



Bishop: You can't destroy life to get back at rapists

A Catholic Bishop has claimed that women who have abortions after being raped were likely doing so to get back at their rapist.

Independent.ie - The Bishop of Elphin Kevin Doran liken the termination of a foetus to that of killing a terminally ill patient, adding that “to kill another human being is always sinful”.

“The child is still a human being, you don’t destroy a life in order to get back at the mother’s rapist,” he said.

Speaking to mark the first day of the Spring Meeting of the Irish Catholic Bishops'

Conference, Bishop Doran told Newstalk Breakfast that it was not for him to pass judgement on those women who had travelled to the UK seeking terminations.

“It is between them and God, it isn’t a matter for public debate,” he said when questioned on whether they had committed a ‘sin’.

Asked about his view on abortions in the case of fatal foetal abnormalities, he said that “to suggest that the life of the child should be terminate because it will not live is to suggest that there’s no value to that life.”

Bishop Doran was speaking in the context of the upcoming referendum on same sex marriage, which he said, if passed, would undermine other marriages in Ireland.

He's accused the government of trying to pull the wool over people's eyes, saying that the term “marriage equality” was misleading.

‘The legislation that the Government is introducing seems primarily focused about making it possible for people in various different relationships to have children.’

Bishop Doran said that the Church was “not interested in judging the emotional bond or care

people have for each other” but that, when it came to marriage and children, the discussion was about “two relationships, one of which, by its very definition, is about the rising of children, while the other is not,” he said.

When it was put to him that some gay people in Ireland already have children, Bishop Doran said: "They may have children, but you see this is the point, people who have children are not necessarily parents.

The Bishop of Elphin also expressed his belief that "the jury's out" on whether people are born gay, although he acknowledged he is was not an expert.

Bishop says gay couples with children are not parents

www.thejournal.ie/kevin-doran-gay-parents-1981026-Mar2015?utm_source=twitter_self

St Ann's Community Café Offers New Ways to Engage With Church

A Dublin city centre church is opening its doors to one and all and inviting them in for coffee. St Ann's Church on Dawson Street has opened a community café in which they will offer free tea and coffee and a friendly face every Thursday from 11.00 am until 2.00 pm.

The church (which is open every weekday) is also offering visitors to its café the opportunity to listen to some wonderful music with free lunchtime recitals each Thursday in March at 1.20 pm, after the daily Eucharist which begins at 12.45 pm.



Paraic O'Toole, Canon David Gillespie, Joan Wadsworth and Fred Deane in St Ann's Community Café.

The Vicar of St Ann's, Canon David Gillespie, hopes that the new initiative will introduce people to a different side of church. "The café allows people to engage with church in a different way and shows a different side of church," he explains. "People can come here on

a Thursday and leave with a different impression – it's not just about a service, prayer and hymns."

The café is staffed by a team of volunteers from the parish and refreshments are free although anyone can leave a donation if they wish to do so. With the café, Eucharist and recitals, David adds: "We are feeding people physically, spiritually and culturally and everyone is welcome".

St Ann's is known as 'the Church in the Heart of the City with the City at its Heart' and many visitors to Dublin come in to look around the church. The café offers an opportunity to engage on a deeper level with those visitors as well as with local people and those who work in the area.

St Ann's has long been serving the needs of people in the community and for some time Mervyn Jones has been operating a cyber café offering the opportunity for the over 55s to learn internet skills.

Mervyn says that while society has, in general, moved comfortably into cyberspace there is a sector that has been left behind and he aims to equip them with online skills. Among the many

topics covered are: how to access the internet, set up an email account, browse the internet, use online banking, pay bills online and book and pay for airline tickets online. However, small group sizes mean that Mervyn can tailor his courses to suit individual needs that will enable them to get the best from their laptops, tablets or smartphones.

Courses take place in St Anns's on Mondays from 12.00 midday to 4.00 pm and on Wednesdays from 10.45 am to 3.00 pm. Contact St Ann's Parish Office for further details on (01) 6767727 or email stannschurch@eircom.net.

New painting to help St Patrick's, Cairncastle, celebrate 200 years

An original painting by local artist Rosalind Fair has been commissioned to mark the bicentenary of one of Co Antrim's oldest and most attractive rural churches.

The picturesque St Patrick's Church, Cairncastle, was built in 1815, looking out over Ballygally Bay on a site that has been a place of Christian worship for at least 800 years.

The painting includes the impressive Spanish chestnut tree which, according to local folklore,

grew from the grave of a drowned sailor washed up from the wreck of a Spanish Armada ship in 1588.



Painting of St Patrick's, Cairncastle, by local artist Rosalind Fair

Limited edition prints of the painting are now on sale at £10, and when they are all sold, the print numbers will be entered in a ballot with one lucky purchaser winning the original. This idea launches an exciting programme of events taking place throughout 2015, beginning with a St Patrick's Day Service at the church on Tuesday March 17 at 11am. This will feature the choir from Cairncastle Primary School

performing songs from their recent appearance at the Peace Proms event in the Odyssey.

Later that week there is a barn dance on Friday March 20 in Ballygally Hall at 8pm (tickets £10 per person). Then on Sunday May 10 the Most Reverend Richard Clarke, Archbishop of Armagh, will take part in a special Bicentenary Service at 11.30am in the church, followed by a celebration meal in the Halfway House Hotel.

Other events include a Murder Mystery Night on Friday May 29 in Cairncastle Presbyterian Church Hall, and a church walk from St Patrick's, Glenarm, to St Patrick's, Cairncastle, on Saturday June 20.

The Rev Roger Thompson, rector of St Patrick's with All Saints, Craigyhill, said: "It's amazing how St Patrick's has been a witness to God's love in this community over so many generations, and we are delighted to be able to celebrate our 200th birthday this year. We hope lots of friends old and new will come and join in our special events!"

For further info contact Roger on 28583220 or email rqtfti@btinternet.com

Tributes to churchman and former Ulster Unionist Party leader James Molyneaux

James Molyneaux's political career spanned more than three decades. He joined the party in 1946 and went on to become one of its longest-serving leaders from 1979 to 1995.

At the end of World War Two, he was among the first British troops to enter the newly liberated Belsen concentration camp in Germany.

He was knighted in 1996 and was granted a life peerage in the 1997 Birthday Honours list, becoming Lord Molyneaux of Killead.

Ulster Unionist Party leader Mike Nesbitt said: "He brought a stability to the unionist party at a time when it was much needed.

The Rt Revd Alan Abernethy, Bishop of Connor said 'James Molyneaux was a man of devotion and loyal service. As a parishioner of St Catherine's, Killead (Aldergrove) since childhood, weekly worship and choir membership were integral to his life, the hallmarks of someone who made a faithful contribution to his local as well as the wider community. He will be greatly missed.

‘I wish to express gratitude for his service to God and the Church and to acknowledge the distinctive part he played in political life here as well as in his role in the RAF during the Second World War and the liberation of Belsen. Lord Molyneaux’s family circle is in our prayers at this time.’

Guardian - James Molyneaux, former UUP leader, dies aged 94 www.theguardian.com/politics/2015/mar/09/james-molyneaux-former-uup-leader-dies-aged-94

Irish Times - Former UUP leader Jim Molyneaux dies aged 94 www.irishtimes.com/news/politics/former-uup-leader-jim-molyneaux-dies-aged-94-1.2131857

Belfast Newsletter - Molyneaux: First Minister hails a leader devoted to the Union www.newsletter.co.uk/news/regional/molyneaux-first-minister-hails-a-leader-devoted-to-the-union-1-6621608

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/regional/obituary-molyneaux-an-outspoken-and-passionate-unionist-1-6621743>

Irish Independent - Former UUP leader James Molyneaux dies www.independent.ie/irish-news/news/former-uup-leader-james-molyneaux-dies-31051613.html

St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin to Launch New Digital Facility to Help Tourists



St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, is pioneering new technology which will make it easier for tourists to engage with the cathedral and its life. The new digital facility for tourists will be launched at the end of the month.

St Patrick's is not only the National Cathedral for the Church of Ireland but also one of the busiest tourist sites in the country. Their footfall this year

is expected to approach 500,000. Many visitors want to engage with the cathedral but have no mechanism to do so.

Over the past number of months staff have partnered with a digital media company called AppyBeacons to create an app which utilizes a new technology called “I Beacons”. This new facility will allow visitors with smart phones to learn more about the cathedral during their visit. The “I Beacons” prompt smart phones to show particular content at different points throughout the building. The benefit of the system is that it requires no changes to the cathedral’s ancient structure and St Patrick’s will be the first heritage site in Ireland to use the innovative technology.

The facility will be launched by Minister of State at the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, Deputy Michael Ring, on Wednesday March 25 at 2.00 pm.

Cork Canons installed

At Evensong on Sunday, 8th March, two Canons were installed in the Chapter of Saint Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork. Canon Paul Willoughby, who was already a Chapter Canon, was installed as Canon Treasurer. He is also Prebendary of Tymothan in the National Cathedral and Collegiate Church of Saint Patrick, Dublin.

Canon Trevor Lester was installed as Prebendary of Dromdaleague and Kilnaglory (the Prebends vacated by Canon Willoughby).

Bishop Wilson marriage equality book signing in Dublin



Church of England Bishop Alan Wilson will sign copies of his new book on marriage equality at “Books Upstairs” at 17 D'Olier St, Dublin 2 at 12-30-1pm on Wednesday 11th in Dublin.

The title of the book is “More Perfect Union: Understanding same-sex marriage” (£10 stg)

The event is arranged by the new group Faith in Marriage equality, which is campaigning for a ‘yes’ vote in the marriage referendum in the Republic on May 22nd. More at-

churchnewsireland@gmail.com

March 10

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1573244446247713/>

<http://www.darton-longman-todd.co.uk/titles/2020-9780232531251-more-perfect-union>

<http://www.fime.ie/>

Living Well with Faith and Politics



A panel discussion will explore these two age-old bedfellows: faith and politics. Hosted by Susan McEwen from the Corrymeela Community, this event will bring together people with a background in political leadership and

faith leadership and analysis. A selection of questions from the audience will be discussed (think *Question Time*) and look at how faith and politics can each bring out the best in each other.

Panellists include Duncan Morrow (Ulster University & Corrymeela) and Liam Clarke (Political Editor, Belfast Telegraph).

The venue is Duncairn Centre for Culture and Arts. Thursday 12th March .7:00pm to 9:00pm

http://imaginebelfast.com/portfolio_page/living-well-with-faith-and-politics/

Public Seminar on Freedom of Speech and Religious Freedom

A Public Seminar on Freedom of Speech and Religious Freedom, Human Rights and Interreligious Perspectives takes place in Dublin on Thursday 12 March 2015 from 9.45 am – 1.00 p.m.

Guest Speakers include: Prof. Rosemary Byrne, Prof. Ronit Lentin, Prof. Roja Fazaeli, Shaykh Dr Muhammad Umar Al-Qadri, Ms Heather

Abrahamson, Dr Peter Admirand, Swami
Purnananda, Ms Sindead Lynch, Prof. Andrew
Pierce

Venue: G16, Irish School of Ecumenics–Loyola
Inst. Building, main TCD campus

Organised by the Irish School of Ecumenics and
the Centre for Post–Conflict Justice (TCD),
Carlow College (Carlow), the Priory Institute
(Tallaght) and Dublin City Interfaith Forum.

www.tcd.ie/ise

RSVP to ecumsec@tcd.ie by Friday 6 March
2015

Events in Clogher

Thursday 12th March – **Lenten Talks: Meeting
God in Hymns** in the Cassandra Hand Centre,
Clones at 8.00pm. Theme: ‘When I survey the
wondrous cross’. Speaker: The Very Revd
Raymond Ferguson, Aghadrumsee.

Monday 16th March – **Ardess Historical
Society meeting** at 8.00pm in Ardess Parish
Centre. History and illustration by Canon David
Crooks on 'The Cathedrals of Ireland'. £2
admission for non members. Refreshments
served.

Thursday 19th March – **Lenten Talks: Meeting God in Hymns** in the Cassandra Hand Centre, Clones at 8.00pm. Theme: ‘Here I am Lord, is it I Lord’. Speaker: Canon David Skuce, Maguiresbridge.

Friday 20th March – **Institution** of the Revd Dr Ian Ellis in Rossorry Parish Church at 7.30pm. Preacher: The Rt Revd Lord Robin Eames, Former Archbishop of Armagh.

‘Crossing Thresholds’ – history of women’s ministry in Wales

From the first deaconess in 1884 to the vote enabling women to be ordained as bishops – the many thresholds crossed by women in ministry in the Church in Wales are celebrated in a new book launched today (March 6).

“Crossing Thresholds” is a bilingual book published by the Church in Wales. It features a series of contributions brought together by a group of lay and ordained women, known as the St Deiniol’s group, to mark the significant threshold passed in Wales in 2014 allowing women to be ordained as bishops. The foreword is by the Archbishop of Wales, Dr Barry Morgan.

The book was launched by Dr Gill Todd, a member of the group from the Diocese of Swansea and Brecon, at Gladstone's Library

She said, "Our hope is that this book will inspire and encourage a future generation of women in ministry in Wales to step forward, realise their potential and offer their gifts to the Church. Our fond hope is that someone might be so inspired as to want to write the full history of the women whose lives and ministry are reflected here."

The Archbishop said, "Crossing the thresholds of ministry has been a long and arduous journey during which a generation of women has had to endure inequality and prejudice against them as they served first as deacons, then priests, before finally breaking the stained glass ceiling to be allowed to be ordained as bishops.

"They are the ground-breakers and ground-breakers are the people who throughout history are the ones who have built our Church and formed our faith."

Crossing Thresholds tells the story of women's ministry from the first Deaconess in 1884 to Church Army sisters in 1882, to licensed Readers in the early 1970s, to Priests in 1996 and to Bishops in 2013. There is also an account

of the appointment of the first woman to be appointed to a Provincial officer's post. The Revd Canon Enid Morgan writes about serving as Director of Mission in the mid-90s.

The book also charts, through first-hand experience, the struggle faced by women as they campaigned to be ordained firstly as priests and then as bishops and the effect on them when both Bills failed the first time they were brought to the Church's Governing Body. It ends with a report of a conference in September 2014, called Crossing The Threshold, held to mark the new Women Bishops' legislation and which was attended by two women bishops from the USA

Copies of Crossing Thresholds will be available from the Churches Together Bookshop, Cardiff, telephone 029 2022 7736 or email admin@ctbooks.org.uk

Prince Charles gives money to children of 21 Coptic martyrs

Prince Charles has donated money to the families of the Coptic martyrs of Libya.

The Prince of Wales was responding to the “**When Left Behind**” appeal launched by British Coptic Bishop Angaelos to help the children of the 21 men, 20 of them Egyptian Christians, the other believed to be a Ghanaian.



Relatives of the murdered men. Prince Charles has given an unspecified amount to help their children

The prince also wrote personal letters of condolence to Coptic Pope Tawadros II and Bishop Angaelos, who is General Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Church in Britain, following the murder of the men.

The amount the prince donated to the men’s families has not been specified. Last year he contributed to Aid to the Church in Need’s

campaign to help Iraqi and Syrian Christians. In December 2013 the Prince of Wales visited the Coptic Orthodox Church Centre in Stevenage.

The Most Revd Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, also offered his condolences to Bishop Angaelos during a visit to the Coptic Orthodox Church Centre last month, and endorsed the appeal with a video message. The full video appeal [can be seen here](#).

Bishop Angaelos launched the “When Left Behind” appeal at a memorial service in London last month, where he spoke of the immense courage, strength and dignity shown by those who lost their lives in Libya, saying: “As we mourn with the families of those who died we also rejoice in the faithful conviction, strength, dignity and bravery of these men; these fathers, brothers, uncles and sons who will never be forgotten.”

Francis marks 50th anniversary of first papal vernacular Mass

Pope Francis has appealed for Catholics to increase their “love for the house of God” as he marked the 50th anniversary of the first papal Mass in the vernacular.

Celebrating Mass in Ognissanti (All Saints) church in Rome, where Blessed Pope Paul VI celebrated his first public Mass in Italian, rather than Latin, he said: “The Church is calling us to have and to promote an authentic liturgical life, so that there may be harmony between what the liturgy celebrates, and what we live in our daily existence.”



Pope Francis preaches during Mass at Ognissanti parish in Rome

According to **Vatican Radio**, he described the liturgy as “the privileged place to hear the voice of the Lord, who guides us on the path of righteousness and Christian perfection”.

He urged the congregation to rediscover the sacrament of Confession, which “makes us go

from the darkness of sin to the light of grace and friendship with Jesus”.

We must never forget, he said, “the great strength that this sacrament has for the Christian life: it makes us grow in union with God, makes us regain lost joy and experience the consolation of knowing we are personally welcomed by the merciful embrace of the Father.”

Pope Francis said that, “in a certain sense”, Blessed Paul VI had “inaugurated the liturgical reform” with the celebration of Mass “in the language of the people”.

Pope Francis said he hoped that the anniversary would revive in everyone a great “love for the house of God” – a reference to the Gospel reading of the cleansing of the Temple (Jn 2:13-25).

Paul VI celebrated the historic Mass at Ognissanti on March 7 1965, the first Sunday of Lent.

He said: “As you witnessed this morning, the spoken language has officially entered the liturgy in all parishes and churches. Across the world this date marks the first time a new way of praying, of celebrating Holy Mass has been

inaugurated. It's a great event, one that will be remembered as a new commitment in the great dialogue between God and man."

The Mass followed the publication of **Sacrosanctum Concilium**, the Second Vatican Council document authorising the use of the vernacular in Mass.

Elsewhere the change had taken place earlier. In the United States vernacular Masses were celebrated in November 1964.

Media digest

Last-minute Sinn Fein U-turn as party blocks welfare reform - Belfast Newsletter

www.newsletter.co.uk/news/regional/last-minute-sinn-fein-u-turn-as-party-blocks-welfare-reform-1-6621877

Belfast Telegraph

Fury at Orange Order chief's call for mass parades protest

www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/fury-at-orange-order-chiefs-call-for-mass-parades-protest-31050470.html

Getting behind the stereotypes: South of the border the overwhelming image of the Ulster Prod is one of bewilderment

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/debateni/blogs/getting-behind-the-stereotypes-south-of-the-border-the-overwhelming-image-of-the-ulster-prod-is-one-of-bewilderment-31038289.html>

Premier Christianity Church is failing gay Christians - Steve Chalke

www.premierchristianity.com/Past-Issues/2015/March-2015/Is-the-Church-failing-gay-Christians

Telegraph

How Syria's Christians stopped turning the other cheek to Isil

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/syria/11442355/How-Syrias-Christians-stopped-turning-the-other-cheek.html>

Mail/BBC/ITV

Reports about the installation of Libby Lane as the first woman bishop in the Church of England - on International Women's Day -

following her consecration in January. Bishop Libby formally began her ministry and was presented with her pastoral staff and welcomed by civic and faith communities from across the Diocese of Chester during the ceremony in Chester Cathedral.

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-2984653/First-woman-bishop-begins-ministry.html?](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-2984653/First-woman-bishop-begins-ministry.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

[ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-2984653/First-woman-bishop-begins-ministry.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

churchnewsireland@gmail.com

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-31770744>
<http://www.itv.com/news/update/2015-03-08/coes-first-woman-bishop-formally-begins-her-ministry/>

BBC

A further 500 free schools would be opened in England in the next five years under a Conservative Government, David Cameron is to pledge, it is reported.

It is said that he will commit to creating an extra 270,000 places in free schools, if re-elected, by 2020. Among the new free schools to be announced are Swindon Church of England Secondary School and Bishop Chavasse School, Tonbridge, Kent.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-31791485>

Sun/Mail/Mirror

Reports about how the sister of a soldier killed in Afghanistan has married the colleague who tried to save him. Private Liam Fisher, of the 3rd Battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment dragged dying Gregg Stone into a ditch and lay over him as they came under fire during a mission to rescue a kidnapped policeman. Gregg, 20, died in the attack in Afghanistan in 2012 but his sister Rosie-Ann went on to marry Liam during a service at York

Minster. The couple met at Gregg's inquest in 2013. The couple were granted a special marriage licence by the Archbishop of York after he heard about their story.

<http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/6361337/War-heros-sister-marries-pal-who-tried-to-rescue-him.html>

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/real-life-stories/bride-marries-soldier-hero-who-5295049>

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2984958/Sister-dead-Afghan-war-hero-ties-knot-soldier-turned-human-shield-try-save-life.html?](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2984958/Sister-dead-Afghan-war-hero-ties-knot-soldier-turned-human-shield-try-save-life.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

[ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2984958/Sister-dead-Afghan-war-hero-ties-knot-soldier-turned-human-shield-try-save-life.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

Times

Report on how in the ancient churches of northern Syria, thousands are making arrangements to leave the country for good.

Christians are caught in the crossfire between Isis and an alliance of Kurds, the Syrian Army, Sunni tribes and local militias. In the past two weeks Isis militants have been rampaging through Christian villages, defacing churches and kidnapping men, women and children.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/world/middleeast/article4376380.ece>

Sun

Report about how a First World War soldier Frank Viner had his life saved by his Bible.

The 1,000 page book was in his breast pocket when a shell landed in his trench in the Somme in 1916 killing three of his comrades and knocking him unconscious. His daughter Grace Cross, 81, from Leatherhead, Surrey, said the Bible had been full of shrapnel and doctors said it had saved his life.

<http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/6361413/WWI-squaddie-saved-by-bible.html>

Times

Report on remarks made yesterday by *Harry Potter* star Emma Watson on how threats to release naked photos of her had made her even more determined to lobby for women's rights. Watson, the UN goodwill ambassador for women, had received the threats after launching the He for She campaign last year encouraging men to speak out for equality in a speech at the United Nations. After her UN speech, men who contacted her voicing their support included the Archbishop of Canterbury, the newspaper reports.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/life/celebrity/article4376570.ece>

BBC

Reports on how multi coloured balloons have been released in memory of murdered Bristol

teenager Becky Watts. St Ambrose Church in the city has been kept open to allow people to sign a book of condolence. The Rev David James is quoted as saying more than 500 people have visited the church to offer words of support to her family.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-bristol-31787618>

Observer (Sunday)

Preview of reinterment ceremony for Richard III at Leicester Cathedral later this month

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/mar/08/richard-the-third-gets-ceremonial-send-off-at-last>