



Reform group says Irish lay Catholics should nominate new bishops

An Irish reform group has called for the laity to be involved in the selection of new bishops for Irish dioceses.

In a statement, We Are Church Ireland highlighted Pope Francis's call for the laity to be involved in the Church's

January 14, 2019

decision-making.

They also noted that one third of the Irish Church's 26 dioceses do not have, or are awaiting, the appointment of a new bishop.



These include the Diocese of Dromore, where Bishop John McAreevey's resignation was accepted by Pope Francis in March 2018 after questions were raised over his handling of a priest who had abused children.

The Diocese of Achonry has been without a bishop since Bishop Brendan Kelly was installed as Bishop of Galway in February 2018.

In recent weeks, Bishop Leo O'Reilly of Kilmore announced his retirement for health reasons.

Meanwhile, Bishop John Kirby of Clonfert has been waiting for a replacement since he submitted his letter of resignation to Rome on reaching the age of 75 in October 2013. Bishop John Buckley of Cork and Ross also submitted his letter of resignation in 2014.

Later this year, Dublin's auxiliaries, bishops Ray Field and Eamon Walsh are due to retire and in 2020, Archbishop

January 14, 2019

Diarmuid Martin of Dublin and Bishop Denis Brennan of Ferns both reach 75.

In their statement, We Are Church Ireland said these vacancies are an “opportunity for the Church in Ireland to lay new foundations”. They warned that the opportunity “will be squandered unless the people of God are involved in the selection of future bishops, who will determine the future direction of the Church”.

They urged the faithful to contact the Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Jude Thaddeus Okolo, suggesting the criteria they believe is necessary for the selection of future bishops and nominating potentially “charismatic and prophetic leaders”. Report courtesy Catholic Net Ireland

Service will mark 350th anniversary of The King's Hospital, Dublin

On Friday at 2.30pm there will be a service in St Patrick's cathedral, Dublin, to celebrate the 350th anniversary of The King's Hospital, Dublin.

Founded as the Hospital and Free School of King Charles II, Oxmanstown, the school was for long associated with Thomas Ivory's beautiful building in Blackhall Place, now the headquarters of the Incorporated Law Society, where many country Protestants spent their formative years. KH now occupies spacious modern buildings and grounds in Palmerstown, where under the guidance of the Chaplain, Canon Peter Campion, Precentor of St Patrick's cathedral, it continues to provide for the spiritual as well as the educational needs of many young Church of Ireland people.

January 14, 2019

US Bishop of US diocese linked with Down & Dromore faces “partial restriction on ministry” over same-sex marriage stance

The Bishop of Albany, William Love, has had a partial restriction placed on his ministry over his refusal to permit same sex marriages in his diocese. The US-based Episcopal Church’s General Convention voted last year to approve a motion requiring all bishops to permit their clergy to conduct same-sex marriages in dioceses where they were legal under civil law. In November, Bishop William sent [an eight-page letter](#) to the Churches in his diocese, in the north of the US State of New York, saying that the resolution was “in direct conflict and contradiction to God’s intent for the sacrament of marriage as revealed through Holy Scripture.”

Today, the Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church, Michael Curry, announced that had placed a partial restriction on Bishop William’s ministry pending a preliminary investigation. The decision was taken, he said, “after broad consultation with leadership in The Episcopal Church and continued discussions with both the Rt Revd William Love of the Episcopal Diocese of Albany and the Episcopal Diocese of Albany Standing Committee”.

In [a statement](#), Presiding Bishop Michael Curry said that “While I am persuaded of the sincerity and good will of Bishop Love in these difficult circumstances, I am convinced that Resolution B012 was intended by the Convention to be mandatory and binding upon all our dioceses, particularly in

January 14, 2019



Bishop William Love (left) of the Diocese of Albany and Presiding Bishop Michael Curry of the US-based Episcopal Church

the light of its provision that a diocesan bishop ‘hold[ing] a theological position that does not embrace marriage for [such] couples’ and confronted with a same-sex couple wishing to marry in that bishop’s diocese, ‘shall invite, as necessary, another bishop of this Church to provide pastoral support to the couple, the Member of the Clergy involved and the congregation or worshipping community in order to fulfil the intention of this resolution that all couples have convenient and reasonable local congregational access to these rites.’

“I am therefore persuaded that as Presiding Bishop I am called upon to take steps to ensure that same-sex marriage in The Episcopal Church is available to all persons to the

January 14, 2019

same extent and under the same conditions in all Dioceses of the Church where same-sex marriage is civilly legal.”

He said that Bishop William’s conduct “may constitute a canonical offence” in not abiding by the promises and vows made when ordained; and in conduct unbecoming a member of the clergy. Bishop Todd Ousley, responsibility for receiving complaints about bishops in The Episcopal Church, has been asked to carry out a preliminary assessment to determine whether a disciplinary process should be invoked.

While that takes place, Bishop Michael Curry has placed two restrictions on Bishop William’s ministry: he is “forbidden from participating in any manner in the Church’s disciplinary process in the Diocese of Albany in any matter regarding any member of the clergy that involves the issue of same-sex marriage” and he cannot “participate in any other matter that has or may have the effect of penalising in any way any member of the clergy or laity or worshipping congregation of his Diocese for their participation in the arrangements for or participation in a same-sex marriage in his Diocese or elsewhere.”

At the time of going to press, Bishop William has not responded to the restriction. Under the Canons of The Episcopal Church, he has the right to raise objections to the restriction.

The Diocese of Down & Dromore has an active link with Albany diocese over several years. Groups from the diocese have visited Albany and hosted visitors from there.

A news item on the D & D web site states -

January 14, 2019

“Bishop Harold would like to assure Bishop Bill and our link diocese of Albany of his support at this challenging time and asks us as a diocese to pray for them.”

It continues - Bishop Love's letter to his Diocese concerning the Presiding Bishop's partial restriction on Bishop Love's ministry as Bishop of Albany may be found [at this link](#).

Also on the site is a report stating that applications are now open for the DDYC 2019 Mission trip to Albany.

“The youth team will spend two weeks assisting at Beaver Cross Ministries Summer Camp. Beaver Cross Ministries is the youth ministry aspect of our partner diocese of Albany which is in New York State.

“Each year they run a Summer Camp programme and our team would be assisting with two camps: Discoverers and Beaver Bound, which are tailored for ages 5 – 13. “

New look monthly Church of Ireland Gazette

The first issue of the new look monthly *Church of Ireland Gazette* is now online, and available in print .

First published in March 1856 as a monthly journal under the title, *The Irish Ecclesiastical Gazette*, the *Gazette* became weekly in 1880. Its name was changed to *The Church of Ireland Gazette* in 1900.

January 14, 2019

The new 40-page *Gazette* will now be available 10 times a year, and is published on second Friday of the month, with the electronic version available to subscribers on the second Tuesday of the month.

In his editorial in this first monthly issue, *Gazette* editor the Rev Earl Storey writes: “Inside this new format you will still find world news and home news and the letters page. There will be opinion columns that you may or may not agree with – they are designed to get us thinking.

“You will also find a wide selection of articles, for your interest.”

Mr Storey continues: “Like anything else, our new format will take a little while to get used to – but hopefully not too long.”

For further information, and to learn how to subscribe to the *Church of Ireland Gazette*, please visit the [Gazette website](#).

Leading C of E evangelical bishop apologises for role in gender transition liturgy guidance – and now opposes it

A leading evangelical bishop who oversaw the production of controversial Church of England [guidance about gender transitioning](#) has apologised – and confirmed that he now doesn't back it.

The Bishop of Blackburn, Julian Henderson, was chair of the House of Bishops' Delegation Committee, the body which oversaw the publication of guidance last month on

January 14, 2019

how to use the existing Affirmation of Baptismal Faith to enable transgender adults to mark their transition.

When the guidance was published, the official Church of England website quoted Bishop Henderson as saying: 'This new guidance provides an opportunity, rooted in scripture, to enable trans people who have "come to Christ as the way, the truth and the life", to mark their transition in the presence of their Church family which is the body of Christ. We commend it for wider use.'

But just a few days later, the Bishop was the lead signatory on a [statement](#) from the Church of England Evangelical Council (CEEC), of which he is president. The CEEC statement described the guidance as 'highly divisive and theologically and pastorally questionable'. The statement said the guidance 'also risks raising serious concerns both within the wider Anglican Communion and ecumenically'.

The seeming contradiction drew criticism and derision from online commentators. But now, in response to repeated requests from Christian Today over the past few weeks, Bishop Henderson has sought to explain his apparent volte-face via a new statement from the whole CEEC, declaring that he is 'sorry for the confusion that my different roles and statements have created'. He also makes it clear that he no longer supports the guidance, even though he was in charge of the committee overseeing it.

Friday's statement says that at a meeting of the CEEC this week Bishop Julian acknowledged that his two previous statements had 'been understood to be in direct contradiction'. It continues: 'Apologising for the confusion

January 14, 2019

and anxiety caused to many by these actions, and the mixed messages... Bishop Julian said that in retrospect, and after further reflection on the Guidance, he now believed it would have been wiser not to consider it incumbent on him to speak as chair on behalf of the Delegation Committee, but rather request someone else to express the mind of the committee.'

It goes on: 'He clarified that the word "we" in the [original Church of England] press release refers to the Delegation Committee, and that the [subsequent] CEEC response reflects his own position... He is unable to commend the

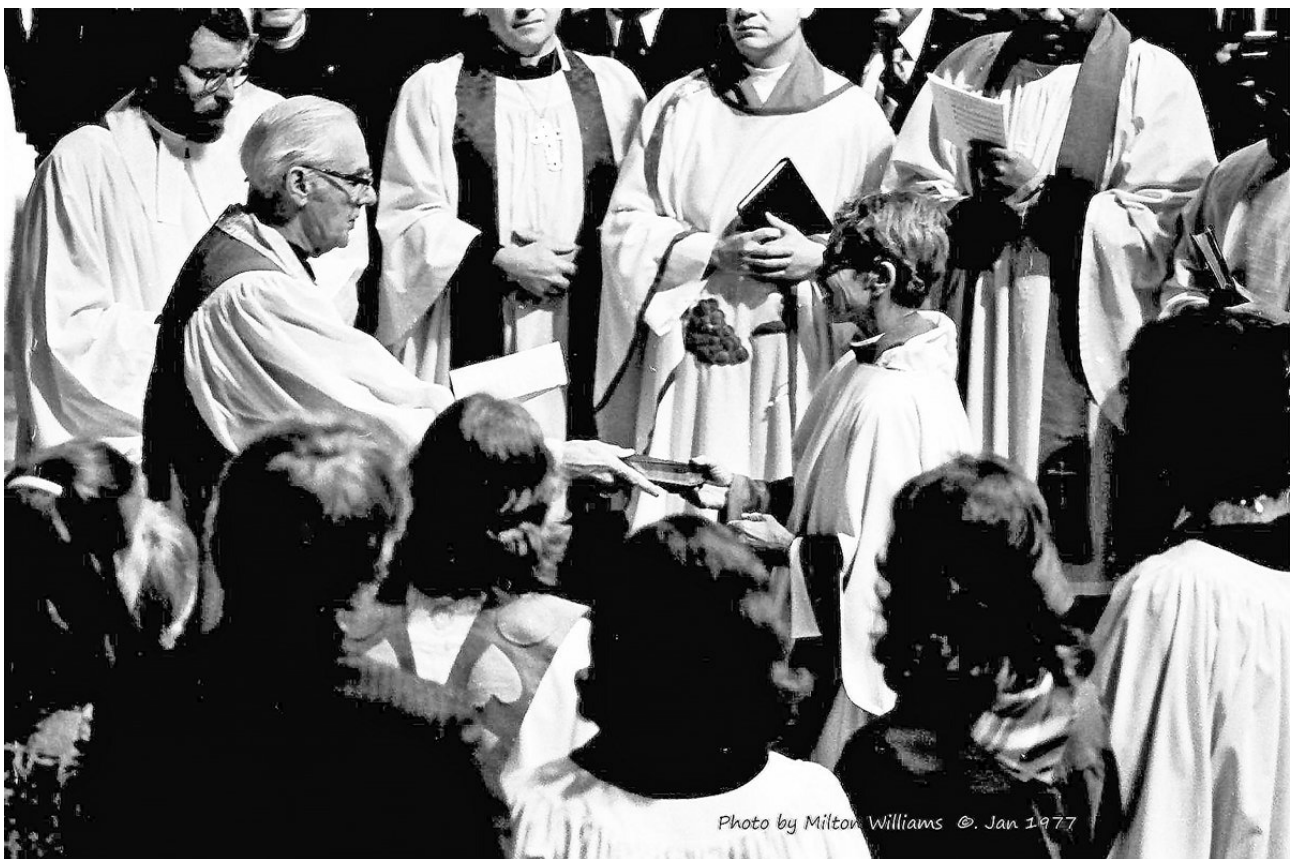


Photo by Milton Williams © Jan 1977

Jan 8, 1977--42 years ago--at the Washington National Cathedral, Pauli Murray, human rights activist, lawyer & writer, became the first African American woman to be ordained as an Episcopal priest. Her spirit reaches out across colour, class, gender, and sexuality embracing all.

January 14, 2019

pastoral guidance in its present form, and supports the calls for it to be clarified and modified, or for its status to be changed, so that it is seen as a contribution to the Living in Love and Faith (LLF) project' – the wider Church of England discussion about sex and sexuality.'

The new CEEC statement continues: 'Bishop Julian explained that the guidance itself and the title of the press release suggest the creation of a service for gender transition which he had never been able to support, as expressed in his voting at Diocesan Synod and General Synod. He recognised that this makes the use of the phrase "mark this transition" in his name open to misunderstanding. But he made it clear that in his view the only transition marked in an Affirmation of Baptismal Faith is commitment to Christ, which all people, including those who identify as transgender, are invited to make'.

Bishop Julian, who was re-elected as CEEC president at the meeting, added: 'I continue to be sorry for the confusion that my different roles and statements have created and am very grateful for the trust my re-election as president of the CEEC expresses. I remain hopeful and expectant of the impact that the gospel of Jesus Christ will make in our country in 2019'.

This latest statement from the Bishop of Blackburn raises difficult questions for William Nye, secretary to the House of Bishops, who only two days ago issued a statement defending the guidance. Given that the bishop overseeing the committee which produced it has now disowned that guidance, traditionalists will be wanting to know who gave Mr Nye the go-ahead for his statement, and how many of

January 14, 2019

the House of Bishops saw or approved it before it was published.

New director of Rome Anglican Centre under fire due to his views on the resurrection of Jesus

The Archbishop of Canterbury's new ambassador to the Vatican has become the focus of a backlash after he said Christians should be "set free" from the view Jesus' resurrection was "a physical event".

Dr John Shepherd's appointment last week as interim director of the Anglican Centre in Rome effectively makes him the Church of England's representative to the Holy See.

But his suitability for the role has been questioned after video footage emerged of him appearing to question the traditional Christian understanding of Christ being raised from the death.

During a sermon delivered in Easter 2008, he said: "The resurrection of Jesus ought not to be seen in physical terms, but as a new spiritual reality."

"It is important for Christians to be set free from the idea that the resurrection was an extraordinary physical event which restored to life Jesus' original earthly body."

The comments - made when the Dr John was dean of St George's Cathedral in Perth, Western Australia - attracted criticism from the Anglican evangelical group Church

January 14, 2019

Society. Director, Dr Lee Gatiss wrote on Twitter: " We need clergy who actually believe that Jesus rose again from death - so basic!"

Dr John Shepherd continued: "...Jesus' early followers felt His presence after His death as strongly as if it were a physical presence and incorporated this sense of a resurrection experience into their gospel accounts. But they're not historical records as we would expect history to be written today; they are symbolic images of the breaking through of the resurrection spirit into human lives.

A member of the Church of England's governing body, Dr Ian Paul told the Sunday Telegraph: "Is this a good moment to appoint as the Archbishop's envoy to Rome someone who doesn't believe in the bodily resurrection of Jesus?"

Dr Stephen Platten, head of governors at the Anglican Centre in Rome told the newspaper Dr John Shepherd "emphatically believes in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He added: "It's a matter of how one understands that." A Lambeth Palace spokesperson told the Sunday Telegraph interim appointments were made by the Centre directly but "due diligence" was used when appointing him.

January 14 & 13 in Christian history

January 14, 1529: Spanish diplomat and writer Juan de Valdes publishes his "Dialogue on Christian Doctrine," which paved the way for Protestant ideas in Spain.

January 14, 2019

January 14, 1739: George Whitefield, the preacher who sparked America's first Great Awakening, is ordained to the Anglican ministry. Whitefield celebrated it as “a day of fat things” in his journal. Whitefield became famous for his open-air preaching after jealous ministers denied him the use of their pulpits, and he was perfectly suited to it—his booming voice, it was reported, could be heard a mile away.

January 14, 1875: Theologian, medical missionary, organist, musical historian, and winner of the 1952 Nobel Peace Prize Albert Schweitzer is born. His *Quest of the Historical Jesus* (1906) is considered a foundational work on that subject.

January 14, 1892: Lutheran pastor and political activist Martin Niemöller, who was imprisoned by Hitler for his leadership role in the Confessing Church, is born

January 13, 367 (traditional date): Hilary of Poitiers, the leading orthodox church father during Arianism's heyday, dies. His writings about the Trinity and his organization of anti-Arian allies were influential in fighting the heresy but did not have their full effect until after his death (see issue 51: Heresy in the Early Church).

January 13, 1501: Christianity's first vernacular hymnal is printed in Prague, containing 89 hymns in Czech.

January 13, 1616: Flemish mystic Antoinette Bourignon is born. A mystical writer whose works were included by John Wesley in his Christian Library, she soon found herself estranged from mainstream Christianity, especially when she declared herself the “woman clothed with the sun” of Revelation 12. Still, her ideas were so influential that, for 178 years, ministers of the Church of Scotland had to make

January 14, 2019

an explicit denial of Bourignonism before they could be ordained.

January 13, 1635: Philip Jacob Spener, founder of German pietism, is born in Rappolstein. His emphasis on new birth and holy living revitalized the German Lutheran Church and many later movements, including American evangelicalism.

January 13, 1691: George Fox, founder of the Society of Friends (Quakers), dies. Fox left the Anglican church to rely on the "Inner Light of the Living Christ."

Facebook - Twitter

Click on logo at CNI Home page

www.churchnewsireland.org

+ Please share CNI with your friends

www.churchnewsireland.org

