



Freedom of the City: Dublin rolls out the red carpet for Brother Kevin Crowley

Lord Mayor Christy conferred the Freedom of Dublin on soccer legend John Giles and homelessness campaigner Brother Kevin Crowley on Feb 28..

The ceremony took place at the Round Room at the Mansion House.

A statement from the Council said the Capuchin Day Centre CEO and Ireland player-turned-pundit and were being honoured (respectively) “in recognition of their work in the fields of social justice and sport”.

“I have known Brother Kevin for many years and have always been inspired by the invaluable work that he carries out each and every day at the Capuchin Centre in the city,” Burke said in the statement.

“John has been a true leader in his sporting life and has achieved greatness through his skill both as a player and as a manager. By giving this award the city is acknowledging their unique contribution.”

The two become the 79th and 80th people to receive the honour. Previous recipients include Nelson Mandela, Aung San Suu Kyi, and the members of U2. Brian O’ Driscoll and Fr. Peter McVerry received the award last year.

More at -

www.thejournal.ie/giles-crowley-freedom-1965788-Feb2015?utm_source=twitter_self

Methodist East Belfast Mission wins major housing award



Staff at Hosford House, a project of the East Belfast Methodist Mission (EBM), won the Best Housing Story 2014 Award at a Chartered Institute of Housing ceremony held in Belfast City Hall.

The Best Housing Story Award celebrates an individual or organisation who has made a real difference to the life of a tenant or a community by their contribution to improve housing needs.

The staff at Hosford won the award for their work with the NI Street League. The Street

League was developed by EBM as a way to help the most marginalised in society develop the skills to enable them to reintegrate and break the cycle of homelessness. The NI Street League works with local hostels and other projects throughout the country to reach around 40-60 young men on a weekly basis.

Street League partners the 'Homeless World Cup' which provides a tournament each year in a different country. Players from the league are selected every year to go to the world cup to represent their country.

Online Lantern slides connect C of I with Celtic past and world mission in 1930's

A further set of lantern slides depicting the early Irish church and aspects of mission in the wider world is the focus for March's Archive of the Month online from the RCB Library. The collection was recently recovered from St Patrick's Deanery in Dublin.

The slides in this collection were originally used during the Church of Ireland's commemoration

of the 1500th anniversary of St Patrick's coming to Ireland, in 1932 (<http://ireland.anglican.org/about/165>) to accompany three 'lantern lectures' as part of the official commemoration programme.

These lectures (prepared by the Revd W. E. Vandaleur, Warden of the Divinity Hostel, and Mr G.A. Ruth of the Irish Guild of the Church) aimed to visually connect members of the Church with its Celtic past and origins in the early Irish Church, but also to remind audiences of the spirit in which St Patrick had come to Ireland in the 5th century, to celebrate the 'missionary tradition of the Irish Church', thus promoting links with the wider world through mission in the early 20th century. In various promotional literature produced for the commemorative year, it was advertised that interested parishes and church groups could hire one or all three of the relevant slide sets, at a cost 10s.6d each, which were posted out free, together with the typed copy of each lecture.

The materials uncovered in St Patrick's Deanery appear to be some of the boxed slide sets, together with the relevant texts of each of the three lectures themselves, as they were distributed for use in parishes around the country. Just like a modern day Powerpoint, churchnewsireland@gmail.com

numbers or references in the text indicate where different slides were to be shown. Judging from the number of stamps and other distribution marks on the boxes in which they were contained (and stamps on the lecture texts themselves) the slide and lecture sets were widely posted, indicating how popular the St Patrick's series became during and presumably after the commemoration year.

For whatever reason, the complete collection ended up in St Patrick's after 1932. As the national cathedral, dedicated to the patron saint, it was probably not the most unlikely location for such a collection. From here they were transferred to the safe-keeping of the Church of Ireland record office in the RCB Library, where they have been listed and catalogued. A selection of images, together with the digitized texts of the three commemorative lectures, now available to view at this link www.ireland.anglican.org/library/archive

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Desmond Hunter to give Armagh Cathedral organ recital

The March organ recital in St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral, Armagh will be given by churchnewsireland@gmail.com

Professor Desmond Hunter on Sunday 22 March 2015 at 4.15pm.

In a career spanning over forty years, Desmond Hunter has achieved international distinction as an organ recitalist. The recipient of organ-playing awards at conservatoire, national and international levels, Desmond has given numerous solo concerts throughout Europe and in the USA and Canada. At an early stage in his career he was a concerto soloist with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra under Sir Charles Groves and was invited to give an organ recital in the Royal Festival Hall, London.

A former student of Flor Peeters at the Antwerp Conservatoire, where he was awarded the 'Premier Prix avec Grande Distinction' and the Verrept-Brouwers prize, which is a biennial award for the interpretation of the organ music of Bach, Desmond was invited to give the 'Herdenkingsconcert Flor Peeters' in Antwerp Cathedral in 2003, to celebrate the centenary of Flor Peeters's birth.

As an academic, Desmond was the first musician/musicologist in higher education in the UK to be awarded a National Teaching Fellowship. He is Emeritus Professor of Music at the University of Ulster.

He has appeared as a concerto soloist with major orchestras and has broadcast many programmes on BBC Radio 3, including a performance of Poulenc's Organ Concerto and Saint-Saëns 'Organ' Symphony with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, first broadcast performances of works by Raymond Warren and Flor Peeters, two programmes of early keyboard music on the oldest playable organ in the world from the Cathedral of Valère, Sion, Switzerland.

Desmond's repertoire is wide-ranging, and for his Armagh recital, he will play music by JS Bach, César Franck and Flor Peeters.

The Very Revd Gregory Dunstan, Dean of Armagh, said, "Over a lifetime of playing at the highest level, Desmond Hunter has achieved international recognition. His preparation for this recital has been meticulous. Outside the annual Northern Ireland International Organ Competition, it is seldom that we have the opportunity of welcoming an organist of such distinction to Armagh."

As with all the recitals in this series, admission is free, with a retiring collection towards the further endowment of the Cathedral Choir through the Archbishop's Choir Fund.

Carrickfergus venue for 101st Irish National Christian Endeavour Convention

The Convention will be held on Saturday, 19 September, in Carrickfergus Methodist Church with a Fun Day for Juniors being held in First Carrickfergus Presbyterian hall and Young People based in St Nicholas' Church of Ireland hall.

The theme will be, "One More Step", and the Speaker will be the Revd Mark Russell who, along with his wife and daughters, had lived there prior to entering the ministry.

Mark was born in Belfast in 1966. His father was soon to be ordained as a Minister in the Methodist Church and numerous house moves would soon follow both into the Republic of Ireland as well as in Northern Ireland. Educated at Methodist College Belfast, Mark would go on to find employment with the Northern Ireland Civil Service working in a number of different organisations but where most of his time was spent within the Rate Collection Agency fulfilling a number of different roles.

Love would draw him from the Methodist Church when he met Libby, his wife-to-be at the Elim Pentecostal Church, where they would worship for 15 years travelling back and forward from Carrickfergus to North Belfast each week.

Mark will tell more about his life story at the event.

Feedback from C of I commission on bishops

In June 2014, the Commission on Episcopal Ministry and Structures addressed the Down and Dromore Diocesan Synod.

The commission issued some questionnaires and the responses have now been collated, analysed and returned to us. The feedback includes questionnaires collected on the day and those subsequently returned by Synod members.

As well as Down and Dromore's responses there is a composite report summarising the feedback from all diocesan synods. Both are available for download below:

[Down and Dromore CEMS Diocesan Consultation Report](#)

<http://www.downanddromore.org/cmsfiles/moved/files/c/Down-and-Dromore-CEMS-diocesan-consultation-report.pdf>

[CEMS Composite Report](#)

<http://www.downanddromore.org/cmsfiles/moved/files/c/Overall-Report---Diocesan-consultations.pdf>

Lisburn team at opening of new staff block in Luwero school, Uganda



The front wall of the new staff accommodation being plastered.

On last Friday February 27, a team from Christ Church, Lisburn, attended the official opening of a building to accommodate staff at a primary school in Luwero, Uganda.

March 2

The parish raised more than £24,000 to build this new block for the St Apollo School, and a team including the rector, the Rev Paul Dundas, has been in Luwero helping complete the building.

This new staff accommodation block will create a more settled environment for teachers and greater stability for the school.

Working with Fields of Life, Christ Church Parish raised money to build the school, and a team travelled to Uganda in 2012 when the first two blocks were completed. The parish has continued to support the school since, through provision of books and desks for pupils, a rain water project, purchasing land for growing crops, and child sponsorship by parishioners.

The team in Luwero at present travelled out on February 18 and will return today March 2.

<http://connor.anglican.org/2015/02/27/lisburn-team-opening-new-staff-block-luwero-uganda/>

Celebrate Wales but beware of nationalism, says Archbishop

The Archbishop of Wales urged people to celebrate their nation on St David's Day without becoming intensely nationalistic.



Dr Barry Morgan said while we rejoice in our culture and identity we should beware of seeing strangers as people who don't belong, remembering we share a common humanity. He warned that recent violence across the world, as well as the immigration debate in the UK, show how nationalism can become extreme and dangerous.

In an interview for Radio Pembrokeshire broadcast yesterday morning (March 1), the Archbishop said, "On St David's Day we celebrate and give thanks to God for our nation, for our language and for our people. Whilst we rejoice in the fact that we are a nation and have a language, we must also remember that we belong to a common humanity. While nationalism is important and gives us a sense of belonging, we mustn't

become so intensely nationalistic that we exclude other people. We have seen in recent times what extreme nationalism does to people when anyone who doesn't seem to belong is excluded and indeed persecuted and executed. Although those are extreme examples, there is always the danger for any nation to see the stranger as someone who doesn't belong. We've even seen that in the immigration debate in this country recently too."

Malcolm Boyd dies at 91; priest brought prayer to the streets

The Rev. Malcolm Boyd, the Episcopal priest whose book "Are You Running With Me, Jesus?" took prayer out of church onto the city streets in a slangy vernacular not found in Sunday missals, has died. He was 91.

LA Times - Boyd died Friday under hospice care in Los Angeles from complications of pneumonia, according to Robert Williams, spokesman for the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles.

Boyd delivered riffs on life's grittier problems - the white racists afraid of integration, or teenage girls who get pregnant - with a candor that was

rarely heard from a priest leading a community at prayer.

He wrote more than two dozen books, many of them about people who did not fit the blue-sky ideal. But none of his prayers for them were as raw and urgent as those in the 1965 collection that sold half a million copies.

"'Are You Running With Me, Jesus?' is a classic of spiritual writing for its generation," said the Rev. Robert Raines, a former director of the Kirkridge Retreat Center in Bangor, Pa. "It tells about the underbelly of society, which Malcolm knew something about. His was a Christian faith lived out in bars and on the streets. His prayers came out of the realization that God is not only in church. God is in the painful situations of your life," Raines said in a 2004 interview with The Times.

"This girl got pregnant, Lord, and she isn't married," one prayer in the book begins. "There was this guy, you see, and she had a little too much to drink. It sounds so stupid, but the loneliness was real. Where were her parents in all this? It's hard to know."

Boyd's flair for drama kept him in the spotlight from his earliest years as a clergyman. In the segregated South of 1961 he was among the first white ministers to work the

voter registration drives. Later in the decade, when religious institutions were criticized as self-serving or irrelevant, he delivered his "prayer poems" from nightclub stages and at the Newport Jazz Festival with guitarist Charlie Byrd.

But he took his boldest step in 1976, when he announced that he was gay. At the time, most Christian churches condemned what they referred to as the homosexual lifestyle, which he was living.

Boyd followed his public statement with the book "Take Off the Masks," saying he wrote it because he was tired of living a lie.

One former admirer burned Boyd's books. For years afterward, he had trouble finding work at a church. "It was wilderness time," he said in a 2003 interview with the Indianapolis Star. "There was criticism, there was unemployability. I learned you have to be flexible in life."

Read more here: <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/2015/02/28/258211/malcolm-boyd-dies-at-91-priest.html#storylink=cpy>

The Pope Emeritus experiment is working

Two years ago this month shock waves ran through the world's media as Benedict XVI announced his resignation. There was much speculation concerning the reasons for his

unexpected decision and the identity of his successor, while many commentators wondered about the consequences for the Church of having “two popes”.

Catholic Herald - Within hours further details emerged: the outgoing pontiff would not revert officially to being Joseph Ratzinger or even to the appellation of Cardinal Ratzinger. He would retain the name of Benedict XVI, which he had assumed upon election to the See of Peter, and would continue to wear the white cassock worn by successive popes. His official title, from the moment on which he renounced office, on February 28, would be that of Pope Emeritus.

The title was without precedent. Popes had resigned before, of course. The most recent – the holy but ineffectual hermit Celestine V – was pope for a few months in 1294.

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/issues/february-27th-2015/the-pope-emeritus-experiment-is-working/>

Media digest

Irish Times - School managers to be briefed on junior cycle implementation plan

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/education/school-managers-to-be-briefed-on-junior-cycle-implementation-plan-1.2122357>

Irish Times

Minister says junior cycle reforms will go ahead despite protests

Minister for Education Jan O'Sullivan has declined to say whether teachers refusing to implement the junior cycle reforms will be disciplined. Speaking to journalists at the Labour conference in Killarney, Ms O'Sullivan said she was not talking about discipline. "What I am talking about is implementing a policy that is needed for the schools," she added.

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/education/minister-says-junior-cycle-reforms-will-go-ahead-despite-protests-1.2121603>

Irish Examiner

Hospital sees more than 100 children with 'acute alcohol intoxication' in three years

One of the country's largest children's hospitals says girls make up almost two thirds of minors they have treated for alcohol poisoning. Dublin's Temple Street Hospital says 114 children as young as 11 have presented at the hospital with "acute alcohol intoxication" over the past three years. The hospital says 74 of them were girls.

Dr Alf Nicholson, the Consultant Paediatrician at Temple Street, said: "I think there are two things at play here, one is that girls react less well to alcohol in large volumes because they are of smaller size." But I think there is just a general trend in Ireland today for the young girls, teenagers and post-adolescent girls to take more alcohol than before and a lot more spirits than before." <http://www.irishexaminer.com/breakingnews/ireland/hospital-sees-more-than-100-children-with-acute-alcohol-intoxication-in-three-years-664327.html>

Belfast Telegraph

Fears over a growing culture of dependency after DLA claimant count soars to 200,000

The number of people receiving disability benefits in Northern Ireland has soared to over 200,000, new figures have revealed. Latest government numbers show that there are currently 202,210 people receiving Disability Living Allowance (DLA) in the region. This, according to the Department for Social Development, has risen by 6,820 since November 2013. Of that, around 21,000 disabled children under 18 receive the weekly benefit. In a population of 1.8m, more than one in nine people in Northern Ireland are now receiving the

disability benefit. This is compared to just over one in 20 in Britain.

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/fears-over-a-growing-culture-of-dependency-after-dla-claimant-count-soars-to-200000-31028832.html>

Belfast Telegraph **Jesus being ruled out of order in Northern Ireland town halls**

Alf McCreary comments

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/opinion/columnists/alf-mccreary/jesus-being-ruled-out-of-order-in-northern-ireland-town-halls-30981718.html>

Irish Independent **How Sinn Fein machine makes €4m-plus a year**

Sinn Fein is taking in at least €4m north and south of the border, in State grants, donations and other diverse sources of income as it prepares to fight two general elections North and South over the next year. The party took in €1.6m (Stg£1.1m) in Northern Ireland in 2013, and €2.2m in the Republic of Ireland for its last declared accounts, making it one the most asset-rich parties as a general election looms. Sinn Fein also generate an estimated €200,000-a-year which is ploughed back into the party's vast constituency machine in the Republic,

funded by "donations" from the salaries of public representatives who pay themselves an average industrial wage. Across the water, American supporters raised around €327,000 (\$365,994) for Sinn Fein in the US last year

www.independent.ie/irish-news/politics/how-sinn-fein-machine-makes-4m-plus-a-year-31030795.html

Ind/Mirror/Guard

Reports that nearly 100,000 of the poorest children in the UK went hungry last year

because their parents' benefits were stopped or cut, according to a report by a coalition of churches. They state sanctions were sometimes imposed because people were late for an appointment at the Jobcentre. The report is published by the Church of Scotland, the Church in Wales, the Methodist church, the Baptist Union of Great Britain, and the United Reformed church, as well the charity Church Action on Poverty and calls for a review of the system and an immediate suspension of sanctions on claimants who are mentally ill or have dependent children.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/health-news/nearly-100000-of-britains-poorest-children-go-hungry-after-parents-benefits-are-cut-10079056.html>

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/100000-children-left-starving-result-5255846>

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/mar/02/churches-call-government-welfare-sanctions-inhumane-and-un-christian>

Tel/Times/Mail/BBC

Reports on Cardinal Vincent Nichols saying voters should test political candidates about their stances on immigration and poverty

ahead of the General Election. Speaking on The Daily Politics show on BBC One he said people had to remember immigrants came to Britain to "work hard and make a very positive contribution" and that we should keep the human person at the front of all these issues. He also said he was "dismayed" by the fact immigration is such a big issue in the General Election.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/general-election-2015/11442944/Catholic-leader-Vince-Nichols-dismayed-by-immigration-debate.html>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4369480.ece>

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2974447/Don-t-blame-immigrants-ills-society-says-Catholic-church-Nichols-voices-dismay-issue-election.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-31681285>

Tel/Mirror/Metro

Report that MPs from across Europe have warned discrimination against Christians is

being "ignored" by governments and courts, in the wake of a string of cases involving the rights of British workers to wear crosses or discuss their beliefs. It states the parliamentary arm of the Council of Europe has issued a declaration for states to recognise the principle of "reasonable accommodation" for the beliefs of traditionalist Christians on issues such as homosexuality for the first time. The first test of the new call will come this week with the opening of an employment tribunal case of a London nursery worker who claims she was dismissed for telling a lesbian colleague her beliefs on same-sex marriage. Further reports relate to the nursery worker's case.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-and-order/11440548/Discrimination-against-Christians-ignored-across-Europe-MPs.html>

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/christian-childrens-worker-sacked-telling-5255342>

<http://metro.co.uk/2015/03/01/christian-worker-who-was-sacked-after-airing-views-on-gay-marriage-will-fight-dismissal-5084577/>

Mirror/Tel

Report that a chief constable is calling on Facebook and Twitter to ban trolls for life as social media places a huge strain on police resources as officers around the country are 'inundated' with complaints about harassment

and abuse. Also mentions that the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, called for a ban on online trolls. *Telegraph* reports troll abuse on BBC's Nick Robinson.

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/top-cop-web-trolls-swamping-5255324>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/11443421/Independence-activists-abuse-Nick-Robinson-after-his-tumour-operation-is-revealed.html>

Mail

Further report that the words "Christ" and "Jesus Christ" have been placed on a list of banned abusive terms by Marks & Spencer on line ordering system.

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2974554/M-S-bans-customers-using-words-Christ-Jesus-Christ-messages-ordering-flowers-online-jihad-okay.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490

Tel/Ind/BBC/Mail

Reports that the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (Isil) on Sunday freed 19 of the 220 Assyrian Christians they took hostage in Syria last week, after a ransom was paid for their release. Osama Edward, the director of the Assyrian Network for Human Rights said an Isil religious court decided on Saturday to release the Christians in exchange for a sum of money

for each family - described by the kidnappers as jizya, or tax, paid by non-Muslims.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/islamic-state/11443872/Isil-frees-19-abducted-Christians.html>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/isis-releases-19-of-the-christians-it-kidnapped-in-syria-last-week-10079007.html>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-31685931>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/ap/article-2974592/>

Activists-say-Islamic-State-releases-19-Syrian-Christians.html?

ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490