



The essential daily brief on the Irish churches

The Yiddish 'Godot' to open Enniskillen Festival

Attendees at the opening performance at this summer's annual [Beckett Festival](#) in Enniskillen, Northern Ireland will hear the Irish-born Nobel-prize winning author's most famous play not in French, the language in which he wrote it, nor English, his native tongue into which he translated it, but in Yiddish.



Ardhowen Theatre, Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh

The Jewish Week - "Vartn af Godot," performed by [New Yiddish Rep](#), will headline the international festival -- now in its 3rd year -- after a successful run at New York's [Castillo Theater](#). In an interview before the play opened in September 2013, Shane Baker who translated "Waiting for Godot" (and is a featured player) told Jewish Week theater critic [Ted Merwin](#) that the work of translating reinforced the play's Jewish resonances for him.

In the Yiddish version, the melancholy Vladimir and Estragon, who wait endlessly for the arrival of a third man, are played as Holocaust survivors.

Baker compared them to Shimon Dzigan and Yisroel Schumacher, the great Polish Jewish vaudeville duo.

The entire New York cast will be performing in Enniskillen, which is near the boarding school Beckett attended (*CNI - Portora Royal School*). Directed by Moshe Yassur, players include Avi Hoffman, Rafael Goldwaser, David Mandelbaum, Shane Baker and Nicholas Jenkins.

As reported on the New Yiddish Rep website, Beckett, in the first draft of "En Attendant Godot," gave the name of Levy to the character who eventually becomes Estragon. Baker is pleased to be playing Godot "in the right language."

The Third annual [Happy Days Enniskillen International Beckett Festival](#) runs from July 31st to August 10th. "Vartn af Godot" will be performed on opening night and throughout the festival.

General Assembly Back in Belfast

The General Assembly begins with the installation of the new Moderator, the minister of Newry's Sandys Street Presbyterian Church, Rev. Dr. Michael Barry, at the opening session of the Assembly at 7.00pm on Monday, 2nd June.



Members of Assembly and invited guests will join together in worship to officially open the Assembly and welcome the incoming Moderator to chair the proceedings. This service is also open to the public, no tickets are required. The BBC will be broadcasting the event live on Radio Ulster Medium Wave (1341m) beginning at 7.00pm.

Business sessions of the Assembly, all of which will be held in the Assembly Hall, are open to everyone. No tickets are required and admission to non-members is only limited by space. These begin on Tuesday 3rd at 9.30am, Wednesday 4th at 9.30am and from approximately 10.30am on Thursday 5th

following a short private session. They will run until about 6pm each evening with a break in the middle of each day for worship and lunch. During these business sessions, members of Assembly hear reports from the various boards and committees appointed by the Assembly and debate and vote on resolutions regarding Church policy and ministry.

The General Assembly Communion Service is also open to everyone, space permitting, and will be held in the Assembly Hall on Tuesday, 3rd June at 11.45am. On Wednesday and Thursday at 12.15pm the Assembly holds its daily worship in the Assembly Hall. No tickets are required and everyone is welcome to join together in a time of praise, prayer and biblical reflection led by the Moderator.

On Wednesday evening, June 4th at 7.45pm everyone is invited to an Assembly Celebration event in the Assembly Hall. Compere for the evening will be Rev Andy Carroll, minister of Donabate Presbyterian. Rev. Frank Sellar, Bloomfield Presbyterian Church, will preach on the Assembly theme, 'A people of service and outreach' offering the life of Peter as an example to the church and individual Christians. The Moderator will give the official call to worship and be interviewed during the event. This service is open to the public, no tickets are required.

The Youth Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, SPUD (Speaking, Participating, Understanding and Deciding), will be hosting a range of events to encourage young Presbyterians to meet with members of the Assembly and share views and opinions. After the evening celebration event on Wednesday, they will run an acoustic cafe and on Thursday they will organise a debate during lunchtime. All their events will take place in 'The SPUD space' in Spires Mall. 'Faith Discovered' is the title of a special event on Saturday night, 7th June at 7.30pm in Assembly Buildings. The speaker will be Nate Morgan Locke, youth evangelist at Christianity Explored and worship will be lead by Dave Dickinson and band. Tickets are available for [purchase online](#) or from the Youth and Children's Office, Assembly Buildings, Belfast BT1 6DW, tel: +44 (0)28 9032 2284 or email: yac@presbyterianireland.org

Compassion at the heart of the city - Los Angeles and Belfast

Amid the mayhem of LA gang culture Fr. Greg Boyle SJ has worked for more than twenty years to provide work experience and an opportunity for rival gang members to work side by side.

His *Homeboy Industries* and *Homegirl Café* have helped hundreds of gang members or 'homies' to break free and find a new life. He will speak to us in Belfast on the 'power of boundless compassion' to change individuals and communities and reach out to people on the edges and beyond.



Fr. Greg's journey of compassion transcends any of the walls that divide us. Compassion is etched on his heart. His book 'Tattoos on the Heart' is his personal journey of transformation.

You can discover more about Homeboys and Homegirls on <http://www.homeboyindustries.org>

The organisers state - "On Saturday June 7th from 12 – 3.30p.m. a very diverse group will gather in Skainos on the Newtonards Road to meet, eat and greet Fr. Greg and each other and wonder about how to put compassion at the heart of our city. **Numbers are limited so please register early.**

"To help us organise lunch and other practicalities we would appreciate if you would complete the following details and return to Geraldine Mullan at office@livingchurchdc.org by Monday June 2nd. Please provide your name, organisation (if applicable), address and contact details. Please note there is **NO COST** for this event"

We need fairness in Northern Ireland education - Assembly Education chair

When Protestant churches handed their schools to the state in the 1930s/40s, it was anticipated the controlled system would become the state system - Mervyn Storey, MLA, chairman of the Stormont education committee writes in the Belfast Telegraph.

But things didn't work out that way.

Although the controlled sector has developed a wide variety of schools (Irish-medium, Catholic and integrated) and educates children from all communities, the majority come from the Protestant community.

The Catholic Church provides education for the majority of children from a Catholic background; there are a significant number of voluntary schools and the integrated and Irish-medium sectors add further choice. All receive 100% state funding.



Mervyn Storey, MLA

A number of bodies have been established by the department. CCMS, NI Council for Integrated Education and Irish-medium body Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta all promote their brand of state education.

However, education and library boards, with responsibility for the controlled sector, can't promote it, as they are required to be non-partisan.

So, in large parts of [Northern Ireland](#), the Protestant community, which is largely served by controlled schools, feels voiceless. For example, the Southern Education and Library Board has attempted to force through solutions for the controlled sector in Craigavon, which don't have the support of that community.

Yet trustees of the state-funded maintained sector also have representatives on the SELB, deciding what type of schooling is available to parents in the controlled sector. That is not equality of treatment.

My party has called for a single education system.

We believe it's possible to construct new arrangements, whereby all sectors are represented within a single body. However, the minister shows no sign of wanting to repeal legislation favouring certain sectors.

It would appear that there needs to be a body to promote the controlled sector.

Unless the new structures treat all sectors equally, we cannot hope to build an education system to move our community forward.

School suspends 50 Leaving students after prank

Around 50 Leaving Cert students at one of the country's most prestigious schools were suspended after an end-of-term prank just three weeks before the June exams.

Irish Independent - The students "dressed up" and caused disruption during weekly assembly at Kilkenny College but school authorities were not amused.

"There was an incidence of disobedience that we had to deal with," school principal Ian Coombes told the Irish Independent.

About one-third of the school's 140 [Leaving Cert](#) candidates who were involved in the incident were suspended for three days. Both male and female students were involved.

Immediately after the incident, which happened earlier this month, the students involved were out of class for about 90 minutes while the incident was investigated.

Those acknowledged as participating in the disruption were suspended from Monday to Wednesday of last week, in line with the school's code of conduct.

"Kilkenny College takes seriously its duty of care for the right of pupils to uninterrupted teaching and learning in a safe environment without disruption," the school said in a statement.

Mr Coombes said that the students involved accepted their sanction and were now "all behaving very well".

He said they were looking forward to their graduation event tomorrow.

The incident comes after Leaving Cert students at Skerries Community College, north Co [Dublin](#), decided to put their school up for sale last week. That incident was treated as a harmless prank.

The school appeared on the online trading forum DoneDeal, with a price tag of €2.5m.

School principal Kevin O'Riordan received a "number of offers" to buy the school, before the ad was taken down from the website.

Kilkenny College was among an elite group of about 50 fee-paying schools until it entered the free education system last September.

The move to the free education system has seen the school's popularity grow, from 762 pupils in 2012/13 – down by 50 from 2008 – enrolments will rise to 810 next September.

The decision by Kilkenny College was put down to falling family incomes and cuts in state support for the fee-paying sector, arising from the economic crash.

Meanwhile, Mr Coombes has announced that he is leaving Kilkenny College to return to Bandon Grammar School west Cork, where he was principal before leaving in 2010.

A statement from the Kilkenny College board of governors and board of management praised him for his "exceptional contribution by way of strategic leadership.

"The successful return of the college to the 'free' scheme and its confident plans for growth and development testify to his achievement," they said.



All Hallows to close after Jackie Kennedy letters row

A 172-year-old college at the centre of controversy over the sale of secret letters penned by Jacqueline Kennedy is to shut down.

Irish Examiner - A source within All Hallows in Dublin claimed the abandoned auction of the correspondence between the wife of US president John F Kennedy and an Irish priest was a factor in closing its doors.

The former seminary had been struggling to attract students in recent years and was working on a plan to sustain its finances into the future.

It was expecting to raise around €3m from the sale of the unearthed private letters between Ms Kennedy and Fr Joseph Leonard, a Vincentian cleric who was based at All Hallows.

But after being contacted by the Kennedy dynasty it pulled the artefacts from auction earlier this week.

The money was figured into a plan to save the cash-strapped college from closure.

“That was one of the building blocks that we were working on,” the source said.

“And when that was taken out it affected the overall picture.”

The correspondence revealing Ms Kennedy’s private and innermost thoughts began in 1950 and continued until the death in 1964 of Fr Leonard.

The 130 hand-written pages, hidden in a safe for the last 50 years, document the battles she had with her faith following her husband’s assassination.

Some commentators claim the collection is the closest thing to an autobiography.

No formal reason was given for the sale being cancelled but it follows an ownership dispute.

All Hallows are in discussions with the Kennedys over how and where the letters should be held.

In a statement, a spokeswoman for All Hallows said it was with huge regret and deep sadness that the third-level college was forced to confirm its intention to wind down.

“Today’s decision has been taken mindful of the long history of the college, its proud traditions and its contribution to education in Ireland,” she said.

“All Hallows College has educated generations of leaders and professionals; serving communities in every corner of the world since 1842, and has been under the stewardship of the Vincentian Congregation since 1892.” The spokeswoman said the college did not get any State funding and was struggling with its finances over many years despite cost-cutting and fundraising attempts.

“The wind down of the college will begin immediately and will be conducted in a phased and orderly fashion,” she added.

There are currently 450 students on accredited degree courses at the college which has more than 70 staff.

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/breakingnews/ireland/all-hallows-to-close-after-jackie-kennedy-letters-row-631393.html#.U39T39Q1quc.facebook>

Dean Griffin - 90 not out!

As a young [Church of Ireland](#) priest in Derry, Victor Griffin annoyed the Protestants.

Later, when he came to Dublin

as Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral, he upset the Catholics. And all of this despite his mother's advice.



Patsy McGarry writes in the Irish Times - When he was growing up on a farm

at Carnew, on the [Wexford-Wicklow](#)

border, she used say to him: “Keep off religion and politics, Victor, or you’ll get us all burned out,” he told *The Irish Times* last December.

In Derry he was involved with [John Hume](#) and



Dean Griffin with Canon Cecil Bradley and choristers

others “fighting for a more tolerant and pluralist society. Northern [Ireland](#) at that time had the Protestant ascendancy.” He opposed it. “People thought I was very anti-Protestant, and I used . . . be told take myself back to my Fenian brethren in the South.”

As Dean of St Patrick’s from 1969 until 1991, he ruffled feathers. “I opposed the Catholic ascendancy, and I was taken to task by a person called [Oliver Flanagan](#) in Dáil Éireann. He called me ‘another Paisley’ and said I should take myself back to my [Orange](#) brethren in the North.”

“I was completely misunderstood. What I was getting at was the importance of pluralism in Ireland, but nobody seemed to understand. This was when ‘pluralism’ was a foreign word in Ireland.” He was not deterred and they listened. He helped to shape contemporary Ireland.

[Dean Victor](#) Griffin was born 90 years ago today, on May 24th, 1924. Happy birthday.

C of E Dioceses vote in favour of women bishops



The Church of England’s dioceses* have now all voted in favour of the current draft legislation to enable women to be bishops. Manchester was the last diocese to vote and they approved the motion at a meeting of their Synod last week. In 2011 both London and Chichester diocesan synods voted against the legislation.

The February 2014 meeting of General Synod referred the current Women in the Episcopate legislation to the dioceses.

Diocesan Synods all voted in favour of the motion: ‘That this Synod approve the proposals embodied in the draft Bishops and Priests (Consecration and Ordination of Women) Measure and draft Amending Canon No 33.’

For the motion to be carried the houses of clergy and laity had to each vote, by a simple majority, in favour.

The table attached records the votes in favour and against, and any recorded abstentions in each house. The draft legislation will now go before General Synod in July for a Final Approval vote.

The Bishop of Rochester, James Langstaff, Chair of the Steering Committee for the Draft Legislation for Women in the Episcopate said:

“The dioceses have now expressed their view very clearly and the matter now comes back to General Synod in July. I pray that the Synod will continue to approach this decision in a prayerful and generous way as we move towards voting on the proposal that women may be bishops in the Church of England.”

The table of Diocesan Synod results can be found [here](#).

**Due to logistical constraints the Diocese in Europe was unable to convene a meeting in the three month period allowed for this Article 8 reference*

Cardinal Nichols appointed to new Vatican departments by Pope Francis

Pope Francis, has appointed Cardinal Vincent to two additional departments of the Roman Curia which oversee priests and Christian unity.

It was announced last week that Cardinal Nichols has been appointed to both the Congregation for Clergy and the Pontifical Council for Christian Unity.

As a result, Cardinal Nichols is now a member of four bodies of the Roman Curia, the other two being the Congregation for Bishops – which oversees the appointments of bishops across most of the world – and the Congregation for Oriental Churches, tasked with relations with Eastern Catholics.

The Pope also appointed the other cardinals he created in February to a host of Vatican dicasteries or departments. As is custom, the new cardinals are appointed to offices of the Holy See after they receive their red hat.

Italian Cardinal Pietro Parolin was named a member of the congregations for Eastern Churches, Bishops and the Evangelisation of Peoples, while Canadian Cardinal Gerald Lacroix of Quebec was named a member of the congregation for religious and the pontifical councils for Interreligious Dialogue and for Culture.

South Sudan: Fears that cholera outbreak will spread as rains begin

Fears are mounting that a cholera outbreak in and around Juba, which has already killed nine people and reportedly infected another 188, will spread among tens of thousands of people still living in over-crowded, unsanitary camps as the rainy season approaches.

The outbreak in Juba began several weeks ago, with World Health Organisation (WHO) reports suggesting that it has already spread beyond the city to other parts of Central Equatoria state.

Several new cases have since been recorded in Jonglei and Upper Nile states, and UNICEF report that their cholera caseload is now doubling on a daily basis.

Preliminary figures indicate that most patients who reported to the cholera treatment centre at Juba Teaching Hospital had been drinking untreated water from the River Nile supplied by water tankers.

Other factors that may have helped spread the disease include poor latrines, eating foods sold on the roadside and at makeshift markets, poor personal hygiene, the handling of dead bodies, and unsupervised burials.

‘Christian Aid is liaising with our partners on the ground to make sure that we respond as quickly as possible to the cholera outbreak,’ said Amos Ndiri, country manager for Christian Aid South Sudan.

‘Using ACT Appeal funds, our partner the Sudan Peace& Education Development Programme (SPEDP) is implementing a cholera awareness programme as part of its current sanitation and hygiene work in Tombek Payam IDP camp, Terekeka County, Central Equatoria, for 1,800 civilians who have fled the recent violence in Bor, Jonglei state.

‘Some staff will also be trained by UNICEF on how to respond to the cholera outbreak, and we will distribute water containers and filters to ensure clean, safe drinking water,’ he added.

Five months of protracted civil war has displaced more than 1.3 million people, left an estimated 4.9 million in need of urgent humanitarian assistance, and severely disrupted the crucial crop planting season and basic

health services, with famine predicted in some pockets of South Sudan in the coming months.

If a lasting ceasefire cannot be reached between the two warring factions, headed by President Salva Kirr and ex-Vice President Riek Machar respectively, half of the population will have either fled, be starving, or have died by the end of the year, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon warned recently.

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