



The essential daily brief on the Irish churches

Kincora victim: 'NI home should be part of UK child abuse inquiry'

A man who was abused at Kincora Boys' Home in east Belfast has said the home should be included in a government inquiry into child sex abuse.

BBC - Clint Massey has waived his right to anonymity to speak about how he was abused by William McGrath in 1973.

McGrath and two other members of staff at the home - William Semple and Joseph Mains - were jailed in 1981 for abusing children in their care.

Mr Massey said: "I strongly believe there's a lot more to come out."

'More suspicious'

He was 16 and had just left school when he was sent to Kincora.

He said: "The mornings were the worst times. I didn't start work until ten o'clock.

"The other two guys who shared the room were up at half six in the morning and gone by seven.

"I didn't wake up until half eight. That was when McGrath had me at his mercy. There was nobody in the house except for just those three men and me."

More at - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-28304743>

UUP leader calls for Kincora Boys Home to be included in abuse inquiry
<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/uup-leader-calls-for-kincora-boys-home-to-be-included-in-abuse-inquiry-1-6178624>

Magdalene Laundry survivors paid £29,000

Survivors of Magdalene Laundries are getting an average compensation pay-out of almost 36,000 euro (£29,000), Justice Minister Frances Fitzgerald has revealed.

News Letter - Before a United National human rights watchdog, Ms Fitzgerald said 12.4 million euro (£9.9m) has been paid so far to 346 women who were incarcerated in the institutions.

Although some have sought a review of the amount of compensation offered to them under the publicly-funded scheme, the minister suggested it was working well.

“Women are coming to the redress scheme, are using it and payments are being made,” she said.

“There are some issues for some of the women, obviously, in terms of records and documentary evidence which can be very difficult.

“We obviously want to be as flexible and supportive as we can in terms of getting that information.”

The redress scheme is expected to cost the taxpayer up to 58 million euro (£46m).

Payments range from 11,500 euro (£9,200) for women who were kept less than three months in the Catholic church-run workhouses, up to a maximum of 100,000 euro (£80,000 for survivors incarcerated for more than a decade.

The four congregations who ran them - Sisters of Our Lady of Charity, Mercy Sisters, Sisters of Charity and Good Shepherd Sisters - have refused to contribute to the compensation fund.

Ms Fitzgerald is being questioned over two days by the UN Human Rights Committee in Geneva about Ireland's human rights standards. More at -

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/magdalene-laundry-survivors-paid-29-000-1-6178398>

Equality Commission gives Ashers Bakery extra time

The Equality Commission has given Ashers Baking Company more time to respond to what it claimed was the bakery's “unlawful” conduct in refusing to make a cake promoting gay marriage.

News Letter - It emerged last week that the quango wrote to the Newtownabbey business on June 26 after it took on the case of a gay rights activist who complained at the refusal of the [bakery](#), which is owned by a Christian family, to decorate the cake as he had requested.

In the letter, Ashers was told that if it did not put forward “proposals to remedy your unlawful discrimination” within seven days, it would face court action.

Last week, Ashers’ general manager Daniel McArthur told the News Letter that the commission never contacted the firm to ask for its side of the story before deciding that it had acted “unlawfully”.

Yesterday, Mr McArthur said that the commission had still not asked the bakery for its version of events. But he said that the [bakery](#) had written to the commission asking for four weeks to respond to its threat and the equality body had agreed to this.

There have been calls for a boycott of Ashers from some of those opposed to its stance, while other people who support the bakery’s position have said they will specifically shop there.

When asked if there had been a noticeable impact on sales, Mr McArthur said that the Twelfth holidays made it difficult to make direct comparisons but that there had definitely been no noticeable drop in business

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/equality-commission-gives-ashers-bakery-extra-time-1-6179529>

Who will be the first female bishop in the Church of England?

Andrew Brown of the Guardian [has some thoughts](#). Among the leading candidates:

The Very Rev Vivienne Faull, 59, dean of York Minster

Faull was among the first group of 1,000 women ordained in the Church of England in 1994, and the first appointed to a cathedral deanery, when she became dean at Leicester in 2000. Brought up on the Wirral, Merseyside, Faull is a former chaplain to Clare College, Cambridge, the first woman to hold such an appointment at that university or Oxford, where she read history at St Hilda's College.

The Very Rev Dr Jane Hedges, 58, dean of Norwich cathedral

Perhaps best known as the first clergywoman to shake hands with Pope Benedict XVI when he attended a prayer service at Westminster Abbey in 2010. Her previous role as canon steward of Westminster Abbey and archdeacon of Westminster involved greeting and accompanying senior members of the royal family at the most high-profile services. In the past she has served as a team rector and rural dean in Honiton, residentiary canon at Portsmouth cathedral, stewardship adviser in the diocese of Portsmouth, team vicar and hospital chaplain in Southampton and curate in Fareham.

The Rev Rose Hudson-Wilkin, 52, chaplain to the House of Commons and a chaplain to the Queen

Born and brought up in Montego Bay, Jamaica, she is the first black female chaplain to the Commons, and is known for her straight talking. She is also vicar to two inner-city parishes in east London.

The Very Rev Dr June Osborne, 61, dean of Salisbury cathedral

Osborne was one of the first 1,500 women to be ordained and the first to serve at one of England's medieval cathedrals. She became a deacon at St Martin in the Bull Ring, Birmingham, and has also served at St Aldate's Church, Oxford, and in the Old Ford parishes in London. Her speech at the church general synod the year before it voted on female priests was credited by some for swinging the vote in favour. In 2006 she was appointed as a deputy lieutenant for Wiltshire.

The Rev Lucy Winkett, 46, rector of St James's Piccadilly, central London

Before moving to St James's in 2010, Winkett was canon precentor at St Paul's Cathedral, where she survived open opposition when some worshippers refused to receive holy communion from her hand. Trained at the Royal College of Music, she was a professional classical singer. A regular contributor to BBC Radio 4's Thought for the Day, Winkett is also an author who has contributed to several books including [Why I Am Still an Anglican](#). She advises [Theos](#), a thinktank set up in 2006.

The Ven Rachel Treweek, 51, archdeacon of Hackney

An evangelical who is widely respected for competence and drive. Treweek has been archdeacon of Northolt, one of the church's middle management positions, and moved to Hackney in 2011. She is typical of the women who, if they had been men, would have been promoted to bishop years ago.

http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jul/14/contenders-church-of-england-first-women-bishops-synod?CMP=tw_t_gu

Ordinariate reaches out to Anglicans after women bishops vote

The leader of the ordinariate has issued an invitation to Anglicans following the Church of England's vote to create women bishops.

Catholic Herald - Mgr Keith Newton, Ordinary of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham, invited Anglicans "considering their future" to attend an "exploration day" in September.

"Having agreed to permit women priests in 1992, the Church of England's decision to allow women bishops is the next logical step. What is undeniable is that both developments make harder the position of those within the Church of England who still long for corporate unity with the Catholic and Orthodox Churches," he said.

"Benedict XVI's decision to set up the ordinariates – allowing former Anglicans to enter the full communion of the Catholic Church, bringing with them much of the Anglican heritage and tradition – was made in response to repeated requests from Anglicans who longed for unity with the Catholic Church. It was a prophetic and generous ecumenical gesture because it demonstrated the possibility of unity of faith with diversity of expression."

The exploration day, known as Called To Be One, aims to make the ordinariate more widely known and understood. Groups across the country will stage different events on September 6.

"Each event will be different – it may be Choral Evensong followed by refreshments and a presentation about the ordinariate or it might be a debate or a talk – but all the events will focus on the vision for Christian unity at the heart of the ordinariate," said Mgr Newton.

"All who are interested – whether because they are considering their future or just because they would like to see more of what we are and what we do are warmly invited to attend."

Catholic Church reaffirms goal of unity with Anglican world

The Catholic Church remains fully committed to its dialogue with the Anglican world, despite the Church of England's decision to ordain women bishops.

[[Vatican Radio](#)] In a statement issued as the Church of England's General Synod on Monday voted to admit women to the episcopate, the Catholic bishops of England and Wales said the goal of ecumenical dialogue continues to be full visible ecclesial communion.

That goal, the statement says, embraces full communion in the episcopal office and therefore the decision "sadly places a further obstacle on the path to this unity between us." Nevertheless, the bishops say, "we are committed to continuing our ecumenical dialogue, seeking deeper mutual understanding and practical cooperation wherever possible."

The statement, signed by Archbishop Bernard Longley of Birmingham, head of the bishops' Department for Dialogue and Unity and co-chair of the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC), also notes with appreciation the provision made by the Church of England for those who "continue to hold to the historic understanding of the episcopate shared by the Catholic and Orthodox Churches."

Vote for women bishops does not create 'new reality' for ecumenism, says Vatican official

Father Anthony Curren, the representative for relations with Anglicans at the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, has said the Church of England's vote to allow women bishops "is not creating a new reality for dialogue" between the Anglican and Catholic faiths.

Catholic Herald - He also pointed out that other provinces of the Anglican Communion, including the United States and Canada, already have women bishops

However, he told Catholic News Service, "it is significant" that the move was made by the Church of England — the mother church of the communion — which is a point of reference for Anglicans worldwide.

With the Anglicans, Father Curren said, "We have communion, which we describe as impaired or impartial. An area we have to explore with our dialogue partners is what is sufficient for the full communion we are seeking."

When the General Synod took the first steps toward preparing for women bishops in 2008, the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity said, “Such a decision means a break from the apostolic tradition maintained by all the churches of the first millennium and is, therefore, a further obstacle for reconciliation between the Catholic Church and the Church of England.”

The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby characterised the debate as involving “genuine theological arguments which differ,” and not simply differences based on cultural influences regarding the role of women.

The archbishop called on the House of Bishops to act on its promises by setting up a procedure for ensuring the place in the church of those who disagree.

“You don’t chuck out family or even make it difficult for them to be at home, you love them and seek their well-being even when you disagree,” he said.

The vote came after several hours of debate, much of it focused on whether or not the motion offered sufficient guarantees for the place and pastoral care of those with theological grounds for opposing the ordination of women, and on commitments to keep the Church of England united despite differing positions.

After the vote, the Anglo-Catholic group Forward in Faith issued a statement saying it was pleased that the Church of England “is committed to providing bishops and priests for our parishes, enabling us to flourish in the life and structures of our Church.” However, the group also said it was “deeply concerned about the consequences for the wider unity of the whole Church.”

The General Synod is elected from the laity and clergy of each diocese and meets at least twice a year to consider legislation for the Church. The synod has 484 members divided into the houses of bishops, clergy and laity. Its resolutions must receive the assent of the queen before becoming law.

The Church of England began ordaining women to the priesthood in 1994. Consultative votes in the 43 dioceses of the Church in England showed overwhelming support for ordaining women bishops. Synod members were told that the majority of people in all dioceses voted yes and only nine dioceses reported a favorable vote of less than 90 percent. A motion on ordaining women bishops failed in the synod by a tiny margin in 2012; commentators at the time said it failed because it did not ensure accommodations for opponents’ continued membership in the church.

To address those concerns, the House of Bishops presented “five principles” to the synod, including one that recognised that “those within the Church of England who, on grounds of theological conviction, are unable to receive the ministry of women bishops or priests continue to be within the spectrum of teaching and tradition of the Anglican Communion.”

The bishops promised such Anglicans “pastoral and sacramental provision” in a way that “maintains the highest possible degree of communion and contributes to mutual flourishing across the whole Church of England.”

When Cardinal Walter Kasper, then the president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, was invited to address the Anglican Communion’s Lambeth Conference in 2008, he told the delegates from around the world that ordaining women, especially as bishops, creates an obstacle to the Roman Catholic Church recognizing Anglican ordinations, a key step toward full unity.

The Second Vatican Council recognised that Anglicans held a special place among the Christian communities formed at the time of the Reformation because they maintained the three-fold ministry of deacon, priest and bishop and recognised the bishop’s role as a guardian of faith and the point of unity between the universal and local church.

Benedict XVI, responding to a journalist’s question on a flight to Australia in 2008, said he hoped the Anglican Communion could “avoid schisms and splits” as they debated the ordination of women “and that they will find solutions that respond to the questions of our age, but that also are faithful to the Gospel.”

Gaza’s Al Ahli Hospital appeals for urgent help

Al Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza City is appealing for urgent aid as it struggles to provide critical healthcare services to anyone in need following more than a week of Israeli airstrikes targeting Hamas militants.

[Episcopal News Service] One of more than 35 institutions run by the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, the hospital is striving to meet the increased demands on its already-overburdened staff, who have tended to the wounded despite being surrounded by conflict, the challenges of diminishing medical supplies, and their own fatigue.

“Like many hospitals in Gaza, Al Ahli Hospital is receiving patients who have been wounded, with staff working around the clock to provide them with critical medical care,” wrote Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem Suheil Dawani in an e-mail to church partners. “At the same time, Al Ahli is experiencing shortages in medicine, fuel, and food for both patients and those in the community who need help.”

During the past week, the Israeli military has carried out hundreds of airstrikes on Gaza, which includes 1.7 million residents and is one of the world’s most densely populated regions, in an effort to stamp out terrorist attacks against its citizens. Meanwhile, Hamas continues to fire rockets indiscriminately into Israel, with some having reached as far as Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, even as Egypt attempted to broker a peace deal early on July 15.

“In the last two days, the impact of the airstrikes has caused structural damages to the hospital, including its ventilation system in the operating theater and the emergency room. In addition, windows have been broken in many buildings, as well as in the new diagnostic center,” Dawani wrote in a statement.

The [latest statistics](#) from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, published on July 14, report that more than 1,140 Palestinians have been wounded and 168 killed, including 133 civilians, and 36 children; more than 940 residential houses have been fully destroyed, leaving 5,600 people displaced; and 25,000 children have been traumatized and in need of psychosocial support.

“As the Israeli authorities have called up 40,000 reserve troops, there are fears the conflict will escalate and many more Palestinians will be killed, wounded, or displaced,” Dawani said.

Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori, who visited Gaza in 2008 and again in 2013, told ENS that “God weeps at this war between his children. We weep as we watch the destruction, and we should be storming heaven with prayers for peace.”

She noted that the Al Ahli hospital “cares for all people in Gaza, both Muslim and Christian, with selfless dedication ... Please help the Diocese of Jerusalem respond to the suffering in this latest violent chapter in the Land of the Holy One.” More at - <http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/ens/2014/07/15/gazas-al-ahli-hospital-appeals-for-urgent-help/>

