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**Caecilian concert at Saint Malachy's church Belfast  
March 30th. Conductor Donal McCrisken, Organist Niall  
Leonard. Premiere of More Than Gold by Belfast  
composer Anselm McDonnell.**

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# Dr Diarmuid Martin on the churches' changing relationship to the State

In a very interesting and wide-ranging discourse on the topic of the Church of the Future, Dr Diarmuid Martin outlined his views on the history of the Church, referring to both the Roman Catholic and Church of Ireland traditions.

He spoke of the place of these traditions in Irish society and culture (which has become heavily secularised) and the churches' changing relationship to the State. The provision of the services of education and health, over time, have been reclaimed and are now funded by the State. The churches' ethos of caring and compassion have changed by reason of this reclamation, but now may be recovered in the provision of alternatives for women in crisis pregnancies, where abortion services have increased.

The Archbishop learned in his priestly training that we live in constantly changing times. So how to deal with change?

This is particularly difficult when for generations continuity and tradition were prized in both the Catholic and Church of Ireland traditions.

Archbishop Martin stated that Pope John XXIII in his Vatican Council recognised that human progress, with all its ambiguities, could also bring us insights into how we understand the received doctrine. Not everyone in our churches understands this even today. Archbishop Martin

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fears that people will build firewalls between their beliefs and the world in which they live.

He stated that we have statistics about decline in religious practice and yet there is a vibrancy in many areas of the churches.

The Archbishop spoke of how, between himself and the Church of Ireland Archbishops, John Neill and his successor Michael Jackson, they have experienced true ecumenical friendship, and at moments of real difficulty for him personally, they have been a real support.

In relation to areas where ecumenical collaboration can improve, and though differences still exist between our two denominations, Archbishop Martin, expressed the need for more assertiveness in theological dialogue, together with

*Council of Christians and Jews  
Northern Ireland*



It is our pleasure to invite you to  
join us at our next event co-hosting  
with NIFI:

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2019  
7:45pm**



**With Guest Speaker:**

**Rev. Bruce Thompson**

**What makes the likes of the World Council of Churches  
so hostile to Israel?**

Rev. Bruce Thompson, a Methodist minister from England, is the author of a new book on anti-semitism within the Church, entitled *Echoes of Contempt*. Bruce will speak about the disturbing history of anti-semitism within the church and today's anti-Zionism.



**Northern Ireland Friends of Israel**

To RSVP or for further details contact Sharon Lough:  
Location to be confirmed on registration

Email: [ccj.belfast@gmail.com](mailto:ccj.belfast@gmail.com)  
Mobile: 07925 926685

Please remember to bring Photo ID to each event.

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the need for our theological institutions to do more research and reflection together.

Pope Francis' Encyclical on environment and climate justice can also open opportunities for young people from both traditions to develop relationships.

Dean Niall Sloane allowed for a series of questions from the well-attended audience and on completion of the evening's proceedings he made a presentation to the Archbishop.

## **Draft agenda for the Anglican Consultative Council – ACC-17 – in Hong Kong published**

The seventeenth meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council – [ACC-17](#) – begins in a month in Hong Kong. The ACC, one of four Instruments of the Anglican Communion, includes Archbishops, bishops, priests, and laity from the 40 autonomous churches of the Anglican Communion. The [draft agenda](#) for the meeting has just been published. [ACC members](#) will be asked to approve the agenda as their first item of business.

The gathering begins on Sunday 28 April with a Presidential Address by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby at the main ACC-17 venue, the Gold Coast Hotel. It is followed by an opening service at St John's Cathedral in Hong Kong. Both events will be live streamed on [the Anglican Communion's YouTube channel](#).

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**Members of the Anglican Consultative Council pose for a group photo at the ACC-16 meeting in Lusaka, Zambia, in April 2016.**

The report by the Anglican Communion's Secretary General, Dr Josiah Idowu-Fearon, on Monday 29 April will also be live streamed. Then ACC members will discuss the resolutions agreed at the last ACC meeting, in Lusaka, Zambia, in April 2016, and hear an update on the progress of these and earlier resolutions.

Monday's agenda also includes a session on the Women on the Front Line initiative – a training and support programme for bishops' spouses in the developing world and Thy Kingdom Come, a global ecumenical prayer movement which began with a call to prayer for evangelism and

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mission to the clergy of the Church of England from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York.

The theme for ACC-17 is “Equipping God’s People: going deeper in Intentional Discipleship”; it follows a call from ACC-16 for a focus on intentional discipleship throughout the Anglican Communion. On Tuesday 30 April, ACC members will discuss intentional discipleship in local contexts around the Communion.

On Wednesday 1 May, the ACC will discuss ecumenical developments and resolutions related to its Unity, Faith and Order department. This will include new proposals for the way ecumenical texts are received by the Anglican Communion and its 40 Churches.

A significant item features on Wednesday afternoon, when the Safe Church Commission – established at ACC-16 – will present the result of its work. The Commission was set up to develop guidelines to enhance the safety of all persons especially children, young people and vulnerable adults, within the provinces of the Anglican Communion.

Intentional Discipleship returns to the agenda on Thursday 2 May, when ACC members make visits to see intentional discipleship in practice across the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui – the Anglican Church in Hong Kong, which is hosting ACC-17.

The work of staff at the Anglican Communion Office will be then highlighted through the presentation of reports and proposals for future work. The ministry of official Networks of the Anglican Communion, on issues including women, environment and indigenous people, will also be discussed.

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On Friday 3 May, several new members will be elected to the ACC's Standing Committee. There will also be an update on the 2020 Lambeth Conference. And ACC-17 concludes on Sunday 5 May with another service at St John's Cathedral, which will also be livestreamed on [the Anglican Communion's YouTube channel](#).

## **Confirmation season begins in Down & Dromore**



**Confirmation candidates at Moira with Bishop Harold and Revd Raj Sathyaraj (Kilwarlin), Revd Myrtle Morrison (Craigavon) and Revd Peter Munce (Moira). The 2019 season began on 31 March in St John's Moira**

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**with the confirmation of 22 candidates from Moira, Kilwarlin and Craigavon.**

Bishop Harold is preaching on the theme *Wherever You Go* and the readings are Psalm 23, John 10 1 – 21 and Isaiah 40 9–11.

Where possible, the bishop meets with the candidates and their families beforehand and during the service we hear some personal testimony from at least one candidate.

The team from DDYC will be there, supporting the parishes as they celebrate this milestone in the lives of their young people. The confirmees all receive gift bags and afterwards, the whole congregation is invited for desserts (supplied by the parish). DDYC bring the chocolate fountain and popcorn machine to the party!

The second confirmation service will be hosted by Dromore Cathedral at 10.45 am on Sunday 7 April.

## **Derry & Raphoe fun and fellowship in Fermanagh**

Worship was mixed with play last weekend for the annual 'DRY Weekend' in County Fermanagh.

The three-day event – which promised participants “fellowship and fun” – was held this year in the Cleenish Centre in Bellanaleck, just south of Enniskillen. The teenagers who took part enjoyed fine spring weather for the



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weekend which is the highlight of the Derry and Raphoe Youth calendar.

There was worship on each of the three days in the Cleenish Centre, with three bible teaching sessions, and in between prayers the participants enjoyed games, team challenges, quizzes, a movie night, a camp fire, teaching and downtime – during which there was an opportunity to explore the area.

The young people were accompanied throughout by clergy and leaders.

An act of worship was held on Sunday morning and the group attended morning worship at Bellanaleck Parish Church.

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## Pope in Morocco: Thank you for letting me be a servant of hope

At the end of his closing Mass in Morocco's Capital Rabat, Pope Francis expressed his desire to once more "bless the Lord for enabling me to make this journey in order to be, among you and with you, a servant of hope".

He went on to express his gratitude to His Majesty King Mohammed VI for his invitation, as well as to the Authorities and "to all those who helped at every stage of this visit".

Pope Francis' went on to thank his "brother Bishops", the Archbishops of Rabat and Tangier, together with the priests, men and women religious and all the lay faithful who are present in Morocco "as servants of the Church's life and mission".

"Thank you" said Pope Francis, "for all that you did to prepare for this visit and for everything that we have shared in faith, hope and charity".

Finally, the Pope encouraged all those present to "persevere on the path of dialogue" with our Muslim brothers and sisters, and urged them to be the servants of hope that "our world so urgently needs".

## News briefs

**+++Broadcast from Belfast Cathedral -** BBC Radio Ulster's Morning Service on Palm Sunday (14th April) will be broadcast from St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, at 10.15am.

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The preacher will be the Dean of Belfast, the Very Revd Stephen Forde, and the service will be available online afterwards at [www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b007cphq](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b007cphq)

**+++Young organists competition** - NIIOC, the world's leading Competition for young organists aged 21 and under, has released full details of its 2019 prize packages, international recital opportunities and jury – chaired by Martin Baker, Master of Music at Westminster Cathedral, London. Applications are now open. <https://www.niioc.com/competition>

**+++STAND with Love for Life** - STAND is an evening is to equip and inspire Christians who care about the devastating impact of pornography on relationships and lives. STAND is run by Love for Life in partnership with the Naked Truth Project and takes place at 7:30pm on 1st April at Orangefield Presbyterian Church in Belfast. More information can be found [here](#). In addition, Love for life are hosting a training event for faith based youth workers during the day with Ian Henderson (Naked Truth Project). There is an Eventbrite page for this, with ticket discounts ending this Friday. All the info is [here](#).

**+++Irish National CE Convention** - Second Broughshane Presbyterian Church is to be the venue for the 105th Irish National CE Convention to be held on Saturday, September 21. Delegates from throughout Ireland will be invited to join locals as they participate in the various events. Rev. Stephen Kennedy from Buckna Presbyterian Church will speak on the theme, "All for Jesus". There will be something for everyone with special events for Seniors and Juniors as well as business meetings. Everyone will be welcome to the

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public meetings. Further information can be obtained from:  
[conventioninformation@gmail.com](mailto:conventioninformation@gmail.com)

**+++Museum of the Moon in Limerick** - Saint Mary's Cathedral, Limerick, in conjunction with Limerick City and County Council hosted Museum of the Moon in March. Museum of the Moon came to the city as part of Limerick St Patrick's Festival 2019. Museum of the Moon is a new touring artwork by artist Luke Jerram, bringing together a fusion of lunar imagery, moonlight and surround sound. The moon features detailed NASA imagery of the lunar surface. Tying in with the theme of this year's parade – 'One Giant Leap' – and honouring the lasting effect that the moon landing has had on the world, the Museum of the Moon was present in the Cathedral for a week, during which over 15,000 people visited Limerick's oldest building.

**+++Food for thought** - "Obedience is the road to freedom, humility the road to pleasure, unity the road to personality."  
CS Lewis

## **Today in Christian history**

**April 2, 742:** Charlemagne (Charles the Great) is born. When Pope Leo III crowned him "Emperor of the Romans" on Christmas Day, 800, Charlemagne announced, "Our task [as secular ruler] is externally, with God's help, to defend with our arms the holy Church of Christ against attacks by the heathen from any side and against devastation by the infidels and, internally, to strengthen the Church by the recognition of the Catholic faith." Indeed, within his kingdom he was far more influential in church affairs than the pope. Charles appointed and deposed bishops, directed a revision

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of the text of the Bible, instituted changes to the liturgy, set rules for life in the monasteries, and sent investigators to dismiss priests with insufficient learning or piety.

**April 2, 1877:** Fundamentalist Baptist evangelist Mordecai Ham is born in Allen County, Kentucky. At the end of his ministry, he claimed one million converts—including Billy Graham, who made a declaration of faith at a 1934 Ham meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina .

**April 2, 1914:** Three hundred Pentecostals meet at the Grand Opera House in Hot Springs, Arkansas, for a ten-day conference. Though originally intended merely to organize annual conferences, by its close, the conference had birthed the Assemblies of God, Pentecostalism's largest denomination.

## News Links

[Ruth Dudley Edwards: Orange Order in Ireland should now get in step with Scottish brethren and ...](#)

Belfast Telegraph

In **Ireland**, calling Roman Catholics 'Roman Catholics' rather than Irish ... People who believe their **Church** has evolved from the ancient Christian ...

[Ex-employee of mother and baby home recalls how bodies of babies were passed out of window ...](#)

Irish Mirror

Pat, who is now 87, told the **Irish** Sunday Mirror: “I was never involved ... did whatever the nuns told him, he was brainwashed by the Catholic **Church**.”

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## **[Bishop Casey accused by four women – Details of victim's Magdalene 'hell' revealed on tape](#)**

**[Extra.ie](#)**

Four separate people have now made allegations of child sexual abuse against the late Bishop Eamonn Casey, the **Irish Mail** on Sunday has revealed ...

## **[Dark secrets of a charismatic cleric: Rollercoaster career of Bishop Eamonn Casey](#)**

**[Independent.ie](#)**

For decades, he was the Catholic **Church's** most charismatic figure in **Ireland**. He highlighted homelessness and poverty. He drove fast cars and ...

## **[Author secures film rights for extraordinary book about Irish nun who fled convent in her nightdress](#)**

**[Independent.ie](#)**

WHEN a young **Irish** nun fled her convent one foggy night barefoot and dressed only ... But taking on the Bishop meant taking on the Catholic **Church**.

## **[Ireland to lose dioceses in radical overhaul of Church structure](#)**

The Tablet

In an address on 'The Church of the Future' at St Michael's **Church of Ireland** parish in Limerick last week, the Archbishop outlined his vision for ...

## **[Thieves steal from handbags during Lisburn church service](#)**

The Irish News

THIEVES stole from several handbags during a **church** service in Lisburn. ... and 12.40pm last Sunday while parishioners were at a **church** service.

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## [Exhibition by Co Down artist explores 'hidden and shameful truths of Ireland's recent past'](#)

The Irish News

Art and artefacts from **Ireland's** "traumatic past" of Magdalene laundries, ... parts of **Ireland's** legacy of state and **church** supported institutionalisation".

## [OPINION: Controversial New York priest chides Taoiseach](#)

Southern Star Newspaper

Yet, it was clear that Fr Rutler had the interests of Catholic **Ireland** among his deepest feelings. And didn't he inform his parishioners in the **parish** ...

## [New £2m fund launched for churches and faith groups](#)

Newry Times

... has been launched by the Ulster Community Investment Trust (UCIT) to assist **church** groups and faith-based organisations across Northern **Ireland**.

## [Church of England prays for unity in Brexit chaos](#)

THE WEEK

Amid chaos with Brexit, the **Church of England** is praying for some divine help in healing Brexit divisions. Christians. Christians across the country this ...

## ['Betrayal': Thousands vent anger on Brexit Day that never was](#)

Eyewitness News

Elsewhere, the **Church of England** has invited parishioners to "cafe-style meetings" over the weekend in a bid to forge some unity over that most British ...

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**[Historic Swindon building to be turned into mega-church](#)**

Swindon Advertiser

A vital piece of Swindon's industrial past will soon become a major part of its spiritual future. That's the hope of the **Church of England**. The Diocese of ...

**[New website: Explore Churches Experience](#)**

Independent Catholic News

**Church of England**, Baptist and Methodist places of worship are currently part of ExploreChurches Experiences with churches belonging to other ...

**[Anglican Consultative Council agenda to include C of E's sexuality review](#)**

Church Times

... Council (ACC17) meeting will feature an optional consultation on "Living in Love and Faith" (LLF), the **Church of England's** sexuality review.

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