



Workers remove pieces of the balcony that collapsed in Berkeley, exposing what could be dry rot in the wood, according to engineers who visited the scene.

Grief for students in Berkeley highlights impact of J-1 programme in Irish - US relationship

St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, has opened a Book of Condolences for those who wish to show their respect for all who suffer in this

particularly Irish tragedy. The book is available to sign during cathedral opening hours – 9.30 am to 5.00 pm Monday to Friday and 9.00 am to 6.00 pm on Saturday and Sunday (except during Sunday services).

The Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson, Archbishop of Dublin, in a message of sympathy stated -

“It was with a deep sense of sorrow that I, like everyone else, heard of the tragic death and serious injury of young people in Berkeley California.

“Our hearts go out to the families and friends of these who have died and also to those who battle with serious injury and significant trauma as a result of their terrifying and painful experiences.

“We are all aware that students from Ireland, in particular, travel to America at this time of year after examinations in the hope and expectation of fresh experiences and that they instantly make new friends.

“Our sympathy is with all of those who suffer in these long and sad days. Our thoughts are with relatives who travel to be reunited with those whom they love, in circumstances they never

envisaged possible. We also remember those who tend the injured and the hurt in Berkeley.”

The President of the Methodist Church in Ireland, the Rev. Brian Anderson said, ”As a father of similar aged young adults I can imagine how I would have felt being told such tragic news and so I would like on my own behalf and that of the Methodist Church in Ireland to offer sincere sympathy and prayers to those who have lost loved one and best wishes to those whose young people are critically ill. I am also mindful of many parents who are anxiously waiting news of their own young people.”

Over 8,000 Irish students go to the US each summer on J-1 visas, predominantly after their first year in college year or in advance of their final year exams.

According to the Department of Foreign Affairs, 35 per cent of J-1 students - or over 2,800 annually - travel to [California](#), with [San Francisco](#) a particular draw for summer jobs in shops, bars and restaurants.

University of California [Berkeley](#), located 20kms across the bay from San Francisco, is one of a

number of colleges which offer visiting student accommodation through a subletting service.

The university also has strong academic links with Ireland. It is named after the Co Kilkenny-born philosopher and former Church of Ireland Bishop of Cloyne George Berkeley.

A Celtic studies centre has operated there since 1911, and it usually attracts a small number of Irish postgraduate and scholarship students each year as part of a very international mix on campus.

Speaking about the importance of the J-1 programme earlier this year, US Ambassador Kevin O'Malley said more than 150,000 Irish people had participated in the scheme over the past 50 years and the net result was a group of influential members of Irish society who all had a strong connection to America.

“The J-1 visa program is the ‘secret sauce’ in the strong US-Irish relationship. As the US Ambassador, I am often told that the Irish ‘get’ Americans.

“I am convinced that this massive J-1 program is an underappreciated factor, for example, in the massive US-Irish business relationship which is so positive and successful,” said Mr O'Malley.

“Ireland, despite its size, sends more students to the United States each year on J-1’s than any other country in the world. 8,000 students participated last year alone. An exchange on that scale just has to have an impact.”

I lost my gay uncle to Aids... his death made me support same-sex marriage

The daughter of a former leading Presbyterian minister has revealed her heartache at her gay uncle's death from Aids and called on the Church to think again about its attitude to same-sex marriage.

Alf McCreary in Belfast Telegraph - Alison Morrow was photographed at a rally in support of same-sex marriage in Belfast holding a placard that read, 'Irish Presbyterian Supports Gay Marriage'.

Her late father is Dr John Morrow, who was a Presbyterian chaplain at Queen's University and a leader of the Corrymeela community.

Ms Morrow said Presbyterians who supported same-sex marriage felt they are being sidelined,



Alison Morrow with a sign outlining her beliefs

and revealed how the silence over attitudes towards gay people had affected her own family.

Hitting out at the judgmental attitude of many Church people to same-sex relationships, she said: "My Uncle Kenneth was gay and he died of Aids.

"My mother Shirley felt the great pain of mourning for her brother, and also more pain because she felt unable to tell people that he was gay and had died of Aids."

Both Alison's parents are now dead but she believes that they would have fully supported her decision to join the same-sex rally on Saturday.

"They both taught us about the importance of debate and of sharing our opinions.

"I know that my father John progressively changed his views about same-sex relationships. He became extremely tolerant and he was aware that sexual orientation is not a choice, and that when we exclude people because of their sexuality, that is very painful for them.

"He talked to me about such things, and he was always keen for the Church to remain open and inclusive."

Ms Morrow is a psychotherapist and a play therapist, and said she attended Saturday's rally because she has gay friends and has worked with gay and transgender people.

"I have great empathy for their life experience, and I am conscious of how many of them feel excluded from many areas of life.

"I want to support their right to be treated as equal members of society," she told the Belfast Telegraph.

More at -

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/i-lost-my-gay-uncle-to-aids-his-death-made-me-support-samesex-marriage-31308382.html>

Church's novel approach sees thousands flock to novena in Limerick

Googling God is getting big results for one of Ireland's biggest annual religious gatherings.

Irish Examiner - More than 10,000 people are attending Limerick's nine-day novena organised by the Redemptorist order at Mount St Alphonsus Church, which finishes on Saturday.

With falling numbers, it was decided to embark on a new marketing campaign focusing on digital media.

And it's working.

When it commenced in 1973, more than 30,000 attended each day and marquees had to be erected near the church to hold worshippers. After years of falling numbers, attendances at the 10 daily sessions are now on the increase.



Fr Seamus Enright, rector at Mount St Alphonsus, said they had more than 13,000 attending the Sunday ceremonies.

“We start each day at 7am and go on until 10pm,” said Fr Enright. “People come from the greater North Munster catchment area from a 50-mile radius of Limerick city. Some people come every day and then there are people who dip in and out.”

He said it used to be known as the Solemn Novena, but now they also use Limerick’s Novena brand.

Research with Southern Marketing and Advertising, he said, had found the word “solemn” had connotations of “boring”, “serious”, and “dead” with younger people.

Fr Enright said: “The novena is anything but boring, dead, or serious: It’s anything but; in fact it’s very lively.”

He said the power of advertising had always been important down the years.

“But we hadn’t radically revamped the advertising since the novena started over 40 years ago,” he said. “We decided to look again at advertising and digital advertising, through the internet and Google. And we have noticed a big increase in people in their 20s and 30s. And this may be down to the digital strategy.

“We brought Southern on board and they came up with some very fresh imaginative advertising for us, particularly on social media. We did some Google advertising and it’s getting results.”

Fr Enright said part of the appeal of the novena is the Irish liking for big occasions: “There is something in the Irish temperament which likes gatherings, whether it’s here or Thomond Park or the Gaelic Grounds of Markets Field. We like gatherings.”

Fr Enright said politicians could learn a lot from the novena: “People write out prayers and leave them at the shrine and we read them out. You get that sense of what is troubling and bothering

people from these messages and I remember one person telling me that he told one of his local TDs that he need never do an opinion poll in Limerick, as that if he wanted to know what was troubling people, all he need do is come up and read the prayers left at the shrine at the novena. The recession has put huge pressure on families. A lot of parents are in sorrow over their children having to emigrate.”

Fr Enright said the fact more than 10,000 attend each day is encouraging: “I don’t doubt there is a crisis of faith in the country. I don’t doubt that there is a crisis around the Church and anger around the Church, much of which is well deserved. But I still think there is a lot of faith in the country and a lot of it is under the radar.”

Vatican summons Irish bishops to explain role in paedophile scandals

Several Irish bishops may soon find themselves having to explain to their bosses why they ignored or covered up the sexual abuse of children.

Malachi O'Doherty in Belfast Telegraph -The disclosure of the secret shame of the Catholic

Church in Ireland has already been massive and shocking, but far from complete.

Now the Vatican itself is poised to summon at least 12 Irish bishops to explain themselves before a tribunal.

The idea for a church investigation into abuse and cover-ups came from the Vatican Commission for the Protection of Minors.

Stirred into action by an almost global perception that the Catholic Church looked the other way while children were abused, and that it was more concerned with protecting its reputation than the victims, Pope Francis has approved the setting up of a tribunal.

So far it is not known which Irish bishops are likely to find themselves explaining their actions in Rome.

The number could include several Northern Bishops who have so far evaded close scrutiny, even while attracting suspicion.

A limited number of inquiries in the past have disclosed a horrific scale of abuse in Dublin and Ferns. But several other dioceses have not opened their files and some of them may now have to do so.

One of those which has preserved the secrecy of its internal management of child abuse and the resettling of offending priests is the diocese of Down and Connor which includes Belfast.

The former Cardinal Cahal Daly, while bishop there, admitted that he had done little to expose or hinder the most notorious paedophile priest, Brendan Smyth, who had abused countless children in schools and care homes as well as in their own homes.

Dr Daly had claimed at the time that he had had no authority to order Smith's seniors in the Norbertine Order to expel, discipline or report him. He had failed to accept that he had been obliged by the law of the land to report his knowledge of abuse to the police.

This was one instance of the Church appearing to pay more regard to its internal rules than to the law of the land.

Daly's own successor as primate of Ireland, Cardinal Sean Brady, later acknowledged that he had investigated abuse himself, without reporting it to the police and had sworn two abused boys to secrecy.

More at -

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/vatican-summons-irish-bishops-to-explain-role-in-paedophile-scandals-31308458.html>

Fr John McCullagh sex abuse cover-up should be investigated by Pope Francis' tribunal, says Amnesty

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/fr-john-mccullagh-sex-abuse-coverup-should-be-investigated-by-pope-francis-tribunal-says-amnesty-31308375.html>

Archbishop joins faith leaders calling for action on climate change

The Archbishop of Canterbury has joined faith leaders in Britain pledging to fast and pray for the success of key international negotiations over climate change, in a new declaration warning of the “huge challenge” facing the world over global warming.

Representatives of the major faiths, including Archbishop Justin Welby, said climate change has already hit the poorest of the world hardest and urgent action is needed now to protect future generations.

In the Lambeth Declaration, which was launched yesterday, signatories call on faith communities to recognise the pressing need to make the transition to a low carbon economy.

The call comes ahead of the international climate change talks in Paris this December where negotiators from more than 190 nations will gather to discuss a new global agreement on climate change, aimed at limiting greenhouse gas emissions from 2020 when current commitments run out.

The Declaration, signed by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York and other faith leaders in the UK, warns that world leaders must agree to reduce emissions to avoid average temperatures rising beyond 2°C, widely considered to be the threshold above which it is considered that the impacts of climate change will be most severe.

The original Declaration was hosted by former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams and signed by faith leaders in 2009 ahead of the Climate Summit in Copenhagen.

The Declaration was launched yesterday (Wednesday June 17) by the Bishop of Salisbury, the Rt Revd Nicholas Holtam, the Church of England's lead bishop on the environment, at

ecumenical services in Westminster, London, to mark the national lobby of Parliament over the Paris talks.

Signatories include representatives from the Muslim, Sikh and Jewish communities as well as the Catholic Church in England and Wales, Methodist Conference and other denominations and faiths, with more leaders continuing to sign the Declaration.

Hundreds more people are expected to sign up to the declaration as it travels rounds the country during a summer of pilgrimages.

African bishops meet, will 'speak with one voice' at Synod

The presidents of African national and regional episcopal conference gathered in Ghana from June 8 to 11 to discuss the upcoming Synod of Bishops on the family.

Fifty prelates, including five cardinals, were present. Among them was Cardinal Robert Sarah, prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments.

“Be conscious of the mission of the Church; protect the sacredness of marriage which is now being attacked by all forms of ideologies that intend to destroy the family in Africa,” said Cardinal Sarah, according to a Vatican Radio report. “Do not be afraid to stress the teaching of the Church on marriage.”

“Africa will speak with one voice at the next Synod: with one voice we will present the challenges and successes of family life in Africa,” added Angolan Archbishop Gabriel Mbilingi, the president of the Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar.

Cardinal Christian Tumi, 84, of Cameroon urged the future synod fathers “to remain united” in the face of “the false doctrines that destabilize the Church.”

In their final communiqué, the bishops offered a “clear affirmation of family and marital values according to the Word of God and the doctrine of the Church” and pledged “to avoid a blind and destructive consumption of doctrines that kill the family and marriage.”

They also spoke about the importance of “not repeating the language used by movements that

fight for the destruction of the family, to avoid legitimizing” the language.

“It is necessary to start from faith, to reaffirm and live it in order to evangelize cultures in depth,” they added.

Media digest

Women And Girls Are Victims Of Abortion Laws, Court Told | News | The Irish News

<http://www.irishnews.com/news/women-and-girls-are-victims-of-abortion-laws-court-told-1464292>

I spent a day with gay conversion therapy preachers and here's what I found out | LGBT | The News Hub

https://www.the-newshub.com/lgbt/i-spent-a-day-with-gay-conversion-therapy-preachers-and-heres-what-i-found-out?utm_source=taboola&utm_medium=referral

Written answers: Female and LGBT clergy numbers in the CofE | The Church of England in Parliament

http://churchinparliament.org/2015/06/08/written-answers-female-and-lgbt-clergy-numbers-in-the-cofe/?utm_content=buffer8dee3&utm_medium=social&utm_source=linkedin.com&utm_campaign=buffer

Tel

Report that the Rev Dr Mike Ovey, a former lawyer and now principal of Oak Hill Theological

College in London, has said new orders, planned as part of the Government's Counter-Extremism Bill to curb hate preachers could lead to traditional Christian teaching be "criminalised" in some settings. Mike Ovey, a former Parliamentary draftsman, said proposals for new "Extremism Disruption Orders" could be a "disaster area" for people from all the mainstream religions and none. It states the government has signalled that the new orders, would not curb the activities of radical Islamist clerics but the promotion of other views deemed to go against "British values" even if it is non-violent and legal.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11671547/Camerons-extremism-orders-could-criminalise-traditional-Christian-teaching.html>

Tel/Guard/BBC

Further coverage of the employment tribunal for Canon Jeremy Pemberton who claims the Church of England discriminated against him in revoking his permission to officiate after he married his partner. They state he claimed the Church of England is "completely inconsistent" in its approach to gay clergy and that marrying his long-term partner Laurence Cunnington in defiance of church policy had been "the moral thing to do". A spokesman for the Church of England said, "The church is currently involved

in a process of shared conversation about a range of issues on sexuality in regions across the country. It is regrettable that this case risks undermining that process by invoking legislation which does not even apply to this situation."

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11677144/Church-cant-judge-my-same-sex-wedding-says-priest-in-landmark-case.html>
<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/jun/16/canon-jeremy-pemberton-first-priest-marry-same-sex-partner-sues-church-of-england>
<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-33139014>

Mail/Mirror/Huff Post/BBC/Tel/Express

Reports and comment on the event yesterday to mark the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta attended by the Queen and other members of the royal family, the Prime Minister and the Archbishop of Canterbury. *Mirror* says David Cameron used his speech to promote his proposed changes to the Human Rights Act.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-3124982/The-Queen-smiles-leads-Order-Garter-parade-Windsor-accompanied-Charles-William-Camilla.html#ixzz3dCEIJaj4>
<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/fury-david-cameron-hijacks-magna-5887433>
http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2015/06/15/david-cameron-magna-carta-agenda_n_7585078.html?utm_hp_ref=uk&ir=UK

<http://www.bbc.com/news/live/uk-england-surrey-33030384>
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/11675736/Authors-of-Magna-Carta-would-be-bemused-by-celebration-800-years-on.html>
<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/584592/David-Cameron-urges-human-rights-reform-to-safeguard-Magna-Carta-as-royals-join-event>

Tel

Further article on report released yesterday on RE in schools and includes full quote from Rev Nigel Genders, COFE Chief Education officer
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/11674820/Its-time-to-end-compulsory-daily-worship-in-schools-says-Clarke.html>

BBC

Report that a blue plaque in honour of former Archbishop Trevor Huddleston has been unveiled despite police reports showing he had been investigated over claims of gross indecency. It states Bedford Borough Council put the plaque up to mark the late archbishop's birthplace in the town in recognition of his anti-apartheid work in South Africa. It states police records from 1974 show officers recommended four charges of gross

indecenty should be brought against him, but the case was dropped due to lack of evidence.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-beds-bucks-herts-33132097>

FT/Mail/Huff Post/Ind

Reports and comment that Pope Francis will call for a "drastic reduction" in carbon emissions and lash out against "economic powers" that are opposing efforts to combat climate change, according to an early draft of his forthcoming encyclical on the environment. It states the Vatican was due to publish the document on Thursday, but Italian magazine L'Espresso released a 192-page version on Monday.

[http://www.ft.com/cms/s/](http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/7951b046-13a8-11e5-ad26-00144feabdc0.html#axzz3d6Yghb00)

[0/7951b046-13a8-11e5-](http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/7951b046-13a8-11e5-ad26-00144feabdc0.html#axzz3d6Yghb00)

[ad26-00144feabdc0.html#axzz3d6Yghb00](http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/7951b046-13a8-11e5-ad26-00144feabdc0.html#axzz3d6Yghb00)

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3125613/Pope-Francis-encyclical-climate-change-LEAKED-four-days-early-Italian-magazine-leading-Vatican-say-draft-version-condemn-heinous-act.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

[article-3125613/Pope-Francis-encyclical-climate-change-LEAKED-four-days-early-Italian-magazine-leading-Vatican-say-draft-version-condemn-heinous-act.html?](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3125613/Pope-Francis-encyclical-climate-change-LEAKED-four-days-early-Italian-magazine-leading-Vatican-say-draft-version-condemn-heinous-act.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

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http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2015/06/15/popes-draft-encyclical-climate-change-is-real_n_7589930.html?utm_hp_ref=uk&ir=UK

[http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/](http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/pope-francis-letter-on-climate-change-churchnewsireland@gmail.com)

[europe/pope-francis-letter-on-climate-change-](http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/pope-francis-letter-on-climate-change-churchnewsireland@gmail.com)

[churchnewsireland@gmail.com](http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/pope-francis-letter-on-climate-change-churchnewsireland@gmail.com)

leaked-draft-vatican-encyclical-released-three-days-early-10321801.html
<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/comment/the-pope-is-finally-addressing-the-gaping-hole-in-the-judaeochristian-moral-tradition-10321757.html>

Guard

Comment article on ways that religious worship or assemblies might be replaced in schools if they are scrapped.

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/jun/15/prayers-school-assembly-charles-clarke>

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