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**CNI**  
CHURCH  
NEWS  
IRELAND



## **Christian bakers won't pursue £250,000 costs after Supreme Court victory**

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A Christian-owned bakery in Northern Ireland will not try to recover the six-figure cost of **a lengthy - but ultimately successful - legal battle** over its refusal to decorate a cake with a pro-gay marriage slogan.

Ashers Baking Company has decided against pursuing a legal costs order against the Equality Commission in Northern Ireland - the public body which initiated proceedings in 2014.



**Black Santa will distribute €32,000 - the proceeds of the Dublin Black Santa Appeal at St Ann's Church, Dawson Street - to local good causes at a special service in St Ann's Church, Dublin on Sunday 10th February at 11am. All are welcome. If you contributed why not come along.**

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The McArthur family, which owns the firm, was defended by legal experts at the Christian Institute. The organisation said it spent more than £250,000 on the case.

In October last year, the family successfully appealed at the Supreme Court in London against previous rulings that it had breached discrimination laws.

The case ignited when a gay rights activist was declined an order for a cake decorated with the words "Support gay

marriage". The McArthurs objected on the grounds of their Christian beliefs.



**Only two weeks until entries close for the Inaugural Charles Wood Song Competition! Full details at Only two weeks until entries close for the Inaugural Charles Wood**



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**Song Competition! Full details at**

**<http://charleswoodsummerschool.org>**

The McArthurs objected on the grounds of their Christian beliefs.

A ruling by Belfast County Court which found the McArthurs had acted with discrimination was later upheld by the Court of Appeal in Belfast - prompting an appeal bid to the Supreme Court.

But five judges at the Supreme Court determined that the objection Ashers had made was at "being required to promote the message on the cake - not to the man."

During previous stages of the case, Ashers has argued that each side should pay its own costs "because of the wider public importance of the case and because both sides were supported by third parties".

Explaining that decision, the Christian Institute said it did not want to receive a legal costs order at the cost of deterring similar cases being lodged in future.

Director of the Institute, Colin Hart said: "It is important to Ashers and to us that the approach to costs now is consistent with what was previously argued.

"We believe the trend on costs in cases of this nature is a helpful development that improves access to justice.

"In other cases supported by the Institute, costs orders have been avoided or limited. This makes it less expensive to

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pursue public interest cases like this. That is a principle we hope courts will follow in similar cases in the future.

"Having set a good precedent on the substance of the case in the Supreme Court, we do not want an unhelpful precedent in relation to costs - even if it might benefit in the short term."

Ashers has not be left out of pocket by the court case, thanks to supporters of the Christian Institute.

## **Black Santa sends Matthew to sea**

Wheelchair-bound Matthew Davis from Carrowdore took an exciting sea voyage in 2018, with the help of funding from the Black Santa Sit-out at St Anne's Cathedral.

Matthew, who also has Asperger's Syndrome, is the son of Revd Colin Davis, rector of Carrowdore and Millisle.

He and his cousin Ross signed on as crew on STS Lord Nelson for a 10-day experience at sea with the Jubilee Sailing Trust.

The ship, with 10 permanent crew, signs on 40 crew each voyage – 20 with a physical disability and 20 able bodied who buddy the former.

Lord Nelson and Tenacious (square riggers) are the only tall ships in the world where every aspect of shipboard life is accessible to all.

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Special features include speaking compasses to enable visually impaired crew to navigate, joystick assisted steering for those with mobility issues at the helm and fixing points to help wheelchair users get around the ship when at sea.

Volunteers can climb the mast; set the sails; helm the ship; learn navigation skills and cook in the galley. They can also undertake *Leadership at Sea* training under the watchful eye of a crew member.

Although the Trust sails all around the globe, this particular voyage was from Southampton to Belfast by way of Cork

“Matthew had a fantastic time on board ship,” says Colin. “It was a tough experience in many ways because everyone has to muck in and take their turn on the watch, but he really

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rose to the challenge and has matured through it. We're so grateful he got this amazing opportunity."

Matthew has been in a wheelchair since the age of 14 when he collapsed at school with paralysis from the waist down. Eventually he was diagnosed with transverse myelitis, an inflammation of both sides of one section of the spinal cord. He has made a partial recovery but is still unable to walk.

A former pupil of Mitchell House School, Matthew now attends SERC where he studies IT. As well as a taste for sailing, he also loves to play wheelchair basketball and plays in the Irish League Squad for the Knights Wheelchair Basketball Club."

A grant from 2018's Black Santa Sit-out will again support the work of the Jubilee Sailing Trust with three people from Northern Ireland set to benefit in 2019.

## **Queen's chaplain reveals racial abuse she's received post-Brexit vote**

A chaplain to the Queen has revealed how the climate surrounding Brexit led to her being racially abused on the street for the first time.

Reverend Rose Hudson-Wilkin, who is also the Chaplain to the speaker of the House of Commons, said the current situation had given confidence to the underbelly that has always existed.



Speaking at the **Church of England Foundation for Educational Leadership conference**, she explained that despite having lived in the UK for decades she had never been racially attacked on the street until last year.

She said: "Whatever happens at the end of that (Brexit) it's about how are we going to keep the nation together.

"Over 30 years I have lived in this country. For the first time, last year, I was shouted at in the street and told to go back to Africa.

"Now I don't come from Africa, so I don't know which country in Africa they wanted me to go back to."



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Jamaican-born Rev Hudson-Wilkin added: "So I think there has developed an unpleasantness, there's been an underbelly that has suddenly thought this is our time, we can do this and behave in this manner.

"So whatever happens, remember the vote was very close. Whatever happens at the end of March 29 it doesn't mean that people are going to say 'we've arrived now'.

"So we still need to be the ointment, we still need to be there praying and hoping and longing for the kind of unity that is going to see us down whatever pathway we go."

In her speech to the conference on Thursday Rev Hudson-Wilkin said many politicians would say that currently Parliament is a "rather bruising place to be".

"The verbal attack, the vile abuse targeted on them through the internet, and we know all too well that this can spill over into physical attack not just simply threatened, but real, as in the case of Jo Cox MP who was brutally murdered," she explained.

But she added that parliamentary democracy "is far too precious for us to give up".

However, Rev Hudson-Wilkin continued: "If we are going to be a truly resilient parliamentary democracy, then we are going to have to strongly resist the temptation of resorting to those defaults of behaviour that prevent us working together in a spirit of generosity and trust - the political point scoring, getting one up on the other, the football terrace shouting at one another.

"We need to regularly engage across the party and ideological divide."

## New publication from Veritas to resource the Prayer of the Faithful

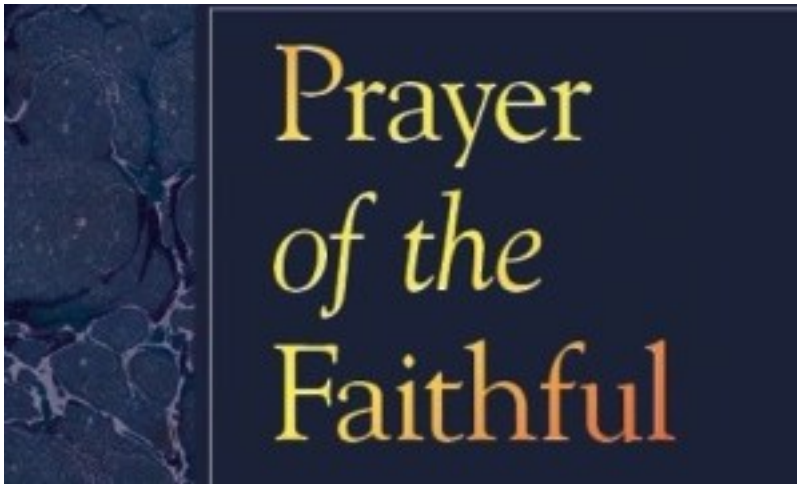
*Prayer of the Faithful* is the title of a new book published by Veritas which is a collection of prayers to assist with the preparation of the Prayer of the Faithful on Sundays and solemnities throughout the liturgical year.

The Prayer of the Faithful is a fundamental part of the liturgy and prompts reflection in parishioners in a unique and special way throughout the Church year. It offers the congregation an opportunity to respond to the Word of God by offering prayers for the salvation of all and to approach God as a community of the faithful.

In this new collection, Father Leslie McNamara has been guided by the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* and offers readers a wide-ranging selection of intentions for use throughout the three-year cycle (A, B, C). The wording of the prayers has been specially tailored to suit the particular celebration or Sunday in question, with intentions that respond in a thoughtful and nuanced fashion to the liturgical season, the lectionary readings and the challenges facing both the Church and society today.

This important work is offered as a resource for priests, leaders of prayer and all who inspire and engage our congregations in worship on Sundays and holy days throughout the year.

Father McNamara is former President of Saint Munchin's College, Limerick and former Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Limerick. *Prayer of the Faithful*, his first book, is born out of a



decades-long devotion to reading and studying the Liturgy of the Word.

Writing in the foreword to the book, Bishop Brendan Leahy, Bishop of Limerick, said that the book is a timely resource that will be invaluable. He said,

“The Prayer of the Faithful is the moment in the Mass when we articulate our everyday concerns, both immediate and universal. We bring before God, not only our personal petitions. Our heart is expanded to embrace and pray for the whole world. ”

Bishop Leahy said *Prayer of the Faithful* is a collaborative work, and as such, it includes different voices (male and female) and styles. He said, “My wish is that all who use this book will be helped in articulating the faith community’s prayerful outreach in response to God’s word.”

*Prayer of the Faithful* is available now from [www.veritas.ie](http://www.veritas.ie).

## Tributes paid following the death of former Church of England evangelist Michael Green

The renowned evangelist, theologian and apologist Dr Michael Green, who once served as senior evangelism advisor to the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, has died in hospital at the age of 88.

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“It is with great sadness that I pass on the news that Michael Green went to be with the Lord yesterday Wednesday 6th February at around 3pm at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford”, the Director of Ministerial Training at Wycliffe Hall theological college, Greg Downes, said [in a statement](#) on Thursday.

“His passing was peaceful and he was surrounded by Rosemary and his immediate family. . . I’ve just spoken to Rosemary on the phone and prayed with her and she is feeling at peace and grateful for the many messages of support and love that she has received from around the world.”

Downes added: “As we grieve with hope (1 Thess 4:13) we give thanks to the Lord for the privilege of being associated with such an amazing man of God and for his incredible legacy.”

The Archbishop of Canterbury, [Justin Welby](#), said that Dr Green’s legacy was still having an impact on the Church of England. “Later this month the General Synod of the Church of England are meeting at what has been subtitled a ‘Synod for Evangelism’”, he said. “That evangelism is now being established as a prime priority for every church is partly due to the life and ministry of Michael Green.

“I’m told that from his hospital bed Michael had let his close friends know that, whilst things were complicated medically, God was giving him ‘lots of opportunities’ to share the gospel.

“Michael was a compelling and consummate evangelist, an example and model to all of the joy and energy that living





**Dr Michael Green pictured with his wife, Rosemary**

and loving the gospel bring to proclaimer and listener. He served the church locally, nationally and internationally through his ministry of communication in speech and writing.

“As the church we are deeply grateful for his tenacious ministry. Beyond telling, however, will be the gratitude of all those that Michael introduced to Jesus Christ – the Lord in whose presence he now knows joy beyond our imagination.”

The Bishop of Oxford, [Dr Steven Croft](#), said: “Michael was a giant of his generation, known and loved by many around the world and an evangelist to the last. He inspired and encouraged several generations of clergy and bishops – including me.

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“I first heard him preach on my first Sunday as an undergraduate in St Aldate’s over 40 years ago. Michael’s words then were: ‘I only have one life and I want to live it all for God’ have stayed with me through the years. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.”

The evangelist [J John said](#) that Dr Green had “led a life that was so innovative, varied and dynamic that it’s hard to summarise what he did. He was – often at the same time – vicar, evangelist, writer and theologian.”

He added: “One curious observation of longevity is that you can end up outliving not only your contemporaries but also your achievements. Something of this applies here. Throughout his ministry Michael played a significant part in shaping what is modern evangelicalism in the UK. Yet precisely because many of the battles he heroically fought occurred so long ago, there are many today who are unaware of the role Michael played in creating a culture that they now take for granted.

“Particularly important was the way that, in two key areas, Michael was able to dispel prejudices. One was the belief, widely held until into the 70s, that you couldn’t be a scholar and an evangelical, and certainly not one who was passionate for evangelism. Michael had an extraordinarily sharp mind and accumulated academic honours – indeed, had he chosen to be purely a scholar he could have been a professor in any of the great universities – but he remained openly and enthusiastically committed to sharing the good news of Jesus.

“The second widespread preconception was that the only people who believed that the Holy Spirit might be a powerful

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and active force in the world today were those who were uneducated and knew no theology. Yet by giving early and outspoken support for the Charismatic Movement when it emerged onto the global scene in the 1960s, Michael demonstrated that to believe in the Holy Spirit did not demand that you ignored theology. The fact that today we take it for granted that you can be spiritual and scholarly and clever and charismatic owes much to his labours.”

Ordained a Deacon in 1957, Dr Michael Green served his curacy in Holy Trinity, Eastbourne before becoming lecturer at the London College of Divinity in 1960. In 1969 he became principal at St John’s College, Nottingham, an evangelical Anglican theological college; a post he held alongside that of Canon Theologian at Coventry Cathedral. He also served as a member of the C of E’s Doctrine Commission, between 1968 and 1977.

In 1975 he became Rector of St Aldate’s in Oxford; before moving to Canada to serve as Professor of Evangelism at Regent College, Vancouver in 1987. In 1992 he returned to the UK to serve as the Archbishops’ Advisor on Evangelism during the Decade of Evangelism. He retired in 1996 and became Honorary Fellow at Wycliffe Hall. From 2005 to 2007 he served as Co-Rector of Holy Trinity, Raleigh, a church in North Carolina that was formed by people who left the US-based Episcopal Church following the consecration of Bishop Gene Robinson.

Writing on [the website of Premier Christianity magazine](#), Evangelist Matthew Fearon, who works with Ravi Zacharias International Ministries, said: “Michael’s gift of distilling the complex into the memorable made him one of the most exceptional and accessible evangelists of the last 60 years.

“His sense of humour, his infectious joy allowed him to get away with more than most, found deep expression in *You Must Be Joking: Popular Excuses for Avoiding Jesus Christ* (1976). While in books including *Man Alive* (1967), and *Who is this Jesus?* (1998), his lightness of theological touch and intimacy with Christ saw him reach an audience far beyond the Christian community, as well as equipping lay Christian believers in their grasp of the Gospel.”

## **News briefs**

**+++Vespa World Day aids East Belfast Mission** - People involved in Vespa World Day 2018, in Belfast, donated over £5,000 of funds raised during the event to East Belfast Mission, as well as a further £5,000 raised for Air Ambulance Northern Ireland. This incredible event saw over 3,000 Vespas from over 37 countries welcomed to Northern Ireland last June and all of the donations made will go a huge way towards changing lives in East Belfast!

**+++Invitation from Derry Cathedral** - Join us this Sunday at 11.00am for a service of Choral Matins with music by John Ireland (Te Deum in F) and Richard Shephard (The secret of Christ). Then at 4.00pm we've a service of Choral Evensong sung by the gentlemen of the choir. Music is by Herbert Sumsion (ATB Evening Canticles in G) and Charles Wood (View me Lord).

**+++Rector to move from Clogher to Raphoe** -The Rev Canon David Skuce has been appointed to succeed Rev David McDonnell as Rector of the Dunfanaghy Group of



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**+++Thought for reflection -**

O God eternal,  
unchanging, yet in all ways  
our transformation.  
You call us to share with you  
in working to change the world.



Parishes in north Donegal. Canon Skuce is currently Rector of Inishmacsaint in the Diocese of Clogher.

The announcement marks a return to the Diocese of Derry and Raphoe for Canon Skuce, who has served previously in the Parish of Urney (in Tyrone) and in the Drumholm Group of Parishes in south Donegal.

His Service of Institution will take place on Friday May 3rd, at 8.00pm, in Holy Trinity Church, Dunfanaghy. The

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preacher will be Rev Paul Thompson, Rector of Derryvullen North, Irvinestown, Diocese of Clogher.

Sing Ireland announces its 40th International Choral Conducting Summer School from the 4th to 10th August 2019 for conductors, teachers, music students, choral enthusiasts, and musicians.  
(Ireland)

**+++Woman Chancellor for St Paul's Cathedral** - The Bishop of London and the Chapter have appointed Paula Gooder as Chancellor of St Paul's. Paula is one of today's best known New Testament theologians and will have responsibility for the Cathedral's theological and learning programme.

**+++Support for Rwanda** - Representatives from four C of I Parishes (St Donards, Belfast; Castlerock, Seagoe and St Marks, Armagh) linked to Shyogwe Diocese in Rwanda, met together with CMSI staff in Belfast to discuss their partnership plan.

## **February 9 & 10 in Christian history**

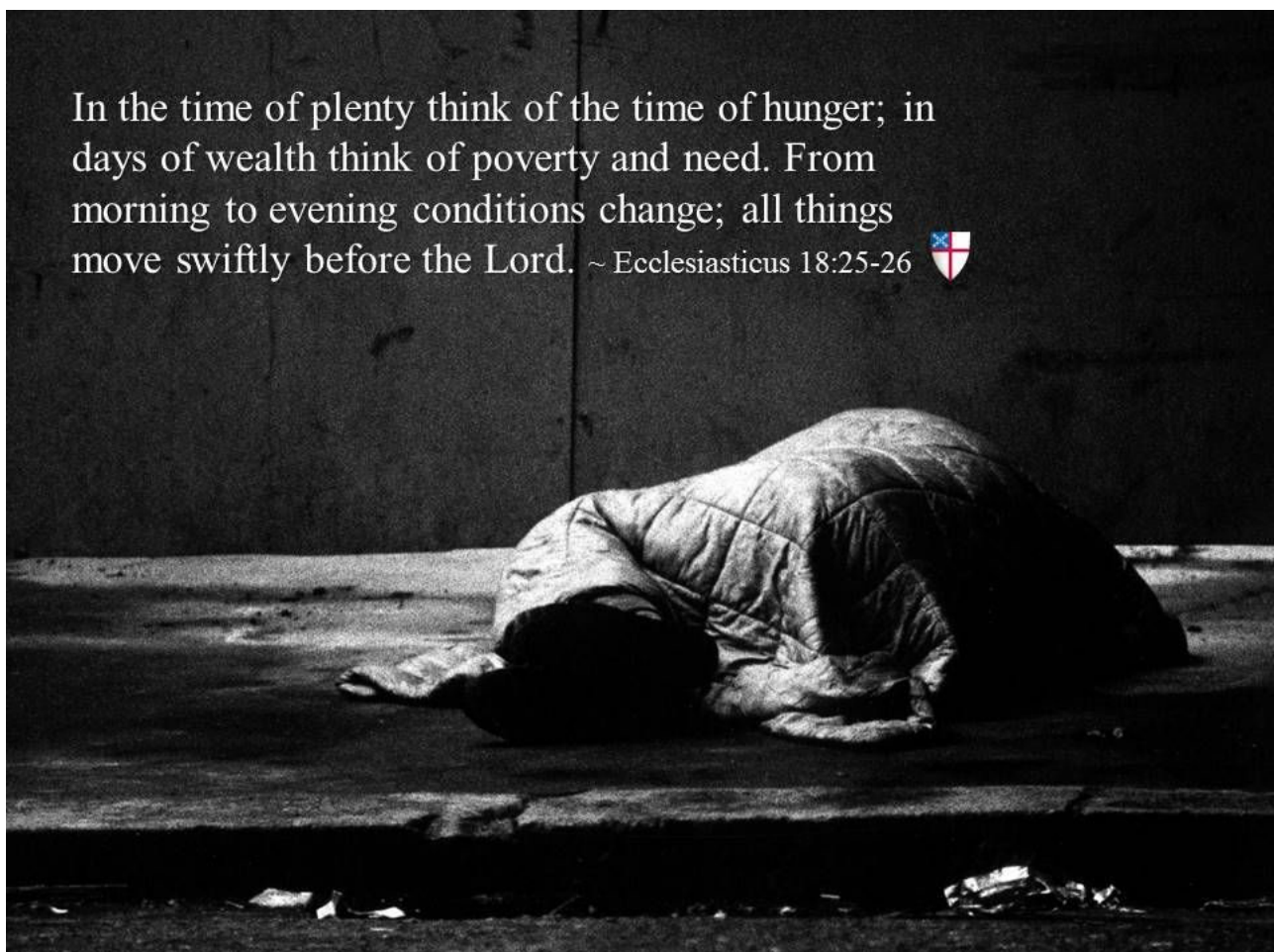
**February 9, 249 (traditional date):** According to Dionysius (died c. 264), bishop of Alexandria, on this date, Roman officials "seized that marvelous aged virgin Apollonia, broke out all her teeth with blows on her jaws, and piling up a bonfire before the city, threatened to burn her alive if she refused to recite with them their blasphemous sayings. But she asked for a brief delay and without flinching leapt into the fire and was consumed".

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**February 9, 1881:** Russian novelist Fyodor Dostoyevsky dies. A devout Russian Orthodox Christian, the author of *Crime and Punishment* (1866) and *The Brothers Karamazov* (1880) once wrote "If someone proved to me that Christ is outside the truth, and that in reality the truth were outside of Christ, then I should prefer to remain with Christ rather than with the truth."

**February 10, 60 (traditional date):** The Apostle Paul is shipwrecked at Malta

**February 10, 1535:** A dozen Anabaptists run stark naked through the streets of Amsterdam. Such strange actions, usually by Melchiorite Anabaptists, led to the group's ridicule by Protestants and Catholics alike. Former Catholic priest Menno Simons (1496?-1561) was finally able to bring the



In the time of plenty think of the time of hunger; in days of wealth think of poverty and need. From morning to evening conditions change; all things move swiftly before the Lord. ~ Ecclesiasticus 18:25-26



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group into a nonresistant, disciplined, and disciplined vision (see issue 5: Anabaptists).

**February 10, 1751:** John Wesley suffers a fall on the ice-covered London Bridge and is carried to the home of Mary Vazeille, a sailor's widow. Within a week, the two were married—with disastrous results. The unhappy couple spent so little time together that, in 1771, Wesley recorded this in his journal: "I came to London and was informed that my wife died on Monday. This evening she was buried, though I was not informed of it".

## News links

### [Watch: A fitting culmination to 850 years of history at St Mary's Cathedral](#)

Limerick Post

That our **Church of Ireland** Cathedral is for all people is the guiding tenet that Dean Niall J Sloane articulates in several ways. "We based the 850 year ...

### [Significant growth in smaller, more ethnically diverse churches – survey](#)

Irish Times

... discussion of Christianity in Ireland is concentrated on the four main churches; the Roman Catholic, the **Church of Ireland**, the Presbyterian **Church** ...

### [Cancer choir win a powerful moment](#)

Dublin Gazette

Now excitedly looking forward to the semi final, Lesley and her **choir** colleagues hope the attention from **Ireland's** Got Talent and Strip and Dip will ...

### [Bakery in 'gay cake' row will not seek legal costs](#)

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/bakery-in-gay-cake-row-will-not-seek-legal-costs-37794305.html>

### [Unionists vote down bid to celebrate Pride 2019 with town hall lights](#)

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/unionists-vote-down-bid-to-celebrate-pride-2019-with-town-hall-lights-37790513.html>



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## **Catholics to be majority of workforce in Northern Ireland for first time in 2020, new figures suggest**

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/catholics-to-be-majority-of-workforce-in-northern-ireland-for-first-time-in-2020-new-figures-suggest-37790936.html>

## **Meghan Markle relies on her 'very close relationship with God' to cope with life as a royal, claims pal**

Fox News

According to People, Markle was baptized into the **Church of England** in a secret ceremony last spring ahead of her wedding to Harry, 34. The intimate ...

## **Peer tries to remove C of E's same-sex marriage exemption**

Church Times

An attempt to remove the exemption of the **Church of England** from same-sex marriage in churches was made in the House of Lords last week.

## **George Bell 'should not have been named' in Church's settlement of sex abuse allegation**

Church Times

George Bell 'should not have been named' in Church's settlement of sex ... The naming was up to the Dean and Chapter, the Bishop reiterated (**News**, ... More generally, he suggested that the **Church of England** must “speak of the ...

## **An evangelical giant has fallen - Canon Michael Green**

<https://anglicanmainstream.org/canon-michael-green-has-died-an-evangelical-giant-has-fallen/>

<https://www.inspiremagazine.org.uk/stories/view?articleid=3031#.XF0wTTE3MSs.facebook>

## **A statement from the Archbishop of Canterbury on Michael Green**

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