



New York Cardinal Timothy Dolan.

Cardinal Dolan called "profoundly ignorant" over ISIS and IRA by fellow cleric

The leaders of four top Irish American organizations have come out swinging against Cardinal Timothy Dolan for his comments

likening Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) to the Irish Republican Army (IRA) and saying both were perverting their religion. He made the comments in a CNN interview.

Irish Central - Father Sean McManus, who leads the Irish National Caucus the top Irish lobbying group on the North in Congress, was outraged at his fellow cleric.

Fr. McManus said the Cardinal's statement, equating the IRA to ISIS was "Profoundly ignorant, totally irresponsible and lacking all credibility.

"It is sadly consistent with a man who for 40 years never opened his mouth about the oppression of Catholics in Northern Ireland.

"Such a person as Cardinal Dolan – who was complicit by his silence in British torture of political prisoners, anti-Catholic discrimination, British murder gangs and the wholesale denial of human rights – has now no moral authority to comment on the struggle of an oppressed people.

"He forfeited that right by his complicity and collusion. His Johnny-come-lately and cowardly outburst only further deepens his own

complicity, and further abuses his spiritual power."

Brendan Moore, President of the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH), America's largest irish Catholic organization, stated Cardinal Dolan was plain wrong to make the analogy.

"The fact is that unlike ISIS, the Irish Republican Army never used religion to justify its resistance to Loyalist sectarianism and/or British misrule. Cardinal Dolan's statement ("everything they were doing was a perversion of everything the Church stood for") appears to be contradicted by the heroic utterances and activities of many Catholic priests, among them Alex Reid, Des Wilson, Raymond Murray, and Denis Faul.

"Indeed, Cardinal Tomas O Faich (Thomas O'Fee) was consistently criticized in the media and elsewhere for his "excessive" closeness to militant Irish republicans.

"... One needs to wonder if The Troubles might have been avoided or diminished had those same Irish bishops spoken out to vigorously condemn long-standing institutionalized discrimination in employment and housing in the north of Ireland."

Mike Cummings a past National Board member of the Irish American Unity Conference was equally scathing. "In his defense, the Cardinal may be unfamiliar with the Irish conflict. There is no record of his voice speaking out against the discrimination against Catholics in jobs, housing and voting or in favor of the MacBride Fair Employment Principles; or in support of the Hunger Strikers; in protest of the murders of attorneys Patrick Finucane or Rosemary Nelson or indeed the killing of nearly 1000 Catholics whose deaths have yet to be investigated or in opposition to current cases of injustice like the Craigavon 2.

".....Given the church scandals in Ireland it takes a brave man to cite the Irish Bishops for anything save incompetence, arrogance and "narcissism" to quote Taoiseach Enda Kenny."

Paul Doris, a senior figure in Irish Northern Aid, also lashed out. "The IRA has never claimed to be fighting as Catholics for Catholics, indeed all down though Irish history, folks from all religious persuasions have fought for Irish Independence from Britain.

"With the revelations of the past few years against the Catholic Church in Ireland I believe it would be more productive if Cardinal Dolan

spent more time on that instead of opining on matters which he seems to know little or nothing about."

In his comments Cardinal Dolan compared the IRA and ISIS Saying both groups used religion to justify their violence.

Dolan's comments were made to CNN on Tuesday (March 3). "The IRA claimed to be Catholic," he told anchor Chris Cuomo. "They were baptized. They had a Catholic identity." But, he continued, "what they were doing was a perversion of everything the church stood for."

Dolan said that, like the IRA, the Islamic State extremists "do not represent genuine Islamic thought" but are "a particularly perverted form of Islam."

"The analogy (to the IRA) is somewhat accurate," said Dolan, who will lead the St. Patrick's Parade as Grand Marshal in New York.

Travers welcomes IS and IRA comparison http://www.newsletter.co.uk/travers-welcomes-is-and-ira-comparison-1-6618182

Islamic state and IRA terror differ only in scale, says MP

http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/islamic-state-and-ira-terror-differ-only-in-scale-says-mp-31044961.html

iRA USA respectability

www.irishtimes.com/news/politics/how-supporting-sinnféin-became-respectable-for-irish-americans-1.2129205? utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter

CD and bilingual hymnbook launched in Kilkenny

Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise launched this CD of 16 hymns and carols, *Iomainn agus Carúil Choitianta, as Gaeilge,* to meet the needs of the growing number of congregations around the country that seek to worship in Irish or bilingually and would like to include some hymns in their services.

A bilingual hymn book accompanies the CD. The hymn book is intended to supplement the Church Hymnal which already contains a number of hymns in Irish.

Among a large gathering from all corners of the country, the CD was launched jointly by the Right Revd Michael Burrows (Patron of *Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise*) Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory and the Right Revd Robert Paterson, Bishop of Sodor and Man who spoke on how

Manx is being incorporated into worship in the Isle of Man.



Bishop Michael Burrows Patron of Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise at the launch

The soloists, Cárthach MacCraith, Jacynth Hamill, Éamonn Ó Faogáin and Darren Ó Droma performed at the launch and they were accompanied by 'Cór Fear na nDéise' from Co. Waterford.

As well as the two bishops, words of welcome and acknowledgement were spoken by Daíthí O Maolchoille (Chairperson) and Caroline Nolan (PRO).

Bishop Michael Burrows, Patron of Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise, welcomed everyone, and said 'I'm delighted about this latest initiative on the part of Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise and it is a particular pleasure that this launch is taking place in Kilkenny during the visit of Bishop Robert Paterson from the Isle of Man.

His diocese and ours have had a companion relationship for some years now and I have admired the manner in which he has effectively promoted the use of Manx in liturgy... rarely himself completing a service without using some words of it!'

This booklet of hymns offers a variety of styles and seasons and gives another way of encouraging enthusiasm to worship in Irish, despite the limitations of some people's proficiency in the language. It also helps to push the contact with the language beyond the context of both primary and secondary education, so long the limiting factor for so many people.

As well as new hymns, there a number of familiar favourites: 'Is iontach grás' ('Amazing Grace'), 'Bí Thusa i mo shúile' ('Be Thou my Vision'), 'Ag Críost an Síol' ('Christ is the Seed') and 'Sé an Tiarna m'aoire' ('The Lord is my Shepherd'). There are some seasonal well-known Christmas songs such as 'Oíche Chiuin' ('Silent Night'), 'Tar

Chugainn' ('O Come Emmanuel') and 'I nDúlaíoght an Gheimridh' ('In the Bleak Midwinter'). There are also some hymns suitable for services with children and hand actions. It is primarily aimed at small services where there is no choir present.

In his remarks Bishop Robert Paterson declared his own limitations in both Manx and Welsh. But he did try to speak both when the opportunities arose. Manx is a mixture of all the Celtic tongues with some English thrown in for good measure.

The Bishop said he had served on the Liturgical Advisory Committee in Wales for many years and instead of straight translation from English to the target language, it was found preferable to use the more poetic disposition of the Welsh liturgy to be constructed initially and then translated into English which seemed to enrich the language considerably. As a result many of the ancient Welsh Christian songs have found their way into English liturgy in Wales.

Manx Gaelic almost died out in the 20th Century but today it is being encouraged, especially by the church. And now there is a Manx language primary school. About 5% of the population on the island speak Manx fluently. There are

booklets to help in translation and the Lord's Prayer is always said in Manx in the cathedral.

And so the Bishop of Sodor and Man officially launched the book and CD and was delighted to bring them back to the Isle of Man, especially to the singers and choirs.

The launch was followed by a short bilingual service with music led by Roisin Rowley-Brooke, the cathedral organ scholar, along with members of the cathedral choir which David Forde also conducted and played the organ. 'Cór Fear na nDéise' also added to the singing. The service was led by Bishop Burrows who invited all to say the Lord's Prayer in whatever language they were comfortable with to sound a cacophony of diverse worship. The Bishop of Sodor and and Man gave the final blessing in Manx.

Moderator's Monaghan Presbytery Tour

Dr. Barry began his Monaghan Presbytery tour by preaching on Sunday morning in Frankford Presbyterian Church. This was a United Service for congregations in Corvally, Castleblayney and Frankford itself. On the Sunday evening the Moderator's rally was held at First Monaghan Presbyterian Church, where he preached in the pulpit of Rev. Ronnie Agnew who led the service.



Monaghan Presbytery consists of 35 congregations across a large rural area, a number of these being home mission churches where one minister serves various congregations. Acknowledging that many ministers do this, particularly in the Republic of Ireland, Dr. Barry said, "I want to pay tribute to and encourage those ministers who travel and preach at several services each Sunday.

"This is an incredible example of personal dedication to the Gospel and a God-honouring commitment undertaken with energy and great dedication; likewise taking time to meet the needs of their parishioners throughout the week."

Dr. Barry followed his busy first Sunday in County Monaghan by visiting schools on Monday morning, where he met with and talked to students and teachers. In the afternoon the Moderator enjoyed a visit to Monaghan Creamery, witnessing first hand the process of turning milk into yoghurt. "The tasting was as enjoyable as the visit was informative," he said.

On Tuesday, Dr. Barry met the staff and residents of Ballybay School and the Camphill Community in Ballybay with Rev. William Buchanan.

Throughout the remainder of his week he took opening devotions at the Presbytery meeting at Kells Presbyterian Church and will attend a United Midweek Service with congregations from Middletown in County Armagh, and Clontibret, Cootehill, Drum and Kilmount.

Dr. Barry will also visit schools in the Cootehill and Bailieborough areas, as well as make a visit to Cavan Hospital and Garda station with Rev. Sam Anketell, Clerk of Presbytery, who organised the tour.

On Sunday morning Dr. Barry will conduct a joint service in Corraneary for the congregations of Corraneary, First Bailieborough and Trinity Bailieborough.

The tour will close with a United Service at Newbliss Presbyterian Church on Sunday evening for congregations in Clones, Stonebridge, Ballyhobridge and Newbliss.

Today, Saturday the Moderator crosses into Dublin and Munster Presbytery for the official opening and dedication of the new Mullingar Presbyterian Church in County Westmeath, when he will preach from Isaiah 54:2: "Do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes."

After an exciting few years, following the sale of the old church building, purchase of new land and construction of a new church building, Dr. Barry said, "I am looking forward to being a part of this exciting new beginning in Mullingar. A new building provides even greater outreach opportunities through this purpose-built facility and I pray that God will bless the community there and the work that they are doing for Him, as they move forward into 2015 and beyond."

C of I cleric offered free haircut in Belfast grooming salon at centre of cheeky poster advertising

The owner of Jay's Male Grooming Salon has found himself in the local spotlight after his cheeky advertising poster received complaints.

Belfast Telegraph - Jay Millar placed a sign outside his business on Bloomfield Avenue in Belfast two weeks ago.

The image on the poster is a ladies bottom with nothing more than a skimpy pair of knickers with the name of the east Belfast male grooming business on her skin.

Owner Jay Millar has had some complaints from passers by and locals in the area over the explicit image outside his shop.

Jay Millar said: "I had no idea this would happen, there are a lot of other business with worse signs, it has been mainly older women complaining about it."

He added: "I stand by my poster and I have no plans to take it down, I only put it up to advertise my business."

"I have found that my shop is a lot busier since the poster has gone up", he said. The poster is close to St Donard's Church of Ireland, which is opposite Jay's Male Grooming shop.

Rev Ken Higgins said: "It's a bit racy to be quite honest."

He added: "It is not very tasteful, and I feel it demeans women, suggesting that women are simply sexual objects. A woman is there is to be loved and cared for, the body is part of that but not everything."

In response to Rev Ken Higgins comments, owner Jay Millar said: "I would like to invite Rev Ken into the shop for a chat over a cup of tea and I offer him a free hair cut."

belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/belfast-salon-owner-stands-by-cheeky-poster-its-mainly-older-women-complaining-31043128.html

'Drug proofing your kids' talk at Larne's Market Yard

The Inter-Church in the Marketplace Scheme has held a talk entitled "drug proofing your kids" at Larne's Market Yard.

Larne Times - The talk by Care in the Family guest speaker Sue Finch aimed to educate parents and the local community on the signs of drug use and how to engage with children to discuss the topic.



Su Finch (2nd right) from Care for the Family was guest speaker at the Irish Churches Peace Project meeting on drugs awarness in the Market Yard and is pictured with (from left) Rev Tommy Stephenson, Keith Hamilton Director of ICPP, Ann McKeown from the ICPP planning group and Eamonn McFerran ICPP Good Relations Officer.

Irish Churches Peace Project Good Relations officer Eamonn McFerran told The Times: "The

talk is part of the eight-week Church in the Market Yard programme.

"Sue was able to show what a bong and spliff look like, she described certain drugs and gave tips about parenting. She said it was important not to turn the drugs into something like a forbidden fruit.

"It's about sitting down and talking to kids and explaining the problems, issues and serious consequences.

"It's also important to provide positive role models."

Eamonn believes it is important that parents are educated on the dangers of drugs in order to be better able to deal with the problem. He continued: "There is a lot of talk about it in the Larne area with the problem of legal highs. Education is important and parents should attend talks like this."

The drugs education talk is part of a programme of events taking part in the Market Yard as part of the eight-week pilot Church in the Market Yard programme. Eamonn continued: "We have had talks from Citizen's Advice, Larne Foodbank, Age Concern, the Crime Prevention Officer,

Warmer Homes and Home Accident Prevention and Armchair Aerobics. Everyone enjoys the talks."

The Church in the Market Yard programme was the brainchild of Larne Clergy Group, which brings together clergy from the Presbyterian, Methodist, Catholic, Church of Ireland and non-subscribing Presbyterian churches in the Larne area. The ICPP is collaborating with the local group to facilitate the Church in the Market Yard pilot programme, which will be reviewed next week to determine whether to continue.

Eamonn continued: "The Church in the Market Yard scheme has gone really, really well from the first week. We aren't trying to convert people, it's about being Christian without preaching at people."

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Irish mums spend an average of €700 on a child's First Holy Communion

Irish mothers spend an average of €703 on their child's First Holy Communion, new research has revealed.

Independent.ie - Researchers questioned over a thousand Irish mums and found that 48pc of families spend between €500 and €1000 on the occasion.

Over a third of families (38pc) spend below €500 while 14pc spend over €1000 on the big day in



The research, conducted by Mummypages.ie found that 61pc of mothers spend €199 on a child's Holy Communion outfit including shoes and accessories with 2pc of mum spending as much as €750 on their child's attire.

More than half (55pc) of mums spend up to €50 on styling their child's hair prior to the mass and

64pc spend up to €250 buying new outfits for the entire family.

After mass celebrations will see most mums (62pc) shelling out between €750 and €1000 feeding and entertaining the family.

The massive spend for the occasion proves a huge financial burden for Irish families and 55pc of parents admit they worry about the expensive day for months before it arrives.

The survey results also found that Irish parents would like primary schools to implement more cost saving initiatives to help reduce the financial impact of First Holy Communions on a family's budget.

More at -

http://www.independent.ie/life/family/parenting/irishmums-spend-an-average-of-700-on-a-childs-first-holycommunion-31039853.html

Lurgan church's service to mark Glenavon Football Club's 125th Anniversary

St John's Church of Ireland, Lurgan, has been invited to host a service to celebrate Glenavon Football Club's 125th Anniversary.



The parish has forged strong links with the club as part of its community outreach and there are many supporters in the congregation. Some members of the board have spoken in St Johns and teams of parishioners have provided tea and coffee and face painting for children at Glenavon matches.

A warm welcome awaits officials, players, ex players, supporters and friends on Sunday 22 March for the service at 6.30 pm and supper afterwards. The special guest speaker will be Revd Paul Whittaker (Former Chaplain) and the

offering will go to 'Care in Crisis' which is the club's chosen charity.

A Taste of Tabernacles

The International Christian Embassy of Jerusalem will present "A Taste of Tabernacles" on Monday March 16 2015, 7.30 -10pm. Ulster Hall, Bedford Street, Belfast.

Featuring Malcolm Hedding, Allen Jackson, the Shalom dance team and Tabernacles band. Tickets £5.00 available from Ulster Hall booking office 02890 334455

Mothers Union - Women in focus in March

Fiona Thomas, MU Mary Sumner House comments - The month of March has a distinct focus on women. Within four weeks we are challenged afresh by the obedience of Mary in bearing God's Son; we are inspired by remarkable lives on International Women's Day; we uphold the value of motherhood on Mothering Sunday and we join in prayer with women around the world on World Day of Prayer. In addition to this we watch with interest the debates taking place at the Commission for

the Status of Women at the United Nations; this year focussing on a review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. In Acts 17:4 we read about a number of Jews and Greeks who responded to the Gospel of Christ, including not a few prominent women.

As Christians, whether female or male, let us strive for prominence as we champion the cause of justice and mercy. Such prominence may be different to that generally acknowledged by the world to be important or influential.

From the outside our actions may seem small and limited, but in the purposes of God we have a vital part to play. Let us show the same obedience to God as Mary, and thus be sources of inspiration to others who want to play a part in establishing the values of the Kingdom of God on earth.

Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word. Luke 1:38

Neglecting your elderly relatives is a mortal sin, says Pope Francis

Seeing the elderly only as a burden "is ugly" and "a sin", Pope Francis has said.

Catholic Herald - Speaking at his weekly general audience, the 78-year-old Pope said: "We must reawaken our collective sense of gratitude, appreciation and hospitality, helping the elderly know they are a living part of their communities" and sources of wisdom for the younger generations.



Continuing a series of audience talks about the family, Pope Francis said he would dedicate two talks to the elderly, looking at how they are treated in modern societies and at their vocation within the family.

"An elderly person is not an alien," he said. "The elderly person is us. Soon, or many years from now – inevitably anyway – we will be old, even if we don't think about it."

"If we do not learn to treat the elderly well," the Pope added, "we won't be treated well either" when the time comes.

In a talk punctuated with references to his own family life, his grandmother and his experience visiting homes for the elderly in Buenos Aires, Pope Francis said even Christians are being influenced by cultures so focused on production and profit, that the biblical exhortations to respect the aged and draw upon their wisdom are being ignored.

"We elderly are all a bit fragile," the Pope said, changing his prepared text to include himself among the aged.

The elderly he visited in Buenos Aires, he said, would often tell him that they had many children and that their children visited them. "And when was the last time they came?" the Pope said he asked one woman. "She said, 'Well, at Christmas'. It was August. Eight months without a visit from her children. Eight months of being abandoned. This is called a mortal sin. Understand?"

"It is so easy to put our consciences to sleep when there is no love," he said. "While we are young we are tempted to ignore old age as if it were an illness to hold at bay," he said. "But when we become old, especially if we are poor, sick and alone, we experience the failures of a society programmed for efficiency, which consequently ignores the elderly."

"We want to remove our growing fear of weakness and vulnerability, but doing so we increase the anguish of the elderly," Pope Francis said.

The aged are the "reserve of the wisdom of our people," they have experienced and survived the struggles to raise a family and provide them with a dignified life, he said.

Tossing them aside means tossing aside their experience and the way that experience can contribute to making life better today.

A society that cannot show gratitude and affection to the elderly "is a perverse society," the Pope said. "The Church, faithful to the word of God, cannot tolerate such degeneration."

"Where the elderly are not honoured," he said, "there is no future for the young."

Before the audience, Pope Francis met briefly with 60 bishops from 35 countries who were participating in a conference sponsored by the Focolare movement.

Addressing the bishops from "the bloodstained lands of Syria, Iraq and Ukraine", the Pope assured them he is "united with them" each day in the celebration of the Eucharist. "In the suffering you are experiencing along with your people, you experience the strength that comes from Jesus in the Eucharist, the strength to go forward united in faith and in hope."

Media digest

Belfast Telegraph 'There is no difference in beheading or shooting'

http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/there-is-no-difference-in-beheading-or-shooting-31045077.html

News Letter Diazepam a form of currency on Northern Ireland streets, says judge

http://www.newsletter.co.uk/diazepam-a-form-ofcurrency-on-northern-ireland-streets-saysjudge-1-6618063

Journal.ie

Cork company offers to make invites for gay couple refused by printer

www.thejournal.ie/gay-wedding-invite-printer-offershelp-1976272-Mar2015?utm_source=twitter_self

Independent.ie Crisis in third-level education is coming down the line - but no one is looking at it

http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/future-proof/crisis-in-thirdlevel-education-is-coming-down-the-line-but-no-one-is-looking-at-it-31041957.html

Tel & Mail

Reports on a hit and run accident, which killed 10-year-old Samuel Crocker in Devon. It states a police worker who rushed to the scene found the young victim was her nephew. The Bishop of Crediton, Nick McKinnel is quoted and hundreds of people attended a candle lit vigil at Holy Cross Church on Monday. The Rector of Crediton Rev Nigel Guthrie said it had been a huge shock to the community.

http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-and-order/11451928/Pcso-called-to-the-scene-of-her-10-year-old-nephews-hit-and-run-death.html http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2980782/PCSO-raced-scene-fatal-crash-discover-schoolboy-victim-nephew.html?

ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490

Tel

Article on how Isil are trying to wipe out both Assyrians and all traces of Assyrian culture from the country in what it describes as 'an attempt to wipe out an entire civilisation'. It states beginning last Monday, Islamic State fighters raided 33 Assyrian villages, and are reported to have taken as many as 300 Christians hostage. The militants, speaking on their radios, exulted in the capture of "crusaders".

http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/islamic-state/11452080/Islamic-States-thugs-are-trying-to-wipe-an-entire-civilisation-from-the-face-of-the-earth.html

BBC/Guard/Mail/Express/Times

Reports that the body of a man was cremated by mistake at the funeral of an MEP with an almost identical name. Philip Bradbourn, a Conservative MEP, died at Good Hope Hospital, Sutton Coldfield, Philip Bradburn died at University Hospital Birmingham - both before Christmas. It is understood both bodies were taken to the same mortuary, but the wrong body was released. The funeral directors and two hospitals are investigating the claims. More than 200 people attended a memorial service in his honour at St Peter's Collegiate Church in Wolverhampton in March.

http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-31748802

http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/mar/05/hospital-mixup-bodies-cremation-midlands-mep-funeral-philip-bradbourn

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2981459/ Investigation-launched-mortuary-cremates-WRONG-BODY-funeral-Tory-MEP-Philip-Bradbourn-dead-man-s-Bradburn.html?

ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490 http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/562178/Hospital-apologies-wrong-body-cremated-funeral-Philip-Bradbourn

http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4373700.ece

BBC

Report that the relatives of people who died during the "forgotten" bombing of Coventry are to get a memorial for their loved ones - 76 years after the attack. It states five people died in an IRA explosion in the city centre in 1939, yet few people in Coventry remember the tragedy. It is hoped a memorial will be erected in the cathedral grounds. The Reverend Canon Dr David Stone is quoted.

http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-coventry-warwickshire-31753570