



***Sister Stanislaus Kennedy: “I have thought a lot about this,” she told *The Irish Times*. “I am going to vote Yes in recognition of the gay community as full members of society. They should have an entitlement to marry. It is a civil right and a human right.” Above: Sr Stan outside the Dáil in 2012 with campaigners against sex trafficking.***

## Leading figures and two former C of I Archbishops in favour of Yes

Rugby legend Brian O'Driscoll and one of the country's most high-profile nuns, Sr Stanislaus Kennedy, and two former Archbishops of Dublin, John Neill and Walton Empey, have ‘teamed up’

to encourage a 'Yes' vote in the marriage referendum.

O'Driscoll, a father-of-two, took to Twitter over the weekend to encourage his followers to support the move for change, saying: "I'm supporting the Yes Equality campaign for a 'Yes' vote on May 22nd".

'Sr Stan' is well known for her charity work on behalf of the homeless and immigrants over many years.

A member of the Sisters of Charity, Sr Stan said: "I have thought a lot about this. I am going to vote 'Yes' in recognition of the gay community as full members of society.

"They should have an entitlement to marry. It is a civil right and a human right."

In separate letters to this week's Church of Ireland Gazette, both former Archbishops state they will be voting Yes. Archbishop Neill challenges the group of clergy who quoted Canon law. He states that viewpoint is not applicable. Archbishop Empey pays tribute to the integrity and stance taken by the Bishops of Cashel and Cork.

See also -

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/referendum/odriscoll-and-sr-stan-line-out-for-yes-vote-31214293.html>

[http://www.thejournal.ie/sister-stan-marriage-ref-yes-vote-referendum-2097058-May2015/?utm\\_source=twitter\\_self](http://www.thejournal.ie/sister-stan-marriage-ref-yes-vote-referendum-2097058-May2015/?utm_source=twitter_self)

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/politics/sr-stan-to-vote-in-favour-of-same-sex-marriage-1.2207761>

## **Facebook workshop for Dublin and Glendalough parishes**

Following the tremendous interest expressed by parishes in the Dublin and Glendalough Diocesan Communications Committee's Facebook Training Workshop, a practical session has been arranged for Saturday May 16 at Dublin City University.

This workshop is aimed at those who would like to set up or improve their parish Facebook page. Ideally those attending will be people who look after the parish Facebook page or might do so in future. There may also be room for those on diocesan committees who would be interested in gaining a social media presence for the committee.

The workshop will run from 9.30 am until 1.00 pm and will be led by a professional social

[churchnewsireland@gmail.com](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.com)

media trainer and a social media safety expert. The areas to be covered include: How to set up a parish Facebook page, How to optimise your parish page, and social media safety and best practice. Please bring your iPad, laptop, or other electronic device as this will be a practical session. If you have a Facebook page already, please bring the address details. If you do not currently have a Facebook page you will be shown how to set one up.

This workshop is being sponsored by The Church Review and is therefore free of charge for participants who are attending on behalf of their parish or diocesan committee. However, places are limited.

To register your interest in attending please email the Diocesan Communications Officer at [dco@dublin.anglican.org](mailto:dco@dublin.anglican.org) as soon as possible.

## **Knocknamuckley: I'm waiting for it all to die down, says trendy rector at the heart of the storm**

Knocknamuckley's answer to Father Trendy is quite dishy in the flesh. Quietly spoken and self-contained, he looks like a fresher-faced version

of The Strangler's front man Hugh Cornwell - studded ears and all.

Una Brankin in Belfast Telegraph - ...I stood with the well-travelled, close-shaven minister at the top of the aisle at St Matthias, as he watched the faithful gather for his evening service, a pleasant affair, with just a little bit of hands-aloft worship, but lots of loud American folksy singing. Dressed casually in a tweed jacket and dark blue jeans, Rev Kilpatrick was joined in the service by one of his two daughters - he also has two sons - who led the singing.

The contemporary style is not to the liking of one long-serving choir member I met in the vestibule, who claimed Rev Kilpatrick has curtailed the choir's role in services and wants to do away with it altogether.

"It's all about that modern type of singing now - it's like a rock concert in there most of the time," she said. "The problem is that he's been away in Africa and America and he doesn't know the Church of Ireland, nor is he interested."

The churchgoer claimed the rector told him one day, "this is not a Church of Ireland any more". She said: "I can't understand why Rev Kilpatrick wasn't brought in as a curate, so he could learn

about the church, instead of being made rector," added the choir member, who, like everyone else, didn't wish to be named.

"We haven't had an traditional evening communion service here for 18 months," she claimed. "And he never wears a collar. I think the jeans and the earrings show a lack of respect, and it's a bad example for the young ones."

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/knocknamuckley-im-waiting-for-it-all-to-die-down-says-trendy-rector-at-the-heart-of-the-storm-31211374.html>

## **Christ Church Cathedral Launches Dublin Garden Festival 2015**

Christ Church Cathedral is preparing to host the second annual Dublin Garden Festival. This year's festival will take place from Friday June 19 to Sunday June 21 in the cathedral.

The theme of this year's festival is fairy tales and the cathedral will be adorned with floral installations and props transforming it into an enchanting magical wonderland. Hundreds of flowers will be used to create a stunning display of contemporary and traditional floral designs under the lead of artistic director and award winning floral artist, Christopher White.



To complement the event, a summer market with food, craft and garden stalls will be held within the cathedral's historic grounds. There will be horticultural displays, Irish food produce, urban garden displays, birds of prey, a petting zoo, craft demonstrations, live entertainment and an artisan food tent.

The Dean of Christ Church, the Very Revd Dermot Dunne, said he was delighted that the cathedral was launching a second garden

festival following the tremendous success of last year's inaugural event. "This year the cathedral will truly be transformed into a floral wonderland full of imagination and creativity. We are looking forward to welcoming many visitors through the doors of Dublin's oldest cathedral to witness a unique event in the heart of the city centre," he stated.

Visitors to Dublin Garden Festival 2015 will receive gardening advice from renowned and much loved personalities from the world of gardening and horticulture. The 'Gardening with the Experts' series will take place in the Music Room and will feature a host of prolific expert gardeners discussing everything from money saving composting to creating your very own urban garden.

Among this year's guest speakers will be Irish media personality and broadcaster, Eamon Dunphy; former Green Party politician and author of 'Trevor's Kitchen Garden', Trevor Sargent; gardening expert, Helen Dillon; landscaping architect and five time gold medal winner at Bloom, Jane McCorkell; and Chelsea Flower Show medallist, Christopher White. More expert gardeners will be announced over the coming weeks.



A special Evensong will be held on Sunday June 21 at 5.00 pm as part of the Garden Festival. The cathedral will invite visitors to explore the cathedral in all its floral splendour whilst listening to beautiful choral music performed by the cathedral choir.

See [Facebook.com/DublinGardenFestival](https://www.facebook.com/DublinGardenFestival) for updates and details of how to book.

## **Young Methodist Wins Mission to Mars**

Amy Anderson, a member of Blackwatertown Methodist Church was announced as the winner of the United Space School Competition by Employment and Learning Minister Dr Stephen Farry at an event at the Armagh Planetarium.

Amy, who attends the Southern Regional College's Armagh campus was selected for an intensive two week placement to the United Space School in Houston.

Congratulating the winner of the United Space School competition, Employment and Learning Minister, Dr Stephen Farry said: *“This programme underlines the importance of delivering the Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) agenda and the value of*



*international partnerships between educational establishments, government and industry.”*

The placement which commences in July will see 40 students from 25 countries participate. The programme will include a variety of space and engineering projects including one entitled a "Mission to Mars" design. Students will also meet with astronauts, space doctors, spacesuit designers and geologists.

The objectives of the initiative are to establish links between Northern Ireland and the United Space School, part of the Foundation for International Space Education (FISE) to create a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for students and

to promote the space industry within Northern Ireland.

Sponsor organisations included the Department of Engineering at Queen's University Belfast and Northern Ireland based company European Space Propulsion, which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Aerojet Rocketdyne (AR), a US based leader in space propulsion.

## **Day of support for persecuted Christians in the Middle East**

There will be a day to support persecuted Christians in the Middle East on Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>. It will be held in St Finnian's Church at the top of the Cregagh Road from 10am to 2pm.

The day is being organised by Divine Healing Ministries and Open Doors, who for decades have worked with the persecuted Church worldwide.

There will be table top sales, tea and coffee, and the Church will be open for prayer for those who are suffering.

The plight of persecuted Christians has been widely publicised in recent times. The video of

twenty-one Coptic Christians being marched along the beach to be beheaded was one of the saddest scenes of all, but it was only the tip of the iceberg.

Many people have been dismayed by what is happening, would like to help but don't know how to.

The event on May 23<sup>rd</sup> will be an opportunity to make a contribution.

All of the money raised will be used to support those who are suffering in the Middle East.

## **New chair of CMS Ireland**

Revd Adrian Dorrian, rector of St Mark's Dundela, who was recently elected Chair of the Board of Trustees of [CMS Ireland](#).

The society's Mission Director, Jenny Smyth, said:

“CMS Ireland is delighted that Revd Adrian Dorrian has been elected to chair the Board of Trustees. He takes over from Bishop Alan Abernethy who served as Chair with dedication, bringing clarity of vision. Adrian is well known to the staff and members of CMS Ireland having been involved over many years in a variety of



capacities. Most recently he has been chaplain, coming into the office weekly to lead devotions and take part in many events. Adrian's sense of humour and ability to connect with people will be a great asset as CMS Ireland continues to build partnerships between parishes throughout Ireland and our Global Partners in Africa and Asia. Adrian will be taking a group from his own parish, St Marks, Dundela, to visit their partners in Kenya over the summer."

Adrian said: "CMSI has been a big part of my life since the days when I participated in the Annual Project as a child in Sunday School in

Groomsport Parish. Over the years I've continued to be committed to the society and I've been richly blessed by that involvement. I'm really excited to be taking on this new role, and I'm humbled by the membership for putting their trust in me. It's a significant time for CMSI with a new Mission Director in place and other incoming changes to the staff team. I look forward to working alongside Jenny and the whole team as we seek to move the society forward under God's guidance."

## **Archbishop of Canterbury becomes patron of Christians Against Poverty**

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has become the first patron of debt charity Christians Against Poverty.

The charity runs debt services through local churches with the aim of releasing people from the prison of debt. Around 60 of its 280 debt centres are based in Church of England churches.

[In a video message](#) the Archbishop said: "Most of us know people who've been in debt. Many of



us, probably most of us, have had moments when either we've been in debt or we've begun to wonder how on earth we're ever going to make ends meet.

“CAP deals in helping people to get free of the prison of debt and it's something I feel passionately about. And having seen them at work and having seen how effective they are, I wanted to be a patron and to support them in any way I could.

Speaking about the CAP approach, the Archbishop said: "First of all they tackle the issues where they really exist, they go to people's homes, they treat people as human beings, they keep them with their dignity, they're not trying to make money out of them, they're there to love them and to enable them to find their own way forward. It's not just about telling them what to do, it's about a sense of ownership and liberation for them.

"Secondly, they are linked to local churches. Over 20 per cent of CAP branches link in in some way to a Church of England church but all of them link in to Christian churches. That's really exciting because it means there's a community for those who want it. CAP don't force them into the church or anything like that but they offer them scope to find the support and love of a Christian community. That's wonderful."

*To find out more [visit the CAP website](https://capuk.org/about-us).*

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## **Kirk says 'Tomorrow's Calling' in recruitment drive for new ministers**

The Church of Scotland is launching a recruitment campaign for new ministers with a video championing their work in communities across the country. The Kirk's 'Tomorrow's Calling' campaign is reaching out to people capable of replacing the large number of parish ministers due to retire over the next 10 years. The specially commissioned video will be shared on social media from Sunday 17th May where it is intended to inspire a new generation of leaders in the church.





***Rev Michael Mair and probationer Aniko Schuetz Bradwell both feature in a new video about the ministry***

The 'Tomorrow's Calling' video captures the extraordinary commitment of parish ministers serving their communities in Scotland and beyond. The video challenges outdated stereotypes by featuring a selection of the Kirk's 800 ministers, like 26 year old Rev Michael Mair, who serves at St David's Broomhouse in Edinburgh.

He says: "Being a minister is a phenomenal role to play in the community. You get to journey with people through the highs and lows of life. There's nothing else like it."

Rev Tommy MacNeil has pioneered community outreach at Martins Memorial in Stornoway. "I would have done anything to be honest, other than be a minister, but over the course of a couple of years God made it very clear that's what he wanted from me. I knew it would be demanding. You're on call 24/7. Although it's challenging, the more you give to people the more you see the beauty and diversity of life. You never lose from that."

Rev Stella Campbell at Skene Church in Aberdeenshire is seen displaying her gift for connecting with people at a local care home. She says: "If you feel a sense of calling in your heart you can't run away from it. Every day there are moments you can look back and smile on, and see something happening that's a sign of God at work."

Their job has been described as one of the best in the world, but it's rarely been publicised at career fairs or on the recruitment pages. The 'Tomorrow's Calling' campaign will let women and men who feel called to serve the church know the many life and professional skills they bring with them are valued, whatever age they are. It will guide them through the process of becoming the next generation of parish ministers in the Kirk's 1400 congregations.

'Tomorrow's Calling' is being launched in front of 3000 Church members at the Heart and Soul festival in Princes St Gardens this Sunday May 17th. Ministers featured in the film will be joined on stage by the incoming Moderator, Rev Dr Angus Morrison.

"I'm very excited about 'Tomorrow's Calling,'" he says. "It's a bold step which is vital for the future of our national Church. We need leaders who will champion our work. Our 400,000 members are the backbone of their communities, providing millions of hours of voluntary service in social clubs for young and old, helping run foodbanks and innovative projects such as supporting those suffering dementia. Our parish ministers bring imagination, creativity and the love of Christ to those who need it."

For the first time, the Church is using a social media campaign to promote parish ministry. The launch video will soon be accompanied with first-hand accounts from ministers, as well as trainees in the Church of Scotland's comprehensive ordained ministry programme. The intention is to engage and energise the many audiences the Church, its congregations and its partners reach via the internet and to encourage them to share the 'Tomorrow's Calling' message far and wide.

Find out more on the Church of Scotland's Tomorrow's Calling web page. See also - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-32702008>

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/scotland/church-of-scotland-launches-recruitment-drive-1.874162>

## **Cuban bishops reveal dates for papal visit**

The Cuban bishops' conference has announced that Pope Francis will visit the country from September 19 to 22

An advisory message posted on the bishops' conference Facebook page on Monday said the visit will begin in Havana. Other events under consideration include a visit to the city of Holguin, in eastern Cuba, as well as a visit to the Shrine of Our Lady of Charity of El Cobre, the patroness of Cuba, and the nearby city of Santiago de Cuba, the second-largest city on the island.

From Santiago, the Pope is expected to take off for his September 22 to 27 visit to the United States.



***Pope Francis talks to Cuban President Raul Castro during a private audience at the Vatican***

The Pope's trip to Cuba will mark the third time a Pope has visited the island. St John Paul II visited Cuba in 1998 and Benedict XVI visited in 2012.

On May 10, the Pope met Cuban President Raul Castro at the Vatican, where Castro thanked him for the “active role he played in improving relations between Cuba and the United States of America,” said Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman.

President Raúl Castro this week thanked Pope Francis for the Vatican's role in the secret negotiations between Cuba and the US last year, quipping he might be moved to return to the bosom of the Church himself - despite being a communist. See -

<http://www.independent.ie/world-news/europe/castro-jokes-pope-inspires-him-to-join-church-again-31211405.html>

## **Christian Aid effort to get relief supplies through to Nepal area hit by second major quake**

Christian Aid emergency workers in Nepal are trying with partner organisations to get relief through yesterday morning to the area worst hit by the second major earthquake.

The earthquake struck at about 13:00 local time. The US Geological Survey said it measured 7.4 on the Richter scale, compared to the April 26 earthquake, which had a magnitude of 7.8.

The epicentre of today's earthquake was the town of Namche Bazaar in eastern Nepal, the last major settlement before Everest basecamp.

Christian Aid emergency programme officer Yeeshu Shukla, already in Nepal to help co-ordinate relief efforts after the first earthquake, was in the Sindhupalchowk region some 40 miles away when the building he was in began shaking.

“For a moment, I felt that the building I was in would come down. We rushed out. Everyone was out on the street, some of them panicking, with mothers screaming, looking for their children. There were four or five severe after-shocks and some buildings collapsed.

“Travelling later towards Kathmandu the roads were lined with people too scared to re-enter buildings, with heaps of rubble where some had structures had collapsed.

“Now the race is to get relief through to the worst hit areas – clothing and other essentials. There is a shortage of drivers, however, many of whom have returned to their homes to be with their families.”

Nick Guttman, Christian Aid’s Head of Humanitarian had just arrived in the country to monitor the progress of Christian Aid’s initial relief efforts.

He was visiting a partner agency in Kathmandu before visiting a distribution point when a slight tremor ran through the building. Everyone stood up, and then everything began moving. “Outside, the ground looked like it was rippling,” he said. “We didn’t know where to go and stayed under some corrugated iron.”

An hour after the earthquake, he said, “people were walking round the streets, not knowing what to do, I heard one woman ask ‘What is happening to Nepal’.”

Since the first earthquake struck, Christian Aid has worked through partner organisations in Nepal distributing blankets, tarpaulins, food, water purification equipment and water purification tablets to communities struggling to rebuild their lives.

The Disasters Emergency Committee, of which Christian Aid is a member, yesterday announced its appeal for Nepal earthquake victims had raised more than £50m. At the same time, Christian Aid’s own appeal for Nepal has raised more than £1.2million.

## **Scottish threshers for Malawi**



A chance meeting at St John's Church Dumfries between a Malawi rice farmer and a member of the congregation has led to the development of a project which could make significant change for the better for farmers in that part of Africa. The Balmore Trust, which has close associations with a number of Episcopal congregations, has just been awarded a £60,000 grant by the Scottish Government to introduce pedal-driven threshing machines into Malawi.

The project is the brain-child of Paul Tofield from Dumfries. Two years ago he met Howard Msukwa, one the farmers whose rice is sold by Just Trading Scotland (JTS), the Balmore Trust's fair trade arm. Paul was deeply impressed by Howard's determination and the sheer amount of work which his rice farming involved. When Howard told him that farmers thresh their rice by beating it against a log, Paul told him about the pedal-driven threshing machines they used to have in Orkney. That summer Paul went to Orkney and found an old machine. That was the basis for the three machines which have just reached Malawi.

The grant will help to get the machines manufactured in-country, providing jobs for Malawians. It will make low-cost machines available to farmers' clubs, freeing them from the

huge burden of threshing, and allowing them more time to develop their farms.

Humza Yousaf, Minister for Europe and International Development said: "These threshing machines will make a huge difference to farmers and communities in Malawi by improving crop production. It's exciting to think that machinery built in Scotland is being used thousands of miles away to help farmers in other nations".

## Media digest

### **BBC/ITV/Tel**

Reports that the retired Bishop of Gloucester, Michael Perham, has been cleared after an inquiry into alleged sex assaults. They state the Metropolitan Police dropped its inquiry after two months and now the Church of England has completed an independent risk assessment. Bishop Michael is quoted talking about relief at end of 'long and testing' process. The diocese has announced a service of thanksgiving to mark his "committed and dedicated ministry" in Gloucester Cathedral on 13 June.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-gloucestershire-32687814>

<http://www.itv.com/news/west/update/2015-05-11/bishop-cleared-by-church-of-sex-assault-allegations/>  
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11597308/Former-Bishop-of-Gloucester-cleared-over-indecent-assault-claims.html>

## **Mail**

Article looking at the different political parties represented in the House of Lords says the Conservatives are very much in a minority. It mentions Anglican bishops making up part of the other affiliations and claims the Upper House will be heavily influenced by left wing members, working against the government's policies.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-3077584/QUENTIN-LETTIS-greasers-deadbeats-Lords-plan-block-Britain-voted-for.html#ixzz3ZtfN2MZC>

## **Ind**

Report that the Prime Minister is facing calls to experience the "human cost" of his party's looming welfare cuts by meeting disabled benefit claimants, volunteering at a food bank and living on the minimum wage. He has been challenged in an open letter written by the Rev Mike Walsh, from a United Reformed Church, in Manchester. It states the letter, sent to Downing Street, has

been shared more than 75,000 times since it was posted on Facebook on Saturday.  
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/david-ferman-challenged-to-live-on-minimum-wage-and-volunteer-at-food-bank-to-understand-impact-of-tory-welfare-cuts-10241556.html>

## **Times**

Report that the Church of Scotland has said it intends to double its annual intake of new ministers as it attempts to free itself from a 10-year controversy over gay clergy. It says the recruitment drive will begin this weekend at the commencement of the Kirk's general assembly, and will be promoted through an online video and at a Christian festival in Edinburgh on Sunday.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/scotland/article4437885.ece>

## **Times**

Article on a Church of Scotland report saying the UK's reliance on gas for heating makes fracking a serious option for governments at both Holyrood and Westminster. The Kirk's church and society council said it was inevitable that the country would soon be left with a choice of the development of fuel sources at home, such as shale gas, or a reliance on expensive imports.

[churchnewsireland@gmail.com](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.com)

The report states it is essential to develop green energy and says gas is far preferable to coal-fired power.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/scotland/article4437895.ece>

## **Times**

Report that protected creatures could be under threat from property developers under plans for a revision of European wildlife directives. It mentions Sir Tony Baldry, the former church estates commissioner, telling the House of Commons last December that 6,400 churches were infested with bats.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/environment/article4437594.ece>

## **Tel**

Article on launch of this year's *Bring Home the Harvest* competition linked with British Food Fortnight. It states harvest events for the competition should take place during or near to British Food Fortnight (September 19-October 4 2015), anywhere in the community including clubs, pubs, schools, churches or a workplace.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/foodanddrink/seasonal-food-and-drink/10819584/Bring-Home-the-Harvest-2014-the-search-for-UKs-harvest-heroes.html>

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