



# CNI

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## Irish bishops to pay counselling costs for children of priests

An Irish-based support group for the children of Catholic priests has been assured by the bishops that money will be provided to fund any counselling its clients require - Srah MacDonald write in *The Tablet*.

[Coping International](#) was set up and is being run by an Irish man whose late father was a priest.

At their autumn general meeting last October the Irish bishops' conference agreed to pay for therapy through the church-sponsored "Towards Healing" counselling service.

The decision is believed to be "the first of its kind in the Church", according to the founder of Coping International, who for now wishes to remain anonymous.

Speaking to *The Tablet* he said: "The Irish Catholic bishops have been providing counselling services 'ad hoc' through Towards

Healing since 2011 to children of Irish catholic priests and to their mothers since 2013.”

He quoted from a letter sent by the bishops to his organisation in 2014 in which they said they recognised the importance of “adequate care being provided for children born to priests [...] and are anxious to ensure that appropriate support is being offered to all children”.

Coping International says it maintains contact with more than 30 children of priests and also some priests, and works “primarily (at this point) with Irish clientele” but includes the Philippines, Africa and South America, where Irish priests work as missionary priests.

More at -

<http://www.thetablet.co.uk/blogs/1/639/bishops-must-support-the-children-of-priests->

## **Singing from the same old hymnsheet? RSCM launches hymn book survey**

An online survey to establish which hymn and song books are most widely used has been launched by the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM). The information received will be used

primarily to make sure that the most popular books are listed in *Sunday by Sunday* – the RSCM’s liturgy planner which lists suggested hymns, songs and anthems for every Sunday and major festival of the church year.

The RSCM is keen for as many churches as possible to take part and from any denomination; just go to [www.rscm.com/hymnbooksurvey](http://www.rscm.com/hymnbooksurvey). The survey shouldn’t take more than 10 minutes to complete - only one response per church, please. In addition to questions about the music in church services every week, there are other questions about how music is planned for worship, and how texts are supplied to the congregation.

The latest survey has already highlighted one significant trend – the increased use of digital technology. The last survey in 2007 attracted about 270 responses in total, whereas the current survey has received 1,500 responses online within a week! All of which will be indispensable in making sure the listings are as representative as possible, and will also inform the wider work of the RSCM in training and supporting church musicians.

“One only needs to look at the classified adverts in church newspapers to see how many

churches have a stack of used hymn books looking for a new home,” says Heather Bamber, the RSCM’s Marketing Administrator. “The congregation may have moved to a newer edition of a favourite book, or switched to overhead projection. And maybe in the future we’ll all be singing from an app on a mobile device!”

Listings from *Sunday by Sunday* for festivals and special occasions can be downloaded free at [www.rscm.com/sbys](http://www.rscm.com/sbys), and the full quarterly magazine is available to RSCM members. The survey is online for a limited time at [www.rscm.com/hymnbooksurvey](http://www.rscm.com/hymnbooksurvey) – don’t miss the chance to have your say!

## **Over 300 attend St Luke’s Cork conference on dementia**

More than 300 delegates from all over Ireland attended the ‘Living Well with Dementia’ conference organised by St. Luke’s Home Education Centre in Cork. Welcoming the assembly of participants, including nurses, care assistants and consultants, the Chairman of the Board of Directors, Dr Paul Colton, said that the principle which should underpin our caring for others is compassion and we should care for



***Guests at the SLH Annual Conference were Dr Cillian Twomey (Geriatrician), Carol Jermyn (Solicitor Ronan Daly Jermyn), Prof Jan Dewing (key note speaker and Sue Pembry Chair in Nursing Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh), with Dr Paul Colton (Chairman of the Board of Directors of SLH).***

others as we would wish to be cared for ourselves.

From that premise, the high calibre speakers rooted their presentations in ‘person-centred approaches’ which clearly connected with the hunger for understanding of those working in residential care. The wide range of topics covered clinical, legal, community and social perspectives at the cutting edge of our



***At the St Luke's Home Education Centre, Cork annual conference 2015 were (l-r) Dr Paul Colton (Chairman, Board of Directors, St Luke's Home), David O'Brien (CEO of St Luke's Home), Tadgh Daly (CEO of Nursing Homes Ireland)***

understanding of this complex area. The conference challenged the assumptions many hold about the experience of those with Dementia and how to care for them.

The key note speaker was Professor Jan Dewing and she asked those present to reject the popular 'catastrophising' of Dementia and to consider it as another way of being human. She

talked about the concept of 'time travel' as helpful when relating to people with Dementia and rightly saw the role of caregivers as 'holders and instillers of hope'. Her positive approach to 'living well with Dementia' was echoed in all presentations including that of Ms. Eileen O'Keeffe, a Clinical Nurse Manager in St. Luke's Home, whose talk on 'expressing sexuality in residential Dementia care' provoked much discussion and again challenged participants to consider the person experiencing Dementia in the fullness of their identity and dignity.

A series of masterclasses followed the conference the next day. These continued the practical learning, discussion and debate. Delegates shared their enthusiasm for the conference describing it as 'enlightening', 'really beneficial' and an opportunity for 'networking' and 'sharing experience'.

The Reverend Sarah Marry, the new Chaplain to Saint Luke's Home, was present on one of her first days in her new role. She said:

As the new Chaplain to St. Luke's Home, I was delighted to be part of this ground breaking event and was encouraged by the commitment, enthusiasm and compassion of those working in residential care who help our loved ones to 'live well with Dementia'.

The 2016 Conference will be on Thursday, 21st April when the keynote speaker will be Professor Brendan McCormack, Head of Division of Nursing, Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh.

There will again be masterclasses on the following day, Friday, 22nd April. Book early to avoid disappointment!

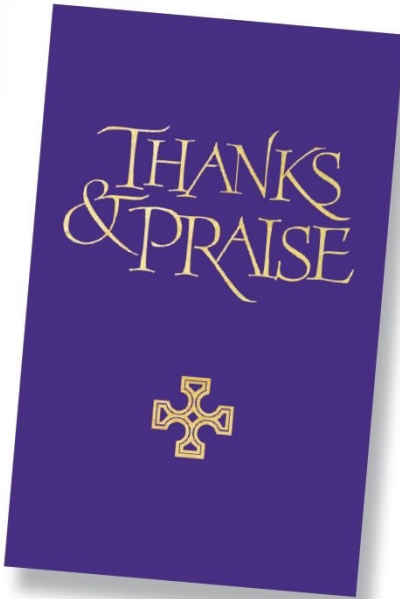
## **Thanks and Praise Roadshows**

Thanks and Praise is a new supplement contains some 200 hymns, songs and liturgical settings reflecting the best of church music to emerge since the compilation of the most recent edition of the Church Hymnal.

“Come and Sing” is an opportunity to hear some of the contents, to find out about the book, and to ask questions. It is for everyone – vestry members, choirs, organists, clergy, parishioners – anyone who wants to know more about the book.

There is a special discount offer for those who pre-order copies before the end of June – find out more about this! Further details of this publication and how to order are available here





**Dates of the 'Come and Sing' roadshows**

Magherafelt – St Swithin's, Magherafelt on  
Tuesday 26th May @ 7.30pm Derry & Raphoe –  
St Peter's, Culmore Rd, Londonderry on  
Thursday 28th May @ 7.30pm Maynooth St.  
Mary's, Maynooth on Thursday 4th June @ 8 pm  
Gorey Christ Church, Gorey on Monday 8th June  
@ 7.30 pm Drogheda – St Peter's Church,  
Drogheda on Tuesday 16th June @ 7.30pm  
Enniskillen – St Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen  
on Wednesday 17 June @ 7.30pm

<http://ireland.anglican.org/worship/71>

<http://ireland.anglican.org/cmsfiles/files/worship/pdf/Thanks-and-Praise-Contents.pdf>

## Cork director of music to retire



Following almost eight years as Director of Music at Saint Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork , Mr Malcolm Wisener will be retiring in August.

The Dean of Cork, the Very Reverend Nigel Dunne, said:

Malcolm has brought the choir to a high standard and has overseen a wide repertoire of music in the Cathedral. He gave much time and

energy to the rebuilding of the Cathedral Organ which was completed in 2013, making it one of the best instruments in the country and the largest in Ireland.

“We wish Malcolm every blessing as he prepares to retire and ask all our friends for their prayers for the process of recruiting his successor, which begins immediately.”

## Methodist witness at Balmoral Show



The Lisburn and Dromore Circuit of the Methodist Church in Ireland (MCI) is represented at the Balmoral Show last week.

The MCI's Home Mission General Secretary Rev Dr Heather Morris officially opened the Lisburn and Dromore Circuit Stand at the 2015 Balmoral Show.

Ministers and Members of the church across the Circuit staffed the Stand throughout the period of the Show.

A steady stream of visitors called at the Stand which in the Shopping Village.

## **25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women priests in the Church of Ireland - RTE Archives**

On 15 May 1990 the Church of Ireland synod voted on the ordination of women priests.

The Archbishop of Armagh Dr. Robin Eames announces the results of the synod vote with the two thirds majority required reached in both houses. After the result media speculation was rife on the possibility of a synod split over the decision. While this is just the first stage in the voting process, the general view in the church is that it will be carried. Reporter Alasdair Jackson speaks to members of the synod to get their reaction to the results of the vote.

<http://www.rte.ie/archives/2015/0515/701267-women-priests-in-the-church-of-ireland/>

## **Unaffiliated outnumber Catholics in the US for the first time, survey shows**

For the first time, the unaffiliated have outnumbered Catholics in the United States, according to [a new survey](#) by Pew Research Centre.

The number of Catholics has fallen from 23.9 per cent in 2007 to 20.8 per cent in 2014, a drop of 3.1 per cent, while those identifying as “unaffiliated” – atheists, agnostics and “nothing in particular”, in the wording of the survey – have risen from 16.1 per cent to 22.8 per cent, a rise of 6.7 per cent.

The number of Catholics has declined both as a percentage of the population and in actual numbers. There are around 51 million Catholics in America today, compared to around 54 million seven years ago. This fall is even more significant, according to Pew Research Centre, a “non-partisan think tank” based in Washington DC, as “the Catholic share of the population has

been relatively stable over the long term, according to a variety of other surveys". In contrast, Protestants have been decreasing as a share of the US public for several decades.

Protestants have dropped even further, from 51.3 per cent in 2007 to 46.5 per cent in 2014, a fall of 7.8 per cent, though within that total, Evangelicals have only dropped by 0.9 per cent. Jews have risen from 1.7 per cent to 1.9 per cent of the population. Muslims and Hindus have risen by 0.5 per cent and 0.3 per cent respectively, but together make up only 1.6 per cent of the American population.

Americans are more ready than they used to be to marry outside their faith; among Americans who have married since 2010, 39 per cent are in religiously mixed marriages, compared to 19 per cent of those who married before 1960.

The survey shows that age is playing a part in people's religious affiliation. The median age of unaffiliated adults has fallen from 38 to 36, while the median age of Catholic adults has risen from 45 seven years ago to 49 today.

Between 2007 and 2014 the population of the United States rose from 227 million to 245

million. The share of those identifying as Christians of any denomination fell from just over 78 per cent to just under 71 per cent – in real terms, a fall of perhaps five million people. Considering the size of the population the margins of error, even with such a large survey, need to be considered; the actual fall in Christians over the last seven years could be between 2.8 million and 7.8 million.

The survey of 35,071 respondents, the second Religious Landscape Study, was conducted between June and September last year.

## **Burundi Unrest: Christian Aid partners prepare to respond**

Christian Aid partners are preparing to assist civilians caught up in the political unrest in Burundi, which in recent weeks has included violent street demonstrations, the exodus of over 100,000 people and an attempted military coup.

The failed move to overthrow President Pierre Nkurunziza last week followed more than a fortnight of street protests in and around the

capital city Bujumbura, held in opposition to the President's decision to run for a third term in June's elections.

According to UN figures, some [105,000 people](#) have fled to the neighbouring countries of Rwanda, Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). In the wake of the failed coup, the atmosphere remains "volatile".

Christian Aid partners in Burundi are now assessing the needs on the ground and coordinating their response. They have received funding to work alongside communities to support them to prepare local contingency plans that can be activated in the event of a crisis.

Partners such as the Anglican Church in Burundi are procuring emergency supplies in key locations. Should events escalate, these supplies can be distributed to internally displaced persons (IDPs) or vulnerable groups that may be affected, including women, children and people living with HIV.

Christian Aid Country Manager for Burundi, James Robinson, said: "The situation is very



volatile and things are tense in and around Bujumbura particularly. Many people have been staying indoors, not moving because of the threat of gunfire, wondering what will happen next. People are scared to leave their homes.

“Since the demonstrations began life for many Burundians has been paralysed, with local trade, transport and public services all affected. As the protests continue, stocks of goods such as petrol, food, medicine and water are becoming scarce. Any further disruption threatens to leave communities both insecure and without essential items. With the high levels of poverty in the country, it’s the poorest who are the least able to cope. “Christian Aid has worked in Burundi for many years and our partners are rooted in the communities and are ready to act.

They will work with community leaders, health centres and local authorities to develop appropriate and adaptable contingency plans that will reach the most vulnerable in the event of a crisis.

The political situation is rapidly evolving, so Christian Aid will be ready to help if things

deteriorate. We continue to hope for a peaceful outcome.”

Reports indicate that over 20 have died and some 200 injured in demonstrations against the President’s decision to stand in the June 26 polls. His opponents say his candidacy flouts both the national constitution and the Arusha peace deal that ended Burundi’s 12-year civil war a decade ago, which killed an estimated 300,000 people.

The UNHCR, the United Nations refugee agency, has appealed for calm and is taking steps to address the growing refugee situation in Burundi’s neighbouring nations. Of the 105,000 people who have fled the political violence, over 70,000 are in Tanzania, approximately 26,000 are in Rwanda and some 9,000 are in the DRC.

## Media digest

**IRA sex attacker could have fled Ireland, says abuse victim - Belfast Telegraph**

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/ira-sex-attacker-could-have-fled-ireland-says-abuse-victim-31229901.html>

## **The old leaders of Sinn Fein just won't let go - Independent**

<http://www.independent.ie/opinion/columnists/ruth-dudley-edwards/the-old-leaders-of-sinn-fein-just-wont-let-go-31228660.html>

## **Gove blamed Hume for RUC's Catholic recruitment record - Londonderry Sentinel**

<http://www.londonderrysentinel.co.uk/news/local-news/gove-blamed-hume-for-ruc-s-catholic-recruitment-record-1-6744245>

## **Guard/Times/Mail/Ind/BBC**

Reports on the Republic of Ireland's vote to legalise gay marriage state the Irish Republic is the first country in the world to hold a referendum on the issue. *The Guardian* says tens of thousands of Christian immigrants who have become Irish citizens are being mobilised to vote against the move. It also says liberal Roman Catholic priests and nuns are defying their bishops to urge a yes vote.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/may/17/new-irish-christians-mobilise-to-vote-no-to-gay-marriage>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/world/europe/article4443057.ece>

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/reuters/article-3085057/Irish-PM-says-country-seize-opportunity-approve-gay-marriage.html?ITO=1490&ns\\_mchannel=rss&ns\\_campaign=1490](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/reuters/article-3085057/Irish-PM-says-country-seize-opportunity-approve-gay-marriage.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/ireland-predicted-to-vote-for-gay-marriage-next-week-latest-polls-suggest-10256433.html>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-32772015>

## **Tel**

Article saying the Church of England is facing renewed pressure to reconcile its divisions over homosexuality after the Church of Scotland agreed plans that will enable congregations to invite people in civil partnerships to become their minister without formally changing the Church of Scotland's traditional teaching on sexuality and marriage. The Very Rev David Arnott, who coordinates the General Assembly's business, said he hoped the plan could offer a "template" for the Church of England to consider. It states the Church of England has begun a process of "facilitated conversations" on the issue of sexuality.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11611563/Church-of-Scotland-plan-for-gay-ministers-offers-possible-template-for-Anglicans.html>

## **Tel**

Faith no more: Britons no longer consider turning to God in death

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11611621/Faith-no-more-Britons-no-longer-consider-turning-to-God-in-death.html>

## **BBC**

Report that the former Bishop of Gloucester, Michael Perham, has called for a change in the law after he was investigated by police over historical sex abuse allegations but was never arrested or charged but his name was in the public domain. Lambeth Palace issued a statement last week saying the Church of England's independent risk assessment had been completed and Bishop Michael could return to ministry.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-gloucestershire-32771707>

## **Times**

Opinion article arguing that our lives are vastly improved by oil and coal, which is being ignored by those pressing for institutions to disinvest. It says the Church of England has confined its divestment to "thermal coal" and Canadian oil sands companies, claiming this gets good publicity, without it having to sell many shares.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/columnists/article4443252.ece>

## **Mail**

Article stating the inquiry into Establishment child abuse could last up to eight years, twice as long as first thought. It says, according to [\*The\*](#)

[Sunday Times](#), a senior Home Office official was recorded at a meeting with abuse survivors saying the inquiry could last that long.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3085052/Fury-Home-Office-officials-claim-Establishment-sex-abuse-inquiry-EIGHT-years.html#ixzz3aSq9eMFG>

## **Ind**

Article on the Groceries Code Adjudicator (GCA) office, set up two years ago, which was only given the power to fine one per cent of UK revenues earlier this year, despite repeated promises from ministers that legislation would be passed to give it powers to impose fines on grocers for misconduct. It mentions a parliamentary question raised by the Bishop of St Albans, Dr Alan Smith, who asked when the fines would be implemented.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/business/news/revealed-grocery-watchdogs-fury-at-lack-of-powers-10256969.html>

## **BBC**

Report that Hereford Cathedral School has won the BBC *Songs of Praise* Senior School Choir of the Year competition. It states the school's 17-strong Cantabile Girls' Choir took the title at Nottingham's Albert Hall by singing *The Skylark*,

a piece written during WW1 by a former pupil of the school.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-hereford-worcester-32772535>

## **Guard**

Further article on the exhibition of stained glass at Canterbury Cathedral, since the Great south window has come down to be rebuilt, allowing visitors to see the work close up. It states *The Ancestors* exhibition - Britain's oldest stained windows in the Chapter House is open daily until August 23.

<http://www.theguardian.com/culture/2015/may/17/visitors-enjoy-canterbury-cathedral-stained-glass-ground-level>

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