



England cricket captain becomes supporter of former Belfast choir director

On the morning of the first Ashes Test against Australia in Cardiff, the England captain, Alistair Cook, has let it be known that he has agreed to be a patron of the Friends of Newport Cathedral

Choir whose director is Dr Emma Gibbons, formerly of St George's Parish Church, Belfast.

Cook was once a boy treble at St Paul's Cathedral. He won a place in St Paul's Cathedral School, London, as an eight year-old and spent five years as a member of the Cathedral choir from 1994-99.

Speaking of his appointment he said: "It is great to be asked to be a patron of the Friends of Newport Cathedral Choir. Music was a huge part of my life growing up and created some very special memories for me. I still use many of the skills I learnt as a chorister today."

Commenting of this appointment Dr Emma Gibbons, Director of Music at Newport Cathedral said: "I am delighted that Alastair Cook has agreed to be Patron of the Friends of Newport Cathedral Choir. I hope that, as a former chorister of St Paul's Cathedral who has gone on to great things, he can be an inspiration and role model for the current choristers and future generations of choristers at Newport Cathedral. The Cathedral Choir wishes him good luck for the Test match in Cardiff!"

The Chairman of FNCC and Cathedral Precentor, Venerable Jonathan Williams, adds: "The Friends of Newport Cathedral Choir aim to support and
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develop the musical life of Newport through the Cathedral Choir. We are delighted to welcome Alastair Cook as Patron and the inspiration he can give to a new generation of Choristers. A good musical education based on the life of a Cathedral brings gifts and skills that are relevant to many aspects of life as exemplified in the dedication and team spirit that Alastair brings to cricket.”

Hopes high for no return to violence on the Twelfth

Despite criticism from the Orange Order of a determination by the Parades Commission to refuse a Twelfth parade to return past the Catholic Ardoyne area in Belfast, residents remain hopeful that there will be no return to violence this year.

The Parades Commission has again ruled against the annual return march past the Ardoyne shop fronts on the Crumlin Road, which separates unionist and nationalist areas, during this year's parades on Monday, July 13.

Serious rioting erupted in the Ardoyne area following parading in 2012 and Orangemen have held a protest at the junction of Twaddell since



restrictions were first placed on the parade in 2013.

Mervyn Gibson, assistant grand master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland said the commission had “lost all perspective”. “I think people are angry. We had a peaceful Twelfth last year and they are angry that after all that hard work this determination has been made.”

Brian McKee, who works in peace and reconciliation in Holy Cross parish in Ardoyne, said the determination “was a sensible decision given the lack of meaningful dialogue”.

“There were talks sponsored by the Churches last year and for the first time the Orange Order sat down with local residents, but they finished

before the summer last year and since then the residents have been writing on a weekly basis asking them to come back to enter talks,” he said.

Mr McKee, who patrols the Twaddell camp at night with Fr Gary Donegan to intercept any potential conflict, said there has been a peaceful atmosphere so far this year and the community is hopeful for a quiet Twelfth.

“We are now looking at a third year with hopefully no riots and people have welcomed the fact that they can go about their daily lives without fear of violence. We hope for some kind of reasonable leadership within the Orange Order and loyalist community, particularly to stop young people from being drawn into violence.” - See Armagh Archbishops below

Bishop questions arguments based on emotion

Much of the argument in favour of same-sex marriage in the recent referendum was based almost exclusively on feeling, the Bishop of Elphin has said.

In an address to this year's Percy French Summer School at Castlecoote House, Co

Roscommon, Bishop Kevin Doran also warned that some of what is beginning to be heard in support of assisted suicide is also based on feeling.

“The feelings are not the problem and, indeed, I think it is fair to say that, where the Church falls short is in its failure to take on board the power of emotion.”

In his paper, ‘Pope Francis: Sociological Analysis or Evangelical Discernment’, Bishop Doran identified the real problem with the “denial of human nature in its integral totality and the rejection of any purpose other than our own”.

Discussing objective and subjective morality, the Bishop referred to the work of Alasdair MacIntyre, who has pointed out that much of contemporary philosophy has denied the existence of a defined human nature and refuses to engage with the idea of an ultimate end towards which our humanity is directed.

“Yet we still use the language of morality,” Dr Doran noted.

“We see the knock-on effects of this in much of the moral argument that goes on at the present time, especially in relation to healthcare ethics and sexual ethics.”



He suggested that for Pope Francis violence, poverty, unemployment, homelessness, the degradation of the environment and the absence of clean water; the breakdown of family and the loss of a sense of community are only symptoms of a deeper malaise.

Referring to *Laudato Si*, he quoted the Pope's statement, "Many things have to change course, but it is we human beings above all who need to change. We lack an awareness of our common origin, of our mutual belonging, and of a future to

be shared with everyone. This basic awareness would enable the development of new convictions, attitudes and forms of life. A great cultural, spiritual and educational challenge stands before us, and it will demand that we set out on the long path of renewal.” (LS 202)

Pope Francis, Bishop Doran said, explores the essential connection between the ownership of natural resources, the regulation of banks, animal experimentation, unemployment, genetic modification, consumerism, respect for life, poverty, prayer and politics.

Elsewhere in his address on Wednesday, Bishop Doran cited a comment which he said “might almost seem to have been written for Ireland, but which in reality has a much more global significance”.

In it Pope Francis argues that “there is urgent need for politics and economics to enter into a frank dialogue in the service of life, especially human life. Saving banks at any cost, making the public pay the price, forgoing a firm commitment to reviewing and reforming the entire system, only reaffirms the absolute power of a financial system, a power which has no future and will only give rise to new crises after a slow, costly and only apparent recovery.”(#189)

Recalling the late Cardinal Joseph Bernardin of Chicago's definition of Christian morality as being like the "seamless garment of Christ", Bishop Doran said that by this he meant, that one cannot just have part of it. You either have it or you don't.

He also recalled Pope Francis' response to the question from journalists on the plane back from World Youth Day in Brazil about his attitude towards gay people.

"The reality, in fact, is that Christians are called both to exercise compassion and to act in accordance with the truth," the bishop said.

He emphasised that the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that people of homosexual orientation "must be accepted with respect, compassion and sensitivity" and that "every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard should be avoided".

"It is not for us to judge people, but that doesn't mean that we should not make objective moral judgements," he stated.

The Bishop also highlighted in his talk how Pope Francis had emphasised how everything is interrelated, and that "concern for the protection

of human nature is also incompatible with the justification of abortion”.

“How can we genuinely teach the importance of concern for other vulnerable beings, however troublesome or inconvenient they may be, if we fail to protect a human embryo, even when its presence is uncomfortable or creates difficulties?” he quoted from Laudato Si.

Full text of Bishop Kevin Doran's address can be read here: <http://www.catholicbishops.ie/2015/07/08/pope-francis-sociological-analysis-evangelical-discernment/>

Trocaire commemorate child victims of Gaza conflict a year on

Trocaire placed 552 white ribbons from the railings of St Mary's Church in central Belfast this week to commemorate the 552 children killed in Gaza and Israel conflict a year ago.

Irish News - Last July 2,324 people were killed during a crippling 50-day conflict including more than 500 children. A spokesman for Trocaire said almost 70 per cent of people under 24 are now without work while trauma of the conflict - and the stress of living under blockade and being



8 year old Rebecca Kernaghan stops to look at the some of the 552 white ribbons hang from the railings of St. Maryâs Church in Belfast, one to commemorate each child who was killed during last summer's conflict in Gaza and Israel. The ribbons were placed on the railings by Trocaire to mark the one year anniversary of the conflict beginning. Picture Hugh Russell.

unable to leave Gaza - have left an estimated 300,000 young people in need of psychosocial support.

Trócaire's Northern Ireland regional manager Kevin Donnelly said he hoped the ribbon gesture at the Catholic church in Chapel Lane would

help highlight the crisis facing the population in the region.

“One child in Gaza was killed approximately every two hours over a period of 50 days last summer. It was an appalling loss of innocent life, but sadly little has changed since the day the fighting ended.

"There has been no political progress, no accountability for attacks on civilians, and not a single destroyed house has been rebuilt in the past 12 months.”

The agency warned that a lack of reconstruction and political progress in the year since the conflict has worsened the humanitarian crisis with approximately 100,000 people still homeless.

“The slow rate of reconstruction means that many of today's teenagers in Gaza will be elderly parents by the time it is completed. If there is to be any hope of a lasting solution to the conflict, young people need a future they can look forward to. Gaza needs urgent rebuilding, but its people also need to be able to move and trade, and to have jobs in a functioning economy,” Mr Donnelly said.

Trócaire has been working in Gaza since 2001 providing emergency aid, supporting communities and raising awareness to people in Ireland and the EU.

National Day of Commemoration

Archbishop Michael Jackson, along with other Church and Faith leaders will participate in the annual Ceremony for the National Day of Commemoration in Kilmainham at the invitation of the Taoiseach on Sunday July 12 at 11.00 am.

Methodist services of welcome and farewell in Portadown

At the end of June members of the Portadown Circuit came out in force to say thank you and farewell to the Rev Norman Cardwell, minister of Thomas Street Methodist Church, and his wife, Lynda. The Rev and Mrs Cardwell have now moved to a new appointment on the Aughnacloy Circuit. The following Sunday brought another special service to welcome the Rev Mark Durrell who will be assisting District Superintendent the Rev Kenneth Robinson in Battlehill, Epworth, Mahon and Thomas Street Methodist Churches.

C of I leadership development/ intern programme

CIYD (Church of Ireland Youth Department) are pleased to announce their new Leadership Development/Intern programme beginning in September, in partnership with MVI Youth Works in Monkstown.

Who's it for?

People who are excited about sharing their faith, love mission and are aged between 18 and 25.

Who is it organised by?

FORGE is an exciting new initiative between MVI Youth Works in Monkstown and the Church of Ireland Youth Department, who will support and mentor you throughout the internship.

What will happen?

You will receive top-class structured training in leadership, entrepreneurial mission and youth ministry that is recognised throughout the Church of Ireland.

Where will I be based?

For one year participants will live in community in Monkstown Village and will work mostly in the MVI Youth Drop-in Centre. The programme begins Sept 2015.



Is there financial support?

Accommodation, living expenses and training costs covered by MVI Youth Works & CIYD.

Participants are expected to raise £1900 or €2600 of a personal contribution from which they will receive pocket money.

APPLY TODAY: Contact us for more information or to request an application form.

Email Andrew - andrew@downanddromore.org

Or phone 028 9082 8890 (North) 048 9082 8890 (from ROI)

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Workshop to Share Children's Ministry Ideas

Sunday Club leaders will be brimming with ideas after a Children's Ministry Training Morning planned for September. Facilitated by Lynn Storey and Lydia Monds, the workshop will take place in St Saviour's Parish Hall, Coolgreaney Road, Arklow, on Saturday September 5 from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm.

All involved in children's ministry are invited to attend the workshop which will focus on Harvest and Advent themes. They will explore different Bible story telling ideas, creative prayer ideas, songs, memory verses, crafts, activities and games. They will have suggestions for all ages.

Lynn and Lydia have vast experience with children and young people. They are active members of the Sunday School Society for Ireland and the Church of Ireland Children's Ministry Network and facilitate training sessions throughout Ireland.

Anyone who would like a particular training need addressed on the day should email sss@ireland.anglican.org.

Almost 300 years of Irish parish records go online

The baptismal records of Irish historical figures, including 1916 leader Padraig Pearse and writer Peig Sayers, are contained in Catholic Church parish records released online this week by the National Library of Ireland.

Dating from the 1740s to the 1880s, the records involve almost 300 years of Catholic parish registers mainly of births and marriages and cover the entire island of Ireland and can now be accessed free of charge online.

The parish records are of historical importance as nearly all records were lost during the Civil War when, on June 30, 1922, after a two-day bombardment, a fire ravaged the building.

Apart from a few fragments, the records of Irish censuses of 1821, 1831, 1841, and 1851 were burned in the Public Records Office.

So too were about half of the Anglican Church of Ireland registers deposited there after the dis-establishment of the state church in 1869.



All pre-1900 documents from the legal courts were lost, as were local government records for the same period.

Covering more than 1,000 parishes, the registers typically include information such as dates of baptisms and marriages, and the names of key people involved, such as witnesses or godparents.

The documents can be viewed at registers.nli.ie.

Church groups rally to support Calais migrants

As the migrant crisis continues at the port of Calais, where up to 3000 are now thought to be staying in temporary camps while they try to reach the UK, a group of Christians has



Blocked: migrants walk near trucks lining the road to the Channel Tunnel terminal near Calais, after the tunnel was closed during an industrial dispute

continued to visit them to offer prayer, as they have done for more than a decade.

Church Times - Susan Pardo, who leads the group from churches in the Folkestone area and from St Andrew's Chorleywood, said this week that the situation for the migrants was "desperate".

"We have been going over there every month for 14 years, taking food and clothes and books. We

offer to pray. We go to preach the gospel, to listen to people, and talk with them.

“The people who are there have come from desperate situations, from war-torn countries like Iraq and Afghanistan. They have paid so much to be there. I have met boys as young as ten on their own who are desperate to go to school — that was at times more than I could bear.

“I have been thumped by a Frenchman — it took a while for them to accept us, but in the end they have allowed us to help. We take clothes and lots of books and tinned food. We find ways of giving it out. This isn’t always easy as people are really desperate.

“We are just trying to be church to them: it really isn’t complicated. It is pretty awful in the camps, but the people there remain cheerful and they always say they are blessed that we have come to see them. Many of them are Muslims. We are upfront about the reason we are there, and we have seen people become Christian.

“We don’t hear what happens to most of those we meet. Almost all of them say they want to come to the UK, but I don’t know how many do. Many claim asylum in France, or go to Germany; others have gone as far afield as Sweden and Canada.

“I always think how it could be any of us, at any time: anything can happen, floods or war. My heart goes out to them.”

Archbishops of Armagh call for peaceful and respectful 12th July Celebrations

The Archbishops of Armagh, Archbishop Eamon Martin and Archbishop Richard Clarke have called July 10 for peaceful and respectful Twelfth celebrations:

‘We call on everyone to ensure that the Twelfth will be celebrated in a dignified way which respects life and safety and upholds peace and the diversity of traditions.

‘We invite our parish communities to pray for all who seek to promote tolerance and respect.

‘We encourage all, especially young people, to cooperate with community leaders, police and civil authorities in the coming days.’

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Media digest

Muslim who praised IS drove case against 'Satanic Islam' sermon Belfast pastor McConnell - Belfast Telegraph

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/muslim-who-praised-is-drove-case-against-satanic-islam-sermon-belfast-pastor-mcconnell-31365308.html>

Guard/Ind/FT

Reports that the Institute for Fiscal Studies has warned that living wage, announced in the budget, will fail to compensate low-income workers for the £12bn cuts in the welfare budget. The IFS suggest that some tax credit claimants will be left up to £1,000 a year worse off.

<http://www.theguardian.com/business/2015/jul/09/living-wage-will-leave-tax-credit-claimants-1000-worse-off-says-ifs>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/think-tank-whose-work-george-osborne-based-new-living-wage-on-accuse-him-of-pushing-low-income-families-further-into-poverty-10379015.html>

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/87b00b52-264e-11e5-9c4e-a775d2b173ca.html#axzz3fSj08j4H>

Times/Mail/Tel/Sky/Guard

Extensive reports on the launch of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse. Justice Lowell Goddard, the New Zealand judge chairing the inquiry, stated that no powerful interest would be allowed to obstruct its investigations. The inquiry into past failures of institutions including the Church is expected to last up to five years.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4493228.ece>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3154578/Child-abuse-inquiry-led-Justice-Goddard-finally-starts-year-announced.html>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/child-protection/11728303/Child-sex-inquiry-is-a-daunting-task-admits-judge.html>

<http://www.theguardian.com/society/2015/jul/09/thousands-child-abuse-victims-invited-testify-truth-project-lowell-goddard-independent-inquiry>

<http://news.sky.com/story/1515653/child-abuse-inquiry-faces-daunting-task>

Premier/Mail (*scroll down*)

Reports the appointment of two new bishops for the Diocese of London. The Queen has approved the appointments of the Revd Rob Wickham as the Bishop of Edmonton and the Revd Ric Thorpe as the Bishop of Islington. Mail

comments that the CofE is increasing its top management at a time of falling congregations and quotes how many millions are spent on bishops.

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Two-new-bishops-for-London>

<http://www.mailonsunday.co.uk/debate/article-3155659/EPHRAIM-HARDCASTLE-Murray-make-final-Sunday-Duke-Duchess-Cambridge-likely-there.html>

BBC

Reports on preparations for the funeral of Tunisian terrorist victims Jim and Anne McQuire, from Cumbernauld, who were among the 38 people shot dead at a resort near Sousse two weeks ago. The service will be held at Abronhill church, where the couple had been well-known members of the congregation.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-33472533>

Tel/Mirror/Guard/Exp/Mail

Extensive coverage given to the official Christening photographs of Princess Charlotte.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/princess-charlotte/11729121/Princess-Charlotte-christening-pictures-by-Mario-Testino-released.html>

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/princess-charlotte-christening-pictures-what-6035044>
<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/jul/09/princess-charlotte-mario-testino-christening-photographs>
<http://www.express.co.uk/news/royal/590024/Princess-Charlotte-christening-photos-Mario-Testino-Sandringham>
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-3154787/Princess-Charlotte-official-christening-photos-Kate-Middleton-Royal-Family.html>

Tel

Report on Channel 4's Married at First Sight where couples marry the first time they meet. One of the advisers is a Church of England priest Revd Nick Devenish but report says the programme is being criticised by different groups including the marriage foundation.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/tvandradio/11729280/Married-at-First-Sight-Exploitation-or-Entertainmentexpo.html>

Exp/Star

Reports convicted teacher Jeremy Forrest is freed from jail today. The former Bishop Bell CofE (Chichester diocese) school maths teacher was imprisoned for five and a half years for

abducting and having a sexual relationship with a teenager whom he took to France.

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/590098/jeremy-forrest-abduction-relationship-france>

<http://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/latest-news/452967/Jeremy-Forrest-paedophile-teacher-schoolgirl-lover>

Times

Reports that Israel has been accused by the United Nations of damaging historical sites in Jerusalem's old city through "illegal excavations and works", in a claim which has been condemned as being biased towards Muslims. A resolution submitted to the UN by three Arab states accused Israel of damaging Islamic holy sites with a number of building works undertaken each year.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/world/middleeast/article4492892.ece>

Tel

Further reports that Isis forces killed four children when they destroyed an ancient Christian church in the Iraqi city of Mosul. A Kurdish spokesman told news website Rudaw that the Mother of Aid church, part of the Chaldean Catholic Church, which was thousands of years old, had been destroyed. It was not immediately clear how the children died.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/iraq/11729410/Isil-militants-kill-four-children-during-destruction-of-historic-Iraq-church.html>

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