



***Irish Ambassador to the Holy See, HE Emma Madigan with Primate of All Ireland, Archbishop Eamon Martin, Church of Ireland Primate of All Ireland, Archbishop Richard Clarke and Archbishop Kieran O'Reilly.***

## **Irish Embassy to the Vatican cost €32,000 to run in 2014**

New figures released by the Department of Foreign Affairs shows it cost a little over €32,000 to run the Irish Embassy to the Vatican last year.

The figures provided by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Charlie Flanagan, reveal that it cost the State €32,461 to operate the embassy at the Holy See which was re-opened in January 2014.

The spend, which represents a small portion of the State's overall €61 million embassy bill in 2014 – is just €1,549 more than the €30,912 the State spent on renovating two bathrooms at its Paris embassy last year.

The bill is one of the smallest bills the Irish Government has had to pay for its embassy service.

The bill for the nearby Irish embassy in Rome cost €1.3 million.

The costs, which were provided in a written Dáil response to Sinn Féin's Foreign Affairs spokesperson and Dublin South-West Deputy Sean Crowe, includes staff costs, office costs,

building rental and/or maintenance and other overheads.

The newly elected Fine Gael/Labour coalition government closed the Irish embassy in the Vatican as well as Irish embassies in Timor Leste and Iran in 2011 in order cut costs.

The then Foreign Affairs Minister, Eamon Gilmore, said that the closure of the three embassies would save around €1.25m a year.

He said that while the "embassy to the Holy See was one of Ireland's oldest missions, it yielded no economic return, and that Ireland's interests could be sufficiently represented by a non-resident ambassador".

However, in January of last year, the Government announced that it would reopen the embassy.

It then announced the appointment of Emma Madigan from the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs as ambassador who would have "a particular mandate to follow the activities of the Holy See on the development and human rights front".

In a statement at the time, the Department of Foreign Affairs said that Ms Madigan would be the only member of staff and referencing Pope

Francis, saying that since his appointment he has “become a leading global advocate for action to address hunger and poverty and for the respect of human rights”.

## **Derry clergy scale new heights for charity**

Bishop Ken Good was among a group of people who scaled the 15 metre high climbing wall at Londonderry’s new Foyle Arena to raise funds for the health charity Parkinson’s UK’s Foyle Branch.

The Bishop was one of three clergymen who undertook the abseiling challenge. He was joined by the Moderator of Derry and Donegal Presbytery, Revd Mark Shaw, who is minister of Strabane Presbyterian Church; the trio was completed by recently-ordained Roman Catholic priest Father Sean O’Donnell.

The climbers were strapped into safety harnesses fixed to ropes for their ascent. They were cheered and applauded by members and supporters of Foyle Branch Parkinson’s UK as they clambered up the wall and as they abseiled back to ground level.



Bishop Good said he found the experience ‘thrilling’ but, more importantly, was delighted to be able to help such a deserving charity.

It is estimated that one person in every 500 in the UK has Parkinson’s. ‘That’s around 127,000 people,’ the Bishop pointed out, ‘including

hundreds in our diocese. Scientists are still battling to find a cure and obviously I wish them well with those efforts. While we wait for a cure, though, I am thankful that the Foyle Branch of Parkinson's UK is around to provide support and friendship to those with the condition, their families and carers. I feel honoured to have been "challenged" to help raise funds for the local Branch and I'm deeply grateful to all who have sponsored the various climbers.'

The Foyle Arena, where the fund-raising event took place, was built at a cost of £12.7m and opened just over two months ago. It is a centre of excellence for a number of sports, including wall climbing, and boasts the only full-size international climbing wall in Northern Ireland.

## **Speakers for National Novena in Knock announced**

Knock Shrine has announced its official list of speakers for this year's National Novena which will focus on faith and the family.

The Archbishop of New York, Cardinal Timothy Dolan, is a keynote speaker and will address pilgrims on this theme on 14 August opening the novena.



The Primate of All Ireland, Archbishop Eamon Martin, will follow next day with an address entitled, 'You are a Consecrated Nation, a People set Apart'.

Other speakers include Archbishop Michael Neary, Bishop Kevin Doran of Elphin, Harry Casey and Fr Peter Murphy of Accord, as well as Peter Sutherland, UN Special representative on international migration and Joan Freeman of Pieta House.

A number of workshops will also take place in tandem with these keynote addresses and will offer advice from groups such as Knock Counselling Centre on family life.

Kate Liffey, Coordinator of the National Faith Development Team, will talk about 'What the Family Teaches us about Faith'.

This year's national novena will see the first diocesan pilgrimage from New York bring up to 200 pilgrims from the US for a week-long visit.

The transatlantic pilgrimage flight from JFK Airport will include Cardinal Dolan.

The arriving pilgrims will participate in the annual nine-day Knock novena in honour of Our Lady which attracts thousands to the national shrine every August.

In what the airport hopes will become a regular service, the Aer Lingus flight will depart New York on Saturday 8 August and return on 16 August.

This new development for the airport and the shrine was announced by Fr Richard Gibbons, parish priest of Knock and comes as a major redevelopment of Knock Shrine continues.

There are plans to update the 38-year-old basilica while greater efforts are undertaken to promote the shrine among potential visitors from Europe and America.



Around 1.6m people visit the shrine every year.

The idea of a special pilgrimage flight to Knock was first mooted two years ago by Fr Gibbons during a visit to New York for St Patrick's Day in a meeting with Cardinal Dolan.

There are an estimated 2.8 million Catholics living in New York City.

## **Come&C Day to Shape a Year of Discipleship and Development in Dublin and Glendalough**

2016 will be the year of Come&C in the Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough. Next year will be a very significant one in the life of the country but it will also be significant in the life of the dioceses as members look to the future and meet to share experiences. The first event will take place in the Autumn and will shape how Dublin and Glendalough enters that year. A Come&C Day will take place in High School in Rathgar on Saturday September 12 from 9.30 am to 4.00 pm.

Last Autumn saw the launch of the *Come&C* booklet which provides a snapshot of parish life in the United Dioceses. The booklet is the report



## COME&C

of the Diocesan Parish Survey 2014 and presents to members of the United Dioceses and to the wider Church of Ireland the key expressions of the people of the parishes in their own words and voices. The questionnaire, which was returned by 80 percent of parishes and their comments were compiled into a booklet.

The material shared by parishioners gives voice to the aspirations and the achievements of parish communities the length and breadth of the dioceses. Parishioners also raised warning

signs and concerns. The analysis of responses is broken down into three sections dealing with current activities in the parishes, future developments and vision statements. *Come&C* was launched at Diocesan Synods by Mr Sam Harper, Lay Honorary Secretaries of General Synod.

Now preparations are in train to take *Come&C* to the next level. A team of lay people and clergy from Dublin and Glendalough, facilitated by Dr David Touhy and Dr Anne Lodge, has reflected on the findings contained in the document in the context of the Five Marks of Mission of the Anglican Communion.

The focus of *Come&C* will be the recognition and development of discipleship among the people of the dioceses. It will offer the opportunity to move forward in the understanding and expression of the Christian faith. The key to the process is that it recognises that there is no external expert or specialist to be parachuted in to do the work for people and parishes. The aim is to encourage each parish to develop a response to *Come&C* and be inspired by others. The programme for the year is being finalised and involvement of parishes, their people and their clergy will be entirely voluntary.

The Come&C Day in High School will give people a chance to reflect on the outcome of the survey and respond to what other parishes have said. It will also create an opportunity for the people of the dioceses to look forward and explore new ways of supporting individuals and parishes in their discipleship. High School was the venue for the very successful Diocesan Growth Forum meeting which took place there in 2012 and which, in many ways, planted the seed for Come&C.

The Archbishop has written to Rectors and Parish Secretaries about the Come&C Day to which the Rector and four members of the parish are invited. It is suggested that the parish representatives would include no more than two members of any of: Select Vestry, youth workers or pastoral council, but most of all people who will be eager to share the story of parish life with others in a structured yet informal day building on the invitation to discipleship and service which is Come&C.

The Come&C booklet can be downloaded at <http://dublin.anglican.org/cmsfiles/files/ComeC.pdf>

## **Churches benefit in six-figure restoration plans for NI buildings**

The environment minister Mark H Durkan has announced a funding package worth £500,000 for six listed buildings.

The funding, which is drawn from funds built up via the carrier bag levy, will go to the following conservation schemes:

Former Derry Cathedral Primary School, which will be turned into a tourist venue; the former Holy Cross Boys School on the Crumlin Road in Belfast, which is being converted for community use; the Church of the Holy Undivided Trinity in Waringstown and Sacred Heart Church in Omagh, which will undergo restoration work; conservation work at Union Theological College in Belfast; and essential repair and maintenance of St Eugene's Cathedral in Londonderry.

## **Mothers Union calls on C of E to help end commercialisation of childhood**

Mothers' Union this week asked members of the General Synod of The Church of England to engage with the concerns parents are voicing over the impact of commercialisation on children and on the well-being of the family.



In a panel led debate chaired by Rt. Rev David Thomson, Bishop of Huntingdon, Mothers' Union raised awareness of their Bye Buy Childhood campaign and called for help from the Lords Spiritual to raise recommendations in Parliament which have been drafted by Mothers' Union as a result of their most recent research.

“Despite significant progress since our original research in 2010” said Rachel Aston, Social Policy Manager at Mothers' Union, “we know that only 50% of parents feel equipped to manage the significant influence of advertising and the commercial world on their family. We want to ensure that parents are empowered to manage the impact of commercialisation, and that Government continues to ensure that

regulation is working and that industry follows the spirit, as well as the letter of the law when marketing and selling to children.

"We also are concerned that nearly seven out of ten parents now agree advertising can be harmful to children, up from six in ten five years ago; and that only three in ten parents believe advertising aimed at children is well regulated

The advertising industry was also represented at the event. Ian Barber, Director of Communications for the Advertising Association encouragingly said "When it comes to children's well-being, everybody must be ready to play their part. The Mothers Union has inspired a positive debate in our sector and UK advertising is committed to ensuring that marketing to children continues to be responsible and appropriate. Industry initiatives like Media Smart, created to help teachers and parents talk to children about advertising, are a great example of how we can make a real difference."

Parent Allie McClean, also on the panel, spoke from personal experience on how, even in a supportive partnership bringing up children to be resilient to the pressures of commercialisation and sexualisation takes dedication and constant need for support. For single parents, she

outlined, the pressures must be enormous. Peer pressure, peer power and the need for guidance to handle the external pressures, is ongoing. She welcomed the news that Mothers' Union's guide for parents "Labelled for Life" will be reissued to cover emerging media later this year.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, the Bishop of Chelmsford, Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell, the Bishop of Bristol, Rt Revd Mike Hill and the Bishop of Durham, Rt Revd Paul Butler were amongst those who attended the debate and gave their support. Bishop Paul Butler welcomed the report and called for its wider dissemination and support. To find out more information on the issues and Mothers' Union's Call to Action for 2015 visit [www.byebuychildhood.org](http://www.byebuychildhood.org)

## **Archbishop blesses 1,000 pupils in end-of-term service**

A school sports hall became a make-shift church as more than 1,000 pupils packed in for an end-of-term service led by the Archbishop of Wales on Wednesday.

Dr Barry Morgan led staff and pupils at St Teilo's Church in Wales High School in the service and [churchnewsireland@gmail.com](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.com)





***“We are a Church in Wales school – that is very clear on our new building which can be seen so prominently from the A48 road – so we do what it says on the tin.” - Principal***

blessed them as they filed up, row after row, to receive Communion.

In his address, he told them that God loved them unconditionally – whoever they were, whatever they had done and whatever their status was.

He said, “The message of the Gospel is very simple but profound – God loves you and me and because of that we are then asked to love other people. It is a revolutionary message because lots of people in our world belief that

God is a god of hate, of anger, who is vengeful and who zaps people if they don't do his will. But that is not the god of Jesus. He is a god of love and he loves you and me whoever we are, whatever we have done, whatever our status. Once we've grasped that then everything else falls into place. Once you realise you are loved and valued then you are set free to love in return."

Headteacher Ceri Weatherall said the annual full school service was the "highlight of the year" as it brought everyone together to give thanks for another year and to celebrate the Christian values underpinning the school.

She said, "This service brings together all our pupils. It is valued and respected even by those who hold different faiths as they take part and receive a blessing with everyone else. It is a culmination of a year of worship in year groups and classes and a growing programme of clergy visits which has been very successful and which we are keen to develop.

"We are a Church in Wales school – that is very clear on our new building which can be seen so prominently from the A48 road – so we do what it says on the tin."

## Vatican welcomes Iran nuclear deal

The Holy See welcomed Iran's historic nuclear deal and expressed hopes that breakthroughs will be made on other issues.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, said that "the agreement on the Iranian nuclear programme is viewed in a positive light by the Holy See."

"It constitutes an important outcome of the negotiations carried out so far, although continued efforts and commitment on the part of all involved will be necessary in order for it to bear fruit," he said in a written statement in response to reporters' questions on July 14.

"It is hoped that those fruits will not be limited to the field of nuclear programme, but may indeed extend further," he said, without specifying what other areas of progress the Vatican hoped to see.

Under the new deal, decades-long sanctions by the United States, European Union and the United Nations eventually would be lifted in exchange for an agreement by Iran to restrict its nuclear programme to peaceful purposes.

The negotiations involved Iran and what is often referred to as the P5+1, or the five permanent members of the UN Security Council — China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States — plus Germany.

The US Congress and Iranian authorities would still need to review the agreement.

In January and in April, Pope Francis had expressed hopes that negotiations would end in an agreement. In his Easter message on April 5, he said he hoped preliminary talks then underway would “be a definitive step toward a more secure and fraternal world.”

## Media digest

### Telegraph

Reports that retired Archbishop Desmond Tutu has been hospitalized:

Retired archbishop Desmond Tutu has been admitted to a Cape Town hospital for a persistent infection, his South African foundation said on Tuesday.

The foundation, which is named after 83-year-old Tutu and his wife Leah, quoted their daughter Mpho as saying the family hopes the Nobel Peace Prize laureate will be able to return home in a “day or two.”

Desmond Tutu has been treated for prostate cancer for many years. He announced his retirement from public life in 2011 but has still traveled widely and made public appearances.

### **Times**

Column in the paper's faith section by the Archbishop of Canterbury. Justin Welby writes that religious freedom should mean the right to challenge beliefs as well as the right to worship. He refers to his recent visits to the Congo and Egypt.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/columnists/article4499162.ece>

### **Spectator**

Article on Church of England plans to use investments to pay for more priests with the target of a 50 per cent increase in trainee clergy by 2020. It also mentions proposals to give 'business-school' training to bishops and deans and identify a 'talent pool' of future leaders. It quotes the Bishop of Willesden, Pete Broadbent

and John Spence, Chair of the Archbishops' Council Finance Committee.  
<http://www.spectator.co.uk/features/9583672/gods-management-consultants-the-church-of-england-turns-to-bankers-for-salvation/>

## **Mail & Express**

Further reports on funerals for the victims of the Tunisia beach attacks. They state the seaside town of Lytham St Annes, Lancashire, came to a standstill yesterday as a former Birmingham City footballer Denis Thwaites and his wife Elaine, who both died in the massacre, were laid to rest.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3162374/Funeral-Denis-Elaine-Thwaites-died-Tunisia-massacre.html#ixzz3g1qUumYj>

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/591324/Tunisia-terror-attack-Funeral-ex-Birmingham-footballer-Denis-Thwaites-Elaine>

## **Ind**

Item stating Dr Rowan Williams, the former Archbishop of Canterbury and now master of Magdalene College, can rejoice in the knowledge that his college has seen a remarkable improvement in its academic performance - rising eight places from 10th in 2014 to second in the current league table of Cambridge University degree passes.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/higher/tompkins-table-2015-magdalene-college-has-seen-a-remarkable-improvement-10391557.html>

## **Mail**

Article on a visit by the Duchess of Cornwall to St. Peter's Eaton Square Primary in London. It states she was joined for the morning by the Bishop of London, Richard Chartres, who welcomed the Duchess to the school before touring the classrooms with her.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-3162188/Delighted-Camilla-gets-warm-welcome-primary-school-popular-politicians-including-George-Osborne-sent-daughter-there.html#ixzz3g1q2v2VQ>

## **Times**

Diary section mentions interview with the Revd Richard Coles, former Communards member and now a BBC radio presenter and Anglican vicar. It states his lasting rock'n'roll legal memory was a four-year tax dispute with his accountant.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/law/article4499013.ece>