



CNI

Protest by staff and students at former Church of Ireland college

After 200 years Rathmines college of education closure occurred with one day's notice

Writing in The Irish Times, Patsy McGarry states Staff and students at the former [Church of Ireland](#) College of Education (CICE) in Dublin's [Rathmines](#) were to stage a protest yesterday Friday at what they claim has been a failure to resolve serious issues since the college was moved to [Drumcondra](#) last year.

The protest *was due to* take place at its former Rathmines location.

The Irish Times report states:

[Mike Jennings](#), general secretary of the [Irish Federation of University Teachers](#), said “there has been a serious failure by college governors and management to deliver on their

responsibilities and commitments to staff and students of the former CICE”.

The chair of the board of governors, Archbishop [Michael Jackson](#), had acknowledged “the validity of staff losses and concerns”, he said. “We call on him to urgently respond to allow a speedy resolution of these issues,” he said.

Last September the CICE, St Patrick’s College Drumcondra and the Mater [Dei Institute](#) were amalgamated into DCU’s Institute of Education at the St Patrick’s site.

Compensation

Former CICE staff claim that management and the Department of Education failed to engage in a resolution of their claims for compensation due to losses incurred by the closure of the former Rathmines college and laid with the Workplace Relations Commission (WRC). They called on governors of the college to engage urgently with trade unions to progress these claims.

A spokeswoman for the protest group said that since its incorporation into the DCU Institute of Education “programmes offered by the former Church of Ireland College are being terminated. No clear plan has been communicated on how the financial, administrative and support services

provided by the former CICE will continue for those students completing CICE programmes under the new diminished body known as the Church of Ireland Centre”.

She said that “staff professionalism, student engagement and programme delivery were all seriously compromised by this failure of college management and governors to plan adequately for closure or to manage and put in place sufficient support for the transfer to DCU for continuation of legacy programmes”.

Church of England bishops refuse to budge on gay marriage

Church of England bishops are resisting calls to change its teaching that marriage is exclusively between one man and one woman.

After years of debate and division the C of E’s bishops have announced there “are no proposals” to change laws that prevent gay people from getting married in church and prevent clergy from entering into same-sex marriages.

But bishops insist they will offer “maximum freedom” for LGBT couples within the current l



laws and teaching of the Church, opening the possibility of an official service for gay couples.

The Church hierarchy has completed more than two years of private talks in a desperate attempt to heal deep rifts over its prohibition on gay marriage.

The bishops' recommendations will cause fury from the pro-LGBT wing of the Church which wants an official "blessing" for gay relationships, even if a full endorsement of gay marriage is not possible.

But the bishops have ruled out a blessing, which would signify approval, though they have said they would offer a new teaching document on marriage and relationships that would explore

what accomodation could be given to gay couples.

The new teaching document will "affirm the place of lesbian and gay people in the life of the Church", a report suggested.

Current rules over whether clergy can offer prayers or a service to formally welcome gay couples are unclear, the bishops admitted.

They said they will publish guidance for "appropriate pastoral provision for same sex couples". Details of what this means is not available and the Bishop of Norwich, Rt Rev Graham James, said the bishops would "explore more fully" what the Church will offer gay couples.

The report makes clear the new guidance will "set careful boundaries" and will specify what may and may not take place.

He admitted the document would be "challenging or difficult reading" for gay Christians in the Church.

"No change in doctrine is doctrine is proposed but it is pastoral practice – how we treat people – which matter most," he said.

The bishops also said they would look at changing how gay clergy are questioned over whether they are sexually active. Under present rules LGBT ordinands must vow to remain celibate, even if in a long term relationship, but heterosexual couples do not face the same questioning.

Bishop James admitted the current process was "not working well". The report said any questioning about sexual conduct should apply equally to homosexual and heterosexual people. It said the current focus on sexuality led to a "pastorally unhelpful" tickbox attitude.

C of E media release and statement by Bishop of Willesden at -

<https://www.churchofengland.org/media-centre/news/2017/01/general-synod-press-conference.aspx>

‘Stories of Healing from the wounds of the past’, a 4 Corners Festival event

The Stories of Healing... this 4 Corners Festival event will give an opportunity to hear about how some people have attempted that journey of healing. Where do you begin when you lose a

father before you are born, husband, a Grandfather or the power of your legs? How does that journey go? Is there healing? Can you forgive? Have you any desire for reconciliation?

Stories of Healing will be on Wednesday Feb 8th at 7:30pm In Holy Family Parish Church, 120 Cavehill Road, Belfast BT15. Entrance is free but donations are encouraged

John Martin's father, Brian, was killed on the 4th of November 1983 studying at the then Polytechnic college in Jordanstown. He was survived by his wife Iris and sister Sara-Louise (13months at the time). Iris was pregnant with John when Brian was killed. John believes that forgiveness is not something that you do once, but something that has to be done over and over. John and his family have found healing in their faith, and being reconciled to God through Christ, and believe therefore that we must be reconcilers. Although John admits he is still working this out.

Paul Gallagher was seriously injured in a sectarian gun attack by the UFF in 1994. He is currently involved in issues relating to Victims and Survivors as well as peacebuilding. Paul is undertaking a Masters (Conflict Transformation and Social Justice) at Queen's University Belfast.

Joe McKeown's Grandfather, Francis McKeown was killed by the British Army in July 1972, seven years before he was born but was undoubtedly impacted and some would call this intergenerational trauma. The ripple effects of this tragic event have led to suffering and pain for the McKeown family but they have also led Joe on a journey of reconciliation and hope. Moving from a negative cycle of bitterness and anger to the search for Justice, Truth and Mercy has led Joe towards transformation and healing.

Mary Moreland was widowed in December 1988 when her husband John was murdered by the IRA. Both John and Mary served as part time soldiers with the Ulster Defence Regiment. Despite the trauma of John's murder and with two small children to bring up it was Mary's aspiration to ensure life for their children would continue in as normal a manner as possible. She returned to work in the Northern Ireland Civil Service and went on successfully to complete a degree in Business Studies and a Masters in Counselling and Therapeutic Communication. The statistics of our Troubles is one thing. Remembering those killed is another. Living with the consequences of the inhumanity is something that these four people, and their families, live with every day of their lives.

Steve Stockman, one of the co-organisers of the 4Corners says, “It seems to me that as we seek healing for our community in general, the individual stories of the four speakers at this event can only shed light and grace on our journey towards God’s shalom”.

Songwriter **Dave Thompson** will punctuate the evening with songs of healing. The songs on Dave’s album Newsprint Sky touch on the wonder and wounds of Belfast.

Chair for the evening is **Jude Hill** from UTV

This year’s 4 Corners Festival theme is *Our Wonderful and Wounded City*. It was stolen and tweaked from phrase used at a Festival event by Rev Heather Morris.

Retiring Archbishop of Wales on Brexit and Trump

The Archbishop of Wales thinks uncertain times lie ahead with the spectre of Brexit and the Donald Trump US Presidency, accusing the new man in the White House of contradicting himself on a regular basis, The South Wales Evening Post reports.



Dr Barry Morgan retires on Tuesday on his 70th birthday, with his 14 years in post making him the longest-serving archbishop in the worldwide Anglican Communion.

He says his roots in the mining community of Gwaun-cae-Gurwen have served him well during his ministry.

"My wife used to say you can take the man out of [GCG](#) but you can't take GCG out of the man," he said. "I don't know if she quite meant it as a compliment. When I was growing up it was a small Welsh-speaking mining community. You knew your neighbours intimately. I remember, because we were three children, going to study in the parlour of the man next door who was a widower and having access at all kind of times to that and him bringing me endless cups of coffee. I remember as well our neighbour but

one had a huge bathroom and with five of us in our family, occasionally if our bathroom was occupied, you would go there and say do you mind if I have a bath? I can't quite imagine doing that now."

But the lessons he learned then stood him in good stead, and helped him relate to people struggling in Wales today. Tackling poverty has been one of his themes.

"I think for those who are at the bottom of the pile it has certainly got worse because wages have not increased," said Dr Morgan. "We are seeing it with the withdrawal from the Common Market, that prices are going to go up and it is always more difficult for people who haven't got much money. I identify with them, of course, because that was the background I came from. And I have never forgotten that.

"I don't quite know how my parents managed to do it with three children. My father had a dreadful accident when I was about seven. He did not work for a couple of years. We faced difficulties like that. Those days, of course, they didn't have huge mortgage payments because they were lucky enough to have bought their house just after the war.

They had all the other bills. Add mortgage payments onto that and you can see the difficulties people face."

In his final Christmas message, Dr Morgan criticised Mr Trump's election pledge to build a border wall between the US and Mexico, calling for people in a divided world to build bridges, not walls. As he gave his retirement interview, he continued the theme.

"The future is uncertain, but then the future always is uncertain," he said. "It is only when you look back and think oh well one should have foreseen that. One is always wise in hindsight. Like many people, I didn't foresee the Brexit vote. I didn't foresee the Trump presidency either. The only thing I think about the President is that one day he says one thing and then the next day he seems to contradict it.

"I am just hoping that things will not be so bad as they seem, although some of his remarks about women, what he says about Muslims, what he says about Mexicans, what he says about American protectionism, just looking after yourselves and not bothering about immigrants, is quite alarming really." But he is upbeat when talking about the history made last Saturday at Llandaff Cathedral when he consecrated the first



Archbishop of Wales Dr Barry Morgan has reservations about Brexit.

woman as a bishop in the Church of Wales, Joanna Penberthy the 129th Bishop of St Davids. He was glad it went through just before the end of his watch.

"It was nice and totally unexpected," he said. "I thought it was possible since 2013 for a woman to be elected a Bishop, but it was the first time we had had a vacancy. As far as I was concerned the important thing was that it was possible to consider a woman. It was fantastic from my viewpoint that the Electoral College

decided that this was the best person for the post at this particular time. I can't think of going out on a more joyous note."

He does so after a record-breaking run in the post, although that is not the way he views it.

"I don't think of it in those terms," he said.

He did think about retiring when he was 65 but eventually settled on bowing out on his 70th birthday. Sadly his wife died last year, but there will be more time for the family from now on. He will also be found on the fairways of Radyr Golf Club trying to get his handicap down from 20.

"The trouble is in a job like this your life is organised for you," said Dr Morgan. "Your diary is choc-a-bloc, so I am looking forward really to having a rest, to having an empty diary, to playing with the grandchildren and to improve my golf. There is plenty of room for improvement."

A farewell service will be held on Sunday at Llandaff Cathedral when there will be time for reflection. He is modest about any achievements, though.

"I never think of myself as having any impact," he said. "Just do what you have to do when you

do it, and hope that you have said something that meant something to somebody and you have done various things in ministry that might have helped somebody along the way. But it is only other people who can judge that, not me really."

Christian Aid Offering hope in South Sudan this Lent

For Christians around the world, Lent is a time of reflection, self-examination and thinking of others who are less fortunate. It is a journey, a time for us to think about how we follow the Jesus who calls his disciples to sacrificial love that breaks down barriers, builds bridges and demands justice for those who find themselves living in poverty, writes Meabh Smith, Head of Communications, Christian Aid Ireland

People like Michael.

Michael lives in South Sudan, where 6.1 million people urgently need humanitarian aid as a result of the conflict that erupted in December 2013. Ongoing fighting has displaced 2.4 million people, and up to 5.3 million people are at risk of severe food shortages.

Michael, who is in his 70s and has gradually lost his sight during the past five years, fled alongside his family when government forces came to his village. Soldiers killed people and stole cattle, forcing Michael to flee to the swamp where he resided with his family for two months. When they returned, most of their belongings were gone, and they were left with next to nothing.

Thankfully, they had some fishing hooks and nets from Christian Aid. Already a skilled fisherman, now he can take the younger generation to the swamp to teach them how to fish, so they can continue to feed their community.

Throughout Lent, we are reflecting on the hymn written for us, 'When I Needed A Neighbour, Were You There'.

We are asking you to reflect each day on the blessings in your life through Count Your Blessings, inspired by daily opportunities to give, act and pray for communities like Michael's, helping them to find a safe place to call home.

Christian Aid is working with people displaced within South Sudan, who are living in some of

the hardest to reach places, to provide much-needed food, safe water and sanitation facilities and essential household items, including sheeting for temporary shelters, as well as fish hooks and nets so they can start to rebuild their lives and become self-sufficient.

Just £15 / €17 could provide fishing gear for a family like Michael's; £8.50 / €9.50 could provide two cooking pots so they can eat a hot meal; and £3 / €3.50 could pay for two plastic jerry cans so they can store safe drinking water.

For 70 years, Christian Aid and its supporters have been there, making a difference and helping to transform the lives of people living in poverty. With your support we are restoring dignity to people in desperate situations and offering hope to brothers and sisters who have no safe place to call home.

Thanks to your help, we will be there tomorrow.

For more information or to support the work of Christian Aid Ireland visit www.christianaid.ie/lent or call 01 4967040 for the Republic of Ireland or 02890648133 for Northern Ireland.

“He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do

justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8).

News briefs

+++ Church Music Dublin New Choir Training Video - The second video from the set on Choir Training, with Mark Duley, has been uploaded to the Church Music Dublin website. Please follow this link to view it: <http://www.churchmusicdublin.org/choir-training-videos/>

+++ Iona seek coordinator for McCleod Centre - This is a post within the Iona Centres Operations Team (ICOT), which" is responsible for the running of our centres on Iona, under the leadership of the Iona Centres Director. This post has responsibility for acting as co-ordinator at the MacLeod Centre and, with ICOT, ensuring the provision of appropriate welfare and spiritual support to staff. The post is also responsible, with the Director, for co-ordinating the practical aspects of our services of worship on Iona in accordance with Community policies. Overall responsibility for worship rests with the Iona Centres Director. "See - <https://iona.org.uk/2017/01/27/vacancy-on-iona-2/>

+++ Rector for Mossley sought - The Diocese of Connor is seeking to appoint a rector for the Church of the Holy Spirit, Mossley Parish. This is a suburban parish with 250 families in the borough of Newtownabbey, eight miles from Belfast city centre. Enquiries should be submitted by Monday February 13. Further information can be found at <http://connor.anglican.org/vacancies/>

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

NI Grammar school tests at record high Belfast Telegraph

Transfer test entry standards hit a record high as calls increase for one method of assessment for all

http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/transfer-test-entry-standards-hit-a-record-high-as-calls-increase-for-one-method-of-assessment-for-all-35401868.html?utm_source=ipad_share&utm_medium=ipad_app&utm_campaign=clickbacks

Pope urges Irish Church to defend 'quality' Catholic schools

The Irish Catholic

Pope Francis has encouraged the **Church in Ireland** to maintain and enhance the strong values of Catholic schools, despite a background of negativity ...

<http://irishcatholic.ie/article/pope-urges-irish-church-defend-%E2%80%98quality%E2%80%99-catholic-schools>

Files link Arlene Foster to Irish language row and show DUP failed to equality test Lío fa cut

The Detail

<https://www.thedetail.tv/articles/files-link-arlene-foster-to-irish-language-row-and-show-dup-failed-to-equality-test-liofa-cut?>

Guard/BBC (video)/BBC Online

Report that more than 200 genocide survivors gathered at a special commemoration in London on the eve of Holocaust Memorial Day. They were joined by religious leaders including Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis and the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby along with 1,000 guests for the act of remembrance. Archbishop Justin's warning against a culture of 'collusion with evil' in his [address](#) is quoted.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/jan/26/genocide-survivors-gather-london-before-holocaust-memorial-day>
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-38765186>
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-38760505>

Mail/Times (news in brief)

Report on letters from Prince Charles to Bishop Peter Ball, who was convicted and jailed in 2015 for offences against young men. *Mail* says the letters have been passed to the independent review into how the Church responded to the case, being led by Dame Moira Gibb; the review was commissioned by the Archbishop of Canterbury after Ball's conviction. Clarence House said yesterday they believed there was nothing in them which pertained to the case.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4162372/Prince-Charles-wrote-padeophile-bishop.html#ixzz4WwVnCGMC>
<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/schools-accused-of-illegally-cherry-picking-pupils-lww32nlt0>

Express

Report that six years ago a vicar destroyed the hard drive of a computer, which had links to porn and which 'inferred child porn', being accessed

by a man who attended the church in Baldock (St Albans diocese). The vicar told his local paper that he had reported the incident to the diocese at the time and took appropriate action; he said he was only aware of the adult porn. The *Letchworth & Baldock Comet* carried the story this week after an insider came forward. Police are quoted saying they are confident no criminal offences have been disclosed at this time.

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/759262/rev-andrew-holford-smashed-church-pervert-computer-cover-up-police>

BBC/Mail/Sun/Express

Reports on the funeral of British soldier L/Cpl Scott Hetherington, 22. the first UK soldier to die in Iraq in almost eight years, at All Saints and Martyrs Church in Middleton, Greater Manchester. The reports quote Vicar Rev Canon Philip Miller, who read a short eulogy by the soldiers mother.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-38757228>

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4160416/Funeral-British-soldier-died-Iraqi-base.html?](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4160416/Funeral-British-soldier-died-Iraqi-base.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

[ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4160416/Funeral-British-soldier-died-Iraqi-base.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

<https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/2712038/british-squaddie-died-iraq-shot-by-another-soldier/>

[http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/759241/
British-soldier-killed-Iraq-buried-full-military-
honours](http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/759241/British-soldier-killed-Iraq-buried-full-military-honours)

Christian Today

Report on an interview with Rev Gavin Ashenden, a former chaplain to the Queen, who accuses the Church of England of conducting a policy of 'accommodation with secular culture'. Rev Ashenden resigned as a chaplain to the Queen after he publicly criticised St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral in Glasgow for allowing a reading from the Koran at an Epiphany service earlier this month.

BBC

Further coverage of damage done by wild boars to the graveyard of St John the Evangelist Church in Cinderford, Gloucestershire.

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-
gloucestershire-38755729](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-gloucestershire-38755729)