



Former church press officer survived the Kegworth air disaster

A church memorial service was held yesterday to remember the 47 people who died in the Kegworth air disaster, 30 years on.

January 9, 2019

A Belfast-bound British Midland Boeing 737 crashed on an embankment of the M1 at Kegworth after suffering engine trouble on the night of January 8 1989. The plane developed a problem with one of the engines as it was en route from Heathrow to Belfast with 126 people on board. The flight was diverted to East Midlands Airport, and it later transpired that when the trouble occurred the pilots had shut down the wrong engine.

Alan Johnston, C of I Press Officer, was amongst the survivors.

As well as the 47 deaths, the crash resulted in 74 serious injuries, with Kegworth villagers joining emergency services to help tend the wounded.

The parish council hosted a service at St Andrew's Church which was attended by several survivors from Northern Ireland, the families of those who died as well as emergency service personnel who tended to the casualties.

260 Years of Dublin inner city worship celebrated

Friends of St Thomas's Church on Cathal Brugha Street in Dublin 1 gathered just before Christmas to celebrate the 260th anniversary of its foundation. The service took place on the Feast of St Thomas the Apostle and was led by Archbishop Michael Jackson. While the current church building is less than 100 years old, it is located on the oldest church site in continuous use in Dublin 1.

January 9, 2019



Friends of St Thomas's Church who gathered to celebrate the 260th anniversary of its foundation.

The service was attended by representatives of the Indian Orthodox Church who use St Thomas's for worship and members of Discovery Gospel Choir who are based in the church. Members of Dublin City Interfaith Forum and Dublin Council of Churches were also present and representatives of nearby churches including Abbey Street Methodist Church Minister, the Revd Dr Laurence Graham and Fr Paddy Gleeson representing St Mary's Pro Cathedral.

The nearby Church of Ireland parishes of St Ann's, Drumcondra and North Strand and the Christ Church Cathedral Group were also represented along with members of the church's oversight committee. Former Bishop's Curate of the parish, the Revd Katherine Poulton, also attended.

January 9, 2019

Speaking during the service, the Archbishop recalled the visit of Pope Francis to Ireland in August 2018. During his brief time in Dublin Pope Francis passed St Thomas's twice and the Archbishop noted that a tremendous effort was made to ensure that he noticed the church. He thanked the congregation for coming to the service to ensure that the "fresh water of worship continued in the church and that the church continued to flourish".

In his sermon, Archbishop Jackson looked at the life of Thomas. He said that too much energy went into agonising over what and why Thomas doubted. The words Jesus said to Thomas after he had seen Jesus's wounds – "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe" were the call of Thomas to active mission, the Archbishop said. Jesus raised Thomas up to be one of the most wonderful world missionaries – he was to the East what Paul was to the Mediterranean and the West, the Archbishop said. "Both of them were unlikely leaders. Both of them were fallen failures. So why were they chosen? It was because they were learning servants. That is what we are called in our day to be: *learning servants*," he added.

St Thomas's current building is unique in having been paid for by the Irish Free State Government as compensation for the original building's destruction in the Civil War in 1922. During its reconstruction, Cathal Brugha Street itself was formed.

The foundation stone of the first St Thomas's Church was laid in 1758 on land granted by the Right Honorable Charles Gardiner. Since then St Thomas's has witnessed many changes in both Dublin city's development and its local

January 9, 2019

Protestant population. In 1825 for example there were 17,108 members of St Thomas's Parish.

In April 2017, the Parish was closed and the church, which is now in diocesan control, has begun to seek new opportunities to build upon 260 years of Christian worship and service in the area.

Be 'tenacious, winsome and courageous', MSPs told by Moderate designate

A Church of Scotland minister yesterday urged MSPs to be "tenacious, winsome and courageous" as the Scottish Parliament reconvened for the New Year.

Rev Colin Sinclair said most people have little idea of how 2019 is going to pan out and forecasting is an inexact science that "can leave us looking very foolish".

In an address that referenced Calvin and Hobbs, the minister, who played a soldier in the 1975 comedy, Monty Python and the Holy Grail, delivered Time for Reflection, which starts the parliamentary business week.

Mr Sinclair said it is written in the Old Testament that when the nation was being dominated by forces outside its control, the people were reminded to "hold to what really matters".

January 9, 2019



Mr Sinclair is the Moderator Designate of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland for 2019-20.

The minister of Palmerston Place Church in Edinburgh said the prophet Micah asked: “What does the Lord require of you?

“To seek justice, to love mercy and to walk humbly before your God.”

“For Christians, it is an invitation to embark on the adventure of faith, responding to the call of Jesus, who simply said ‘follow me’”.

The minister said tenacious means we keep on believing, when it would be easier to give up, winsome means we face life with active love and a smile, not hate and a scowl and courage means we do what needs to be done, without complaining.

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Page 6

January 9, 2019

Mr Sinclair is the Moderator Designate of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland for 2019-20.

Celebrations planned, tension lingers a month after Episcopal Church's marriage equality resolution takes effect

The Episcopal Church's five-week-old plan to give same-sex couples unfettered access to marriage in all of its domestic dioceses is still clouded by requirements not envisioned by the enabling resolution, and it has broken the relationships of some congregations with their bishops.

Yet, in the midst of what more than one person has called "heartbreak," there soon will be celebrations in some of those places. A parish in the Diocese of Central Florida is planning in February to witness the marriage of two men who have been partners for 30 years.

And two of the three congregations in the Diocese of Dallas whose pastoral relationships with their bishop have changed because of their support of same-sex marriage are planning services the weekend of Jan. 19-20 to bless couples who had to leave the diocese to get married in the last three years.

Eight bishops in the church's 101 domestic dioceses previously had blocked access to the rites. Then in July, the 79th General Convention passed the often-rewritten and often-amended Resolution B012. Reactions among the eight bishops have run the gamut, from one outright refusing to comply to one making an about-face on the

January 9, 2019

issue. The six other bishops are at various points in between.

Bishop William Love of the Diocese of Albany has said he will not allow same-sex couples to be married by priests in that diocese. He acknowledged that he could face disciplinary proceedings by the church for refusing to obey the resolution's requirements.

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry has affirmed General Convention's authority, saying that "those of us who have taken vows to obey the doctrine, discipline and worship of the Episcopal Church must act in ways that reflect and uphold the discernment and decisions of the General Convention of the church." He and other church leaders, he said in mid-November, were "assessing the implications of [Love's] statement and will make determinations about appropriate actions soon."

Of the eight bishops, only Diocese of the Virgin Islands Bishop Ambrose Gumbs has told his clergy to offer the rites without further obstacles. Gumbs previously had blocked use of the rites, which General Convention approved in 2015 (via Resolution A054).

French cardinal on trial accused of church sex abuse cover-up

French Cardinal Philippe Barbarin, archbishop of Lyon, began trial on Monday on charges of failing to report allegations that a priest in his diocese abused minor boy scouts from 1986-1991, the Catholic Herald reports.



Barbarin and five other archdiocesan officials are all on trial in a case involving Fr. Bernard Preynat, who has been accused of abusing dozens of minors in the 1980s and early '90s.

If convicted, Barbarin could face three years in prison and a fine of up to \$50,000.

In 2017, the cardinal told Le Monde that he did not conceal allegations against Preynat, but said that his response to the allegations had been “inadequate.” He said he opened an investigation against Preynat after becoming aware of the allegations against him.

Allegations against Preynat became public in 2015.

Prosecutors dropped the case the following year after an initial investigation, but a victims group with more than 80 members saying they were abused by Preynat led to a reopening of the case, the Guardian reports.

Preynat was banned from leading boy scout groups in the early 1990s, but remained in ministry until being removed by Cardinal Barbarin in 2015.

January 9, 2019

The priest has acknowledged abusing minors, according to the Guardian, and will face trial later this year.

Cardinal Luis Francisco Ladaria Ferrer, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, was also ordered to testify in the case. In October, the **Vatican invoked diplomatic immunity** in refusing to deliver a French court summons to Ladaria, saying that as a minister of Vatican City State, he is protected under international law.

The court summons had involved a letter Ladaria sent to Barbarin, advising him to take disciplinary action against Preynat, “while avoiding public scandal.”

The plaintiffs’ lawyers wanted Ladaria to testify as to whether the direction to prevent scandal was intended as an injunction to avoid going to court, in which case they accuse the CDF prefect of being complicit in failing to report the allegedly abusive priest to authorities.

Barbarin’s trial comes as revelations of clerical sex abuse and cover up continue to send shock waves through the Catholic Church. The United States, Ireland, Australia, Chile, Argentina and Germany are among the countries that have seen recent abuse scandals uncovered.

Next month, **Pope Francis will meet** with the heads of national bishops’ conferences from around the world to discuss the prevention of sexual abuse of minors.

News briefs

BBC Radio Ulster’s Morning Service will be broadcast from St Patrick’s Church, Donaghmore Upper, Co.

Tyrone, on Sunday, 17th February, at 10.15am. The

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January 9, 2019

preacher will be the Revd Dr Peter Thompson, Rector of Donaghmore, and the programme will be available after the broadcast on the Radio Ulster website.

January 9 in Christian history

January 9, 1431: Judges' investigations for the trial of Joan of Arc begin in Rouen, France, the seat of the English occupation government.

News links

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Dublin Live

A small water tanker has been deployed at the gates of the **Church of Ireland** grounds in Castletown but residents said the response has not been ...

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Irish Times

Ukrainian president Petro Poroshenko has urged the entire Orthodox world to recognise his country's new **church**, as Russia's spiritual leader ...

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The new Ukrainian Orthodox **Church** expects to receive formal recognition this weekend of its independence from Moscow, despite fierce opposition ...

[French cardinal Philippe Barbarin on trial accused of **Church** sex abuse cover up](#)

The Irish News

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January 9, 2019

The case is France's most important **Church** sex abuse case to date and ... a huge wave like those seen in **Ireland**, the US or some other countries.

Irish-American family devastated after son, 21, brutally 'stabs mother to death' outside Catholic church

Irish Post

AN **Irish**-American family has been left devastated after a mother who survived cancer was allegedly hacked to death by her son outside their local ...

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