



## Archbishop Diarmuid Martin bemoans lack of Catholic intellectuals in Ireland

The [Catholic Church](#) in [Ireland](#) is “very lacking” in people of intellect who, educated in their faith, can address the pressing issues of the day, Catholic Archbishop of Dublin Diarmuid Martin has said.

He was “haunted” by a quote from [Pope Benedict](#) at the beatification of [Cardinal Newman](#) in 2010. “He said: ‘The service to which Blessed [John Henry](#) was called involved applying his keen intellect and his prolific pen to many of the most pressing ‘subjects of the day’,” the Archbishop recalled.

“If the place of the Church in the current social and political discussion in Ireland risks becoming increasingly marginal, this is not just due to some sort of external exclusion; it is also because the Church in Ireland is very lacking in ‘keen intellects and prolific pens addressing the pressing subjects of the day’,” said the Archbishop.

It was “a role especially for competent lay men and women well educated in their faith. The contribution of the Church to the improvement of society will not be attained simply by negative political commentary. It will not be attained by morbid and depressive analysis of the woes of the Church. It will never be attained by religious media which allow themselves to be reduced to mere blogs of clerical gossip. It cannot be attained by creating a neo-clerical Church, focussed just on priests.”

What was needed was “a vibrant affirmation of the ‘Joy of the Gospel’ (2013 document published by Pope Francis). It may seem a paradox, but without a vibrant lay affirmation of the ‘Joy of the Gospel’ we will never produce priestly vocations,” he said.

## **Belfast C of I parish celebrates 120th anniversary**

St Columba’s Parish Church, Knock has celebrated its 120th anniversary with a weekend of special events and worship.

On Saturday 4 June there was a most enjoyable concert in the church with the Parish Organist and Choral Director, Dr Joe McKee, the Choir and guests. They prepared a comprehensive programme of inspirational music which also included a selection of readings by Lynda Bryans, the well-known former television presenter. Following the concert, the parish’s Catering Committee served “celebratory refreshments” outside on the church lawn where there was great fellowship between parishioners and visitors.

On Sunday 5 June, at the 10.30 am Patronal Festival Eucharist, the preacher Lord Eames,



dedicated the recently refurbished west end of the church, which now includes a welcome area and tea point along with new stained glass which depicts the joy of the Resurrection in the Rose Window, generously gifted by Caroline and Alan Cramp. This work is facilitating renewed growth and community outreach.

The updated version of the parish book, “An House Not Made With Hands”, was launched at the West End of the church immediately after the 10.30 am service. The Organist Emeritus, Gerald Hill has updated Betty Rainsford’s book, which was originally published in the Centenary year in

1996, to the present day. Following his extensive research Gerald has incorporated many of the developments which have been achieved through the hard work and generosity of so many people during the past twenty years. Gerald's great attention to detail ensures that this excellent publication with lovely colour photographs will be a wonderful record for readers to enjoy.

The preacher at Choral Evensong was Bishop Gordon McMullan, who served as Curate of St Columba's from 1969 – 1971 and as Rector from 1976 – 1980. The prayers were led by another former Rector, Archdeacon Gregor McCamley, the longest serving Rector of St Columba's 1980 – 2007. This was the first time that the current Rector, The Revd John Auchmuty, shared worship with two of his predecessors in St Columba's, who contributed so much to the growth of the parish. It was a memorable occasion.

Reflecting on the weekend, Revd Auchmuty, commented "As a parish we have received fresh encouragement from our 120th anniversary celebrations. The weekend has been a great success as together we gave thanks to God for the life of St Columba's in years past and sought His guidance for the years ahead."

[See a photo gallery here.](#)

Copies of “An House Not Made With Hands” are available from St Columba’s Parish Church, The Parish Office (02890 656891 Mon – Fri 9.00 am – 1.00 pm) and The Bookwell (Richard Ryan: 07581 143596).

See [www.thebookwell.co.uk/stcolumbas](http://www.thebookwell.co.uk/stcolumbas) for more information.

## **Scottish Church celebrates Storytelling Centre's first decade**

June 2016 marks the tenth anniversary of the [Scottish Storytelling Centre](#), the world's first purpose-built building for live storytelling. Designed by Malcolm Fraser Architects and opened in 2006 (on the 6 June), the Centre emerged from the efforts of the Church of Scotland and the Scottish Storytelling Forum and has since grown into a vibrant hub for the arts – a true home for Scotland's culture.

The past decade has seen the Centre welcome storytellers and audiences from all over the globe, as well as supporting a growing directory of Scottish talent and ensuring Scotland's Reformation is noted as a significant time of



### ***The Scottish Storytelling Centre***

change for Scotland's culture through the John Knox House museum.

This year, John Knox House has also become home to the Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature, strengthening the core literary connections associated with Edinburgh's historic Netherbow site, where the Storytelling Centre is homed. Rev Norman Smith, Convener of the Mission and Discipleship states:

*"At the heart of Christianity is telling the story of Jesus and we are encouraged that the vision which brought the Storytelling Centre into being continues to be relevant today. As we celebrate*

*the past 10 years we look forward to the future with excitement. "*

The 10th birthday celebrations coincide with the 20th anniversary of the passing of George Mackay Brown, the Centre's patron who advocated for the dedicated space for traditional arts in Scotland's capital, and includes several events honouring the late Orcadian poet and author. TRACS (Traditional Arts and Culture Scotland) Director Donald Smith, formerly the Centre's founding director, describes how Brown has inspired the venue's development:

*"His inspiration grounding of the universal in the local, his incarnation of words in living communities of music, story, dance and seasonal celebration remain a guiding light through changing circumstances. "*

## **Cathedral, choral and musical**

**Evensong to Celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday - St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast,** will host a celebration Evensong on Wednesday June 8 to mark the 90th Birthday of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

Among the special guests will be Her Majesty's representative, Mrs Fionnuala Jay-O'Boyle, Lord

Lieutenant for Belfast, and the Lord Mayor of Belfast, Alderman Brian Kingston.

The Dean of Belfast, the Very Rev John Mann, extends a warm invitation to everyone to this special celebration. “As well as the popular coronation anthem, Parry’s *I was glad*, there are to be special prayers and hymns suitable for the occasion,” said Dean Mann. “The National Anthem is to be sung in honour of Her Majesty and to acknowledge this happy occasion.

“The service will be quite brief, about 40 minutes, and we hope that many people will join us in St Anne’s on their way home from work, or coming to the Cathedral expressly to share this moment of thanksgiving for a personal milestone for Queen Elizabeth II”, he added.

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**St Paul’s Parish, Glenageary**, is hosting a series of **lunchtime recitals and talks** throughout June and July. The events are free of charge with talks and performances beginning at 1.15 pm and tea or coffee available from 1.00 pm.

The following events for June include:

Thursday June 9th – Musicians from Rathdown Senior School

Thursday June 16th – Talk on “At Home in India”–Professor Roger West (TCD)

Thursday June 23rd – The Mandeville Duo – Stuart Nicholson and Victoria Green

Thursday June 30th? – Organ Music with Nathan Barrett

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**US choir wins Castlebar International Choral Festival** - The University of Southern Indiana Chamber Choir, under the direction of Daniel Craig, associate professor of music, was awarded first place in the Premiere Competition at the Mayo International Choral Festival in Castlebar, Ireland.

The choir competed in the festival against more than 30 choirs from Ireland, Norway, Wales and the United States. Their repertory included works by Rachmaninoff, Bruckner, Giovanelli, Gjeillo, Stroope and Daniel Craig. During the Premiere Competition, the Chamber Choir performed Rachmaninoff’s “*Pridiitee Poklominia (Come All Ye People)*” from *All Night Vespers* and Z. Randall Stroope’s “*The Conversion of Saul.*”

To compete in the Premiere Competition, the choir had to be victorious in at least one of the festival’s daytime competition areas. The choir



won both the Four-part Competition and the Sacred Music Competition, and placed second in the Gaelic Languages Competition.

While in Ireland, the Chamber Choir and the USI Irish Traditional Ensemble also performed concerts in Kylemore Abbey in County Connemara, Ballintubber Abbey in County Mayo, Holy Trinity Church of Ireland in Westport and Dublin's famous St. Patrick's Cathedral.

The trip marked USI Chamber Choirs' seventh tour of Ireland and its 12th international tour since 1992. It was the group's first time entering an international choral festival competition. More information about USI's choirs is available at [USI.edu/performingarts](http://USI.edu/performingarts). For more photos from the group's tour of Ireland, [click here](#).

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**New Irish Arts** has announced “a brand new **conference to help church leaders and musicians**, in partnership with Gettymusic and hosted by Keith and Kristyn Getty.” It is for worship leaders, pastors and musicians featuring: Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend, Jonathan Rea, Bishop Harold Miller, Revd David Bruce and the Gettymusic Band

Participants are invited to join fellow pastors and church musicians in an interactive day conference to help build church congregational singing through Biblical and artistic means. Distinguished seminar speakers cover topics including congregational singing, songwriting, singing and leading, instrumental performance and improvisation, music for children and music curation. When: Saturday 10 September 2016 from 9.30 am–4.00 pm. Where: Belfast Waterfront Hall and Conference Centre. Tickets: £30 (Group rate: 10 tickets for £200). [Book online here](#) or in person at Faith Mission Bookshops.

## **News briefs**

**Tribute to The Revd Canon Francis William Albert (Frank) Bell** - who died on Monday 23

[churchnewsireland@gmail.com](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.com)

May and his funeral service was held in Kilmore Parish Church on Wednesday 25 May.

Archdeacon David McClay writes - After serving curacies in a number of parishes, Frank spent his entire ministry in the parishes of Ballyeasboro and Ardkeen. There he served the people faithfully and was a much loved and devoted pastor, preacher and friend. His daughters, Pamela, Hilary and Lorna, grew up in Ballyhalbert Rectory and they and Frank, together with his wife Greta, retained wonderful memories of their years in the Ards Peninsula. Frank and his brother John, also a retired rector, not only served as rectors together in Down and Dromore but had lots of common interests and were great friends as well as brothers.

Frank was a man with a wide range of hobbies and interests. He was an able gardener and always had a beautifully kept garden full of colour. He was also a bee keeper and his rural farming background extended to keeping his own chickens. But it will be as a kind and generous pastor and Christian gentleman, as well as a great father and loving husband, that Frank will be remembered.

I recall that when I was first ordained and came to the diocese, Frank was one of those older

clergy who was always genuinely interested and concerned and would enquire after my own welfare and that of my family. At a diocesan Quiet Day or clergy event Frank would come quietly alongside and ask with genuine interest and concern, "Well how are you"?

The thoughts and prayers of many are with Frank's family at this time. He will be much missed.

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**Meath and Kildare diocese** has organised two short courses, based on the recently published '**Guide to Human Sexuality**', by the Church of Ireland.

The Guide may be viewed by [clicking here](#).

Courses are being held at the following venues:  
Naas (St David's National School) - Tuesday 7 / 14 / 21 June 2016 - 8pm. Navan (Parish Hall) - Wednesday 8 / 15 / 22 June - 7.30pm

## **News links to reports on faith, politics and education**

### **The Fermanagh minister who was padre on D-Day**

Fermanagh Herald

[churchnewsireland@gmail.com](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.com)

“He said a member of his family, his sister-in-law's father, had been a **Church of Ireland** minister who for many years was rector in Killadeas/Castle ...

<http://fermanaghherald.com/2016/06/the-fermanagh-minister-who-was-padre-on-d-day/>

## **Belfast priest Fr Gary Donegan 'threatened by criminal gang'**

BBC News

A prominent Catholic priest in north Belfast says he has been threatened by a criminal gang.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-36464708>

## **Ian Paisley's dossier about Kingsmill was 'doctored'**

Irish News

<http://www.irishnews.com/news/2016/06/07/news/kingsmill-dossier-quoted-by-paisley-in-parliament-was-doctored--550367/?param=ds441rif44T>

## **Van Morrison's mother has been laid to rest after a funeral in east Belfast.**

News Letter

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/van-morrison-says-last-farewell-to-mother-near-old-east-belfast-home-1-7418271>

## **Two of Ireland's largest religious organisations to amalgamate**

Irish Times

Two of the largest entities in **Irish** Catholicism will join forces later this week to become the Association of Missionaries and **Religious of Ireland** (Amri).  
<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/two-of-ireland-s-largest-religious-organisations-to-amalgamate-1.2674415>

### **Newcastle Chronicle**

Reports that the Bishop of Durham is one of 150 signatories of a pro-EU letter circulating in the North East of England. Article notes that Bishop Paul has not issued any statement other than to sign the open letter, but it is understood he is likely to enter the referendum debate closer to the June 23 vote.

<http://www.chroniclelive.co.uk/business/business-news/bishop-durham-joins-campaign-britain-11435894>

### **Tel**

Reports comments by Nicholas Okoh, the Archbishop of Nigeria, and recently elected chairman of "Gafcon" (Global Anglican Future Conference), on same-sex marriage. In a pastoral letter, Archbishop Nicholas said a line had been crossed in the CofE with the appointment of Bishop Susan Goff, of the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia, as an Assisting Bishop of Liverpool. The diocese of Azure in Nigeria has cut ties with Liverpool. Article includes full quote from Bishop of Liverpool, Paul Bayes who says the decision to cut ties was a source of regret adding: "Despite the tensions that beset us, the Anglican Communion still testifies to the love of the God who brings us together."

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/06/06/cracks-in-deal-to-avert-anglican-schism-over-homosexuality/>

## **Even Stand**

Previews the events to mark the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday this weekend, including Friday's televised service at St Paul's Cathedral.

<http://www.standard.co.uk/lifestyle/london-life/the-queen-s-90th-how-elizabeth-iis-official-birthday-will-be-celebrated-in-london-a3264811.html>

## **Star**

Reports that the Anglican priest in Chantilly, greeted the England football squad when they arrived at their base in the town ahead of Euro 2016. The Revd Nick Clark said, "I had a brief chat with Wayne Rooney and basically told him that I am here and the church is always open. I'll say a prayer for them privately."

<http://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/latest-news/521120/England-team-arrive-Chantilly-France-ahead-Euro-2016-tournament>

## **BBC**

Reports that the funeral of award-winning TV sitcom writer Carla Lane will be held at Liverpool Anglican Cathedral. The service for *The Liver Birds* and *Bread* creator will take place on 9 June.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-merseyside-36460006>

## **Tel/Mail**

Reports that a team of experts has begun restoring the ancient tomb in Jerusalem where Christians believe Jesus was buried. The renovation in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre aims to reinforce and conserve the structure. The work will focus on the Edicule, the ancient chamber housing Jesus's tomb which stands above the

spot where Jesus's body was anointed, wrapped in cloth and buried. The last restoration work to take place there was in 1810 after a fire.

[http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/06/06/christians-  
renovate-christs-tomb-in-jerusalem-together-in-sign-o/  
http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/ap/article-3627882/  
Experts-begin-renovations-Jesus-tomb-200-years.html](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/06/06/christians-renovate-christs-tomb-in-jerusalem-together-in-sign-o/)

### **Exp**

Reports that the most ancient church in the world, on a site where the three wise men are said to have stayed after the birth of Jesus, has been blown up by a suicide bomb. Five people were killed when a suicide bomber struck at a checkpoint next to St Mary church in Hah, Tur Abdin, in south east Turkey. The church, also known as Idto d'Yoldath-Aloho, near the Syrian border, is considered the heartland of Syrian Orthodox Christianity.

[http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/676521/World-s-  
oldest-church-three-wise-men-suicide-bomber-five-  
killed](http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/676521/World-s-oldest-church-three-wise-men-suicide-bomber-five-killed)

### **Comment**

**Guardian:** Would mandatory reporting help stop child abuse? Article notes that the proposal to introduce mandatory reporting in the victims of crime bill has divided opinion and says an objective discussion is needed.

[http://www.theguardian.com/social-care-network/2016/  
jun/06/mandatory-reporting-social-work-child-abuse](http://www.theguardian.com/social-care-network/2016/jun/06/mandatory-reporting-social-work-child-abuse)

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