



Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise 100 exhibition at Linen Hall Library, Belfast

Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise: The Irish Guild of the Church was founded in 1914 to promote the use of Irish in the Church of Ireland.

This exhibition marks their centenary.

Throughout the history of the Church of Ireland there have been extraordinary men and women who have been advocates for the place and role

of the Irish language in the life of the church.
Admission is free, all welcome.

'The Villain's Vicar' to speak in Belfast

An event at All Souls, Elmwood Ave, Belfast on 5th March at 8pm to which all are welcome. Rev Dave Tomlinson is an advocate of LGBT inclusion in the Church and promises to be a thought provoking and entertaining speaker.

Rev Dave Tomlinson is a controversial figure both inside and outside of church circles. Last year he found himself dubbed 'The Villain's Vicar' by the national press after taking the funeral of train robber Ronnie Biggs.

As well as being the parish priest of St Luke's in Holloway, London, Tomlinson is the author of *The Post-Evangelical and Re-enchanting Christianity* which both provoked fierce debate within the church community.

His latest book *The Bad Christian's Manifesto* is a follow-up to last year's *How to Be a Bad Christian (and a Better Human Being)*.

This event will be a cozy Cheese & Wine evening listening to Dave, followed by a Q&A session. Oh

and its a BYOB kind of event (Coffee & cheese will be provided).

There is a suggested Donation of at least £5 per person to cover costs for this event.

Concern about Church of Ireland views on 'conscience clause'

Different views have been expressed by two Church of Ireland clerics in Northern Ireland about the proposal by Paul Givan MLA of the Democratic Unionist Party's for a 'conscience clause'.

The Revd Adrian Dorrian, Chair of the Church of Ireland's 'Church and Society Commission' CASC gave his views on the conscience clause in the Church of Ireland Gazette (e-edition 3rd March, printed edition 6th March”).

The Revd Dorrian told the Gazette that “*I welcome what Mr Givan is trying to achieve*”. He added that he believed there was “*a real watershed moment before our society, based around issues of rights and reasonable accommodation for minorities – in this particular instance, the LGBT community and those Christians who hold a traditional biblical view of*

marriage and relationships". The Revd Dorrian claimed that "*conscientious objection is not the same thing as discrimination*". However, he said that "*CASC has not made a formal written response to the Mr Givan's consultation, but I have been in touch with him and will be meeting with him alongside CASC colleagues in the near future*".

A different view has been expressed by another cleric, Canon Charles Kenny, of the Church of Ireland pro-LGBT group, Changing Attitude Ireland. Canon Kenny said he "*was very surprised that the Church's 'Church and Society Commission' had not made a written to submission to the DUP*".

Canon Kenny said "*I hope that the Revd Dorrian's view is not shared by all members of the Commission or the wider membership of the Church of Ireland*". Canon Kenny added he "*was dismayed at the anti-gay motivation and tone of the DUP's conscience clause and that he and many other Christians were heartened by the nearly quarter of a million signatories of the worldwide on-line petition against it*".

Irish Church should turn attention to austerity policies - TU leader

Peter Bunting, Assistant General Secretary of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions has commented on the recent delegation from the Northern Ireland Catholic Council for Social Affairs (NICCOSA), led by the Bishop of Down and Connor, the Most Rev Noel Treanor, which met with a delegation of the DUP at Stormont last week.

In a letter to the Belfast Telegraph, Mr Bunting states - They met to give their support to proposed legislation that would sanctify discrimination against LGBT people.

Meanwhile, the Catholic Church in England and Wales issued advice to Catholic voters. In it, the bishops argued that [business](#) "should see itself at the service of society", asking: "Do your candidates support a living wage and a thriving private sector committed to fair pay and the dignity of human work?" Back at Stormont, the Assembly was pushing through the final stages of the Welfare Reform Bill. This Bill is a central plank of the Tory programme of austerity, which is designed to upend the social fabric of our society. Is this not more suitable for the concerned attention of the Catholic Church?

During our campaign of opposition to austerity, the trade unions sought

meetings with the hierarchies of the main Christian denominations. Apart from one meeting, two years ago, there has been no sustained anti-austerity campaign which could in any way be compared to the high-profile stance of the Catholic Church in England and Wales.

I would suggest to Bishop Treanor that the long-term impact of welfare reform and austerity policies on their congregation will be considerably more profound and damaging than all the 'gay cake' on this island.

Volunteer cathedral verger meets Prince Edward

Cameron McGaughey, a young volunteer verger in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, had the opportunity to chat to Prince Edward when His Royal Highness visited Belfast Royal Academy on February 26.

The Earl of Wessex was at the school to view its Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme - BRA is probably the largest school-based Award Centre in the United Kingdom, with 442 pupils participating.

Cameron met the Prince who spoke to him about his volunteer work as a verger at the

Cathedral, a commitment which is helping Cameron achieve his Award.



He said afterwards: "It is nice to see one of the Royals coming out to understand what we do for our Duke of Edinburgh's Award." Cameron, who was dressed in his Verger's robes for the Prince's visit, said he felt Prince Edward had been impressed by what he had seen at the school.

Mícheál Ó'Súilleabháin Concert to raise funds for restoration of Glandore Church

A cross community initiative to save and restore Christ Church, Glandore is culminating in a final push to raise funds.

West Cork Times - “We have been has been very successful in fulfilling our aims so far, mainly thanks to the huge support we have been given by the general public and state agencies, but the windows and the interior have yet to be painted,” said Dean Chris Peters.

Restoration works completed to date include the repair of the tower, electricity installed, the gutters and downpipes replaced, new drains installed and stonework repaired and re-pointed.

With a final €10,000 required to restore and paint the original windows and paint the interior of the 154 year old church the Restoration Committee is holding a gala fundraising concert.

The Glandore Church of Ireland Restoration Committee is bringing pianist and Professor of Music at the University of Limerick, Mícheál Ó’Súilleabháin and the Carolan Quartet to St Fachtna’s Cathedral, Rosscarbery on Saturday 21st March at 8pm.

Mícheál Ó’Súilleabháin is renowned for having created a unique Irish piano style out of an Irish traditional music base and has given concerts

across the world. This concert is a rare opportunity for the people of West Cork to hear him play in person.

He will be joined on the night by the Carolan String Quartet, four top class Irish musicians who work regularly with the RTE National Symphony and Concert Orchestra, Camerata Ireland and Wexford Festival Opera Orchestra.

This promises to be a fabulous night out. Tickets cost €25 (including a complimentary glass of wine sponsored by Scally's Supervalu) and can be bought at Fuller's Centra, Union Hall, Thornhill's Electrical, Skibbereen and Rosscarbery Pharmacy or can be booked online at www.glandorevillage.ie or call 087 228 9458. Booking is advisable as seating is limited.

Story of Joymount Church - without the walls of Carrickfergus

If the folk at his Loan Ends Presbyterian Church hadn't presented him with a farewell memorial sign when he was leaving the pulpit, the Rev Derek Weir might never have written a book about another place of worship which is turning out to be a 200-plus page turner.

Eddie McIlwaine in Belfast Telegraph - The sign, now on display in his garden, declares: 'A retired minister is a wife's full-time job.'



It started Derek, now in his 70s, thinking about what he was going to do with himself in retirement from both the Loan Ends and Killead congregations in South Antrim.

So he accepted an invitation from the Rev Richard Graham to write the history of his Joymount Presbyterian Church in Carrickfergus, built in 1852.

He put five years of research into 'The Church Outside the Walls' (W&G Baird £10) which has

now been published with profits going to Joymount.

The explanation for the title is that Carrick was once a walled city and Joymount is right beside a section of [the wall](#) that remains solid and intact to this day.

Derek recalls how he and Joymount member Hugh Henderson found a Burning Bush memorial to the foundation of Irish Presbyterianism in 1652 that had mysteriously vanished from the Market Place in Carrick. The memorial was restored and re-dedicated by the Moderator of the General Assembly, Dr Michael Barry, and today has a special spot in a garden.

"During my research it has become obvious that this Carrick place of worship has such a friendly atmosphere," stresses Mr Weir. "Right from the beginning, when Rev James Warwick was the first minister in 1851, all of Joymount's six clergy stayed for their full term. There have been no rows."

One story included in the book is how the Rev John Y Minford shocked the community when he refused to sign the Ulster Covenant in 1912.

Copies of The Church Outside the Walls can be ordered from Joymount Church Office at Robinson's Row.

We will never know why minister died in diving accident, expert tells inquest

The death of a hospital chaplain in a diving accident can never be fully explained because a computer he was wearing at the time was never recovered, an expert has told his inquest.

Belfast Telegraph - Rev Stewart Jones (56) died off the Co Donegal coast on July 12 last year. He was a minister in Donemana, Co Tyrone, and the Presbyterian chaplain at Altnagelvin Hospital in Londonderry.

Rev Jones was an experienced diver and diving instructor.

Dublin-based Rory Golden, the first Irishman to dive to view the wreckage of the Titanic, was called as an expert witness at the coroner's inquest at Sligo Court House yesterday. He said he examined the equipment used by Rev Jones and found it acceptable.

However, a computer worn by the minister - the diving equivalent of a plane's black box - was never recovered, he said.

Without it, he added, it was impossible to give an accurate account of what happened.

In a statement read to the inquest, Rev Stewart's dive partner, Aaron Buick (24) from Portrush, Co Antrim, said they had initially decided against a dive at St John's Point because of poor conditions. However, they returned later when they calmed.

Coroner Eamon MacGowan recorded a verdict of accidental death by drowning and told Rev Jones' widow Patricia: "He was a man who contributed so much to the lives of others and at 56 was taken far too young."

More at -

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/we-will-never-know-why-minister-died-in-diving-accident-expert-tells-inquest-31035218.html>

US priest to Irish safeguarding meeting: Church not haven for abusers

The Catholic church is "no longer a safe haven for child abusers," said a top priest psychologist who advises the U.S. bishops on child sexual abuse.

National Catholic Reporter - Msgr. Stephen Rossetti told hundreds of Irish delegates to the first national conference on safeguarding children that the Catholic church in the United States spent \$43 million on child abuse prevention and education just last year.

The priest told Catholic News Service following his keynote address that secular organizations and other churches in the United States were now coming to the Catholic church to learn from its policies.

More than 5.2 million adults and children have gone through the safe environment training in the United States, and more than 3 million priests, lay employees and volunteers have gone through background checks.

He highlighted that in the United States, child abuse rates are dropping throughout society and the church.

At the recorded height, the John Jay Study said 4 percent of clergy were involved as perpetrators. That number has fallen to less than

1 percent. We have turned the corner, but we shall not rest until the number of abused children is zero," he said.

Rossetti spoke at a Feb. 27-28 conference organized by Ireland's National Board for Safeguarding in the Catholic Church.

He told participants, who included laypeople, religious and bishops: "Good response policies are important. But the heart of the matter is education -- stopping abuse before it occurs."

<http://ncronline.org/news/accountability/us-priest-irish-safeguarding-meeting-church-not-haven-abusers>

Seeds sown for food justice movement in Scotland

In Glasgow on Saturday the seeds were sown for a food justice movement in Scotland.

Govan, birthplace of people's political activism in this country, hosted a Church of Scotland organised event – in collaboration with the Centre for Human Ecology and Faith in Community Scotland - exploring how sustainable food equality can be achieved.

Over 200 people – community food growing experts, activists, food bank volunteers – shared their experience of tackling the growing crisis of food access decline in one of the richest countries in the world.

Rev Sally Foster-Fulton, Convener of the Church and Society Council, said: "This has been an incredible day. It is the beginning of a movement. It was not about coming together and just talking about food banks. It was about finding ways for sustainable food justice in Scotland. We have brought a lot of people here who are on the ground day in day out. They have expertise on how we can move this crisis response forward and achieve fair access to food for all. Change has begun."

The keynote speaker at the conference was Rachel Gray, executive director of The Stop Community Food Centre in Canada.

She shared the experience of over 35 years of food banks in Canada and how her organisation has evolved the food bank format to help people increase their dignity, health and challenge inequality.

She said: "We know that food banks don't work at addressing poverty. We hope very much that Scotland will take a firm stand on this issue. That it will look at the consequences of not investing in food security and see the devastation that poverty will cause to the health of the nation."

Community food growth, political activism, enshrinement of the right to food in Scots Law, alternative food production systems and ensuring the word 'food bank' did not become entrenched in the national consciousness were among the array of ideas being shared.

The task now is to channel this desire for change into action. In the second half of 2015 the Church of Scotland will convene a follow-up event – Beyond Foodbanks 2 – to further root the movement and focus on the details necessary for success. *(Event details to be announced)*

Christian Aid calls on governments to keep their promise to women and girls

Governments meeting for the annual Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in

New York (9-20 March) must commit more resources and greater determination if they want to make significant progress towards gender equality over the next five years, says Christian Aid.

In 1995 promises were made to realise women's rights as part of the Beijing Platform for Action, which prioritised 12 critical areas for action. The agreement highlighted the need to eliminate violence against women, promote women's economic rights and ensure their full participation in power structures and decision making.

Whilst some progress has been made, 20 years later one in three women still experience sexual and domestic violence, make up just 22 per cent of parliamentarians worldwide and continue to be excluded and exploited in many parts of the global economy.

In a new briefing paper, [*Realising the vision for gender justice: what needs to change in 2015*](#), Christian Aid asks why so little progress has been made and highlights the vital need for financing and long-term commitment if action is to be effective.

Christian Aid argues that governments need to provide adequate financing and investment for

essential services for women and girls, release funding within the justice systems to ensure laws and policies are fully implemented, and support women's rights organisations in order to make a real impact. They also need to consider how wider economic decisions, such as tax policy, can contribute towards achieving gender equality.

In addition to resources, long-term commitment is required to address the damaging social norms that underpin discrimination against women and girls. This will require governments to work with women's organisations, communities, faith leaders and the media to challenge attitudes that hold half of the world's population back, trapping many in poverty.

Helen Dennis, Christian Aid's Senior Adviser on Poverty and Inequality said: "In September world leaders will agree new global development goals, but without increased resources and the determination to tackle damaging beliefs and attitudes, commitments to achieve gender equality will just be warm words."

"Our research shows that although some progress has been made over the last two decades a huge 'implementation gap' remains. The promises made in Beijing 20 years ago

remain relevant but women and girls around the world need to see more rapid and tangible changes in their lives.”

“2015 could be a water-shed year if governments recommit to the Beijing Platform for Action, put women’s rights at the centre of the new Sustainable Development Goals and prioritise resources for gender equality. Then, and only then, we may start to see the changes that are so desperately needed by the millions of women and girls who are being left behind.”

Media digest

RTE News

One person per day dies from a drug overdose, says Merchants Quay Ireland

Homeless and drugs agency Merchants Quay Ireland has said that one person per day dies from drug overdoses, almost twice as many as in road crashes. Merchants Quay and the National Family Support Network will present a petition to Minister for Health Leo Varadkar. It will call for greater urgency from the Government in addressing the issue of fatal drug overdoses in Ireland.

www.rte.ie/news/2015/0303/684079-drug-overdoses

Irish Examiner

Seeking a sensible end to the impasse on Junior Cert reform

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/viewpoints/analysis/seeking-a-sensible-end-to-the-impasse-on-junior-cert-reform-315595.html>

'Teachers not union chiefs must have a say'

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/ireland/teachers-not-union-chiefs-must-have-a-say-315646.html>

Irish Examiner

A building block for every child's future

The Children and Family Relationships Bill 2015 is the most comprehensive overhaul of the law on children and family relationships in decades, writes Geoffrey Shannon. The Children and Family Relationships Bill 2015 is the most significant change in family law in a generation, reflecting the reality of modern family life in Ireland. Until recently, family life in Ireland was synonymous with marriage. The increasing fluidity and diversity of family forms means that it is no longer tenable for Irish law to recognise only one type of family. The constitutional preference for families based on marriage remains intact, but it is essential to provide certainty for all families, whatever their status.

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/viewpoints/analysis/a-building-block-for-every-childs-future-315464.html>

Christian Today

David Cameron: Child sex abuse to be classified 'national threat'

www.christiantoday.com/article/david.cameron.child.sex.abuse.to.be.classified.national.threat/49177.htm

BBC/ITV

Reports that the Bishop of Lichfield has announced his retirement after 12 years in the post. In a [video message](#) posted on YouTube, Jonathan Gledhill, 66, said he was leaving "with mixed feelings" but added "it would not be right to continue much longer". They state he will leave the position, which covers Staffordshire, Shropshire and the Black Country, in September.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-stoke-staffordshire-31695694>

<http://www.itv.com/news/central/update/2015-03-02/exclusive-bishop-of-lichfield-announces-he-is-retiring/>

Guard

Opinion piece looking at new economic vision and the ideas in the Anglican bishops' [pastoral letter](#). It states this legitimately aims to move the debate beyond the old market-v-state model towards a new vision, that incorporates themes of civil society, interdependency, human dignity

and the common good. The headline states bringing God into economics is risky.

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/mar/02/god-economics-general-election-thatcherism>

Ind

Article on how the church and religious leaders are offering a counter balance to the red herring that immigration is the major issue in this election. It praises Cardinal Vincent Nicholls comments on the BBC saying it is right for the church to speak out for the poor and the marginalized.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/comment/when-will-the-church-speak-up-for-the-dispossessed-and-those-that-our-political-system-leaves-behind-10079635.html>

Times/Eve Standard

Reports on the case of a Christian children's worker who is claiming unfair dismissal, saying that she was sacked from her job because of her religious views on gay marriage. Sarah Mbuyi alleges that a conversation she had with a lesbian colleague ultimately led to her dismissal. She argued at an employment tribunal in Watford that she has the right, under EU law, to enter into conversations with adult colleagues subject to the normal principles of engagement in speech. They state nursery directors

dismissed Ms Mbuyi for gross misconduct for a breach of its equality policy. The hearing continues.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/law/article4370241.ece>

<http://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/uk-is-hostile-to-christianity-says-nursery-worker-who-claims-she-was-fired-over-views-on-homosexuality-10081324.html>

Tel/Guard

Report on [National Offer Day](#) when more than half a million children found out if they have been offered a secondary school placement. It states this year, an estimated 100,000 children won't get into their choice of secondary school. Report looks at criteria for obtaining places in sought after church schools. *Guardian* says David and Samantha Cameron were also waiting yesterday to see if their daughter had obtained a place at Grey Coat Hospital Church of England school for girls.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/secondaryeducation/11440655/D-Day-for-parents-does-it-pay-to-game-the-secondary-school-system.html>

<http://www.theguardian.com/education/2015/mar/02/secondary-school-offer-day-increasing-competition>

<http://www.theguardian.com/education/2015/mar/02/secondary-school-offer-day-increasing-competition>

Tel/Mail/Express

Further comment on the ban on blasphemous words including Jesus and Christ, on greetings for M&S online gifts. It includes comments from former Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Carey.

churchnewsireland@gmail.com

Mail report links the M&S ban to Nutella's on line customized labels, which also ban certain words.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11444411/Why-blasphemers-say-it-with-roses.html>

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2975716/Lesbian-Jewish-Muslim-orangutan-bizarre-list-words-Nutella-banned-jars-France.html?](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2975716/Lesbian-Jewish-Muslim-orangutan-bizarre-list-words-Nutella-banned-jars-France.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

[ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2975716/Lesbian-Jewish-Muslim-orangutan-bizarre-list-words-Nutella-banned-jars-France.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/561373/Marks-and-Spencer-forced-remove-Jesus-Christ-list-words-banned-gift-messages>

<http://www.christiantoday.com/article/marks.spencer.backs.down.on.ban.of.jesus.and.christ/49127.htm>

Express/Mail/Metro

Reports that British archaeologist Dr Ken Dark believes he may have identified the place where Mary and Joseph brought up the Son of God in Nazareth. Dr Dark has been researching the ruins since 2006 and has recently published his findings saying an ancient text supports the claim that the courtyard style house, located beneath the Sisters of Nazareth Convent, across the road from the Church of Annunciation, was the home of Jesus.

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/561479/Childhood-home-Jesus-Christ>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2976157/Is-Jesus-childhood-home-Ancient-text-points-Century-structure-Messiah-lived.html>

March 4

<http://metro.co.uk/2015/03/02/is-this-the-house-where-jesus-grew-up-5085195/>