



Catalyst Christian Festival for Young Adults Returns for Second Year

Catalyst, the Christian festival for young adults from all over Ireland, is set to return for its second year this summer. The festival, aimed at 20 and 30 somethings, takes place at Glenarm Castle in County Antrim from June 26 to 28 2015. This year it expects to attract up to 500 people, up from 250 last year. Next year organisers hope to double the figure again to 1,000.

The festival has the strapline: *“Unfinished Christians, Reaching Full Potential with God”*. At its heart is worship, teaching and ministry. “We want Catalyst to be a place where the local church, from all denominations and from all Christian backgrounds can be affirmed, built up and celebrated,” explains Greg Fromholz, one of the organisers and Dublin and Glendalough’s Young Adults Officer. “We want Catalyst to be a place where people can ask questions about the local church, find hope in the local church and reignite faith in the local church.”

Greg feels that the huge popularity of last year’s festival and the level of interest in the 2015 event show that there is a massive desire amongst young adults to gather in this way. Earlybird weekend tickets are now on sale at £60 for the weekend. See www.catalystireland.com for details and to book.

Support for Yes in marriage referendum from Church of Ireland clergy

Some forty Church of Ireland clergy have written to the Irish Times on the current marriage referendum.

They state - We write as individual clergy of the Church of Ireland who realise that marriage is based on the values of love and commitment. This is the case for heterosexual and same-sex couples, whether the marriage involves children or not. We believe that justice and equality for all are fundamental Christian, biblical principles. We believe that for too long LGBT people have suffered discrimination and injustice in Ireland and that a Yes vote will be a contribution to a fairer and more truly equal Ireland. We respect the right of all people to vote according to their conscience – for the reasons we have given, and many more, we intend to vote Yes in the forthcoming referendum on equal marriage.

<http://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/letters/marriage-referendum-1.2195552>

Nepali Anglicans among those killed in earthquake

It's been revealed hundreds of Christians died or were injured as the Nepal earthquake hit their churches, including an Anglican minister and 17 of his parishioners.

In Nepal, Sunday is a work day so Christians normally attend church on their day off, which is



Pastor Laxman (with cap) welcoming a recent mission team from Singapore

Saturday. So many were in church when the quake hit on 25 April.

The Revd Lewis Lew, the Dean of Nepal which is under the oversight of the Diocese of Singapore, Church of the Province of South East Asia, has issued a confirmation of a tragic scene in the village of Choke.

The village was recently visited by a mission team from Singapore.

"It is my deep regret to inform you that we have received confirmation that one of ours, Pastor Laxman Tamang and 17 of his members from Choke Church were called home to be with the

Lord on 25 April, Saturday when the quake struck the village of Choke in Dhading district." Mr Lew said in a prayer letter.

"Pastor Laxman pastors a 340 member church. He loved the Lord, and had spent more than half his life in the ministry. Under his leadership Choke Church became part of Anglican Church of Nepal 15 years ago. Part of the reason why the Singapore team went to his village was because his heart was for the salvation of his fellow 11,000 villagers who have not given their lives to Christ."

"(We would) Cherish your prayers for his family, as they cope with their loss. Cherish your prayers also for the village of Choke, it has been completely destroyed and the people are displaced without medical aid, food, supply and temporary shelter." the Dean said.

The Archbishop of Sydney's Anglican Aid on Monday opened an appeal for the victims of the quake. Tax deductible donations for the Nepal Disaster Relief Fund can be made [here](#). After consultation with CMS Australia funds will be disbursed through International Nepal Fellowship (INF) and the Diocese of Singapore.

INF Nepal Director Prem Subedi reports “Our team is back from Ghurka and we now have more information about the situation in both Ghurka and Dhading. The need for food and other non-food items is enormous. So here in Pokhara INF is preparing food and non food packages to send out. And our medical team is in standby mode. At the same time we are considering how we might be able to contribute in the long run, using our skills as a health and development organisation to respond to the more long term situation. Please be praying for our immediate and longer term response, for good information and wisdom in decision making. Pray also that food can reach those who need it most.”

For more details on Anglican Communion response to the disaster, please consult the **Anglican Alliance website**.

Time is running out for victims — Catholic Bishop Paul Simick of Nepal

Time is running out for victims of Nepal’s earthquake, who are suffering because aid

cannot reach them, Bishop Paul Simick of Nepal has said.

After a five-hour trip to some of the worst-affected areas of Nepal's capital, Bishop Simick told Catholic News Service yesterday: "The biggest challenge now is the time factor. All of us have to rush to reach out to the victims. It's already too late."

Bishop Simick said at the end of the visit to St Ignatius Parish in Banyatar: "If this is the state of affairs in the capital, you can imagine the suffering of the people in the remote areas."

During the two-hour drive from the bishop's house to the parish, Bishop Simick got out at several places touched by the devastation.

At St Ignatius Church, which he reached on a slushy footpath, Bishop Simick visited with local residents. He prayed with members of 15 Catholic families who have taken shelter in the church, including some injured and wearing arm slings. A dozen Hindu families also have sought shelter there.

The parish priest, Fr Anil Beck, told the bishop that 9-year old Michele Ghale had died when her house collapsed.

“We have no trace of five [Catholic] families. The road to their village is blocked. I am trying to reach them,” said Fr Beck.

The parish cook, Sharki Ghale, introduced his wife, Temaya and daughter Dilasha – both of them bruised from the collapse of their house overlooking the church.

The bishop also met Sujina Ghale, 4, who almost was cremated when she was mistaken for dead. Sujina, with her bruised face, lay quietly as her mother, Chaju Ghale, recounted her daughter’s escape.

Chaju Ghale was tending grazing cattle on Saturday and had to walk four hours after she felt the tremors.

“When I reached [home], they were taking her [Sujina] also for cremation [along with six other dead bodies]. I pleaded with Phullu Tamang [the village health worker] to check on my daughter, and he found her body was warm,” recounted the mother.

The child had been pulled out from the debris of her house two hours after the quake and kept with other dead bodies till the evening.

Sujina was rushed to the village medical centre and government officials were informed. Early the following day, she was airlifted by helicopter along with the mother to Kathmandu.

Blessing of sculpture of homeless Jesus at Dublin cathedral



A statue of a homeless Jesus was unveiled in Dublin yesterday.

The bronze sculpture by Canadian sculptor Tim Schmalz depicts Jesus as a homeless person on a park bench.

The original statue was installed in Toronto, Canada in 2013 and subsequently casts have been erected in cities across North America and Europe.

It was blessed by the Church of Ireland Archbishop Michael Jackson and the Catholic Archbishop of Dublin, Diarmuid Martin.

The statue itself is around 7ft long and depicts a faceless cloaked figure lying on a bench.

It is only noticeable that the figure depicts Jesus by the holes in his feet.

A number of potential sites were put forward for the statue before Christ Church was chosen by Schultz.

Dean of Christ Church, the Very Reverend Dermot Dunne, said, "I think the statue is absolutely beautiful. It goes beyond religion".

Speaking about the statue, sculptor Schmalz, said, "I am delighted that the sculpture is going in the spiritual heart of Dublin, which is Christ Church... when I met the Dean, I saw in his eyes instantly that he was just delighted to have the sculpture at Christ Church.

Commenting on the blessing of “The Homeless Jesus”, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin reflected -

Less than six months ago, the name of Jonathon Corrie was on all our nation’s news headlines, the morning after he died homeless on the streets of Dublin.

His death stung consciences. There was anger; there was a genuine mobilisation of resources; there was a commitment that this should never happen again. Much was done, amid an awareness that the challenge of homelessness in this city is a complex one that cannot be resolved overnight.

The problem is that when a challenge is complex and cannot be resolved overnight, it can easily end up as a challenge answered with plans and promises that are never fulfilled.

This image of *The Homeless Jesus* is a reminder to the entire community of this city – Catholics and Protestants, people of faith and people of none – that as long as there are people who cannot find a suitable roof over their head and families without a place where they can live with dignity, then none of us can roll over in our comfortable beds with an easy conscience.

Conscience, public opinion and political commitment must be kept alert every day and never settle back into thinking we have done enough.

We have seen a genuine attempt to provide services to alleviate an emergency situation. But when families and children have to wait years in single hotel rooms, we have to ask is this emergency ever going to end? The possibility of a ramping up of house repossessions, the coming tourist season during which the hotels currently used to house the homeless will no longer be valuable, all indicate that in the coming months existing services will experience enormous strain.

For the Christian, the homeless are not just statistics; our belief recalls that the plight of the homeless is our plight. This image of *The Homeless Jesus* reminds us of the demands of belief in Jesus Christ. It challenges us, before we feel we can enter a Cathedral, if we have the right credentials to enter. Our reading spoke of what the factors are which give us the keys to enter eternal life. But what is striking about those factors is that they belong not to a future moment, but to our today.

This image of *The Homeless Jesus* is not the normal statue. It is a beautiful work which is not created to be looked at and admired; it is an image which should make us turn away from it. When we glance at it, our glance must be taken away from it instantly and be lead towards the many park benches, the many doorways, the many sheltered corners where Jesus lies homeless every day and every night: the homeless Jesus who is down from better days; the homeless Jesus the immigrant, the homeless Jesus with mental health problems, the homeless Jesus who is just a child; the homeless Jesus who is a parent frustrated by the tragic situation he or she cannot give a loved child the hope and the future which Jesus would want that child to have.

PW Annual Meeting to take place next week

Presbyterian Women (PW) will be launching their theme for 2015/16 '*Here is love*' at its [Annual Meeting](#) next Thursday, 7th May at 2.00pm, repeated on Friday, 8th May at 7.30pm in Assembly Buildings, Belfast.



Charlotte Stevenson, Acting PW General Secretary, explained that both events are free and open to all women, “At this year’s meeting we are really looking forward to welcoming our guest speaker, the writer and award-winning Christian blogger Emma Scrivener and taking part in a recording of the BBC’s Songs of Praise on the Friday evening.

“Born in Belfast, Emma now lives with her husband and baby daughter in England and writes and speaks about her experiences as a child and as an adult with anorexia and how the grace of Christ speaks into the darkest places.

“Emma will be look at getting things in the right order. The world says ‘love yourself,’ religion says ‘make sure you love God first’ but the Gospel says ‘receive God’s love and then pass it on.’ She will consider how this impacts how we see God, ourselves and other people. She will

also share her own testimony of what happens when we reverse the order,” Charlotte said.

Visiting speaker Anne Cairns from Ballymena, will lead a **seminar** entitled *‘Here is Love’*, which will focus on the fact that God is Love and how this truth impacts every aspect of our lives, even during life’s ups and downs.

The Annual Meeting will also see Anna Morison of West Church Ballymena handover the President’s baton to Sandra Stokes of Edengrove Presbyterian Church, Ballynahinch.

Tyrone’s 43 Catholic Church parish records go online

Tracing your Tyrone roots will get a whole lot easier when the National Library of Ireland gives free online access to the Catholic Church records of the county’s 43 parishes in July.

Tyrone Times - This will enable millions of people around the world to trace their roots in parishes from Termonamongan in the far west of the county to Ardboe in the east, and Donaghedy at the northern tip of Tyrone to Aghaloo at the southern.

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1877. Marriage solemnized at *Parish Church* in the *Parish of Annacore* in the *County of Down*.

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
41	13 July 1877	Robert Waddell	full	widower	Labour	Lisnawilly	John Waddell	Labour
	1877	Anna Maria	full	spinster		Arbuthnot	Samuel Waddell	Labour

Married in the *Parish Church* according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the United Church of England and Ireland, *by license*, by me, *Robert Waddell* in the Presence of us, *James Hill* *Chaplain* *Kenneth Waddell* *Parish Clerk*

1880. Marriage solemnized at *Parish Church* in the *Parish of Annacore* in the *County of Down*.

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
42	July 1880	John Waddell	full	Bachelor	Labour	Ballynary	John Waddell	Labour
		Elizabeth	full	spinster		Ballynary	James Waddell	Labour

Married in the *Parish Church* according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the United Church of England and Ireland, *by license*, by me, *John Waddell* in the Presence of us, *John Hill* *Chaplain* *Elizabeth Waddell* *Parish Clerk*

The records being made available date from the 1740s to the 1880s, and most parishes have records of the dates of baptisms, marriages, including the names of godparents and witnesses to such events.

Often comments were added by the registrars about illegitimacy, cause of death or other interesting facts.

The parish register records are the most important source of information on Irish family history prior to the Census of 1901. They date from the 1740s to the 1880s, cover 1,091

parishes throughout Ireland, and consist primarily of baptismal and marriage records.

More at -

<http://www.tyronetimes.co.uk/news/tyrone-news/tyrone-s-43-catholic-church-parish-records-go-online-1-6718601>

Priest jailed for hiring Continuity IRA to threaten nephew

A priest has been jailed for four years for hiring the Continuity IRA to issue death threats and intimidate his nephew into dropping a legal action that he was planning to bring against him.

Fr [Francis Kelleher](#) (59) pleaded guilty to four counts of coercion in relation to the threats made against his nephew, [Niall Kelleher](#) (43) on a number of dates in 2012 and 2013.

Fr Kelleher, a native of Cloughduv in Mid-[Cork](#) but now resident in Cork city, pleaded guilty to intimidating his nephew over a solicitor's letter which he had sent to the cleric. More at -

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/priest-jailed-for-hiring-continuity-ira-to-threaten->

[nephew-1.2195448?
utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter](http://nephew-1.2195448?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter)

Irish priest favours IRA muscle over power of prayer to
intimidate nephew - The Guardian

[http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/may/01/irish-
priest-favours-ira-muscle-over-power-of-prayer-to-
intimidate-nephew](http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/may/01/irish-priest-favours-ira-muscle-over-power-of-prayer-to-intimidate-nephew)

Lunchtime Music at St. Mary's Limerick

Wednesday 13th May - Lorna Moore (Piano) with
Louise Sheehan (flute)
Music by Chopin, Edwin Burton and Reinecke.

Wednesday 20th May - Limerick Chamber
Ensemble - Schubert's famous Trout Quintet.

Wednesday 3rd June - Helen Houlihan (soprano)
and Irina Dernova (piano) including music by
Vivaldi, Mozart, Rachmaninoff and Quilter.

Wednesday 10th June - Peter Sebestyen (cello)
and Stuart O'Sullivan (piano)
Music by Beethoven and Brahms.

Wednesday 17th June - Stuart O'Sullivan (piano)
Music by Beethoven and Chopin.

All are welcome. Free admission (Retiring collection in aid of The Companions of St Mary's Cathedral music) 1.15 pm

Young people's art competition

St Patrick's Parish, Broughshane, is organising an art competition for young people aged six to 16.

The competition will coincide with the exhibition of a picture from the International Methodist Art Collection, in St Patrick's Church from May 23-25.

The aim of the competition is to encourage young people to explore religious works of art and to visit a local gallery or church to find inspiration. Further details at -

<http://connor.anglican.org/2015/05/01/st-patricks-broughshane-art-competition/>

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Court of Appeal upholds freedom of C of E clergy to be office holders

The Court of Appeal has upheld the freedom of clergy to be office holders rather than employees with its judgement in the case regarding former Worcestershire vicar, Mark Sharpe. The court has agreed with the initial judgement of the Employment Tribunal, which ruled that Mr Sharpe was not an employee of the Bishop, the Diocese or anyone else.

The Bishop of Worcester, the Rt Revd Dr John Inge said: "We are delighted that the Court of Appeal has taken this view of the matter. There has been considerable consultation with the clergy on this issue as well as discussions at General Synod, and clergy have consistently said that they don't wish to change their status as office holders. To become employees, clergy would lose the freedoms which are at the heart of the Church's ministry and this is not something that they want to give up. It is regrettable that UNITE fails to understand the context in which parish clergy exercise their ministry whilst the Church seeks to uphold the freedoms enjoyed by its clergy."

Bishop John continued: "Mr. Sharpe's claims of the various incidents which despoiled his ministry in Teme Valley South are disheartening to read. However I am encouraged to note that the clergy who have ministered in these churches both before and since Mr Sharpe's appointment have all spoken very warmly of the people there and their experience doesn't reflect any of the negativity that Mr Sharpe claims to have faced."

Clergy are office-holders, not employees,
appeal court rules

[http://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2015/1-may/news/
uk/clergy-are-office-holders-not-employees-appeal-court-
rules](http://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2015/1-may/news/uk/clergy-are-office-holders-not-employees-appeal-court-rules)

Vicar who claimed he was victim of four-year
hate campaign loses court battle - Guardian

[http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/apr/30/vicar-rev-
mark-sharpe-claimed-victim-four-year-hate-campaign-
loses-court-appeal-battle](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/apr/30/vicar-rev-mark-sharpe-claimed-victim-four-year-hate-campaign-loses-court-appeal-battle)

See also Media Digest below

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Church of Scotland reaffirms position on assisted suicide bill following Holyrood health committee report

The Church of Scotland has reaffirmed its opposition to the assisted suicide bill as a long awaited report into its merits was published yesterday by Holyrood's health committee.

The document will help determine if the legislation, which would allow those with terminal or life-shortening illnesses to obtain help in ending their life, should advance to the next stage of the parliamentary system. A majority of members of the committee opposed the general principles of the legislation.

But they have decided to let the whole Scottish Parliament decide whether or not to throw out the measure.

For months MSPs have been taking evidence from people for and against the issue.

The issue will be subject to a full debate at the end of May and MSPs will decide whether the proposals should be rejected.



Rev Sally Foster Fulton has reaffirmed the Church's position on the assisted suicide bill being proposed by MSPs

Rev Sally-Foster-Fulton, Convener of the Church and Society Council, says: "The Church of Scotland, along with a considerable number of groups, remains concerned with both the general principles and the specific content of the assisted suicide bill.

"Critical flaws in the proposed legislation include an absence of any mental health check and a minimum age of 16. Both make the bill in its present form untenable.

"However, the overriding opposition is an abiding concern for the most vulnerable in our

society and the negative impact right to die legislation may have on their quality of life.

"In our focus on autonomy and personal choice, there is the danger we forget that personal choice does not exist in a vacuum and a choice for some may undermine choices for others. Every personal choice has a community impact."

Learn more about the Church of Scotland's position on end of life issues.

http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/speak_out/social_issues/end_of_life

New light shed on John Knox in landmark biography

The discovery of a cache of hitherto unknown letters sheds new light on John Knox, leader of the Scottish Reformation.

Professor Jane Dawson of Edinburgh University, who uncovered the letters exchanged with Knox's best friend Christopher Goodman, has now written a landmark new book 'John Knox', launched at St Giles tonight (Wednesday 29th April), on this hugely significant figure in Scottish history.



A newly restored 17th Century portrait of John Knox, courtesy of the University of Edinburgh Art Collection, which is on the cover of the new book 'John Knox'

The book will shatter the perception that Knox had no impact outside of Scotland. It will describe how he was a proud member of the European community of Reformed Churches and deeply involved in the religious Reformations within England, Ireland, France, Switzerland, and the Holy Roman Empire.

Professor Dawson also discovered that Knox was invited to go on a preaching tour of Ireland and wonders about the potential impact on that country if it, like Scotland, had been exposed to the preacher's powerful sermons.

She says: "'I have been fortunate to make some exciting new discoveries.

"I discovered the previously-unknown invitation made in 1566-7 to Knox from his best friend Christopher Goodman to join a preaching tour in Ireland. Knox might well have accepted but due to rapid changes - not least the fall of Mary, Queen of Scots - it never happened. It remains one of those intriguing 'what ifs?'"

The letters contain the first new material from Knox's pen to be found since 1875. Knox's 'table-talk' - a conversation at dinner in his house recorded by his secretary but not identified as Knox's words before now - has also been identified within other memoirs.

John Knox's Bible was discovered in Sydney by the late Professor David Wright, a former colleague of Professor Dawson. Professor Wright's widow passed on the Bible to Professor Dawson to help her with the new book.

A portrait in Edinburgh has been cleaned and re-dated and might prove to be a better likeness of the Reformer.

Together these discoveries have uncovered previously-hidden aspects of Knox's life and his

character and reveal the private as well as the public face of this complex man.

To purchase the book, visit

www.yalebooks.co.uk

WCC takes part in Vatican climate change meeting

A message of achieving human dignity, and the right to hope, in a world threatened by climate change was proclaimed this week by World Council of Churches (WCC) general secretary Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit in a meeting convened on climate change by the Vatican.

“Climate change makes crystal clear what kind of change is needed for a sustainable future. Humanity has a right to hope, the right to a future, a right to life itself. No power on earth can destroy the thirst for human dignity and for life in just and sustainable communities,” said Tveit.

Tveit was among high-level invitees at the Vatican event, with other religious leaders, academics, scholars and policy makers including the United Nations secretary-general Ban Ki-moon, Nobel Prize-winning chemist Paul

Crutzen, Cardinal Peter Turkson, the president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, and Monsignor Marcelo Sánchez Sorondo of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences.

The meeting was held as Pope Francis prepares an encyclical letter to bishops on environment and climate change for release this summer, ahead of the UN climate negotiations in December.

The role of religious leaders for climate justice was especially emphasised by the UN secretary-general Ban Ki-moon, who said, “Religious leaders, we the peoples need your moral leadership to address climate change.”

More at -

<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/at-vatican-wcc-general-secretary-highlights-201cright-to-hope201d-amidst-climate-change>

C of E Welcome for Vatican Statement on Climate Change

The Church of England's lead bishop on the environment says he shares a Vatican statement's clear view that climate change is

largely caused by human activity and mitigating it is a 'moral and religious imperative for humanity'.

The Right Revd Nicholas Holtam, Bishop of Salisbury, welcomed the statement on climate change by the Pontifical Academy of Sciences and the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences after a landmark conference in the Vatican this week.

Bishop Holtam said:

"Climate change is the greatest moral challenge of our day, for people of all faiths and people of no faith. I am delighted that the Pontifical Academy of Sciences and the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences have so clearly supported the scientific consensus that the major driver of climate change is almost certainly our burning of fossil fuels.

"Our current fossil fuel use is equivalent to releasing the energy of 400,000 Hiroshimas into the atmosphere every day. It is simply not credible that we can introduce an externality of that scale into the atmospheric and oceanic systems that make life on earth possible, without seeing serious consequences.

"As the Vatican statement makes clear, climate change is an issue that should unite not only Christian churches, but all the world's faiths. People of faith understand the Earth as God's gift, not our plaything.

"The importance of faith was recognised in UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's keynote address to the conference where he rightly said that, 'Science and religion are not at odds on climate change. Indeed, they are fully aligned.'

"The world's poorest suffer the most severe consequences of climate change, a problem to which they contribute little. The consequences of climate change are being felt most clearly in very poor Pacific, Asian and African nations with some of the lowest levels of carbon emissions in the world.

"When 17 Anglican bishops met to discuss our Communion's response to climate change this fundamental injustice weighed heavily on our deliberations. Our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters have also made it clear that climate change imposes the heaviest burden on the poorest and least complicit in a way that is simply immoral.

"Young people are particularly engaged in the need to mitigate climate change and the economic inequalities that makes its impact worse. Their commitment and broad global vision renews my hope that this is a challenge we can, and shall, overcome."

Media digest

"Garden Centre Prods wake up; terrorists are re-writing history" - Belfast Newsletter

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/garden-centre-prods-wake-up-terrorists-are-re-writing-history-1-6718060>

Ministers could be sued over gay weddings, warns the Kirk - Christian Institute

<http://www.christian.org.uk/news/ministers-could-be-sued-over-gay-weddings-warns-the-kirk/>

Ireland isn't as welcoming to immigrants as it was in 2008 - Journal.ie

http://www.thejournal.ie/irish-attitudes-towards-migrants-2076772-Apr2015/?utm_source=twitter_self

Numbers sleeping rough in Dublin down by almost 40% - Irish Times

http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/numbers-sleeping-rough-in-dublin-down-by-almost-40-1.2195064?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter

Peter Robinson: Northern Ireland abortion law change not happening - BBC News

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-32540860>

NI abortion law: Ford surprised at Robinson comments - BBC News

Justice minister David Ford expresses surprise that First Minister Peter Robinson said his recommendation to change the abortion law on fatal foetal abnormality cases was doomed.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-32540860>

Political support for Garda group urging Yes vote on marriage equality - Irish Times

[http://www.irishtimes.com/news/crime-and-law/political-support-for-garda-group-urging-yes-vote-on-marriage-equality-1.2195875?](http://www.irishtimes.com/news/crime-and-law/political-support-for-garda-group-urging-yes-vote-on-marriage-equality-1.2195875?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter)

[utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter](http://www.irishtimes.com/news/crime-and-law/political-support-for-garda-group-urging-yes-vote-on-marriage-equality-1.2195875?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter)

BBC/Guard/Ind/Times

Reports that the Revd Mark Sharpe, who attempted to bring a claim of unfair dismissal against the Church of England lost his case in the Court of Appeal. The court upheld that Mr Sharpe was not an employee but a "religious office holder". The Bishop of Worcester, John Inge, said the Church of England was "delighted". He said: "To become employees, clergy would lose the freedoms which are at the

heart of the Church's ministry and this is not something that they want to give up."

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-hereford-worcester-32529392>

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/apr/30/vicar-rev-mark-sharpe-claimed-victim-four-year-hate-campaign-loses-court-appeal-battle>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/vicars-are-employed-by-god-not-the-church-says-court-in-landmark-ruling-10217078.html>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/law/article4427537.ece>

FT/Reuters/BBC/Times/Mail/Guard

Reports that the Church of England has decided to disinvest from heavily polluting coal and tar sands investments, in what is described in some articles as a victory for campaigners seeking to make fossil fuels as unpopular as tobacco while others commend the Church's moral responsibility to protect the world's poor from the impact of global warming

The Church's National Investing

Bodies **announced on Thursday** that it would sell £12m of its holdings in thermal coal and tar sands companies, two of the most polluting fossil fuels. FT notes the move comes nearly three years after the appointment of Justin Welby, a former senior executive at the now defunct Enterprise Oil company.

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/7ef8522a-ef54-11e4-a6d2-00144feab7de.html#axzz3Yrl2uH9h>
<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/04/30/britain-climatechange-church-idUSL4N0XR7QE20150430>
<http://www.bbc.com/news/business-32544480>
<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/environment/article4427879.ece>
http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/reuters/article-3063340/Church-England-divests-coal-tar-sands-adopts-new-climate-policy.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490
<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/apr/30/church-of-england-ends-investments-in-heavily-polluting-fossil-fuels>

Guard

Article on how community groups like are taking back control of food production with lessons in vegetable farming and cooking. It mentions Patchwork Farm site at St Matthew's Church garden, Clapton.

<http://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/2015/apr/30/urban-food-growing-east-london-sustainability>