



***The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall
after a service of peace and reconciliation at St.
Columba's Church in Drumcliffe***

Prince Charles visit: Mountbatten bomb bereaved attend church service

The Prince of Wales joined the parents of the
boat boy killed alongside Lord Mountbatten at a

poignant service of reconciliation near Mullaghmore.

Belfast Telegraph - Paul Maxwell died in the IRA bomb that claimed the life of Charles's great uncle in August 1979. Today his parents John and Mary sat close to the prince and Duchess of Cornwall during the reflective event at Drumcliffe, Co Sligo.

It was held at St Columba's Church before the Royal couple made their short trip northward to the scene of the atrocity at the picturesque Mullaghmore harbour.

As well as Lord Mountbatten and the 15-year-old schoolboy from Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh, the IRA bomb killed Lady Doreen Brabourne, 83, the mother-in-law of Mountbatten's daughter, and Nicholas Knatchbull, the earl's 14-year-old grandson.

Mr Maxwell said he had been nervous about attending the service but ultimately found it uplifting.

"I thought it was brilliant," he said afterwards

"It was very moving and very appropriate."

A short reflection was given by The Rt Revd Ferran Glenfield, Bishop of Kilmore, Elphin & Ardagh at the ecumenical Service of Peace and Reconciliation, held at St Columba's Church, Drumcliffe

He concluded saying - The history of Ireland and the UK in the past 100 years has been marked by trauma and trouble. Today we acknowledge the transformation in our relations. This transformation, I believe, is a work of God, the Spirit, who brings:
Healing out of hurts,
Reconciliation out of wreckage,
Trust out of turmoil.

This is a Milestone moment. When we remember and revisit the horror of the recent past. When we savour the comfort of the present. When we hope for a better future together, as we wait upon the Lord.

Methodist Response to Ashers Verdict

The Council on Social Responsibility of the Methodist Church in Ireland in a statement notes with some concerns the judgement of the Court

in the case of Gareth Lee v Ashers Bakery Limited.

The Rev. Dr. David Clements, Chair of the Committee said:

“We have sympathy with the owners of Ashers Bakery who seek to order their lives and that of their business, in accord with their Christian faith. If they are now compelled by the law to make products that conflict with their Christian conscience this raises important issues for all of our society.

“If the judgement stands (we recognise that there may be an appeal) and this is how the present law is to be implemented, then attention must turn from the judiciary to the legislature.

“In this further debate we call for thoughtful reflection and gracious words. We hope for an outcome that respects the rights and conscience of all and that where these may seem to be in conflict that the principle of "reasonable accommodation" can be built into legislation."

See PDF of court judgment -

http://www.equalityni.org/ECNI/media/ECNI/Cases/%20and%20Settlements/2015/Lee-v-Ashers_Judgement.pdf

Churches lament ‘loss of religious liberties’ after cake determination

Rev Adrian Dorrian, chair of the Church of Ireland Church and Society Commission, said his denomination “recognises and commends efforts to combat discrimination”.

Belfast News Letter - He added: “The Church is also currently actively engaged in constructive dialogue through its Select Committee on Human Sexuality in the context of Christian belief. However, the McArthur family has actively maintained that the service was declined, not because of the sexual orientation of the customer but because of the particular political message requested upon the cake.

“It is of some concern that the freedom of religious conscience that the law affords to all people may have been called into question by this ruling. The owners of the baking company were upholding their adherence to the traditional Christian view on marriage as being between one man and one woman. In fact this position was affirmed by a majority of the General Synod of the Church of Ireland in 2012, and is the legal position in Northern Ireland. It is of real concern

that a conscientious choice made by the owners of a small business, which reflects such a position, has been branded discriminatory and made the subject of this legal action.”

Now, more than ever, our society needs a gracious and well-informed civic debate around “reasonable accommodation”, he added.

More at -

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/regional/churches-lament-loss-of-religious-liberties-after-cake-determination-1-6753423>

Victims query Bishop's Easter Rising address

A victims' group has questioned a bishop's claim that everyone helped cause the Troubles – and the group also believes that her speech at an Easter Rising event legitimised political violence.

Belfast Newsletter - Innocent Victims United spokesman Kenny Donaldson was speaking after Bishop of Meath and Kildare, Pat Storey, addressed the Taoiseach and associated guests at the annual Easter Rising 1916 Commemoration Ceremony at the Church of the Most Sacred Heart at Arbour Hill, Dublin.



Bishop Storey said: “I believe too that it is vital that every part of the Church on this island takes its place in not only remembering the past, but creating and shaping the future. Since we have all been a part of the problem, we should all be a part of the answer.”

She told her audience that:

:: She “wants and needs” to understand why the Easter Rising is so important to them.

:: She does not believe anyone wants to go back to the bloodshed of the 1970s.

:: Christ's Easter resurrection showed us "a different way – one of hope and healing".

:: Leading the way forward is not easy, but Christ commanded us to "love your enemies, and do good to those that hate you".

:: The audience need to go further than commemorating the dead – and to reach out to her community.

But Mr Donaldson emphasised that his umbrella group – of Protestants and Catholics – rejected suggestions that they carried responsibility for causing the terrorism that afflicted them; and he was adamant that true peace and reconciliation requires terrorism to be identified as such – and renounced.

Many IVU members define themselves as Christian but see no contradiction in wanting accountability for "wrongs committed on this earth", he said. "IVU certainly does not castigate Bishop Storey or anyone else within the Church from engaging in these issues but what we also are clear on is that any intervention by our religious and faith leaders should be on the basis of challenging people on their use of terrorism or violence and/or a belief system which suggests that to do so is justifiable and legitimate.

“It is one thing to seek to understand another’s fear, their anger, bitterness, resentment, sense of injustice and their political ambitions to have something different but it is quite another to legitimise those feelings and beliefs in accepting violence as an acceptable outworking. This is where we must all be careful – genuine conciliation – yes, appeasement and revisionism – no!”

IVU posed several questions to the bishop;-

:: Would the process of forgiveness be aided by perpetrators coming to repentance and expressing remorse?

:: Were the ‘Troubles’ a campaign of terrorism; and can political violence ever be justified?

:: What role could formal acknowledgements concerning ‘The Past’ have from the UK, Republic and terror groups in building for the future?

:: Were those who refused to bring terror to another’s door after it was inflicted on them “part of the problem?”

:: Can genuine peace and reconciliation be forged without the process of justice being fully worked through?

Bishop Storey declined to offer any comment.

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/regional/victims-query-bishop-s-easter-rising-address-1-6752321>

Belfast Cathedral's Choir Schools in concert

On Sunday 7 June the pupils from Belfast Cathedral's Choir Schools come together in St Anne's for their end of year concert.

Up to 300 children from the three north Belfast primary schools – Cliftonville Integrated, Edenbrooke and Sacred Heart – will be singing a variety of songs for parents, friends and special guests.

The children are all taught by St Anne's Choir School tutors, Catherine Harper and Thérèse Woodfield, and Master of the Choristers David Stevens. This innovative cross community project, established in 2013, means the Cathedral's singing tutors are working in the schools teaching pupils across a range of ages every day during termtime.

The concert on 7 June will give the Choir School pupils, some of whom have already progressed

to the Cathedral Boys and Junior Girls' choirs, an opportunity to show just how much they have learned.

The concert will feature a mixed bag of songs from the shows and pieces which the children have been working on all year which require them to sing in harmony not just unison.

Items in the programme for example, include Consider Yourself, and Food, Glorious Food from Oliver by Lionel Bart; I Closed my Eyes from Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat by Andrew Lloyd Webber; and Grandfather Clock by Dunhill.

The children from the Cathedral's Treble line and Junior Girls will also be singing on their own and the Senior Girls' Choir will support the children throughout. Everyone is very welcome to attend this concert which begins at 3.30pm. Admission is free.

Irish Methodist Conference schedule

Schedule of conference to be held in Belfast next month is here -

<http://www.irishmethodist.org/sites/default/files/Representative%20Session%20Final.pdf>

Church of Scotland seeking new style of pioneering minister

A new style of Kirk minister is to be created charged with reconnecting large parts of Scotland with Christianity.

Five new groundbreaking 'Pioneer Ministry' posts were approved by the General Assembly today with the 46 presbyteries of Scotland's national church being asked to bid for the new roles.

Rev Neil Dougall, Convener of the Church of Scotland's Ministries Council, said: "We realise there are many people out there who feel disconnected from the Church but not with God or Jesus.

"We need ministers who can go into areas where there is no Church of Scotland presence, read the needs of the community and bring the benefits of Christianity to them.



Rev Neil Dougall, Convener of the Church of Scotland's Ministries Council, says: "We realise there are many people out there who feel disconnected from the Church but not with God or Jesus."

"The ideal candidate will have to be a good self-starter and have an entrepreneurial outlook. The Church of Scotland has a long history of pioneering ministry. We are looking for ministers who can bring this pioneering spirit for the benefit of 21st Century Scotland. We're hopeful we will get some really good bids."

The move follows the launch last week of the Church of Scotland's [major recruitment drive for new ministers 'Tomorrow's Calling'](#). The video for the campaign has been viewed by almost

40,000 people in the first week on Facebook and YouTube, half of them aged between 15-24 years old.

The key skills being sought for the pioneering roles are the abilities to work with people outside of the traditional Kirk network, an understanding of contemporary culture and a clear idea of how their specific parish can benefit from the Christian message.

Finding new places to worship, rather than in a church, will also be in the remit, with the possibility of using sports clubs and various community venues on the cards.

The talent pool will come from ordained ministers already with the Church of Scotland.

The Pioneering Ministry model has been used by the Church of England since 2007.

The approach has emerged from the Fresh Expressions movement - founded by the Church of England in 2004 - which the Church of Scotland joined in 2013. It aims to bring the message of Jesus Christ to people who have never resonated with it before.

Irish Presbyterian ‘deep sorrow’ at Scottish gay vote

Leaders in the Presbyterian Church in Ireland felt “a deep sense of sorrow” after a decision by the Church of Scotland to allow people in same-sex civil partnerships to serve as ministers and deacons.

News Letter - The Scottish decision was made by the General Assembly on the Mound in Edinburgh on Saturday, where the motion was passed by 309 votes to 182.

The outcome is the culmination of years of deliberation within the Church, which has traditionally close links with the Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI).

However PCI, which has some 230,000 members, said the vote would not sway its position, stating that its sister church had moved “away from the historic and biblical position”.

Rev Trevor Gribben, the Clerk of the General Assembly and General Secretary of PCI, said: “While there are long-standing and historic associations between the Church of Scotland and the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, there is

no formal structural link between the two Churches.

“As self-governing Churches, both clearly have the right to come to their own conclusions on theological and governance matters.

“That being said, I’m sure that many ministers, elders and people within the Presbyterian Church in Ireland will feel a deep sense of sorrow at the decision to allow for ordination of ministers in civil partnerships within the Church of Scotland.

“That same sense of sorrow will be felt later this week if the Church of Scotland votes to allow the ordination of ministers who are in same-sex marriages.

“I have no doubt that this sorrow and deep regret is also felt by that very significant minority in the Church of Scotland who have opposed such changes.

“While our Church has not taken a formal stance on the Scottish vote, many will feel that the decision taken on Saturday last has moved the Church of Scotland away from the historic and biblical position that we as a Church unambiguously uphold, which is that marriage is exclusively between one man and one woman.

“The Presbyterian Church in Ireland is not in any way considering moving from this position – it simply isn’t on our agenda.

“A more important question for us is how we welcome people from all walks of life, including those with same-sex attraction, into Church and into a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus, so that they can know His amazing grace and transforming love.”

More at -

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/regional/presbyterian-deep-sorrow-at-scottish-gay-vote-1-6752367>

Jean Vanier receives Templeton Prize

Jean Vanier, the French-Canadian Catholic who founded L’Arche network of international communities that brings together people with and without learning disabilities to live and work each other, has received the Templeton Prize in London.

Valued at £1.1 million, the Templeton Prize rewards an individual who “has made an exceptional contribution to affirming life’s

spiritual dimension, whether through insight, discovery, or practical works.”

Mr Vanier, 86, was given the prize this week at a ceremony in the church of St Martin-in-the-Fields. He spoke about the work of L’Arche and a number of his colleagues helped laid a table for a feast and invited people with disabilities forward.

“People who are not endowed with intellectual gifts have ... unique and marvelous gifts of the heart, and can open us to love in a special way,” he said after receiving the award, **according to CatholicCulture.org.**

“They are not crying out for advancement or knowledge or power, but simply for a personal relationship of love that will give them life and meaning.”

Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster Nicholas Hudson, who was present at the ceremony, said: “Jean explained the vision of L’Arche by recalling when Jesus said: ‘When you give a special meal, don’t invite your family and rich neighbours, so that they invite you back in return. No, when you give a meal, invite rather the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind: that they cannot repay your invitation means you will be blessed.’”

He continued: “The joy in the Church at the presence of so many people with disabilities reminded me why I love L’Arche. It’s because it announces the Kingdom: it opens our hearts to realise that when we share our lives with those whom society judges unworthy and useless, we are profoundly enriched. More than that: we experience communion; and discover a happiness we simply won’t find elsewhere.”

Mr Vanier founded L’Arche in 1964. According to a statement on the Templeton Prize website, Mr Vanier “supports a culture of belonging and social justice. He encourages and nurtures dialogue and unity among Christians, Hindus, Jews, Muslims and other faiths through lectures, conferences and retreats around the world.” Previous Templeton Prize winners include the Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu.

Mission calls for recognition of seafarers’ role in migrant rescue

The International Christian Maritime Association (ICMA), the International Maritime Health Association (IMHA) and the International Seafarers Welfare and Assistance Network (ISWAN) have issued a [joint press release](#) calling

on EU governments to recognize the key role of seafarers in the rescue of migrants at sea.

They have sent a letter to all heads of governments urgently requesting that more resources are mobilized for search and rescue in the Mediterranean.

The Anglican communion's Mission to Seafarers, as one of 28 members of ICMA, fully supports this statement.

The Rev. Canon Ken Peters, Mission to Seafarers' director of justice and public affairs, said: "All of the focus of public scrutiny and debate is of course about the plight of the poor, exploited migrants – men, women and children who are paying a terrible price for their attempts to get to freedom and safety. They are the tragic victims of war, religious persecution and heart-breaking brutality. This leads them to make such pitiful, desperate deals with criminal gangs who are running people trafficking rackets along the coasts of war torn states, particularly from Libya and more recently from Burma.

"Yet in the background of these crises there are hundreds of merchant seafarers whose moral and legal duty is to intervene in human tragedies at sea and attempt rescues, in the absence of

coastguard and naval intervention. Seafarers put lives first. However, this too comes at great risk to their personal safety and indeed to their mental wellbeing.

“The Mission to Seafarers is working with seafarers who have been so traumatized by major incidents of shipping disasters involving great loss of human lives, that they need our help and support with post-traumatic stress counseling.

The perilous predicament of seafarers should be emphasized because without them many more lives will be lost. The world expects so much of seafarers in these rescue operations but don't give them a thought in terms of the danger that this places them in.

“I make a plea to all governments who are trying to tackle this ever increasing problem humanely, to properly consider the safety and role of merchant seafarers, especially when they are discussing important international policy on migrant safety, human trafficking and slavery at sea.”

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Caritas names Oscar Romero as patron saint



A young man paints a portrait of Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero as part of the preparations for the 35th anniversary of Romero's death in San Salvador, El Salvador

Caritas Internationalis have adopted the former Archbishop of San Salvador, Oscar Romero, as their patron saint during the last day of their General Assembly.

The archbishop, renowned as a champion for the poor, is due to be beatified on May 23 in San Salvador.

Between May 12 and May 17, over 400 delegates from around the world met in Rome to discuss the theme of

“One Human Family, Caring for Creation”. Filipino Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, Archbishop of Manila, the newly-elected Caritas Internationalis president said:

“Pope Francis gave us inspirational words on seeking to expand our work at the beginning of our General Assembly.

“With the launch of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Pope Francis’s encyclical on ecology and the UN climate meeting in Paris this year, Caritas will work towards putting the human family and human dignity at the heart of development.”

Reflecting on the plight of persecuted Christians, delegates also urged “governments to build safe havens and humanitarian corridors, rather than fences, walls or programmes of interdiction at sea.”

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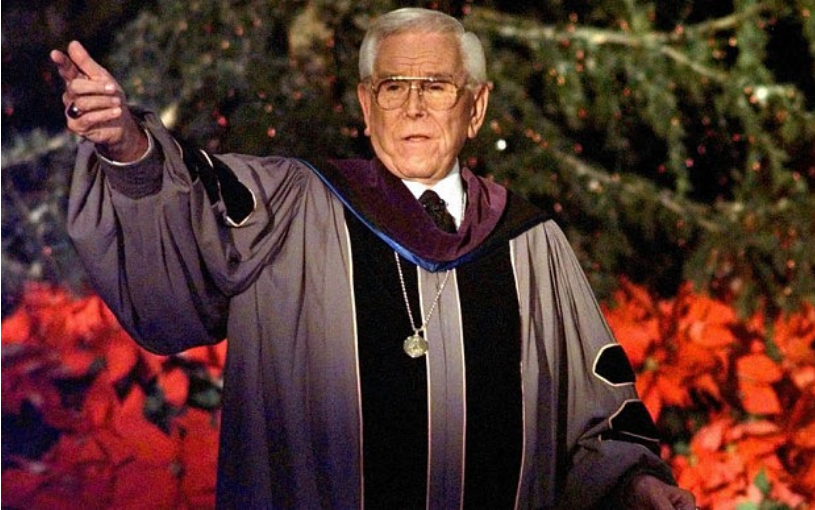
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Robert Schuller, televangelist - obituary

Robert Schuller, who has died aged 88, was one of America's most prominent television evangelists, and the founder and presenter of Hour of Power, a relentlessly upbeat weekly religious programme which at one time broadcast to 20 million households around the world.

Daily Telegraph - Schuller started his ministry in 1955 from the roof of a snack shop at a local drive-in cinema in Garden Grove, California. His motivational speaking and motto — “Come as you are in the family car” — struck a chord with the “baby boomer” generation that flocked to suburban Orange County in the late 1960s and 1970s.

He began broadcasting Hour of Power in 1970 and in 1978 commissioned the architect Philip Johnson to design a huge “Crystal Cathedral”, a soaring confection featuring 10,000 windows of silver-coloured glass, seating for 3,000, 90ft doors that opened at the touch of a button and one of the world's largest pipe organs. Outside, drive-in worshippers could follow services from



behind the wheel on a giant screen at the church's "in-car worship centre".

At the height of his fame, Schuller's twice-daily services drew thousands of worshippers. His sermons, a blend of religion and pop psychology, were relatively light on gospel and scripture. Instead they majored on the power of "possibility thinking" and emphasised self-esteem and self-improvement. In 1994 he staged a "Glory of Christmas" nativity spectacular to celebrate his 40 years as a preacher, turning his church into what one visitor described as "a cross between a zoo and the set of Les Miserables". Eight flying angels accompanied a 200-member chorus in Hark the Herald Angels Sing; a local American football team mounted on

real horses played a detachment of Roman soldiers; the Star of Bethlehem was represented by a 2,000-watt searchlight shining out of the crib, and the Magi arrived on real camels.

Schuller managed to avoid being implicated in any of the sexual and financial shenanigans that undermined support for his rivals in the late 1980s, and in the mid-1990s he became a spiritual guru to President Bill Clinton. Schuller was first invited to stay overnight at the White House in 1995 and, as he recalled, during the night Clinton paid him a visit. After talking for a while the two men got down on their knees and prayed. "I almost cried," Schuller recalled.

More at -

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/obituaries/11616037/Robert-Schuller-televangelist-obituary.html>

Media digest

Archbishop declines to tell Catholics how to vote in referendum

http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/archbishop-declines-to-tell-catholics-how-to-vote-in-referendum-1.2218795?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter

Mary McAleese: No vote would ‘cost our gay children everything’

http://www.irishtimes.com/news/politics/mary-mcaleese-no-vote-would-cost-our-gay-children-everything-1.2218061?utm_content=sf-man

Mary McAleese says “the only children affected by this referendum will be Ireland’s gay children”

http://www.thejournal.ie/mary-mcaleese-same-sex-marriage-2-2111104-May2015/?utm_source=twitter_self

Mary McAleese: My devout Catholic son bullied for being gay

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/politics/mary-mcaleese-my-devout-catholic-son-bullied-for-being-gay-1.2218339#.VVuBqX4wHk4.facebook>

I believe my son was born gay - and God cherishes him equally

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/referendum/i-believe-my-son-was-born-gay-and-god-cherishes-him-equally-31237634.html>

Express/FT/Tel/BBC/Ind/Mail

Reports on a court ruling that the Christian owners of Ashers Bakery in Northern Ireland, Karen and Colin McArthur, acted unlawfully in declining to bake a cake with a 'support gay marriage' slogan because of their religious beliefs. The firm was ordered to pay damages of

£500 plus court costs. Peter Lynas, Northern Ireland director of the Evangelical Alliance, said the ruling was a "significant change" and that religion had been "effectively banished from the commercial sphere."

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/578429/Bakery-owners-row-Gay>

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/b5b37824-fe33-11e4-9f10-00144feabdc0.html?siteedition=intl#axzz3aeVI2uhH>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11616193/Bert-and-Ernie-gay-marriage-cake-ruling-banishes-religion-from-commercial-world.html>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-32797467>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/bert-and-ernie-cake-case-in-northern-ireland-sparks-debate-over-human-rights-and-religion-10261274.html>

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/reuters/article-3087985/Gay-marriage-vote-marks-quiet-revolution-Ireland.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490

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Times

Report that two "priceless" medieval painted panels are among dozens of historic artefacts recovered by police investigating thefts from

isolated country churches. It says the 15th-century panels, stolen from [Holy Trinity Church in Torbryan, Devon](#), in 2013, were recovered from a London collector who had bought them along with about 40 other objects stolen from country churches, which police are now trying to return to their rightful owners.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/faith/article4445453.ece>

Mirror

Report on a fuel bank which has opened in a United Reformed Church in Kingston-upon-Thames, London, to help those who cannot afford to pay for their energy bills. It says the pilot project is being run in partnership between charities including the Trussell Trust and funded by the energy giant npower.

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/poverty-forced-people-turn-food-5726219>

Ind

Article on shopping at the Christian Resources Exhibition in London, by former editor of the Catholic Herald, Peter Stanford. He says he is disturbed by the sense that a vibrant part of Christianity is retreating into its own parallel universe.

May 21

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/faith/shopping-at-the-christian-resources-exhibition-buy-the-grace-of-god-10262109.html>

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