



The essential daily brief on the Irish churches

Lord Mayor helps launch Tea at Sea!

Lord Mayor of Belfast, Councillor Nichola Mallon, joined the Rev Colin Hall–Thompson at The Flying Angel Seafarers’ Centre in Belfast to launch the charity’s Tea At Sea event.



This takes place on Friday July 18 in aid of The Mission to Seafarers’ Sea Sunday appeal. Sea Sunday commemorates the dangerous but vital work that seafarers do. The families of seafarers and those who support them are also prayed for and remembered at this time.

Funds raised at Tea at Sea will be used to support the work of The Mission to Seafarers specifically in Belfast. This work includes the provision of support, both practical and spiritual, to the seafarers that visit the Belfast port.

The Flying Angel Seafarers’ Centre in Prince’s Dock Street is one of 100 such centres across the globe and acts as a ‘home away from home’ for seafarers that may have been at sea for up to two years. It is here that seafarers can enjoy time away from the ship and use telephone and internet facilities to get in touch with loved ones after months away.

Colin Hall–Thompson, Senior Chaplin of The Mission to Seafarers Northern Ireland, said: “We are delighted to welcome the Lord Mayor to the launch of our Tea at Sea event. This tea party is being held to raise much needed funds for our Sea Sunday appeal.

Each year on Sea Sunday the valiant work of the seafarers and their families is recognised and praised. Without these seafarers much of the goods we take for granted in our everyday lives would be inaccessible. Tea at Sea is a fantastic opportunity for members of the public to come down and support a worthy local cause with the added bonus of getting to enjoy an array of sweet treats.”

Tea at Sea will be held in The Flying Angel Seafarers’ centre, Prince’s Dock Street, Belfast, BT1 3AA on July 18 between 2pm–5pm and admission is £5.

Everyone is welcome, and this event offers a unique opportunity to visit the centre and learn more about the lives of people that work at sea. Guests will also enjoy sandwiches, scones and traybakes and who knows, there might even be a mad hatter or two!

For more information about The Mission to Seafarers’ ‘Tea at Sea’ event please contact Marie–Claire Caldwell on 02890 751131/ 07720876778 or e–mail Marieclaire@missiontoseafarers-ni.org

To donate online please go to www.justgiving.com/Mission-to-Seafarers-Belfast

Supporters can also help spread the word by tweeting @MTSBelfast using the hashtag, #TeaAtSea.

Diocese plans big adventure days for children

Connor Diocese is hosting three days in October especially for children.

Kids Big Adventure will run on three consecutive Saturdays, one in each of Connor’s three archdeaconries.

This will be an interactive afternoon for primary children with praise, drama, creative prayer, craft, games and lots more!

A café will be available for leaders who will



also be able to browse the bookstall and leaders' resources.

The children's events take place as follows:

Saturday 4th October @ Ballymoney Parish Hall, Ballymoney

Saturday 11th October @ Jordanstown Parish Halls, Newtownabbey

Saturday 18th October @ St. Paul's Church Hall, Lisburn

Each event runs from 2pm–5pm, admission is £3 per child and leaders can attend for free.

For tickets and more information contact: Jill Hamilton, Children's Project Development Officer, Church of Ireland House, 61–67 Donegall Street, Belfast,

BT1 2QH Tel: 0788 5897 022 Email: jill@connor.anglican.org



Abuse crisis is not a thing of the past,' says Irish archbishop

The crisis of child abuse by clergy is not a thing of the past — it will linger until the Church humbly and courageously reaches out to all people still suffering in silence, said Archbishop Diarmuid Martin of Dublin.

Catholic Herald - "To some it might seem less than prudent to think that the Church would go out of its way to seek out even more victims and survivors," opening up further possibilities for lawsuits, anguish and "trouble," he told representatives from bishops' conferences from around the world.

However, when Jesus tells pastors to leave behind their flock to seek out the one who is lost, that mandate "is itself unreasonable and imprudent but, like it or not, that is precisely what Jesus asks us to do," he said in an introductory address on July 7.

The archbishop was one of a number of speakers at an annual meeting of the Anglophone Conference on the Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults. The 2014 conference was being held July 7-11 at the Pontifical Irish College in Rome and was hosted by bishops from Ireland and Chile. Every year, two different countries organize the conference.

Founded in 1996, the conference is an informal gathering bringing together delegates from the church in the Americas, Europe, Asia and Africa, to share best practices and develop solid norms in the prevention and handling of the scandal of sexual abuse.

In his address, Archbishop Martin said, “The greatest harm that we could do to the progress that has been made right across the Church is to slip back into a false assurance that the crisis is a thing of the past.”

“What has happened has wounded the entire Church,” he said, and “the entire Church is called to put right what has happened.”

Putting things right not only demands creating safe environments for all young people, he said, it requires the Church become “a privileged place of healing,” where all survivors — even those who are afraid or angry — “can genuinely come to feel that the church is a place where they will encounter healing.”

“We are not that kind of Church yet: and by far,” he said.

Those in the Church who downplay the crisis or try to ignore or avoid mandates for prevention and enforcement “damage the Church’s witness to the healing power of Jesus Christ,” he said.

The Church also needs to do more than guarantee victims and families counseling, which often involves directing victims to counselors, which in effect leaves church members out of the process, he said.

More at -

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2014/07/09/abuse-crisis-is-not-a-thing-of-the-past-says-irish-archbishop/>

Pope appoints Dublin Priest to new Vatican Media Committee

The Holy See has announced the appointment by Pope Francis of a Dublin priest to a new high profile committee tasked with reforming the Vatican media around the world.



Monsignor Paul Tighe, currently Secretary of the Pontifical Council for Social Communication has been appointed Secretary to a new Committee for Vatican media, headed up by experts from the Vatican and around the world. It will be chaired by former BBC Trust Chairperson, Lord Chris Patten.

Building on the recent positive experiences with initiatives such as the *Pope App* and the Pope's Twitter Account, it is anticipated that digital channels in the Church will be strengthened by this group to ensure Pope Francis' messages reach more people globally, especially young people.

The Archbishop of Dublin, Diarmuid Martin, congratulated Mgr. Tighe on his new appointment. He said Mgr. Tighe is a person of integrity and competence, whose innovation in media relations is making a significant impact in the Universal Church.

The new committee will propose reforms for existing Vatican media and is expected to publish a report and a reform plan within the next 12 months. It will look at adapting the Holy See media to changing media consumption trends, enhancing coordination of the various existing channels, making substantial financial savings.

The members of the committee come from Vatican staff and from senior international experts. They have been chosen for their expertise in communications while reflecting the universality of the Catholic Church.

Senior international experts: Lord Christopher Patten (UK, will act as President of the committee), Mr. Gregory Erlandson (USA), Ms. Daniela Frank (Germany), Fr. Eric Salobir OP (France), Ms. Leticia Soberon (Spain, Mexico), and Mr. George Yeo (Singapore).

Vatican staff: Mons. Paul Tighe (Secretary of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, will act as Secretary of the committee), Giacomo Ghisani (Vatican Radio), Mons. Carlo Maria Polvani (Secretariat of State), Mons. Lucio Adrián Ruiz (Vatican Internet Service) and Prof. Giovanni Maria Vian (L'Osservatore Romano).

Mons. Paul Tighe was born on the 12th February 1958. He attended the De La Salle Primary School, Navan and completed his secondary education at Summerhill College, Sligo. He graduated from University College Dublin in 1979 with a degree in Civil Law. Having studied for the priesthood at Holy Cross College, Dublin and at the Pontifical Irish College in Rome, he was ordained a priest of the Dublin Diocese in 1983. His first appointment was as parish chaplain and teacher in Ballyfermot. Subsequently, he was assigned to study Moral Theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. In 1990, he was appointed as a Lecturer in Moral Theology at the Mater Dei Institute of Education in Dublin and at Holy Cross College. In 2004, he was named as Director of the Communications Office of Dublin Diocese. In 2005, he established the Office for Public Affairs which aimed to promote the engagement of the Diocese with public institutions and civic society. In November 2007, he was appointed as Secretary of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications.

Churches to continue their "pilgrimage of justice and peace" in the world

Inspired by the theme "pilgrimage of justice and peace", the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches (WCC), a chief governing body of the Council, has set directions for the work of the Council from 2014 to 2017.



The Central Committee, which represents 150 members from all global regions, concluded its meeting on 8 July at the WCC headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

The theme “pilgrimage of justice and peace” is based on the final message from the WCC 10th Assembly in November 2013, which states, “We intend to move together. Challenged by our experiences in Busan, we challenge all people of good will to engage their God-given gifts in transforming actions. This Assembly calls you to join us in pilgrimage.”



The WCC Assembly was held last year in Busan, Republic of Korea.

Emerging concerns for the global Church

Renewal of churches' commitment towards Christian unity as well as solidarity with churches in conflict situations remained in focus during the meeting. Countries where churches' work for justice and peace is being prioritized include the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Nigeria, Syria and Israel and Palestine. Strategies were also developed on how to promote churches' work for the reunification of the Korean peninsula.

Climate change, ecological and economic justice, and sharing of resources among the churches emerged as major topics during the six-day meeting.

The need for stronger engagement from youth in the ecumenical movement was stressed in a message from the WCC Central Committee moderator Dr Agnes Abuom, during the opening day.

In his report, the WCC general secretary Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit highlighted the significance of ecumenical, inter-religious and ecclesiological dialogue, as well as Christian mission. He mentioned the need to enhance support for refugees and displaced peoples, as well as efforts from the churches in addressing issues related to HIV and AIDS.

In pursuit of “justice and peace”, Tveit encouraged a stronger participation in the churches from youth, women, as well as people with disabilities.

Despite hurdles, continuing pilgrimage of justice and peace

WCC president for Asia Rev. Dr Sang Chang stressed the importance of the WCC Assembly message for the work of the Council and its 345 member churches around the world.

She said, “We Christians are called to be peacemakers (Matthew 5:9). As a global body of believers in Jesus Christ, the WCC has always been committed to peace-making efforts.”



“We have embarked on a pilgrimage of justice and peace starting from the Busan assembly. We, of course, are well aware that there are and will be challenges and obstacles on the road along the journey,” she added.

The WCC president for Latin America, Rev. Gloria Ulloa Alvarado, expressed her hopes for positive outcomes in translating the theme of the meeting into concrete actions by the churches. “There is nothing that can clip our wings and can stop us from dreaming. We should achieve lasting peace that will better our lives as people,” she said.

Jayonta Adhikari, WCC Central Committee member from Bangladesh, called the “pilgrimage for justice and peace a continuous process.”

“It is not only a particular objective we are moving toward. We are on-going with many things; friends, colleagues, neighbours, in addition to this Central Committee. Eventually, that will lead us to a new understanding,” he said.

[Read full text of the public issues statements adopted by the Central Committee](#)

[Watch video: WCC Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace](#)

[More about the WCC Central Committee meeting](#)

<http://www.anglicannews.org/news/2014/07/churches-to-continue-their-pilgrimage-of-justice-and-peace-in-the-world.aspx>

Press Coverage

[Acclaim for Archbishop Welby and Pope in tackling international problems](#)

Diplomat Magazine - Article on how church leaders are using their moral authority to persuade leaders in conflict situations to look again at proposals for peace. It states the Archbishop of Canterbury flew to Nigeria to pray with President Goodluck Jonathan and encourage him to make every effort to find the schoolgirls kidnapped by Boko Haram. It states both Justin Welby and Pope Francis, new in their jobs, place considerable emphasis on peace and reconciliation, and have been increasingly active in tackling conflicts that have defied the efforts of the world's political leaders to resolve.

<http://www.diplomatmagazine.com/issues/2014/july-august/874-church-diplomacy.html>

Religious leaders in GB believe institutionalised abuse is a real problem

Eve Standard/BBC/ITV

Reports on comments from the Bishop of Durham, Paul Butler, on the inquiry into institutional child sex abuse in Britain. *Standard* states that church leaders piled unprecedented pressure on Prime Minister David Cameron to order a full public inquiry into. Paul Butler, Chair of Churches National Safeguarding Committee, warned that without such an extensive investigation - with people giving evidence on oath - the full truth would not emerge. He said that the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Catholic Archbishop of Westminster had urged Home Secretary Theresa May a month ago to launch a public inquiry following a string of shocking claims of abuse. Reports also note he said religious leaders believed there was a "real problem around institutional abuse".

<http://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/church-leaders-unite-to-demand-full-inquiry-into-child-sex-abuse-9591629.html>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-28211170>

<http://www.itv.com/news/update/2014-07-08/bishop-of-durham-urges-sex-abuse-public-inquiry/>

Choice of judge for child abuse enquiry criticised

Times/Mirror/Express/Mail/BBC - Various reports that Baroness Butler-Sloss, the former president of the family division of the high court, is to head one of the largest inquiries to be ever held into child abuse in national institutions. *The Times* states the choice was criticised by victims of an earlier review carried out by the Baroness into allegations of how the Church of England dealt with two paedophile priests, Roy Cotton and Collin Pritchard,

claiming information provided had been inaccurate. *Mirror* states the Bishop of Durham, Paul Butler, demanded a full, judge-led public inquiry.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4142563.ece>

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/westminster-paedophile-ring-cover-up-home-3830639#ixzz36wjAqcoz>

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/487664/MPs-paedophiles-Theresa-May-David-Cameron-British-Parliament-lost-dossier>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2684719/Ex-judge-Elizabeth-Butler-Sloss-lead-wide-ranging-review-claims-Establishment-cover-child-sex-abuse.html>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-28203914>

C of E child abuse report published ten years after writing

BBC - Report that a report on child abuse in the diocese of Chichester has been published more than a decade after it was written, following pressure from victims. It states the report on abuse between the 1970s and 2000 in the diocese and at the Cathedral was written in January 2004. The case review followed the conviction of Terence Banks in 2001 for 32 sexual offences against 12 boys over 29 years. The diocese said victims had "consistently asked for the full facts to be brought to light".

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-sussex-28211057>

Church in Wales claims oldest tree in Britain

Times/Mail - A Yew Tree in a Welsh churchyard is claimed to be the oldest tree in Britain. The Church in Wales has suggested that the yew tree in St Cynog's churchyard is 5,000 years old, predating Christianity. Alex Glanville, the Church in Wales's head of property services, is quoted.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/environment/article4141477.ece>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/leaders/article4141376.ece>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2683383/Europes-oldest-yew-tree-discovered-Welsh-churchyard-FIVE-THOUSAND-years-old.html>

Hull City of Culture renews church

BBC - Plans to revitalise the city centre of Hull to prepare for its role as City of Culture in 2017 have been announced. The city council said the £13m first

phase would include landmarks across the city, such as Holy Trinity Church, being illuminated with special LED lights to create what is described as "sculptures in the sky".

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-humber-28217363>

Belfast's Gay cake row goes global

Express/Mail/Ind/BBC/Huff Post/Guard - Further reports on the case of Christian bakery in Belfast refusing to make a cake with the words Support Gay Marriage on it, which is being taken to court under equality laws. Ann Widdecombe writes in the *Express* that it is an elementary feature of true democracy that nobody should be obliged by law to affirm that which he or she does not believe. Also pointing out that Parliament was assured time and again that the introduction of gay marriage would not cause discrimination against those who believed it wrong.

<http://www.express.co.uk/comment/columnists/ann-widdecombe/487617/Ann-Widdecombe-on-Gay-bakery-controversy-Wimbledon-and-Monty-Python>

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2685271/Let-run-business-Christian-way-say-bakers-gay-cake-row-Owner-threatened-legal-action-says-determined-make-stand.html?](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2685271/Let-run-business-Christian-way-say-bakers-gay-cake-row-Owner-threatened-legal-action-says-determined-make-stand.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

<http://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/tv/features/bert-and-ernie-they-call-it-muppet-love-9593215.html>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-28221219>

http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2014/07/08/gay-marriage-cake-ashers_n_5566485.html?utm_hp_ref=uk&ir=UK

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/jul/08/bert-and-ernie-gay-wedding-cake-northern-ireland-ashers-bakery>

Controversial book on Jesus to be adapted for film

Tel - Report that Harry Potter producer David Heyman has signed on to produce the film adaptation of Reza Aslan's *Zealot*, which examines the life of Jesus through known historical fact. The book has been controversial among Christians for removing Jesus from a religious context and calling many aspects of the Bible into question. Lionsgate acquired the rights to the film adaptation in December.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/film/film-news/10953267/Harry-Potter-producer-to-adapt-controversial-Jesus-Christ-book.html>