



## **Dublin archbishop appointed to Vatican Communications oversight body**

Pope Francis has appointed Archbishop Diarmuid Martin of Dublin as one of 16 Members of the newly established Vatican Secretariat for Communications. The body consists of six cardinals, seven bishops and three laypersons. Its aim is to oversee the coordination and streamlining the Holy See's multiple communications outlets.

When Pope Francis began his reform of the Roman Curia in 2013 with the help of an advisory council of nine cardinals, one of the areas that received immediate attention was the Vatican communications operation.

Pope Francis commissioned a study and recommendations from the global management-consulting firm McKinsey & Co. Later an international commission headed by British Lord Chris Patten provided a specific road-map for a reform plan to be carried out over a 4-year period. The "reorganization," the Pope wrote, "must proceed decisively toward integration and a unified management" so that "the communication system of the Holy See will respond in an ever more efficacious manner to the needs of the mission of the church," especially in today's digital world.

The responsibilities of the Secretariat, headed by Italian Monsignor Dario Vigano', include coordinating the work of the Vatican website, Vatican Television Centre, Vatican Radio, the Vatican newspaper, the Vatican press office and Printing Press.

The announcement of the Members of the Secretariat falls just two days after the announcement of American Mr Greg Burke, as the new director of the Holy See Press Office.

## **Irish Presbyterian Church congratulates UK's new Prime Minister**

Rt. Rev. Dr. Frank Sellar, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, has offered his congratulations to Rt. Hon. Mrs. Theresa May MP, on her appointment as the United Kingdom's new Prime Minister.

Speaking from the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Wales in Llandudno, where he is representing the Church, Dr. Sellar said, "First of all, I would like to offer my congratulations to Mrs. May on her appointment as Prime Minister this afternoon.

“The call to leadership, especially in the political sphere, is a challenging one - an understatement perhaps in these unparalleled days in the wake of the referendum on the UK's membership of the European Union.

“For those of us who follow the Lord Jesus Christ, we are called to pray for those in authority. As Mrs. May begins the process of forming a new government and negotiating the UK's exit from the EU, she can be assured of my prayers, especially for unity and healing in the land, and the prayers of many throughout the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.”

## **Church Leaders Invite Public to Join the Tour de Foyle 10-80**

The countdown is on as leaders of Londonderry's four main churches invite people to get on their bikes or put on their walking/running shoes for the Tour de Foyle 10-80 Charity Event, which will begin at the Foyle Arena on Saturday 27th August.

The event is being organised jointly by the North West Methodist Mission and the Churches Trust, and is supported by the four church leaders in



***Derry church leaders launching the 2016 Tour de Foyle, L–R Bishop Donal McKeown, Rev Peter Murray, Bishop Ken Good and Rev Dr Robert Buick***

Derry–Londonderry. Now in its third year, the event has attracted participants from far and wide, and organisers hope this year's Tour will be bigger and better than ever.

### **10k 'Walk with us' Charity Walk**

There is one new element in the 2016 Tour – a 10k walk which has been introduced to make the event even more inclusive. The church leaders will lead this element of the Tour and invite people to join them for what will be a leisurely and scenic walk.

Participants will set off from the Foyle Arena, make their way through St Columb's Park towards the riverfront,

cross the Peace Bridge, proceed along the waterfront and into Bay Park (where there will be a water station), up to and across the Foyle Bridge, along the greenway and back into St Columb's Park, finishing at the Foyle Arena, where some well-earned and delicious refreshments will be served.

## **80k Charity Cycle**

Cyclists will undertake a scenic lap of Lough Foyle for the third 80k Charity Cycle. Setting off from the Foyle arena, they will cycle to Magilligan where, after a brief 'pit stop', they will board the ferry to Greencastle. The route will then proceed southwards towards the city, crossing the iconic Peace Bridge into St Columb's Park, finishing back at the Foyle Arena. Last year's Cycle attracted 240 people, and we hope to surpass that figure this year. We are delighted that the Lough Foyle Ferry is back in service and grateful that its owners are sponsoring the crossing for participants.

## **10k Charity Run**

The 10k run, which was introduced for the first time last year, will follow the same route as the 10k walk. Why not use it as a final training run for the \Waterside Half Marathon which will take place eight days later?

The Tour de Foyle 10-80 is all about taking part. It is a fun event – not a race – and is open to all, from the novice to the expert, in walking, running or cycling. It offers people from all across our community an opportunity to come together and raise funds to support

homeless people and those in need right here in our own city.

Please help us continue to help put other people's lives back on track by getting on your bike or putting on your walking/running shoes on Saturday 27th August 2016 and taking part in one of our events.

Online registration is now open and will close on 22nd August, so book early to avoid disappointment. Visit [www.tourdefoyle.co.uk](http://www.tourdefoyle.co.uk) for further details.

Participants can also register at the Foyle Arena on the day of the events. Registration for the 80k cycle will open at 7am, and the cycle will begin at 8am. Registration for the 10k walk and 10k run will open at 9.30am and both events will begin at 11am.

Those who are unable to participate can still show their support and make a donation by visiting <https://mydonate.bt.com/events/tourdefoyle1080donations>

## **Former teacher dies hours after completing Camino pilgrimage**

A west Belfast man who died just hours after completing the two-week Camino pilgrimage in Spain has been described as a "fantastic human being".

Retired teacher Seamus McDonagh (60) collapsed with a heart attack on Sunday night,  
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shortly after finishing a 320km route from Oviedo to Santiago.

His son Barry told the Irish News that he spoke to his father just hours before he died and he was "full of joy".

"He had all the hard work of the walking finished and he was just absolutely done out," he said.

"He said in Santiago there was a real satisfaction from people having completed the walk, a real beautiful atmosphere and he was just going to soak it up and enjoy it. He was just full of life and love for the family as he always was."



A former pupil at De La Salle College in west Belfast, Mr McDonagh was also an art teacher there for 30 years, before taking early retirement in 2009 to care for his ill wife Anna. She passed away the following year aged 54.

John Craig, who taught with Mr McDonagh for 25 years and completed a Camino trail with him in 2012, said he was "an outstanding teacher".

"He touched the hearts and minds of generations of boys who attended De La Salle College," he said.

## **Britain's new prime minister: A vicar's daughter and active Anglican**

Theresa May took the office of prime minister on Wednesday in London, the second woman to hold the post. She brings a fresh perspective to the job, as the daughter of a vicar and as an active parish member in the Church of England.

In the [Evening Standard](#): The obvious point though, about Mrs May — she, like Mrs T [Margaret Thatcher], has no trouble with her

married title — is that she has not made a point of her gender in the way, say, Angela Eagle has.

She is a woman all right, and a woman-friendly one who has promoted female candidates in the party, but she is not notably feminist. Her Christianity is the most important thing about her — her animating philosophy — in the way gender politics is not. When she appeared on Desert Island discs giving the Eucharistic hymn, Tantum Ergo, as her pick, and when she released pictures of her clergyman father yesterday she was making quite a clear statement about how she sees herself. We haven't just got a woman at the helm, we've got an Anglican.

A commentary by Austen Ivereigh, [published in Crux](#), takes a look at her life and influences until this point:

Every Sunday she can, she attends St Andrew's in Sonning, the kind of pretty ancient Anglican church (part of it was built in the tenth century) that stands for Middle England in film and television series.

Its vicar, the Rev. Jamie Taylor, says she is a “very supportive member” of the congregation, who attends not just services with her husband Philip but what Anglicans call “socials” – special occasions such as the parish's September show.

“We pray weekly for Her Majesty and those set in authority under her,” says the vicar, “and that prayer will take on a little more significance for us at St. Andrew’s in the years ahead.”

Ivereigh also makes connections between her political actions and her faith:

She set up a campaign to elect more women MPs to parliament, and as prime minister is likely have more women in cabinet positions than any previous UK government.

As Home Secretary she U-turned on gay adoption, calling in 2010 for a “cultural change” to tackle homophobia, and became a strong advocate of same-sex marriage, introduced in 2013, voting the following year to extend the same right to armed forces personnel serving outside the UK.

“If two people care for each other, if they love each other, then they should be able to get married”, she said.

Her evolving views have left social conservatives on the right of the Tory Party suspicious, while liberals point to her anti-immigrant rhetoric and call to withdraw from the European Convention on Human Rights.

She refused last year to accept a mandatory EU refugee quota system in response to the

Mediterranean migrant boat crisis and outraged campaigners – including some Christians – by also ruling out Britain taking part in any future EU system to relocate asylum seekers who successfully make the journey across the Mediterranean.

A [story in the New York Times](#), (which, despite its title – “Theresa May Is Britain’s New Prime Minister After David Cameron’s Resignation” – devotes many more paragraphs to Cameron than May) excerpts May’s first remarks as prime minister, focusing on social inequality: Repeating almost word for word a speech she gave upon declaring her candidacy for the leadership of the Conservative Party, Ms. May vowed to fight the “burning injustice” of poverty; harsh treatment of blacks by the police; lack of university access for white working-class boys; mental illness; and pay disparities between women and men. She said that many Britons were struggling just to get by.

“The government I lead will be driven not by the interest of the privileged few, but by yours,” she said. “We will do we everything we can to give you more control over your lives.”

## **Cathedral and choral: ICMA summer school**

Up to 200 participants have attended the annual Irish Church Music Association summer school in Maynooth.

Under the theme God, Full of Mercy, this was the 47th ICMA summer school.

The four-day programme provided musicians from around Ireland and beyond with an opportunity to sing and pray together, and to learn the best of Church music from the past and present.

The annual event is open to choir directors, choir members, parish musicians, students and anyone with an interest in being part of a celebration of Church music.

This year participants enjoyed a blend of contemporary and traditional choral pieces with an emphasis on psalms, sacraments and music for the liturgical year in schools.

Of particular interest was the addition of two workshops, one which focused on music for funerals, weddings and baptisms, and another which highlighted music for special occasions in

parish life such as pilgrimages and reconciliation services.

Tony Alonso, a theologian and one of the most prominent voices in contemporary liturgical music, presented.

Mr Alonso's music reflects an understanding of the multicultural needs of the contemporary Church as well as a commitment to strong ritual music. He is also the published author of several books and articles relating to liturgy and liturgical music.

Younger delegates this year were able to participate in the New Generation Youth Choir.

## **Peel Cathedral choir tour of three Cashel and Ossory cathedrals**

On the 29th July Dr Peter Litman, Musical Director at St German's Cathedral in Peel Isle of Mann, Organ Scholar Jack Oades, 17 Choristers and 10 lay clerks will spend three nights visiting the Diocese of Cashel and Ossory on a cultural visit and sing in three of its six Cathedrals.

The cultural trip came about following a conversation between Dr Litman and Bishop

Michael of Kilkenny last year whilst Bishop Michael was visiting the Cathedral.

‘At the Cathedral we are excited by the cultural visit being made by our choir, they are great ambassadors for the Cathedral, and we look forward to expanding the link with Cashel and Ossory Diocese’ said Very Revd Nigel Godfrey (Dean of Cathedral IOM).

On Saturday 30th July the choir will sing Evensong at Kilkenny Cathedral. The music will include Stanford’s Canticles in C and Bairstow’s Save Us O Lord. Jack Oades has written the responses.

Sunday 31st July the choir will sing a Choral Eucharist at Waterford Cathedral which will feature Jackson’s Communion Service in G and MacMillan’s Ave Maria Stella. The Dean of Cathedral IOM will preach at this service. In the evening they will sing Evensong at the tiny Cathedral of St Laserian at Old Leighlin featuring music by Tallis, Holman and Hilton.

Happily, it is not all work and no play for the choir, they will enjoy a number of social and recreational activities including a visit to Ireland’s National Reptile Zoo, guided tours and even some caving!

The Cathedral choir was formed in 2012 by Dr Peter Litman. It consists of child choristers and auditioned adult singers. They sing twice each week at St German's Cathedral in Peel as well as other events around the island. Dr Litman has recently been awarded honorary Fellowship of Guild of Church Musicians (Hon.FGCM) for distinguished services to Church Music on the Isle of Man. The award will be presented in London in November later this year. Dr Litman said, 'I was overwhelmed by the award of Honorary Fellowship to the Guild, but it is a fitting testament also to the singers and organists I have worked alongside at the Cathedral'.

## **Belfast Cathedral Autumn Talks programme**

St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, has announced its Autumn Talks programme for 2016. The first takes place on Wednesday September 7 when Philip Orr speaks on The Somme.

A former teacher, Philip is an author and playwright and consultant to various museums. His best known work is his 1987 book The Road to the Somme.'



On Wednesday October 5 Roger Dixon will speak about Francis Joseph Bigger: Belfast's Cultural Crusader

Roger, who works for the National Museums of Northern Ireland, regularly writes, lectures and broadcasts on aspects of Ulster's history and culture.

The talks continue on Wednesday November 9 when Dr Christopher McGimpsey talks on the 1916 Rebellion

Alderman Dr Christopher McGimpsey holds a BA from Syracuse University, New York and a PhD in Irish history from Edinburgh University. He is a member of the Ulster Unionist party and is a Belfast city councillor

The last in the 2016 series of Autumn Talks takes place on Wednesday December 7, when Jenny Haslett speaks about Remembering the Second World War and the Home Front in Northern Ireland.

Jenny is Museum Manager at Northern Ireland War Memorial Museum and cares for, manages and exhibits a Second World War collection relating to Northern Ireland, making it accessible to the public through exhibitions, published literature, events and informal learning

programmes for schools and community groups. The talks take place at lunchtime.

## News briefs international

**+++ Church Times 8,000<sup>th</sup> edition** - One of the world's oldest Anglican newspapers, the Church Times, hits a major milestone tomorrow when it publishes its 8,000th edition. The newspaper was founded in 1863 but is not the world's oldest Anglican periodical – that honour falls to the Church of England Newspaper, which was founded 35-years-earlier in 1828.

**+++ Canadian Anglican response to refugees** - Since last September, when the world first saw the body of the little Syrian refugee, Alan Kurdi, washed up on a shore in Turkey, Anglicans in 14 dioceses across Canada have sponsored and resettled 1,750 refugees, members of General Synod heard Tuesday, July 12.

In all, \$20 million was raised to support refugee resettlement and sponsorship, William Postma, [recently appointed](#) director of The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) said in a presentation to synod, in its last day of meetings here in Richmond Hill, Ontario.

It's evidence, Postma said, of how the Anglican Church of Canada "punches above its weight" when it comes to refugee work.

"This deserves more than an acknowledgment, but a celebration," he said.

It was one of many of PWRDF's accomplishments that had impressed him since assuming his role June 13, Postma said.

"The results of some of our programs are truly astounding," he said. For example, in three African countries—Burundi, Mozambique and Tanzania—where they run vaccination programs, PWRDF partners have vaccinated 410,000 children under the age of five in three years, he said—an especially high number considering the programs are run in far-flung rural areas, Postma added. In Mozambique, child mortality rates during the same three years decreased from 26% to 5%.

## **News links to reports on faith, politics and education**

### **Irish nuns stay in South Sudan to care for schoolgirls despite outbreak of violence**

The Journal

The Loreto order said the two nuns are doing well "but it's an anxious time".

<http://www.thejournal.ie/south-sudan-nuns-2877672-Jul2016/>

## **Couple climb Croagh Patrick to say 'I do' in mountain top church**

Irish Independent

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/news/couple-climb-croagh-patrick-to-say-i-do-in-mountain-top-church-34884283.html>

## **Tel/Guard/BBC/Mirror/[Christian Today](#)/Mail Online/Times/ITV**

Articles on publication of the Kendall House Review report all noting apology from the Church for the appalling standards of care at the home in Gravesend, Kent which closed in 1986. Bishops of Rochester and Dover are quoted and Bishop of Durham, responding on behalf of the national church. *Telegraph* criticises timing of release of report with response from Rochester diocesan spokesman.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/07/13/church-of-england-accused-of-burying-bad-news-over-timing-of-abu/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2016/jul/13/church-of-england-apologises-abuses-kent-childrens-home>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-kent-36784814>

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/horrific-abuse-girls-church-england-8415893#ICID=nsm>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-3688287/Girls-drugged-abused-Church-England-childrens-home-says-report.html>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/care-home-girls-drugged-and-abused-6mhk860cz>

<http://www.itv.com/news/meridian/2016-07-13/girls-were-drugged-and-abused-over-20-years-at-childrens-home/>

### **Christian Today**

Report that the CofE has responded to criticisms of its handling of the George Bell case in a detailed letter from the Bishop of Durham, Paul Butler, currently lead bishop for safeguarding, while noting that an independent review into the processes was announced last month (see *blog below*).

### **BBC/Mail**

Reports that the percentage of people aged 16 and over in England and Wales who are married has fallen to its lowest level since 2002, official figures show. In 2015, 50.6% of the population was married, compared with 54.8% in 2002, the Office for National Statistics says. The second largest category - single, never civil partnered or married - grew from 29.6% to 34.5% during this time. "Cohabitation has become more common as an alternative to marriage, especially at younger ages," the ONS says.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-36783830>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3689405/Fewer-half-adults-married-new-study-finds.html>

### **Times/Int Business Times**

Reports that two Syrian refugee families moved out of their council homes a day after moving on to a Stoke-On-Trent estate allegedly dominated by BNP supporters.

Reports note that the Revd Sally Smith who runs a local refugee charity helped the families.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/syrian-refugees-move-out-of-home-on-bnp-estate-fj6r9xwfi>

<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/refugee-family-housed-bnp-estate-stoke-trent-ask-return-syria-after-racist-abuse-1570402>

## **ITV**

Reports that a filmmaker has told the history of Durham Cathedral - in Lego. Matt Smith was asked by Durham Cathedral to make the animated short films to help launch the Cathedral's *Open Treasure* exhibition which launches on Saturday July 23

<http://www.itv.com/news/tyne-tees/update/2016-07-13/watch-the-story-of-durham-cathedral-in-lego/>

## **Spectator**

Reports on the rise in popularity of pilgrimages. The article notes that in the past decade, 30 pilgrimage routes have been created or rediscovered and holy places have seen a 14 per cent growth in visitor numbers since 2013. These figures are recorded by a new organisation, the British Pilgrimage Trust, which wants to 'revive the British pilgrimage tradition of making journeys on foot to holy places'.

<http://www.spectator.co.uk/2016/07/pilgrimages-are-back-with-less-christianity/>

## **Comment**

Times

Church seeks harmony in 'good disagreement' writes Helen Hall, lecturer at Nottingham law school at Nottingham Trent University.

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

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/church-seeks-harmony-in-good-disagreement-s7bd2q3cs>

### [Christian Today](#)

Shared Conversations. Why the C of E still has a long way to go on sexuality.

### **Guardian**

Andrew Brown writes, "If the Conservative party's doing God again, what sort of God is it?"

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jul/13/conservative-party-god-theresa-may-andrea-leadsom-stephen-crabb-christians>

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