



*The Rev Alan Kilpatrick*

## **Knocknamuckley: The church row that has gone way beyond the pail**

How we worship our God - if we have one - is always a sensitive issue. Our memories reach back to childhood, when we couldn't understand much of what was going on, to adolescence, when we felt perhaps even embarrassed by services, through to maturity and a deeper

understanding of what that hour on a Sunday (or Friday or Saturday depending on your faith) really means.

Gail Walker in Belfast Telegraph - And this goes to the core of the recent dispute at Knocknamuckley, which we have covered extensively in this newspaper.

Many in that congregation felt they had nowhere else to turn but to the glare of the media with their concerns about the doctrinal influences of the Rev Alan Kilpatrick.

This is rural Ulster we are talking about - not Hampstead or downtown LA. So it's hardly surprising that many long serving members of St Matthias were upset by a man of the cloth - or rather a man of the denim, given Rev Kilpatrick's preference for pulling on a pair of jeans to conduct morning service - who has an association with the Californian Bethel Church of Supernatural Ministries.

Four studs in his left ear will only have served to raise eyebrows and further heighten fears. Throw in Rev Kilpatrick's opposition to a service for the Royal Black Preceptory - one of the routine events in the calendar - and it's a fraught situation indeed.

Parishioners have every right to feel unsettled.

They have a stake in the church, making freewill offerings for its upkeep, supplying the flowers each week and burying their generations in its grounds.

It is the primary job of a rector to lead his flock but to do that he first of all needs to know how his flock thinks, how that flock has behaved for year after year, decade after decade.

Most importantly, he needs to understand how it feels. Did he take enough time to do that?

It would be easy to suspect that those opposed to Rev Kilpatrick's ministry are traditional stick-in-the-muds. But they have been fighting for a version of the Anglican communion that has been handed down to them by - guess who? - Clergy....

..... Let's be clear about this, the newspapers did not make this story, the people of Knocknamuckley made it. Feeling they had nowhere else to turn, they picked up the phone and talked to the Press.

That wasn't an easy decision to make, but one taken after much frustration. The church authorities should remember that.

Indeed, the fact that the Rev Kilpatrick has now moved his contemporary services to the nearby Goodyear Sports and Social Club suggests the argument had already been conceded, or simply kicked down the road.

We're also told the Bishop has requested a period of "gracious provisional judgement" while his working group reflects on the theology of the Royal Black and the theology of the Bethel Church.

A spokeswoman also states that neither the Diocese nor Bishop Harold Miller will be making any comment on Bethel. Given its impact on Knocknamuckley - those claims that Bethel followers elsewhere have attempted to raise the dead, not to mention the apparent phenomenon of gold dust appearing on believers when the 'glory of God' is released - have they no view? The wider church [community](#) is all ears too.

More at -

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/opinion/columnists/gail-walker/knocknamuckley-the-church-row-that-has-gone-way-beyond-the-pail-31270887.html>

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## Irishman appointed Bishop of Nottingham



Pope Francis has appointed an Irish-born Monsignor as Bishop of Nottingham for the Church in England and Wales.

Mgr Patrick McKinney, a priest of the archdiocese of Birmingham, is the tenth Bishop of Nottingham and succeeds Bishop Malcolm McMahon OP.

He will be ordained to the episcopate by Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster, in St Barnabas' Cathedral, Nottingham on Friday 3 July.

Mgr McKinney (61) is the eldest son of Patrick and Bridget McKinney who were originally from Buncrana in Co Donegal. Shortly after his birth, his parents moved to Birmingham.

His parents later moved back to Ireland in the 1970s as he began his studies for the priesthood at St Mary's College Oscott, the archdiocese of Birmingham's seminary.

He was ordained to the priesthood in 1978 in St Mary's Church Buncrana where his family live and he regularly visits his brother and sister who continue to live there.

Nottingham diocese covers Notts, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and Rutland.

## **Orange Order's memorial window tribute to Troubles dead**

A "stunning tribute" to the 322 Orange brethren and Orangewomen murdered during the Troubles has been unveiled in the form of a contemporary stained glass window at the Orange Order's Belfast headquarters.

The artwork – which will form the centrepiece of a specially constructed lodge room located in



***Robert Abernethy, Chair of the Murdered Brethren Committee; Berry Reaney, Survivor of the Tullyvallen Massacre; Grand Master Edward Stevenson viewing the new memorial window at the Museum of Orange Heritage.***

the new Museum of Orange Heritage – was formally dedicated on Tuesday night.

The 8x5ft stain glass window which is dominated by the central image of the murdered brethren memorial badge and white cross, adorned with an Orange collarette, includes images of several Northern Ireland landmarks, including the Giant's Causeway and Titanic Belfast, symbolising the old and the new.

The piece was funded entirely from the sale of memorial badges within the Orange fraternity.

Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland, Edward Stevenson, said the “impressive memorial window visibly honours the sacrifice of our murdered members and permanently preserves their memories for generations to come”.

“In what has been a sensitive process, we are very pleased with the contemporary design which we feel suitably embraces the past, as well as the future, in both a respectful and poignant way.”

Mr Stevenson said after being elected four years ago he made a pledge “the innocent victims of the Troubles and their families would remain a key priority for the Orange institution”.

Dr David Hume, director of services of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland, said the memorial window “is a significant way of commemoration”...

...The dedication ceremony comes as final preparations are made ahead of the scheduled opening of the new Museum of Orange Heritage later this month. The major outreach project, along with the redevelopment of Sloan’s House



in Loughgall, are part of the REACH Project (Reaching out through Education and Cultural Heritage) which received £3.6 million from the EU's PEACE III programme.

More at -

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/regional/orange-order-s-memorial-window-tribute-to-troubles-dead-1-6777166>

## **DVD defending traditional marriage sent to every priest in Britain and Ireland**

Every priest and parish in Britain and Ireland is to receive a copy of a DVD defending traditional Catholic teaching on marriage, the family and human sexuality.

With contributions from Cardinal Raymond Burke, Bishop Mark Davies of Shrewsbury and Edmund Adamus, Westminster Director of Marriage and Family, the DVD has been launched as the Church prepares for the Synod on the Family in October.

The DVD comes from the British Confraternity of Catholic Clergy in collaboration with St Anthony

Communications, which specialises in catechetical video presentations.

It covers such challenging topics as cohabitation, homosexuality, divorce and re-marriage, and features lay experts and married couples who speak in support of the Church's teaching from their own experience.

"The DVD responds to the call of the Holy Father to support marriage and the family currently challenged and misunderstood. We offer this modern media tool of the New Evangelisation, as a service to the Church, for parish viewing, for marriage preparation and for general catechesis,' said a spokesman for the Confraternity of Catholic Clergy.

He continued: "The content is just basic Catholic teaching which everyone has a right to hear. It is a clear, unambiguous and bold presentation, but always given with charity and without polemics. Now is not the time for hiding the true and beautiful vision of marriage and the family for the healing of our societies."

A spokesman for St Anthony Communication said that the DVD sets out Catholic teaching in a

simple and accessible way. “The DVD explains why we teach what we teach, to offset confusion caused by inadequate and diluted teaching in the past, and offer hope for the future,” he said.

## **Beyond the Veil - Wedding dress exhibition in Dromore parish**

A unique exhibition boasting over 40 “wedding dresses” will open to the public in the village of Magheralin on 5 June. ‘Beyond the Veil’ will showcase real dresses worn by prominent Northern Irish women, alongside specially sculpted art dresses made by local artists and craftswomen.

The beautiful Church of the Holy and Undivided Trinity is the setting for the exhibition which will include dresses from women from the world of politics, business, sport and the media. Dresses worn by Lady Sylvia Herman, BBC broadcaster Wendy Austen, Finance Minister Arlene Foster and the Bridesmaid dress of Marie Wilson, to name but a few, will be on show.

Also featured will be specially designed dresses made from cushions, patchwork, flowers, paper and wood. And in an unusual twist, a number of them will chronicle the lives of women of the

Bible in a visual display, providing intimate insights into the lives of the women represented. Would Eve have worn cabbage-leaf wedding shoes? How might you interpret Mary, Mother of Jesus' dress? Should Martha's dress really be made of cups and saucers?

The ten-day exhibition will be open to the public from 5<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> June but opening night on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> will feature a ribbon cutting ceremony and interviews with special guests Dana (Rosemary Scallon) and Maud Kells OBE (Belfast Telegraph Woman of the Year 2015). Some of the women whose dresses are featured will also attend.

Festival Co-organiser Dr Sarah Cousins said, "This will be a feast for the eyes! Over 40 dresses will fill our beautiful 19<sup>th</sup> century church – wedding gowns of all shapes and styles, from traditional to crafted, from the dramatic to the quirky..."

Rector of Magheralin Parish Church, Revd Canon Gareth Harron, said, "Knowing the gifts of the team putting this exhibition together I am excited in anticipation of what visitors will encounter!" The church's previous exhibition of Christmas Trees raised £20,000 in one weekend and was featured on [BBC Newsline](#), UTV Live

and BBC Radio Ulster's Your Place and Mine (01/12/12).

The festival aims to raise both awareness and funds to support the work of [A21](#), an anti-human trafficking charity and the Church Renovation Fund. Admission is free (although donations are welcome).

## **C of I Diocesan Reader and Lay Minister Mini Retreat**

The Church of Ireland Theological Institute, Dublin, will host a second "mini-retreat" for Diocesan Readers and Lay ministers in general from June 26 to 27.

The "mini-retreat" entitled "Becoming like Christ. A journey towards spiritual transformation" will be led by the Revd Dorothy McVeigh, Rector of Annaghmore Parish, a rural parish in the Diocese of Armagh. Dorothy has served as Rector of Annaghmore for nearly 11 years and brings a wealth of experience, pastoral care and Biblical insight to her ministry. Throughout the retreat Dorothy will look to Scripture to examine how we encounter Christ and experience His transformation and renewal.



***The Revd Dorothy McVeigh***

To book in for the retreat or to receive more information please email:  
[davidbrown@theologicalinstitute.ie](mailto:davidbrown@theologicalinstitute.ie)

The cost per participant (including overnight accommodation and meals), £40/€50. (Without accommodation £20/€25). All bookings must be received by Monday June 22 at 12 noon).

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## **Tributes paid to Charles Kennedy, the first Catholic leader of a major party**

Tributes have poured into former Liberal Democrat party leader, Charles Kennedy, who has died suddenly at his Fort William home, aged 55.

Mr Kennedy, who led the party from 1999 to 2006, was an MP for 32 years and lost his seat in last month's election. He became the first Catholic to lead a major party in Britain when he was elected leader of the Liberal Democrats in 1999.

In a statement his family said: "We are obviously devastated at the loss. Charles was a fine man, a talented politician, and a loving father to his young son."

In a 2002 [interview with the Guardian](#) Mr. Kennedy described himself as "a Christian of Catholic disposition", having grown up a practicing Catholic and an altar boy.

Reacting to the news Archbishop Philip Tartaglia, President of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland, said: "Charles Kennedy's death at the tragically premature age of 55 is a great loss not only to politics in our country but to the principles of civic and civilised engagement. His wisdom and courtesy were a mark of his Highland upbringing, his political skill grew from his sharp intellect and his humility and concern for others was testament to his deeply-held beliefs.

"He will be mourned by his family, by many in the world of politics and within the church, by the parishioners of St. John's Parish in Caol and beyond. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this time."

Dr John Pugh, Liberal Democrat MP for Southport and one of the few to retain his seat in the last election, said: "Clearly his faith was a support. He showed up at Mass at the House of Commons quite frequently in the last couple of years, and we were delighted that he did."

He continued: "He made Britain's third party believe it could become a major political force in its own terms, standing up for internationalism.



He gave the party a sense of identity and self-belief.

“On the coalition [which he voted against joining], he wasn’t a back seat driver as the former leader. He kept his own counsel and didn’t undermine or criticise Nick Clegg.”

Mr Clegg, who recently stepped down from the Lib Dem leadership, paid tribute to the politician he described as “gentle and unflappable.”

“He was immensely courageous too not least when he spoke for the country against the invasion of Iraq.”

He continued: “Charles devoted his life to public service, yet he had an unusual gift for speaking about politics with humour and humility which touched people well beyond the world of politics.”

Mr Kennedy began his political career in the Social Democratic Party and won his first seat in Ross, Cromarty and Skye at the age of 23, making him the youngest MP at the time. He quickly became the SDP spokesperson on social security, Scotland and health.

After taking over the party leadership from Paddy Ashdown in 1999, Mr Kennedy led the Liberal Democrats to their best election results since the 1920s in 2005. He resigned as leader in 2006.

Prime Minister David Cameron has said he is “deeply saddened” by Mr Kennedy’s death.

He continued: “He was a talented politician who has died too young. My thoughts are with his family.”

No cause of death has been given but the police have stated they are not treating it as suspicious.

### **Archbishop of York**

Paying tribute Charles Kennedy MP

<http://www.archbishopofyork.org/articles.php/3267/statement-by-the-archbishop-of-york>

### **Northern Ireland's politicians pay tribute to 'true liberal'**

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/politics/charles-kennedy-dies-northern-irelands-politicians-pay-tribute-to-true-liberal-who-lead-with-conviction-and-courage-31272893.html>

## **Who Killed the Vicar? Murder Mystery in Cairncastle**

St Patricks Parish Church, Cairncastle, held a Murder Mystery Evening themed 'Who Killed the Vicar?\*' in Cairncastle Presbyterian Church Halls on May 29.

The play was directed by church member Simon Hunter, and the cast included the rector the Rev Roger Thompson, members of the congregation and actors from Larne Drama Circle.

The play was set in the fictional village of Steeply Willows and had an 'Agatha Christie meets Vicar of Dibley' flavour.

There was an exceptional turnout with people coming from all the local churches and a great evening of fun, food and crime-solving was had by all.

Fifteen teams battled it out, but only one fully solved the murder – well done team "Clueless"!

A light supper was provided during the interval by the St Patrick's CAMEO group.

The rector avoided fatal injury by playing the role of the church organist, while glebewarden Trevor Hassin donned a clerical shirt and collar to play the part of the murder victim.

Roger said afterwards: "This was a first for our congregation and it went down a storm! It was great fun rehearsing and everyone seemed to enjoy the results. In addition we raised £863 for Church Funds."

## **'The story of salvation is a story of failure...but love wins' says Pope Francis**

The "failure" of the cross reveals the "victory of God's love", Pope Francis said during his homily yesterday, where he insisted that God builds upon our weaknesses and uses them for good.

Speaking at Holy Mass in the Chapel of Santa Marta in Rome, the pontiff said the "story of love between God and his people...seems to be a story of failure." Humanity has consistently rejected God, even rejecting Jesus to the point of his crucifixion on the cross, he added, [according to Vatican Radio](#). "The path of our redemption is



a path marked by failure," Francis told those gathered.

"This story that begins with a dream of love, that seems to be a love story, but ends up looking like a story of failures, ends with the great love of God who offers Salvation through the rejection of his Son who saves us all".

It is at the cross that God turns upside down our understanding of failure. Love triumphs at the cross; a place that would otherwise appear to one of defeat. "It is a scandal...but here is where love wins."

However, he also stressed that Christians will fail many times in their own journey, which "is a rough road".

"If each of us examines his conscience, he will see how many times...he has banished the prophets; how many times he has said to Jesus: 'Go away;' how many times he has wanted to save himself. How many times we have thought we were the righteous ones,"

Francis said. But God uses us in our weakness, just as Christ was brutally murdered on the cross and yet rose in glory three days later. "The Son, His last envoy, was seized, killed and thrown out. He became the cornerstone."

It is important, therefore, for Christians to practise the same humility that Jesus did. "We do well to remember this love story that seems to fail, but in the end triumphs," Francis concluded.

"And to remember in story of our lives, the seed of love that God has sown in us and how it went, and doing the same thing that Jesus did on our behalf: he humbled himself."

## **Media digest**

## **Belfast City Council vote supporting same-sex marriage motion welcomed**

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/belfast-city-council-vote-supporting-same-sex-marriage-motion-welcomed-1-6775192>

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/belfast-city-council-votes-in-favour-of-gay-marriage-31271172.html>

## **Archbishop Eamon Martin: Church is 'bereaved' by yes vote**

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/ireland/archbishop-eamon-martin-church-is-bereaved-by-yes-vote-334298.html>

## **Ballina priest condemned over remarks on marriage equality**

Fr Tom Doherty says Yes vote in referendum means “barbarians are at the gate”

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/ballina-priest-condemned-over-remarks-on-marriage-equality-1.2236037>

## **There's a major global shift happening in the Catholic Church**

<http://www.christiantoday.com/article/theres.a.major.global.shift.happening.in.the.catholic.church/55152.htm>

## **Tel/BBC/Mail**

Continuing coverage of God as "She" story. In the Telegraph the Rev.Sally Hitchner and Jemima Thackray both write columns examining the issue. The BBC website carries an article by Stephen Tompkins asking "why is God not female?" whilst the Daily Mail asks a range of women imagine what the world might be like with "a female power at the helm"

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11643931/Is-God-a-man-or-a-woman.html>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/women/womens-life/11642822/Church-of-England-God-as-a-woman-Thats-like-farting-against-thunder.html>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-32960507>

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-3108477/If-God-woman-Church-feminists-say-God-wittiest-wisest-writers-imagine-world-higher-female-power-helm.html?ITO=1490&ns\\_mchannel=rss&ns\\_campaign=1490](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-3108477/If-God-woman-Church-feminists-say-God-wittiest-wisest-writers-imagine-world-higher-female-power-helm.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

## **Ind/Guard**

Reports on research published by the University of Oxford that almost 6,000 children in Britain are subsisting on as little as £1 per day because their parents are migrants with no recourse to public funds, pushing children into "severe poverty and hunger".



<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/thousands-of-children-in-britain-being-forced-to-live-on-1-a-day-10292792.html>  
<http://www.theguardian.com/society/2015/jun/03/no-recourse-to-public-funds-children-poverty-uk-government>

## **Mail**

Story focusing on mother who has been asked to remove flowers from her daughter's grave at St Michael's Church in Grimsargh due to Churchyard regulations. Report includes quote from Diocese of Blackburn and Archdeacon Michael Everitt includes "the vicar and churchwardens have a legal responsibility to preserve the churchyard as a well-ordered place for every family. The regulations exist to ensure fairness for everyone and to prevent unrestrained growth of memorials on and around graves."

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3107855/Heartbroken-mother-ordered-remove-flowers-teenage-daughter-s-grave-cluttered.html?](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3107855/Heartbroken-mother-ordered-remove-flowers-teenage-daughter-s-grave-cluttered.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

[ITO=1490&ns\\_mchannel=rss&ns\\_campaign=1490](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3107855/Heartbroken-mother-ordered-remove-flowers-teenage-daughter-s-grave-cluttered.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

## **BBC**

Report that Lincoln Cathedral has announced a 20-year plan to ensure the building gains

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worldwide recognition as a major heritage attraction. The first phase has won backing from the Heritage Lottery Fund, with a grant of £900,000 and a further £11.3m earmarked for further development as part of a £16m the Lincoln Cathedral Connected project, due for completion by 2020.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-lincolnshire-32950514>

### **The Voice**

Archbishop Sentamu Calls For Diversity, Says the church needs more leaders from a range of ethnic backgrounds to meet the needs of Britain's diverse population

<http://www.voice-online.co.uk/article/archbishop-sentamu-calls-diversity>