



CNI



The Rev Brian Anderson, was installed as Methodist President, at the Methodist Conference in St.Patrick's Church of Ireland parish church, Belfast

Irish priest in letter to Pope has called for bishops here to be handed P45s

An Irish priest has called for bishops here to be handed P45s, in an open letter to the Pope – published this morning in the Irish Examiner.

Joe McDonald, who is based in the Ballyfermot area of west Dublin, writes of a “paralysis” within the Irish Church, which he contends has failed its flock.

Regarding last month’s same-sex marriage referendum, he notes “we made world news recently when we glowed pink”.

“A large majority of our brothers and sisters voted in favour of same-sex marriage. In so far as it was a victory over discrimination and an end to the appalling treatment of homosexual people, sometimes by the Church, it was a happy day indeed”.

Later in the letter, he tells the Pope:

“Holy Father, the Church in Ireland is dying. Yes, we could say it is tired, or it has lost the young, or we must find a new language, and all that is true, but the reality is that the Irish Church is gasping, heaving, in a crippling smog of secularism.”

The Church’s stance on gay marriage and sexuality in general has highlighted its disconnection, he contends, saying “we have made such a mess here that it is difficult to know where to begin”.

“We are so disconnected from people in this regard that vast numbers of still-practising Catholics simply turn off when we begin to speak in this regard.

“We still employ the language of imperative, meanwhile failing to speak with passion and conviction about the beauty of our sexuality, or, as you have so beautifully developed for us, the joy of the Gospel.”

He continues:

“There are many other areas that illustrate the Irish church is quietly convulsing. For example, for so many of our children First Holy Communion means last communion until Confirmation, and we will not see many of our confirmed young people until they come to get married, if at all.

“At our gravesides, many stand in silence, sometimes there is a barely more than a mumble, even in the once-familiar territory of the rosary.”

Pope Francis may have to “prepare quite a number of P45s,” he writes.

“Regrettably, I fear we will probably need more than a few of these P45s for the Episcopal

Conference. Perhaps you could introduce six-year terms of office for bishops?”

Bringing his letter to a close, he implores:

“Holy Father, I see you miss going for pizza and, as it happens I love pizza. I was wondering would it be possible that we could share a pizza, somewhere convenient to yourself, and I could elaborate a little on just how serious things are”.

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/ireland/priests-open-letter-to-pope-336313.html>

C of I Bishop of Derry's tribute to parents of Paul McCauley - sectarian attack victim

The C of I bishop of Derry, Rt Rev Ken Good has expressed his sympathy to the relatives of Paul McCauley who died last weekend after being the victim of a sectarian attack nine years ago.

Bishop Good said -

“I wish to express my deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Paul McCauley following his death last weekend.

“The injuries which were inflicted on Paul in a brutal sectarian attack almost nine years ago were horrific in the extreme.

“As a father myself I can empathise with what Paul’s parents have been through over the last nine years, although I can only imagine the depth of their pain and grief.

“Despite the great wrong that was done to their son, Jim and Cathy have acted with remarkable dignity. Their devotion to Paul during his years in medical care has been inspirational.

“There can be no excuse for the violent attack upon Paul McCauley and no justification for it. It was wrong. It was wicked. It was inexcusable. And it must be repudiated by all Christian people, regardless of denomination.

“Nor should there be any hiding place for those who carried it out. Their crime has appalled the people of this city. We – the community – have a responsibility to do all in our power to see that the perpetrators are brought to justice.

“I urge anyone who has any knowledge of the incident to share it with the police. I would even appeal to those who were involved in the attack – and who inflicted this grievous injustice upon

Paul – to search their consciences and come forward to the police. It is not too late.

“Paul’s parents and family are assured of my prayers, of my support and of my deep admiration.”

New Methodist President Condemns Homophobic Attack

The Rev Brian Anderson, the newly installed Methodist President, addressing the Methodist Conference at his Installation Service in St. Patrick's Church of Ireland parish church, on Newtownards Road, Belfast, spoke of the need to engage with those who differ from us in matters of human sexuality.

He said: "We have the safety of carrying out our differences in the comfort of ivory towers. Paul Finlay Dickson didn't have such a comfort. When his home was attacked in North Belfast by what has been described as a homophobic attack, it was no ivory tower, it was his home. A place he should be safe in to be himself. We Methodists want to say 'we utterly condemn that attack and others like it'. As the Church of Christ we should be a healer and a brave unequivocal place to bring peace where there is an attack."

Wide spectrum of issues at Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference



Archbishop Eamon Martin, President of the Irish Bishops' Conference, Dr Nicola Brady, Bishops' Council for Justice and Peace and the Syrian-Catholic Archbishop of Mosul, Yohanna Petros Mouche.

Archbishop Eamon Martin, Archbishop of Armagh and President of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference, and Bishop Denis Nulty, Bishop of Kildare & Leighlin and President of Accord, hosted a media briefing at the Columba Centre in Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth, at the conclusion of the Summer 2015 General

Meeting of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference.

They stated that included in the discussions and business of the meeting were the following:

- Presentation by the Archbishop of Mosul regarding the persecution of Christians in Iraq
- New religious education curriculum and programme for Catholic schools
- Marriage
- Impact of cuts to grant aid for Accord, Catholic Marriage Care Service
- *Laudato Si*– forthcoming encyclical letter by Pope Francis on the environment
- Safeguarding Children
- Blessed Oscar Romero
- National Mass of Thanksgiving for Saint Columbanus on Sunday 21 June
- Synod of Bishops – “The Vocation and Mission of the Family in the Church and Contemporary World”
- *Welcoming the Stranger* – celebrating the pastoral work of the Irish Chaplaincy
- Ireland’s response to the humanitarian crisis on the Mediterranean Sea
- Irish Church Music Summer School in Maynooth in July

- National Eucharistic Congress in Knock in September
- *Year of Mercy begins in December*
- Tributes to (i) Bishop Alphonsus Cullinan (ii) Bishop Thomas Flynn RIP

Summer recitals at St Patrick's, Coleraine

St Patrick's Parish, Coleraine, is running a series of recitals over the summer period.

These take place in the church in the centre of Coleraine, and run from July 2 until August 27, with a recital each week. All recitals begin at 12.30pm and last approximately 40 minutes.

The recitals feature a range of instruments including piano, cello, clarinet, cello, harp, organ and some beautiful soprano voices.

Download a [full programme](#) for details -

<http://connor.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/St-Patricks-A5-Summer-Recitals-Brochure-2015-V41-copy.pdf>

Facebook user?

Click on FACEBOOK on home page to receive daily headlines

St Brigid's Way walking pilgrimage

The third St Brigid's Way walking pilgrimage sets off on 27 June from Brigid's Well in Faughart Co Louth and nine days later ends at Brigid's monastic city of Kildare.

he revival of the ancient art of pilgrimage and 'camino' continues with the third St Brigid's Way Celtic walking pilgrimage.

It is to set off on 27 June from Brigid's Well in Faughart, Co Louth and nine days later (Sunday 5 July) it will end at Brigid's monastic city of Kildare where there is also a famous well.

This pilgrimage connects two places sacred to St Brigid and gives people a chance to meander between ancient places on rural roads and off road paths.

"Walking in pilgrimage allows participants to slow down the pace of life, enjoy the beauty of the countryside and listen attentively to the deep quiet voice within," says Dolores Whelan, Celtic spiritual teacher.

She and Karen Ward, author and holistic psychotherapist from RTE's 'Health Squad' and BBC's 'Last Resort', founded the pilgrimage



2013 – or they rediscovered it, as it includes some of the sacred places and old paths that Brigid once walked.

The route is an alignment of ancient and sacred sites in Ireland which stretches from Brigid's Well in Faughart, Co Louth to Kildare.

This alignment was discovered by Anthony Murphy and Richard Moore during research for their book *Island of the Setting Sun: In Search of Ireland's Ancient Astronomers*.

This alignment of sacred sites reflects the Cygnus (Swan) constellation which was prominent in the skies at the time of Brigid's birth



in the 5th Century AD and is its reflection on earth of this heavenly configuration.

The Brigidne Sisters who live in Kildare were delighted to see it set up and fully support it.

They welcome the pilgrims to Solas Bhríde Centre, their new centre and hermitages in Kildare with refreshment at the last leg of their walk.

For more information see: www.brigidsway.ie

Private Secretary to Prince of Wales to be Secretary General of C of E

The Archbishops' Council has announced that William Nye is to be its next Secretary-General and Secretary General of the General Synod of the Church of England. He will succeed William Fittall who is retiring at the end of November after thirteen years in this post.

William Nye was selected unanimously by a panel comprising both Archbishops, seven other members of the Council (including two officers of the General Synod) and the Chair of the Appointments Committee. The recommendation of the panel was unanimously endorsed by a meeting of the full Council in May 2015.

William Nye brings 25 years of experience from the Civil Service and Whitehall. His roles and departments have included National Security at the Cabinet Office, Diplomacy, Intelligence and Defence at HM Treasury and Arts at the Department of Culture, Media and Sport.

For the last four years he has worked as the Principal Private Secretary to Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall where he has led on matters of significant public sensitivity and organisational effectiveness.

Mr. Nye, 49, is a long serving and active member of the Church of England where he has served as a PCC member for nearly 20 years and a Churchwarden for around 10 years. He has also served as a Deanery Synod representative.

The selection process for the new Secretary General was both extensive and thorough. A

wide selection of candidates from inside and outside the Church was sought and a field of around 30 candidates was attracted. The Council was supported in its search by a leading recruitment agency.

The Shortlist comprised 5 applicants drawn from public, private and third sectors. There were many strong applications, in the end the panel selected the candidate who was best able to fulfil the broad scope of the role and would be best able to serve in the priority areas.

In his interviews William Nye demonstrated great commitment to the vision of a Church which will support future generations. He brought great insight and demonstrated great sensitivity to the needs of the dioceses. He impressed the panel with his understanding of the challenges that the church faces and the depth of thinking as to how those challenges can be met and opportunities exploited. William pointed out that after 25 years of public service he wishes now to help the Church to thrive on behalf of the whole of our country.

William Nye is due to start work at Church House at the beginning of November in preparation for taking up his new responsibilities on 1 December.

Putin meets Pope over Ukraine and plight of Christians in Middle East

Pope Francis urged Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday to commit himself to a "sincere and great effort" to achieve peace in Ukraine, the Vatican said.

The two met for about 50 minutes and agreed on the need to recreate a climate of dialogue in Ukraine, the Vatican added, and to implement a peace deal designed to end fighting between Ukrainian government forces and pro-Russian separatist rebels.

Putin met the pope after holding talks with Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi in Milan where the Italian leader showed little sign of breaking ranks over EU sanctions on Russia in response to the Ukraine crisis.

Moscow, which annexed Ukraine's Crimea region last year, has dismissed Western accusations that it is arming the separatists in eastern Ukraine and sending its own soldiers to join the fight.

The Vatican said the pope told Putin it was essential to resolve the "grave humanitarian

situation" in Ukraine, allow aid into conflict areas, and work for "progressive detente".

During a picture-taking session after their private talks in the Vatican, Francis spoke of the need for a "peace that overcomes all wars" and "solidarity among peoples".

Russian leaders traditionally visit the Pope during any visit to Italy, and Russian and Soviet leaders have maintained links with the Vatican since formal contacts were established between the Holy See and the Kremlin under Mikhail Gorbachev.

For the Kremlin, these meetings are an important source of "supplementary external legitimacy," said Andrei Zolotov, a Russian journalist who specialises in religious affairs. "That is particularly important for Moscow in the present political situation."

Media digest

No change in priests' role in civil aspect of marriage - primate

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/no-change-in-priests-role-in-civil-aspect-of-marriage-primate-1.2244959>

Presbyterians in Scottish gay ministers boycott - Alf McCreay writes

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/presbyterians-in-scottish-gay-ministers-boycott-31294036.html>

Scots lead way in how Orangemen can reach others

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/opinion/news-analysis/scots-lead-way-in-how-orangemen-can-reach-others-31284091.html>

We need more people like James Galway in NI

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/we-need-more-people-like-james-galway-in-ni-1-6791541>

James Galway deserves Belfast's freedom, despite his comments

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/james-galway-deserves-belfast-s-freedom-despite-his-comments-1-6789528>

Ashers case: Appeal papers lodged with court

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/ashers-case-appeal-papers-lodged-with-court-1-6789956>

Pope warns against computers in children's bedrooms

<http://www.independent.ie/world-news/europe/pope-warns-against-computers-in-childrens-bedrooms-31287786.html>

‘Sisters of Nazareth nuns beat me with strap for wetting bed’

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/sisters-of-nazareth-nuns-beat-me-with-strap-for-wetting-bed-1-6791060>

Hibernia College seeks bishops’ approval over graduate fears

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/education/hibernia-college-seeks-bishops-approval-over-graduate-fears-1.2243235>

St Conall Cael’s Bell returns to Co. Donegal

<http://irisharchaeology.ie/2015/06/st-conall-caels-bell-returns-to-co-donegal/>

Ind

Article on a report calling on the CofE to sell off some of its £2bn land estate in response to Britain's housing crisis. The move is being proposed by the Centre for Theology & Community, and Christian campaigning group Housing Justice. It says they warn that the shortage of affordable housing poses a fundamental threat to the shape of Britain's communities and cities. Rachel Treweek, Archdeacon Of Hackney and Bishop-Elect Of

Gloucester, is quoted from her message in the report's foreword. A CofE spokesperson outlines the Church Commissioners landholdings including the provision of new market and affordable homes.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/church-of-england-must-sell-some-off-of-its-land-in-response-to-housing-crisis-says-report-10311182.html>

Wall Street Journal

Article that the Church of England and other British investors are preparing for the London property market to cool. It states the Church of England shrank its overall exposure to real estate largely by selling its share of a 35-acre plot in Mayfair, near Buckingham Palace in 2014. The £381 million sale provided about a quarter of the church's 27% annual return on property last year. Joseph Cannon, chief surveyor for the Church Commissioners is quoted.

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/u-k-church-crown-agree-hot-london-property-market-ready-to-cool-off-1433928603>

BBC

Report that Prince Harry will join the family and friends of those who lost their lives during the conflict in Afghanistan at a service today. About 3,500 people are expected at the service of

churchnewsireland@gmail.com

dedication for the Bastion Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire. It states the memorial bears the names of all 453 UK personnel who died in Afghanistan and was blessed by the Archbishop of Canterbury at a commemoration service at St Paul's Cathedral in March.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-33085826>

Spectator

Article looking at decline in Christianity and also in church attendance for the Church of England, saying projections aren't predictions, but that the church is in trouble. It mentions the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby and quotes former Archbishop, Lord Carey of Clifton, warning that the C of E was 'one generation away from extinction'.

<http://www.spectator.co.uk/features/9555222/2067-the-end-of-british-christianity/>

Times

Article by Mark Hill, QC, looking at religious freedom and law as the 800th anniversary of the sealing of Magna Carta approaches. He says: "The equality of all religions under the state's secular law is the best guarantee, in today's pluralist society, of equal freedom for each religion and its adherents."

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/law/article4466231.ece>

Metro

Report that a new app has been created so that donations to foodbanks can be made in seconds on a smartphone. App creator, Dave Cates, said it allows users to find their local centre and discover exactly which items they need. He said his local church runs a foodbank and they realised the support and donations go through peaks and troughs which was a problem. The Foodbank app can be downloaded from Apple's App Store and on Google play.

<http://metro.co.uk/2015/06/10/this-app-tells-you-how-to-help-your-local-foodbank-5239261/>

Are you a Twitter user?

Please click on TWITTER on home page to receive daily headlines from CNI