



Irish Bishop says Yes result “increased the sum of human happiness”

A retired Catholic bishop has said he disagrees with remarks by the Vatican’s top diplomat, that Saturday’s referendum result represents “a defeat for humanity”.

The Journal.ie reports - Willie Walsh, the bishop emiritus of Killaloe, was asked [about Cardinal Pietro Parolin's reported comments](#) by Joe Duffy this afternoon.

The RTÉ presenter also asked if the cleric thought the result 'added to the sum of human happiness'...

"Yes, I'd have to say yes to that, in my view," Walsh said.

"I think that you could hardly look at the celebrations in Dublin without in some way saying it had increased the sum of human happiness.

"I think the answer to your question is yes, Joe."

The bishop, earlier in the conversation, described the Vatican official's remarks as "over the top".

Lack of action on issues like justice and poverty represented real "disasters for humanity," Walsh said.

"While most of us have more than we need, that there's literally half the world in serious poverty," he observed, adding:

I'd love to see last week's equality being the beginning of a real crusade for equality in other areas – both at home and across the world.

Asked how he voted in the referendum, Walsh declined to answer – but said:

“I gave it a great deal of thought and then I voted according to my own conscience.”

In comments earlier this week the Vatican Secretary of State said “the Church must take account of this reality, but in the sense that it must strengthen its commitment to evangelisation.

“I think that you cannot just talk of a defeat for Christian principles, but of a defeat for humanity.”

His comments contrast with the tone of remarks by Archbishop of Dublin Diarmuid Martin – who spoke at the weekend of the Church in Ireland needing a “new language” to connect with people.

<http://www.thejournal.ie/sum-of-human-happiness-marriage-2128229-May2015/>

Same-sex marriage vote 'a defeat for humanity' - cardinal

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/referendum/samesex-marriage-vote-a-defeat-for-humanity-cardinal-31256925.html>

C of I 'must honour' parishioners in gay marriages - Church of Ireland Gazette

Anglican congregations in the Republic of Ireland must honour parishioners who have taken same-sex wedding vows, the Church of Ireland Gazette has said.

Following pro-gay marriage campaigners' victory in the Republic's referendum on May 22, the weekly paper has carried a leading article titled: "Towards an ecumenical, pastoral response to same-sex marriage".

It states: "There is no doubt that in Irish parishes there will, in due course, be parishioners who are in same-sex marriages performed under the auspices of the state.

"Although it is not what the church advocates, there will have to be an honouring of those who

choose such a committed and loving path in life...

“For the churches, to live in Ireland as a distinctly minority voice is now a clear reality, and it is a humbling experience. A time for reflection is now needed within all the churches.

“It would be good if this could be done by churches together, and we do have the ecumenical structures in place in Ireland to do just that.

“An ecumenical, pastoral response to what has been a momentous change in the settled culture of the Republic would be a welcome development.”

In the immediate wake of the referendum results at the weekend, an official statement from the Church of Ireland had said that its position on marriage – that it is between one man and one woman – remains unchanged by the vote.

It said: “Marriage services taking place in a Church of Ireland church, or conducted by a minister of the Church of Ireland may – in compliance with church teaching, liturgy and canon law – continue to celebrate only marriage between a man and a woman.”

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/regional/coi-must-honour-parishioners-in-gay-marriages-1-6764580>

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/republic-of-ireland/gay-plea-by-church-of-ireland-newspaper-31256569.html>

Individual charged is not a past or present employee of St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin

The Church of Ireland yesterday issued a statement confirming that it “is aware of charges brought (Tuesday 26th May 2015) relating to historical allegations of sexual abuse involving children made against an individual who formerly worshipped in St Patrick’s Cathedral, Dublin.

“The concern of the Church of Ireland is first and foremost for any victims involved in the allegations.

“The Church of Ireland takes this issue extremely seriously and the matter was duly reported to An Garda Síochána and Tusla (The Child and Family Agency). The Cathedral has engaged fully with the authorities and has assisted formal investigations in every way possible.

“The Church of Ireland seeks to ensure the safety and welfare of children at all times across all its churches, through the implementation of its child protection policy Safeguarding Trust.

“The individual is not a past or present employee of the Cathedral.”

Four Nations faith consultation meets in Dublin on gospel and mission

The Four Nations Faith and Order Consultation is currently underway in the Church of Ireland Theological Institute in Dublin.

Hosted by the Church of Ireland, the consultation also involves representatives from the Church of England, the Church in Wales and the Scottish Episcopal Church.

The consultation began on Tuesday afternoon and ends later today. Representatives are taking part in a wide range of discussions and there will be a shared study based around the question: ‘What is the Church, what is the gospel, what is mission and how do they relate with practice (with case studies)’.



Representatives from the four Anglican churches in Ireland and Great Britain at the C of I Theological Institute

There was a reception and dinner in CITI with ecumenical guests. Yesterday evening participants will attend Choral Evensong in St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, followed by a reception in the Deanery.

The Church of Ireland is represented at the consultation by Archbishop Michael Jackson and the Revd Niall Sloane. The Episcopal Church Primus, Most Rev. David Chillingworth was also a representative.

Archbishops of Dublin ‘thinking allowed’ tonight on ‘What is the Spirit saying to the Churches?’

‘What is the Spirit saying to the Churches?’ is the question that will be addressed by the Church of Ireland and Catholic Archbishops of Dublin along with other Christian church leaders this evening, Thursday 28 May at 7.30 pm. The discussion will be part of the ‘Thinking Allowed’ event in All Hallows College, Drumcondra, which is being held as part of Ecumenical Bible Week 2015.

The panel will include Archbishop Michael Jackson, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, Fr Calin Florea (Romanian Orthodox Priest), Pastor Sean Mullarkey (AGI National Leader, St Mark’s Church Leader) and Pastor Tunde Adebayo–Oke (Redeemed Christian Church of God). They will be interviewed by Philip McKinley. There will also be an opportunity for the audience to participate.

Ecumenical Bible Week began last Sunday, 24 May, and continues until this Sunday. During the week participants from the main Christian churches in the greater Dublin area have been discussing what the Bible says to them on a

wide range of topics from the Bible in the movies to the Gospel in our lives. Events are taking place in 15 venues in counties Dublin, Kildare and Wicklow involving 18 presenters.

Ethnic input at Annual Civic Service in St Patrick's, Ballymena

The annual Civic Service which celebrates the life of the Borough of Ballymena is to be held in St Patrick's Church, Castle Street, on Sunday May 31 at 11.30am.

Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for County Antrim, Mrs Joan Christie, will be in attendance along with the Mayor of the newly formed Borough of Mid and East Antrim, Councillor Billy Ashe.

All the members of the Council have been invited along with representatives from many bodies both statutory and voluntary. All members of the wider community are also very welcome to attend.

Ballymena Silver Band will assist with the music and a choir from Braidside Integrated School will also participate. The lessons are to be read by the Mayor and by Ivy Goddard MBE, Project Director of Ballymena Inter-Ethnic Forum. The

prayers will be led by young people from all the local secondary schools and the preacher is to be The Very Rev John Mann, Dean of Belfast. The offertory this year will go to support the work of Good Morning Ballymena

This Civic Service has been running for many years and draws together many people from throughout the community. All are welcome to come and participate in this act of worship and celebration of community life.

Graduate Fashion Show in St Anne's Cathedral

St Anne's Cathedral will show its versatility as a prime venue for cultural events when it hosts the Ulster University's Graduate Fashion Show on May 29.

For the first time ever a catwalk will be set up in the fabulous surroundings of the Nave, and students will debut their collections inspired by a diverse range of themes from post-war America and religion to architecture and national dress.

Parking, at a cost of £3 per vehicle, will be available at St Anne's Cathedral on the night of the fashion show. All proceeds to the Cathedral Choir Summer Tour of France.



Gemma McCorry from Style Academy will model catwalk creations at the Ulster University Fashion Show.

May 29 @ 8:00 pm - 11:00 pm £12 / £15 on door. For fashion show ticket information visit <https://getinvited.to/ulsterfashion/ulster-university-graduate-fashion-2015/>

Kilkenny three choirs concert

Three Choirs Concert - in St Canice's Cathedral, Kilkenny, on 7th June 2015, at 4pm, featuring the churchnewsireland@gmail.com

combined choirs of Waterford, Limerick and Kilkenny cathedrals. The programme includes music by Byrd, Gesualdo, Schubert, Parry, Wood, Sweeney and others.

Kilbride Cyclists Charity Challenge

Kilbride Cyclists are offering a scenic country route of 45km and 90km around County Antrim which has a few inclines and takes a break in Glenarm for refreshments. So whether you are a serious cyclist or a novice wanting to cycle the distance for the first time the Kilbride Cyclists Charity Challenge is the event for you!

The Challenge starts and finishes at Kilbride Presbyterian Church which has ample car parking and changing facilities. En-route there will be water stations, a “broom wagon” for breakdowns etc. and the event will be assisted by an experienced team of marshalls, with first aid back-up. All finishers will enjoy a BBQ at the finish line and a well earned cuppa.

This year Kilbride Cyclists are supporting Christian Aid and Friends in Action UK.

Entries by 5th June. Further details at -

<http://www.entrycentral.com/kilbridecyclists>
churchnewsireland@gmail.com

NI Equality Commission to guide firms on how equality law works

The Equality Commission has said it will work with Christian and other businesses to help them avoid legal pitfalls in the aftermath of the Ashers bakery controversy.

And it plans to update written guidance for businesses on equality and the provision of goods and services.

Chief commissioner Michael Wardlow also insisted the commission had not sought to target or persecute Christians.

And in the aftermath of the court verdict, he added: “What is needed now is some calm reflection rather than knee-jerk reactions.”

“We can and will work with businesses, run by Christians or otherwise, to identify and take practical steps to assist them carry out their business within the law and in line with their beliefs and values,” he said in an article for the Detail website.

Church leaders: ‘South Sudanese are being killed, raped and tortured’

Human rights in South Sudan are abused “on the battlefield and in peaceful areas,” and much of the country is without effective governance, Church leaders have said.

“People are being killed, raped and tortured,” the South Sudan Council of Churches said in a May 26 statement signed by eight Church leaders, including Archbishop Paulino Lukudu Loro of Juba.

“Children are being recruited into armed groups” and “looting is endemic”, the statement said, noting that many individuals, groups and even government organs are taking the law into their own hands, “with disastrous consequences for everybody.”

According to the United Nations (UN), fighting in South Sudan has “worsened considerably” in recent weeks. About 119,000 people are taking shelter in its compounds across the country, the UN said on May 24, noting that rights monitors have been denied access to sites where they



Residents displaced due to the recent fighting between government and rebel forces in Malakal, South Sudan

sought to verify reports of killings, rapes, abductions and the burning and destruction of towns and villages.

The world's newest state, which gained independence from Sudan in 2011, was plunged into conflict in December 2013 between forces loyal to President Salva Kiir and rebels allied with his former deputy, Riek Machar. As many as 10,000 people have been killed and more than one million displaced in the months since.

Peace talks, mediated by regional governments, have been held in Ethiopia's capital, Addis

Ababa, but the few agreements reached there have been consistently ignored on the ground.

“There is no moral justification for the killing to continue,” the Church leaders said, noting that “it is unacceptable for negotiations about power and positions to take place in luxury hotels while people are still killing and being killed.”

The Church leaders said they “seriously doubt” that South Sudan’s military and political leaders, “most of whom call themselves Christians,” will heed their call to stop fighting.

“Nevertheless, we want them, along with the citizens of South Sudan and our friends in the region and the international community, to know that we are watching and we are aware of what is happening,” they said.

Anglican newsletter helps to redress balance in portrayal of Islam

The latest issue of the Christian Muslim News Digest, the newsletter of the Anglican Communion’s Network for Inter Faith Concerns (NIFCON), looks at the World Council of Churches’ visit to Palestine and Israel and possible inter-religious initiatives for peace in the region. It also features a report on a call by Sheikh Ahmed al-Tayeb, Al-Azhar’s Grand Imam,

for educational reforms to combat radical interpretation of Islam.

“Reports about atrocities committed in the name of Islam by extremist groups tend to crowd out other news that portrays Islam in another light. This issue of the digest helps to redress the balance,” says David Thomas, Professor of Christianity and Islam at the University of Birmingham in the United Kingdom.

The digest includes a report on attempts to ensure a just settlement between Palestinians and Israelis and the part played by the World Council of Churches. “It has been noted that too often the peace process has done the least to attract the participation of those with most energy and incentive to undermine it. Another group that has invariably been ignored in this conflict is the Christian Churches,” points out in the commentary Anthony O'Mahony, Director Centre for Eastern Christianity, University of London.

The digest also tackles a call by the Sheikh of al-Azhar in Cairo for changes to education in Muslim countries that will counter the distortions of Islam propagated by the extremists. “I believe that educational reform is several steps better than simply treating extremist Islamism as a

security issue to be defeated by locking people away or executing them,” writes Dr Bill Musk, Area Bishop for North Africa, Diocese of Egypt.

This is the second issue of Christian-Muslim News Digest produced by NIFCON in 2015. Open and loving relationships between Christians and people of other faiths, support for Christian religious minorities and exchange of information and ideas on interfaith concerns are among aims of the network.

Media digest

Henry Hoovers marry in Belfast electrics shop to celebrate Irish referendum result - Belfast Telegraph

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/henry-hoovers-marry-in-belfast-electrics-shop-to-celebrate-irish-referendum-result-31251035.html>

Old Testament Christianity in NI is seriously out of touch - Humanist comment - News Letter

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/old-testament-christianity-in-ni-is-seriously-out-of-touch-1-6764658>

Pastor's fury at taxpayer-funded tourism drive over gay marriage - Belfast Telegraph

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/pastors-fury-at-taxpayerfunded-tourism-drive-over-gay-marriage-31253146.html>

UUP councillor's disquiet over Nesbitt's softening opposition to same-sex marriage - Belfast Newsletter

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/regional/uup-councillor-s-disquiet-over-nesbitt-s-softening-opposition-to-same-sex-marriage-1-6762638>

Gay parish priest thanks congregation for accepting him - Irish Times

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/gay-parish-priest-thanks-congregation-for-accepting-him-1.2223891>

The Irish Church's failures have caused its people to choose secularism over faith - Catholic Herald

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/commentandblogs/2015/05/25/the-irish-churchs-failures-have-caused-its-people-to-choose-secularism-over-faith/>

Guard/FT

Reports that a senior Vatican official has described the legalisation of gay marriage in Ireland, following the referendum, as a "defeat for humanity". Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Vatican's secretary of state, said at a conference

in Rome on Tuesday night, "The church must strengthen its commitment to evangelisation."
<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/may/26/vatican-ireland-gay-marriage-referendum-vote-defeat-for-humanity>
<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/11f5b8f8-03df-11e5-8585-00144feabdc0.html?siteedition=intl#axzz3bJSh5552>

Express/Tel/BBC

Articles looking at assisted suicide of Jeffrey Spector at the Dignitas clinic prompting fresh debate on the issue. *Express* says almost 300 Britons have ended their lives at the Zurich clinic and the high-profile supporters to change the law include former Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Carey. BBC reports that Lord Falconer will attempt to reintroduce his Assisted Dying Bill in this session of Parliament. *Telegraph* columnist says that whatever the law says about assisted dying, no one should face the end alone.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-lancashire-32881161>
<http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/580164/house-people-go-to-die-Dignitas-clinic-assisted-suicide>
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/assisted-dying/11629829/Whatever-the-law-says-about-assisted-dying-no-one-should-face-the-end-alone.html>

BBC

Report that the Rector of Ludlow, Colin Williams, has been appointed as the new Archdeacon of Europe. He will start his new role as Archdeacon of Germany, Northern Europe and Archdeacon of the East in September. It states Mr Williams has previously been Archdeacon of Lancaster, and served for five years as General Secretary of the Conference of European Churches, based in Geneva. The Bishop of Hereford, Richard Frith, is quoted. <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-shropshire-32890915>

Tel

Article looking at what we mean by the word "poverty" today and how our idea of poverty compares with that of the past? It states Labour politicians, newspaper columnists and representatives of charities such as Oxfam, use the term repeatedly, suggesting that poverty in Britain is a major and even a growing problem. It states Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury, has campaigned against poverty and looks at how poverty is defined today. <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/economics/11629120/The-reclassification-of-poverty-was-a-con-trick-by-the-Left.html>

Times

Western culture is hated in the rest of the world because of its obsession with sex, according to one of Britain's leading theological historians, a report states. The Oxford professor and presenter of the BBC series *Sex and the Church*, Diarmaid MacCulloch, said the hatred of western culture could be seen in Vladimir Putin's Russia, in the Middle East and with Boko Haram in Africa. It states MacCulloch, who is a deacon in the Church of England, said that Christian churches in the West were still tearing themselves apart about many sexual issues.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4452151.ece>

FT

Report on new course at Rome's Pontifical Lateran University, teaching Roman Catholic priests and the laity management and finance skills. Article also highlights the Church of England's 'business school for senior clergy' which the author says was initially criticised but is now showing value with positive responses from those who have been on it. Includes quotes from Dean of Liverpool and Dean of Birmingham.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/2/748e9ad2-fd79-11e4-b824-00144feabdc0.html#axzz3bBQMBzem>

Ind

An interview with Tim Farron described as a front-runner to replace Nick Clegg as Lib Dem leader. It states Farron is a committed Christian who would like to keep religion out of schools and the Church out of the State. (See blogs)
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/tim-farron-interview-frontrunner-to-replace-nick-clegg-as-lib-dem-leader-says-party-needs-to-return-to-grassroots-10275023.html>

Mirror/Guard

Reports on community response, including opportunity for prayer, after the triple murder in Didcot, Oxford. They quote headteacher, John Myers, from All Saints Primary school where the six-year-old victim was a pupil. The school was opened on Bank Holiday Monday for friends to meet and offer each other support, where teachers handed out tea and coffee and offered people the opportunity to pray with a local vicar.
<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/jed-allen-didcot-murders-recap-5757611>

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/may/25/didcot-murders-hunt-jed-allen-enters-second-day>

Express

Item on how the grave of the real life Alice in Wonderland is being restored to mark the 150th anniversary of the book by Lewis Carroll. Ann Rogers, warden at St Michael and All Angels

Church, Lyndhurst, Hants, where the grave is, said: "We get lots of visitors to see Alice's grave - every day there's a family struggling to find it in the church grounds. We want to do something for the anniversary but we don't know how much it may cost yet until we hear from the stonemasons."

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/579819/Alice-In-Wonderland-Lewis-Carroll-grave-150th-anniversary>

Tel/Times

Articles that Pope Francis has revealed that he has not watched television for 25 years - not even the matches played by his beloved Buenos Aires football team. He told an Argentinian newspaper he last switched on a TV in 1990 and after that he simply decided that "it was not for me."

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/the-pope/11628348/Pope-Francis-has-not-watched-television-since-1990.html>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/world/americas/article4451507.ece>

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