



At the handover of the cheques were Canon Arthur Minion and Fr Jim Fegan (at back) with, from left, back - Peter Hudson, Tom O'Connor (Ozanam House), Sue McMahon (Wexford Women's Refuge), Susan Minion, Georgina Rothwell (Simon Community Waterford), Nuala Wilkinson, and Linda Wilkinson; front - Anne Keenan (Irish Cancer Research), Bernadette Doyle (St Vincent De Paul Wexford), Theresa Hanrahan (Family Life Services), Niamh Tierney (South East Radiotherapy Trust), and Claire Vernon.

Wexford opens hearts to fasting priests

The people of Wexford opened their hearts and their wallets over the festive period, donating a

staggering €45,000 to Fr. Jim Fegan and Canon Arthur Minion during their four-day fast on the steps of St. Iberius Church.

Wexford People - 'Even during the boom we didn't get that much,' said Fr. Fegan ahead of Friday's hand over of the funds to seven charities.

Canon Minion said the response to the fast had been overwhelming.

'The generosity of the people of Wexford is amazing and on so many cases moving. the four-day fast has been a great insight, a privilege and a great opportunity to meet some very inspiring people in Wexford,' he said. The funds were distributed to: St. Vincent de Paul €20,000; Ozanam House €6,000; South East Radiotherapy Trust €6,000; Family Life Services, Wexford €6,000; Wexford Women's Refuge €5,000; Irish Cancer Research €1,000 and the Simon Community, Waterford €1,000.

Victoria spearheads BB recruitment drive

The Boys' Brigade has appointed a new development worker to help grow membership and volunteers right across Northern Ireland.



Victoria Flanagan pictured at her offices in Hillsborough

News Letter - Victoria Flanagan, from Dromore, Co Down, is aiming to set up 12 new units of boys and volunteer officers by March 2016.

Originally from Lisburn, for the previous six years she was a youth development worker with Hillsborough Presbyterian Church.

“The BB as an organisation is fun to be part of and it helps boys grow into the next generation of this country who will do good for their communities,” she said.

The particular funding for her position means that she will be focusing on areas that are disadvantaged across Northern Ireland and “making a difference for them”.

She admits she has taken a some good natured ribbing about going to work for such a male-focussed organisation, but notes its high proportion of female officers.

“I see my time is going to be largely spent finding out about areas where the BB has little or no presence, contacting churches and youth leaders and finding out over coffee if they are interested in starting up a BB company.”

BB Director for Northern Ireland Jonathan Gracey said the funding for her post comes from reallocated banking fines made after the Libor rate-fixing scandal.

“While BB in Great Britain has been slowly declining, in Northern Ireland it has remained static over the past 10-15 years,” he said.

More at -

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/victoria-spearheads-bb-recruitment-drive-1-6543513>

Divine Healing Ministries - parish services

Brother David Jardine of DHM says, “As part of our Ministry we are invited by, and regularly visit, Churches throughout the Province. If you cannot attend one of our weekly services why not come along to one of these if they’re in your area.”

Forthcoming services are being held;

Friday 30th January 2015 at 7.30pm - St. John’s Church of Ireland, Newcastle, Co. Down. This service will be under the auspices of Divine Healing Ministries and is part of the Year of Mission of the Diocese of Down & Dromore. It is hoped that this service will beheld on a monthly basis on the final Friday of each month.

Sunday 1st February at 11.00am - Dundonald Methodist Church.

Sunday 1st February at 6.30pm - Tullylish Parish Church

Sunday 15th February at 6.30pm - The Church of the Good Shepherd, Monkstown.

Sunday 22nd February at 6.30pm - St. Patrick's Church of Ireland, Ballymena

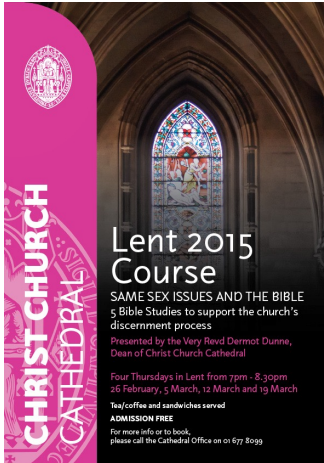
Slowing Down to meet Yourself - a one day reflective retreat

For everyone at Corrymeela Ballycastle, Thursday 12th March. Find out more <http://www.corrymeela.org/ev.../slowing-down-to-meet-yourself/>

Same-Sex Issues And The Bible In Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin

Presented by the Very Revd Dermot Dunne, Dean of Christ Church, the cathedral will host a series of talks on same-sex Issues and the Bible during Lent, in association with BACI (the Biblical Association for the Church of Ireland).

The aim of the course is to bring the Church's discussion and discernment process on these issues to everyday Christians in the Church of Ireland. Admission is free and all are warmly invited to attend.



The course has been carefully designed to incorporate recent biblical thinking in this area and to offer both traditionalist and more modern ways of considering the key texts.

It demands no theological expertise of participants, but does invite groups to ponder the theological, biblical and sociological questions in a non-academic fashion. It is hoped that it will enable participants to think over the issues prayerfully with respect both for the biblical texts, for one another and for those whose lives are affected by the debate.

Topics will include:

The Teaching of Jesus – extracts from Matthew’s Gospel.

The Prohibitions of Leviticus.

Implications from the Creation Narratives.

Paul’s teaching on unnatural or depraved sexuality. (Romans 1)

Sin lists, condemnation, exemption and redemption. (Other Pauline texts with Acts 10–11.)

A 36–page booklet can be downloaded from www.bibliahibernica.wordpress.com and copies can also be purchased from Best Sellers (The Bible Society) or Christ Church Cathedral in Dublin, for €1.50 or €8 for six copies, and from The Book Well (postage included) and St Anne’s Cathedral Belfast for £1.60.

The Bible Study series has been commended by both patrons of BACI, the Archbishop of Armagh and the Archbishop of Dublin.

Admission is free and all are warmly invited to attend.

Too much ‘claptrap’ in sermons – Justin Welby

The Archbishop of Canterbury has warned vicars against filling their sermons with “moral claptrap” about being “a bit nicer” to everyone.

Telegraph - The Most Rev Justin Welby said religion should never be reduced simply to a code of morality instead of an active faith in which people are willing to “get [their] hands dirty”.

He added that the message of Christianity was so radical that it could be mistaken for a call to “violent revolution”, were it not for its emphasis on peaceful means.

His comments came in a homily at an evensong at Trinity Church on Wall Street New York which has been [published online by Lambeth Palace](#).

Speaking about deprivation and inequality he detailed his experiences in Liverpool, where he served as Dean of the Anglican cathedral for four years, insisting it was imperative for churches to be involved in their communities.

He said the life of Jesus “challenges every assumption” about society, adding: “He does not permit us to accept a society in which the weak are excluded – whether because of race, wealth, gender, ability, or sexuality.

“Nor did he permit us and does he permit us to turn religion into morality.

“The old sermons that we have heard so often in England, which I grew up with, which if you boiled them down all they effectively said was: ‘Wouldn’t the world be a nicer place if we were all a bit nicer?’

“That is the kind of moral claptrap that Jesus does not permit us to accept.”

He told the congregation “we are to get involved, we are to get our hands dirty”, adding that too often churches had just “circled the wagons in order to keep the enemy out”.

“Were it not for the fact that he is in title Prince of Peace, and lived out his mission in service and foot-washing, ending it in crucifixion and resurrection, this would be a call to violent revolution,” he said.

“But even that option is removed from our hands by the way in which he lived his life and calling.”

ARCIC Co-Chair, Catholic archbishop responds to first woman bishop in Church of England

The Catholic archbishop of Birmingham says he wishes the Church of England’s first female bishop well in her ministry and will be remembering her in his prayers.

Vatican Radio - Archbishop Bernard Longley is the Catholic co-chair of ARCIC, the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission. He told Vatican Radio that the consecration of Bishop Libby Lane on Monday was a “historic moment in the life of the Church of England” but noted that there has long been “the presence, the witness and the work of women” as bishops within the worldwide Anglican Communion.



Bishop Libby Lane was consecrated in York Minster on Monday as the first female bishop in the Church of England

The Reverend Libby Lane was ordained in York Minster as the new Bishop of Stockport, after the

Church of England voted to adopt legislation last November to allow women bishops. Archbishop Longley said that while the ordination of women presents challenges to the Anglican-Catholic dialogue, this latest development “shouldn’t affect the way in which the dialogue is continued”.

Archbishop Longley says there is a personal response and an ecclesial dimension to the ordination of Bishop Libby Lane which is likely to be up for discussion when ARCIC holds its next meeting near Rome in May. At a local level, he says, it will also be of significance as Catholics prepare to work more closely with women bishops over the years to come....

Archbishop Longley says that while the conversation about women's ministry continues in parts of the Catholic Church, this development is unlikely to bring about changes in the Catholic teaching on the sacrament of ordination....

Archbishop Longley also speaks about the importance of praying together for Christian unity and about the possibility of sharing the Eucharist in specific situations, outlined in the bishops’ document ‘One Bread, One Body’. He cites the example of an Anglican mother who was able to receive the Eucharist in a Catholic Church during

her son's ordination. He says Catholic bishops and clergy have a responsibility to make these norms better known, since they also deepen the communion of other Christians with the Catholic Church.....

Link to radio interview at -

http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2015/01/27/catholic_archbishop_responds_to_coes_first_woman_bishop/1120244

Japan: Bishop tells of kamikaze pilot training in WWII

Paul Saneaki Nakamura prepared three times to carry out a suicide attack for Japan during World War II. It took the country's near-death for him to find religion and become a priest.

Nakamura recently shared his experiences — which included training as a kamikaze pilot, human torpedo and suicide bomber — with about 300 Marines at Camp Hansen to help them see war from a different perspective.

“I have always thought that my experience might be well compared to the historical Exodus,” he said, referring to the biblical story of the Jews

who left Egypt, led by Moses to the Promised Land.



Marines take a group photo with Paul Saneaki Nakamura, from Naha, Okinawa, at Camp Hansen, Okinawa. Nakamura spoke about his life experiences as a World War II veteran and Anglican Church bishop. Nakamura is a retired Anglican Church bishop and a prior service World War II veteran with Special Missions Unit, Japanese Imperial Navy Air Corps, Imperial Japan.

The 87-year-old retired Anglican bishop grew up on Okinawa as militarism swept across Japan. Like many others, he became an ultra-nationalist

who firmly believed in selfless devotion to his country. He worshipped the emperor as god; offering his life to the emperor was the ultimate virtue.

Read the full article at <http://www.stripes.com/news/pacific/priest-tells-of-kamikaze-pilot-training-during-wwii-1.325764>

Protestors demand funding for St Mary's College



Students angry at funding cuts which threaten the future of a teacher training college protested a Parliament Buildings on Tuesday.

Supporters of St Mary's College say the loss of financial support from the Department of Employment and Learning will effectively close the only centre training teachers for Catholic schools in Northern Ireland.

SDLP MLA Pat Ramsey said the funding cut was an attack on "all Catholic schools".

Mr Ramsey claimed the decision was an "Alliance minister attacking a Catholic school for ideological reasons". He added: "If Northern Ireland is to have a sustainable and thriving economy we need a pool of diverse and well-trained graduates to take up jobs. Despite this, the minister is forcing an outstanding teaching training college into an untenable position.

"There are many parents who want their children to be educated in a Catholic ethos. To meet the parental demand for Catholic schools we need a college of St Mary's calibre to train teachers. Minister Farry must recognise the excellent work that St Mary's does and consider the detrimental consequences of not restoring this funding."

More at -

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/protestors-demand-funding-for-st-mary-s-college-1-6545981>

Integrated schools sector hits out at DUP's education proposals

A DUP proposal to ditch a law that helps the integrated schools sector has been lambasted.

Belfast Telegraph - Party leader Peter Robinson attracted criticism from the NI Council for Integrated Education (NICIE) after he called for the removal of the Department of Education's statutory duty to encourage and facilitate the growth of integrated education.

A new DUP policy document entitled Education For All was launched on Friday.

It states that "no school sector or ethos should be afforded extra statutory protection within the law" and makes no mention of integrated education in its 13 pages.

In a letter to the Belfast Telegraph, NICIE's Noreen Campbell said the call was a "distraction". She added: "The continued focus on schooling attests to the powerful role of education and illustrates the reluctance to challenge the segregated system that exists.

"At this time of economic crisis when schools' budgets are being cut, the potential for savings through the creation of a 'network of sustainable schools' is ignored in favour of maintaining the status quo."

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/education/integrated-schools-sector-hits-out-at-dups-education-proposals-30939579.html>

Should the State fund religious schools?

The relationship of church and state in education is under renewed scrutiny. Plans to create more diversity in patronage have fallen flat, and promised legislation on both admissions and workplace equality has yet to materialise.

Irish Times - In the wake of this month's Equality Tribunal judgment criticising a Catholic school for asking a job applicant for her views on "homos", fresh questions are being asked about whether denominational schools have been given excessive powers to protect their ethos.

These questions are not new to Desmond M Clarke, emeritus professor of philosophy at UCC, churchnewsireland@gmail.com

who has written extensively on education and other policy matters during a long academic career that is being honoured this evening by the Royal Irish Academy.

For Prof Clarke, analysing the proper role of church in education starts with disentangling competing rights claims. It has been claimed that Catholics have a right to send their children to Catholic schools but “the alleged right is based on nothing more than the theology of that particular church”, Clarke has argued.

A very different right needs to be considered, he says, thus providing today’s idea: “Children have a right not to be taught in an uncritical way about values and convictions.”

Should the State fund denominational schools?

Desmond Clarke: “If ‘denominational’ means schools that use admission policies to discriminate against applicants on the basis of their religious or philosophical beliefs or affiliations, the answer must be no.

“Churches or other religious groups have a right to own and operate denominational schools, on

condition that they satisfy reasonable educational standards. But if a state finances denominational schools or transfers the management of its educational services to selected churches, it goes too far (beyond its jurisdiction and competence) by supporting their religious or ideological objectives.

“This is not a newfangled liberal theory. In the late 17th century it became apparent that states should remain neutral between the competing claims for financial, legal, or administrative support from different churches or ideologies. It is also required by Article 44.2.4 of the Irish Constitution, and by Protocol 1, Article 2 of the European Convention on Human Rights.”

More at -

[www.irishtimes.com/news/education/should-the-state-fund-religious-schools-1.2075990?
utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter](http://www.irishtimes.com/news/education/should-the-state-fund-religious-schools-1.2075990?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter)

Media Digest

Guard/Star/Mail

Articles on a national commemoration in Central Hall, Westminster for the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau when survivors of the Holocaust gathered in London on Tuesday to remember those lost to genocide. They state

David Cameron, the Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall, and the Archbishop of Canterbury joined survivors and guests in the act of remembrance for the 6 million Jews murdered and the first of 70 candles around Britain were lit.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jan/27/holocaust-remembered-ceremony-westminster-auschwitz>

<http://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/latest-news/422375/>

[Holocaust-Auschwitz-survivors-jewish-nazi-s](http://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/latest-news/422375/Holocaust-Auschwitz-survivors-jewish-nazi-s)

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2928081/Almost-impossible-human-mind-comprehend-Hundreds-gather-mark-70th-anniversary-fall-Auschwitz-remember-1-1million-Jews-executed-there.html?](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2928081/Almost-impossible-human-mind-comprehend-Hundreds-gather-mark-70th-anniversary-fall-Auschwitz-remember-1-1million-Jews-executed-there.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

[ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2928081/Almost-impossible-human-mind-comprehend-Hundreds-gather-mark-70th-anniversary-fall-Auschwitz-remember-1-1million-Jews-executed-there.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

Guard

Report that the parents of Andrea Gada, a five-year-old girl who was killed after being hit by a car, have delivered a petition to Downing Street asking for visas for relatives so they can attend her funeral. It states the [petition on the website change.org has been signed by more than 95,000 people](#). Article also mentions letter of support from the Archbishop of York.

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/jan/27/andrea-gada-visas-funeral-zimbabwe-stephen-lloyd>

Sun

Report on how ITV football host Adrian Chiles covered the consecration of the Church of England's first female bishop, reporting for Radio 5 Live from York Minster, where the Reverend Libby Lane was ordained as Bishop of Stockport. It says he was delighted Gogglebox TV star and Nottinghamshire clergywoman, the Rev Kate Bottley hugged a colleague outside (*includes photo*).

<http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/6299255/Adrian-Chiles-moves-from-covering-football-to-Church-of-England.html>

BBC

Report on the discovery of a forgotten graveyard underneath Manchester's city centre which is being excavated by archaeologists before the remains are moved to Southern Cemetery. It states Metrolink engineers made the discovery last year, when they also uncovered the vaulted crypt of St Peter's Church, which dates back to 1788, under St Peter's Square. It states there are plans to rebuild the former St Peter's Cross Monument on an island between the tracks above the former crypt space, as a memorial to the former St Peter's Church.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-manchester-30779807>

Times

Report that a leading member of Scotland's Jewish community compared assisted suicide to the Holocaust at Holyrood yesterday. Ephraim Borowski, the director of the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities, timed his remarks to coincide with the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp. It states draft legislation, which would permit assisted suicide in Scotland, has been the cause of heated debate. Representatives of faith groups, including Mr Borowski, were giving evidence to the health committee.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/scotland/article4336811.ece>

Mail

Article on dealing with the death of a loved one, looks at how to cope with the onerous admin that falls on grieving relatives.

<http://www.mailonsunday.co.uk/money/comment/article-2929007/JAMES-CONEY-Dealing-death-loved-one-lead-legacy-confusion.html>

Guard

Archive article from November 1985 on the secret life of the Archbishop's special envoy, Terry Waite - the hostage negotiator kidnapped in

January 29

Beirut. It describes him as having enormous reserves of faith and humour to draw upon.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jan/28/terry-waite-envoy-hostage-lebanon-1987>