



**The Duke and Duchess of Sussex with their son, Archie Harrison Mountbatten-Windsor, after his christening in the private chapel at Windsor Castle last week.**

July 08, 2019

## **Bishop Noel Treanor concerned at proposed changes to protection of life in Northern Ireland**

**The introduction of amendments to the NI (Executive Formation) Bill seeking to extend abortion provision to Northern Ireland was the focus of a statement by Bishop Noel Trainor of Down and Connor which was read at all masses yesterday.**

“The protection of human life, inviolable from its conception until its natural end, is a matter of fundamental ethical and social ethical importance for citizens, society and the state. It is therefore vital that citizens of Northern Ireland, and especially Christian citizens, take note that the Northern Ireland (Executive Formation) Bill, now before the Westminster Parliament, is being used to introduce amendments aiming to liberalise provision of abortion in Northern Ireland without the say-so of either the citizens of Northern Ireland or their elected representatives.

“I therefore view with the deepest concern this eleventh hour initiative by some MP’s to table amendments to a Bill, whose primary function is to put in place measures to accommodate the ongoing absence of a Northern Ireland Assembly. The issue of the protection of human life and the redefinition of marriage are not just devolved matters, which should be decided upon by the people of Northern Ireland, but touchstone issues which deserve the most anxious and intense consideration by legislators and citizens.

July 08, 2019

“I would encourage everyone urgently to contact their MP this weekend or on Monday to register their objection to this undemocratic process.”

**Archbishop  
Eamon  
Martin  
supports  
Rally for Life  
on sanctity  
and right to  
life of the  
unborn child**

Archbishop Eamon Martin participated at the ‘Rally for Life’ which was held in Dublin city centre on Saturday afternoon.



Speaking to media at the rally Archbishop Martin said:

“Today I wanted to stand in solidarity with the many thousands of people in Ireland who firmly believe that in pregnancy we are dealing with two lives - the life of a mother and her unborn child - and both in need of love, respect and protection.

July 08, 2019



“I march today because I believe it remains as important as ever to affirm the sanctity of all human life. The direct and intentional taking of the life of any innocent human being is always gravely wrong - we must avoid becoming desensitised to the value of every human life.

“More than one year on from the abortion referendum I am calling for more practical help for vulnerable women in this country who feel that their only way out of crisis is to end the life of their unborn child. What new supports have we put in

July 08, 2019



**The death has taken place on the evening of July 2 of Freddie McKeown. Freddie has been Dean's Verger at Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, for almost three decades and was woven into the fabric of cathedral life. A consummate professional during cathedral services he carried out his ministry with dignity. He loved the cathedral and was always a smiling friendly face around the building. Pictured left (June 2018) with the Deans of Christ Church and St Patrick's.**

place for mothers and fathers at the point of crisis? And, what supports are we offering to parents who feel that they have made the wrong choice in having an abortion?

“I am also deeply concerned by suggestions that amendments are being considered to the Northern Ireland (Executive Formation) Bill, going through Westminster on Monday next, which will hijack this Bill to remove existing legal protection for unborn babies and to ‘fast track’ the  
[churchnewsireland@gmail.org](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.org)

**July 08, 2019**

legalisation of abortion on demand in Northern Ireland. How tragic it is for humanity that some legislators would ‘fast track’ the ending of the lives of the most defenceless in our society.

“Like many others I strongly believe that it is urgent to restore an executive in Northern Ireland, so that the common good of all our people can be served. There is something particularly cynical, however, in taking advantage of the present political crisis to remove the right to life of the most vulnerable of our people; the unborn baby. The common good cannot be served in this way.

“A legal framework for the protection of unborn human life is an important statement about the respect due to each and every child, and about the society in which we live. I ask Catholics, and all who share our commitment to the right to life, to contact Members of Parliament as a matter of urgency, requesting that he or she vote against any attempt to remove legal protection from unborn babies.”

## **Being religious is now a countercultural identity**

At a recent [Irish Association](#) conference, Belief in the Future: Religion and Changing Identity, Rev Prof [Anne Lodge](#), director of the [Church of Ireland](#) Centre at DCU spoke about religion and education. She said that her response to the question as to whether faith schools are a good thing was: ‘Yes, but. . .’

If faith schools promote independent thought and real dialogue with society, she believes they have a great deal to

**July 08, 2019**

offer but that our school system, which was shaped in a pre-secular Ireland, is no longer fit for purpose.

Prof Lodge humorously described how in pre-secular Ireland everybody was presumed to be Catholic and if you were not, you were lumped in with the Protestants even if you happened to be Jewish.

Several of the speakers, including former minister for education Jan O'Sullivan, outlined what it was like to grow up as a Protestant in a pre-secular Republic.

She vividly described living on a road in a small village with a Protestant church at one end and a Catholic church at the other. On Sundays, she travelled in one direction while her Catholic neighbours went in the opposite direction. She said she was shaped by that experience in mostly positive ways but rightly railed against the pre-secular idea that to be Irish is to be Catholic.

Changes in the religious landscape since that time both North and South were crisply summarised by [Gladys Ganiel](#) of Queen's University. Unsurprisingly, the picture is one of decline in religious practice.

## **Mass attendance**

Take Mass attendance, which has fallen from 91 per cent attending weekly in 1972 to 36 per cent attending monthly in 2017. She also summarised research that shows that Irish people generally rank many things ahead of religion as components of their identity. But in comparison with the rest of Europe, Irish people are still far more religious.

In addition, [Karen Brady](#), secretary to the Irish Council of Churches, mentioned a study, Being Christian in Western

July 08, 2019



**The Revd Trevor Sargent, Archbishop Michael Jackson and the Revd Prof Anne Lodge at the Irish Association for Cultural, Economic and Social Relations' conference Belief in the Future: Religion and Changing Identity in the Royal Irish Academy on Tuesday 2nd July 2019.**

Europe, by the Pew Research Centre. The majority of even non-practising Irish Christians believe that the church plays an important role in helping the poor and needy. So despite decades of scandals, the good that churches do is still recognised and acknowledged.

The changes in the Irish religious landscape include a growing, active minority of Muslims. Dr [Amanullah De SONDY](#), who is a senior lecturer in contemporary Islam in UCC, challenged any perception of Islam as a monolithic



July 08, 2019

tradition and highlighted how complex identity in the modern world can be.

The son of Pakistani Muslim immigrants to Glasgow, he grew up in a largely Scottish Presbyterian environment with a mother who wanted only Punjabi spoken at home and a father who remained faithfully Pakistani but wanted his children to be Scottish. Part of the diversity within Islam includes those who are allies or members of the LGBT+ community.

Several speakers suggested that the rise in Islam across Europe would pose interesting questions, including Rev Dr [Niall Coll](#) from St Mary's College in Belfast, who quoted Damian Howard SJ. The latter queries whether the fact that Muslims have no hesitation in declaring the reality of God may provoke Christians in a constructive way to return to their own traditions.

I am not so sure about that. In fact, I am not so sure that even Muslims will be able to maintain a strong religious identity in the face of the universal solvent of individualism, which is now the dominant western ideology.

Some of the speakers spoke of how good it was that people are no longer blindly accepting doctrines.

Again, I am not so sure. Have we just accepted different tribal identities that impose a high level of conformity instead? Being burned as a heretic (in a metaphorical sense) is a strong possibility for those who do not conform to the doctrines of shiny, progressive Ireland.

For another speaker, David McConnell of the [Humanist Association](#), the answer to the search for meaning lies

July 08, 2019



**Sharan Harper, the Mothers Union World Wide President speaking to the General Synod of the C of E on Saturday said, “the Holy Spirit gave MU a vision.. engage in global conversations for ways to make a difference in the world...we do so much more than serve tea coffee and cake!”. Sharan is the first World Wide President who did not come from GB or Ireland.**

solely in faith in humanity and science. But our world is choked with pollution and facing extreme climate challenges.

Along with human greed, scientific discoveries that allow us to exploit the Earth’s resources ever more ruthlessly have driven the choices that have brought us here.

July 08, 2019

## Long-term good

Both Rev [Trevor Sargent](#), former government minister who is now a Church of Ireland minister, and [Justin Kilcullen](#), former director of Trócaire, gave barnstorming critiques of the ways in which the search for individual profit and comfort conflict with the long-term good of individuals, families and the planet.

For me, the conference reinforced my belief that polite, Enlightenment Christianity is no bulwark against the new tribal identities that dominate public discussion. Those identities, whether on the left or the right, are deeply shaped by the indoctrination of a global capitalism that thrives on making us feel that we are all primarily autonomous individuals.

For those who take their faith seriously, as Dr Niall Coll pointed out, deep roots in a living religious tradition are essential as they give us the security and strength to be humble and learn from others while maintaining a distinctive identity that has some possibility of countering the current dominant ideologies. Report by Breda O'Brien in the Irish Times

## Archbishop Sentamu ordains his wife in first for the Church

Dr John Sentamu, the Archbishop of York, has ordained his wife in the first service of its kind in Britain.

Margaret Sentamu, who was ordained as a deacon alongside 11 others in York Minster last week, said it felt

July 08, 2019



right to explore her calling, ahead of her husband's retirement next year

It is the first time an archbishop has ordained his wife, although the ceremony has been performed in the past by bishops.

Mrs Sentamu said her path to ordination had been a 20-year journey.

"It's about connecting the Church and society and executing a public role in my own

**The Archbishop of York with his wife Margaret Sentamu, right, daughter Grace Semtamu-Baverstock, and his granddaughter Abigail**

right, not just through the person I'm married to" she said. "With my husband retiring next summer, it felt right to explore a calling."

**July 08, 2019**

It's about connecting the Church and society and executing a public role in my own right

She delighted in the varied backgrounds of those joining her in yesterday's service: "It's the tapestry of life," she said. "God calls from all walks. I know it's not going to be all plain sailing – Jesus said life wasn't going to be easy – but I know what I'm stepping into."

The new deacons will serve in the Diocese of York, a grouping of 607 churches, and will assist in leading worship as well as working in the local community. They will also serve as assistant curates in one of the 470 parishes in the diocese.

The Sentamus' roots are in Uganda, although they have lived and ministered in the UK for most of their adult lives. Dr Sentamu, who was born in Kampala, is the most senior black and minority ethnic cleric in the Church. The sixth of 13 children, he was educated by English missionaries and teachers in Uganda and practised law in the country before being briefly imprisoned for speaking out against Idi Amin's regime.

He fled to the UK in 1974 with Margaret, whom he had met at university in Kampala.

Mrs Sentamu worked for a number of years in the private, public and third sectors which included a period as senior selection secretary, overseeing the team responsible for the recruitment of future clergy for the Church of England. She has also acted as a non-executive director of the Leeds and York Mental Health Trust and lay adjudicator for the Solicitors Regulatory Authority. She is currently a curate at St Chad's in York.

July 08, 2019

## Methodists move towards conducting same-sex marriages

The GB Methodist Conference has voted overwhelmingly in principle to permit the marriage of same-sex couples on Methodist premises by [Methodist](#) ministers. The move could prompt opposition among Anglican Evangelicals to closer ties with the Methodists.

On Wednesday, the Methodist Conference, which is meeting in Birmingham, voted by 247 votes to 48 to endorse a report, [God in Love Unites Us](#), by the Marriage and Relationships Task Group. It proposes allowing same-sex couples to marry in Methodist churches, and providing resources and liturgies to celebrate civil partnerships. Other proposals in the report included prayers for when marriages end in divorce and an understanding of cohabitation.

The recommendations will be submitted to the wider Church for consultation, with a final decision due to be made at the July 2020 Conference.

The President of the Conference, the Revd Dr Barbara Glasson, said: “The debate was full of grace and prayerful thought. There were many personal, often painful, stories shared and representatives listened with great care and attention.

“My prayer is that this spirit of generosity and love shown today will be reflected as the proposals are discussed across the Church.”

Methodist Evangelicals Together have [said](#) that the report “represents a watershed moment in the life of the Methodist Church in Britain. If its resolutions are adopted, the

**July 08, 2019**

approach of the Methodist Church to marriage and relationships will be fundamentally changed. The Church is called to remain faithful to the biblical teaching on sexuality, and yet the revisions to the Church's view proposed in the report radically change this teaching in a number of ways."

The Methodist Conference's vote has been seen as a potential obstacle to closer unity from an Anglican Evangelical standpoint.

## **July 08 - Today in Christian history**

**July 8, 1115:** French monk Peter the Hermit dies. Several argue that Peter the Hermit launched the crusades. Supposedly, he visited Jerusalem on a pilgrimage in 1093 and returned to Pope Urban II with a plea to do something to stop the Muslims from harassing Christian pilgrims. Two years later Urban II pronounced the First Crusade at the Council of Clermont and Peter the Hermit became one of the crusade's dominant preachers. After leading a failed "pre-crusade" in which Muslims slaughtered his entire army of 20,000 peasants, Peter joined the main army of the First Crusade.

**July 8, 1896:** At the Democratic National Convention, fundamentalist William Jennings Bryan gives his famous speech supporting "the little man" of American life. "You shall not crucify mankind upon a cross of gold," he shouted.

**July 8, 1741:** Colonial Congregational minister Jonathan Edwards preaches his classic sermon at Enfield, Connecticut: "You are thus in the hands of an angry God; 'tis nothing but his mere pleasure that keeps you from being this moment swallowed up in everlasting destruction".

**July 08, 2019**

**July 7, 1647:** Thomas Hooker, Puritan pastor, political theorist, and founder of Connecticut dies on his sixty-first birthday.

**July 7, 1874:** Popular New England preacher Henry Ward Beecher demands an investigation by his church into the charges of adultery brought by Theodore Tilton, who later sued Beecher for "alienating his wife's affections." The jury could not decide whether a sexual affair had really taken place.

**July 7, 1946:** Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini (1850-1917), founder of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, becomes the first American to be canonized by the Roman Catholic Church.

## **July 08 - News briefs**

**+++ Coffee for Concepcion** - This Saturday 6th July you are very welcome to a Coffee Morning fundraiser at Emmanuel church in Portadown! Proceeds will go to the support of SAMS Ireland Mission Partner, Claire Holmes and the church in Concepcion, Paraguay!

**+++ Boyne Sunday Service** - Yesterday the Annual No.9 District Boyne Sunday Service was held in St Matthew's Parish Church, Woodvale Road. The service was introduced by the Rector, Rev Tracey McRoberts. The Service was led by Rev. Don Gamble, and the Sermon was preached by Wor. Bro. Rev. Canon Alan Irwin, Chaplain of Six Mile Cross District. Shankill Road Defenders Flute Band accompanied the parade.



July 08, 2019

### **+++ Choral Music Summer camp at St Canice Cathedral**

- Yesterday saw the culmination of the first Choral Music Summer camp which ran all week in the Cathedral.

Yesterday the children led the singing at the morning Sung Eucharist. For all of them it was their first time singing in a Cathedral choir. During the week the children not only did a lot of singing but they also learned about musical instruments, got to ring the cathedral bells, make sun dials, learned about the history and ecology of the cathedral close, made stained glass windows, engaged in art projects and every day partook in games on the Deanery lawn. Well done to all involved.

**+++ Musical changes at Christ Church** - There are major changes in the Music Department in Christ Church cathedral, Dublin. The Director of Music, Ian Keatley, has been appointed as Director of Music in Southwark cathedral, London, and will take up his new position in September. The Assistant Director of Music, Dr David Bremner, has resigned to concentrate on composing. Dr Bremner lectures in the Dublin Technical University (formerly DIT) Conservatory of Music.

**+++ Summer Music in Sandford** - continues next Friday at 1.10pm in Sandford parish church, Ranelagh, where there will be an organ duet by Patrice Keegan and Carole O'Connor.

**+++ Summer of Heritage in Dun Laoghaire** - As part of Dun Laoghaire–Rathdown County Council's 'Summer of Heritage' series three Church of Ireland parish churches will be open regularly for visitors during July and August. All Saints, Blackrock and Monkstown will be open each

**July 08, 2019**

Saturday and Holy Trinity, Killiney, will be open from Thursday to Saturday. Monkstown, built in 1789 but radically altered by John Semple in the 19th century, will probably be the most familiar due to its prominent position in Monkstown village and imposing castellated exterior. Holy Trinity, on the corner of Killiney Hill Park, with its Harry Clarke window, was built in 1848, while Blackrock, on Carysfort Avenue, was built in the early English gothic style in 1870. No pre-booking is required for these free self-guided tours.

**+++ C of I Vacancies Clerical** - Priest-in-Charge, Parish of Saint Anne, Shandon, & Chaplain to Saint Luke's Home (Dioceses of Cork, Cloyne & Ross): From the middle of August 2019, a vacancy will exist for a priest-in-charge of the historic Parish of Saint Anne, Shandon, a small parish, confident in its ministry and outreach, which includes the entire north side of Cork City, who will serve also as Chaplain to Saint Luke's Home, Cork. The person appointed will have the opportunity to exercise ministry in two varied and important positions within the Diocese (with time divided equally between the two): as priest-in-charge of a parish that has undergone change confidently and imaginatively, and as chaplain to a world-class care facility for older people, building and leading an ecumenical team of chaplains. Further information from, or applications by way of CV for consideration by the Bishop of Cork, in consultation with the Parish and Saint Luke's Home, should be sent to: The Diocesan Secretary  
Email: [secretary@corkchurchofireland.com](mailto:secretary@corkchurchofireland.com)  
Closing date: 31st August 2019

**+++ Food for thought** - "Though our feelings come and go, His love for us does not. It is not wearied by our sins, or our  
[churchnewsireland@gmail.org](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.org)

**July 08, 2019**

indifference; and, therefore, it is quite relentless in its determination that we shall be cured of those sins, at whatever cost to us, at whatever cost to Him."

C S Lewis

## July 08 News Links

### [Mordaunt targets 'appalling' Northern Ireland abortion laws](#)

The Guardian

Mordaunt targets 'appalling' Northern **Ireland** abortion laws ... Boris Johnson and Jeremy Hunt were accused of pandering to **religious** ... And unlike many **news** organisations, we have chosen an approach that allows us to keep our ...

### [Presbyterianism and dissent](#)

Alan in Belfast (blog)

... Presbyterian Herald magazine, I looked back through history at how dissent has shaped the Presbyterian **Church in Ireland**. Full magazine available ...

### [Orangemen parade at Rossnowlagh in glorious sunshine](#)

Irish Times

It was chaired by the Co Donegal Oange Grand Master David Mahon and led by local **Church of Ireland** minister Canon Brian Russell with guest ...

### [Sectarian graffiti sprayed on Catholic church in Kilrea](#)

BBC News

Offensive graffiti insulting the Pope has been sprayed on a Catholic **church** in Kilrea, County Londonderry. Slogans appeared on the walls and doors ...

### [False Church stories show it's time to say 'enough already'](#)

The Irish Catholic

The sub-text was, of course, clear: the Catholic **Church** preaches stringent rules around ... As the original 'fake **news**' spread like wildfire last year, people gleefully ... The truth is that **Ireland** is now awash with a type of agenda-driven ...

### [Ireland, 1984: A year of fierce debates and 'mounting evils'](#)

Irish Times

Nonetheless, in March, Bishop Joseph Cassidy of Clonfert told a **news** ... The **Church of Ireland** put out its own statement on their stance on divorce, ...

### [From Múscaí to Japan and back home again for a rare find](#)

The Corkman

**July 08, 2019**

They will be based in the former **Church of Ireland** and be able to talk to people between 12.30 and 3pm that day, with the annual Shrine Mass ...

### [Wexford Martyrs: 7 facts about the Irish Catholics hanged, drawn and quartered by Elizabeth I for ...](#)

Irish Post

... of Catholics in **Ireland** began under King Henry VIII (then Lord of **Ireland**) around 50 years before 1581, when he broke the **Church** of England away ...

### [Great fun and excitement at St Mary's national school open day](#)

Enniscorthy Guardian

The school operates under the patronage of the **Church of Ireland** and has three mainstream teachers, two support teachers, and two SNAs. The staff ...

### [Fears for future of 'historically significant' Louth abbey](#)

Dundalk Democrat

The gable ends of what is believed to be the longest priory **church in Ireland**, are about to come tumbling down, and with it will go centuries of ...

### [Thousands at 40th Charleville Show](#)

The Corkman

... to Archbishop Thomas Croke, Eliza Lynch, John Anster, Sean Clarach Mac Domhnaill, Bishop Browne of Cloyne, **Church of Ireland** Bishop of Down ...

### [6th year of commemoration for farm accident victims](#)

Agriland

The sixth service was led by local clergy from the **Church of Ireland**, Canon Harvey and Roman Catholic, Fr. Ahern. Monsignor Kevin O'Neill took part ...

### [St Michan's crypt reopens, almost five months after purloined skulls returned to resting place](#)

[Independent.ie](#)

The crypt at St Michan's Church on Arran Quay will reopen on Tuesday at 11am. The **Church of Ireland** crypt has been off limits since vandals broke in ...

### [New church community aimed at Exeter's 30000 students awarded £1.3m](#)

Premier

A church reaching out to Exeter's students has been awarded more than ... The grant from the **Church of England's** Strategic Development Fund has ...

### [England's longest serving bishop blocked lifetime ban for paedophile priest, government inquiry ...](#)

[Telegraph.co.uk](#)

The **Church of England** has also commenced formal proceedings regarding Bishop Forster's conduct. He has been reported to the Church's ...

**July 08, 2019**

## [IICSA: Bishop of Buckingham criticises 'unhealthy' level of bishops' power](#)

Church Times

THE “unhealthy and excessive” centralisation of power in bishops in the **Church of England** means that they are not being held accountable for ...

## [The Anti-LGBTQ Church of England Accidentally Validated Certain Gay Marriages](#)

Patheos

Here's a question we didn't have an answer to until now: If you were married in the **Church of England**, but realized you were transgender, had a sex ...

## [he Church of England needs to make its mind up over gender transition, says Church commentator](#)

Premier

THE **CHURCH OF ENGLAND** TIES ITSELF IN KNOTS OVER SEX ... a priest in the Diocese of Canterbury and Church commentator telling Premier's **News** ... Earlier this year, the **Church of England** introduced liturgy to be used after ...

[Church of England will not challenge marriage of transgender worshippers](#) -

ChristianToday

## [Church of England to recognise marriages where one spouse changes gender](#)

Gay Star News

The **Church of England** (CofE) has said that it will accept same-sex ... Trans rights activists have praised the move, but say the church still needs to be ...

## [Church in Wales falls under IICSA's scrutiny as Archbishop and Provincial Secretary are questioned](#)

Church Times

THE practice of transferring personal files on the clergy — which may include safeguarding concerns — from the **Church of England** to the Church in ...

## [Are Prince Harry and Meghan Markle breaking rules by keeping Archie's godparents private?](#)

The Independent

While it is possible that information relating to the child's godparents might be made public in the future, under the **Church of England's** Parochial ...

[Royal baby: How will Archie's christening differ from others?](#) - BBC News

[The Queen allowed Meghan Markle and Prince Harry to keep the details of Archie's godparents ...](#) - The Sun

[Archie christening – Meghan Markle's pals are bookies' favourite to be godparents while](#)

[Prince ...](#) - The Sun

[Full Coverage](#)

July 08, 2019

**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](http://www.churchnewsireland.org)**

