



Parishioners enter Knocknamuckley Parish Church in Co Armagh, which is at the centre of an ongoing dispute over a rector's style of ministry

C of I row: call for rector's supporters on vestry to quit

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The dispute at a Church of Ireland parish shows no sign of ending - despite its rector choosing to leave in order to try to heal the rift.

Belfast Telegraph - As it was announced Rev Alan Kilpatrick will leave Knocknamuckley Parish Church in Co Armagh to lead a new congregation based in Craigavon, a protest group is now calling for his supporters on the church's select vestry to "stand down with immediate effect".

A statement from the Knocknamuckley Concerned Parishioners (KCP) group warned "there is, however, unfinished business to be dealt with", just 24 hours after it was announced the controversial minister would formally leave St Matthias on September 30.

A sticking point appears to be the vestige of select vestry support which remains for Rev Kilpatrick, and its continued refusal to allow the women's group to meet in the church hall.

KCP said on its Facebook page it accepted the "removal of Alan Kilpatrick as rector... there is however unfinished business to be dealt with and it's a must that certain members of the vestry who by their actions/deeds sought to blatantly uphold/promote the views of Alan

Kilpatrick with complete and utter disregard of their fellow parishioners stand down with immediate effect".

"It was only last week they along with Kilpatrick refused the church halls to our ladies group despite the many heartrending letters submitted to and read at the vestry meeting."

However, a spokeswoman for the Diocese of Down and Dromore last night ruled out any new members being voted to the select vestry until next Easter.

She also confirmed the decision on where to allow the women's group to hold its meetings remains with the select vestry.

A charismatic evangelical style of ministry introduced to the country church by the 47-year-old minister at the expense of the traditional services caused upset and disappointment among some parishioners.

His banning of an annual Royal Black Preceptory service and the women's group meetings, along with his modern causal style of dress, added to the ire of the more conservative parishioners. Rev Kilpatrick managed to gain support from some in the congregation who welcomed his

ministry when he and his family arrived in the parish 18 months ago.

Now around 60 parishioners are expected to leave Knocknamuckley and join his new "missional congregation" in Craigavon.

He told the Belfast Telegraph yesterday: "On reflection, I should probably have started a traditional service earlier in my incumbency."

But he declined to give any comment on his association with the spiritualist Bethel Church based in California.

Although Rev Kilpatrick will remain officially as rector until September 30, services will be led by other clergy in the meantime.

The diocese also confirmed Rev Tom Conway will be conducting the services in St Matthias on Sunday.

Bangor Abbey holds funeral service for human remains found after 800 years

A funeral service has taken place for 20 people at Bangor Abbey in County Down, almost 800 years after they died.



The funeral service was held in the grounds of Bangor Abbey on Saturday afternoon

BBC News - The remains of the 10 men, seven women and three children were discovered in 2011, during renovation work in the abbey grounds.

They were found near St Malachy's Wall, the last standing part of the former medieval monastery.

Speaking to the [County Down Spectator](#) newspaper, Canon Ronnie Nesbitt said there was a bit of mystery surrounding the remains.

"They were found inside the monastery and certainly the women and children couldn't have been monks.

"So there's a bit of a puzzle over why they would have been buried within what was an operational ecclesiastical building."

Archaeologists have said the group may have come from a rural farming community and there was evidence of wear, tear and injury caused by physical work.

The 20 people died from natural causes and had Christian burials.

On Saturday, they were reburied in a modern funeral service and their resting place is to be marked with a newly-commissioned headstone.

The service was open to the public, with the organisers hoping to attract people with an interest in local history.

"I've been trying to imagine the lives of these people," said Canon Nesbitt.

"What comes across is a sense of peril, of hardness, of how much they truly were at the mercy of the elements and I suspect their understanding of God would have been much more central to their lives."

An exhibition with more information on the remains is running at the North Down Museum.

'No logical reason' not to have women priests - senior priest in wealthy Irish parish

A senior priest at one of Dublin's wealthiest suburbs has told parishioners that he sees "no logical reason" why there can't be women priests.

Independent - He also said the Church will have to reassess its approach to a wide range of issues following the groundswell of support last Friday week for same-sex marriage.

Father Gary Darby, a co-parish priest in Portmarnock, Co Dublin, told his congregation at mass today that the vote has been a wake-up call for the church.

He recieved rapturous applause for his sermon, in which he voiced opinions that would have caused significant controversy only a few years, or even months ago.

He said that most young people he knows don't attend mass because they say the church is now irrelevant to them. But Fr Darby said that he believed young people didn't attend mass because they also felt judged and shamed by

the institution. He also told parishioners that he also felt the same when he was growing up.

The priest also told parishioners that the Church needs to have a discussion about the way in which people who are divorced or separated are treated by it.

He said that some people escape from abusive relationships and the only way they have a chance at future happiness is to separate or divorce. He said the Church must embrace them.

Gay people also need to be included in the Church, he said, and that married priesthood must also be discussed by the Church.

More at -

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/no-logical-reason-not-to-have-women-priests-senior-priest-in-wealthy-irish-parish-31267689.html>

Final preparations for Presbyterian General Assembly

Approximately 1,000 people from congregations across Ireland will be involved in the four days of worship, prayer, Bible study,

celebration and decision-making. The Assembly, which is the governing body of the Church, officially opens on Monday evening at 7.00pm with the installation of the new Moderator, Rev. Dr. Ian McNie of Trinity Presbyterian Church, Ballymoney, which the public are welcome to attend. The installation will be broadcast live on Radio Ulster 1341 Medium Wave.

Business commences at 9.30am on Tuesday, 2nd June with most sessions open to the public. All public sessions will be streamed live and can be viewed on www.presbyterianireland.org and followed on Twitter via the hashtag #PCIGA2015.

Anticipating a very busy and productive week, the Clerk of the General Assembly and General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Rev. Trevor Gribben, said that General Assemblies are important times of coming together, discussion and debate.

“Democracy is one of the strengths and hallmarks of Presbyterianism and the General Assembly is where decisions are taken, the significant, the routine and the mundane together, that can affect the direction the church takes for years to come. In all there are over 70



Here are 10 things you may not know about the General Assembly:

- 1 new Moderator elected each year**
- 4 hymns to be sung at the installation service**
- 26 reports being presented during proceedings**
- 80 resolutions to be voted on**
- 102 civic guests**
- 175 years since the first General Assembly in 1840**
- 616 ministers present**
- 1215 – minutes of debate and discussion**
- 1845 – the number of followers on Twitter**
- 4200 – cups of tea and coffee served (or thereabouts)**

This evening's installation and public sessions of the Assembly will be streamed at www.presbyterianireland.org. Proceedings can also be followed on Twitter via the hashtag #PCIGA15.

resolutions to be put and debated, with the vast majority of our business conducted in public.”

Appointed Clerk of the General Assembly in September last year, this will be his first Assembly in this role. “There is a first time for everything and this year’s Assembly will be the first time that we will receive reports from the new Council’s, which came into being on the 1 January this year as a result of significant decisions on restructuring that previous Assemblies have taken over recent years.

“There is a number of amendments to the Constitution of the Church that need to be made in light of those changes. We will also be discussing on Wednesday proposed changes that will begin the process of registering with the Charities Commission for Northern Ireland and Charities Regulatory Authority in the Republic of Ireland. Given the scope of our activity as a Church, especially in a social setting and in the community, this is a very important piece of work for us and we welcome the regulations.”

“Much of this year’s business is important administrative business, but I am sure delegates may want to raise issues like Welfare Reform, the Marriage Referendum in the Republic of Ireland

and the role of conscience in the public square,” Trevor Gribben said.

The Clerk also explained that two of the new Councils would be breaking new ground this year in two set-piece alternative presentations. On Tuesday afternoon the Council for Global Mission will be hosting a session entitled ‘Listening to the Global Church’. Delegates will hear first hand of the persecution experienced by three Christians and their communities in Syria, Pakistan and India, and the reason for the hope that they have.

On Wednesday afternoon the new Council for Congregational Life and Witness, which has responsibility for envisioning, equipping and enabling congregations to be fruitful in the Lord’s work, will host a major presentation that will focus on ‘Fruitfulness’. This session will help to tease out what that looks like in a range of congregational settings across Ireland.

Wednesday also sees an Evening Celebration of praise and worship in the Assembly Hall that is open to the public. The new Moderator, Rev. Dr. Ian McNie, will lead the service while Rev. John Woodside of Drogheda Presbyterian Church will be speaking on ‘*A caring fellowship*’, the Church’s Fit for Purpose theme for 2015. There

will be four short interviews with different people about the various ways the Church can care. Praise will be led by the band from Dr. McNie's church in Ballymoney.

Reach out to victimised and stigmatised - Archbishop Eamon Martin

Archbishop Eamon Martin reacted to the referendum debate at Mass in Knock for the Armagh diocesan pilgrimage.

"Among the many lessons that we as Church can learn from the referendum debate is to re-commit ourselves to the pastoral care of anyone in society who experiences victimisation and stigmatisation," he said.

to reach out pastorally to different kinds of families and relationships while at the same time continuing to be advocates for a Christian vision of marriage and for the unique and fundamental contribution to society of the family founded upon the love and marriage of a man and a woman ... As Pope Francis said on Friday: 'Evangelise with the message of merciful love'

Launch of Magna Carta Exhibition at Christ Church, Dublin

The Magna Carta at Christ Church exhibition will be launched by His Excellency Dominick John Chilcott CMG, British Ambassador to Ireland on Thursday June 4 after Evensong at 6pm.

2015 celebrates the 800th anniversary of the signing of Magna Carta or 'Great Charter', one of the most important documents in history, establishing the principle that everyone, even the king, is subject to the law and guaranteeing all subjects the right to a free trial.

Christ Church Cathedral is delighted to announce that as part of the worldwide Magna Carta 800th celebrations they will be putting their own Magna Carta on display. *Exclusive to Christ Church Cathedral*, this very special 14th century copy of Magna Carta, contained within our *Liber Niger* or 'Black Book', an eclectic mix of literary, theological, administrative and annalistic material created by the Canons of Christ Church, will form the centrepiece of a new, interactive family-friendly crypt exhibition.

For more information email
magnacarta@christchurch.ie

Nine deacons ordained in Maynooth

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin of Dublin ordained nine men to the diaconate yesterday at in St Patrick's College Maynooth.

Ordination as a transitional deacon takes place one year before ordination to priesthood.

The nine deacons are from the dioceses of Armagh, Clogher, Cork & Ross, Derry, Down & Connor, Galway (2), and Meath (2).

They will continue their priestly formation in Maynooth for the next year.

As a deacon, the nine will be able to do almost all that a priest does with the exception of saying Mass and hearing Confession.

A deacon may proclaim the gospel, preach, preside over public prayer, baptise, assist at marriages and bless them, give viaticum to the dying, and lead the rites of burial.

Separately, the Archbishop is due to ordain two men to the priesthood for Dublin early next month.

There are currently ten students studying for the priesthood in Dublin, seven in Maynooth and three at the Irish College in Rome.

In the diocese of Meath, Fr Robert McGivney is due to be ordained to the priesthood on 28 June in Navan.

Style in the aisle as Ulster University fashion students put on St Anne's Cathedral show

St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, had never seen anything like it.

Belfast Telegraph - As rock music pounded and gantry lights blazed, super-slim catwalk models sashayed their way down the aisle - some of them in outfits that could have been designed to bring a slight blush to a clergyman's cheeks, but were reasonably mild by most fashion [show](#) standards.

Hundred of fashionistas, academics and proud mums and dads packed the unusual venue as Ulster [University's](#) graduate fashion show got under way in the 100-year-old Church of Ireland cathedral.



Ulster University's School of Arts Graduate Fashion Show at St Anne's Cathedral. Models from Style Academy on the catwalk Friday 29th May 2015.

It was the first time St Anne's had hosted a catwalk show, and the cathedral's Canon Denise Hutchinson - dressed in elegant blue clerical vestments - said it was delighted to do so, and to build closer relations with the university.

Earlier in the day as the models were rehearsing, the choir could be heard practising above them.


Asked if she thought the cathedral was a suitable venue for such a show, Canon

Hutchinson said: "It's about the sacred and the community. It's about the religious and the community meeting together. I'm really looking forward to the show."

Janet Coulter, senior lecturer in fashion at Ulster University, said: "This is the perfect venue for the work the students have done."


"The cathedral won't have seen anything like it. I'm just delighted for the cathedral and delighted for my students."

She wasn't joking, and some of the regular church-goers may not be so sanguine about the level of flesh on display last night when they turn up on Sunday.

While the first half of the fashion show proceeded at a relatively stately pace, things began to heat up when some sizzlingly sexy designs by Swedish fashion [student](#)  Siri Mattson hit the stage. But the biggest cheer of the night came when student menswear designer Andrew Smyth turned up the heat with his collection of barely-there menswear.

His chiselled male models sported bare torsos, cutaway leggings, once-piece drop crotch outfits, and something that looked like a kind of male burqa, concealing the model's face, but

focusing attention on the parts we could see. There was a discernible fluttering in the audience as people began to fan themselves with their programmes.

This was a night at the cathedral like no other - but one that sent the fashion worshippers [home](#)  with a smile on their faces.

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/life/fashion-beauty/style-in-the-aisle-as-ulster-university-fashion-students-put-on-st-annes-cathedral-show-31265442.html>

Archbishop of Canterbury's visit to China underway

The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby met with a top Chinese political advisor Thursday as the head of the Anglican Church began a subdued visit to China amid the worst persecution against Christians there in a generation.

During talks in Beijing with Yu Zhengsheng, a member of the Politburo, the archbishop called for stronger cooperation between Chinese and British churches, according to the state-run *Global Times*.



Yu Zhengsheng (R), chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, meets with Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby in Beijing, capital of China, May 28, 2015.

“Chinese citizens’ freedom of belief and the religious circle’s legitimate rights and interests are protected by law,” Yu was quoted as telling the archbishop.

Following a speech at Peking University on Friday, the archbishop on Saturday went to

Shanghai to visit St Ignatius Catholic Cathedral before continuing on to Nanjing for the last leg of his tour ending on June 5.

Archbishop Welby was not scheduled to visit nearby Zhejiang Province where authorities have removed nearly 500 crosses and destroyed at least 35 Christian churches over the past 18 months.

“I don’t think we are [going to visit Zhejiang],” the archbishop’s Director of Communications Ailsa Anderson told ucanews.com Friday. “We’re very much in the hands of SARA (the State Administration for Religious Affairs) and the British Embassy in terms of where we are going.”

Predecessor Rowan Williams gave a press conference in the grounds of the British Embassy in Beijing at the end of his October 2006 visit to China in which he spoke of raising religious persecution directly with senior Chinese officials.

Archbishop Welby has no arranged media events, and it remained unclear whether he would address sensitive issues with Beijing amid what groups such as China Aid have called the country’s worst persecution of Christians since the Cultural Revolution.

“We will have to see what is raised when the visit continues,” said Anderson who is traveling with the archbishop. “It’s his first visit to China ... so it’s very much a fact-finding, information-gathering, relationship-building visit.”

A Protestant community in Zhejiang told ucanews.com they had hoped to show the archbishop churches where they had re-erected crosses that had been being forcibly removed by provincial authorities, according to a laywoman.

“The visit is pure propaganda,” said the source, who declined to be named for security reasons. “I feel that the archbishop is being used [by the government].”

His visit comes a week after President Xi Jinping called for China’s religious communities to shun foreign influences.

Unlike the Vatican, which is currently engaged in difficult negotiations with Beijing on bishop appointments, the Anglican Church has no say over any facet of how China’s 60-million strong Protestant community is organized.

Archbishop Welby is the most senior international Protestant figure to visit China since his predecessor nearly nine years ago and the

fourth Archbishop of Canterbury to visit the country.

“I am very much looking forward to my first visit to China, and seeing the remarkable economic developments and rapid growth of post-denominational Christianity which is taking place there,” Archbishop Welby said in a statement ahead of his visit. “I look forward to building on the friendship with the Christian church in China established by my three predecessors, as well as meeting representatives of other faiths.”

Obituary - Rev Professor Liam Ryan

Professor Emeritus of Sociology at Maynooth NUI Fr Liam Ryan - a hurler, theologian and proud Limerick man - passed away on Wednesday but not before his county had defeated Clare in the Munster hurling championship.

Liam (79) holds the distinction of being the youngest ever winning captain of a Munster senior hurling championship team. Like last Sunday, Limerick defeated their Shannonside rivals 60 years ago with the 19-year-old Cappamore hurler lining out at wing forward. His younger brother, Seamus (18), also played that

day with the team famously remembered as 'Mackey's Greyhounds'.

A graduate of St Flannan's College and also highly successful in athletics, Liam was ordained a priest on June 18, 1960 after studying in St Patrick's College in Maynooth. His devotion to the church impacted on his sporting career, as a priest was not then permitted to play hurling.

However, it didn't stop a man named 'Tom Ryan' with a very similar appearance to Liam from hurling, and at a match in Cork, renowned commentator, Micheal O'Hehir delightfully broadcast, "Unless my eyesight is failing me, that's Liam Ryan down on the field".

Following ordination, he remained in Maynooth for two years of post-graduate studies and then went to the University of Saint Louis, Missouri where he received a PhD in Sociology.

Liam held a conversation with ease and his wit brought a smile to many. While in Saint Louis, he said, "Before I came to the USA, I had heard it was the land of the free, now that I have studied the high rate of remarriage, I know it is also the land of the brave."

On his return to Ireland, he became a lecturer in sociology in University College Cork and was

then appointed Professor of Sociology at Maynooth NUI where he remained until retirement.

More at -

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/news/liam-ryan-31267003.html>

Media digest

Bishops take stock after Ireland's gay-marriage landslide - Church Times

<http://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2015/29-may/news/world/bishops-take-stock-after-ireland-s-gay-marriage-landslide>

David Norris, hero of gay marriage vote: 'At 71, with a liver transplant, I'm too old to wed' - Guardian

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/may/30/david-norris-gay-marriage-interview>

Ashers 'gay cake' case: Quoting Bible in 21st century is no

Argument - Belfast Telegraph - Liam Clarke

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/debateni/blogs/liam-clarke/ashers-gay-cake-case-quoting-bible-in-21st-century-is-no-argument-31239547.html>