



The Right Reverend Harold Miller, Bishop of Down and Dromore with Rev Alan Kilpatrick at his installation as rector of Knocknamuckley Parish

Cleric to move from divided C of I parish

The row at a troubled rural church has ended with the controversial minister leaving and the

congregation splitting in two - leading to tears and emotional scenes.

Belfast Telegraph - The divide comes after the minister at Knocknamuckley, outside Portadown, became embroiled in an unholy row over his style of ministry, with some of the congregation supporting his more modern style of worship, while others wanted a more traditional approach.

The trouble at St Matthias Church escalated as the congregation divided in reaction to the teaching adopted by their rector, the Rev Alan Kilpatrick, who is associated with the Bethel Church of Supernatural Ministries.

Now the congregation will officially divide in two - with some churchgoers choosing to leave the church and go with him to start a new congregation.

Dozens of parishioners - young and old - arrived to hear the fate of their minister last night.

Some voiced their concern and hoped for a positive outcome while others said the only option was for the rector to be removed.

As the meeting got under way one parishioner stormed out, stating that he was "disgusted" at what was going on.

However, there was little movement again until the decision had been made and it is understood the Rev Kilpatrick will be leaving by September 30.

Knocknamuckley Parish will now be split into two separate congregations - one will remain in St Matthias Church and a new missional congregation will meet in Craigavon.

Both will be under the authority of the Bishop and Diocese of Down and Dromore. The congregations will meet separately from this Sunday.

There were emotional scenes as the visibly broken congregation left the church, with some women crying and hugging each other.

Even parishioners who had opposed the minister's teachings said it was not a decision they called a "victory".

A spokeswoman for the Knocknamuckley Concerned Parishioners Group, formed in opposition to the minister, said: "We are happy he is leaving. But we are disappointed that the church and congregation is being split as a result. It's no victory for anybody." A tearful female parishioner who supports the minister will

now leave the church she has attended since she was an infant.

She said: "It's very sad in a sense. A lot of us have worshipped here since we were infants, but we just have to keep believing that this is God's will and something really amazing is going to come out of this and that he will build his church with it."

A 57-year-old man added: "You can't in a rural parish the size of this, have one man from Scotland come in and tell us what to do, that doesn't work - it doesn't work in any walk of life. I don't think there are any winners because the congregation is split."

Another female parishioner said: "I can see both sides. I don't think anybody would be happy about the decision.

"But I trust the bishop has put a lot of thought and prayer into the way forward."

The Bishop of Down and Dromore Harold Millar intervened to help deal with parishioner complaints by holding meetings to hear the views of the women's group, vestry and general parishioners at the beginning of May.

Detailing the decision in a statement, the Diocese of Down and Dromore described the divisions as "sad".

It said: "The Rev Alan Kilpatrick will remain as incumbent until 30 September, when he will step down as rector of Knocknamuckley and become minister-in-charge of the new missional congregation.

"In the months of June to September, while remaining rector, Alan Kilpatrick has agreed that the services in St Matthias will be led by another clergyman and that alternative pastoral cover will be provided for those who require it."

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/church-split-as-knocknamuckley-minister-alan-kilpatrick-moves-on-31259783.html>

Comment by Canon Rev Dr Ian Ellis, Editor of The Church of Ireland Gazette

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/rectors-are-obliged-to-minister-within-constraints-of-the-church-constitution-31259752.html>

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Ashers bakery to appeal 'gay cake' ruling

The McArthur family have confirmed they will appeal the 'gay cake' case ruling that saw Ashers bakery fined for discriminating against a gay customer.

The McArthur family, who own and run Ashers, has decided to challenge the ruling after consulting with their legal advisors.

In a statement, the family said: “After much careful and prayerful consideration given to legal advice, we have decided to appeal the judgement handed down last Tuesday.

“We continue to insist that we have done nothing wrong as we have discriminated against no individual but rather acted according to what the Bible teaches regarding marriage.

“As many other people have already noted, Christian beliefs seem to have been trampled over in this judgement and we believe this only has negative effects for our society.

“Our hope and prayer would be that an appeal will allow us and other Christians to live out their

faith in Jesus Christ in every part of their lives, including their workplace.”

District Judge Isobel Brownlie ruled the defendants unlawfully discriminated on the grounds of sexual orientation when they refused to make a cake bearing a pro-gay marriage slogan.

The Equality Commission for Northern Ireland brought the case against Ashers Bakery on behalf of gay rights activist Gareth Lee, whose order was refused.

The McArthurs are being supported by The Christian Institute, which is funding their legal costs.

More at -

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/ashers-bakery-to-appeal-gay-cake-ruling-31260131.html>

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/may/28/gay-cake-bakery-owners-appeal-against-discrimination-verdict-northern-ireland#img-1>

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GB Methodist investigation uncovers nearly 2,000 cases of abuse

An investigation by the Methodist Church in Britain has revealed nearly 2,000 cases of abuse since 1950.

The Methodist Church in the UK apologised yesterday for nearly 2,000 cases of abuse uncovered after a three-year investigation. The cases include 914 allegations of sexual abuse.

The independent inquiry investigated the Church's response to incidents dating back to 1950. It commissioned the review because it said it wanted to be open about the past and to have stronger safeguarding procedures in the future.

It identified 1,885 cases, including alleged sexual, physical, emotional and domestic abuse, as well as cases of neglect.

In 26 per cent of cases, ministers or lay employees were involved. The figures rises to 33 per cent when Church members, such as

worship leaders and local preachers, are also included.

One cases concerned the grooming of teenage girls on Facebook. Another involved a Methodist youth officer who had indecent images of children on his computer.

General secretary, Rev Dr Martyn Atkins, said the abuse would "remain a deep source of grief and shame to the Church".

He added: "On behalf of the Methodist Church in Britain I want to express an unreserved apology for the failure of its current and earlier processes fully to protect children, young people and adults from physical and sexual abuse inflicted by some ministers."

Report chairman Jane Stacey, former deputy chief executive of the children's charity Barnardo's, called for a culture change in the Church.

She said there were "many lessons to be learnt". "The most challenging are those that require a significant culture change throughout the Church,

and particularly for ministers and Church leaders," she added.

"The Church will need further courage to implement the review's recommendations, which are far-reaching and call for major changes in both practice and culture."

Bishop Paul Butler, Church of England's lead bishop on safeguarding said: "We welcome the Methodist Church's statement outlining their future plans on safeguarding and we look forward to continuing to liaise with them closely as both churches roll out this vital work. We will want to see if there are further lessons for us to learn from the Methodist Church review."

Clergy couple are running to hell and back

The Reverend Daniel Owen, Rector of Kilgariffe Union (Clonakilty, Timoleague, Courtmacherry) in the Dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, and his wife Sonja are doing a long-planned sponsored run on the 13th June in Kilruddery Estate, Co. Wicklow. The event has the rather daunting, but catchy, title of "hell and back"!



Daniel and Sonja hope to raise funds for Christian Aid and their local parish school: Kilgariffe National School.

Hell & Back, describes itself as 'Ireland's Toughest Mental & Physical Endurance Challenge'. It:

is the country's largest and most popular obstacle course run. We convert stunning private

farm estates into adventure playgrounds, where participants must complete a 10-15KM trail route crossing rivers and lakes, climbing hills and mountains and crawling through bogs and swamps. To survive, you must conquer all the elements thrown at you, whether that is the temperamental weather conditions, the gruelling natural environment or the torturous man-made obstacles.

Discovery Gospel Choir concert in Down cathedral

Discovery Gospel Choir is a 30 member inter-cultural choir based in Dublin. They have performed with Sinead O'Connor, Foy Vance, Nizlopi, Celtic Woman, Liam O Maonlai and many others.

The choir was formed in 2004 in St George's Church in central Dublin as part of the Church of Ireland's 5 year Discovery Project – an initiative to welcome migrants and encourage social integration in Ireland.

Now a professional, inter-denominational choir, it is directed by Roisin Dexter and partially supported by The Church of Ireland and Dublin City Council.



Come and hear the choir at Down Cathedral, English Street, Downpatrick, BT30 6AB on Sunday 14 June at 3.30 pm. Free for under 18s. Minimum contribution of £5.00 from adults.

CSTV live stream of Bill O’Herlihy’s funeral today

The funeral Mass of broadcaster and soccer pundit Bill O’Herlihy will take place today Friday at 11.30am at the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour in Foxrock in Dublin and will be live streamed and recorded by www.churchservices.tv



RTE broadcaster Bill O'Herlihy with silenced priest Fr Tony Flannery at the launch of 'A Question of Conscience' in September 2013.

The popular and high profile broadcaster, PR consultant and former journalist made Irish soccer coverage of national and international events a must see for many fans by his affable presentation style and the way he managed to draw out commentary and polemic from his panel.

Those who won't be able to attend the funeral can see it streamed live at www.churchservices.tv/foxrock or can watch a churchnewsireland@gmail.com

recording of the service later through this channel.

Bill O’Herlihy is survived by his wife Hilary, his daughters Jill and Sally and his brothers Jack, David and Peter, as well as his five grandchildren.

Over his many years in broadcasting, the 76 year old garnered many awards and published a memoir. At the time of his death, he was chairman of the Irish Film Board.

A native of Cork city, he began his career in the Cork Examiner and later worked as a subeditor with the Evening Echo. He subsequently went to work in news, features and sport there.

O’Herlihy moved to RTE in the 1960s and later joined the high profile Seven Days current affairs programme.

He was a daily Mass-goer and when CatholicIreland.net interviewed him in September 2013 after he launched Fr Tony Flannery’s book, ‘A Question of Conscience’, O’Herlihy did not hold back in his criticism of how the Redemptorist had been treated.

He told CatholicIreland.net, “I think Tony is a very special priest. I met him through Frank

Flannery who is a great mate of mine. From the very first time I met him I thought he was very different – very special. He was challenging.”

He added that he found challenging priests “the priests who actually sustain my faith”.

The broadcaster said he would “be extremely disappointed if Tony didn’t continue [in the priesthood]”.

He suggested that many in the Vatican needed to read ‘A Question of Conscience’ and “see the outrageous injustice that has been done” to Fr Flannery.

“What happened to Tony was political, in my estimation, that is what I took out of the book. The Association of Catholic Priests got up the noses of the bishops and certainly got up the noses of the Vatican. They want a more passive Church, they don’t want a more challenging Church and they don’t want challenging priests.”

More at -

<http://www.catholicireland.net/cstv-stream-bill-oheralihys-funeral/>

WCC and Church leaders warn of deteriorating situation in South Sudan

As the tragic situation of conflict in South Sudan moves into its 18th month, the World Council of Churches (WCC) and the South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) continue calling for an end to the senseless conflict. Human rights are being abused at every level, both on the battlefield and in peaceful areas. People are being killed, raped and tortured. The humanitarian situation is deteriorating. South Sudan, a rich and fertile land, should be the bread basket of Africa yet instead is relying on foreign aid.

In a statement issued in Juba on 26 May, the South Sudan Council of Churches spoke of the deteriorating situation in South Sudan: “We challenge the military and political leaders of all sides, most of whom call themselves Christians: why are you not listening to the voice of your church leaders, who echo the voice of the ordinary citizens of South Sudan?”

The statement also said: “Children are being recruited into armed groups. Looting is endemic.

People are being arrested for no reason. Security organs appear to be acting as if they are above the law. The space for citizens and civil society to speak out appears to be narrowing.”

Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit, general secretary of the WCC, commented on the statement: “The church leaders are playing a significant role to bring peace to South Sudan. The churches are representing the people and the civil society and they speak the truth and the true will of all the people of a real and just peace for South Sudan” Tveit added: “Together as the South Sudan Council of Churches and the World Council of Churches, we will convey the message we have as one worldwide fellowship of churches: Stop the war!”

The WCC has accompanied the churches in South Sudan for more than 40 years. In April this year, the WCC in collaboration with the South Sudan Council of Churches convened twenty church leaders and representatives from South Sudan and Ethiopia, along with related agencies, in Addis Ababa to reflect on the tragic situation of conflict in South Sudan, the recent collapse of peace talks among the parties to the conflict, and fresh ways forward.

Tveit underlined: “We have to build South Sudan by peaceful and political means.”

The church leaders concluded their statement: “We will take more proactive steps to try to achieve peace and reconciliation for the people of South Sudan. Any long term solution to the conflict must take account of the needs of the ordinary people, not the agenda of the political and military elite.”

Read the full text of the statement and more information on the [WCC website](#).

Lord Patten urges Vatican to accept sweeping changes to its media operation

The British peer and former Northern Ireland minister charged with the reform of the Vatican’s media operation has urged the Holy See to radically overhaul its communications.

Lord Patten of Barnes offered a scathing critique of the Vatican’s current media structures, saying they were unfit for the digital age.

Giving the English and Welsh bishops' World Communications Day Lecture in London, he said that, while "the Church has cleaned up and cleared up the way it manages its finances, putting an appropriate emphasis on modern accountancy and auditing, including transparency", communications had not received adequate attention.

He said: "It would be bizarre if the Vatican was to run its media with its eyes closed to the way every other media organisation is managed in the second decade of the 21st century.

"It would be beyond bizarre to deny the Vatican the sort of modern media operation that others – including existing national church organisations – take for granted."

He explained that Cardinal George Pell, one the Pope's nine closest cardinal advisers, has asked him to lead the committee on Vatican media reform.

He said he was initially hesitant as he was recovering from a heart bypass operation and "had been advised by doctors to avoid too much

stress – especially when that stress was not enjoyable”.

But he decided to take the role, inspired by Pope Francis, who he described as “a beacon of hope and guidance for the Church and indeed for the world, unencumbered by a distant formality or ecclesiastical pomposity”.

The media reform committee met in Rome several times from September 2014 to March 2015, then produced a report recommending major changes.

In his speech Lord Patten said that, while the committee did not recommend making communications staff redundant, working practices needed to change.

“They cannot expect (and they should not want) the job assurances they enjoy to become guarantees to do exactly the same jobs in the same way forever,” he said.

“Nor can they expect to escape sensitive but effective and coherent professional management of the way they operate.

“I did not sense during the months of our work that the Vatican media was over-managed, or that it was managed, trained and remunerated in an excessively centralised way. Hence some of the duplication that wastes time, resources and personnel.”

While offering a forceful critique of the Vatican’s media failings, he said: “In drafting these sentences, I have not exaggerated and could indeed be accused of pulling my punches.”

He explained that Vatican needed to take a new approach in order to meet the challenges of the internet age.

For the full text of Lord Patten’s speech [go here](http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2015/05/27/lord-patten-urges-vatican-to-accept-sweeping-changes-to-its-media-operation/).

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2015/05/27/lord-patten-urges-vatican-to-accept-sweeping-changes-to-its-media-operation/>

Pope to Franciscans: Stay true to charism, keep people’s respect

Pope Francis has urged Franciscan friars to hold true to their charism of fraternity, humility and poverty and not lose the respect they have

earned over the centuries for living up to those ideals.

During an audience this week with Franciscan leaders he said: “The more one feels small before God and in need of his mercy, the closer we are to salvation; the more we are convinced of being sinners, the more we are willing to be saved.”

The Pope met with the delegates to the general chapter of the Order of Friars Minor – the formal name of the order – during their meeting May 10-June 7 in Assisi, Italy.

The general chapter focused on how Franciscans can live their identity of “minority” and “fraternity” more fully in the world today.

The work also included discussion about the financial situation of the Franciscan headquarters in Rome, as well as financial activity and oversight in every Franciscan community worldwide. An investigation of the headquarters’ accounting records found that ineffective budgetary oversight and “questionable” financial activities had sunk the headquarters into

significant debt and an extremely serious financial situation.

American Franciscan Father Michael Perry, who was re-elected head of the order last week, told the Pope that the Franciscans strive to proclaim the joy of the Gospel and be a force for peace and justice in the world.

“Sometimes, however, our life’s witness may waver, making us not very credible. As you well know, Holy Father, our adherence to the charism of minority and poverty was lacking recently,” he said.

Following the Gospel is the only solid foundation on which to build, Father Perry said, and “we ask the Lord to heal with his Holy Spirit the wounds these events have inflicted on brotherly trust.”

The Pope underlined the importance of restoring mutual trust among the Franciscans so that “the world may see and believe, recognizing that Christ’s love” brings healing and unity.

Setting aside his text, Pope Francis told the delegates how much “the people of God love you.”

Media digest

Priest hits out at response to referendum vote by cardinal - Irish Examiner

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/ireland/priest-hits-out-at-response-to-referendum-vote-by-cardinal-333282.html>

Catholic housing agency bans unmarried residents from having double beds - Irish Examiner

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/breakingnews/ireland/catholic-housing-agency-bans-unmarried-residents-from-having-double-beds-679128.html>

‘Ashers at fault in cake case - News Letter

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/ashers-at-fault-in-cake-case-foster-1-6766794>

Ulster Cleric says God is punishing Europe ‘with ISIS and homosexuality’ - News Letter

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/audio-ulster-cleric-says-god-is-punishing-europe-with-isis-and-homosexuality-1-6765084>

Guard

Report on social challenges facing the north of the country, looks back on the year. It features the Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, baptising people from all over the world at an outdoor ceremony when he spoke about recognising the reality of poverty and inequality in the UK.

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk/the-northerner/2013/jan/09/bradford-bradford-west-byelection-2012>

New Statesman

Item by the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, making a case for blasphemy in his contribution to the theme of censorship.

<http://www.newstatesman.com/2015/05/weeks-magazine-neil-gaiman-and-amanda-palmer-guest-edit-saying-unsayable>

Mail/Times/Tel

Reviews of new play *Temple* by Simon Waters at Donmar Warehouse in London, which is based on what happened at St Paul's Cathedral during the Occupy protest camped outside. *Mail* says the production honours the Church by taking it seriously at the same time as poking light fun.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-3100203/QUENTIN-LETTIS-night-review-Temple.html#ixzz3bP898jx6>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/arts/stage/theatre/article4453580.ece>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/theatre/theatre-reviews/11633471/Temple-Donmar-Warehouse-review-A-riveting-drama-behind-closed-ecclesiastical-doors.html>

BBC

Report that Magna Carta-inspired art created by inmates from Erlestoke prison in Wiltshire has gone on display at Salisbury Cathedral, which is home to one of four original copies of the 800-year-old historic charter. It says the work, called Alternative Perspective, is a montage inspired by the original medieval cathedral tiles.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-wiltshire-32889759>

FT

Report that Norway's \$916bn oil fund will consider pulling billions of dollars of investments out of coal. It states that opposition and governing parties had reached agreement that the fund should withdraw investments from companies whose business relies more than 30 per cent on coal. It mentions the Church of England plans to cut their coal investments.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/bc336430-04b8-11e5-adaf-00144feabdc0.html?siteedition=intl#axzz3bJSh5552>

Guard/BBC/Sun

Articles that the Scottish parliament has voted to reject legislation on assisted dying following a debate on Wednesday. MSPs voted by 82 to 36 against the general principles of the assisted suicide (Scotland) bill. It had proposed that those with terminal or life-shortening illnesses should be able to obtain help to end their suffering. MSPs were given a free vote on the bill. It states the Church of Scotland urged MSPs to do more to improve end-of-life care instead of backing the bill.

<http://www.theguardian.com/society/2015/may/27/scottish-parliament-rejects-assisted-suicide-law>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-32887408>

<http://www.thescottishsun.co.uk/scotsol/homepage/news/6475242/Assisted-suicide-protesters-to-rally-at-Holyrood.html?redirect=true>

<http://www.thescottishsun.co.uk/scotsol/homepage/news/6475242/Assisted-suicide-protesters-to-rally-at-Holyrood.html?redirect=true>

<http://www.thescottishsun.co.uk/scotsol/homepage/news/6475242/Assisted-suicide-protesters-to-rally-at-Holyrood.html?redirect=true>

Times

Further item on the "right to die" and implications of the suicide of Jeffrey Spector this week in Switzerland.

Columnist David Aronovitch says 'the dam is about to burst on the issue'.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/columnists/article4453184.ece>

Ind

Item that the Scottish Parliament has issued a statement saying Creationism should not be taught in school science lessons. But it says this is not a ban on teaching it in schools.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/creationism-should-not-be-taught-in-schools-says-scottish-education-minister-10279509.html>]

FT/Guard

Articles that a religious art project at Auckland Castle, former home to the bishops of Durham, has received a £9m boost from the Heritage Lottery Fund. It says the grant will finance renovation of state rooms and an extension to house the exhibition charting 2,000 years of faith in Britain.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/e9e9f4de-046d-11e5-a5c3-00144feabdc0.html#axzz3bJSh5552>
<http://www.theguardian.com/culture/2015/may/27/auckland-castle-lottery-grant-bishops-durham>