



Alf McCreary (left) , Journalist and historian, comments in the Belfast Telegraph on the situation in Knockmuckley Parish

This impasse can't continue... it's time for tough decisions - Senior journalist

The situation at Knocknamuckley Parish Church has reached breaking point after weeks of open discontent.

Alf McCreary writes in Belfast Telegraph - Given the latest statement from a group of parishioners, the dispute will not settle while the Rev Alan Kilpatrick remains the minister.

This follows a weekend comment from Rev Kilpatrick to this newspaper that he was "waiting for it all to die down".

Clearly there is a solid group of parishioners who are not for turning, and the row is not going to go away anytime soon.

Things have gone so far that, unless one side gives in, there will be irreparable damage to the church in the long-term. Church disputes are nothing new, but the rows in Knocknamuckley have escalated to the point where even the intervention of Bishop Harold Miller seems to have failed to quieten things down....

...Theological differences apart, the Rev Kilpatrick originally did not allow the local Royal Black Preceptory to hold its annual service at Knocknamuckley.

This raised tensions even further, to the point where Bishop Miller intervened, allowing the service to proceed and he preached at it himself.

All of this is desperately sad for the divided congregation, for the local community, for Bishop Miller and for the Rev Kilpatrick and his family.

There is no doubt that both sides have sincerely held views, but clearly they are unable to overcome their differences.

On balance, therefore, Rev Kilpatrick might consider his position in consultation with his family, his bishop and his supporters at Knocknamuckley, and conclude that the best way forward is to continue his ministry in another place.

In this situation there are no winners and the wounds of everyone involved may take a long time to heal.

More at -

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/this-impasse-cant-continue-its-time-for-tough-decisions-31220718.html>

Knocknamuckley church row: 'Family and friends' relationships are broken over this... the flock needs a new leader'

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/knocknamuckley-church-row-family-and-friends->

relationships-are-broken-over-this-the-flock-needs-a-new-leader-31220698.html

IDAHOT (anti-homophobia) services around Ireland this Sunday

This Sunday 17th May 2015 is the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHOT). Changing Attitude Ireland (CAI) will be hosting special church services to mark IDAHOT around the country.

According to Dr Richard O'Leary, Chair of CAI, "This year in particular we want to show solidarity with LGBT persons given the mixed messages about them during the course of the debate about marriage equality. We are delighted that this year for the first time we will have a service in Leitrim. It will be at Manorhamilton C of I Parish Church at 3pm."

Senator Katharine Zappone will be the speaker at the Dublin IDAHOT service in Christ Church cathedral at 3.30pm.

Bishop Michael Burrows will be the speaker at Christ Church cathedral Waterford at 7pm.

Other services on Sunday 17th will be held in Cork (St Ann's Shandon, 10.30am), Limerick (St Mary's Cathedral, 7pm), Belfast (St George's, 3pm) and in Newry (7.30pm).

See <http://www.changingattitudeireland.org/> for details.

Archbishop calls for prayers ahead of Irish referendum in Lourdes homily

The Archbishop of Armagh has called for prayers ahead of the referendum on same-sex marriage in Ireland.

Catholic Herald - Preaching at a Mass celebrated Wednesday morning at the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes, Archbishop Eamon Martin, Primate of All Ireland, said: "I would like to ask you to remember a special intention with me this year at Lourdes. In the coming days the people of Ireland will be asked to vote in a referendum which will change the meaning of marriage and family in the Constitution of Ireland.

"The Bishops of Ireland are clear that they cannot support this amendment and they have



asked the people of Ireland to reflect and pray very carefully before voting.”

He added: “I know that many people in Ireland and around the world are beginning a novena today, or praying the Rosary, or fasting and doing penance for the special intention of marriage and the family.”

Meanwhile, priests from across the world, including the Association of Catholic Priests in Ireland, have written an open letter to Pope Francis calling for the Church to accept the marginalised faithful.

“Around the world, our bishops increasingly respond to the priest shortage by merging active

and vibrant parishes into anonymous and unmanageable superstructures. Merging seems to be the formula of the hour. But in the new mega-parishes, personal contact between people and ministers is lost. The sacraments and the priests are removed ever further from the everyday life of Church citizens,” they wrote.

The letter continued: “There are women and men, married couples, divorced and remarried, homosexual and heterosexual partners, young and old, those in the centre and those who have been pushed to the side – there are dedicated people who want to put an end to the merger of their parishes into ever larger units. By their personal dedication, by the strength of their baptismal calling, they assist in relieving the priests of their increasing responsibilities in order to continue offering vital services to the people.”

The referendum on same-sex marriage in Ireland is due to take place on May 22.

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2015/05/13/archbishop-calls-for-prayers-ahead-of-irish-referendum/>

Ireland's same-sex marriage referendum: What you need to know

ChristianToday - As expected, the referendum has faced significant opposition, particularly

from the Roman Catholic Church. "The Bishops of Ireland are clear that they cannot support this amendment and they have asked the people of Ireland to reflect and pray very carefully before voting," Archbishop Eamon Martin, Primate of All Ireland, said yesterday. He also said that there are "no grounds for considering homosexual unions to be in any way similar or even remotely analogous to God's plan for marriage and family".

The Presbyterian and Methodist Churches have also urged Christians to vote no next Friday.

"The Presbyterian Church in Ireland upholds the historic – and Christian – view of marriage as exclusively between one man and one woman. We affirm that it is needed for the common good of society," its statement read.

More at -

<http://www.christiantoday.com/article/irelands.same.sex.marriage.referendum.what.you.need.to.know/53952.htm>

Ireland prepares for historic vote on gay marriage

Channel 4 News - The referendum has seen a bitter battle between religious conservative

organisations and a younger generation, who worry about the nation's perception globally if it fails to pass.

<http://www.channel4.com/news/marriage-equality-debate-ireland-vote-referendum>

Marriage Equality Referendum is about how you really feel about gay people

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/viewpoints/columnists/gerard-howlin/marriage-equality-referendum-is-about-how-you-really-feel-about-gay-people-330219.html>

Bishops are wrong. Where is the God of love and compassion?

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/viewpoints/columnists/fergus-finlay/bishops-are-wrong-where-is-the-god-of-love-and-compassion-329979.html>

How Irish gays became 'normal' – and why the Church was unable to do much about it

<http://www.irishtimes.com/culture/books/how-irish-gays-became-normal-and-why-the-church-was-unable-to-do-much-about-it-1.2212609>

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C of I Clergy will help Serbian church develop preaching ministries

At the start of June, four Down and Dromore clergy will travel to Serbia for a week to help pastors and church workers develop their preaching ministries. The team are taking part in a School of Biblical Training (SBT).

SBTs have been developed by Crosslinks to help church leaders learn the basics of Bible exposition. At the heart of them lies the conviction that when the Bible text is taught clearly and faithfully, God's voice is heard. This is the fifth SBT in Serbia, and the fourth involving Irish clergy. They have been established through Crosslinks Mission Partners Chris and Lotta Strajnic and take place at the HUB Bible School outside Belgrade.

This year the SBT will operate two parallel timetables: Level 1 will look at Mark's Gospel and deal with the basics of how to work from biblical text to Sunday sermon, Level 2, for those who have already completed Level 1, will tackle Philippians. The talks and classes will be given through a translator.



The team. Back row: Revd David Luckman, Crosslinks Ireland Team Leader and Revd Peter Bourke, St Elizabeth's Dundonald. Front row: Dean Bryan Kerr, Dromore Cathedral and Revd Bill Press, Knockbreda Parish.

Crosslinks requests - Please pray for the team and their families, as they prepare and travel. Pray for faithfulness and fruitfulness during the week, and for good relationships to develop despite the language barrier.

Give thanks that over 100 preachers, pastors, youth and children's workers have already been trained through SBTs in Serbia.

Green Pastures 'mini village' in Ballymena gets the go-ahead

A 97-acre development project – submitted by an evangelical church – has been approved by councillors.

News Letter - Green Pastures church plans to build an urban village on the fringe of Ballymena. The proposal includes a business park, training, social and student housing, a nursing home, a large church, hotel and retail premises.

However, objections had been raised by business leaders after the plans included a supermarket – with the independent retail lobby group NIIRTA calling on local councillors to support the town centre and reject the Green Pastures plan.

But yesterday, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council's Planning Committee voted in favour of the project.

Commenting on the decision, Cllr Robert Logan, chair of the Planning Committee, said: "There has been lot of debate and discussion over this long running and complex planning application.



Green Pastures' Pastor Jeff Wright looks at plans for the proposed Project

The Planning Committee has voted to accept the recommendation from the Mid and East Antrim Planning Department to approve the development.

“The developers of the scheme have made significant adjustments to their plans in order to meet with planning policy requirements.

“The committee understands that not everyone in Ballymena will be in favour of the development, however this decision was based

on the evidence that was presented to the committee...

More at -

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/business/green-pastures-mini-village-in-ballymena-gets-the-go-ahead-1-6744428>

<http://www.ballymenatimes.com/news/local-news/green-for-go-on-pastures-ballee-village-project-1-6737817>

Pax Christi International world assembly opens in Bethlehem

The Pax Christi International World Assembly opened in Bethlehem yesterday. More than 160 people from around the world gathered to celebrate 70 years of the movement.

The Pax Christi International World Assembly opened in Bethlehem yesterday (13 May). More than 160 people from around the world gathered to celebrate 70 years of the movement and share on work and plans for the future. A group from the British Section are present and will also visit other parts of the West Bank following the meetings.

The organisation said: "In celebrating our 70th anniversary in one of the most challenging regions in the world, we want to encourage peace and promote hope. Real peace is what we aspire and hope is one of our deepest values. It makes us what we are, courageous peacemakers, connected across regions and continents, who address complex violence through nonviolence and promote truth and reconciliation in our local communities. Please keep those gathering for the Assembly and all those they will meet in Palestine and Israel in your prayers."

The opening ceremony featured guest interventions by Mr Rock Rock of the Bethlehem City Council, Ms Rania Murra, Director of the Arab Educational Institute, member organisation of Pax Christi in Bethlehem and local partner for this event, HB Fuad Twal, Patriarch of the Latin Church in Jerusalem, HB Michel Sabbah, Latin Patriarch Emeritus of Jerusalem and former International President of Pax Christi, Ms Marie Dennis, Pax Christi International co-President, and Mr José Henriquez, Secretary General of Pax Christi International. The conference will be in session till 18 May.

* More information at: <http://www.paxchristi.net/news/pax-christi-internationals-70th-anniversa...>

*Pax Christi <http://www.paxchristi.net/>

Anglicans continue emergency assistance following second Nepal quake

Anglican agencies have renewed appeals for support after a second earthquake hit Nepal causing further death and destruction, the [Anglican Alliance](#) reports.

The 7.3 magnitude quake struck around 12.30 p.m. local time on Tuesday, May 12, killing at least 82 people, including 17 in neighboring India and one in Chinese Tibet. It came on the heels of the 8.1 magnitude quake on April 25 in which some 7,700 died.

“The [first] quake has claimed more than 7,000 lives, and many more thousands injured. We have lost many members, including a dear pastor, [Laxman Tamang],” said the Rev. Lewis Lew, Anglican dean of Nepal.

Eighteen Anglican church buildings had been destroyed, as well as more than 8,000 homes in

the communities where the church was present, according to Lew, who underlined the need for emergency assistance: “More than 30,000 in these affected areas are displaced. Many are still needing temporary shelters, food supplies and medical aids.”

Since the first earthquake, the Anglican Alliance has kept in close touch with the Deanery of Nepal and with the various relief and development agencies around the Anglican Communion. Many, including [Episcopal Relief & Development](#), launched appeals immediately following the first earthquake and are continuing to fund emergency assistance to meet urgent needs for food, clean water and shelter.

A first medical response team was to travel to the disaster area May 6-11, said ACROSS, a crisis relief ministry under the Diocesan Mission Board of The Diocese of Singapore.

According to Anglican Overseas Aid, ACT Alliance partners have distributed tarpaulins, hygiene kits and ready-made food to families in Kathmandu and are assessing the situation in remote communities, with the aim of providing water, sanitation and hygiene materials, as well

as emergency shelter to people who lost their homes or who are staying outside for fear of aftershocks.

Local clergy, pastors and church leaders gathered in Kathmandu on May 11 for a time of prayer and encouragement. “This will be an important time for the Anglican Church in Nepal, and we need your prayers, for myself and the clergy team from Singapore, as we stand together with our brethren,” said Lew.

Media digest

BBC

Report on a Nottingham vicar who admitted possessing indecent images of children at Nottingham Crown Court. Andrew Waude, who was working at St Cyprian's Church, in Sneinton, was given a three-year community order after he was found possessing 476 indecent images of children. It states Waude was suspended by the Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham in September and has since resigned from his post. The Diocese said in a statement it would continue to help police and was committed to helping every parish church to be a safe place for everyone.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-nottinghamshire-32720576>

Mail

Further article on the Archbishop of Canterbury's daughter, Katharine Welby-Roberts writing about her struggle with depression and anxiety, described in a blog to mark Mental Health Awareness Week.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3079544/Archbishop-s-daughter-blogs-daily-depression-battle-help-Mental-Health-Awareness-Week.html>

Ind

Article on by a woman who lost a child at 16 weeks reflecting on the care offered by the NHS. It states the couple chose to bury their son, with other tiny babies, in the hospital's plot, and explains how the hospital chaplain visited their home and led the funeral 'with all the grace and gravitas of an archbishop.' It says the beauty of the NHS is that it was founded on the basis that everyone deserves the same treatment.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/comment/i-learnt-everything-i-need-to-know-about-the-nhs-when-i-gave-birth-to-my-son-at-16-weeks-10248172.html>

Spectator

Article claiming Christian churches are 'leaping onto a godless bandwagon' by supporting climate change campaigns. It mentions, the Bishop of Salisbury, Nicholas Holtam, warning that climate change is the world's most urgent moral problem, but asks if the church is just trying to attract the younger generation through its campaigning. Also references church's divestment campaigns.

<http://www.spectator.co.uk/australia/australia-features/9528712/our-churches-have-fallen-in-love-with-climate-change/>

Spectator

Review of book on Shakespeare by Paul Edmondson, entitled *Shakespeare*, who it says is a Church of England priest who works for the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust.

<http://www.spectator.co.uk/books/9525162/shakespeares-stagecraft-and-his-greatest-players/>

Tel

Article on how Christopher Awdry, the son of Thomas the Tank engine creator, Rev W Awdry for whom the series was originally written, has come to the defence of his father's books, which have been criticized as "authoritarian and

conformist". Mr Awdry said the main moral of the stories was that "good triumphed over evil" and the principal values his late father, a railway enthusiast and a Church of England curate, wanted to instil in his young readers were a love of steam trains and an appreciation of what it meant to be a loyal friend and a useful member of society.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/tvandradio/11602184/Christopher-Awdry-why-sour-Lefties-are-wrong-about-Thomas-the-Tank-Engine.html>

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