

**The essential daily
brief on the Irish
churches**



At the Yad Vashem memorial visited this week by Pope Francis

Northern Clergy victims of 29 reported violent offences

The Police Service of Northern Ireland received twenty-nine reports of violent crimes perpetrated against members of the clergy and 'religious' over the past three years.

Priests, Nuns, Ministers, Vicars, Vergers and a Missionary worker were all reported to have been victims of a range of violent offences between January 2011 and December 2013.

Londonderry Sentinel - For example, police officers received three reports of sexual offences having been perpetrated against members of the clergy over the three years. Two Priests were the reported victims in 2011 and one Nun was the reported victim in 2012. There were twelve reports of assaults

against Ministers, Church officers and Priests, some of which involved injury to the victim.

There were four instances of robbery, three against Priests and one against a Missionary worker.

There were also several instances of clergy having suffered harassment, the police record reveals.

A Verger, Minister and Vicar were reported to have been harassed in 2011; a Minister was reported to have been harassed in 2012; and two Priests were reported to have been harassed in 2013. The last reported instance of harassment - against a Priest - occurred as recently as December 20, 2013.

There were also several reports of individuals threatening to kill members of the clergy.

In February 2011, the life of a Church officer was reportedly threatened; a Priest's life was threatened in August 2011; and there was another report of a Church officer having been threatened in September 2011.

One member of the clergy also suffered serious injury in early 2013. Police received a report in January of last year of an individual having caused 'death or serious injury' to a Priest through 'careless of inconsiderate driving.'

The PSNI released the details of the twenty-nine reported assaults in response to a Freedom of Information request.

The information released includes all reported instances of offences of violence against the person, sexual offences and robbery against members of the clergy.

The PSNI Statistics Branch released the details of crimes where the victim's occupation was listed as 'religious.'

In the police records this includes Bishops, Church officers, Deacons, Evangelists, Imams, Ministers, Missionary workers, Monks, Nuns, Preachers, Priests, Salvation Army officers, Vergers and Vicars, but only the categories listed above were victims.

Meanwhile, providing further proof that nothing's sacred anymore there were an incredible 106 instances of grave stones having been stolen between 2009 and 2013 across Northern Ireland.

Headstone thefts spiked in 2010 at thirty five. There were 19 reports in 2009; 20 in 2011; 17 in 2012; and 15 in 2013.

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Council farewell to Bishop Williams

The business of Limerick and Killaloe diocese took a back seat for a

short time in a break between Finance Committee and Diocesan Council meetings on Thursday May 22nd to say a farewell to Bishop Trevor Williams and to Joyce.



It was Bishop Trevor's last meeting as chair of both bodies and it was a chance for the Council to mark his departure in a proper manner. The

Joyce and Bishop Trevor

were given the gift of a ceramic boat, which our Bishop promised not to try to sail, and there was, of course, cake.

It is not Bishop Trevor's final appearance in the diocese, there are several matters to attend to first, not least the institution of a new Rector of Adare and the ordination of a priest. The diocese will "say a proper farewell" to him on Sunday 22nd of June at 4:00 p.m. in St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick. There will be a service of Choral Evensong followed by an opportunity to mingle and say farewell. There might even be cake.

Building a Discipling Culture Seminar

'Building a Discipling Culture' will be the theme of a day long seminar which will take place in Christ Church Cathedral on Wednesday June 4 from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm.

The event is being organised by the Dublin and Glendalough Diocesan Growth Team and will be addressed by church leaders from Sheffield, some of whom are making a return visit to the cathedral after a successful event in January.

The seminar is aimed at everyone, including clergy and members of the laity who are leading or facilitating ministry and mission in the parish. It will build on the Missional Discipleship Day which took place in January. There will be

two streams so that those attending in January and the new arrivals can benefit equally. Topics to be addressed will include creating a culture of discipleship, discipleship that leads to mission, contextualising to a local setting and practical approaches.

The speakers on the day will include Canon Paul Maconochie, leader of Network Church Sheffield and its European Network; Rich Robinson, director of 3dm UK; and Nick and Marjorie Allan, leaders of St Thomas Church, Philadelphia in Sheffield. Archbishop Jackson will open the event.

The standard cost for the day will be €35 per person including lunch. However, thanks to a contribution from Diocesan Glebes and Finance funds, members of the clergy and laity of the United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough will be able to avail of a special reduced fee of just €10.

Field trip finale for Christian Studies course

On Saturday last the Certificate in Christian Studies completed its second cycle in the diocese of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory with a history field trip directed by Canon Adrian Empey.

The six-module programme is run in conjunction with St Patrick's College Maynooth and includes adult learners from across the diocese and also participants from the neighbouring dioceses. The programme is one of two courses recognised by the House of Bishops for Lay Reader training and is directed by the Very Revd Tom Gordon, diocesan Director of Adult Education and CME.

Tudor Evensong at Ascension

Thursday is Ascension Day which will be celebrated in St Mary's church, Athlone with a Tudor service of Evening Prayer.

The preacher will be Professor Stephen Ellis from NUI Galway, who is a specialist in the early modern period.

Magnificat in Fisherwick - Philharmonic & Ulster Orchestra

The Ulster Orchestra is joining with the Belfast Philharmonic Choir in their performance of Magnificat in what promises to be an evening of glorious music in the delightful surroundings of Fisherwick Presbyterian Church, Belfast.

31 May 2014 at 7.45 pm

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Tickets: £12 (£8 concession)

Conductor - Stephen Doughty.
Programme - J S Bach – Magnificat in D;
John Rutter – Magnificat

Soloists - Rebecca Murphy–Soprano,
Linda Jane Nelso–Alto, Brian McNamee–
Tenor, Aaron O'Hare–Bass

31 May 2014 at 7.45 pm. Tickets: £12 (£8 concession)

See more and purchase tickets [here](http://ulsterorchestra.com/concerts/2014/may31/magnificat).
<http://ulsterorchestra.com/concerts/2014/may31/magnificat>



Recitals on The Mulholland Grand Organ at the Ulster Hall

Ulster Society of Organists and Choirmasters Members' Organ Recital reflecting the breadth of talent and diversity of the Society is on Saturday 21 June at 3.00 pm. Free admission – booking not required

Pipeworks Festival 2014 - Todd Wilson, Organ. The celebrated American virtuoso presents a varied and exciting programme that explores the famous Mulholland Grand Organ's full range and includes contemporary American and Irish works. Thursday 26 June at 7.45 pm. Tickets: £12 / Concessions: £10

2014 Pipeworks International Organ Competition Finals - The Ulster Orchestra joins forces with the Pipeworks International Organ Competition finalists to present concerti from a list featuring works by Haydn, Rheinberger, Guilmant, Poulenc and Leighton.

Friday 27 June at 7.45 pm Tickets: £15 / Concessions: £12. For tickets (Pipeworks Festival)

Tel: 028 9033 4455 / Visit: www.ulsterhall.co.uk
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Visitors from St Alban's - The services in St Patrick's cathedral, Dublin, last Sunday were sung by the girl choristers of St Alban's cathedral who were joined by their precentor, the Revd Paul Arbuthnot, a former member of the St Patrick's choir and past Chorister of St Anne's, Belfast.

Lunchtime Music at St. Mary's Limerick

Chopin The Masterworks - A series of four Lunchtime Piano Recitals by Stuart O'Sullivan, featuring the greatest music of Frederic Chopin to celebrate Limerick's year as City of Culture.

Wednesday 4th June: 4 Ballades, Barcarolle

Wednesday 11th June: Funeral March Sonata, Berceuse, 2 Polonaises ('Military' & 'Heroic')

Wednesday 18th June: 4 Scherzi,

Wednesday 25th June: 14 Waltzes.

Everyone is welcome, admission is free, but there is a retiring collection in aid of the Companions of St. Mary's Cathedral Music. The concerts start at **Please commend CNI to your friends**

1:15 p.m. and end at 2:00 p.m. so that those who need to can get back to work.

Ecumenical Service of Commemoration for World War Two

To mark the 70th anniversary of D Day, an ecumenical service of commemoration will take place in Monkstown Parish Church on Saturday June 7 at 2.30 pm. All are welcome and medals may be worn.

Fundraiser for Co Monaghan Protestant Orphan Society

Friday 30th May – Annual Coffee/Tea Morning and Soup Lunch from 10.30am - 2.00pm at Bishops court, Clones in aid of Co Monaghan Protestant Orphan Society.

Mrs Miriam Moore, Vice-President of the Society will host the morning at her home. Visitors will have the opportunity to buy delicious home-made cakes as well as plants for their gardens. At 12noon there will be a historical talk by Mr Turtle Bunbury. All welcome to what promises to be a congenial and pleasant event. For more information, please contact the Ven. Helene Steed on 00353 (0) 4756962 or Mrs Etta Crowe on (00353) (0) 4751647.

UKIP's election win: What Christians are saying

The votes are in and Nigel Farage is grinning like a Cheshire cat but what do Christians think about his historic election win?

Christian Today reports - Here's a round-up of some of the responses so far:

God loves women
([@God loves women](#)):
"I'm thinking of getting involved in local politics. We've now got a UKIP councillor locally.

Pastor and blogger Dave Meldrum

vicardave): "blamin media coverage for @ these euro results is sticking fingers in

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UK Independence Party leader Nigel Farage smiles as he hears the results during the European Parliamentary elections count at the Guildhall in Southampton, Hampshire.

["your ears and singing loudly. wake up. this is serious. #ukip](#)

"p.s. it's not the media's fault. it's voters not voting and major parties being incompetent. [#ukip](#)"

Priest and broadcaster Rob Marshall ([@robmarshall33](#)): "[UKIP](#) results are a call for [#Europe](#) to be top of the agenda again and other [#Europeans](#) feel the same it seems? [#Europeanelections](#)"

Vicar of St Anne's, Hoxton, Christopher Woods ([@revdchris](#)) I'm pretty afraid of the future. God please help us. What's happening? [#UKIP](#) [#Elections2014](#)"

Progressive Anglican Priest Fr Simon Rundell ([@frsimon](#)): "Also annoyed to hear UKIP blame recession on Immigrants yesterday, whereas never forget it was the Stockbrokers & banks what did us over..."

George Pitcher ([@GeorgePitcher](#)) "Here we go. Europe will be at war within a generation [#nationalism](#)"

Dave Bish ([@davebish](#)): "Britain urgently needs some non-partisan political education in the next twelve months, including why vote and basic political philosophy..."

Archbishop Cranmer has blogged about Britain's place in Europe and its relationship with the EU. He wonders why bishops seem to suffer from "Eurotica" and outlines why he feels it would not be a disaster if Britain left the EU:

"There is something spiritually, economically and politically naive about the belief that the the answer to all our problems is 'more Europe', which will doubtless be the pan-European response to these elections. For our bishops and archbishops, it is as though Europe is the supranational way, truth and life: all things were made by it, and without it was not anything made which was made. Both the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church are pathologically predisposed to bouts of Europhilia, sometimes verging on Eurotica." "Let us by all means continue to pray for peace in Europe, but the EU's "ever closer union" is fast becoming a grievous cause of civil unrest and rising fascism." Read his post in full [here](#)

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