



Canon Arthur Minion and Fr Jim Fegan being visited by Bishop Denis Brennan (right) during their fast outside St Iberius Church in Wexford town.

Wexford clerics' fast raises more than €40,000 for charity

A four-day Christmas fast by the administrator of Wexford cathedral and his Church of Ireland counterpart has raised more than €40,000 for local charities in the town.

Irish Catholic - Fr Jim Fegan carried out his 16th Christmas fast this year, joined by Canon Arthur Minion on his third fast, outside St Iberius Church in Wexford town in the four days up until Christmas Eve.

The two clerics collected funds on Main Street from about 9am to 5.30pm each day, while abstaining from food for four days in what has become a seasonal tradition in the town.

“People were marvellous,” Fr Fegan told The Irish Catholic. “That’s what makes it all worthwhile, seeing the generosity of people passing up and down the street and sharing in the banter and camaraderie,” he said.

The funds raised will be divided between the St Vincent de Paul, Ozanam House (homeless shelter for men), Wexford Women’s Refuge, Family Life Services and SERT (South East Radiotherapy Trust), which offers transport for cancer care.

TCD Muslim academic urges media not to republish Charlie Hebdo cartoons

A Muslim scholar has appealed to the Irish media not to republish cartoons published by the French satirical weekly *Charlie Hebdo*.

Irish Times - Dr [Ali Selim](#) of the Islamic Cultural Centre of [Ireland](#) in Dublin has condemned the killing of 12 people in an attack on the offices of the Paris-based publication.

However, he said it was “unfair” to link the motives of the three gunmen to Islam at this early stage of the investigation and that he would take legal advice if Irish publications did republish or tweet cartoons that made fun of Islam.



Dr [Ali Selim](#) of the Islamic Cultural Centre of [Ireland](#)

Dr Selim, a lecturer at [Trinity College Dublin](#) and the Mater Dei Institute, also confirmed that he is considering standing in the next general election here as an independent candidate.

He said he would be “interested in talking” to former [Fine Gael](#) TD [Lucinda Creighton](#) about the new political party she is forming. Dr Selim had run as an independent councillor in local elections in south Dublin a decade ago but had withdrawn before the vote.

“My intention back then was to encourage others to get involved in politics, and to show it could be done,”he said.

www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/alim-selim-urges-media-not-to-republish-charlie-hebdo-cartoons-1.2058244

Independent - Islamic cleric threatens Irish publications with legal action if they publish offending cartoon

www.independent.ie/irish-news/islamic-cleric-threatens-irish-publications-with-legal-action-if-they-publish-offending-cartoon-30891821.html

Dublin Interfaith Forum in solidarity with people of France

The Dublin City Interfaith Forum called on people of all faiths to stand up to and utterly condemn the violent attack on the Paris office of Charlie Hebdo.

Condemning any actions which endanger the capacity of people of different origins, cultures and religions to live in harmony together, the DCIF said it was actively working to build

relationships based on understanding and respect among Dublin's diverse faith communities.



The group also condemned any incitement to hatred and division. "Respect for and acceptance of the rights of all citizens to practise their religious beliefs in peace and harmony and the rejection of violence are the cornerstones of any society that wishes to claim to be democratic, modern or indeed truly human," the DCIF said.

It added that it is up to every one, individually and collectively, to work together to create such a society.

Paris attack an act of the most extraordinary brutality and barbarity - Archbishop of Canterbury

The Archbishop of Canterbury condemned the terrorist attack at the Paris offices of the satirical magazine, Charlie Hebdo.

Following this week's terrorist attack at the Paris offices of the satirical magazine, Charlie Hebdo, Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby said:

"This is an act of the most extraordinary brutality and barbarity. This violence is demonic in its attack on the innocent, and cowardly in its denial of the basic human right of freedom of speech.

"The people of France, a country in which I have lived, which I know and love, will rise courageously above the challenge of this vile attack and continue to demonstrate strength and confidence arising out of their great history.

"Our prayers and thoughts are especially with those who have been killed and injured and their

families. I pray also for those involved in pursuing the terrorists.”

Prayers in response to Paris terror attack

The Church of England has issued the following prayers in response to the Paris terror attack.

Compassionate God and Father of all,
we are horrified at violence
in so many parts of the world.
It seems that none are safe, and some are
terrified.
Hold back the hands that kill and maim;
turn around the hearts that hate.
Grant instead your strong Spirit of Peace -
peace that passes our understanding
but changes lives,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

God of Hope,
we come to you in shock and grief and confusion
of heart.
Help us to find peace in the knowledge
of your loving mercy to all your children,

and give us light to guide us out of our darkness
into the assurance of your love,
In Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Merciful God,
hear the cries of our grief,
for you know the anguish of our hearts.
It is beyond our understanding
and more than we can bear.
We pray that justice may be done
and that we may treasure the memory of their
lives
more than the manner of their death.
For Christ's sake.

Amen

Choral Evensong for Candlemas

Choral Evensong for Candlemas will be sung by
'Renaissance', the renowned Belfast Chamber
Choir In St Mary's Parish Church, Macosquin on
Sunday 1st February at 5.00pm. Conductor: Ian
Mills. The service will be followed by a short
musical recital.

The Service also marks the launch of a fund-raising appeal for the Restoration of the Church roof. £10.00 Donations will be appreciated.

Media digest

Times/Mail/Exp/Tel/Ind/Guard

Reports on reaction to the terrorist attack in Paris noting that in vigils around the world Muslims and non-Muslims alike came out to denounce the murders at the satirical magazine, *Charlie Hebdo*. The magazine's website showed a black square with the words "Je suis Charlie" and by 8.30pm more than 1 million people had tweeted #jesuischarlie including the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby who wrote in French: 'The response to such demonic violence is love for those who suffer and virtuous action against evil', followed by the tweet in English. Also comment on the attack on free speech pointing out the magazine through its own traditions of radical anti-clericalism and suspicion of authority, lampooned all politicians, ideologies, and religions, "none with more venom than the Catholic Church".

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/medianews/article4317100.ece>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2900835/Crowds-gather-central-Paris-solidarity-murdered-Charlie-Hebdo-journalists-slogan-Je-Suis-Charlie.html>
<http://www.express.co.uk/comment/columnists/leo-mckinstry/550724/Leo-McKinstry-Paris-massacre-Islamist-threat-Europe>
<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/world/europe/article4317056.ece>
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11331774/Prophet-Mohammed-cartoons-the-roots-of-Muslim-fury.html>
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/media/press/what-is-charlie-hebdo-banned-and-resurrected-but-always-in-the-grand-tradition-of-gallic-satire-9963721.html>
<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/jan/07/charlie-hebdo-freedom-fear-terrorists-massacre-war>

Tel

Article on how Lord Williams, the former Archbishop of Canterbury has suggested the traditional notion of retirement should be rethought to prevent people having to choose between working "until they drop" or giving up altogether. Lord Williams gave the interview as patron of the Abbeyfield Society, a charity, supported by the *Telegraph*, dedicated to making the lives of older people easier.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11331051/Rowan-Williams-Im-preparing-for-my-final-years.html>

Lanc Tel/Mail/Express

Report that the head verger of Blackburn Cathedral suffered head injuries, two broken ribs and a fractured elbow in a frenzied unprovoked attack. It stated Mark Pickering, described as a 'star of the cathedral' needed surgery after being punched, stamped on and hit repeatedly with a large church candle. Includes comment from the Dean, Christopher Armstrong, and Bishop of Blackburn, Julian Henderson.

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/verger-left-serious-injuries-after-4936580>

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/550705/Verger-viscously-beaten-church-candle>

Guard

Comment on Lord Lloyd Webber's suggestion of Wi-Fi for all churches says it could lead to the congregation ignoring the sermon while checking their emails and updating their Facebook profiles. But what is more worrying is that the members of this modern community wouldn't actually come into the church at all, just hover outside to pick up the Wi-Fi.

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/jan/07/hawking-fiction-smoke-free-past-theory-everything-fag>

BBC

Report on details of the vote in favour of the ordination of gay ministers by Church of Scotland presbyteries. The Kirk has now said 32

of the 45 presbyteries backed proposals to allow them to appoint a minister who is in a civil partnership. A final decision on the issue will be taken at General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh in May. It states a total of 1,391 presbytery members voted in favour and 1,153 against, resulting in a 54.6% to 45.4% split.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-30711681>