everyday language of the people’. This has never been revoked and was updated in only 1996.”

His concern is that if the act is introduced that it will be used “to erode other languages and elevate Irish as a political tool – the continuation of the IRA’s objective”.

“My concern is that the IRA’s objective is still the driving force behind Sinn Fein.”

Also -

News Letter - Unionists brand Irish language bill ‘pointless and dictatorial’

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/unionists-brand-irish-language-bill-pointless-and-dictatorial-1-6572058>

## **Kids' Crew Volunteers Wanted for major PCI event**

The Kids’ Big Day Out is on Saturday, 25th April 2015 in Wellington Presbyterian Church in Ballymena. The annual event – now in its ninth year

– for primary school children and their leaders, will explore the question: ‘Who are you?’ with the help of music, videos, craft, prayer, games and drama.



“As part of the Crew you will join the children in these activities, helping them complete the tasks, feel welcome and have a fun day. There will also be times when everyone will sing, learn and listen together”, explained Ruth Bromley, PCI Children’s Development Officer.

“With as many as 500 children, plus leaders and volunteers, we need a team of 40 aged 14 or older to be part of the Crew. With a love for ministry with children and full of fun and enthusiasm, they will could be a vital part of the team helping to ensure the event runs smoothly.

Also, make it known in your congregation,” she said.

The Crew is needed from 10.30am-4.30pm. In the morning you will be fully briefed on the afternoon’s activities ready for the children arriving from 1.20pm. Lunch is provided before the children arrive.

To volunteer [download the volunteering form here](#).

<https://www.presbyterianireland.org/getmedia/1220fa5e-84a2-417a-b9a4-6e279fe77db5/Kids-Crew-volunteer-form.docx.aspx>

Please complete and return by 15<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

Tickets for the Kids’ Big Day Out are available from the office of the Council for Congregational Life and Witness, or can be [purchased online here](#).

<https://presbyterianireland.org/Training-Events/Events/Kids-Big-Day-Out-2015?eventType=1>

## **Has Martin McGuinness blocked John O’Dowd’s proposed abolition of the Catholic certificate?**



This is the story of two Ministers, *John O'Dowd* and *Martin McGuinness*. They're not brothers, but political comrades in the same party. [In this episode of Stormont Soap](#) the Sinn Fein Education Minister protests that he *wants* to [remove Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies](#).

Mick Fealty on Slugger OToole - The *Catholic Certificate in Religious Education* also just happens to represent a key argument in the continued independence of St Mary's College, where almost all new teachers for the Catholic maintained schools system are trained.

At the same time, the Sinn Fein TD MP for West Belfast Paul Maskey, where St Mary's College is situated, has challenged the Catholic educated Minister for Higher Education Stephen Farry in his determination to close St Mary's on the grounds of cuts imposed on his department by Mr Maskey's own political colleague Mr McGuinness.

Mr Farry is not a political relative of either Mr McGuinness or Mr O'Dowd, but he does *want* to amalgamate the college with its apparently estranged half sister college Stranmillis. Mr Maskey (who has no direct influence at *either* Stormont or Westminster) is currently

challenging Minister Farry's mandate with [a very quite large petition](#).

Any way, here's [the breaking news in Hansard](#):

More at -

<http://sluggerotoole.com/2015/02/10/has-martin-mcguinness-blocked-john-odowds-proposed-abolition-of-the-catholic-certificate/>

## **Church of Scotland 'challenge poverty Sunday'**

Congregations of the Church of Scotland are being asked to think, pray and act to challenge poverty this Sunday, February 15th.

The call to members of the Church to focus on issues of poverty, inequality, justice and hope follows a report made to the 2014 General Assembly on the impact of welfare reforms on poorer people, and what measures local churches are taking to respond to social need.

The Church of Scotland has for many years identified a Gospel bias to the poor and has directed work and resources to be focused on working alongside the most deprived parishes in Scotland. Along with ecumenical, interfaith and civic partners, the Church of Scotland has

supported the work of Scotland's Poverty Truth Commission, which helps bring together political decision makers with people who have direct experience of living in poverty.



This coming Sunday 15 February churches across the country are encouraged to include prayers and information about action to challenge poverty. It's about justice, as well as charity.

Every day this week people living in some of Scotland's poorest neighbourhoods are sharing their stories of hope and love on the [Priority Areas](#) blog on the Church of Scotland website.

Worship, prayer, advocacy and further resources have been published by [Church Action on Poverty](#).

## **Pilgrim Course addressing “urgent task” for the church – Archbishop of Canterbury**

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby has spoken about the *Pilgrim Course*'s growing role in bringing people to faith ahead of the formal launch of the final two new books of the Church of England's national discipleship series, which have been published this week.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, said:

"The Pilgrim Course has been used wonderfully by God both to bring people to faith in Jesus Christ and to enable them to grow as his disciples. It is my prayer that the complete

course will continue to be an effective tool for the Church as it seeks to fulfil, in God's grace, the urgent task of making disciples - so that the light of Christ may shine in every corner of this land through all who follow him."

The books were launched by Archbishop Justin during the Church's General Synod, on a day which saw debate about the increasing role that discipleship can play in the future growth of the Church.

The Archbishop also appears in new online videos published to complement each session, featuring in sessions talking about the Bible and the impact that it has had on his life.

The new materials, which look at *The Bible* and the *Church and Kingdom*, complete the course which has been published over the course of 18 months for use with enquirers and new Christians.

The final books see a wide range of contributions from writers including the Very Revd Vivienne Faull, Dean of York; the Bishop of Manchester, David Walker; and John Preston, the Church of England's National Stewardship Officer.

## Media digest

News Letter - More than 6,000 families in NI getting equivalent of £34k from benefits

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/more-than-6-000-families-getting-equivalent-of-34k-from-benefits-1-6574035>

Belfast Telegraph - Half of British women killed by men are killed by their partners

[www.telegraph.co.uk/women/womens-life/11406253/Nearly-half-of-British-women-killed-by-men-die-at-the-hands-of-partners.html](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/women/womens-life/11406253/Nearly-half-of-British-women-killed-by-men-die-at-the-hands-of-partners.html)

Irish Times - One-teacher schools not in children's best interests, says Taoiseach

[www.irishtimes.com/news/politics/oireachtas/one-teacher-schools-not-in-children-s-best-interests-says-taoiseach-1.2100484?utm\\_source=dlvr.it&utm\\_medium=twitter](http://www.irishtimes.com/news/politics/oireachtas/one-teacher-schools-not-in-children-s-best-interests-says-taoiseach-1.2100484?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter)

Independent - Kenny: abortion issue must not 'convulse' State

[www.independent.ie/irish-news/politics/kenny-abortion-issue-must-not-convulse-state-30985565.html](http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/politics/kenny-abortion-issue-must-not-convulse-state-30985565.html)

Irish Times - Fitzgerald's children Bill outlines new steps on parentage

[www.irishtimes.com/news/politics/fitzgerald-s-children-bill-outlines-new-steps-on-parentage-1.2100399?utm\\_source=dlvr.it&utm\\_medium=twitter](http://www.irishtimes.com/news/politics/fitzgerald-s-children-bill-outlines-new-steps-on-parentage-1.2100399?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter)

Irish Times - Threat of fresh legal action over lack of resources for pupils with 'mild' Down syndrome

[www.irishtimes.com/news/education/threat-of-fresh-legal-action-over-lack-of-resources-for-pupils-with-mild-down-syndrome-1.2100414?utm\\_source=dlvr.it&utm\\_medium=twitter](http://www.irishtimes.com/news/education/threat-of-fresh-legal-action-over-lack-of-resources-for-pupils-with-mild-down-syndrome-1.2100414?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter)

### **Express & Star (midlands) / Christian Today**

Report on the launch of the Churches Mutual Credit Union (CMCU) at General Synod which will offer a range of savings and loan products and ordinary savers accounts and loans will be available from next month, while Individual Savings Accounts (Isas), offering tax-free savings, will be available later this year or in 2016. Article says church members will be able to take out a loan for a car, open a savings account or invest in bonds through a new credit union run by church groups in the UK

<http://www.expressandstar.com/business/uk-money/2015/02/11/church-run-credit-union-launched/>

### **Guard/Tel**

Reports on speech by the head of Shell, Ben van Beurden attacking critics calling for fossil fuels to be left in the ground. *Telegraph* notes the company's board agreed to support a motion proposed by the Church of England and 150

other shareholders calling on the company to explain more fully its policy on climate change. *Guardian* states his comments indicate the oil industry is beginning to become rattled by talk of a "carbon bubble" left in ground and moves by the Church of England and universities to remove their investments from the large oil and coal extractors.

<http://www.theguardian.com/business/2015/feb/12/shell-boss-calls-fossil-fuel-critics-naive-but-admits-big-oil-has-credibility-issue>  
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/newsbysector/energy/11406611/Shell-chief-oil-to-stay-at-current-lows-for-rest-of-year.html>

*Guardian* also includes an assessment of the international campaign to divest from fossil fuels.  
<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/damian-carrington-blog/2015/feb/11/fossil-fuel-lobby-goes-on-the-attack-against-divestment-movement>

## **Eve Standard/Mail**

Further reports over the HSBC tax avoidance scheme stating Lord Green, who ran HSBC during the period covered by the leaked accounts and is now ordained in the Church of England, would face "serious questions". *Mail* highlights Ed Milliband's questions to David Cameron over the issue.



<http://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/political-storm-over-hsbc-tax-accounts-scandal-10033587.html>

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2950035/How-did-Milibob-fail-make-PM-look-chump-QUENTIN-LETTIS-Yesterday-Parliament.html?](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2950035/How-did-Milibob-fail-make-PM-look-chump-QUENTIN-LETTIS-Yesterday-Parliament.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

[ITO=1490&ns\\_mchannel=rss&ns\\_campaign=1490](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2950035/How-did-Milibob-fail-make-PM-look-chump-QUENTIN-LETTIS-Yesterday-Parliament.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

## **Mail**

Report that Martha Collison, the teenager who made it to the quarter finals of The Great British Bake Off is to write her own column in the Waitrose Weekend newspaper. It states that along with going to Cambodia to investigate child trafficking with Tearfund and teach baking to the girls that have been rescued, she is also going to be baking with the Archbishop of Canterbury in front of an audience of 500 as part of an event to support the homeless in Birmingham.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2949980/Bake-girl-18-write-Waitrose-Teenager-reached-quarter-finals-year-set-pen-monthly-column.html#ixzz3RVdfSoRe>

## **Mail**

Further article by columnist discussing headline around the Archbishop of Canterbury's

[churchnewsireland@gmail.com](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.com)

comments that Stephen Fry has every right to call God evil.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-2950070/CRAIG-BROWN-s-evil-God-Archbishop-Canterbury-Stephen-Fry.html>

## **Mail**

Article on how the inquiry into Establishment child abuse could take up to four years to complete, according to its new chairman. Lowell Goddard, a High Court judge in New Zealand, said leading the probe was the 'biggest challenge' she has ever faced as she set out plans to start in April.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2949476/Westminster-child-abuse-inquiry-FOUR-years-New-Zealand-judge-warns-faces-biggest-challenge.html#ixzz3RVhBYeLh>

## **Times**

Report that Lord Carey, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, described comments by a former judge in England and Wales as "not very helpful". It states former Lord Chief Justice, Lord Woolf, sparked controversy by saying cartoonists should show restraint so as not to offend Muslims. Lord Carey said the right to satirise political leaders and religious leaders was part of our tradition.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/law/article4351496.ece>

## **BBC**

Report on a hearing at the Court of Appeal for Rev Mark Sharpe who has appealed over whether he has the right to bring an action for unfair dismissal to the Diocese of Worcester. A spokesperson for the Church of England said clergy "are office holders, not employees of the bishop, the diocese or anyone else" and that discussions and decisions at General Synod following a major consultation with clergy, had shown that on the whole clergy do not wish to change this status.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-hereford-worcester-31320959>

## **Tel**

Report that vicars across the south-west of England are getting comedy tips on how to deliver punchlines with their sermons. It states the church hopes to attract more members with the comedy workshop, run as part of the South West Christian Resources Exhibition in Exeter. The article quotes clergy views and Comedian Bentley Browning, running the course, who said Jesus was a master communicator and storyteller.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11406105/Vicars-told-to-stand-up-for-Jesus-by-getting-lessons-in-how-to-swap-the-good-book-for-the-joke-book.html>

## **BBC**

Report that the bells from a historic Great Malvern Priory (Diocese of Worcester) have been taken down for restoration work at Whitechapel bell foundry in East London. A stronger frame will be installed in the belfry as the present one moves when the bells are rung. The bells which date from 1085. will be returned in July.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-hereford-worcester-31409965>

## **Times**

Report on YouGov survey of 1,550 adults for the *Times* which says almost one in five Britons is now an atheist. It states experts said the country was becoming more comfortable with atheism than with faith after the data revealed that public figures win approval for questioning the existence of God, while Christians are more than twice as likely as atheists to say that they struggle to speak openly about their beliefs.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/faith/article4351253.ece>

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