

## The essential brief on the Irish churches

### Shock as Dromore dean of New Zealand's 'cardboard cathedral' dies

**The family of a top female Ulster cleric have spoken of their loss after she died in New Zealand.**

Adam Kula of the News Letter in today's edition writes - Lynda Patterson, 40 and from Dromore in Co Down, had been the dean of Christchurch Cathedral for around one year.

She failed to turn up to Sunday service, and was later found dead at home.

It is thought she died of a possible heart attack some time on Saturday, although it is not yet certain what the cause of death was.

Christchurch Cathedral had suffered catastrophic damage in the 2011 New Zealand earthquake and a temporary one, made of cardboard, was erected in its place.

Lynda had been inside along with 19 others at the time the quake struck, and her father Cedric described it as a miracle that no one had been killed.

Speaking yesterday, he said they had lost "a first-class daughter" and that both he and wife Evelyn were devastated.



“We got word on Sunday morning, at about a quarter to three,” said Mr Patterson.

“When the phone goes at that time of the morning you don’t like it, for it’s hardly ever good news.”

It was the PA from Christchurch, who told him: “I’ve awful sad news for you. Your darling daughter Lynda’s passed away.”

When she did not appear for church, someone had gone round to her home to investigate. Although the dog was barking, no one answered the door.

“She had gone to bed probably on Saturday night, we assume, and hadn’t wakened up again,” said Mr Patterson, 68.

Police had said it was not a case of foul play, and a doctor “reckoned it was a heart attack”.

She had no siblings.

Asked to describe her, Mr Patterson said she was witty, brainy, and quick to make new friends.

“She was a great daughter, a brilliant daughter. She was our pride and joy,” he told the News Letter.

“She was a first-class daughter, and in all her 40 years she never, never gave us any trouble or any bother in her life.”

She had attended Dromore Primary and Banbridge Academy, and attained an undergraduate and then a Master’s Degree in Theology at Oxford.

She was ordained in New Zealand in around 2004, after first visiting the country a couple of years before that.

She learned the indigenous language of Maori as part of the requirements for entering the New Zealand church.

In February 2011, disaster struck in the form of a large-scale earthquake which damaged much of the city of Christchurch, and led to more than 180 deaths.

The cathedral was a popular tourist spot, and Lynda had been very fearful that visitors may have been inside the cathedral’s spire when it collapsed.

Thankfully nobody was, but the cathedral was so badly affected that it was decided to open a new one, which Lynda herself described online as “the world’s only cathedral made substantially of cardboard”. More at -

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/shock-as-dean-of-cardboard-cathedral-dies-1-6191652>

### **The Diocese of Down and Dromore have expressed sympathy to Dean Patterson’s parents and family -**

“It with sadness and regret that we have learned of the sudden and untimely death of the Very Revd Lynda Patterson, Dean of Christ Church Cathedral New Zealand.

Lynda grew up in Dromore and was a member of Dromore Cathedral Parish, attending Church and Sunday School and actively involved in the Girls’ Brigade and the Youth Fellowship.

She attended Dromore Central Primary School and Banbridge Academy; and then studied theology at Mansfield College, Oxford.

We express our sincere and heartfelt sympathy to her parents, Cedric and Evelyn, and to all the family.”

**See also - CNI - Yesterday’s new bulletin**

## **Born-again Christian awarded €70,000 in Tipperary Council discrimination case**

### **South Tipperary County Council found to have discriminated against man in firing him**

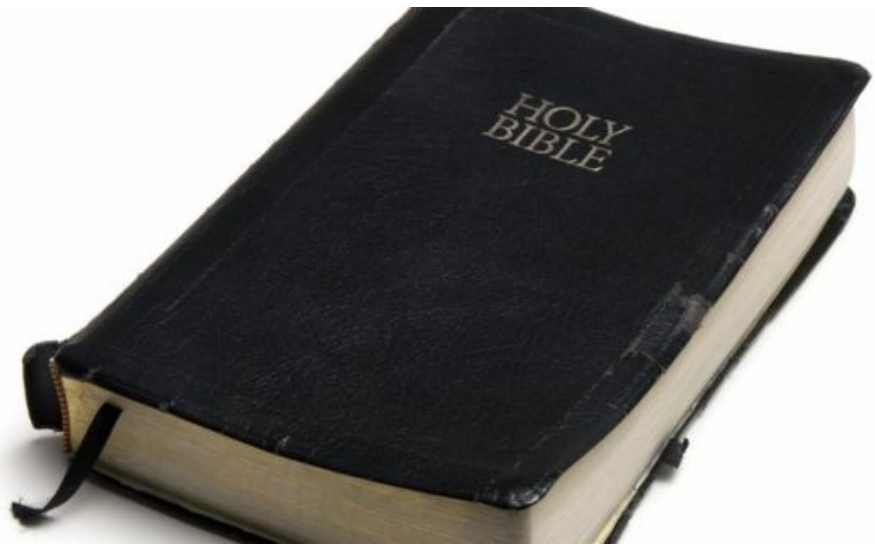
Dan Griffin in Irish Times - A born-again Christian who was fired from [South Tipperary County Council](#) has been awarded €70,000 compensation after the Equality Tribunal found he was discriminated against over his religion.

According to the council, John McAteer was dismissed after repeatedly failing to comply with senior staff members who told him to stop speaking about his faith to workers and members of the public during office hours.

Mr McAteer said the tenets of his religion require him to speak to people about Jesus and share the Gospel with them.

The complainant had been working as a civil engineer in the Clonmel Borough Council from December 2007 until his dismissal in July 2010.

In April 2008, he was informed by the council's human resources officer that a complaint had been received over him speaking about his faith in the office.



*The complainant in the case said his religious beliefs required him to speak to people about Jesus and share the gospel with them.*

He was told not to talk about religion during the working day, including during his lunch break.

Mr McAteer said he found this particularly difficult as speaking to others about his faith was integral to the practice of his religion.

In June 2008, he attended a disciplinary meeting to discuss a number of instances where he spoke about his religious beliefs to members of the public during working hours and his failure to comply with the direction of a senior member of staff.

He was warned if he continued to disregard instructions from senior management and share his faith with people during normal working hours he would be sacked.

In August 2008, he left the office to check on the construction of a footpath. While doing so he met a man with a motorbike to whom he spoke about religion.

This resulted in another disciplinary meeting and a final written warning.

In June 2009, Mr McAteer was suspended without pay for two months and was ordered to see a professional to help him with his compulsive behaviour after he was spotted talking to a man outside a coffee shop about religion.

In June 2010, the borough council manager informed Mr McAteer that he was to be dismissed after speaking to a man working as a contractor at the council offices about Jesus.

Counsel for Mr McAteer submitted that he was an evangelical Christian and that he sought to manifest his beliefs by sharing his faith with others and that this type of practice constituted a fundamental tenet of his belief system.

It was argued that Mr McAteer was not facilitated in the practice of his beliefs by the council and as a result of practicing them was accused of gross misconduct.

The council submitted that Mr McAteer was not dismissed because of his religious beliefs but because he continually failed to comply with the directions of senior members of the council.

The council also said declarations concerning human rights protect the right to hold a religious belief but that no right is absolute and unlimited.

**More at -**

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/born-again-christian-awarded-70-000-in-discrimination-case-1.1873468>

## **Flower festival and App mark 150 years worship in Greystones**

**Stunning floral arrangements abounded in St Patrick's Church, Greystones, as part of the parish's 150th anniversary celebrations.**

A flower festival which took place in the church and its grounds culminated in a service of thanksgiving and praise last Sunday 20 July, to mark 150 years of worship in the parish community.

The service was attended by Archbishop Michael Jackson as well as Fr Liam Belton and Fr Denis Quinn of the Holy Rosary Church in Greystones and members of the CSSM team (who are currently in Greystones for the 118th year bringing Christian celebration to local children). A number of local public representatives and staff from St Patrick's NS and Templecarrig School were also in attendance.

The huge congregation was welcomed by the Rector, the Revd David Mungavin. He praised the hard working organiser of the flower festival, Flo

Fennell, and all who helped to put the three-day event together.

Sarah Murphy gave short history of the church and parish which was created following an influx of people to Greystones when the railway line to the town was built in the 1850s and in the summer people arrived



*Organisers of the flower festival are pictured with the Archbishop. L-r – Billy Markham, the Revd David Mungavin, Flo Fennell, Archbishop Michael Jackson, Peter Butler and Frank Connolly.*

to take the sea air. The church in Delgany struggled to accommodate the increasing numbers and the La Touche family (who also built Christ Church, Delgany) offered to build a new church in Greystones. On 19 July 1864 a service of consecration was held in the church presided over by Archbishop Chenevix Trench for which a special train was laid on from Bray.

In his sermon, Archbishop Jackson observed that the parish had decided to mark the 150th anniversary with style and colour and share the celebration with the community of Greystones.

He said that parish communities carried a tradition of witness and faith and added: “People who form parishes are already in and of the community and are in a position to reach out and to welcome, as you in this community of Greystones have done consistently and continue to do right until today. This festival bears testimony to your willingness and your witness and your welcome.”

The Archbishop said that a flower festival often allowed people to see parts of their faith in imaginative ways. “It is the sustained inspiration that has brought us to this happy and colourful day. It is the work and witness of others before

us that we mark and celebrate,” he said.

During the service the new St Patrick’s Church, Greystones, smartphone app was officially unveiled. Church in Your Pocket offers a chance to connect with God each day. Receive daily Bible readings, devotional reflections and prayer guides, as well as a special section with devotionals written just for kids.

Ken Gibson introduced the new app. He said that Church in Your Pocket could be accessed every day for a small verse, reflection or prayer for the day. He pointed out that the parish was celebrating its 150th anniversary because a community of faith grew up and the church was founded. “It’s entirely appropriate that we as a community of faith would want to read God’s word wherever we are,” he stated.

Archbishop Jackson praised the app which he said “does not contradict the tradition; it simply gives it new shape and new voice”. He hoped that parishioners commuting in and out of Dublin on the train would use the app and if asked by fellow passengers what they are reading “they might confidently say: ‘Well, actually, I am praying’.”

The app is available for Android or Apple phones. It can be downloaded at Google: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.barefootinteractive.stpatricksgreystones> or Apple: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/church-in-your-pocket/id898234350?ls=1&mt=8>

## **North Belfast synagogue windows smashed**

### **A synagogue in north Belfast has come under attack.**

Glass was smashed at the Somerton Road building on two separate occasions over the weekend; incidents the police are treating as religiously-motivated hate crimes.

The PSNI said the first window was broken sometime between Friday evening and Saturday morning by a number of unknown individuals.

They then received a report that the replaced window was also smashed sometime on the afternoon or early evening of Saturday.

The incident comes amid criticism of the death toll caused by Israel’s bombardment of the Gaza Strip, as the violence between Israeli forces and Hamas continued.

Police called on anyone who witnessed the window-smashing incidents to contact them at Tennent Street station on the non-emergency number, 101.

Alternatively, they can ring Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

## **Connor parish funds well in Uganda**

**A well in Uganda funded by parishioners of Holy Trinity, Woodburn, Carrickfergus (Connor diocese) is completed and is now an accessible source of safe drinking water for hundreds of people.**



The Kwonkic Dognam Well, which cost £3,600, was the 325th sunk by the charity Fields of Life, and is benefiting more than 600 people.

Holy Trinity, in Carrickfergus, financed this well, and parishioners were advised by Fields of Life that drilling had been completed. “Hundreds of villagers within the Kwonkic Dognam community now have access to safe, clean water thanks to your support and generosity,” said a Fields of Life spokesperson.

The Kwonkic Dognam well is located in Kalongo sub county, located in Agago district in Northern Uganda where access to water is extremely limited.

Prior to the drilling of this well, local people had to walk more than 3km to a neighbouring community to access a water source which was also being used by two other neighbouring communities. This meant that the water source was always congested and the villagers had to walk long distances and spend many hours queuing. This resulted in many people having to abandon their work and children, young girls in particular, having to miss school.



The new well will provide safe clean drinking water for 70 households with an average of nine members per household therefore providing clean water for more than 600 people.

## Mosul empty of Christians 'for the first time in history'

An empty house of a Christian family in Mosul with Arabic writing that reads, "Long live



the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant. Muslims are happy with the return of Mujahideen. God is Greater,".

Further reports of human rights abuses are surfacing as IS jihadists continue to tighten their grip on areas throughout northern Iraq and Syria.

Two Syrian women were stoned to death last week in the northern province of Raqa, charged with adultery. These were the first instances of execution via stoning, known as Al Rajem, by IS – the Islamic State, a group which formerly ran under the name ISIS.

"The Islamic State carried out its first sentence of death by stoning against a woman in Tabaqa, accusing her of adultery," a report from the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) revealed on Friday. The woman was a 26-year-old widow, and was executed in a public market.

Within 24 hours, another woman was killed by stoning in the city of Al Raqqa.

"IS fighters threw her by stones to death after bringing a pickup full of stones because people refused to participate of stoning," [sic] SOHR reports.

These instances follow increasing tensions as IS fighters, led by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, attempt to found a pan-Islamic state across a stretch of northern Iraq and Syria.

On Friday, the deadline passed for Christians in Mosul – which was captured on June 10 – to either flee the city, convert to Islam or pay a tax, jizya, for the right to continue to practice their faith.

Those who refused to comply risk being killed by "the sword".

Mosul, situated in the biblical province of Ninevah, is entrenched in Christian history. The Mosque of the Prophet Yunas (Jonah) is thought to house the scriptural figure's grave, though a video was released earlier this month in which IS militants are shown attacking the tomb.

The insurgents allegedly disturbed Jonas' remains.

Despite the historical presence of Christians in Mosul, however, loudspeakers in mosques throughout the city reportedly rang out ordering Christians to leave on Friday. One young teacher, who gave only his first name, Fadi, told AFP that he and his family would not flee or pay the fine because they couldn't afford to do either.

"I'm staying. I already feel dead," he told a reporter just before the deadline ran out.

"Only my soul remains, and if they want to take that I don't have a problem."

Iraq's most prominent Christian leader, Yonadam Kanna, told AFP that even those who adhere to the demands of IS are unlikely to remain safe.

"Maybe a few [Christians] are still hiding in Mosul but I don't think any would have decided to pay jizya or convert. There is no Christian who can trust these gangsters," he said.

"They [Islamic insurgents] even took wedding rings from women fleeing the city at checkpoints...I am astonished they can claim to be Muslims."

"For the first time in the history of Iraq, Mosul is now empty of Christians," Patriarch Louis Sako told AFP.

The treatment of Christians and other minority groups, including Shia Muslims, by IS has been widely condemned.

"Congratulations to the #world ISIS declared that #musel now is a #Christian free area. Thousands of Christians were displaced and humiliated," tweeted Nadim Nassar, a London-based Anglican priest from Syria.

However, despite universal horror at the events unfolding in Iraq and Syria, Nassar has also denounced the international Christian community for "shamefully watching" while taking little action against persecution in the Middle East.

The latest report from SOHR indicates that IS now controls 35 per cent of Syria, and in total an area larger than Great Britain. Over 2,400 people were killed in Iraq in June amidst escalating violence, making it the deadliest month the country has experienced in years.

## **Iraqi Christians are raped, murdered and driven from their homes – and the West is silent**



*Where is the moral outrage over the persecution of Iraqi Christians?*

**For the first time in 1,600 years, Mass is not being said in Mosul: an ancient culture has been wiped out in a matter of weeks. It's a war crime that, strangely, no one seems to want to talk about.**

By Tim Stanley, Telegraph - Mosul is the second-largest city in Iraq and the place where many Christians believe Jonah was buried. [Since the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria \(Isis\) rode into town, their faith has been forced underground.](#) Bells have been silenced, the hijab enforced with bullets. Tens of thousands fled after being offered an unattractive choice: [convert, pay a religious tax, or be put to the sword. The levy was unaffordable.](#) According to one local news agency, [Isis troops entered the house of a poor Christian and, when they didn't get what they wanted, the soldiers raped the mother and daughter in front of their husband and father.](#) He committed suicide out of grief.

Having driven away the worshippers, the Isis fanatics are now trying to extinguish the physical legacy they left behind. [A centuries-old church has been burned to the ground; Jonah's tomb has been desecrated.](#) Isis wants to create the Islamic equivalent of Year Zero, a brave new world with no evidence of Christianity, women's rights, democracy or even that most subversive of instincts, human pity.

It might seem like this revolution has nothing to do with us in the West, but that's more than a little naive. The genocide of local Christians did not begin with Isis but with the 2003 invasion of Iraq. [Prior to the conflict, there were 1.5 million](#) "Chaldeans, Syro-Catholics, Syro-Orthodox, Assyrians from the East, Catholic and Orthodox Armenians" in the country – living, of course, under the tyranny of Saddam Hussein, but *living* nonetheless. Today, their number has dropped to just 400,000. Religious violence peaked in the first four years of the invasion and then declined dramatically after the US-led surge. There was a hope that President Nouri al-Maliki would live up to his initial promise to protect religious minorities. But the rise of Sunni opposition to the Shiite regime in Baghdad sparked a second phase of persecution against Iraqi Christians.

More at -

<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/timstanley/100280803/iraqi-christians-are-raped-murdered-and-driven-from-their-homes-and-the-west-is-silent/>

## **Pope to visit Caserta twice: once for Mass, then to meet Pentecostals**

**Although Pope Francis planned to make a short, private visit to Caserta in southern Italy specifically to visit a Pentecostal pastor he knows from**

## **Argentina, the 130-mile trip has taken a new form — two forms, to be exact.**

The Pope will go to Caserta July 26 to meet with local priests and then celebrate a 6 p.m. Mass with local Catholics, probably on the grounds of the 18th-century Reggia or Royal Palace of Caserta, a former residence of the kings of Naples, said Passionist Father Ciro Benedettini, assistant director of the Vatican press office.

Pope Francis will return to the Vatican that evening, recite the Angelus with visitors in St Peter's Square at noon July 27, then go back to Caserta July 28 for a "strictly private" meeting with Giovanni Traettino, the Pentecostal pastor, Father Benedettini told reporters July 17.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, had said July 10 that the Pope hoped to visit Traettino, head of the Evangelical Church of Reconciliation in Caserta, July 26. No other events had been planned.

When the news reached Caserta, Bishop Giovanni D'Alise wrote to the Vatican asking if the pope could at least add a quick public stop to greet the town's Catholics.

July 26 is the feast of Sts Joachim and Anne, and St. Anne is the patroness of Caserta. The town and the local diocese already had a series of Masses, processions, concerts and other events planned for the feast day and the week surrounding it. Townspeople found it hard to imagine the Pope would visit Caserta on its feast day without acknowledging the celebration.

The Pope met Traettino in Buenos Aires where the Pentecostal pastor participated in ecumenical events with Catholics, especially Catholics belonging to the charismatic renewal movement. The then-Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio, along with Traettino and Capuchin Father Raniero Cantalamessa, preacher of the papal household, headlined a large ecumenical charismatic gathering in Buenos Aires in 2006.

## **Press review**

### **Ind**

Report that Whitehall departments have been accused of hypocrisy and worker exploitation after an investigation found the majority still do not play their cleaners the London living wage. It mentions the Archbishop of York who called the lack of living wage in the public sector "an affront to human dignity".

It states most major government departments - including the Home Office, the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) - pay their cleaning staff less than the recommended £8.80 an hour.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/whitehall-accused-of-hypocrisy-over-exploitative-pay-for-cleaners-9617544.html>

### **Mail/Ind**

Reports that Iraq's prime minister has condemned the Islamic State extremist group's actions targeting Christians in territory it controls, saying they reveal the threat the jihadists pose to the minority community's "centuries-old heritage." The Independent comment said the exodus from Mosul, where Christians have been forced to convert to Islam, pay a tax or face death, was a tragedy as they were forced to leave a city where they had lived for 1,600.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/ap/article-2698833/Iraqi-PM-condemns-jihadis-targeting-Christians.html#ixzz384oLBOgK>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/editorials/conversion-of-iraq-as-isis-drives-christians-out-of-their-homes-the-groups-genocidal-intentions-take-on-horrible-clarity-9617651.html>

### **BBC**

Report that a campaign has begun for a statue of a bishop credited with coming up with his own "Big Bang" theory, centuries before anyone else. Robert Grosseteste was an English statesman, scholastic philosopher, scientist, theologian and Bishop of Lincoln from 1235 to 1253 and was ahead of his time according to the theologian leading the campaign. It states Dr Jack Cunningham theology lecturer, from Bishop Grosseteste University in Lincoln, said he deserved the recognition.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-lincolnshire-28390183>

### **Times**

Opinion article by columnist Matt Ridley stating that the excesses of the Trojan Horse scandal would be allowed in faith schools and that we can hardly be shocked to find religious indoctrination going on in some schools if we encourage segregation on the basis of faith. It states religious practice has no place in education.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/columnists/article4152832.ece>

### **Tel**

Editorial on how "Gendercide" is the great silent crime of the 21st century. It states it is not one orchestrated by governments, although it is certainly abetted by their policies and is the result of millions of individual decisions, as families use abortion, sex selection and other technologies to make sure that

boys survive and girls do not.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/telegraph-view/10979547/Unnatural-selection.html>

### **Express**

Report on York Mystery plays says the Biblically-inspired drama of the Middle Ages was recreated - with few concessions to modern theatre - on the streets of York.

<http://www.express.co.uk/entertainment/theatre/489663/York-Mystery-Plays-review>

### **BBC**

Report that hundreds of people packed Clifton Cathedral to celebrate the life of BBC Radio Bristol presenter Trevor Fry, who died at home last month, aged 68. It states Peter Price, former Bishop of Bath and Wells, was one of many to pay tribute to Mr Fry, who joined BBC Radio Bristol in 1997 and presented the Sunday Morning Breakfast Show and the Late Show.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-bristol-28383748>

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