



# CNI



## **Bishops issue 10 questions for NI Catholics to ask political candidates**

In a document “A Better Future: towards a culture of life, care and hope for all:, The Catholic Bishops of NI issued ten questions based on Catholic Social Teaching for Catholics to ask candidates standing in the Assembly elections:

## Ten questions based on Catholic Social Teaching for Catholics to ask candidates standing in the Assembly elections

1. What will you do to address the unacceptable levels of childhood poverty in Northern Ireland and the widening gap between rich and poor?
2. What will you do to uphold the right to life of unborn children and adults with severe life-limiting disabilities, as well as children conceived through sexual crime, if the next Assembly seeks to introduce legislation that removes the fundamental right to life from them?
3. Do you support abortion, the direct and intentional taking of an innocent human life in any circumstances?
4. What will you do to protect and support family and marriage and in particular the natural institution of marriage between one man and one woman as the fundamental building block of society?
5. Will you support the right of religious organisations to provide services in a manner consistent with their religious ethos and beliefs?

6. Will you support the right of parents to have Catholic schools as part of a diverse system of educational provision, based on parental choice?
7. What will you do to highlight the persecution of Christians and other persecuted groups across the world?
8. What will you do to address human trafficking in Northern Ireland and to help improve services for refugees, asylum seekers and the homeless?
9. What will you do to help achieve those UN Sustainable Development goals that are ethically consistent and ensure proper care and respect for the natural environment?
10. What will you do to create a more constructive and inclusive political culture in the next Assembly, one that gives hope to all in our society for a better future?

### **Part of the statement from the Catholic Bishops of NI**

The statement and pastoral reflection were issued in the names of: Archbishop Eamon Martin, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland; Bishop John McAleavey, Bishop of [churchnewsireland@gmail.com](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.com)

Dromore; Bishop Noel Treanor, Bishop of Down & Connor; Bishop Donal McKeown, Bishop of Derry; and Monsignor Joseph McGuinness, Diocesan Administrator of the Diocese of Clogher.

- Voting for those who will govern our society is a moral act. Each vote cast, or not cast, potentially influences the values that will shape future law and policy
- We appeal for a new and more constructive political culture, one based on a shared commitment to the common good and the priorities of citizens rather than on traditional constitutional issues
- We call on all parties to address, in the next Programme for Government, the disturbing levels of childhood poverty and the systemic issues of social need
- The social and moral teaching of the Church is clear, that it is never morally acceptable to support any policy that undermines the sacred inviolability of the right to life of an innocent person in any circumstances
- As Pope Francis has said, there are “no grounds for considering homosexual unions to

be in any way similar or even remotely analogous to God's plan for marriage and family"

- We call on all politicians to respect the positive contribution to peace and good relations made by all school sectors and to ensure that all school sectors are treated equally in terms of funding and policy

For complete text of statement see -

<http://www.catholicbishops.ie/2017/02/22/statement-by-the-catholic-bishops-in-northern-ireland-in-advance-of-the-assembly-election-on-2-march-2017/>

## **Thornhill College Derry visits neighbouring C of I parish church**

Around 200 pupils from Thornhill College enjoyed a lesson with a difference when they visited St Peter's Church in Londonderry this week as part of their RE studies.

The Year 9 students were divided into two groups. Half came on Tuesday morning and the rest came on Wednesday. They also visited Carlisle Road Presbyterian Church as part of their project.

At St Peter's – the iconic church close to the Foyle Bridge – the pupils were met by Pastoral



Rev Katie McAteer. Rev McAteer welcomed the students, invited them to explore the church building – including Saint Luke’s Healing Church – and then answered their questions.

Both groups were fascinated by the Royal British Legion flags which are displayed in the church and by a poppy wreath fixed to one of the walls. Rev McAteer also fielded a wide range of questions on subjects ranging from the sacraments and the Reformation through to gluten-free communion bread and the length of Church of Ireland Services.

The pupils’ visits ended with a blessing from Rev McAteer, who was presented with a gift by one of the students on behalf of the college.

More photographs at - <http://derryandraphoe.org/news/item/1082-a-lesson-with-a-difference-at-st-peter-s-belmont>

## **Bishop Poyntz: Friendliness and commitment to God and Gospel a lasting inspiration, Archbishop Jackson**

The Archbishop of Dublin, The Most Reverend Dr Michael Jackson reflecting on the life and ministry of Bishop Samuel Poyntz said -

The first time I met Bishop Poyntz was when I was a student in Trinity College. On Sunday evenings I attended Evensong in St Ann's, Dawson Street where he was the Vicar. His combination of personal friendliness and commitment to God and Gospel have proved to be a lasting inspiration to me personally and to countless other people with whom I have spoken since his recent death.



***The Right Revd Samuel Poyntz, formerly Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross (1978–87) and Bishop of Connor (1987–95) died peacefully on Saturday February 18.***

During the retirement that he and Mrs Poyntz enjoyed in Dublin, it was always a delight to share ministry with him formally and informally. His gift of encouragement



remained as fresh as ever and his ministry was now infused by the wisdom of experience as a result of being bishop successively of Cork, Cloyne and Ross and Connor Dioceses. I also had the privilege of visiting him in hospital and in the nursing home where he resided until very recently. The same interest in events, love of people and commitment to a future that he knew deep down was in the hands of God shone through. He was comfortable with God and prayer came readily to his lips.

Attending his Funeral Service (Yesterday), participating in Holy Communion and saying a very personal farewell, with his immediate family and once again in St Ann's Dawson Street, I could not but think of the strong and comforting words: Into Thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit, for it is Thou, Lord, only that makest me dwell in safety.

May those same strong hands of Almighty God uphold his wife and family and all

who mourn the loss of him today and all days.



## **Fermoy churchman's St Patrick's Day honour**

The Fermoy St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee invited Cope Foundation, Fermoy to nominate the Grand Marshal for the 2017 Parade. Cope were selected in recognition of their huge contribution to the Fermoy Area, in taking care of special needs clients. They provide respite care, workshops activities, art facilities and residential care. Cope Fermoy had no hesitation in nominating Ian Fleming.

Ian grew up not far from Fermoy – in Middleton where his father was the Church of Ireland Rector and his mother worked as a physiotherapist in the local hospital. After schooling in Middleton College he went to Trinity

College Dublin where he qualified as a Veterinary Surgeon in 1977.

In 1978 he came to work in Fermoy for the Condon Brothers Veterinary Surgeons which were then located 'under the clock' in Pearse Square, Fermoy.

Ian's late sister Anne was a client of the Cope Foundation from the time she was a young girl, having spent much of her life in the Cope facilities in Cork. Ian's parents and followed on by Ian himself spent much time fundraising for Cope and were so delighted that all the local efforts came to fruition when Dun Aoibhín was opened in 1999. This is a wonderful facility for the Fermoy Area Cope clients. Anne was, by then, in her 40's and the family were delighted that Anne was able to move to Fermoy.

Since then, as Chairman of the local fundraising committee, he has been involved all the time with Cope – the current project has been the acquiring of a new people carrier to enable the clients to get out and about. Ian is so appreciative of all the help that the whole community of Fermoy and District has given towards this project.

Over the years Ian has been involved in amateur drama and local choirs and a number of Fermoy Choral productions. He developed an interest in the history of the area while doing a Christian heritage project for the Bicentenary of Christ Church, Fermoy in 2009. Ian is passionate about the potential of the Blackwater Valley and Fermoy as a tourist destination.

Ian is an active member of Christ Church Fermoy and part of a prayer group (Maranatha) in the town in support of Christian Unity

Ian is married to Heather who has roots in Cork. Their four children ;Sam, Peter, Shane and Jilly were born here and attended Fermoy Adair School and then secondary school in both Colaiste an Chraoibhín and Midleton College. The family will be celebrating 40 years in Fermoy next year and look forward to many more.

## **Mothers' Union and Anglican women to attend UN on status of women**

Women from more than 20 countries around the Anglican Communion will be at the United Nations in New York next month to press for

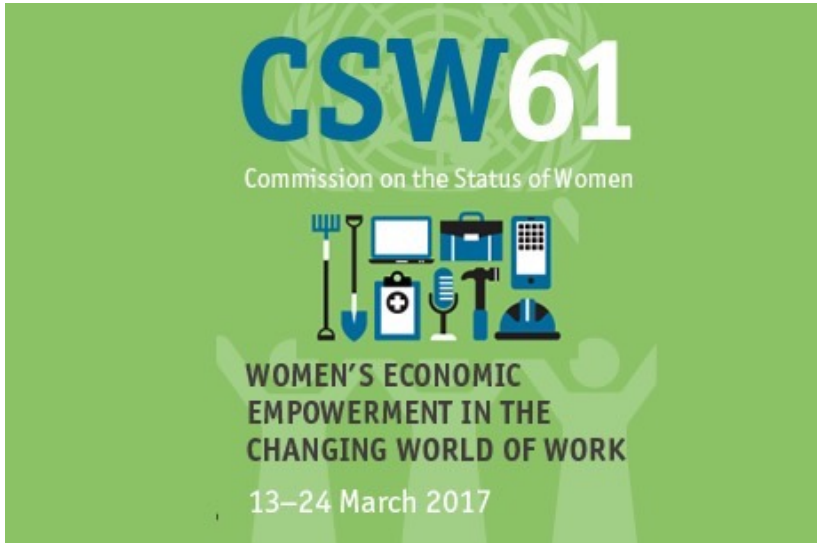
greater economic empowerment for women across the globe.

Delegations from the Anglican Communion and the Mothers' Union will be attending the 61st session of the **UN Commission on the Status of Women**. There will also be 20 delegates from the US-based Episcopal Church.

Representatives of the member states, various UN entities, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and faith groups will attend the session which runs from March 13 to 24. **Mothers' Union** has consultative status with the economic and social council of the United Nations, and attends UNCSW annually.

The priority theme is "Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work". The session will look at issues such as how to promote equality, creating more access for women to education and improving women's access to the workplace. A draft document, known as the Agreed Conclusions, has already been produced but the delegations will seek to influence the final contents.

To do this, the Anglican delegates will have the opportunity to attend some of the Commission's discussions and other events run in parallel by NGOs. They are also encouraged to meet and lobby the UN missions from their home countries.



Rachel Chardon, General Program and Administrative Officer for the Anglican Communion at the UN, says this is a particularly important role.

“Our efforts include the setting up of meetings with individual missions because it is a wonderful opportunity for advocacy. It is a chance for them to meet the representatives from their own countries and make their case. Each of our delegates comes with a unique viewpoint from their home context and so each has something valuable to bring.”

The Anglican Communion’s Director for Women in Church and Society, Revd Terrie Robinson, will [churchnewsireland@gmail.com](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.com)

be attending CSW61. She says much of the delegates' work is done away from the UN. "It is a great chance for women from all over the world to meet, network and share their experiences. Some will have attended the Commission before but for others it will be their first time. Each has an important role to play. And that role will continue when they return home as they take back ideas and resources and share what they have seen and learnt – and also continue the work of advocacy."

One of the events taking place in parallel is a presentation by Harriet Baka Nathan and Joy Kwaje Eluzasi from South Sudan. They will be talking on March 14 on the theme of 'South Sudan: Women of faith building peace and economic empowerment'. The following day there will be an opportunity to hear from Fereshteh Forough. She is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of 'Code to Inspire', a non-profit organisation committed to educating female students in Afghanistan and improving their technical literacy.

The Anglican Communion delegations are supported throughout the event by the Anglican Communion office at the United Nations.

This year's session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women will also review the theme from UNCSW 58, which focused on challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls. There will also be discussion about an 'emerging' issue – the empowerment of indigenous women.

<http://www.mothersunion.org/supporting-family-life/campaigning/worldwide/mu-uncsw>

## **Be ashamed when tempted to use Church for power struggles, says Pope Francis**

Whenever one is tempted to use the Church for pursuing personal ambitions or to be arrogant, pray to feel ashamed, Pope Francis said.

When the competitive bug strikes, reflect whether one can “see my Lord on the cross” and still be capable of wanting “to use the Lord for moving up” the ladder of success, he said during his early morning Mass on Tuesday in the chapel of the Domus Sanctae Marthae.

“May the Lord give us the grace of shame, that holy embarrassment — when we find ourselves in that situation, with that temptation,” he said.





In his homily, the Pope looked at the day's Gospel reading (Mk 9:30-37) in which the disciples were arguing among themselves on the way to Capernaum about "who was the greatest." When Jesus asked them what they were arguing about, "they remained silent."

"They became silent because they were embarrassed about their discussion," the Pope said.

The disciples "were good people, they wanted to follow the Lord, to serve the Lord. But they didn't know that the path of service to the Lord wasn't so easy. It wasn't like joining a group, a charitable organisation, to do good. No. It's

something else and they were afraid of this,” he said.

Laypeople, priests, bishops — everyone is tempted, the pope said. It’s part of being Christian, so whoever wants to serve the Lord had better be prepared to be tempted, he added.

Some of the many ways people may be tempted is to use the church to pursue their personal ambitions, like manoeuvring, wrangling, pulling strings or backbiting to lead a church group or a particular parish or diocese, he said.

The desire to be important pushes people along a path of wordiness, which is why people must ask God for “the grace of feeling ashamed when we find ourselves in these situations.”

In the same Gospel account, Jesus is aware of what the disciples argued about and confronts them saying, “If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all.”

May the Lord protect everyone from “ambition, the worldliness of feeling greater than others,” the Pope said, and may he “give us the grace of a child’s simplicity” and see only the path of service.

## News briefs & Upcoming events



**+++ Carafest at Corrymeela** - Pádraig O Tuama, leader of Corrymeela says, "We've been busy preparing Carafest at Corrymeela. Here's the initial lineup. (Hint: it's spectacular; musicians, theologians, panels, writers, speakers, players, a children's programme, a film programme, an amazing festival of faith and reconciliation this Easter at Corrymeela. 14-17 April). See -

<http://www.corrymeela.org/carafestfaqs/carafest-line-up>

**+++ Special Dublin Synod** - A special meeting of Dublin & Glendalough Diocesan Synods takes place on Tuesday March 7 at 7.30 pm in the

Church of St John The Baptist, Seafield Road West, Clontarf, to elect a clergyperson to the vacant Prebendal Stall of Dunlavin in St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin. The vacancy occurs following the elevation of Canon Horace McKinley as Treasurer.

**+++ Methodist Lent resources -** Books, resources and memorabilia for the Lent and Easter season now available from Methodist Publishing [https://  
www.methodistpublishing.org.uk/features/lent-and-easter ...](https://www.methodistpublishing.org.uk/features/lent-and-easter...)

**+++ Spring issue of Connor Connections -** The spring issue of the diocesan magazine Connor Connections should be in parishes this weekend. The full colour magazine, available free to every household in the diocese, is printed three times a year, and is aimed at keeping everyone in the diocese informed of all the activities that take place. This issue's front cover features young people enjoying themselves at Reveal, one of the many Engage Connor Youth Council events. Stories inside include an introduction to our new finance and administration manager, Mr Richard Cotter, and all of team Connor; the record breaking Black Santa sit-out at Belfast Cathedral, President Higgins' visit to Donegore, and St Michael's

Halls in Shankill which have been given a new lease of life thanks to Habitat for Humanity! There is also the latest children's, youth and MU news, a look back at all the recent institution in the diocese, and special features on a Lisburn Cathedral trip to Burkino Faso to drill wells with Friends in Action, and the work of a Malone parishioner in promoting screening for life-threatening cancers – and how your parish can avail of her help. This issue contains Christian Aid's Count your Blessings leaflet, and there is an article on the vital work the charity is doing in South Sudan, a country close to Connor's heart as there has been a partnership with Yei Diocese in South Sudan for many years. It is edited by communications officer Karen Bushby at [dco@connor.anglican.org](mailto:dco@connor.anglican.org).

### **+++ Irish Chamber Choir in Belfast & Limerick**

- Tonight at 7.30pm in St Thomas' church, Belfast, the Irish Chamber Choir will give a recital entitled 'A Letter of Rights' to mark 800 years of Magna Carta. The recital will be repeated on Saturday 25 February in St Mary's cathedral, Limerick, and the following evening in Christ Church cathedral, Dublin.

**+++ Kings at Maynooth** - King's Voices, the mixed choir of King's College Cambridge, and

the Maynooth University Chamber Choir presents a combined concert of choral music in the College Chapel of St. Patrick's College, Maynooth. Featuring works by Duruflé, Poulenc and Ben Parry. Sunday 26th March 2017, 7:30pm ( Please be seated by 7:10pm).

Tickets available at the following outlets:

Eventbrite.ie <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/kings-voices-mixed-choir-of-kin...> Maynooth

Bookshop- Main street, Maynooth. Maynooth Campus and Conference office. (South Campus). Admission: €10 Standard €8 Concession (students/OAP's)

**+++ Summer Madness savings** - Book before 1st March for the early bird ticket price for Summer Madness 2017. Summer Madness is a festival that brings together young people, from all backgrounds, across the island of Ireland to celebrate, connect and explore the significance of faith in today's world. This years mainstage speakers include Matt Chandler (Village Church), Rachel Gardner (Youthscape) and Simon Lennox (Word in the City). 30th June – 4th July, Glenarm Estate. For Tickets + Info go to: <http://www.summermadness.co.uk/festival/>

**Upcoming events** - Put Upcoming events in message bar and send please in text form to churchnewsireland@gmail.com

