



***Unfounded fears: Dr Robin Eames is a warm-hearted and sociable man - Belfast Telegraph***

## **Leading journalist questions bias in Irish state papers on Eames, Daly and O'Faich**

One of the salutary lessons of recent days has been the revelation in newly-released official

papers that senior Catholic clergy were ambivalent about the appointment of Robin Eames as Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All-Ireland, Alf McCreary writes in the Belfast Telegraph.

Under the 30-year **release** of State papers, Cardinal Tomas O'Fiach allegedly told Irish government officials in 1986 that he thought that Eames was "a cold fish" and that he would have preferred his successor in Derry Bishop James Mehaffey to have been elected to the top post.

However, O'Fiach said he had an "open mind" and that Archbishop Eames seemed constructive about the newly-signed Anglo-Irish Agreement.

Anyone who knows Robin Eames is aware that he is a warm-hearted and sociable man, and not in the least a cold fish.

Ironically Cardinal O'Fiach was cut from the same cloth, though politically and ecclesiastically different, and I know that both men consequently got on very well.

The comments by Bishop Daly, later a cardinal and archbishop, are equally fascinating. Having interviewed Cahal Daly at length for my

biography of Robin Eames, I am surprised that the Catholic leader believed initially that his Protestant counterpart did not have a good ecumenical record as Bishop of Derry.

In fact, Robin Eames and the then Catholic Bishop of Derry, Edward Daly, worked hard to bridge the divides in their city and Edward Daly had nothing but praise for his fellow bishop in Londonderry.

Cardinal Daly also allegedly told an Irish government official that he hoped that Eames' new role as Primate of All-Ireland "will cause him to offer more balanced views in future".

Later on Robin Eames and Cahal Daly worked together well and they travelled to the USA to show Irish-Americans how the Irish church leaders were supporting one another.

These recently-published revelations show how private doubts and insecurities lurk in the minds of public figures .

Cahal Daly was an intelligent and friendly man whom I met frequently as a journalist, but I noticed how waspish he could be, especially if he felt insecure about his leadership.

I also met Tomas O'Fiach several times. He was a jovial, scholarly and sensitive prelate, with no false image. He was an old-fashioned peaceful Irish republican from Crossmaglen, but he worked hard to bridge the church divides.

He also had a great sense of humour, like Robin Eames, and one of O'Fiach's party-pieces was to sing The Auld Orange Flute in Irish.

One of the lessons about the revelation and publication of allegedly 'confidential' conversations is to realise that none of these meetings with government officials are ever truly confidential.

I attended several 'private' meetings with former Irish prime ministers and on different occasions with Northern Ireland Secretaries of State, and I shudder to think what was said on those occasions.

Certainly one of the most entertaining was James Prior, and another was Garret FitzGerald, while Edward Daly was the most cagey, and Douglas Hurd cleverly turned the conversation round so that we senior journalists from the Belfast Telegraph were doing most of the talking.

From my experience, Dublin is a tricky place in which to do **business**.

Most Dubliners are immensely charming, but you have to keep your wits about you, and an unguarded word may be carried a long way behind your back - and not to your advantage. People are more blunt in the north, but they are all the better for it.

Perhaps the greatest lesson of all is to learn how to keep your own counsel, and to obey the old Irish axiom 'whatever you say, say nothing'.

The Apostle James put the point much better in his New Testament Epistle: "... the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things. See how great a forest is set alight by such a small fire."

How less complicated life would be in this age of overwhelming social media, where people are hell-bent on revealing everything, if we all tried to gabble less and to listen more.

## **Pope Has No Plans To Increase Security On Travels Despite Risks**



***Pope Francis waves at the thousands in St Peter's Square who attended the final ceremony of the Jubilee Year***

Pope Francis says he realises he may be the target of an attack but that he will continue to travel without bulletproof vehicles or heavy security because he wants to get close to people.

Unlike his predecessors, who used bulletproof popemobiles or limousines, Francis uses ordinary cars on international trips, often in contrast to the leaders who greet him.

"I am aware of the risks involved," he said in the introduction to a new book by Italian author Andrea Tornielli.

"Maybe I'm reckless but I must say I don't have any fear for myself but I'm always worried about the safety of those who travel with me and above all that of the people that I meet in various countries. There is always the risk of a rash gesture by a madman. But the Lord is always there," he said.

The book, called "Travelling," is about the 17 trips to more than 25 countries outside Italy that Francis has made since his election in 2013. He is expected to make at least two international trips this year, one to Portugal, and another to India and Bangladesh.

"I can't bring myself to move around in bulletproof cars or in closed popemobiles with bulletproof glass," he said.

In Brazil in 2013, his small car was swamped after the driver took a wrong turn.

"I fully understand the needs of security and am grateful (to security forces) but a bishop is a pastor, a father, and there cannot be too many barriers between him and the people," he said.

"Because of this, I said from the start that I would travel only if I could have contact with people."

For the past two years, Italian police have notably increased security in the area around the Vatican, a sovereign state in the middle of Rome, following attacks by Islamist extremists in Europe.

But Francis still uses an ordinary blue Ford Focus when he visits parishes in Rome and insists on light, low-key security.

## **Programme published for Belfast's 4 Corner's Festival**

The programme of events and contributors for this year's 4 Corners Festival programme have been made available on line. The opening events are:

**IAIN ARCHER in CONVERSATION AND  
CONCERT... FRIDAY FEBRUARY 3rd at  
8.00... DOORS 7.30, FITZROY CHURCH, 77  
University Street, BELFAST BT7 1HL...**

Iain Archer has two Novello Songwriter Awards and was nominated for a Grammy for Hold Back



# 4 Corners Festival

*Bringing Belfast Together*

The River (co-written with James Bay). He will talk about sense of place, wounds and wonder in his songs and do a concert as well.

## **A WONDERFUL WANDER (WALKING TOUR) SATURDAY FEBRUARY 4th at 2 - 5pm.....**

A walking tour on the Peace line past churches, murals, remembrance gardens... past lots of wounds and wonder...

## **DEREK AND DAVE: IN SEARCH OF A BENCH (a play). SATURDAY FEBRUARY 4th at 8.00pm. ST COLMCILLES, 191 Upper Newtownards Rd, Belfast BT4 3JB.**

Derek and Dave are out for their usual walk around the park but this time something's different; Jesus has just made his triumphant entry into Belfast, rather than Jerusalem, with a huge crowd gathered and now the place is a mess! As they journey through the park looking for a decent spot to sit, they observe, pass

judgement and allow us to catch a glimpse of the wounded and wonderful

**DO YOU WANT TO BE HEALED? SUNDAY  
FEBRUARY 5th at 7pm. *ST. THERESA'S, 135  
Glen Rd, Belfast BT11 8BL***

The annual Theological Lecture of the Festival with former Presbyterian Moderator Rev Dr Trevor Morrow and Redemptorist academic Brendan McConvery.

More at -

<http://stocki.typepad.com/soulsurmise/2017/01/4-corners-festival-2017-the-programme-at-a-glance.html>

## **Petition launched to reinstate Irish-born nun featured in BBC documentary**

An Irish-born nun who was the subject of a major BBC documentary for her work in one of the most socially deprived areas of Manchester has now become the subject of a major online petition as her local community campaigns to halt her transfer.

Cork-born Presentation Sister, Sr Rita Lee (71), works in the Collyhurst region of Manchester, where she runs a food bank at the Lalley Centre.

The Lalley Centre is a drop-in centre in Collyhurst, Salford, which caters to the welfare needs and services of the community.

Recently, Sr Rita was the focus of a five-part BBC series, 'Sister Rita to the Rescue', which aims to highlight the plight of young families and those on low salaries who are affected by government cuts and sanctions. In the documentary she met with Pensions Minister Ian Duncan Smith, and urged the British government not to "cut the benefits of the less well off". She also told him the "sanctions were cruel".

Now it has emerged that Sr Rita has been transferred to an as yet undisclosed new appointment, but her local community at the Lalley centre wants her back. The petition – 'Reinstate Sister Rita at the Lalley Centre' – praised the Sister, who has "given many years of her life" to the community.

"Sister Rita has given many years of her life to build and support the Lalley Centre in Collyhurst



and has made an invaluable contribution to people throughout this area. After ten years' service Caritas have decided to let her go and disregarded the opinions of all the centre users and local community! The Centre needs Sister Rita and so does the Collyhurst community." The petition needs 1,000 signatures, and has so far received 530 supporters, with some expressing serious fears for the centre without Sister Rita.

In a statement issued last week to the Manchester Evening News newspaper, Caritas Diocese of Salford CEO Mark Wiggin said the diocese "would like to acknowledge the concern of local residents regarding the continuation of the Lalley Centre and its vital community services. We are committed to serving the local

community by developing the services that are based at The Lalley Centre. Sister Rita Lee has worked tirelessly to support the community in Collyhurst, where the Lalley Centre is based. She will be remembered fondly, and lovingly, by all those she has helped over the last decade. We sincerely wish Sister Rita well in her future endeavours.”

The statement added that “Caritas is committed to continuing and building on her good work in North Manchester and want to reassure everyone, particularly people who use the Lalley Centre and the Food bank that we will be continuing her good work.”

The petition can be accessed [here](#).

## **Get a free copy of Premier Youth and Children's Work**

Premier has announced its brand new magazine *Premier Youth and Children's Work!* Which is for everyone involved in developing faith in youth and children's ministry.

Having merged two previous titles *Premier Youthwork* and *Premier Childrenswork* the



publishers believe this is a prophetic step in the world of all-age ministry. “We believe in the need of more joined-up thinking and with this in mind we hope to bring ideas, resources and guidance to support and shape those working with young people and children”, they state.

Receive an exciting publication with ideas, expert guidance and free resources for parents and those working with young people and children!

<https://www.premieryouthwork.com/subscriptions/free-trial>

<https://www.premierchildrenswork.com/subscriptions/free-trial>

## News briefs

**+++ Tree of Life tapestry dedicated** - Yesterday (Sunday) morning at the Eucharist for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (the First Sunday after the Feast of the Epiphany) in St Laserian's cathedral, Old Leighlin, a specially commissioned tapestry will be dedicated in memory of Sam Rigley. The tapestry, on the theme of the Tree of Life, is the work of the well-known Wexford-based artist Terry Dunne and embodies strong baptismal themes of creation, water and growth. The large work is designed as a fall for the baptistry area and is the gift of the Rigley family in memory of a greatly-loved husband, father and friend. The tapestry is the second of two specially commissioned pieces, and follows the dedication of a new processional cross designed and crafted by Bishop Richard Henderson.

**+++ Carols for Epiphany** - Yesterday morning RTE Radio 1 Extra broadcast a Service of Carols and Readings for the Epiphany from the Church of the Holy Saviour, Narraghmore, Co. Kildare, conducted by the Very Rev. Dr. Philip Knowles, Priest in Charge, with Karen Plewman at the organ. In the evening the Cathedral Consort led an Epiphany Procession by

Candlelight in St Patrick's cathedral, Dublin.  
There was an Epiphany Carol Service in St.  
Columb's Cathedral, Derry.

**+++ Belfast canons** - Yesterday The Revd Gareth Harron, Rector of Holywood Parish and Revd Mark Niblock, Dean's Vicar at St Anne's Cathedral, were installed as Canons of the Cathedral. The Revd Daviv Humphries, formerly a canon from Down and Dromore Diocese was installed as a Canon from Connor following his recent move to that diocese.

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

### **Two-thirds of £55m paid out under RHI goes to farmers**

Irish News

<http://www.irishnews.com/news/2017/01/05/news/two-thirds-of-rhi-funds-got-to-farmers-865731/>

### **Sunday Tel**

Reports that church spires in Britain's most remote communities are to be rigged up with broadband satellites in a new government drive to boost internet connection. The C of E has offered use of its 16,000 churches to help the



Government to deliver on a promise to bring superfast broadband to 95 per cent of properties. Matt Hancock, the digital and culture minister, will meet the Martin Seeley, the Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, and other religious figures later this month. Caroline Spelman, the Second Church Estates Commissioner, wrote last year to the departments of Culture and Environment suggesting churches are used to deliver broadband.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/01/07/church-spires-get-broadband-transmitters-new-government-drive/>

### **BBC/Christian Today/Coventry Tel**

Further coverage that Black Sabbath guitarist Tony Iommi has recorded new choral music with Birmingham Cathedral choir and cellist George Shilling. The five-minute long *How Good It Is*, inspired by Psalm 133, was premiered at the Cathedral this week. The heavy metal guitarist worked with his friend, the Dean of Birmingham, Catherine Ogle, on the work which celebrates peace, harmony and the Cathedral's role at the heart of the city.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-birmingham-38541889>

<http://www.coventrytelegraph.net/news/black-sabbaths-tony-iommi-turns-12417962>

## **Mail on Sunday**

Further coverage that more people are choosing to spend their weekend breaks sleeping in a church. The demand for “champing”, a portmanteau for camping in churches, grew fourfold last year and the *Churches Conservation Trust*, which runs the scheme, has bigger plans for this year, raising the number of churches taking part from seven to 12.

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4097068/Oh-Holy-Nights-Holidaymakers-swap-glamping-CHAMPING-spend-weekend-breaks-sleeping-church.html?ITO=1490&ns\\_mchannel=rss&ns\\_campaign=1490](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4097068/Oh-Holy-Nights-Holidaymakers-swap-glamping-CHAMPING-spend-weekend-breaks-sleeping-church.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

## **Sunday Tel**

Reports that a piece of fabric will become one of the star attractions at Hampton Court Palace after it was identified as the only surviving piece of clothing worn by Elizabeth I. The country's leading experts on royal garments have spent the past year piecing together clues about the provenance of the embroidered textile, which had been cut up and used for hundreds of years as

an altar cloth in a Herefordshire parish church. The cloth was first discovered hanging on a wall in the 13th-century church of St Faith, Bacton, last year.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/01/07/queen-elizabeth-long-lost-skirt-found-church-altar-herefordshire/>

## **BBC**

Video report that church bells have rung out in Cirencester to celebrate the moment 250 years ago when the first peal of the 12 bells of the town's parish church took place. It is the oldest church with this number of bells in the UK. Twelve bell ringers recreated the historical chimes from 1767.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-gloucestershire-38542575>

## **Comment**

**Sunday Times:** Jill Saward let herself be named so her rapists would be shamed, writes Yasmin Alibhai-Brown.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/comment/jill-saward-let-herself-be-named-so-her-rapists-would-be-shamed-njv5fb3gn>

**Sunday Times:** Rocking them in the aisles. Tony Iommi, the guitarist with Black Sabbath, has recorded a choral work which had its premiere last week at Birmingham Cathedral.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/rocking-them-in-the-aisles-ch2b9gfrk>

### **Tel/Times/Birmingham Post**

Reports that Black Sabbath guitarist Tony Iommi has recorded new choral music with Birmingham Cathedral choir and cellist George Shilling. The five-minute long *How Good It Is*, inspired by Psalm 133, was premiered at the Cathedral this week. The heavy metal guitarist worked with his friend, the Dean of Birmingham, Catherine Ogle, on the work which celebrates peace, harmony and the Cathedral's role at the heart of the city.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/01/06/hell-raising-harmony-black-sabbaths-tony-iommi-joins-choir/>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/hell-raising-guitarist-turns-to-choral-work-5ltz5qcs1>

<http://www.birminghampost.co.uk/news/regional-affairs/black-sabbaths-tony-iommi-reveals-12410082>

### **Mail/Mirror**

Further reports and tributes to Jill Saward who died earlier this week aged 51 years old. Ms Saward became a tireless campaigner to change the way the legal system treats victims of sexual violence after she was repeatedly raped by burglars during a violent break-in at her father's vicarage in Ealing, west London, in 1986. *The Times* publishes an obituary (see below). The *Mail* reports that many are asking why Ms Saward was not officially honoured for her work. <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4095116/If-deserved-recognition-did-Anger-grows-failure-honour-Ealing-vicarage-rape-victim-Jill-Saward-campaigned-against-sexual-violence-died-aged-51.html>  
<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/who-jill-saward-you-need-9573561>

## **Times**

Reports that more people are choosing to spend their weekend breaks sleeping in a church. The demand for “champing”, a portmanteau for camping in churches, grew fourfold last year and the *Churches Conservation Trust*, which runs the scheme, has bigger plans for this year, raising the number of churches taking part from seven to 12.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/churches-are-a-heaven-sent-place-to-camp-crhswsjd7>

## **Mail**

Profiles Terry Waite, former special envoy to the then Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie, focusing on Trinity Hall Cambridge, where Mr Waite recuperated from his time held captive in Beirut.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-4091340/My-haven-Terry-Waite-Beirut-hostage-77-Cambridge-s-Trinity-Hall-lived-return-captivity.html>

## **Christian Today/Peterborough Telegraph**

Reports that twelve people have been made redundant at Peterborough Cathedral as the Bishop seeks to resolve the institution's cash flow crisis.

<http://www.peterboroughtoday.co.uk/news/bishop-reveals-redundancies-at-peterborough-cathedral-to-address-financial-problems-1-7761149>

## **Premier**

Reports that the Bishop of Crediton is calling on Christians to do more to help tackle loneliness among older people. Sarah Mullally said simple

things like coffee mornings or encouraging telephone calls between those affected by isolation can make a significant difference.

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Church-must-do-more-to-tackle-loneliness-urges-bishop-after-new-poll>

### Christian Today

Reports that actor David Suchet will be reading the entire Gospel of Mark at St Paul's Cathedral just before Holy Week begins.

### **BBC**

Reports that the Church in Wales is marking the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary since women were allowed to become priests in the Church with Saturday services being held at every Welsh cathedral.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-38535134>

### **Obituary**

Jill Saward

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/jill-saward-vtrd2s7cz>

### **Comment**

#### Christian Today

Jill Saward - a saint for our times

January 9