



**Notre Dame  
Cathedral last night**

# Dismissed Presbyterian lecturer speaks out

A professor who was dismissed from a Presbyterian-run college because of comments he made in radio interview, this morning said on air that he was considering leaving the church.

Rev Prof Laurence Kirkpatrick was found guilty by a church disciplinary panel of "gross misconduct" due to a contribution he made to BBC Radio Ulster's Talkback

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MONDAY APRIL 15 2019 BELFAST TELEGRAPH

BY PAUL HARMON

An academic who was dismissed from his teaching position at Union Theological College in Belfast last week said he is considering leaving the Presbyterian Church.

Prof Laurence Kirkpatrick said he is aware of the church's disciplinary panel and his public "gross misconduct" as a result of comments he made to BBC Radio Ulster's Talkback programme in June last year.

A final appeal against the college's decision to dismiss him will be heard in the first week of next month.

"I don't hold out much hope of the appeal being successful. By

**I would have thought, at third level education, students should receive a spectrum of views**

mid-May I will have the decision, but leaving the Presbyterian Church in Ireland will certainly be an option for me," he said.

"I've learned my whole working life to be Presbyterian and I'd have with a heavy heart, but who would say in an organisation that has ruled me?"

Prof Kirkpatrick was a guest on BBC NI's Talkback programme in June last year after the Presbyterian Church's decision to dismiss him from his teaching post at Union Theological College. The dismissal was announced in a letter to him from the church's General Assembly.

He was subsequently suspended from his teaching post at Union Theological College for his comments.

## Lecturer sacked by Presbyterian college over radio remarks says he may quit Church



Prof Laurence Kirkpatrick

"I had been asked, theoretically, if there was a practicing gay student in a class on Christian ethics, what would I do if they were being told they were behaving in a sinful practice?" he said.

"I said I'd be horrified, I would not be a practicing gay student. I would have thought, at third level education, students should receive a spectrum of views. Students should be challenged."

"Under the theological conservatism of a right-wing regime that only wants to put across the message of the Church we've got a problem."

Earlier this month (Queen's University) revealed a list of faculty and staff who had been dismissed from their jobs, dismissed about the college.

"The issue has been raised by the university for some time," said Prof Kirkpatrick.

"I have been being dragged up at reviews over the past four years — what could be improved, what should be improved and what must be improved. Union College failed to meet and has never signed up to the university's equality and diversity policy."

"I'm not looking to be a martyr, but I don't see any other way."

When approached to speak last year when the General Assembly met in Belfast, he said he was not a Presbyterian and was not a member of the church.

"They were frightened of their job, frightened about the publicity."

"There's certainly a fear factor in line of Presbyterianism who have been sympathetic to me. They're terrified with the discipline of the church within the church," he added.

"There's a couple of years ago I could see myself in my position. Now I'm on Job. I've been asked to leave and I've been asked to leave."

"I've got my job as an educationalist who opened minds."

College will seem a very hollow place."

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland said it would "be inappropriate for us to comment in detail at this time."

"While we would obviously differ with many of the points he sought to make or repeat to those in any specific way while a potential cause of maligning, and subject to due process, would be very appropriate," it said.

"With regard to other issues relating to Union Theological College, the college is and always has been part of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, but under the control of the Church's General Assembly."

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Dementia-friendly church service is a first

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"We were actually disappointed and deeply upset that we didn't have a service this week's service by Queen's University Belfast."

"In our understanding this was largely because there was only one remaining college teaching undergraduate courses in the history of Theology (Queen's), which was Union Theological College."

"In the view of Queen's this made the lecture no longer viable with regard to delivery."

"Moving forward, the college will continue to ensure that students from home and overseas will benefit from theological study in a vibrant and positive Christian environment, being taught by academic theologians of the highest standing, some of whom are indeed world leaders in their field."



## Stained glass window smashed by burglars

BY PAUL HARMON

The parish priest of a Co Antrim church said he has been left "shocked and saddened" after a stained glass window was smashed during a break-in over the weekend.

The burglary at St Michael's in Newry happened between 8.30pm and 10.30pm on Sunday.

"It's very disappointing and the community is sad that such a thing could happen, particularly in a place of worship," said Fr Gerry Thomas, parish priest for Lourdes Clongton.

"I was very shocked myself when I saw it. Two windows were smashed, one a stained glass window. It's very upsetting and we're very sorry."

"The bottom half of the stained glass window has been

destroyed, but we're hopeful it will not all have to be replaced. We'd be aiming to have things back in order in time for the summer."

Several windows were broken and doors were forced open in the break-in.

Rev Fr Thomas said it was "an attack on the whole community."

"This is extremely upsetting for not only parishioners but

everyone," he said and appealed for anyone with information to contact the PSNI.

"This is a despicable act. These windows are the type of criminal activity used to be approached and it's brought to the court."

PSNI Constable Tim Conboy has appealed for information.

"We would appeal to anyone who witnessed anything suspicious in the area, or anyone who

## One dead and 22 injured in bus pile-up

BY DAVID HENRY

A WOMAN in her 60s has been killed and 22 others were injured in a crash between a double-decker bus and two cars in England.

Nineteen people were taken to hospital, including four who were killed, after the collision on Forest Road in Newport yesterday afternoon resulted in a major road closure.

Hamptonshire Police said three other people travelling in a red Fiat Ibiza with the woman who died at the scene were taken to hospital as a "serious condition."

The bus driver, a man in his 40s who had to be seen from the cab, was also believed to have been seriously injured, while 10 of the passengers and four who were in a silver Mini Cooper were taken to hospital as a precaution.

Bus operator Stagecoach Travel said it is believed the double-decker ended up in the Fiat's path after a crash on the road.

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programme and was dismissed from his 22-year teaching post at Union Theological College (UTC).

The comments which offended the church were made in June 2018 after the Presbyterian Church's decision to loosen its ties to the Church of Scotland partly because of the latter's more liberal attitude to same-sex relationships.

His comments saw him suspended from his lecturing post and following a disciplinary hearing he was dismissed on March 20.

Today he told BBC Radio Ulster's Sunday Sequence: "I gave my personal view and I've been charged with setting myself up as the only enlightened person and that did not go down well with – I believe – a right wing management."

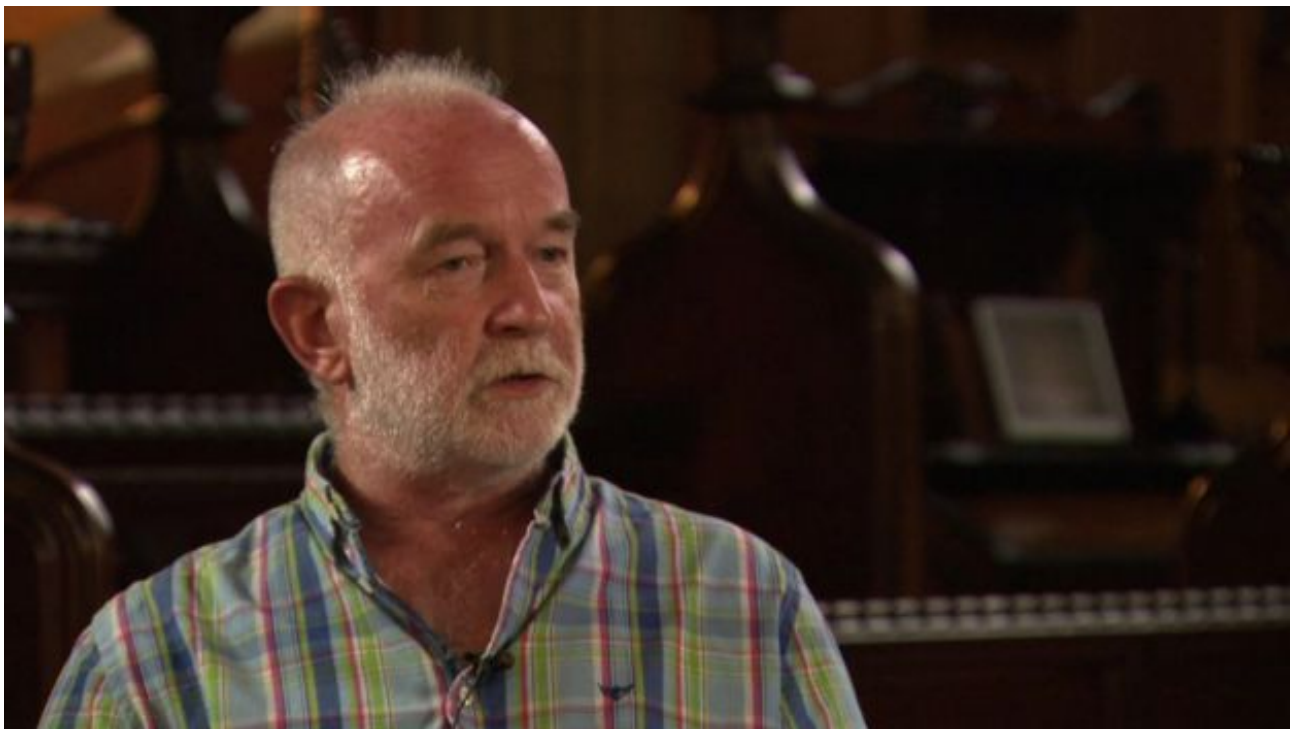
He said he would be making an appeal against his dismissal on the basis that the processes followed were not "proportionate, fair or just".

Prof Kirkpatrick said leaving the church was an option to consider, adding if he left it would be with a "heavy heart".

He said: "I feel I'm more being pushed out than deciding to leave though others would say that's my decision. I can stay of course, but that's like saying to gay people 'you're welcome to come to our church but we'll not give you sacraments.'"

Prof Kirkpatrick said: "If I left I would be one of about 77 this week. That's the average number of people draining away from PCI for the past 20 years."

He said: "I have devoted my entire working life to the Presbyterian Church... I've seen it grow, I've seen it shrink,



### **A church disciplinary panel found the Rev Prof Laurence Kirkpatrick guilty of 'gross misconduct'**

I've seen the recent choppy waters that we have sailed into. It is with a heavy heart that I have felt it of late to be rather a cold place. I must say I'm saddened by the decision of the university [to dismiss him], but not surprised."

A spokesperson for the Presbyterian Church in Ireland said: "We are aware that Dr Kirkpatrick chose to go onto BBC's Sunday Sequence programme and are also aware of the remarks he made. However, it would be improper for us to comment in detail at this time. While we would obviously differ with many of the points he sought to make, to respond to them in any specific way while a personnel matter is still ongoing, and subject to due process, would be very inappropriate.

"With regard to wider issues relating to Union Theological College, the College is and always has been part of the



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Presbyterian Church in Ireland, fully under the control of the Church's General Assembly.

“We were naturally disappointed and deeply regret this week's decision by Queen's University, Belfast. In our understanding this was largely because there was only one remaining college teaching undergraduate courses in the Institute of Theology at Queen's, which was Union Theological College. In the view of Queen's this made the Institute no longer viable with regard to diversity.

“Moving forward, the College will continue to ensure that students from home and overseas will benefit from theological study in a warm and positive Christian environment, being taught by academic theologians of the highest standing, some of whom are indeed world leaders in their field.”

The Presbyterian Church's Council for Training in Ministry in the Lets Pray section of the church's web site states -

“Give thanks that 15 people have applied to become students for the ordained ministry of our church.

“Interviews take place on Monday and Tuesday: pray for the applicants, and for the members of the interviewing panels, that there may be a clear discernment of God's will for each applicant. The process is overseen by David Allen, Dean of Ministerial Studies and Development.

“The relationship of Union Theological College with Queen's University Belfast is changing.

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“Pray for the College Management Committee as it seeks to chart the way forward and for the Council as it considers the matter when it meets on Thursday.

“Give thanks for the high calibre and commitment of all the teaching and administrative staff at the college, who for the past few months have lived with a lot of uncertainty - pray that God will continue to bless the work they do with both church and Queen's students.

“Remember in particular the Principal, Stafford Carson, in his demanding role.”

## **Titanic memorial service: Belfast remembers 107 years on**

Relatives of those who perished in the Titanic disaster 107 years ago gathered in Belfast yesterday morning for the annual commemoration service to remember the more than 1,500 people who lost their lives.

Lord Mayor of Belfast, Councillor Deirdre Hargey, welcomed people to the event in the Titanic Memorial Garden in the grounds of city hall.

A short memorial service was conducted by Rev Karen Sethuraman, the Lord Mayor's chaplain, and Rev Ian Gilpin from the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church in Comber before Susie Millar, president of the Belfast Titanic Society, spoke about the loss of her great-grandfather, who was one

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**Single white roses were laid by relatives of local men who lost their lives when the Titanic struck an iceberg and sunk in the Atlantic Ocean in April 1912**

of the many crew members who died when the Belfast-built ship sank on April 15, 1912.

Wreaths were placed at the Titanic Memorial and single white roses were laid by family members in memory of the local men who lost their lives in the disaster.

One of those who laid a rose was Marjorie Wilson, 78, from Newtownabbey – the granddaughter of William McQuillan, who was as stoker on the ill-fated luxury liner.

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“He wasn’t even supposed to be on the ship,” she said. “He was off but his mate’s wife was about to have a baby so my grandfather took his place on the ship.”

Mr McQuillan’s body was washed ashore in Nova Scotia. He is buried alongside many other victims of the maritime disaster in Fairview Cemetery, Halifax.

“It was a terrible thing that happened, so many people lost their lives, and I think it is important that we remember them,” Mrs Wilson added.

**A thousand dollars for each confirmation group member**



‘Who wants a thousand dollars?’ That is the question Andrew Coleman, Church and Community Officer in Cork for Christian Aid Ireland, asked the members of the Douglas Union of Parishes Confirmation Group at a special Lent Lunch they hosted in the parish on Sunday 7 April. What is more, he was so impressed with their fundraising efforts that he gave each of them a thousand-dollar bill!

Earlier at the morning service in St Luke’s Church, Andrew, who is also a diocesan lay reader assisting in the parish,



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## **Andrew Coleman of Christian Aid in Cork with some of the Douglas Union of Parishes Confirmation group 2019**

spoke about the current crisis in southern Africa in the wake of Cyclone Idai.

Holding up a bottle full of rich red soil from Malawi which he collected while on a visit there several years ago, he reflected on the link between the dry soil and the flooded land.

Every year as part of the confirmation preparation process, the young people host a simple 'Lent Lunch' of soup and rolls for parishioners, who are asked to donate what they would regularly pay for their Sunday lunch to a charity of

[churchnewsireland@gmail.org](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.org)

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the young people's choosing. This year they, along with their parents, raised €580 for relief work in southern Africa being supported by Christian Aid and for other development work in Zambia.

## **Archbishops of Armagh Easter message**

We know that, following the seismic events of Good Friday, the first disciples were now fearful, uncertain and deeply puzzled as to where their future might lie. But Easter transformed them into people of hope in Jesus Christ who brought that hope to those around them, and through them to the furthest reaches of the known world. But how?

Yes, there was the confidence that physical death could no longer grip them with fear, but also a deeper conviction that, through the power of Christ, good would indeed ultimately win definitive victory over fear and evil. Does Easter do that for us? Can we truly call ourselves “Easter people”?

Regardless of personal opinions on the various crises in Ireland, Britain, Europe and throughout the world, no reasonable person can seriously doubt the levels of anxiety, anger and divisiveness that are corroding human relationships within and through society and even within close-knit families. We must not only pray for the healing of relationships. We must also work fearlessly as “Easter

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people” for the restoration of hope and good relationships with one another and within a wider society.

Saint Paul, in his letter to the Philippians, writes that he wants to know for himself the power of Christ’s resurrection. The Greek word he uses for “power” is *dunamis*, from which we get the word “dynamic”, and even “dynamite”. This Easter power is something immensely energetic and powerful, not simply an intellectual assent to the truth of the resurrection of Christ. In the power – the *dunamis* – of Christ’s resurrection, we are Christian disciples, called to bring hope and purpose into our own lives and into the lives of others. We can do this by our generous love and unflagging courage in words and actions, in our sense of positive purpose and in our adamant refusal just to let things happen.

Christ is risen. The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

+*Richard*

*Church of Ireland Archbishop of Armagh*

+*Eamon*

*Roman Catholic Archbishop of Armagh*

## **Lambeth 2020: Over 500 bishops in 39 Anglican Communion Churches register**

Organisers of next year’s Lambeth Conference of Anglican bishops have announced that 502 bishops and 382





spouses have so far registered for the decennial event, with the numbers rising each day.

Registrations to date come from 39 of the Anglican Communion's 45 member Provinces and Extra Provincial Churches. "In comparison to the 2008 event when registrations had not started at this point, this is a most encouraging position to be in", Lambeth Conference Chief Executive Phil George said.

The Lambeth Conference is one of four "Instruments of Communion" of the global Anglican Communion. Invitations are extended by the Archbishop of Canterbury to the bishops of the Communion to gather for prayer and discussion.

Setting out his vision for next year's Lambeth Conference, the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby expressed his



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hope that it would be an opportunity to meet the world's need for the good news of Jesus Christ, saying that the world "needs to see it in our actions, envy it in our love together, and hear it in our confident proclamation of the good news of Jesus."

Amongst the first to sign up is Bishop Te Kitohi Pikaahu of Te Tai Tokerau in the Anglican Church of Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia. He told the Anglican Communion News Service (ACNS) that it was important for the bishops at next year's Lambeth Conference to discuss issues of peace and justice; the Church's response to the effects of Climate Change and its impact on humanity and the environment; poverty and injustice; and theology and Anglican ecclesiology.

"The hope is that I come back to New Zealand refreshed, renewed and fulfilled by the Lambeth experience", he said. "I gained a critical insight, at the Lambeth Conference in 2008, into the lives of other bishops who were very different to myself in terms of theology and churchmanship. I learned that I had more in common with them in terms of the challenges and blessings I experienced in my ministry and leadership as a bishop."

The Bishop of Montego Bay, Leon Golding, a suffragan bishop in the Church of the Province of the West Indies' Diocese of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, will be attending his first Lambeth Conference. He told the ACNS that he was "looking forward to creating new friendships and learning more of the nature of the Anglican Communion."

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He said: “The most important issues the bishops need to address is those that divide. A divided church, which is different from a diverse church, cannot give creditable witness to a divided world. It will be my first time. I suppose I hope to take away a better understanding and appreciation of Communion of which I am you.”

Another first-time attendee is Bishop Vithalis Yusuph of the Diocese of Biharamulo in the Anglican Church of Tanzania. “2020 will be my first Lambeth Conference as a new and young bishop, so what I’m looking forward to most is the fellowship with my fellow bishops globally”, he said.

“The most important thing that bishops should address at Lambeth Conference is how can we walk and serve together as Anglican family apart from our differences! God is love and there is no way we can help and encourage each other if we separate mission and love”.

In addition to “making new friends”, Bishop Vithalis said that he hoped the Lambeth Conference would provide a “new perspective to rehabilitate our Anglican Communion”.

A bishop with less to travel than most – the Bishop of Burnley in the Church of England’s Diocese of Blackburn, Philip North, told ACNS that he was “looking forward to a greater sense of the global nature of Anglicanism and feeding from some of the evangelistic energy of Anglican churches in the global south.”

He added: “I hope we can focus above all on issues around the environment, poverty and social justice. In addition we need to think about what it means to disagree well on those

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issues that divide us and so I hope that all theological viewpoints are richly represented.

“I hope that we come away more fired up about sharing the Gospel, building the Kingdom and giving a voice to the poor in the name of Jesus Christ. I hope also we can develop a greater unity of purpose as those who share a common mission under Christ.”

The Bishop of Buhiga in the Anglican Church of Burundi, Evariste Nijimbere, will be attending his first Lambeth Conference. “My expectation is to experience the work of God in the worldwide Church, and have new friends, learning from others”, he said.

He said that the Lambeth Conference would be an opportunity to address the objectives of the Anglican Communion and think together how to move forward. “People of God sitting together can shape each other and encourage each other through fellowship”, he said.

Responding to the large number of registrations, Phil George, said: “It is very encouraging to have so many bishops and spouses already registered to come. I am delighted that we have received more than 880 bookings so far.

“The process of delivering invitations to over 165 countries is not straightforward and some have taken a lot longer than expected to arrive. So the initial request to register by 31 March was always seen as an encouragement to do so rather than a fixed deadline. Of course, the guest list is changing all the time as new bishops are appointed and others step down. But I would encourage all who have now

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received their invitations to sign up as quickly as possible and ideally by 31 July 2019.”

The last Lambeth Conference, in 2008, attracted 623 bishops and a smaller number of spouses.

## **Pope Francis on Palm Sunday: True triumph is found in Christ's humility**

On Palm Sunday, Pope Francis warned against the temptation of “triumphalism,” encouraging Catholics to follow Jesus’s way of humility and obedience exemplified in His Passion.

“Joyful acclamations at Jesus’ entrance into Jerusalem, followed by his humiliation. Festive cries followed by brutal torture. This twofold mystery accompanies our entrance into Holy Week each year,” Pope Francis said in his homily April 14.

The pope prayed for the grace “to follow in faith our Savior’s example of humility, to heed his lesson of patient suffering, and thus to merit a share in his victory over the spirit of evil.”

“Humility does not mean denying reality: Jesus really is the Messiah, truly the King,” Pope Francis said.

Processing through the crowds with palms and olive branches in St. Peter’s Square for the first liturgy of Holy Week, Pope Francis said that Christ responded to the



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temptation of “triumphalism” in His entrance into Jerusalem by “holding fast to his own way, the way of humility.”

Pope Francis explained that by “triumphalism” he means engaging in “shortcuts and false compromises,” without being “forged in the crucible of the cross.”

“Brothers and sisters, there is no negotiating with the cross: one either embraces it or rejects it,” Francis said.

“True triumph involves making room for God and the only way to do that is by stripping oneself, by self-emptying. To remain silent, to pray, to accept humiliation,” he continued.

“Jesus shows us how to face moments of difficulty” with “confident abandonment to the Father and to his saving will, which bestows life and mercy,” the pope explained.

The pope emphasized the importance of “the silence of Jesus” throughout His Passion. “By our silent witness in prayer we give ourselves and others ‘an accounting for the hope that is within,’” he said.

“Our place of safety will be beneath the mantle of the holy Mother of God,” Francis explained. “In the footsteps of Mary, countless holy men and women have followed Jesus on the path of humility and obedience.”

“In this way, triumphalism, destroyed by the abasement of Jesus, was likewise destroyed in the heart of his Mother. Both kept silent,” he said.

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Palm Sunday is celebrated as the local “World Youth Day” for Italians. Pope Francis invited the young people gathered in St. Peter’s Square to read his recent post-synodal apostolic exhortation, *Christus vivit*.

“In this text each of you can find fruitful cues for your life and your journey of growth in faith and in service to your brothers,” Francis said.

At the conclusion of the liturgy, Pope Francis prayed the Angelus with the crowd, he then rode through St. Peter’s Square on the popemobile, greeting pilgrims.

“Dear young people, do not be ashamed to show your enthusiasm for Jesus, to shout out that he is alive and that he is your life. Yet at the same time, do not be afraid to follow him on the way of the cross,” Pope Francis said.

He continued, “when you hear that he is asking you to renounce yourselves, to let yourselves be stripped of every security, and to entrust yourselves completely to our Father in heaven, then rejoice and exult! You are on the path of the kingdom of God.”

## **Today in Christian history**

**April 16, 1521:** German reformer Martin Luther arrives at the Diet of Worms, convinced he would get the hearing he requested in 1517 to discuss the abuse of indulgences and his “95 Theses.” He was astounded when he discovered it would not be a debate, but rather a judicial hearing to see if he wished to recant his words. In defending himself the

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next day, Luther said, "Unless I can be instructed and convinced with evidence from the Holy Scriptures or with open, clear, and distinct grounds of reasoning . . . then I cannot and will not recant, because it is neither safe nor wise to act against conscience. Here I stand. I can do no other. God help me! Amen!" When negotiations over the next few days failed to reach any compromise, Luther was condemned.

**April 16, 1879:** Bernadette Soubirous, who at age 14 became famous for her visions of the Virgin Mary at Lourdes, dies in Nevers, France. In 1933 the Roman Catholic church declared her a saint.

## **News briefs**

### **+++Shankill parish leaves church building for Palm**

**Sunday** - On Palm Sunday, Shankill Parish Lurgan took their monthly ONE service (when the two main morning congregations worship together in the parish church) out of the building. This month, being Palm Sunday, created the perfect opportunity to step out of our comfort zone! The service began in the church, and after the first part of the sermon, the choir led the congregation out of the main doors. Parishioners then either walked in procession or travelled in minibuses through the town centre to the Jethro Centre in Flush Place. The crowd was led by donkeys Percy and Jake with their owner (and parishioner) Jill Castles. Stopping along the route to pray God's blessing on the town and surrounding community, the walk was planned as an integral part of Shankill's Palm Sunday worship. Commenting on this very different Palm Sunday service, Shankill Rector Revd Mark Harvey said: "It was such a thrill

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to be part of our Palm Sunday procession from the Parish Church to the Jethro Centre. As I looked back down the crowd I was really moved to see the numbers, the range of ages and the mix of people from our different congregations. It was a very visible expression of unity in our Parish and also a clear witness to our community as we stopped and prayed God's blessing over the town."

**+++Open day at Drumalis Retreat and Conference Centre** - in Larne on Easter Monday. The house and grounds will be open with guided tours of the heritage house available. Afternoon teas will be available. Everyone is welcome – admission is free.

**+++Retreat for Males** - This summer, 2-5 August, the Irish Jesuits are organising a pilgrimage retreat for males as an attempt to help men walk, reflect, pray and share on issues that affect men in Ireland today. This is also an attempt to engage more men in spiritual retreats. It is for men aged 18-35; limited places, max 20 people; those resident in Ireland; and up for the challenge of walking the Tochar Phadraig pilgrimage to Croagh Patrick over two days.  
<http://www.mensgroups.ie/MALES.html>

**+++Northern Ireland International Organ Competition** - Details have just been announced for the Northern Ireland International Organ Competition this summer. For organists under 21, it includes a Junior (Grades 4-5) class as well as Intermediate and Senior. International recital opportunities for Senior class winner - this has been a springboard for young organists beginning their careers, including Mona Rozdestvenskyte from Russia in 2016. Let's see more women entering this year! Jury includes Katherine Dienes-  
[churchnewsireland@gmail.org](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.org)



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Williams, and the most outstanding performance of a single work wins the Dame Gillian Weir Medal. Deadline for entries July.

<https://www.niioc.com/competition>

**+++Appointment to Titanic Quarter** - Bishop Miller of Down & Dromore has appointed Ross Munro as full-time Chaplain for Evangelism and Church Planting at the Titanic Quarter. Presbyterian by background, Ross is currently Evangelism Associate at Lowe Memorial Church, Belfast, and will take up his new post in July. He says, "This is an exciting opportunity to be part of God's plan for a vibrant and growing part of the city. There has been so much groundwork done in the Titanic Quarter and I'm looking forward to taking things to the next level, sharing the Gospel and helping to establish a worshipping community there."

**+++Annual Tractor Road Run & BBQ** - Drumbanagher Parish Church's Annual Tractor Road Run and BBQ will take place this Saturday, 2nd June. Modern and vintage tractors are welcome. The entry fee is £10 per tractor...

**+++Dromore seeks Children's/Youth Worker** - The Cathedral Church of Christ the Redeemer, Dromore, seeks to appoint a Children's/Youth Worker. Dromore Cathedral is a growing Church in a growing community. The Select Vestry is seeking to appoint a committed Christian to lead and develop Children's and Youth ministry within the Church. This will be a 30-hour post for a three-year period, subject to review. For further details and an application form, including job description, please email The Very Revd Geoff Wilson: [revgeoffwilson@gmail.com](mailto:revgeoffwilson@gmail.com)  
[churchnewsireland@gmail.org](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.org)

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Closing date for receipt of applications: 12 noon Friday 10 May 2019

**+++Food for thought** - "He wants them to learn to walk and must therefore take away His hand; and if only the will to walk is really there He is pleased even with their stumbles."

CSLewis - The Screwtape Letters

## **News Links**

### **Dementia-friendly Coleraine church service a first**

Belfast telegraph

The service for sufferers, family members and other carers will be held in St Patrick's **Church of Ireland** in the town centre at 2.30pm. The worship will ...

### **Archbishop warns against 'new polarisation' between schools with different ethos**

[Independent.ie](http://Independent.ie)

Irish **News** ... Speaking about inclusion in Irish society and the Catholic **Church**, Dr Martin told ... At a Mass to mark the Society of St Vincent de Paul's (SVP) 175th anniversary in **Ireland**, ... Similarly a **Church** that fosters and perpetuates exclusion and marginalisation is to that extent "a God-less **Church**".

### **Unholy flap over religious terms**

The Times - **Ireland** can be proud of its Catholicism and its contribution across the world. However .... You write about the celibacy of priests (**News**, last week).

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**Taoiseach attends event marking Sikh festival of Vaisakhi in Dublin**  
**RTE.ie**

... a celebration in Dublin marking the Sikh **religious** festival of Vaisakhi. ... but it is commemorated by Sikhs around the world, including in **Ireland**.

**Church of England proposes 9000 new homes on its excess land**

Architects Journal

According to the AJ's sister title Construction **News**, the document also suggested a further 40,468 ha of **Church-**owned surplus land that could ...

**Rector: 'I would marry same-sex couples if I could'**

Jersey Evening Post

And the Rev Canon Tim Neill insisted it was surely a question of when – not if – the **Church of England** will change its rules to allow same-sex ...

**'Milestone' treaty for ACDI in Italy**

Church Times

THE **Church of England** has moved towards gaining legal status and official recognition in Italy, after a treaty was signed between the Associazione ...

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