



Tearfund's 'No Time to Waste' challenges Ireland on major world issue

Christian relief and development agency, Tearfund, has launched a report, titled No Time to Waste. The report – which you can read **here** – highlights the human impact of waste around the world, offering some scary statistics and

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some aspirational asks, which could change the lives and outcomes of millions of people, as well as reducing the impact of waste on the environment.

Two billion people around the world – one in four – are living without a basic waste management system. A further one billion people don't have controlled waste disposal – their waste might be collected but it is discarded somewhere unsafe. There are waste mountains growing every day in the world's poorest communities. This is polluting the water and making the air toxic. Mismanaged waste – waste that is openly dumped or burned – is causing up to a million deaths every year. That's one person every 30 seconds.

For every person born since the 1950s, one tonne of plastic has been produced, and less than a tenth of this has been recycled. This huge increase in the production and distribution of single-use plastics, and its expansion to



Mullavilly Parish Church
Rogation Sunday 26-5-19

Sunflower

Competition

*Collect your sunflower seeds
from Church & Sunday School
& follow instructions on label.*

Tallest Sunflower measured at end of September will win a prize

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countries lacking the capacity to collect, manage and recycle waste is the crux of the issue. In many low-income countries, open burning of waste surpasses all other sources of carbon emissions combined. Every second, a double-decker busload of plastic waste is burned or



Belvoir Parish Creative Arts Weekend 7-9th June. Friday 7th June at 7.30pm – a worship concert led by Robin Mark and band. Robin's songs and lyrics are known and loved across this land and beyond. Saturday 8th June from 10.00am to 3.00pm Belvoir Craft and Food Fair

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dumped in developing countries.

The Dáil declared a climate and biodiversity emergency recently, following a UN report on climate change. If we are to truly engage in climate action, we must address our plastic production, consumption, and waste. Every hour, Ireland creates enough plastic waste to cover the surface of three football pitches. Lucky for us, we don't have to see it on a football pitch. Our waste management systems have the effect of "out of sight, out of mind."

The campaign associated with the No Time to Waste report is asking governments, donors and companies to break the link between waste, plastics and poverty. This means slowing the flow of harmful waste, and working with communities to ensure their access to waste collection. Humanity faces an environmental and health crisis caused by waste. The time to act is now.

Keep an eye on Tearfund Ireland's emails and **website** to find out how you and your church can get involved in our waste-focused campaign in the coming months.

Tearfund Ireland is hosting a film screening on Wednesday June 12 in Bewley's. They will be watching *Before the Flood*, a National Geographic film about our changing climate.

There promises to be lively discussion over tea and biscuits afterwards, and Tearfund will offer you some practical ways you can reduce your plastic waste. Register for the event **here!**

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Presbyterian General Assembly opens tonight

The 180th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland will open this evening (3 June) with a special service in Belfast that will see the formal election of Rev Dr William Henry of Maze Presbyterian Church in County Antrim, as Moderator, the 17th person to hold the office since 1840 and the youngest since 1931.



The Moderator visited Sandes, The Soldier's Friend at Thiepval, Lisburn last week. He commended this prayer they use: Lord God, thank you for Jesus who gave his life that I may find a new life. Give me the courage to turn from my old ways to follow you...May I selflessly serve you without any thought of recognition or gain.

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Around 800 church members, civic dignitaries and overseas guests from Europe, Africa, Asia and closer to home, will witness Dr Henry's election, after which he will unveil his theme for his year in office in his opening address. Before that, Rt Rev Dr Charles McMullen, will perform one of his last duties as the current Moderator when he will give his address and review his year in office.

When Dr Henry was first selected by the Church's 19 regional presbyteries in February, he said that he was "deeply honoured" and "thanked God for the opportunity to serve Him in a new way over the next year" saying that he would "trust Him for the way ahead." Hinting at his theme for the year, he also said, "When we enjoy God, prayer and worship become real and meaningful because there is a sense that God has come near. That will result in practical service for Jesus."

Tonight's annual event, in the Church's Assembly Building's, takes place ahead of four days of worship, prayer, Bible study, celebration and debate in the Church's principal decision-making body. Around 1,000 ministers and elders from the Church's 500-plus congregations across Ireland are eligible to participate in the 26 scheduled sessions – the vast majority of which are open to the public - involving 110 reports, along with over 100 resolutions on a diverse range of public issues and church-related matters.

The General Assembly will hear, for example, an update on a major 3-year project that explores how Presbyterians responded to the Troubles, it will also receive a significant report on Human Rights, which seeks to establish a frame

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work, based on biblical principles, that will assist the Church in responding to rights based issues.

Reports on the outworking on decisions taken last year will be debated along with relationships with other denominations. Candidates for the ordained ministry will be received by the Moderator, while new courses at Union Theological College will be unveiled along with initial plans for the College's future. Members of Assembly will also discuss church planting, chaplaincy and hear from its overseas representatives. Several new resources and initiatives, which will help to develop the outward face of congregational witness, will also be launched.

Speaking ahead of the week's business, Rev Trevor Gribben, Clerk of the General Assembly and General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, said, "Presbyterians from across Ireland, ministers who have been called by their congregations, elders who have been elected by their brothers and sisters in Christ, will meet in General Assembly this week to listen, question, debate, often robustly and take decisions jointly.

"The discussions that we have, and the decisions that we take, will set the direction for the life and ministry of the Church for the coming year and beyond. It is not only a collective and prayerful process, but a democratic one in the best sense of Presbyterianism," he said.

Along with the reports and debates, there will be a number of special presentations. On Thursday, for example, *Life Always Matters* will seek to speak into the professional world and public square on the dignity of human life.

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Through specially commissioned video, a presentation and an informal panel discussion involving three Presbyterian elected representatives, the General Assembly will look at dementia care, end of life care and child and adolescent mental health services.

On Wednesday, the General Assembly will hear first-hand from partner churches and guests from overseas talk about the displacement of people that has been caused by natural disasters and conflict. In the Listening to the Global Church session, other global voices will also be heard from people who have had to leave their homelands and now live in Belfast.

The witness of the Poor Clares in Belfast

A book has just been published telling the story of the Poor Clares in Belfast. By Martin Magill, he tells how in 1924, a small group of five nuns from the Order of the Poor Clares accepted the challenge to move to a deeply wounded Belfast, a city in need of healing following the deaths of almost 500 people during two years of civil strife.

The Poor Clares soon established their contemplative way of life, and for the next 88 years prayed day and night for the people of Belfast.

This book follows the community through their time in the city right up until their last day, including how they lived through the Belfast Blitz. Letters written by nuns within a few days of the air raids are published for the first time and add to the record of eye witness accounts of the Blitz.

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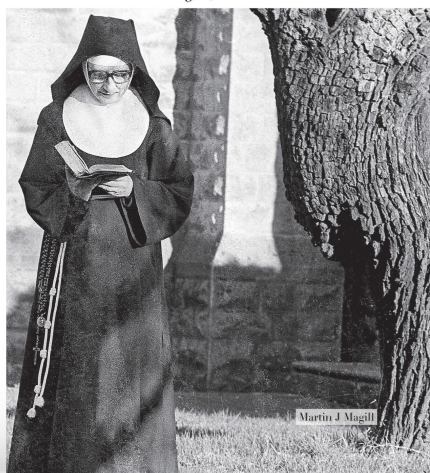
The Poor Clares in Belfast

1924 2012



The Poor Clares in Belfast

1924-2012



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Despite being enclosed and 'away from the world' for over eight decades the Poor Clares managed to win the hearts and minds of many people in North Belfast, the wider city and beyond. They were especially respected for their prayerful support of families during the Troubles. In their latter years, the nuns made a valiant attempt to survive in a world of declining religious vocations, but finally closed their monastery in 2012 to a wave of sympathy and sadness. Using the nuns' community journals, alongside over 100 photos and illustrations, Fr Martin J Magill creates a touching tribute to the Poor Clares in Belfast.

Author

Martin J Magill

Design & Publishing



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The book costs 10 pounds and is published by Shanway Press.

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Limerick roots shaped peace-seeking priest

At the Limerick launch of Gladys Ganiel's book on Father Gerry Reynolds, Ed Petersen (right) recalled Reynolds' disciplined practice of prayer and his appreciation for his Limerick roots,



reflecting on how the faith and support of his family had sustained him throughout his life.

Reynolds had two uncles and a brother who were Redemptorists, and a Mercy Sister aunt. His father Batt was a prefect in the Mount St Alphonsus Confraternity until his death in a road accident when Reynolds was just six. His mother Mary had a strong, quiet faith that sustained her and her four children. *Unity Pilgrim* includes details of Reynolds' early life, based on the memories of Reynolds and his sister Noreen Castle, particularly the influence of their mother in conveying to them the beauty of faith.

Petersen also noted how Reynolds' drew on the inspiration of the monastic tradition of St Nessian of Mungret. St Nessian's monastic ruins are located near the Reynolds' family home.

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Petersen described how he strove to absorb Reynolds' spirituality during walks in the garden in Clonard and in their everyday interactions. He recalled that Reynolds often said he was a Christian with his 'L Plates' (Learner driving plates) on, indicating that he knew he always had room to grow.



New approach to South Sudan by Episcopal Church

The Episcopal Church is paying renewed attention to Sudanese Episcopalians in two ways, one conventional and one unique in the Anglican Communion.

The Task Force on Dialogue with South Sudanese Anglican Diaspora, created by General Convention in 2018 (via [Resolution D088](#)), is the

The Very Rev. Patrick Augustine has retired from Christ Episcopal Church in La Crosse, Wisconsin, and will become a bishop in South Sudan.

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conventional way, working to “establish an official conversation for the purpose of developing a statement of understanding of the relationship with the South Sudanese American Anglican diaspora living in this country and The Episcopal Church.”

The unconventional approach began yesterday June 2 when the Very Rev. Patrick Augustine retired as the rector of [Christ Episcopal Church](#) in La Crosse, Wisconsin, and a week later becomes an assistant bishop in the [Diocese of Bor](#), part of the Anglican Communion [Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan](#).

Augustine will divide his time between Bor and the United States. In a March letter, the Most Rev. Ruben Akurdid Ngong, archbishop of Jonglei and bishop of Bor, wrote that Augustine will be “our voice to represent us in North America and in the Anglican Communion ... to seek help in the continuing work of peace and resources for development to empower our people to live in harmony” after years of civil war. See also item in News Briefs this issue.

June 3 - Today in Christian history

Significant events on this day

June 3, 1098: After a seven-month siege, the armies of the First Crusade recapture Antioch (now in Turkey).

June 3, 1162: Thomas a Becket is consecrated Archbishop of Canterbury. Nominated by his friend, King Henry II (Becket had previously served as his chancellor), Becket

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underwent a radical change as archbishop. He became pious and devoted to the church, which Henry found annoying. When knights heard the king grumbling, they killed Becket as he prayed.

June 3, 1647: The Puritan British Parliament bans Christmas and other holidays.

June 3, 1905: Hudson Taylor, English missionary to China and founder of the China Inland Mission, dies. "China is not to be won for Christ by quiet, ease-loving men and women," he once said. "The stamp of men and women we need is such as will put Jesus, China, [and] souls first and foremost in everything and at every time—even life itself must be secondary".

June 3, 1963: Pope John XXIII, convener of the Second Vatican Council, dies. Expected to be merely a "caretaker pope," he ushered in some of the Roman Catholic Church's most momentous changes in its history .

June 3, 1980: Catholic and Eastern Orthodox representatives meet officially for the first time since the Great Schism of 1054

June 2, 553: The Second Council of Constantinople closes, having condemned Nestorian teachings. Nestorianism teaches Jesus incarnate was two separate persons—one divine, the other human—rather than one person with two natures.

June 2, 597: Augustine, missionary to England and first archbishop of Canterbury, baptizes Saxon king Ethelbert, the first Christian English king. The missionary's tomb in Canterbury bears this epitaph: "Here rests Augustine, first

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archbishop of Canterbury, who being sent hither by Gregory, bishop of Rome, reduced King Ethelbert and his nation from the worship of idols to the faith of Christ".

June 2, 1491: Henry VIII, the English king who went from being called "Defender of the Faith" by the pope (for attacking Martin Luther) to galvanizing the English Reformation, is born in Greenwich.

June 2, 1875: James Augustine Healy becomes the first African-American Roman Catholic bishop in the U.S. However, he never really identified himself with the black community.

June 2, 1979: Pope John Paul II makes a return trip to his home country of Poland, the first visit by a pope to a Communist country

June 3 - News briefs

A survey of contemporary church life

+++ Church leaders on plastic pollution - Bishop Harold Miller and the Presbyterian Moderator, Rt Revd Charles McMullen, have appeared together on Sunday Sequence talking about the scourge of plastic pollution.

+++Chinook helicopter disaster remembered - Two special commemoration services were held on Mull of Kintyre to mark the 25th anniversary of the RAF Chinook helicopter disaster. Relatives of the 29 people who died joined members of the local community and public figures

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at Southend Parish Church of Scotland to honour their memories.

+++ Heavenly Music in a Divine Setting - and a Choir that's Out of this World!. For this year's ever popular summer concert, the Saint Patrick's Cathedral Choir, Dublin, presents a programme of heavenly music sung as always in the awesome setting of the Cathedral in Dublin. Widely regarded as one of the finest choirs in Ireland, the Cathedral Choir dates back to the 15th century and with 600 years of rehearsal, they're well worth coming to hear. So what better way to finish a long working week than with a free concert sung by this amazing choir on their home turf. So break up the commute home and join us for the 2019 Choral Foundation Concert which this year is in aid of the Cathedral Choir School. Programme includes both sacred and secular works of great beauty alongside one of the greatest songs ever written for the silver screen – no prizes though for guessing which one! Full detailson the Cathedral's web site.

+++Rector swept off his feet - the Rector of Donaghedy, Rev Dr Robin Stockitt, was lifted clean off the ground by Strabane's 'strongest man', Dan Potts, on Saturday afternoon. There was no cause for alarm, however: it happened at Donaghedy parish's Family Fun Day in Donemana.

Hundreds of people of all ages – and from various church traditions in the community – descended on Earlsgrift Parish Hall, close to St James Parish Church, for Saturday's event. They were greeted by a rector sporting a rather splendid red top hat, and his wife, Joan, decked out in a gaily-

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coloured clown's outfit. If the couple were in need of moral support, it came from parish volunteers wearing pirate outfits.

There was plenty to entertain the visitors, who soaked up the early summer sunshine. There was a tractor display, a bouncy castle, mini-golf and face-painting – as well as more intriguing attractions such as 'Hook the Duck' and 'Splat the Rat'. Any splatting was done for a good cause, though, with all proceeds going to St.James Parish Church, Donaghedy .

+++Scam emails allegedly from Anglican Communion Secretary General - designed to look as though they have been sent by Secretary General of the Anglican Communion Josiah Idowu-Fearon have been used to acquire iTunes gift cards from unsuspecting recipients. At least one recipient of the emails was taken in by the fraudsters and ended up £200 out of pocket. The scammers used a Gmail account. The victim who fell for the scam was targeted mere hours after the Anglican Communion Office informed Google that the email account was being used to commit fraud. The Anglican Communion's Director for Communications, Gavin Drake, said: "Staff at the Anglican Communion Office will never ask people to order Gift cards on their behalf. We are aware that this type of forged identify fraud is very common. People should be vigilant when receiving such requests."

+++Remembrance NI - new site format. The site has been re-designed. You are cordially invited to visit. Current theme is the Battle of Jutland highlighting local leaders and Rolls of Honour for ships showing the high cost in NI naval

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personnel. Please share with friends who may be interested. www.remembranceneni.org

+++Please pray for - Burundi - Pray for President Nkurunziza in the 2020 elections. Please pray for fair and just representation in all regions. President Museveni of Uganda is overseeing a mediation process between opposing factions in Burundi in this very fragile political environment.

- The PCI Peacehaven Trust which operate three residential care homes for adults with disabilities in Greystones, Co. Wicklow. Give thanks for the Christian witness of Peacehaven staff and for all the care which has been provided there over the years. Pray for Michael Williams, Director, and his staff team.

+++Food for thought - We tend to stay away from mourning and dancing. Too afraid to cry, too shy to dance...we become narrow-minded complainers, avoiding pain and also true human joy...While we live in a world subject to the evil one, we belong to God. Let us mourn, and let us dance - Henri Nouwen

News Links June 3

Billy Kennedy: Presbyterian Church to debate key issues at general assembly

Belfast Newsletter

The Presbyterian **Church** in **Ireland** is one of the most democratic denominations on these islands, with the structures and organisation of ...

Church of Ireland Bishop bows out in Raphoe

Donegal Now

Rt Rev Ken Good lowered his crozier slowly onto the communion table in a Raphoe school on Thursday evening and his 17-year ministry as leader of ...

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[Plea from a **Church of Ireland** man: Presbyterians! Follow us and act on global warming](#)

Belfast Newsletter

As the General Assembly of the Presbyterian **Church in Ireland** (PCI) meets in Belfast starting Monday, I hope they act on their climate change report ...

[Embrace FARM Remembrance Service 2019](#)

Farming Life

Embrace FARM, the support network for those affected by farm accidents, will host its Annual Ecumenical Remembrance Service in the **Church** of the ...

['I've always been a spiritual person' - MEP Maria Walsh says her sexuality doesn't stop her ...](#)

[Independent.ie](#)

"I guess like anybody living in **Ireland**, National and Secondary school was very much built on the Catholic **church**. I always had a great rapport with ...

[Traffic warden told she will 'roast in hell' during parking confrontation in Co Armagh](#)

Belfast Telegraph

The traffic warden then explains to the **church** minister that in the last six months double yellow lines have been painted and legislation has come into ...

[Jason O'Toole comment: Archbishop Eamon Martin is right to advise parents not give kids phones ...](#)

Irish Mirror

I'd rarely, if ever, find myself seeing eye-to-eye with the Catholic **Church** on most matters – especially concerning children or parenting. But I'm ...

[Vicar who resigned as school governor over training around child's gender transition explains how ...](#)

Premier

The minister, who looks after two parishes in the Diocese of Chelmsford, resigned from the **Church of England** and from his role as a school governor.

[Twickenham **church** school 'punishes parents who complain'](#)

The Times

Three parents of children with special educational needs at St Mary's **Church of England** primary in Twickenham, southwest London, have ...

[Decline and revival in the **Church of England**](#)

The Christian Century

... and activity in that country, and rare is the **news** that is not deeply depressing. ... Particularly hard hit is the **Church of England**, which in practice attracts only a ... The **Church of England** has long been divided between high and low ...

AN INVITATION
to get Twitter leads from CNI
Just a click on the Twitter logo on
the CNI home page

+ Please share CNI with your friends
www.churchnewsireland.org

