



The essential daily brief on the Irish churches

“A sign of hope and inspiration for churches around the world” - WCC leader

This is how the [#WCC](#) general secretary [Olav Fykse Tveit](#) has described the meeting of [Pope Francis](#), Bishop of Rome, and [Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I of Constantinople](#), this past weekend.



[Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew receives Pope Francis in the courtyard of the Patriarchate of Jerusalem's summer residence at Little Galilee.](#)

In their common declaration Pope Francis and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew pledged to continue on the path toward unity between the Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches. “Our fraternal encounter today is a new and necessary step on the journey towards the unity to which only the Holy Spirit can lead us, that of communion in legitimate diversity,” the document said.

“It is important that the Bishop of Rome and the Patriarch of Constantinople met to confirm this calling of the church toward unity just as their predecessors did 50 years ago,” Tveit said. “And that this is viewed as a necessary step toward communion in ‘legitimate diversity.’”

“The need for and understanding of respectful diversity within the church was confirmed at our 10th Assembly in October last year, where both Orthodox

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and Roman Catholic leaders were present together with representatives of all the WCC member churches and beyond,” Tveit said. “To hear this directly from them adds to the inspiration we experienced at the assembly.”

The WCC is a global fellowship of 345 churches including nearly all of the world’s Orthodox churches as well as Anglican, Baptist, Lutheran, Methodist, Evangelical, Pentecostal and Reformed Churches. The Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople was one of the founding members of the WCC in 1948, and as early as 1920 had invited all Christian churches to form together a League of Churches similar to the League of Nations. Through its member churches the WCC represents more than 560 million Christians in more than 100 countries around the world.

While the Roman Catholic Church is not a member of the WCC, the two work formally in close cooperation on projects related to Christian unity, common witness, inter-religious dialogue and relations, ecumenical formation, human rights, migration and peace and justice.

Read more: <http://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/wcc-general-secretary-sees-positive-outcomes-from-meeting-of-pope-and-ecumenical-patriarch>

Church’s World War One Short Story Competition for 15-21-year-olds

Imaginative engagement with the Great War and its legacy can take many forms and the Historical Commemorations and Centenaries Working Group of the Church of Ireland is sponsoring a short story competition for those between the ages of 15 and 21 to mark this important centenary.

The competition will be impartially judged by a select panel including the renowned author Glenn Patterson and the QUB historian Professor David Hayton. **The prize for the best story will be €1,000** with a Runner-up prize of €300 and a Highly Commended award of €200 and it is hoped to publish these and up to eight of the best stories in November. Entrants are free to write about any aspect of the impact of the First World War in any part of Ireland or on Irish people in the period 1914-18. The story should be no more than 3,500 words in length.

In launching the competition, Glenn Patterson said, 'It is all too easy to fall into the trap of thinking that previous generations are not just distant, but different. The competition is an invitation to imagine people just like us in circumstances we would hope ourselves never to have to live through.'

The deadline for the receipt of entries is **12 September 2014** and the awards will be announced in November. The decision of the judging panel will be final and entries will all be anonymised during the judging process. To receive an entry form, please contact: Jenny Compston, Church of Ireland Press Office, by email: press@ireland.anglican.org or by telephone: +44 (0)28 90828880.

Trinity College Dublin Chapel Choir trip to Frankfurt

**The Trinity College
Dublin Chapel
Choir will travel to
Germany this week
for a number of
engagements in
the Frankfurt area.**



On Thursday 29 May they will present a concert at the Old Nikolai Church (Alte Nikolaikirche Evangelische Sankt Paulsgemeinde) on Frankfurt's Römerberg. This church, which is in the double-aisle early gothic style, traces its history back to the thirteenth century. The concert, due to commence at 7.00pm, will feature music by Thomas Tallis, William Byrd, J. S. Bach and George Hewson,

Then on Saturday, the Choir will make the short journey to the beautiful spa town of Bad Vibel, which lies to the northeast of Frankfurt. There they will sing at the Eucharist in the local Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Finally, on Sunday 1 June the Chapel Choir will lead worship at the 11.00am Eucharist at the Church of Christ the King in Frankfurt. Christ the King is a member of the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe and the Rector is Fr. John Perris. There is a strong link between the Frankfurt parish and

Trinity College as the current Director of Music there, Mr. Simon Harden, is a former TCD Organ Scholar.

Portadown Methodist Quilt Festival draws the crowds

A magnificent array of handcrafted quilts drew crowds of visitors to Thomas Street Methodist Church, Portadown.

The quilts on display in the 'New Life Quilt Festival' also came from near and far. Some are contemporary works made by community craft groups; others are the work of gifted individuals. Many are treasured heirlooms. Viewers have travelled from across the Province, some even returning for second and third visits, to enjoy this feast for the eyes with its message of hope. All have been warmly welcomed by a band of local church helpers who have been providing a non-stop flow of tea, coffee and tray bakes. A united circuit service of praise and celebration took place in which the Lay Leader of Conference Ken Twyble took part.

'Spring & Autumn – reversible quilt' (donated for display by Mrs Beulah Robinson) was one of the 121 quilts on display. This combined patchwork and crochet quilt was made in Carrickfergus in 1991 by the late Berta Baxter. Berta's husband, the late Rev Dr Sam Baxter, was a former President of the Methodist Church in Ireland. Her daughter, Beulah, is married to Portadown District Superintendent the Rev Ken Robinson.

Conference: Marriage and Family at the Heart of the Parish

The Council for Marriage and the Family of the Irish Bishops' Conference will host a one-day conference on Saturday 14 June on the theme 'Marriage and Family at the Heart of the Parish'.

The conference is offered to leaders in parishes and dioceses, and others exercising faith and pastoral leadership, including parents, grandparents, teachers, members of parish pastoral councils as well as other groups and organisations serving the Church's mission.

The conference seeks to (i) explore the pastoral challenges to the family in the context of evangelisation, (ii) explore how the parish community supports families in their Christian calling to share their faith and (iii) inform the work of the Council for Marriage and the Family.

The keynote speaker will be Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, Archbishop of Dublin. Also speaking will be Bishop Liam MacDaid, Bishop of Clogher and Chair of the Council for Marriage and the Family, Dr Tony Fahey, Professor of Social Policy, School of Applied Social Science, UCD and Colette Furlong from Sligo Parishes.

Booking for the conference can be made by email to the following address: cmfconference@iecon.ie or by calling 087 622 0349.

Dublin Garden Festival at Christ Church Cathedral - Bringing the outside inside!

The line-up has been announced for the Dublin garden festival at Christ Church Cathedral with a host of gardening celebrities on board with wonderful talks to keep everyone entertained.

From Friday 13th until Sunday 15th June 2014, Christ Church Cathedral will be transformed into a stunning floral arcadia with contemporary and classic arrangements designed by some of Ireland's most talented and award-winning floral artists. As a leading tourist destination, every year we welcome thousands of visitors through our doors to either visit a site of unique heritage or to celebrate with us. All proceeds are going towards the much need repair and restoration of the cathedral and grounds of which we have been raising funds now for some time. We hope that this fundraising endeavour will be the beginning of an annual event which will form a large part of the yearly cathedral calendar.

Inside, a spectacular array of floral displays will fill the medieval building with colour. What could be more stunning than to witness thousands of flowers displayed in one of the finest cathedrals in Ireland? Visitors will receive



gardening advice from renowned and much loved personalities from the world of gardening and horticulture. Outside, adorning the grounds will be horticultural displays, Irish food produce, urban gardens, birds of prey, a petting zoo, craft demonstrations, live entertainment and an outdoor artisan food tent full of gourmet food including afternoon tea.

Each day, a number of talks entitled 'Gardening With The Experts' will take place in the Cathedral's historic South Transept featuring a host of prolific expert gardeners discussing everything from money-saving composting to creating your very own urban garden. The line-up is as follows:

Friday 13 June

11am: Helen Dillon | 2pm: Mathew Jebb | 3pm: Christopher White | 6pm: Fiann O Nuallain

Saturday 14 June

10am: Kitty Scully | 12.00pm: Fiann O Nuallain | 1.30pm: Dermot O'Neill | 3.00pm: Christopher White | 4.30pm: Gerry Daly | 6.00pm: Jane McCorkeral

Sunday 15 June

1pm: Diarmuid Gavin

Music will fill the cathedral each day including recitals, bird song and much more. The stellar voices of Christ Church Cathedral Choir will perform a special concert at 3.30pm on Sunday with Benjamin Britten's beautiful unaccompanied work, Five Flower Songs. This beautiful and enchanting work continues to be a delight while the open-air songs have all the summer charm their title promises. A beautiful and unforgettable afternoon awaits all who attend.

Whether you are visiting on your own, as a family, with group of friends or even in a coach-full, the Dublin Garden Festival at Christ Church Cathedral can guarantee a fantastic day out. With something for everyone and fun for all the family, don't miss this unique event right in the heart of the city.

Open Friday 13 and Saturday 14th from 9am until 9pm and Sunday 15th from 12.30pm to 7pm. Admission €12 / €10 concession. Groups of 10 or more: €8.50. Children under 12 go free. Early Bird offer available now on Ticketmaster: €10 (offer ends 6th June). For tickets please visit: <http://www.ticketmaster.ie/Dublin-Garden-Festival-tickets/artist/5132628>

For further information visit www.dublingardenfestival.ie

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Trinity abandons plans to move Book of Kells to 'leaky' basement

IRELAND'S oldest university, [Trinity College Dublin](#) (TCD), has abandoned plans to move the priceless Book of Kells to a "leaky basement" following protests from angry staff.



Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip are shown the Book of Kells during a visit to Trinity College Dublin on May 17, 2011

Independent - Authorities had proposed moving the country's most important historical document to an underground location in another building, which senior staff had said is "liable to serious flooding".

The plan proposed moving the Book of Kells from the Old Library to what staff described as "unsafe" basement in another building on campus.

The college, which was founded in 1592, has been embroiled in controversy over modernisation plans in recent months particularly in relation to plans to change the college's name.

The college had planned to move the priceless ninth-century Latin Gospel Book of Kells, containing the four Gospels of the New Testament, from the Old Library building because of concerns over potential damage caused by large visitor numbers.

Senior management and staff at the Old Library in charge of managing such ancient manuscripts vented their fury in writing to college authorities.

In correspondence seen by the Sunday Independent, senior staff said the move to the Berkeley Library was irresponsible.

"The master plan proposes the relocation of the Book of Kells to the Berkeley Library basement. This area is liable to serious flooding and is unsafe as a location for the country's greatest treasure. The plan seems irresponsible and

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a recipe for extremely adverse publicity," they said in a letter to the Provost, Dr Paddy Prendergast.

The controversial plans were contained in a new €100,000 Trinity Tourism master plan produced as part of a major modernisation drive at Ireland's oldest university, including changing its name.

Sources at the college have revealed the Book of Kells will now not be moving to its intended underground location.

But staff, while welcoming that news, are voicing fresh concern at plans for a "café underneath the Long Room" within the Old Library.

The college will seek assistance from the Government to establish a new national archive and book repository.

Because of planned refurbishment, historical texts are to be removed from their location and there is concern that no suitable storage place has yet been found. More at -

<http://www.independent.ie/lifestyle/education/trinity-abandons-plans-to-move-book-of-kells-to-leaky-basement-30302101.html>

Priest condemns church yard 'bomb plot'

A Co Louth priest has condemned a suspected bomb plot, involving a man from Northern Ireland and four others, which took place in his church yard on Sunday.



UTV news - A suspicious device was found after Garda detectives stopped and searched a white van in the church car park in Kilcurry near Dundalk on Sunday evening.

Five men, aged between mid-50s and early-70s, were all arrested at the scene. One is believed to be from north Belfast.

They are being detained at Drogheda and Dundalk Garda Stations under the provisions of Section 30 Offences Against the State Act.

Forensic examinations were still taking place at the scene on Monday.

Speaking to UTV, Fr Oliver Stansfield, from St Brigid's Church criticised those behind incident.

"This is not what a Christian would ever even dream about, this is something that is totally against our faith, against our religion," he told UTV.

"This is very disappointing that people would use a church yard to do these things."

<http://www.u.tv/news/Priest-condemns-church-yard-bomb-plot/d755a600-8f75-4f8a-b16f-862defca8463>

Cheap comedy at the expense of faith - Criticism of RTE

Once again the Church was the target of lame jokes writes Brendan O'Regan in The Irish Catholic.

Last week I drew attention to just some of the unsavoury aspects of **The Savage Eye** (RTÉ 2 Monday nights), especially in relation to anti-Catholic prejudice and the inclusion of children in questionable scenes. It got worse.



The Republic of Telly

The latest episode hit a new low – in one sketch a mother is tending to her very young child in a park when a priest grabs it and runs. If that kind of blatant and unjust stereotyping were applied to certain other sectors in the community there would be uproar.

Later a priest visits a primary school classroom and encourages the children to show respect for followers of other faiths, with one exception – at the end he says “F*** Protestants”. Bad enough, but then the teacher has the children chant “F*** Protestants”. Asterisks were not used.

Looking through RTÉ's own guidelines it says that with child actors care must be taken with their welfare, and specifically that bad language shouldn't be used with them. And yet here we have scriptwriters putting these words in their mouths! I'm wondering why the children's rights lobbyists are not worked up about this, as I'm wondering why the gay lobbyists aren't creating a fuss about the abuse they get in the show from the foul-mouthed barman character.

Obviously this is a send-up of grossly homophobic people, but I wonder if the same foulness was applied to other minority groups would we say 'Oh he's only sending up racism, or bigotry towards special needs children' or whatever.

In a similar vein we should all be thankful that **The Republic of Telly** (RTÉ 2, also Monday nights) has just finished its run. I don't know if it was because it was the last episode but the offensiveness went over the top on so many fronts. Worst of all was a skit with the Eucharist that I couldn't even bring myself to repeat here.

Another scene featured a young lad mooning in front of a church. That show doesn't do subtlety so we weren't spared the full moon. The anti-Catholic prejudice was pervasive here also, with mockery the order of the day. The show became funny just once, when the presenter described the Church as being afraid of education! There's bound to be people who are crude and anti-Catholic, but I don't get the public broadcaster using taxpayers' money to fund it.

- See more at: <http://www.irishcatholic.ie/article/cheap-comedy-expense-faith#sthash.JRBYJfxz.HQTD0HUO.dpuf>

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