



Cardinal Timothy Dolan compares Islamic State to Irish Republican Army

Cardinal [Timothy Dolan](#) of New York on Tuesday compared the Islamic State's perversion of the Islamic faith to the to the [Irish Republican Army](#) distorting "everything the [Catholic] church stood for."

Washington Times - "You know the parallel I've drawn?" Cardinal Dolan asked CNN host Chris

Cuomo, Raw Story [reported](#). “Enough people have been kind enough to tell me they think the analogy is accurate. Remember 30-35 years ago with the [IRA](#) in [Ireland](#)? The [IRA](#) claimed to be Catholic. And they were baptized; they had a Catholic identity. What they were doing was a perversion of everything the church stood for.”

“The analogy I think is somewhat accurate. These are not pure — these are not real Muslims,” he added. “These extremist do not represent genuine Islamic thought.”

“Even the majority of temperate, peace-loving Muslims would say, ‘I’m afraid they have a particular strand of erroneous Islam.’ But I do think they are. They are distorting it,” he said.

Cardinal Dolan [made similar comments](#) in an article for the New York Post last month. He pointed out that in [Ireland](#), Catholic bishops stood up against the car bombings and violence committed by the [IRA](#), which “perversely identified itself as ‘Catholic.’”

He argued that Islamic leaders should use [Ireland](#)’s past as inspiration to unite against the Islamic State.

“We need Islamic religious leaders to stand up and say, ‘This is not Islam. This is a perversion of our faith,’ ” he wrote

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2015/mar/3/cardinal-dolan-compares-islamic-state-to-irish-rep/>

Former St Fin Barre’s Chorister wins Seán Ó Riada Composition Competition

Cork International Choral Festival has announced that Dublin-based – but Cork-born – Eoghan Desmond is the winner of the 2015 Seán Ó Riada Composition Competition.

The Cork.ie - As winner of the competition, his piece Mother Goose’s Melodies, will receive its world première in the spectacular surrounds of St. Fin Barre’s Cathedral on Friday 1st May at 7.30pm.

The Festival’s Choir in Residence, Chamber Choir Ireland, conducted by Paul Hillier, will première the performance as part of its annual collaborative concert with the Festival in what promises to be a wonderful evening of song. Desmond made his solo debut as a singer with East Cork Choral Society in Mendelssohn’s Elijah in 2003 following his choral training with



St. Fin Barre's Cathedral Choir. He has since gone on to give numerous performances with Dublin University Choral Society and, as a member of Irish Composer's Collective, has had his own compositions performed in Ireland by groups such as Chamber Choir Ireland, Ensemble Avalon, and the RTE ConTempo String Quartet. His composition, Mother Goose's

Melodies, came out on top in a year that saw a high standard of entry.

The members of the judging panel, composers Rhona Clarke and Ian Wilson, and Paul Hillier, Artistic Director and Conductor of CCI, summarised their reaction and evaluation to Desmond's winning piece as follows: "We are agreed that the winning piece is well-written, has plenty of character with an individual voice coming through, retains its freshness and is full of interesting contrasts.

On receiving the news of his win, Desmond said: "I was delighted when I received a phone call from John [Fitzpatrick] informing me that I had won the Ó Riada competition, not least because I have a very personal attachment to Ó Riada, having attended a Gaelscoil named after him. It was at that school – and undertaking choral training in St Fin Barre's Cathedral – that I began to compose; so this victory represents the culmination (as does every piece) of quite a number of years of work.

More at -

<http://thecork.ie/2015/03/03/cork-born-eoghan-desmond-wins-sean-o-riada-composition-competition/>

‘I love telling the stories of Jesus’ - preaching workshop leader

Biblical storyteller, Wendy Johnston will take a preaching workshop on ‘Telling God’s Story’ in Dundrum Methodist Church, County Dublin, on Saturday 28 March. Recently, she talked to Anne Hailes about her storytelling journey, beginning with her first experiences of stories as a child, the daughter of missionary parents, growing up in Papua New Guinea. ‘I love telling the stories of Jesus,’ she says. ‘There’s so much in the words and there’s humour there too, so you can put expression into the telling. I visualise the story: where it’s set, who would have been there, what they would have been wearing, what was the culture of the time.’

You can read Wendy’s interview, with its insights into her background and her tips on storytelling, in the next *Methodist Newsletter*. For Belfast readers, April also brings the opportunity to hear Wendy in action as she will be telling the Easter story at lunchtimes during Holy Week, Monday to Thursday, in Knock Methodist Church.

New diocesan secretary for Cork

Mr Billy Skuse from Bandon, County Cork, has been appointed Diocesan Secretary for the

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United Dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross. He will succeed Mr Wilfred Baker who has served the Diocese, first as Assistant Secretary and then as Diocesan Secretary, for the last forty-two years, and who will retire on 31st March.



Billy Skuse has spent most of his career to date in retail banking. For the past twenty-seven years he has been a bank manager with Permanent tsb Bank. More recently he has been working in personnel/human resources management.

For ten years he was also financial adviser to the Board of Directors of Bandon Grammar School (a board on which he now serves as chairman).

In the local community in Bandon he served on the Board of Millbrook Hospital for two years, and also as President and committee member of Bandon Rugby Football Club. Billy is married to Anne, and they have four adult children: Hilary, Peter, Ian and Robbie.

Announcing the appointment, the Bishop, Dr Paul Colton, said, “The Diocesan Secretary is a key person in our structures as the lead officer within the diocesan administrative and financial structures of Cork, Cloyne and Ross. In that role he will work closely with me as Bishop to advance the ministry and mission of the Church here, and to serve the people of the Diocese and wider community.”

British Ambassador to Address St Patrick's Cathedral Patronal Service

On Tuesday March 17, St Patrick's day, the Patronal Eucharist of St Patrick's Cathedral will be addressed by His Excellency Mr D Chilcott CMG, the British Ambassador. The service takes place at 10.30 am and will be sung by the cathedral choir (Boys' and Men's voices).

Tony Ward, speaker at Ecumenical Service of Thanksgiving for the Gift of Sport

The annual Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service for the Gift of Sport will be held in St Ann's Church, Dawson Street, on Sunday March 22 at 7.00 pm. The guest speaker will be Tony Ward, a former Ireland and Lions Rugby Player. Singing will be lead by The Alexandra College Choir. There will be a charity collection and refreshments served afterwards, to which all are invited.

Girl Guides to celebrate body confidence on International Women's Day

Girl Guides throughout Ireland are preparing to mark International Women's Day next Sunday 8th March by challenging myths about body image and by celebrating their varying body shapes.

Three hundred Guide leaders have been trained to deliver the ground-breaking *Free Being Me* programme, which empowers young people to speak out and challenge body image myths.

Free Being Me was developed by the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts and the DOVE Self-Esteem project with the vision of creating a world free from appearance-related anxiety by boosting the confidence of a whole generation.

The Council of Irish Guiding Associations, which comprises the Irish Girl Guides and the Catholic Guides of Ireland, hopes that 16,000 girls between the ages of seven and 14 will be reached with this innovative programme.

Bishop's Effecting Change seminar series

More than 80 people attended the first of two Lent Seminars by the Bishop of Connor to be held in Christ Church Parish, Lisburn.

The seminar, on March 3, was held in the Parish Hall and was on the topic of Effecting Change, the third strand of the diocesan Vision Strategy. The Rt Rev Alan Abernethy has spoken on the first two strands, Engaging Culture and Empowering Ministry, in previous Lent seminars.

Bishop Alan is delivering two seminars at a venue in each of Connor's three archdeaconries. The Lent series kicked off in Jordanstown on February 17 and was followed by a seminar in Dunluce Parish Centre, Bushmills on February 24.

Seminars still to come are as follows:

- Monday 9th March Jordanstown Parish Centre
- Wednesday 18th March Bushmills Parish Centre
- Tuesday 24th March Christ Church, Lisburn (Church)

Each seminar gets underway at 7.30pm, with a break for refreshments and fellowship midway through the evening.

For further information and booking details, contact: Rosemary Patterson (Bishop's Secretary), tel: 028 90828870, email: rpatterson@diocoff-belfast.org.

The calendar that blossomed into a floral tribute to a special father

The last wish of Canon Jim Musgrave, a Church of Ireland clergyman for 54 years, was for his family to design a calendar on the theme of his favourite flower, the nasturtium.

Eddie McIlwaine, Belfast Telegraph - So son Stephen and daughter-in-law Beth collected a batch of assorted pictures of the little flowers which the 94-year-old canon mentioned often in his sermons.

And they set to on a labour of love to carefully print out the pretty photographs of the 12 months of this very year of 2015, each one with an eye-catching print of a nasturtium.

"We finished our task just in time and presented the calendar to my father just before he passed away," explains Stephen. "He loved it and we were overjoyed that we had granted his request. He adored the outdoors and in every garden of every one of his five rectories, he grew fresh flowers and vegetables.

"He gave me an ideal upbringing as an only child, especially after my mother Kitty, to whom he was devoted during their 28 years of married life, died at only 66.

"The nasturtium calendar will be his memorial even when 2015 is done."

United Reformed Church launches creative new mission model

CreateTalk, a new model of mission initiated by the mission department of the United Reformed Church, was officially launched last week at Carrs Lane Church, Birmingham. The CreateTalk mission model aims to connect communities with God through the creative arts – by enabling churches to discover creativity in their congregations and in their communities whilst encouraging new participation in church and enabling relationships to grow.

The Revd Elizabeth Gray-King, coordinator of CreateTalk, URC minister and working artist, said: “It is not always easy for people to talk about God and faith, or even talk honestly about themselves. The creative arts – painting, pictures, photos, or drama – may allow conversations to begin more easily and be a springboard for connection with our deepest selves. We have found that when conversations take place around the creative arts, people start to talk about their own stories and journeys.”

Guests at the CreateTalk launch event were invited to take part in a Lent-focussed task, making paint from ash, oil, and purple powder, and using the paint to create a bookmark to carry with them during Lent. The painted bookmarks became a reminder of the ash of repentance, mixed with oil for burial, and blended with the Lent colour purple of power; the bookmark a daily reminder of deeds laid to rest and ready for Easter’s new life.

The Revd David Grosch-Miller, moderator of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church, attended the launch, and he said: “CreateTalk provides great opportunities for churches to engage with their local communities, properly listening to what people are saying, building relationships and sharing the good news

of the Christ – and anything that does that is to be welcomed!”

You can find out more about CreateTalk and discover the diverse ways in which churches have already begun to work with this exciting new model of mission [here](#).

www.urb.org.uk/media-news/1618-the-united-reformed-church-launches-creative-new-mission-model.html

Rowan Williams on Christian response to suffering in World War II - Radio 4 this Sunday

On Sunday March 8, Christian Aid’s 70th anniversary will be marked on Radio 4’s Sunday Worship with a sermon given by the charity’s Chair, Dr Rowan Williams.

The service will come from Emmanuel Church, Didsbury, Greater Manchester, and focus on the response of the churches to the suffering caused by the Second World War, which led to the foundation of Christian Aid and a number of other relief agencies.

In his sermon Dr Williams will reflect on the manner in which Jews, as well as Roma, people with disabilities and those whose sexuality was

deemed unacceptable, were relegated by the Nazis to the category of sub-human.

“They saw the results of generations of lazy prejudice and contempt transformed into mass murder,” Dr Williams will say.

He will add that the response from people in the UK to the suffering abroad was more than just charity. “They didn’t just see a lot of poor suffering victims who needed help from prosperous and generous people. They saw men, women and children who needed above all to have their dignity recognised when everything had been working against it.

“When we talk of men and women being made in God’s image, we don’t just mean that men and women have a few things in common with God. Perhaps it helps to think of the image we see when we look into a mirror. It’s there because we’re there, looking at it. And so when God makes human beings ‘in his image’, he looks at us and we look back, that’s when the secret becomes clear: he asks us to mirror him, to reflect the way he acts and the way he sees.”

It was the vision of helping the poor and forgotten to “take their proper place again as partners in the great work of humanising the

world and guaranteeing the well-being of all,” Dr Williams will say, that inspired the setting up of agencies such as Christian Aid, Oxfam, the Ecumenical Refugee Commission and the Roman Catholic agency Sword of the Spirit.

Dr Williams will conclude with advice to: “Pause, to let go of the anxieties and obsessions and fears; look at the faces of God’s children, God’s images; listen to the voice calling you to set God’s children free. Then cross over to the new creation, the Kingdom of God that belongs to the poor.”

The service will be led by Rev Dr Kirsty Thorpe, Minister of Wilmslow United Reformed Church, and will feature a prayer written by Desmond Tutu and music from University of Manchester choir Ad Solem

The service will be broadcast on Radio 4, Sunday March 8 at 8.10am.

Media digest

Belfast Telegraph
Church of Ireland split over gay rights and DUP's conscience clause Bill

www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/church-of-ireland-split-over-gay-rights-and-dups-conscience-clause-bill-31038999.html

See also yesterday's CNI

BBC News

John O'Dowd: Northern Ireland schools could see 1,500 jobs go

Education Minister John O'Dowd says schools are likely to see 500 job losses for teachers and 1,000 for non-teaching staff due to £28m cuts to his budget.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-31725888>

Irish News

Calls For Plaque At Belfast Birthplace Of Ex-Israeli President To Be Displayed

There have been renewed calls for a plaque to former Israeli president Chaim Herzog to be displayed in his Belfast birthplace, as his son Isaac appears on course to become the country's next prime minister. Labour party leader Isaac Herzog has edged ahead of Binyamin Netanyahu in polls, but he has been less successful in efforts to have his father's blue plaque re-instated. The Ulster History Circle nameplate marking Chaim Herzog's birthplace at Cliftonpark

Avenue in north Belfast was removed in September after it came under attack.

<http://www.irishnews.com/business/calls-for-plaque-at-belfast-birthplace-of-ex-israeli-president-to-be-d-1416869>

BBC News

Big Lunch in east Belfast aims to break down barriers

Women living on either side of a notorious Belfast interface are planning a summer party to try to rebuild relations between Catholics and Protestants.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-31721713>

Irish Times

Trinity Hall in Ranelagh sells for close to €4m

The Strategic Capital Investment Fund managed by Davy has paid close to €4 million for a particularly attractive office investment based on a former Methodist Church and Community Hall at [Charleston Road](#) in Ranelagh, Dublin 6. BNP Paribas Real Estate initially guided €3.8 million for the building now known as [Trinity Hall](#) which was redeveloped and interlinked into a stunning new offices with a glass lift serving all floors.

www.irishtimes.com/business/commercial-property/trinity-hall-in-ranelagh-sells-for-close-to-4m-1.2124626?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter

Belfast Telegraph
Poppy ban by Mid Ulster council slammed by war veterans

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/poppy-ban-by-mid-ulster-council-slammed-by-war-veterans-31038878.html>

Tablet

Report on comments by the former archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, who said that Christians should not vote for a candidate simply because they defend "Judeo-Christian values". He said the foundation of Christian political engagement was the biblical encouragement that our faith in God carried with it God's faith in us.

<http://www.thetablet.co.uk/news/1819/0/lord-williams-don-t-just-vote-for-the-candidate-defending-christian-values->

Guard

Article on the process of becoming a Church of England priest, including quotes from Revd Tim Pike from the Diocese of London.

<http://www.theguardian.com/money/2015/mar/03/how-become-priest>

BBC

Report on modern slavery with comments by Devon and Cornwall Police chief Shaun Sawyer about exploited workers in Cornwall. It states the Bishop of Truro, Tim Thornton, is attending a conference on slavery set up by The Eden Project, ahead of the third reading in Parliament of the Modern Slavery Bill [later this month](#).

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-cornwall-31708880>

Tablet

Report that the Deputy Prime Minister, Nick Clegg, has welcomed the Churches' recent guidance for voters ahead of May's General Election. Mr Clegg told Premier Christian Radio he didn't agree with it all, but said it would be odd for the Churches not to speak out.

<http://www.thetablet.co.uk/news/1823/0/clegg-welcomes-churches-election-guidance-and-admits-faith-hasn-t-happened-to-me-yet->

Mirror/Tel/Guard

Report that Skills and Education Minister Nick Boles has admitted the Coalition's use of [benefit sanctions](#) is "inhuman" and called for an urgent review of the system after the May election. It refers to the joint church report released this week which found more than 100 people a day with serious mental illness have their benefits stopped.

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/benefits-cuts-inhuman-admits-senior-5267402>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/conservative/11446753/Tory-minister-says-some-benefit-sanctions-are-inhuman.html>

<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2015/mar/03/tory-minister-inhuman-inflexibility-benefit-sanctions>

Ind

Comment article on national offer day and the lack of choice for parents in some areas where there is only one school considered suitable. It mentions the Camerons and their daughter Nancy gaining a place at Grey Coat Hospital, Church of England secondary school.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/comment/the-only-choice-in-schools-is-between-the-one-you-want-and-the-ones-you-dont-10083402.html>

Mirror

Further report that archeologists think they may have found evidence of Jesus' childhood home in Nazareth.

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/jesus-christs-childhood-home-discovered-5266697>

Mail

Report that Lebanon allowed some 20 Assyrian Christians fleeing the Islamic State group to cross the border. The Assyrians, who included children, had fled their homes in the

northeastern province of Hasakeh. Lebanese priest Sargoun Zoumaya said they received a one-week visa "because it is a humanitarian case" and were brought to the St. George Assyrian Church in east Beirut.

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-2978510/Lebanon-authorises-entry-20-Assyrians-fleeing-IS.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490

Obituary

Tel

Obituary report on Bernard Mayes, who has died aged 85. It states he was a former Anglican priest and BBC correspondent in the United States, where he was instrumental in establishing a national public broadcasting system and opened the country's first suicide prevention centre. He trained for Holy Orders at the College of the Resurrection at Mirfield in Yorkshire and was ordained in the Church of England in 1958, but the same year he emigrated to the United States. In 1992 Mayes renounced the priesthood and religion, embracing the belief that everything in the universe is interdependent.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/obituaries/11447250/Bernard-Mayes-priest-obituary.html>