



Archbishop Eamon Martin of Armagh (right) and Archbishop Diarmuid Martin of Dublin pictured at the Columba Centre in Maynooth on Tuesday where they held a press conference on the Catholic Church' stance on the forthcoming same sex marriage referendum.

Archbishop Martin refuses to back Bishop Doran after interview

The Catholic Archbishop of Dublin Diarmuid Martin has refused to say whether Bishop of Elphin [Kevin Doran](#) retains his confidence in discussing same sex issues following the

interview Bishop Doran gave [Newstalk Radio](#) on Monday.

Patsy McGarry in Irish Times - The Archbishop was speaking at a hastily arranged press conference in Maynooth on Tuesday where he was joined by the President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference Archbishop [Eamon Martin](#).

Diarmuid Martin is vice-president of the Bishops' Conference.

The Catholic Bishops are currently attending their Spring meeting in Maynooth.

In a statement Archbishop Eamon Martin reaffirmed the Catholic bishops' opposition to a Yes vote in the marriage equality referendum on May 22nd next.

Asked whether Bishop Doran had his confidence following a Newstalk interview he gave on Monday, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin replied: "I won't go into that".

He continued "I believe certain types of language are inappropriate."

He described as "an unfortunate phrase," a comment by Bishop Doran in the interview that

“people who have children are not necessarily parents.”

The Archbishop continued: “I hope that people were not offended by it. We have used the term parenthood...we talk about adoptive parents, we talk about lone parents. “There are very many, many definitions. I think that we should look on that variety of situations in a way that is more positive. We shouldn’t use phrases that may offend people.”

When it was put to him that Bishop Doran had been fronting the Catholic bishops stance on the marriage equality referendum, the Archbishop of Dublin said the position was being fronted “by the President and Vice President of the Conference. That is why we are here today.”

Archbishop Eamon Martin said “I believe there are many different kinds of parenthood and indeed there are many gay people who are parents.”

He also said “Bishop Kevin Doran told me himself last night...that he regrets any hurt that his words may have caused to anyone either by what he said or how they were represented.”

More at -

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/martin-refuses-to-back-bishop-doran-after-interview-1.2133614>

Parish level concern about bishops' opposition to equality



***Fr Brendan Hoban of the Association of Catholic Priests.
“Haranguing them into voting No in the referendum, regardless
of the substance of the arguments . . . will have the effect of
driving more and more of them out of the church.***

Gay people remain fair game among those “issues” deemed worthy of struggles with conscience by our churches. Other faiths, too. So Anglicans worldwide tear themselves asunder, in conscience, over gay clergy, while the [Church of Ireland](#) sits on the fence over the

marriage equality referendum as its house of bishops cannot agree to do otherwise.

Patsy McGarry in Irish Times - That church is divided on gay clergy to the point of farce. At a contentious general synod debate on the issue in 2012, a woman priest from a rural parish wondered how her congregation would cope with seeing a gay minister. She seemed to forget that not so long ago, similar concerns were expressed about congregations being faced with a woman priest.

Where the [Catholic Church](#) is concerned, there is significant disquiet among clergy at parish level about how its opposition to the referendum will affect gay people in their congregations – and on the church itself.

In his weekly *Western People* column last month, Fr [Brendan Hoban](#), a parish priest at [Moygownagh](#), Co [Mayo](#), and a founder of the Association of Catholic Priests, was clear.

“In every Catholic congregation, for instance, there are gay people and straight people who have gay members of their family and straight people who have gay friends. And haranguing them into voting No in the referendum, regardless of the substance of the arguments . . .

will have the effect of driving more and more of them out of the church.

“Individually or collectively has that triumvirate – the bishops, Iona and the hardline fundamentalists – any idea of the damage they’re doing to the church they profess to serve with such devotion? A positive result for ‘Catholic’ forces (the defeat of the referendum) could do huge damage to the Irish Catholic Church.”

In this newspaper yesterday, Augustinian priest Fr Iggy O’Donovan argued for a Yes vote in the referendum on the grounds that “respect for the freedom of others who differ from us is part and parcel of the faith we profess”.

Also yesterday, in Maynooth, archbishops Eamon Martin and Diarmuid Martin outlined the bishops’ opposition to a Yes vote and called on people to reflect on the consequences of such a vote.

That is their right, but, while few would doubt either man’s compassion in addressing the distress of gay people, it is difficult not to wonder when, finally, that compassion will be free to embrace fully a group so consistently beleaguered and marginalised by the churches.

Belfast Telegraph - Mass goers in Donegal walk out after priest criticises GAA star for backing 'Yes' on same sex marriage

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/republic-of-ireland/mass-goers-in-donegal-walk-out-after-priest-criticises-gaa-star-for-backing-yes-on-same-sex-marriage-31057110.html>

James Molyneux: Singing in choir was one of his joys of life

Never mind his long and chequered career in politics and as a wartime RAF serviceman, Lord Jim Molyneux was also known for his choral singing.

Eddie McIlwaine in Belfast Telegraph - He was devoted to St Catherine's Parish Church in his home parish of Crumlin, where he was baptised and sang in the choir for 80 incredible years. In fact, Lord Molyneux ended up as the only man in the choir box on a Sunday.

Lena Martin, a choir member for 70 years, said: "Jim had a lovely tenor voice and I enjoyed listening to him when we were singing Dear Lord and Father of Mankind, his favourite hymn. He joined the choir when he was 10-years-old, was

confirmed there and was a member of the select vestry."



Former MP and leader of the Ulster Unionist Party Lord James Molyneaux pictured on his 90th birthday singing in choir at his church in Aldegrove

Lord Molyneaux was much loved by the parishioners of St Catherine's and sister church, Gartree, who presented him with an ornate choir chair to show their appreciation. It will now remain as a memorial to him.

Even when he was at Westminster and, later, at the House of Lords, he always made a point of coming home at the weekend to worship in St Catherine's.

"Being home helped me to relax after the stress of the political scene," the politician once told me.

He was an incredible storyteller, as I discovered sitting in his home, sipping tea. He told me about meetings with political figures - like Enoch Powell and even the Queen, who always singled him out for a chat at state functions - so long as I agreed not to put them in print.

Quietly spoken, wise and modest, he didn't want to be seen name-dropping.

On a lighter note, he told me the story of his noisy baptism, when he cried en route to, during and after, to his parents' embarrassment. Only later did they discover he was being jabbed by an open safety pin.

He told me about his wartime experience in the RAF, as one of the first British servicemen to enter Belsen concentration camp. "I witnessed terrible things which have stayed with me, but which I never talk about," he said.

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/james-molyneaux-singing-in-choir-was-one-of-his-joys-of-life>

James Molyneaux, former UUP leader, dies aged 94 -
The Guardian

www.theguardian.com/politics/2015/mar/09/james-molyneaux-former-uup-leader-dies-aged-94

Lord Molyneaux: Tributes to real 'gentleman' of Ulster politics

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/lord-molyneaux-tributes-to-real-gentleman-of-ulster-politics-1-6622973>

Former UUP leader Jim Molyneaux dies aged 94

www.irishtimes.com/news/politics/former-uup-leader-jim-molyneaux-dies-aged-94-1.2131857

Neighbouring Catholic parish presents Communion Cup to St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast

A beautiful Irish silver Communion Cup has been presented to St Anne's Cathedral and the Church of Ireland by St Patrick's Roman Catholic Parish, Donegall Street.

St Patrick's is marking its bicentenary this year. For many years it was the Pro-cathedral for Down and Connor diocese.



Rev Canon Denise Acheson, Dean's Vicar at Belfast Cathedral, and the Very Rev Michael Sheehan, Administrator of St Patrick's Parish.

Following a lecture given by Dr Eamon Phoenix in Belfast City Hall on Monday March 9, the Rev Canon Denise Acheson, Dean's Vicar at St Anne's, was presented with the Communion Cup by the Very Rev Michael Sheehan, Administrator of St Patrick's Parish.

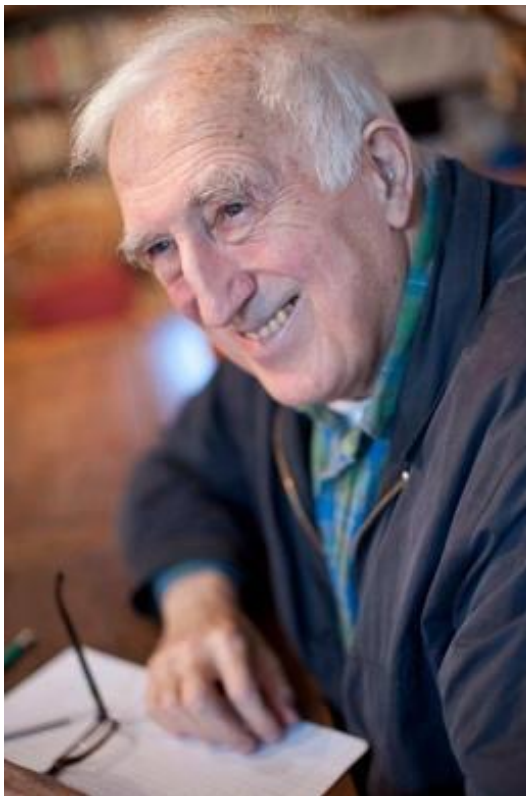
The presentation was made in recognition of the financial support given by St Anne's towards the building of the first Church of St Patrick in Donegall Street 200 years ago. The cup is engraved 'In Memory of Fred Fleming.'

Canon Denise said: "The history of the Communion Cup is uncertain but we believe that it was presented to St Patrick's by St Anne's at some time in the past. I would like to think that St Anne's will use the cup on future occasions."

The Communion Cup was presented in a box crafted especially for the occasion.

Archbishop of Canterbury welcomes Templeton award for Jean Vanier

Archbishop Justin Welby has welcomed the announcement that Jean Vanier, the founder of the L'Arche Communities, has won the 2015 Templeton Prize. The Archbishop said: "The astonishing life and work of Jean Vanier makes him a most worthy recipient of the Templeton Prize."



Jean Vanier, the founder of the L'Arche Communities

“Every time one meets Jean, one has a sense of new horizons opening up, of a new vision opening before one’s eyes of what it is to be human and of what it is to be in a community.

“The L’Arche Communities that Jean Vanier founded some 50 years ago, where people with and without learning disabilities share life together, turn society’s assumptions about the

strong and the weak upside down. Those the world considers 'weak', through their disabilities, are those who bring hope and strength lived out in community. Those who are 'strong' discover they need the 'weak'. This is nothing less than the Kingdom of Heaven come to earth, as Jesus prayed it would.

"I give thanks that the Spirit of God is using Jean Vanier's life and ministry so powerfully to challenge those inside and outside the church to think about how they relate to those around them."

Anglican Communion women advocate at UN for gender equality

A delegation of 19 Anglican Communion women is in New York this week to call for strong action to remove blocks to gender equality.

The women, from 17 Communion provinces, are attending events associated with the 59th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women which this year is focussing on a review of the declaration from the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing

20 years ago. It is also looking at developing a new platform of action for the future.



The Anglican Communion delegation is taking part in a programme of UN and parallel events organised in the CSW59 forum for non-governmental organisations under the call, “Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step It Up for Gender Equality.”

Many of the women will visit their permanent country missions at the UN to advocate for the lifting of barriers to women’s active participation in all spheres of public and private life as equal decision-making partners, the core aim of the Beijing Platform for Action.

The women can speak to progress that has been made to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in their own contexts – and where there still are gaps.

“Anglican women are present in urban and rural communities all over the world”, said Ann Skamp, convener for the International Anglican Women’s Network (IAWN) who is accompanying the delegation. “They know what is happening at grassroots and bring valuable local knowledge and insights to the table. They also bring the values of their faith and bright hope for the future.

“Whilst there has been considerable progress in many areas, we are now encouraging our governments to accelerate opportunities for achieving gender equality in the post-2015 development agenda,” she said.

Delegation members noted that challenges such as poverty, climate injustice, violence and discrimination, and inadequate resources for education and healthcare had a disproportionate impact on women and girls.

“The number one challenge for women and girls in Swaziland is poverty”, said Revd Dalcy

Dlamini, school and university chaplain in the Diocese of Swaziland in the Anglican Church of Southern Africa. “I mean poverty in all its senses – physical, educational and so on. I want to tell people about our culture in Swaziland and how our churches have tried to support the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.”

CSW59 also is an opportunity for the members of the delegation to equip themselves for further ministry in their own contexts.

“I hope to use what I learn to help my Church and even my country”, said trainer of teachers Reem El Far from Jordan, co-ordinator of the Ladies’ Committee of the Episcopal Church of Jerusalem & the Middle East. “When I return home I plan to organise intergenerational activities to help engage our younger people in the issues being discussed here.”

The Anglican Communion delegates are from Australia; Hong Kong; Jordan (Jerusalem & the Middle East); Malawi (Central Africa); Myanmar; Papua New Guinea; Aotearoa, New Zealand & Polynesia; Brazil; the Scottish Episcopal Church; Japan; the Church of Ceylon; Swaziland and South Africa; The Episcopal Church; Canada; Ghana (West Africa) and England.

Number of female employees at the Vatican is growing



Vatican employees take part in a rosary procession in the Vatican gardens

The number of women working at the Vatican has risen sharply in recent years.

According to **Vatican Radio**, the number of female employees at the Vatican City State has nearly doubled over the past decade, raising the percentage from 13 per cent to 19 per cent.

In the offices of the Holy See, meanwhile, the number of women in the workforce has grown by more than 100 in four years, although the

percentage of female employees has not changed very much.

There are 391 women in the workforce of the Holy See compared to 288 in 2010. The proportion has risen from 17 per cent to 18 per cent.

The Holy See governs the universal Church and includes the Roman Curia and Vatican Radio. The Vatican City State encompasses the Vatican Museums and the Vatican Post Office as well as the government of the city state.

Syria crisis - human cost of four years fighting

As the Syria conflict enters its fifth year this weekend, the largest humanitarian crisis since World War II continues to escalate. The need for the international community to redouble its efforts to bring about a political solution could not be greater, says Christian Aid.

Over 200,000 people have been killed inside Syria and half of the population has been forced to leave their homes. More than seven and a half million people are internally displaced and a

further four million have fled to neighbouring countries.

It is estimated that more than 12 million people inside Syria, and millions more refugees across Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq and Jordan are now in need of humanitarian assistance as a result of the conflict. The UN has described it as 'the worst humanitarian crisis of our time'.

Frances Guy, Head of Middle East at Christian Aid said, "It's hard to ignore the relentless turmoil of the Middle East these days. But whilst all the UK headlines are dominated by the terror of the so-called Islamic State there is a danger we forget the millions of Syrians, Iraqis and Palestinians, who have been forced to flee their homes.

"Families are living in cramped and overcrowded conditions in countries struggling to cope with the overwhelming number of refugees. Inside Syria itself, millions of people have been displaced from their homes, trying to seek sanctuary in safer parts of the country.

"And then there are those who can't escape, trapped in besieged areas of Syria, men, women and children who are often used as pawns by one side or another in the fighting.

“In Yarmouk, a district of Damascus that was previously home to Syria’s largest Palestinian refugee community, thousands of Palestinians are still under siege, with little or no access to food or water dozens have died of starvation. Siege is a medieval form of warfare which deprives people of humanity and should be roundly condemned.”

Christian Aid’s partners in Lebanon, Iraq and Syria are working tirelessly to provide vital assistance to thousands of displaced families by distributing food, fuel for cooking, hygiene and sanitation kits, water containers, cash assistance and psychosocial support.

In Lebanon, Association Najdeh, who already work with Palestinian refugees inside the country are providing fuel for cooking and psychosocial support. Christian Aid partner Mouvement Social has been providing valuable psychosocial support to hundreds of children.

Within Syria Christian Aid is responding through its ACT Alliance sister agency, the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), to reach people with food, bedding, water clothes, shelter, healthcare and education. To date they have reached over 2 million people in need.

Christian Aid partners are responding to the needs of some of the most vulnerable displaced communities; ASUDA has been working on a gender based violence programme for Syrian women in northern Iraq and the Lebanese Handicapped Union is providing badly needed direct services to Syrian refugees with disabilities.

Frances added. “Thanks to the generosity of the British public Christian Aid has raised more than £2 million which has enabled our partners to provide support to communities in desperate need, and we will continue to expand our work to reach the most vulnerable.”

To find out more about the Christian Aid Syria crisis appeal, or to donate, please visit the website www.christian-aid.org.uk/syira

The #withSyria coalition, of which Christian Aid is a member, has launched a global petition calling on world leaders to do more to end the suffering of the Syrian people. You can sign the petition here www.withsyria.com/

Media digest

Independent

Sinn Fein u-turn on Welfare Bill in North

'deeply disappointing' - Foreign Affairs

Minister Charlie Flanagan said Sinn Fein's u-turn on the Welfare Bill in the North is "deeply disappointing" and which he described as a setback to the Peace Process.

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/politics/charlie-flanagan-says-sinn-fein-uturn-on-welfare-bill-in-north-deeply-disappointing-31058341.html>

SF 'orchestrated' crisis in North as a distraction - Burton

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/politics/sf-orchestrated-crisis-in-north-as-a-distraction-burton-31057475.html>

BBC News

BBC Spotlight: Second 'IRA rape victim' speaks out

A second alleged sex abuse victim who claims to have been raped by a member of the IRA speaks out to criticise how republicans dealt with his case.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-31811687>

Fianna Fáil calls for independent IRA abuse inquiry

www.irishtimes.com/news/politics/oireachtas/fianna-fail-calls-for-independent-ira-abuse-inquiry-1.2135734?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter

Irish Times/Independent

How I was raped by an IRA man and faced a kangaroo court

Paudie McGahon (40) has decided to speak out about his alleged rape and claims Sinn Féin helped cover it up

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

Gerry Adams believes Paudie McGahon was raped - Sinn Féin leader says he 'does not know' if Mr McGahon was brought before a kangaroo court

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/politics/gerry-adams-believes-paudie-mcgahon-was-raped-1.2134866>

RTÉ News

Sinn Féin: IRA rape accused should give himself up

www.rte.ie/news/2015/0311/686139-sinn-fein-ira-rape-accused-should-give-himself-up

Former Sinn Féin TD Arthur Morgan has released a letter he says he sent in 2009 to Louth man Paudie McGahon, who told BBC Spotlight he was raped by an IRA man.

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/politics/arthur-morgan-releases-letter-he-wrote-to-paudie-mcgahon-1.2134928>

Irish News

IRA Offered To 'Put A Bullet' In Rape Accused

<http://www.irishnews.com/news/ira-offered-to-put-a-bullet-in-rape-accused-1418610>

Herald

Mrs Brown Boys star Rory: 'I got death threats over hosting Israeli event'

<http://www.herald.ie/news/mrs-brown-boys-star-rory-i-got-death-threats-over-hosting-israeli-event-31053565.html>

BBC

Item on a commemoration ceremony at the Memorial Gates in London attended by 200 military personnel and guests as part of events to remember thousands of Indian soldiers who fought alongside the British in a key battle in France in World War One. It states Dr Richard Chartres, Bishop of London, was among those who spoke before a Gurkha bugler played the Last Post and wreaths were laid.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-31811278>

Mail/Tel

Reports on the official naming and launching of P&O Cruises' new ship Britannia. They state the Bishop of Southampton, Jonathan Frost, blessed the ship, saying prayers before the Queen officially named the vessel.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-2988072/Queen-names-cruise-ship-Britannia.html#ixzz3U3RfcpLC>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/cruises/cruise-news/11461562/Britannia-cruise-ship-named-by-the-Queen-in-lavish-ceremony.html>

Mail

Item by columnist mentioning that French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo has won an award as 'Islamaphobe of the Year', from the Wembley-based Islamic Human Rights Commission. It states the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, is among the Commission's patrons.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-2989005/SARAH-VINE-Teaching-11-year-olds-rape-form-child-abuse.html#ixzz3U3Mq0GaC>

Mail

Article on findings from the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) following a year long review of 'payday lenders' and high-cost credit providers, saying some could be forced to leave the market

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because they are not treating borrowers properly. It states the short-term lenders have been criticised by lawmakers and the Church of England for harming customers on low salaries.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/reuters/article-2987652/UK-watchdog-mulls-action-against-lenders-short-term-loans.html#ixzz3U3W8NSrj>

Mail

Report on the case of church treasurer from St Wilfrid's Church's, Newcastle, who stole £20,000 from a renovation pot to fund his gambling habit and has received an 8 month suspended sentence. It states Mark Conway-Wilcox admitted four counts of theft and failing to pay bills leaving the church uninsured. In addition to the suspended sentence he was ordered to complete 200 hours of unpaid work and to pay £5,000 compensation to St Wilfrid's. Martin Sheppard, of the Diocese of Newcastle is quoted.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2987906/Trusted-church-treasurer-stole-20-000-renovation-fund-spend-gambling-habit.html#ixzz3U3SvP9XR>

BBC

Report that the Northumberland Church of England Academy is launching a childminding agency to help tackle the problem of new pupils being unable to speak properly or not being

toilet-trained. The school will help match childminders and babies across the area. Children will then join the academy, where they can stay until aged 19. The academy is believed to be the second in the country, after St Bede Academy in Bolton, to offer the [Ofsted-approved government scheme](#).

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-tyne-31806000>

BBC

Report that new bells, made from the recycled metal from an old peal, have been fitted into a church tower in Gloucestershire. It states St Andrew's and St Bartholomew's in Churchdown raised more than £80,000 to replace five of its six historic bells, damaged by centuries of ringing. The new peal of bells is due to be rung for the first time on Friday.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-gloucestershire-31795069>

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