



CNI

Local contributors to Q Commons Dublin announced - part of international dialogue in 70 cities

The local contributors to Q Commons Dublin have now been announced.

Q Commons is a conversation on how to advance good in Dublin through collaboration in our communities. On Friday February 27 people in over 70 cities around the world will be having similar conversations.

Q Commons Dublin will take place in Christ Church Cathedral. The boutique gathering for leaders will feature bespoke, virtual presentations by **Malcolm Gladwell** (New York Times Bestselling Author), **Soledad O'Brien** (Broadcast Journalist) and **Mark Burnett** (Producer of the Voice, The Apprentice and more) looking at the issues of *Legitimacy*, *Ethnic Division* and *Virtue in Entertainment*.

They will be joined locally by communicators looking at *Tolerance, Media and the Economics of the Common Good* on two panel discussions:

The **Media and Faith** panel consists of:

- Host: Greg Fromholz, Q Commons City Leader
- Roger Childs : RTE Religious Programming (Director and Producer of the “Meaning of Life”)
- Michael Kelly: Editor of The Irish Catholic

The **Promoting Religious Tolerance in a Secular Culture**: panel will consist of:

- Host: Greg Fromholz, Q Commons City Leader
- The Very Revd Dermot Dunne: Dean, Christ Church Cathedral
- Dr Ali Alsaleh: Imam, Ahlul-Bait Islamic Center
- Sean Mullen: General Director, Evangelical Alliance Ireland
- Very Reverend Kieran McDermott: Episcopal Vicar for Evangelisation & Ecumenism for Catholic Archdiocese of Dublin

Q Commons is taking place in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, on Friday February 27 from 7.00 to 9.00 pm. Tickets cost €20 per person.

For further information see:

churchnewsireland@gmail.com

<http://www.qideas.org/qcommons/dublin/>

Q Commons promo video: **Introducing Q Commons**

Malahide and Portmarnock inter-church Lent 2015 Programme

During the season of Lent members from all the churches in the area will be joining together to hear various speakers talking about their Christian experiences and how it touches the lives of all believers. There will be time for discussion and for Q & A and for Refreshments.

The programme is as follows:

Wednesday 25th February @ 8.pm in St Sylvester's church, Malahide.

Guest Speaker: Ger Brennan, Lay Chaplin in St. Kevin's College, Ballygall. Ger plays for the Dublin Gaelic Team and is well known for speaking his mind about topics of the day.

Wednesday 4th March @ 8.pm in Malahide Presbyterian Church.

Guest Speaker: Tom Tate, Former Youth Worker in St. Andrew's Malahide and is currently Youth Officer in Dun Laoghaire Presbyterian Church.

Tom has a strong Faith and is a great Witness to the young people in his care.

Wednesday 11th March @ 8.pm in St. Anne's Church, Portmarnock. Guest

Speaker: Father Damian McNeice from Navan Road Parish. Currently he is master of Ceremonies to Archbishop Diarmuid Martin. He is also the first Roman Catholic Chairperson of the Dublin Council of Churches.

Wednesday 18th March @ 8. pm. In St. Andrew's Church, Malahide.

Guest Speaker: Donal Harrington. He is a Theologian and Pastoral Consultant. He teaches Pastoral Theology at All Hallows College and at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute.

Wednesday 25th March @ 8 pm. In St Andrew's Church, Malahide.

Guest Speaker: Archdeacon Gordon Linney (former Archdeacon of Dublin). As Archdeacon, Gordon spoke out many times on Radio and T.V. and in the papers against many of the injustices in society. He also writes the column "Thinking Aloud" in the Irish Times newspaper.

Dalkey Inter-Church Lent Series

Dalkey Inter-Church Lent Series on '*Sexuality, Spirituality and Scripture*' – Wednesdays in Lent 2015 at 7.30pm in HAROLD BOYS' SCHOOL Patrick Street.

1. Feb 25th. General introduction and overview:

Fr Kieran O'Mahony OSA, including some reflections on celibacy and the single state and a view of St Paul's writing on the relationship between sexuality and spirituality.

Exploration with the audience: What are our concerns at this time?

2. March 4th. Sexuality and Spirituality in traditional marriage and in emerging patterns of partnership or personal support.

Revd Ginnie Kennerley, Brian Glennon (spiritual director and member of GCVI) and Ger and Maree Mahony (marriage preparation and enrichment)

3. March 11th. Sexuality, Spirituality and Ethics in relation to Scripture. V Revd Dermot Dunne (Christ Church Cathedral) and Dr Brad Anderson (Mater Dei)

4. March 18th. What have we learned and what yet to explore?

Fr Kieran O'Mahony, Revd Bruce Hayes, Fr Paddy Devitt or Fr Declan Gallagher and Moninne Griffiths of Faith In Marriage Equality.

All welcome. Free entry. Tea and coffee at 9pm.

Flute Band concert among events to celebrate St Aidan's anniversary

St Aidan's Parish Church, Belfast, is celebrating 120 years of ministry in Sandy Row during 2015 with a range of events that will reach into the community of which it is part.

The celebrations get underway with a Flute Band Concert headlined by Flute Band Church from St Jude's, Muckamore, under the leadership of the Rev William Orr.

The concert will be held in Rangers' Social Club starting at 7.30pm on Wednesday March 4, and will also feature some local bands.

Priest-in-Charge of St Aidan's, the Rev Bobbie Moore, explained that a look back at parish magazines published the year the church was consecrated showed that St Aidan's had its own Flute Band Church, with 30 signed up members.

Bobbie believes the Flute Band concert will be something the community in Sandy Row will be drawn to. “We are trying to do things that will actually impact on the community as we celebrate this anniversary,” she said.



St Jude's Muckamore Flute Band Church.

“The idea came from our mission team, and is part of our aim to bring the church and Christ’s ministry into the community. As well as the

bands, there will also be a gospel message at the concert. This is about meeting people where they are at.”

There will be a more traditional celebration of the 120 years of ministry in Sandy Row with an Anniversary Service on Monday March 23. This begins at 7.30pm and the special guest preacher will be the Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev Alan Abernethy.

On May 30, the people of St Aidan’s will again step outside the walls of the church and head to Botanic Gardens for a Parish Picnic. “We will transport people who don’t have cars, the park is nice and flat for anyone who is older, so we will be able to include everyone,” said Bobbie.

Work is also underway on a souvenir magazine which will include a history of the parish and is scheduled for publication in March. “The magazine will allow us to look back to the past, but also to the future, building on the strong foundation of ministry that already exists in St Aidan’s,” said Bobbie

As part of looking to the future, renovation work inside the church is almost complete. A big empty space which once housed the organ pipes has been opened up and soundproofed with new glass doors added and will serve as a

room for children's church; the old small kitchen has been converted into a fully accessible disabled toilet and a new kitchen and store is almost complete.

Pope's man in Ireland oversees a quiet revolution



Archbishop Charles Brown: has overseen the appointment of 10 new bishops to Ireland's 26 dioceses, with potentially five more to come this year.

A quiet revolution has been taking place in the leadership of the Catholic Church in Ireland since Archbishop Charles Brown became papal nuncio three years ago. He has overseen the appointment of 10 new bishops to Ireland's 26 dioceses, with potentially five more to come this year.

Patsy McGarry in Irish Times - Included in the appointments made are two of the church's four archbishops, one of them the new Catholic primate of All Ireland, Archbishop Eamon Martin, who at 53 is also one the youngest bishops on the island. The youngest is the new Bishop of Kildare & Leighlin Denis Nulty (51).

No papal nuncio before has overseen the appointment of so many bishops in such a short time. This has been down to retirements, resignations, and ill-health. But it is likely to have a major influence on the Irish church in the years to come.

February has seen the appointment of a new bishop and the installation of another one. Fr Alphonsus Cullinan (55), a priest of Limerick diocese, was appointed to succeed Bishop Emeritus of Waterford & Lismore William Lee, who retired on grounds of ill-health.

The new Archbishop of Cashel & Emly, Kieran O'Reilly(62), was installed in the post after moving from Killaloe diocese where he was bishop since August 2010.

Neither was a priest of the diocese to which he has been appointed, representing a departure from the practice where a bishop generally came from among priests in the diocese.

There appears to be less emphasis nowadays on academic qualifications, as opposed to pastoral experience, in the selection of candidates.

Within two years of his arrival in January 2012, Archbishop Brown had appointed six new bishops, some to particularly sensitive postings following publication of the Murphy report in 2009 into sexual abuse in the Dublin archdiocese and the Cloyne report in 2011 into sexual abuse in that diocese.

More at -

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/pope-s-man-in-ireland-oversees-a-quiet-revolution-1.2104922>

Gay marriage: interchurch groups call for yes vote in referendum

The retired [Church of Ireland](#) Archdeacon of Dublin [Gordon Linney](#) has called for a yes vote in the marriage equality referendum.

Irish Times - "Personally, I think the claim of the churches to own marriage in any sense just doesn't stand up because marriage was there long, long before there was ever a [Christian](#) church," he said. It was "a civil matter".

Archdeacon Linney was taking part in the launch of a group Faith in Marriage Equality, which is calling for a yes vote in the referendum. It includes Catholic groups We Are Church [Ireland](#) and Gay Catholic Voice Ireland, plus Church of Ireland group Changing Attitude Ireland.



Brendan Butler, We Are Church Ireland, Archdeacon Gordon Linney, and Canon Mark Gardner, at the launch of Faith in Marriage Equality, outside the Civil Registry Office, in Dublin.

Dr Richard O’Leary of the latter said members came “from a variety of faith backgrounds to support those loving, committed, same-sex couples who wish to enter civil marriage without distinction as to their gender”.

[Brendan Butler](#), of We Are Church Ireland, said the Catholic Church's opposition to marriage equality was the view of "the hierarchical church. We are representing a huge squad of ordinary Catholics. We have people in our group who are gay people as well as mothers and grandmothers of gay people. They are appalled at the attitude of the church".

Church of England to begin sexuality 'conversations'

The Church of England is to begin talks on whether to authorise prayers to mark same-sex relationships.

Ruth Gledhill in Christian Today -The question is raised in the resources published this week to go with the "shared conversations" on sexuality which are about to enter their second stage.

The "second circle" of the shared conversations, set up last year in an attempt to resolve the Church's crisis over sexuality, will begin regionally in April. The dioceses will meet in 13 "clusters" of between three and five dioceses at venues across England between April this year and March next year.

The groups will consist of gay and straight clergy and laity.

One of the questions the groups are being asked to consider is: "Should the church offer prayers to mark the formation of a faithful, permanent, same sex relationship? If so, what is the right level of formal provision that should be made?"

Although the question is explicit, sources told Christian Today that this was in no way meant to infer there was an "intended outcome" of any kind.

A further question asks: "More specifically, given that same sex marriages are now taking place, what should our pastoral and missional response be to married same sex couples who seek to be part of the life of our church locally?"

The Church of England's position has traditionally been that, whatever their faith, a couple is entitled to be married in the parish church of either, although marriage after divorce is less straightforward.

When same-sex marriage became legal in Britain last year, the Church of England, which opposed the legislation, won "protection" in law for itself from ever having to perform one.

This means that some couples who are legally entitled to marry cannot now do so in their own parish Church, even if they are practising Christians and have been churchgoers all their lives.

One of the difficulties for the Church of England is the consequences of a change of mind for the wider Anglican Communion, of which it is the "mother" church. Some Anglican provinces function in countries where homosexuality is illegal and carries serious penalties.

The questions in the conversations also ask: "How might parish churches in England reflect upon the responsibilities of being part of the worldwide Anglican Communion, in ways which remain true to their vocation to witness to God effectively in their local context?"

Those taking part are being asked to consider whether the concept of "pastoral accommodation" might help Anglicans to honour the consciences of fellow Christians while recognising that the church's present teaching on sexuality has not changed.

In a paper put forward for the conversations arguing for the traditional, Biblical position, Dr Ian Paul, honorary assistant professor at Nottingham university, concludes: "It has been

claimed that the biblical texts do not speak to our current context, since they show no knowledge of stable, same-sex, committed relations. But this is not the case; we know from other ancient texts that same-sex relations took a variety of forms. Though unequal, pederastic relations were the most common, equal partnerships akin to same-sex marriage were not unknown.

"It would therefore be more accurate to say that the biblical texts show no interest in the form that same-sex relations take. Scripture rejects the notion of 'orientation' as of defining significance in human identity, instead putting the binary identity of gender at the centre of its theological anthropology."

In another paper, Canon Loveday Alexander, emeritus professor of Biblical studies at Sheffield university, says just "walking away" from the Bible is not an option for herself or the Church. "We can't just abandon this text which has nourished the life of faith for two millennia. I can't turn my back on a text which has sustained and informed my own faith for as long as I can remember. We have to stay with the Bible — but we have to find a way of making sense of it, in a world that is very different from

the world (or rather worlds) in which it was written."

But Dr Philip Groves, of the Anglican Communion, says in a third paper that the answer is not in choosing one option over another, or in finding a compromise that holds the strengths and weaknesses of each option in tension. "The answer is to aim for both."

He concludes: "The radical step asked of the Church of England in deciding to enter into good disagreement is to find the energy for this mission. It is about reconnecting with society and discovering faithfulness. It is about relevance and identity. It will be hard, but it will be rewarding.

"The process will need to reflect theological diversity and to do this it will need to develop trust and relationships between unlike people so that the Scriptures and traditions of the Church can be properly examined and ways of faithfulness emerge.

"The time has come for good disagreement."

Jayne Ozanne, director of Accepting Evangelicals, who recently "came out" as gay in an interview with Christian Today, welcomed the

publication of the "conversations" timetable and resources.

She said the key was to accept there were different ways of reading Scripture. "What we are looking at is creating that middle space of accepting, as we have done with other issues, that there is an integrity to someone's faith if they hold a different view on this."

She said it was critical for the Church to create forums where people of different views could engage "safely" with each other.

"For me, Jesus embodied grace and truth. It is about grace, and understanding the hurt of those who hold a different point of view. For too long this has been a hot issue, a theological debate which has been a battle of words.

"When you embody these words in experience and personal testimony as we see Jesus did, I believe they take on a new meaning and authority."

The conversations were just the start.

She called for reassurances of a "safe space" for all those taking part, including the suspension of any disciplinary measures against clergy. There are fears that clergy who share things in the

conversations that might technically be against the rules, such as experience of a gay physical relationship, could be vulnerable to disciplinary action.

Ms Ozanne said: "For some, their very livelihoods are on the line. Words can never be unspoken. It is absolutely crucial that we look to our bishops to accept a moratorium on clergy discipline throughout these two years."

Archbishop of Canterbury responds to murders in Denmark, Libya and Nigeria

Responding to events in Denmark, Libya and Nigeria over recent days, the Archbishop of Canterbury issued the following statement yesterday:

"The terrible cruelty of the murders in Denmark, Libya and Nigeria call for deep compassion for the bereaved and killed. The killers seem to rejoice in ever more extreme acts carried out to inflict ever greater terror. We must all weep with those affected, and know that in the love of Christ all evil will be overcome.

"In Egypt and Libya, the home of Christian faith, of saints and martyrs since the earliest centuries, more suffering has been perpetrated. The Coptic church has responded with courage and as always with faith. The darkness which ISIS seek to spread will be overwhelmed by the faithful lives of Christians shedding the light and peace of Christ. I have been in touch with the Anglican Church in Egypt to express solidarity.

"Let us pray for the triumphant peace of Christ to be evident, and for governments affected to be wise and courageous."

Moderator invites Pope to Scotland at Vatican meeting

The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, the Right Reverend John Chalmers, has joined His Holiness Pope Francis in condemning the weekend terrorist attacks in Libya and Denmark.

The Moderator met with the Pope at the Vatican this morning where he and Pope Francis shared their belief that both the Church of Scotland and the Catholic Church must work together for peace in the face of increasing radicalisation.

The Moderator then extended an invitation to the Pontiff during the private audience, saying that people of faith in Scotland would welcome him with open arms if he was able to make a pastoral visit. The Moderator also spoke about the relationship between the Roman Catholic Church and the Church of Scotland having never been more cordial or productive than it is now.



Right Reverend John Chalmers and His Holiness Pope Francis.

Speaking after the audience, Mr Chalmers said "It was immediately apparent I was in the presence of a man of prayer and a humble human being. We shared our concerns over the terrible attacks at the weekend, and spoke of our

joint belief in the power of cooperation against a background of challenge and increasing radicalisation in the world. We agreed to work for peace through our common faith, and I expressed a hope that a pastoral visit by His Holiness to Scotland would be appreciated by all faiths."

Mr Chalmers told Pope Francis that events, such as the joint service marking the 450th anniversary of the Reformation, would have been unthinkable when he was younger, but both churches had travelled a long and significant ecumenical journey.

The Moderator also said that both Catholic and Reformed traditions could take the lead in teaching tolerance and in promoting non-violent means of dealing with our differences. Amid evidence of the escalating tensions in the Middle East, Mr Chalmers highlighted the importance of establishing peace with justice for the people of Israel, Palestine and the Occupied Territories.

Mr Chalmers presented His Holiness with a Dove of Peace made by a Palestinian Christian Group in Bethlehem. These glass doves are made out of fragments of broken bottles thrown away or glass found in the rubble of bombsites. The

Dove speaks of how that which seems worthless and hopeless can be transformed.

Text of Moderator's address to Pope Francis -
http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/25687/private_audience_with_the_pope.pdf

Media digest

News Letter

Pastor Jim McConnell's life recalled in special event. Weekly collection of 40K.

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/pastor-jim-mcconnell-s-life-recalled-in-special-event-1-6581853>

Belfast Telegraph

Rev David McIlveen: Dr Paisley wasn't treated with respect and dignity he deserved

www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/northern-ireland/rev-david-mcilveen-dr-paisley-wasnt-treated-with-respect-and-dignity-he-deserved-30993980.html

Times/Mail/Mirror/Huff Post/Express/Tel/BBC

Reports on a video showing the beheadings of 21 Egyptian Christians by an Isis-affiliated terror group in Libya. The men, who were all Coptic Christians, were labourers rounded up from Sirte

in December and January. They state a caption referred to the victims as "people of the cross, followers of the hostile Egyptian church".

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/world/middleeast/article4355524.ece>

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/reuters/article-2954830/Egyptian-Church-confirms-21-killed-Libya-Islamic-State-issues-video.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/isis-behead-21-christians-shocking-5169647>

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/558362/Islamic-State-video-beheading-21-Egyptian-Christians>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-31481797>

Times

Tongue in cheek Q&A item on the Church of England removing a personal devil from baptism services says some believe the devil has become a cartoon-like character. It states one bishop said that the church has no quarrel with standing up to Satan, the problem is helping people "with little doctrinal appreciation to understand what we mean by affirming that the Devil is a defeated power".

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/life/article4353626.ece>

BBC

Report that the Dean of Jersey, Bob Key said the findings of an inquiry into the handling of an abuse allegation should be made public. The inquiry into the handling of the complaint recommended no disciplinary action should be taken against any Jersey Anglican clergy member, but its findings were kept confidential. It states Mr Key told BBC Radio Jersey the report should be made public so all the immense stress of the last couple of years could be put to bed.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-jersey-31478003>

BBC

Report that a Christian group is disappointed after the Church Commissioners rejected its bid to buy the former home of the Bishops of Carlisle, Rose Castle. The Rose Castle Foundation wanted to turn the fortified house, home to 63 Bishops from 1230 to 2009, into a peace and education centre. The property is to be put on the open market.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-cumbria-31478241>

Mail

Article by clergywoman Joanna Jepson, chaplain at London College of Fashion. The report tells her life story with extracts from her new book on how she was bullied at school because of her facial deformity before surgery transformed her looks. It also includes her questions over the church and call to ordination.

Mail

Further report on HSBC tax avoidance scheme says staff at the private bank in Switzerland were given £70million in pay and bonuses in three years. It states Business Secretary Vince Cable called on the bank's ex-chairman, former trade minister Lord Green, to give an account of his role.

BBC

Report that All Saints Church in Bath held prayers in its service remembering those who died in a fatal truck crash. It states Rector Patrick Whitworth said: "There's a lot of tenderness around in the community and that comes as a result of the tragedy."

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-somerset-31460312>

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