

## **Busy time at the MCI Stand at the Balmoral Show**



**Keeping in touch - The President of the Methodist Church, Rev Billy Davison welcomes the Deputy** 

President of the Ulster Farmers' Union to the church's stand at the Balmoral Show. More than 100,000 are expected to attend the show.

The Reception Team included the President of the Methodist Church in Ireland, Rev Billy Davison and Home Missions Secretary, Rev Dr Heather Morris. Amongst the visitors were John Brown, Deputy President, Ulster Famers Union and Billy Martin, President, Royal Ulster Agricultural Society and the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. The 'Play it by Ear' Team actively engaged with young people and this was a very effective connection.

The Moderator of the General Assembly also visited the show which continues through to Saturday evening

# C of I to decide on legalising Holy Communion by Extension to sick and housebound

A Bill providing for the provision of a service of Holy Communion by Extension for persons unable to be present at the public celebration came before General Synod in Derry/Londonderry yesterday afternoon (Thursday May 16).

This service has had leave for experimental use from the House of Bishops and this period has come to an end. Feedback to the LAC has demonstrated that this provision is used significantly in the Church where pastoral provision in the home often includes Eucharistic Ministry. The provisions in the service are very specifically intended for use in specific pastoral situations and is it is not seen as a



mechanism for Eucharistic Ministry in churches where a priest is not present.

A resolution to make provision for the service was passed at Synod in Armagh last year.

The formal Bill to enable change was proposed by the Revd Adrian Dorrian and seconded by Dean Nigel Dunne. Mr Dorrian said the service had been in use for over a decade in the Church of Ireland with permission from the House of Bishops for experimental use. The material provided a means through which a person who is unable to attend on Sunday morning to receive communion," he said. It afforded a more direct connection between the congregation and the individual and the service was designed to be used by priests and bishops and by deacons and lay people, he added. "It is a ministry of enrichment and affirmation for both the recipient and the person administering the service," he stated.

He claimed it was not the introduction in a underhand way for the reservation of the Eucharist, rather it is to allow more people to feel more engaged and allows the inclusion of more people.

The Revd Alan McCann (Connor) asked how the Bill sits with articles 25 and 28 and the legality of carrying the elements around. He felt this changes articles 25 and 28. (The Articles are the formal statement of doctrine of the C of I).

Bishop Harold Miller (Down) said he disagreed with Mr McCann, saying that he felt the articles meant that the elements should not be carried around in procession or reserved so that they could be adored. However, carrying them to someone who was ill could be done.

The Assessor Lyndon McCann gave his opinion that the Bill would not involve an amendment to the articles.

The Bill has now passed its first and second stages and will receive a third and final reading before voting on Saturday.

# Major diocesan boundary changes well received so far after eight years consultation

A Bill which seeks to alter the territorial boundaries of the Provinces of Armagh and Dublin and unite the dioceses of Tuam, Killala and Achonry and Limerick and Killaloe was presented at General Synod in Derry/Londonderry ysterday afternoon.

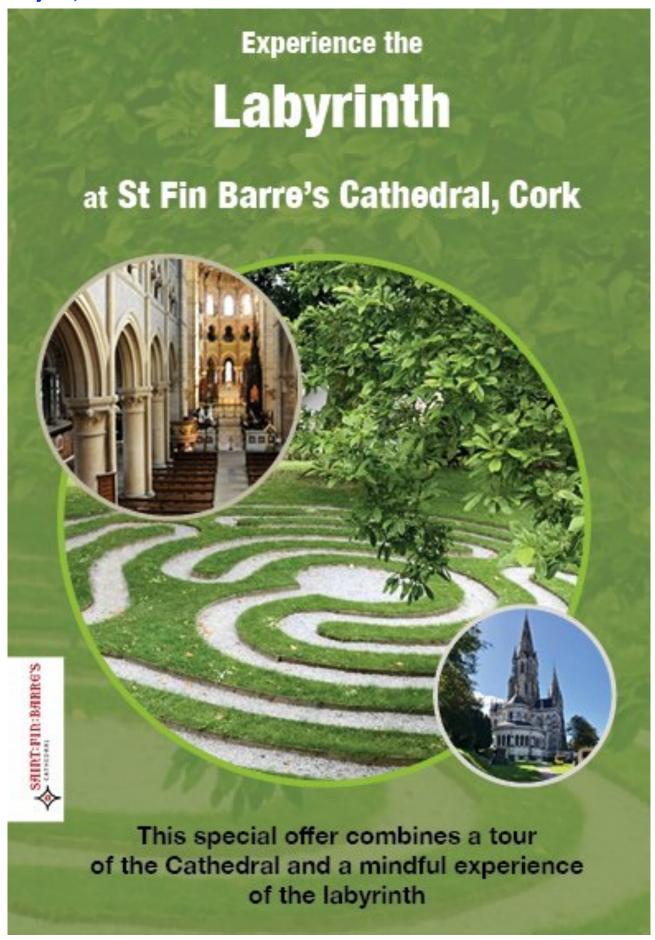


The Bill seeks to transfer a portion of the Diocese of Achonry from the United Dioceses of Tuam, Killala and Achonry to the Diocese of Elphin in the United Dioceses of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh.

Furthermore, it proposes to alter the territorial boundaries of the Provinces of Armagh and Dublin by transferring the United Dioceses of Tuam, Killala and Achonry from the Province of Armagh to the Province of Dublin.

Finally the Bill seeks to unite under one bishop the two United Dioceses of Tuam, Killala and Achonry and Limerick, Ardfert, Aghadoe, Killaloe, Kilfenora, Clonfert, Kilmacduagh and Emly.

The Bill was brought before the General Synod at the request of the diocesan synods of both the United Dioceses <a href="mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.org">churchnewsireland@gmail.org</a>
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of Tuam, Killala and Achonry and the United Dioceses of Limerick and Killaloe. It provides for the union of their dioceses at a future date which has yet to be identified. One group of parishes in Achonry has expressed a preference to transfer to the diocese of Elphin should the union go ahead and this has been agreed at the diocesan synods of Tuam, Killala and Achonry and Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh.

If the Bill is passed the matter will be referred back to the two diocesan synods. The union will come into effect when there is an episcopal vacancy in either diocese. The remaining bishop will assume responsibility for the new United Dioceses of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe.

When the union comes into effect the Church of Ireland will have 11 dioceses rather than 12 – six in Armagh and five in Dublin. The Archbishops of Armagh and Dublin have given their consent to the alteration of provincial boundaries.

The See house for the new united dioceses will be in Limerick but there will be residential accommodat

ion and a meeting room in the northern part of the dioceses as well.

Proposing the Bill, Dean Alistair Grimason (Tuam) said that the conversations between the two dioceses had reached a significant point where they had come before General Synod seeking approval to enact a Bill to allow for the creation of a new diocese. He said the process had been ongoing for a number of years with a steering group made up of representatives of both diocesan synods talking, discussing and debating in a spirit of cooperation, respect

**Synod** worship in St Columb's **Cathedral** 

and unity of purpose.

However. pointed out that it had not been an easy task and thanked all who had worked hard to get to this point. In relation to Tuam, Killala and Achonry. Dean Grimmason



said it was with a heavy heart that they marked the fact that in the event of the new diocese coming into effect, the parish of Ballisodare would move from Tuam to Kilmore. But he said they understood and respected their wishes.

He also spoke of the geography and identity of the new diocese. "It's a long way from the but-end of Kerry to South Sligo. A huge track of land for one bishop to cover. Similarly, in a purely territorial sense, Tuam will not have a resident bishop post-amalgamation. This caused concern that Tuam

might lose its feeling of distinctive identity. However, both of these anxieties have been overcome by the undertaking of the RCB to provide accommodation and meeting facilities in the north end of Tuam diocese for the bishop of TLK. This will match accommodation Limerick currently has in Tralee for the use of the Bishop in the southern end of the new United Diocese," he commented.

Seconding the Bill, Jock Sanders (Limerick and Killaloe) focussed on the processes followed in the discussions which led to an agreed Bill. He said that the Bill introduced in 2016 would have forced a decision on Tuam, Killala and Achonry and Limerick and Killaloe without taking the views of the stakeholders fully into account.

Following the withdrawal of the Bill, the two Bishops set up a working group to explore avenues the two dioceses might agree together. During the discussions it became clear that the two dioceses faced similar issues, Mr Sanders said. The working group was able to work effectively by consensus. The dioceses held joint events to build trust and respect. The working group reported regularly to the two diocesan councils.

They addressed the geographic size of a united dioceses; the two dioceses financial schemes are substantially different so it was decided to retain them until the dioceses decide otherwise; it was decided that the Bishop should reside in or near Limerick but that there should be residential and meeting accommodation in Tuam; they looked at a second part time bishop but decided this was unsustainable, he reported.

Both synods passed identical resolutions affirming their desire to unite under a single bishop. They then, with the help of Eithne Harkness, drafted a Bill. Mr Sanders said the Bill would require the consent of both diocesan synods.

Archdeacon Simon J Lumby (Ardfert and Aghadoe) commended the Bill. He said that the process had been a spectacular experience of generosity, community, compassion and of placing ourselves in the other's shoes. He said the area covered in the dioceses was large but that a motorway had been provided all the way up to Tuam. Because this proposal had come from the ground up and was energised by the Holy Spirit and the church has engaged with that, there was the feeling this is the work of the spirit, he concluded.

The Bishop of Tuam, Killala and Achonry, Bishop Patrick Rooke, said that the Bill that you have before you represented eight years of deliberations and debates across the whole of the Church of Ireland and particularly in the dioceses of Tuam, Killala and Achonry and Limerick and Killaloe.

The work of Eithne Harkness paved the way for this bottom up approach, the Bishop said. He paid tribute to all who have assisted in this process but not least to Bishop Kenneth and the clergy of the west and south west. Thanks to the joint working group there was a solution that few would have dreamed possible three years ago, he added. More importantly there is the spirit of good will that we have discovered, he said. The distances have not gone away, he said so there would be a degree of autonomy.

Bishop Kenneth Kearon of Limerick and Killaloe also asked synod to support the Bill. The Dioceses of Tuam, Killala and Achonry had lived with the process longer than anyone and particular Bishop Rooke, he said. He said the discussions had been framed in the context of commitment to find what is best for the church in the west and south west. While congregations might be small and remote they were otherwise strong and vibrant, Bishop Kearon said but by trusting the people they had found a way forward that they believed was for the good of the church.

Lady Brenda Shiel said the Bill was a positive step forward but asked that the old names of the dioceses be retained. Eithne Harkness (Armagh) shared Lady Shiel's affection for the beautiful names of the dioceses and said the full names would be retained in the Constitution.

Peter White (Limerick and Killaloe) said he had experienced the generosity in the discussions. He said he believed that the people who initiated the sense of generosity were the members of Synod. It was Synod that withdrew the motion in 2016 and gave the dioceses the freedom to go away in search of a solution, he recalled.

The Bill passed its second stage and will go to its final stage on Saturday. The Bill has now passed its first and second stages and will receive a third and final reading before voting on Saturday.

#### Synod Briefs

+++ Archbishop's opening address - In the customary Presidential address to the General Synod in Derry/

Londonderry, Archbishop Richard Clarke of Armagh commended the people of the city for demonstrating "that there is a wholesome way forward following decades of division and violence" and expressed the hope that this will continue. He also turned to how the 150th anniversary of the Disestablishment of the Church of Ireland will be marked. On the theme of history, he warned that populism is "imperilling the very roots of democracy" and referred to the 1930s when "self–appointed messiahs sprang up ... but at the price of being given absolute and unaccountable power over the lives of their people."

The Archbishop also referred to the ongoing fourth industrial revolution which raises questions around the value of human beings as more automation takes place in society and the economy. He affirmed: "God does not evaluate us in terms of our usefulness. Through grace, we each have an infinite and unique value in the eyes of God, and the call of God in Christ to us is to convey that truth to those who do not see this, or who have never had the opportunity to see it."

A full transcript of Archbishop Clarke's Presidential Address is provided at -

https://www.ireland.anglican.org/news/8821/archbishop-richard-clarkes-presidential-address

+++ Guests this year include - Most Rev Brendan Leahy, Roman Catholic Church; Most Rev Donal McKeown, Roman Catholic Church; Very Rev Dr Noble McNeeley, Presbyterian Church in Ireland; Mr Alan Rowan, Presbyterian Church in Ireland; Rev W.A. Davison, Methodist Church in Ireland; Mrs Joan Doherty, Methodist Church in Ireland; Rev Brian

Anderson, Irish Council of Churches; Moravian Church of Britain and Ireland; Mrs Valerie Morgan, Society of Friends; Canon Elizabeth Paver, Church of England; Greek Orthodox Church; and Cherubim and Seraphim. They were welcomed by Most Revd Dr Richard Clarke, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate.

+++ Synod Eucharist - The customary Synod Eucharist before the formal meeting of the General Synod took place vesterday morning in St Columb's Cathedral, Londonderry. The preacher was the Rt Revd Ferran Glenfield, Bishop of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh and taking the first missionary journey of St Paul in Acts chapter 13, he related the words of encouragement given by him to the Church of Ireland's context today. He stated: "Like Paul, we need to retell and recapture our story. It goes back to Disestablishment when the Church of Ireland was emancipated from state control. It stretches back to the Reformation, of which this very cathedral is testimony to the renewal of the church at that time. It goes further back to the Celtic church of Brendan the Navigator, whose day we mark, and to Columb. Above all, it goes back to the Bible, to our roots in the Acts of the Apostles." The text of the sermon is at https://www.ireland.anglican.org/news/8820/general-

synod-eucharist-sermon-2019

#### Four more Burkina Faso Catholics killed in new attack

Just one day after six Catholics were murdered by gunmen in Burkina Faso, four more Catholics were shot and killed in the northwest African country.



On Monday, unknown gunmen interrupted a religious procession in a village near Kongoussi, a northwest city of the Bam Province. After releasing the children, the assailants killed four adult worshipers and burned a Marian statue, according to reports.

"We will not be bogged down by the religious attacks," said Cardinal Philippe Ouédraogo, archbishop of Ougadougou, CNN reported.

The previous day, a group of gunmen attacked a Catholic church in Dablo, located in a nearby province. They shot and killed five men, including a priest, during Mass.

An estimated 20 to 30 men were believed to be involved with Sunday's attack. They burned down the church, and also set fire to a health center and a few nearby shops, according to state media.

In recent years, Burkina Faso has seen an increase in terrorist activity from jihadist groups, including al-Qaeda affiliates. Human Rights Watch recently reported that the violence has displaced tens of thousands of villagers this year alone.

Last December, the government declared a state of emergency in several northern provinces as a result of these ongoing attacks, Reuters reports.

Five teachers were murdered in an attack last Friday. In April, four Catholics were killed in a separate church attack, and five parishioners and a pastor were shot down in a Protestant church.

Following Sunday's attack, Pope Francis offered his prayers for the victims and communities of Burkina Faso.

## Cathedral's Belfast Primary School Choir of the Year Competition

St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, was packed on Wednesday May 15 for the third annual St Anne Trust's Belfast Primary School Choir of the Year Competition.

Eight primary schools from different parts of Belfast all put on amazing performances, singing two songs each, giving this year's adjudicator, BBC Art and Music Producer Richard Yarr, a very difficult task of selecting a winner.

It was an extremely close competition, with Harding Memorial Primary School taking first place, closely followed by last year's winner Victoria College Preparatory School. In third place was Glenwood Primary School.



Catherine Murray, second from left, conductor of Harding Memorial Primary School Choir, which won the 2019 St Anne Trust Belfast Primary School Choir of the Year Award, along with two of the choir's young members; adjudicator Richard Yarr; Roisin McDonough, Chief Executive of the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, and Lord Mayor of Belfast Deirdre Hargey.

The Awards were presented by Belfast Lord Mayor Councillor Deirdre Hargey and by Roisin McDonough, Chief Executive of the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, and every school received a Certificate of Performance.

Welcoming the pupils, teachers and parents to the Cathedral for the competition, the Chairman of the St Anne Trust, Mr Joseph Watson, told the children: "The main thing is that today is a day to be enjoyed and remembered."

#### **ENTHUSIASM**

The Dean of Belfast, the Very Rev Stephen Forde, said: "You have come from eight different primary schools to fill this great Cathedral with your presence, your singing and your enthusiasm.

"I know that as pupils and teachers you have been practising for this for many weeks, and today your hard work will pay off. I want this to be a day you will remember long after you leave here."

The Dean thanked the organising committee, the teachers and parents, the adjudicator and, most importantly, the children. "Without you there would be no competition and no music for us to enjoy," he said.

The competition was once again supported by Belfast City Council, and this year also enjoyed sponsorship from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland.

As the competition got underway, the Lord Mayor told the children: "I hope you have a great morning displaying your musical talents, making friends which pupils from other schools and building your team within your own school. You never know where your performance could take you in years to come."

#### **DIVERSE**

Lord Mayor Hargey added: "This is an excellent competition that brings together schools from diverse backgrounds in all four corners of our city."

After all the choirs had performed, the 400 children, along with teachers and parents, were led in communal singing by Laura McFall of Opera NI.

Among the special guests who attended were Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Belfast, Mrs Fionnuala Jay-O'Boyle and Mr Richard Jay.

The competition ended with the singing of a blessing by Belfast Cathedral Board Member Mr Nick Pierpoint.

The St Anne Trust was established in 2016 to advance education and promote arts, culture and heritage by promoting good relations with and between young people and their families.

The Trust also hosts a 'Come and Sing' event at Belfast Cathedral for pupils from special schools, and this year Jordanstown School and Harberton Special School are taking part.

- BBC Radio Ulster presenter John Anderson was recording performances and interviews at the choir competition for his programme 'Sing Out' scheduled to be broadcast on Sunday June 9 at 6.30pm.
- Schools taking part were: Cliftonville Intregrated Primary School; Harding Memorial Primary School; Forge Integrated Primary School; Victoria College Preparatory School; Cranmore Integrated Primary School; Dunmurry Primary School; St Patrick's Primary School; Glenwood Primary School; Jordanstown School; Harberton Special School.

Visit the **PHOTO GALLERY**.

#### **Today in Christian history**

May 17, 1844: German biblical scholar Julius Wellhausen is born. His controversial theory about the Pentateuch—that it is a compilation of four literary sources (J, Jahwist; E, Elohist; D, Deuteronomist; and P, Priestly Editor), laid the foundation for most subsequent Old Testament criticism.

May 17, 1971: The musical Godspell, based on Matthew's gospel, opens at the Cherry Lane Theater in New York.

#### **News briefs**



#### +++ Christian Aid Week Door-to-Door Collections -

Thirteen parishioners from Kilbride Paish arrived at fellow parishioner Phyllis Glenn's house on Monday evening where

they set up their HQ for the evening collection. They split up into three separate groups and set off around Doagh village at about 7.30pm to collect for this very worthy cause. They had a most successful evening and collected a grand total of £400.99! A big thank-you must go to all those who gave of their time and especially to the generous people of Doagh. After the money had been counted up everyone had a good old chat and an excellent supper. Thanks too to Phyllis for her annual hospitality and to those who provided the goodies for the supper.

+++ Blowing his trumpet in Galway - International Trumpet maestro MorrisNorthcutt is performing at St Nicholas' at 11 am CoffeeConcert on Saturday 18th May. He will be accompanied by the wonderful Ramin Haghjoo on piano. Only €10 for the concert and coffee/delicious baked goodies! Children FREE!

+++ The Phil does Elijah - Belfast Philharmonic's Mendelssohn Elijah comes to Ulster Hall 7th June. Conducted by Stephen Doughty and joined by the Ulster Orchestra. You are invited to join them for an evening of beautiful music by the 100-strong Belfast Philharmonic Choir. Buy your tickets now!

\*\*H++ The History of the Irish Nun - Opportunities for "Research and Innovation" at the Loyola Institute lecture series, Trinity College Dublin. Professor Deirdre Raftery - internationally-acclaimed researcher spoke about the neglect to record the history of Irish nuns. "Time is running out. There are 10, possibly 15 years before the archives of some orders of nuns are lost forever" she said making a plea for more postgraduate researchers to work on projects

linked to Irish women in religious life and the need for funding to be made available for such research. See -

https://soundcloud.com/loyola-institute/loyola-lecture-seriesunveiling-the-history-of-the-irish-nun-prof-deirdre-raftery

+++ C of I Youth and Children's Ministry courses - Check out details of the Church of Ireland Youth Department's (CIYD) two Aurora courses beginning in September—Aurora Youth Ministry, which is in its third year and Aurora Children's Ministry which is the department's new course. Both courses will take place next year—over six Saturdays—at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute. CIYD would like to really encourage people to come as a group; there is huge value in learning together.

Maybe you are a youth worker who could bring one or more of your team along, or perhaps a member of the clergy who might like to accompany one of your volunteers? Both these models have proven extremely valuable for participants over the past couple of years and it is an approach CIYD would like to foster. Subsidies and or bursaries are available so that finance is not a blockage to participation.

+++ Left to their own devices - Care for the Family in Northern Ireland are delighted to be hosting an event Left To Their Own Devices? – Confident Parenting in a World of Screens.

This event is for parents, carers or anyone who is passionate about helping children navigate the digital world wisely and confidently in a digital-dominant world. Care for the Family speakers, Katharine Hill and Philip Jinadu, provide parents with perception-shifting insights and

practical tips on how to navigate the highs and lows of the digital world.

"Join us as we look at the impact of the digital world as we explore topics that include: the social revolution, selfies and self-worth, safeguarding your family.

Venue: Orangefield Presbyterian Church, 464 Castlereagh Road, BT5 6BH on 21 May 2019 at 7.30 pm. Cost: 1-3 tickets- £6 each; 4 or more tickets – £5 each; on the door – £7 each. Please book early to avoid disappointment at <a href="mailto:cff.org.uk/owndevices">cff.org.uk/owndevices</a>

+++ Please pray for - the United Mission to Nepal (UMN). Pray for new appointments made recently in UMN. As these people take on new roles, pray that this will work well and enhance the work of UMN in reaching the poorest people living in poverty. Pray too for UMN's work in the areas of education, healthcare, livelihoods, disaster response, integral development and peace-building.

+++ Food for Thought - "Of Course God does not consider you hopeless. If He did, He would not be moving you to seek Him (and He obviously is)... Continue seeking Him with seriousness. Unless He wanted you, you would not be wanting Him." CSLewis - Letters of C. S. Lewis

#### **News Links for May 17**

Bishop Patrick Rooke: 'Our youngest child, Susanna, who has Down's syndrome, has taught us so ...
Belfast Telegraph

Bishop Patrick Rooke (64) is the **Church of Ireland** Bishop of Tuam, Killala and Achonry in the west of Ireland. He previously served as a cleric in ...

## Nigerian minister in NI: I pray my homeland resists the secularism I've found here

Belfast Newsletter

But it puts him very starkly at odds with many clergy in the **Church of Ireland** – part of the same Anglican communion – who in recent years have come ...

#### Franciscans bid farewell to Waterford after nearly 800 years Irish Times

"The Franciscan Province of **Ireland**, like many other **religious** institutes, has had to face the reality in the past two decades of having to withdraw their ...

## **Church of Ireland** to host service hailing GAA inclusivity Belfast Telegraph

The Gaelic Athletic Association is joining with the **Church of Ireland** to hold a special service celebrating inclusivity in the GAA.

## Pontiff's comments show that women still second class - priests

#### Independent.ie

Pope Francis's comments on women deacons show the Catholic **Church** is a ... The organisation, which represents more than 1,000 **Irish** priests, ...

## Bishops welcome new norms on sexual abuse The Tablet

The new law issued by Pope Francis is a new milestone in the **Church's** long battle to ... The head of the **Irish Church** also welcomed the new norms.

### Altogether now: why being in a **choir** brings so much joy Belfast Newsletter

The well-known blogger, That Belfast Girl, is a member of the Belfast Community Gospel **Choir**, Northern **Ireland's** first and only multicultural gospel ...

## Singing links asylum seekers with local **choirs** RTE.ie

'Song Seeking' is a collaboration between Mary Immaculate College (MIC) in Limerick, Sing **Ireland** and the Irish Refugee Council, in which expert ...

## Browsing a Bygone Blue Book - a look back at the Presbyterian **Church in Ireland** in 1927

Alan in Belfast (blog)

Worries about a decline in the number of students for the ministry and theological education structures; examination of relationships with other ...

## Abuse survivors in Northern **Ireland** call for improved compensation

**AOL UK** 

A similar campaign has been launched in the Republic of **Ireland**, where victims of abuse at the hands of the state and **church** have called on the ...

'Awe at dignity and humanity': Abuse survivors commemorate State apology

Irish Times

... of St Patrick's Cathedral, the Christine Buckley Centre survivors **choir** began ... Speaking at the event, director of Amnesty International **Ireland** Colm ...

## <u>Irish president criticises those who perpetuated and ignored</u> institutional abuse

News & Star

The Irish president has criticised those who perpetuated and ignored state institutional abuse. Welcoming survivors from the Christine Buckley Centre ...

## Hindus cannot be governed by Christian concept of religious denomination

The Sunday Guardian

Part 3 reads, "The State also recognises the **Church of Ireland**, the Presbyterian Church (Protestant) in Ireland, the Methodist **Church in Ireland** ...

## Former hostages Terry Waite and John McCarthy on Lebanese soil together for first time since kidnap Telegraph.co.uk

Waite, the **Church of England's** special envoy, had gone to Beirut in January 1987 to negotiate McCarthy's release. Instead he found himself taken ...

## Ghana's 100 year-old imam who went to **church** BBC News

The 73-year-old was born in **Ireland** and arrived in Ghana in 1971 to work as a ... His **church** is situated across the road from Jubilee House, the seat of ...

#### Why vital Northern Ireland cancer units must be saved

https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/life/features/why-vitalnorthern-ireland-cancer-units-must-besaved-38116074.html) belfasttelegraph.co.uk/life/features/...

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