



## 1916 Commemoration - C of I Bishop speaks on mending broken relationships

A Church of Ireland bishop has praised the decision to invite her to a 1916 Easter Rising commemoration in Dublin. She was was the preacher at the Annual 1916 Commemoration Ceremony on Wednesday, 6 May at the Church of the Most Sacred Heart in Arbour Hill, Dublin.

Bishop Pat Storey said the invitation to a "female, northern Protestant to speak at a

Catholic, republican commemoration" was "courageous and generous".

Among those at the annual commemoration were Irish President Michael D Higgins and Taoiseach Enda Kenny.

Bishop Storey said the decade of historic commemorations, a year before the centenary of the Easter Rising, was an "opportunity for not only remembering the past but creating and shaping the future".

In her address she commended the "courageous and generous decision" to invite "a female, Northern Protestant to speak at a Catholic, Republican commemoration.

Bishop Storey said that reflecting on our history provided a time for mending our broken and wounded relationships. She said, "... if Ireland is about anything, it is about relationships ... yet how often we have specialised in welcoming the tourist and the outsider, and deeply wounded one another".

She added that it was a time for generosity, saying "... (1916) is not a part of my story. But I want, and I need, to try to understand it. I need to

walk in your shoes generously. That means listening when I would rather speak; hearing your story when I would rather tell mine; relating to the commemorations of your community when I would rather remember wrongs done to mine”.

She continued “Could we, together, commit to walking in each other’s shoes for a time? Could we vow to be generous when we commemorate? It would take personal sacrifice, especially when you have endured personal loss, but perhaps this is the time to mend, and the time for generosity”.

Reflecting on the many lives lost in Ireland, in 1916 as well as more recently, the Bishop said commemoration was also a time for shaping the future, saying I believe that this era in our country’s history is a time no longer for death, but for resurrection”.

Bishop Storey concluded her address by quoting President Obama’s words “Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek”. She asked: “Are you willing to be the change that Ireland is waiting for?”

## **Paddy Anglican : Marriage Equality 2015 - Waking up to the Importance of the issue**

Canon Stephen Neill of Celbridge, Kildare, is the leading C of I blogger. On Tuesday he posted the following comment -

“ I have tried very hard not to get sucked into the current Marriage Referendum debate - I have often spoken out from an inclusive standpoint on human sexuality issues both within the Church and in the public square - I voted with my feet in attending the Consecration of my friend Gene Robinson's (1st openly gay bishop) consecration as Bishop of New Hampshire USA in 2003 which was one of the highlights of my life to date - I am conscious that for many this event is seen in a very different light but for me it was Spirit filled and inspirational despite having to pass through a demonstration by the hate filled Westboro Baptist Church and Airport level security (due to death threats against Bishop Gene) to attend the Consecration service.

“The consequences for me in supporting my LGBT brothers and sisters have not always been entirely positive - I have experienced vile personal abuse both verbally and through hate

mail and have been driven to some intemperate and less than constructive comments and responses to 'the other side'. That is probably why I haven't really engaged publically in the current referendum but tonight a threshold was crossed. I was watching the RTE Prime Time debate and realised that this is not a discussion I am free to opt out of - This is a social justice issue and I cannot as a Christian priest opt out of justice issues - As I listened to the No protagonists trot out one dishonest, irrelevant and cynical argument after another I knew I could no longer sit on the fence or I would be complicit in this dishonesty.

“The God I believe in isn't black or white, gay or straight, liberal or conservative but a God who is able to embrace a greater diversity than any one human being can contemplate - who am I to define the limits of Love when I am loved unconditionally and who am I to stand by when others seek to define the limits of that Love?”

<http://paddyanglican.blogspot.ie/2015/05/marriage-equality-2015-waking-up-to.html>

The criticism in letters sent to the C of I gazette of two C of I bishops who support reform of marriage legislation (See CNI May 5) was followed up by the press. See -

## **Two of our bishops should repent**

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/two-of-our-bishops-should-repent-1-6727280>

## **Gay row could 'cause Church of Ireland schism'**

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/regional/gay-row-could-cause-church-of-ireland-schism-1-6727317>

## **C of I General Synod commences today**

The General Synod of the Church of Ireland commences this morning with a celebration of Holy Communion in St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh.

The preacher will be the Bishop of Connor Rt Rev A. Abernethy.

The Synod will meet in a city hotel. Its main purpose is to receive the reports of the Representative Church Body (RCB) and the Standing Committee of the Synod.

The RCB is the trust holding body established by law when the church was disestablished in 1870. Comprised of bishops, lay and clerical representatives from each diocese, the first responsibility of the RCB is the maintenance of

the ordained ministry which includes the salaries and expenses of bishops, the theological institute costs and the management of the clergy pensions fund.

The Standing Committee is also comprised of bishops, lay and clerical representatives from each diocese. It is responsible for the stewardship of the Synod's business and the work of its Boards throughout the year.

Amongst the business being proposed is an endeavour to clarify the manner in which the synod legislates for the church. The current procedure follows established parliamentary process but it has been felt that the technical language which describes the various stages of reforming the laws - the "constitution" of the church - could be presented in a more readily accessible form of language.

The extensive reports of these two principal bodies are well drafted, accessible and supplemented where necessary with the various formally audited accounts and certificates. They emanate professionalism from those responsible on the staff of the RCB - a staff reduced in numbers by economic pressures.

The business of synod will commence with the president's address from Archbishop Richard

Clarke and speeches on behalf of the representatives of other Christian denominations.

The business of the synod is accessible by internet. See -

<http://synod.ireland.anglican.org/2015/index.php?id=158>

## **Catholic Church in north won't ape Dublin's ban on photographs**

A ban on photography at Catholic confirmation services in Dublin aimed at stopping images of children ending up in the hands of abusers is unlikely to be extended to Northern Ireland.

Belfast Telegraph - The Dublin Archdiocese has enacted a total ban on photographs during church services, including confirmations, baptisms and weddings, to stop pictures falling into the hands of potential abusers.

However, three dioceses in Northern Ireland have told the Belfast Telegraph they are not likely to follow the Dublin example.

"The priority is for the safeguarding of children with the determination and consent of parents,"



said Fr Eddie McGee, of the Diocese of Down and Connor, which covers Belfast and counties Antrim and Down.

"The blanket ban on photography is not the case within our diocese, there have been some photographs taken within churches, with the consent of parents, but with larger ceremonies that becomes more difficult."

He added: "The primacy is for the protection of children, that must guide our practice."

Each Catholic diocese independently determines how it can best meet the Safeguarding Standards issued in 2008 by the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland (NBSCCC)

Under the NBSCCC guidelines each diocese must have robust child protection policies which are implemented consistently.

The Clogher Diocese, which covers parts of Fermanagh and Tyrone, said that although its safeguarding practices are always under review it was unlikely to introduce a blanket ban on photography.

"Our safeguards are always under review and at this moment a blanket ban is perhaps at one

extreme," said Patricia Carville, of the Diocese of Clogher office for safeguarding children.

More at -

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/catholic-church-in-north-wont-ape-dublins-ban-on-photographs-31194727.html>

## **Archbishop Clarke to preach at Cairncastle bicentenary celebration**

On Sunday May 10 the Most Rev Dr Richard Clarke, Archbishop of Armagh, will preach at a special celebration service marking the two hundredth anniversary of St Patrick's, Cairncastle.

The service (which begins at 11.30am) will be led by Rt Rev Alan Abernethy, Bishop of Connor, and a number of other special guests will be in attendance.

These include East Antrim politician Sammy Wilson, Mayor of Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Cllr Billy Ashe, former rectors of the parish and representatives from other local churches.

A special choir – recruited and prepared for the occasion by organist Derick Jenkins – will lead the worship, when parishioners will celebrate the rich heritage of the church and give thanks for God’s faithfulness over many generations.

After the service there will be a celebration meal in the Halfway House Hotel giving an opportunity for friends old and new to share time together.

For the Rev Roger Thompson, rector of the parish of Kilwaughter & Cairncastle with All Saints’, Craighill since 2004, the service will be particularly poignant as he will be moving on to a new post over the summer, taking up the role of Partnership Co-ordinator with Belfast-based mission agency CMS Ireland.

Roger said: “It’s wonderful to be able to mark our 200<sup>th</sup> birthday in this way, but it will be emotional for me too as I look back on 11 years in the parish. All in all it will be a very special day.”

## **Festival of Faith and Flowers to celebrate Adare church’s 700 years**

The story of the 700-year-old St Nicholas Church of Ireland in Adare will be told through flowers as

part of a unique festival set to take place in the village later this month.



***Meriel Clarke, Janet Bray and Canon Liz Beasley at St Nicholas Church of Ireland, Adare preparing for the Festival of Faith and Flowers.***

Limerick Leader -The Festival of Faith and Flowers will celebrate a building which has been part of the life of Adare for seven centuries, as well as the people who worshipped there.

Taking place from May 22 to 24, the festival will include music recitals, guided tours of the historic cloisters, a plant stall and flower

arranging demonstrations. A series of 21 floral displays, created by a team of volunteer arrangers, will be placed throughout the church to illustrate key events in its history.

And the room in which the Augustinian friars gathered to eat hundreds of years ago will be transformed into a vintage tea room where visitors will be treated to tea, coffee and some of Adare's finest home baking.

Rector of St Nicholas Church of Ireland, Canon Liz Beasley said that this is a once in a lifetime opportunity to celebrate the life of a building that has been an integral part of the village for the past 700 years.

"There are few surviving medieval parish churches of such incredible quality in Ireland and we are blessed that the Abbey survived the endless wars of the 16th and 17th centuries that made ruins of so many similar buildings throughout the country," she said.

"Having been in near ruin for almost two centuries, the foresight of some of the residents of Adare 200 years ago ensured that the Abbey would once again have a purpose and, importantly, a future which is being lived out by their descendants today.

“The Festival of Faith and Flowers is an opportunity not just to mark the history of a building, but also to celebrate the many generations of people who placed their faith in God in a way that enabled the Abbey to survive a turbulent past and exist as a place in which people continue to gather for worship and a be catalyst for Christian service within our community.

“We are very much looking forward to welcoming friends and other visitors from near and far and hope that they will not only find our story inspiring, but also enjoy the beauty and creativity of each floral display,” she said.

More at -

<http://www.limerickleader.ie/what-s-on/arts-entertainment/festival-of-faith-and-flowers-to-celebrate-abbey-s-700-years-1-6724431>

## **Age Action needs help on Saturday June 13**

Age Action are holding a Bucket Collection Day in 90 Tesco branches around the country on Saturday 13 June from 10.00am to 6.00pm and are appealing for volunteers to help.



Drew Matthews of Age Action told CNI, “This is a wonderful opportunity to help us continue providing vital services like our small home repairs programme through Care and Repair, our computer training through Getting Started and providing information on a wide range of areas to older people and their families through the Information Service.

“If you can spare 2 hours on the day you can sign up using the online registration form on our website [www.ageaction.ie](http://www.ageaction.ie) , emailing [businessdevelopment@ageaction.ie](mailto:businessdevelopment@ageaction.ie) or by phoning me in the Fundraising Office on 01 4756989.”

## **Church unity stressed at major Alpha leadership conference**

Rev Nicky Gumbel, vicar of HTB, launched the two-day Leadership Conference in the Royal Albert Hall, London, earlier this week by sharing



his heartfelt passion for a united global Church. Bishop Harold Miller and Bishop Ken Good were present. They were guests at Lambeth Palace of the Archbishop of Canterbury who took part in the conference

‘There is a crisis in the world; there is a crisis in the Church; there is a crisis of faith, Nicky Gumbel said. ‘Unity is the only hope for the world.’

‘The same Spirit lives in the Catholic, the Pentecostals, the Anglicans – that’s what makes us one.’



Unity around Jesus, he said, is the key to the evangelisation of a nation. 'A divided world demands a united Church.'

Achieving a united Church boils down to our own individual choices in how we lead and how we follow. 'Ultimately, unity is not doctrinal, it's relational,' he said.

Unity among Christians releases a power that is "impossible to exaggerate", Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby told the Leadership Conference.

The Archbishop was speaking during an on-stage interview with Nicky Gumbel, Vicar of HTB, alongside Cardinal Vincent Nichols, President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.

"The Church, when it is visibly united, speaks more powerfully to the world, by the grace of the Spirit of God, than we can ever begin to imagine," Archbishop Justin said. "We cripple our witness when we are not united. And we release a power of witness in the world - to who Jesus is, to hope, to life, for the poor, for people caught up in conflict and destruction - through our unity, that is impossible to exaggerate. That

is the way that we will see the world brought face to face with Jesus Christ.”

The Archbishop spoke of the “huge influence” Cardinal Nichols had had on him, and of Pope Francis’s “profound sense of global wisdom” and “deep commitment to human relationship, and above all relationship with the poor and those on the edge”.

## **Sierra Leone Methodist Conference meets amid Ebola restrictions**

Because of the [Ebola crisis](#), the United Methodist Sierra Leone Annual Conference that ended April 26, conducted its business in two days rather than five.

Delegates meeting in Bo had just one day – Saturday – to discuss serious business, the church body elected 20 clergy and lay delegates to the 2016 West Africa Central Conference and 12 to General Conference, the denomination’s top legislative body.

Many other normal conference agenda items were removed to save time to attend to priority matters. “By now, you all would have noticed that this conference is much different from the others over the years,” Resident Bishop John Yambasu told the gathering. “This is because of the prevailing Ebola epidemic in the country.”



***Due to the Ebola outbreak, Bishop John K. Yambasu uses a Bible instead of laying on of hands during the induction of clergy as deacons and elders. Senesie Rogers is being inducted as interim youth president***

The bishop said he was grateful to God that the conference, postponed from early March, had happened at all. "...those of us who have survived Ebola and are alive to see each other's face have every reason to be thankful ...to God Almighty for sparing our lives to witness yet another annual gathering of United Methodists from across the country."

A traditional march of United Methodist organizations and institutions, led by the bishop and clergy and

accompanied by music from brass bands, which usually heralds the start of annual conference, was cancelled. Annual reports were not discussed but archived into the preconference journal that delegates would read at home. Two retirees were presented to the conference but a special service was not held.

Though the request to permit United Methodist clergy to hold a ministerial session on Friday initially was turned down, a compromised position was agreed after further deliberations with Bo government officials. Clergy were granted part of Friday afternoon to meet and discuss discipline, policy and welfare matters.

Although new Ebola infection rates have been significantly reduced to single digits in the past three weeks, a government ban on public gatherings remains in effect. Delegates were cut to a minimum of 146 — compared to more than 750 at last year's annual conference — in an attempt to persuade The Sierra Leone government to approve the gathering of a reasonable number.

The usual talent shows featuring youth and children from the various districts of the conference competing in singing, drama and debates were cancelled due to the state of emergency in the country that forbids all entertainments at night. Men and women's nights fund raising activities also were not observed.

More at -

[www.topix.com/news/religion/episcopal&u=http%3A//www.umc.org/news-and-media/sierra-](http://www.topix.com/news/religion/episcopal&u=http%3A//www.umc.org/news-and-media/sierra-)

leone-conference-meets-amid-ebola-  
restrictions&z=1ADIR8IRU2A7MB9B

## WCC calls for day of prayer for South Sudan

As the tragic situation of conflict in South Sudan moves into its 17<sup>th</sup> month, the World Council of Churches (WCC) invites its member churches to a special day of prayer on Sunday, 10 May, for those affected by the South Sudanese conflict, for the revival of fruitful peace talks, and for new ways ahead.

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.

“As the violent conflict moves into its 17th month, the South Sudanese are waiting in excruciating pain for the return of peace”, said the WCC general secretary Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit in his invitation to the churches.

Tveit added: “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 could unite the country. Therefore, the WCC invites its member churches and Christians worldwide to offer special prayers, to restore hope to all people affected by this

situation of conflict, and to strengthen all well-intended initiatives.”

The WCC now invites churches to share a common prayer on Sunday, 10 May, for the South Sudan peace process, using [liturgical materials](#) including a prayer, hymn and photo slideshow on the theme of life in South Sudan, all made available through the WCC website.

## Media digest

### **The religious and lay of the land: school ethos in flux**

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/education/the-religious-and-lay-of-the-land-school-ethos-in-flux-1.2195585>

### **Revenues slump at the Church of Scientology**

The Irish branch of the controversial Church of Scientology is being kept afloat with loans from abroad after seeing its revenues plummet over the last number of years.

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/news/revenues-slump-at-the-church-of-scientology-31195129.html>

## GENERAL ELECTION

## **Wells farrago has become a stick with which to beat Protestants**

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/wells-farrago-has-become-a-stick-with-which-to-beat-protestants-1-6727282>

## **William McCrea backs DUP decision not to take stance on homosexuality**

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/regional/william-mccrea-backs-dup-decision-not-to-take-stance-on-homosexuality-1-6728083>

## **The election in Northern Ireland: an exercise in whistling in the dark**

The general election later this week could see historic shifts in UK politics.

The Detail - But in Northern Ireland the campaign has been dominated by debates over moral issues that even descended into moralising about other people's lives.

Politicians became hung-up on questions of gay rights and access to abortion in tragic cases of fatal foetal abnormality.

Despite the political rows that followed - with some parties proposing change and others sounding like they were trying to avoid it - it's worth noting that all parties have presided over a Stormont regime that has performed poorly on these issues.

The Assembly has failed to deliver a sexual orientation strategy promised since 2006 to protect and promote the rights of the gay community.

It has also failed to resolve the controversy around access to abortion for fatal foetal conditions, despite it being forced back onto the agenda after one woman's personal tragedy hit the headlines in 2013.

The election campaign here has retreated into familiar old arguments, despite a duty on politicians to plan for the future.

Politics here is still split over issues like flags, parades, culture, the violence of the past and divisions in education.

The Detail recently used [infographics](#) to examine the implications of Stormont's continued failure to deal with the changing needs of this increasingly diverse society.

But the general election could deliver changes on a scale that even Stormont cannot ignore.

More at -

[https://www.thedetail.tv/articles/the-election-in-northern-ireland-an-exercise-in-whistling-in-the-dark?utm\\_source=mailinglist&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=6-the-election-in-northern-ireland-an-exer](https://www.thedetail.tv/articles/the-election-in-northern-ireland-an-exercise-in-whistling-in-the-dark?utm_source=mailinglist&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=6-the-election-in-northern-ireland-an-exer)

## HERITAGE



## **Revamped St Mel's Cathedral has mass appeal for tourists**

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/news/revamped-st-mels-cathedral-has-mass-appeal-for-tourists-31171773.html>

## **Church of Ireland rector's son who captured 'the Anzac spirit'**

John Sandes, son of Rev Samuel Sandes, a Church of Ireland rector, was born in Whitechurch, Co Cork, in 1863.

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/regional/church-of-ireland-rector-s-son-who-captured-the-anzac-spirit-1-6708545>

### **Tel**

Report that a leading figure in the campaign against women bishops has been appointed as Bishop of Maidstone. It states Revd Preb Rod Thomas, chairman of Reform, has been appointed to a new post ministering specifically to members of the conservative evangelical wing of the Church in a similar way to the "flying bishops" introduced in the 1990s to serve Anglo-Catholics.

Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, said he hoped the appointment would mean that those who resisted the change would still feel they had a "respected place" within the CofE.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11583565/Leader-of-campaign-against-women-bishops-is-made-a-bishop-in-bid-to-avert-CofE-split.html>

## **BBC**

Report on changing landscape in admission criteria for CofE schools focusing on decision last week by school in Southwark diocese to remove the church attendance criteria. Feature includes interviews with parents attending church more frequently to gain places for their children and says the CofE has become the victim of its own success, with its schools among some of the most over-subscribed. The Revd Nigel Genders, the CofE's chief education officer, is quoted explaining why CofE schools are not faith schools for Christians but church schools for all.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/education-32587694>

## **Guard**

Article that members of three Danish pension funds voted in favour of their funds selling off coal and high risk oil and gas investments, because of the role of fossil fuels in driving climate change. Mentions that the [Church of England sold off its investments in coal](#) and tar sands, which produce far more carbon dioxide than oil and gas.

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/may/05/members-of-three-danish-pension-funds-vote-to-divest-from-fossil-fuels>

## **Tel**

Report that the gospel of Queen Theutberga of Lorraine, a pristine 9th century gospel, the oldest of its kind left in private hands and thought "missing" for 20 years, is to be sold by Christie's for £1.5 million. Experts say it is unlikely that "anything comparable" will be offered to the public again.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11581810/Pristine-9th-century-gospel-oldest-of-its-kind-in-private-hands-to-be-sold-for-up-to-10m.html>

### **Mirror/Metro**

Stories that police in Italy have released a photofit supposed to show the face of Jesus Christ as a young boy to coincide with the new exhibition opening of the Shroud of Turin. They state detectives used the latest in forensic technology to analyse the shroud and have today released their findings.

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/jesus-boy-italian-police-unveil-5641812>

<http://metro.co.uk/2015/05/05/heres-what-jesus-looked-like-as-a-young-boy-5181346/>

**Are you a Twitter user?**

**Please click on TWITTER on home page to receive daily headlines from CNI**

**Facebook user?**

**Click on FACEBOOK on home page to receive daily headlines**

**Please share CNI with your friends**