

**The essential brief on
the Irish churches**



Dr Donald Caird is presented with a copy of his autobiography by the author, Aonghus Dwane. Also pictured is Nancy Caird.

Biography of Archbishop Dr Donald Caird launched

The former Archbishop of Dublin, Donald Caird, is the subject of a new biography which was launched in Christ Church Cathedral On Saturday evening.

The launch took place in the context of the centenary celebrations of Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise, the Irish Guild of the Church. The biography, titled *Donald Caird: Church of Ireland Bishop: Gaelic Churchman: a Life* and published by Columba Press, was launched by Mrs Justice Catherine

McGuinness who described as “both scholarly and accessible”.

The large crowd in attendance included Dr Caird and his wife Nancy who received a very warm welcome. He was presented with a copy of his biography by the author, Aonghus Dwane. Also present was the Archbishop of Armagh, the Most Revd Dr Richard Clarke and another former Archbishop of Dublin, Dr Walton Empey.



At the launch of the new biography of Dr Donald Caird are Dean Dermot Dunne, Aonghus Dwane (author), Mrs Justice Catherine McGuinness and Dáithí Ó Maolchoille.

This biography explores Dr Caird’s career from the earliest days. As Bishop of Limerick, Bishop of Meath and Kildare, and Archbishop of Dublin successively, Dr Caird enjoyed a distinguished career in the Church of Ireland. His lifelong interests in the Irish language and ecumenism mean he is well-known in wider Irish society.

His time in office, particularly as Archbishop of Dublin in the mid-1980s to mid-1990s coincided with historic developments in the life of both Church and State, including the great “liberal agenda” debates on contraception, abortion and divorce in the Republic; the ordination of women to the priesthood in the Church of Ireland, and the developing peace process in Northern Ireland.

A man who had met both Peig Sayers and CS Lewis, the broad scope of Donald’s friendships and interests both North and South afforded him an unusual insight into many aspects of the Irish scene, combining leadership of

the southern Protestant community with interested engagement in other streams of Irish life.

Welcoming everyone, Dean Dermot Dunne, said the cathedral was proud to host the launch and described Dr Caird as a man who had given huge commitment to the Church of Ireland, the dioceses and the Gospel.

Catherine McGuinness said that the book had recreated many memories for her and said that Aonghus Dwane had created a fully rounded picture of Dr Caird within his community, his Church and his family. She spoke warmly of Dr Caird and his contribution to the Church and love of the Irish language.

She described the author, who in a previous career had appeared before her in court on many occasions as a senior prosecution solicitor, as meticulous and said he had carried that through to his writing of the biography which she stated was “extremely well researched but also very readable” and thanks to Columba Press excellently produced.

Aonghus thanked everyone who had helped bring the biography together and all who had helped with its launch. He said he was particularly delighted to see so many of the people he had interviewed for the book present for the launch. He also thanked Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise for their support for the book and Columba Press for publishing it. He thanked Nancy and Dr Caird’s Nancy Caird described the launch as being like a Christening which followed a very long gestation. “It’s immensely readable. Aonghus has a tremendous turn of phrase,” she said.

Dáithí Ó Maolchoille of Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise observed that Dr Caird was the most senior member of the organisation and that they were delighted to support Aonghus in his endeavours.

Aonghus Dwane, is the Irish Language Officer in Trinity College Dublin. Originally from Cork city and a graduate in law of UCC, he worked as a senior prosecution solicitor before moving to the Irish language sector in 2005. A contributor to various various newspapers and journals, he was director of the Celtic Revival Summer School linking Dublin and the Aran Islands in 2006, and has also worked with *Colmcille*, the Irish–Scottish Gaelic cultural agency.

The launch took place following a service of Urnaí na Nóna (Evensong in Irish). A reception was held afterwards and those present also had an opportunity to view a new exhibition in the cathedral marking notable events in Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise’s history.

Iraqi Christians in grave danger, warns cleric

The end appears “very near” for Christians in Iraq, the vicar of the only Anglican church in the country warned as he appealed for more help to counter the threat from Islamist militants.

News Letter - Faced with an ultimatum from the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (Isis) forces to convert, pay a tax or be killed, Christians in the northern city of Mosul mostly fled last week.

But Canon Andrew White – dubbed “the bishop of Baghdad” for his work at St George’s church in the capital – said they were trapped in the desert or on the streets with nowhere to go.

“Things are so desperate, our people are disappearing,” he told BBC Radio 4’s Today. “We have had people massacred, their heads chopped off.

“Are we seeing the end of Christianity? We are committed come what may, we will keep going to the end, but it looks as though the end could be very near.”

The vicar is in London to speak about the crisis and raise awareness of the need to provide more help to the persecuted minority.

“The Christians are in grave danger. There are literally Christians living in the desert and on the street. They have nowhere to go,” he said.

“We do not want Britain to forget us. We – and I’m saying ‘we’ talking like an Iraqi Christian – have always been with the British because they have already been with us.

“Individual churches, individual Christians in Britain, have been a bigger help than anybody around the world.”

There were as many as a million Christians living in Iraq prior to the US-led invasion in 2003, many in areas like Mosul where the communities date back to the first centuries of Christianity.

There are now thought to be fewer than half that number.



Canon Andrew White, who is presently in the UK, was interviewed on the Today Programme yesterday morning by John Humphrys. The broadcast can be heard [here](#). (Scroll in to around 50.24)

Archbishop publishes Prayers for Mosul as CofE highlights eradication of Christians in Iraq

The Archbishop of York, Dr. John Sentamu, has published three prayers highlighting the worsening situation in Iraq where Christians and Muslims are being killed by ISIS forces.

The prayers highlight the experience of Christians of Mosul, Iraq's second biggest city, where families have been forced to flee and faced execution by Salaafi militants.

The prayers are echoed by comments from the Bishop of Coventry, the Rt. Rev. Christopher Cocksworth, in a Church of England interview conducted in the House of Lords <https://soundcloud.com/#the-church-of-england/religious-freedom> .

Dr. Cocksworth linked the forthcoming commemorations of the 800th Magna Carta with the situations in Gaza and Mosul:

“Magna Carta enshrined religious freedom into the British identity. That charter was very important, and it is one of our great gifts to the world. It's important because this particular freedom is an early indication of human rights. Where freedom of religion is being denied, other things soon follow. Freedom of expression, freedom of association follow and other even more sinister denials of human rights follow.”

Commenting on the situation in Mosul Bishop Christopher said:

“It's happening in a very, very extreme and deeply worrying and disturbing form as we hear about the ejection of Christians from Mosul and the intention to eradicate Christians in the area Isis seeks to control. The same is happening in other ways with Shi'ites and terrible persecution and inhumanity. It is really important that Christians not only are deeply attentive to the plight of our brothers and sisters across the world who are suffering persecution as Christians but also we are attentive to wherever this right, this God given gift is being denied.

Prayers for the People of Mosul:

Lord, in this city where Christians and Muslims have lived together for over 1400 years, we pray for healing, peace and restoration. Bring light out of this present darkness and hope from despair that guided by your Holy Spirit, all your children may find a new way forward together based on your love for us all. Amen

Holy God, your Holy family was driven into exile and many holy innocent boys were massacred, we hold before you today the suffering people of Mosul. Amen

Hold in your loving arms, all those who have been caught up in this conflict. We pray for those forced to flee their homes, all who have lost friends, family and possessions and who now face an uncertain future. Bless our Christian brothers and sisters who have seen the destruction of their churches and communities and for our Muslim neighbours who have also experienced destruction and suffering. Amen

Cork Christians Accept Muslim Invitation to Mark the Last Friday of Ramadan

Muslims in Cork, together with Muslims around the world have been observing the holy month of Ramadan where fasting from sunrise to sunset for the period is one of the five pillars of Islam.



Ramadan is observed in accordance with the lunar cycle and is expected to end on 28 July when the crescent of the new moon is sighted.

Sheikh Ihab Ahmed from the Blarney Street Mosque in Cork City extended an invitation to the Christian Community to join with the Cork Muslim Community for the Iftar **إفطار** meal for the last Friday of Ramadan. Fr Christy Fitzgerald represented [Bishop John Buckley](#), and Canon Daniel Nuzum represented

[Bishop Paul Colton](#). They were also joined by Lord Mayor of Cork, Cllr Mary Shields, Ms Kathleen Lynch TD, Minister of State, and Mr Mohammed Alshamsi, Deputy Head of Mission from the [Embassy of the United Arab Emirates](#) in Dublin.

Following a shared meal together the guests were received in the Mosque Prayer Room and warmly welcomed by the assembled congregation as they gathered for prayer.

Fr Christy Fitzgerald and Canon Daniel Nuzum said:

This invitation is a further deepening of the warm relationship between our faith communities in Cork City and builds on the work of our Cork Muslim-Christian dialogue and the publication of [A Journey Together](#) by Cois Tine in 2013. It was an honour to attend this celebration.

To our Muslim brothers and sisters we say السلام عليكم (assalum allikum – “Peace be with you”)

Pub chain JD Wetherspoon vows in Irish court to tackle public drunkenness

A judge has heard how a UK pub group plans to tackle drunkenness and disorderly behaviour in Ireland as well as its measures to prevent the sale of alcohol to the under aged.

Irish Independent
- Barrister
Constance
Cassidy, S.C.,
handed in a
Protocol to the
Circuit Civil Court
when [JD
Wetherspoon](#)
Ireland Limited,
which plans to
open 30 new
pubs in Ireland,
was granted a
Declaratory
Order for an



extended drinks license at the Three Tun Tavern. Blackrock, Co [Dublin](#).

Ms Cassidy, who appeared with Nicola-Jane Andrews for Wetherspoons, told Judge Matthew Deery there was a very strong emphasis on food from 8a.m. to 11 p.m. which was a crucial part of the company's business.

Judge Deery granted the company a Declaratory Order for the extended premises at Temple Road, Carysfort Avenue, Blackrock, which means that should all development be completed in accordance with planning permission the newly enlarged area will automatically receive a drinks license.

Ms Cassidy told the court the premises previously operated as the Tonic Bar which was acquired by Wetherspoons in December last year. The company had since spent €2.3 million on refurbishment alone.

Alistair Broome, regional general manager of JD Wetherspoon PLC and responsible for the operation of the company's premises in Ireland, had prepared the Protocol in which he had outlined the company's plans.

He said the company's proof of age policies would be actively promoted within The Three Tun Tavern including operation of a mystery visitor programme to test the effectiveness of its under-age policy.

Mr Broome also told the court the company took numerous positive steps to ensure that, under its Prevention of Drunkenness and Disorderly Behaviour regime, facilities and promotions offered in its pubs did not encourage excessive consumption of alcohol.

All of their staff were provided with intensive induction and refresher training on its "Don't Do Drunk" policy which was designed to ensure that alcohol was not served to anyone who appeared to be drunk.

"Our employees are trained to continually assess the state of sobriety of any customer purchasing alcoholic drinks or consuming alcohol within the premises," the Protocol stated.

The company monitored the effectiveness of this training by reviewing the use of the "Refusal" button on the till system which had to be pressed whenever a customer was refused alcohol.

Mr Broome stated that JD Wetherspoon operates 924 pubs throughout England, [Wales](#), [Northern Ireland](#) and Scotland.

Wetherspoon Ireland Limited is currently involved in a prices dispute with [Diageo](#) and for the time being will not stock any Diageo-distributed products such as draught Guinness, [Budweiser](#), Carlsberg or Smithwicks.

Company chairman Tim Martin said Wetherspoons had baulked at paying a higher price for Guinness in Ireland than it did in the UK.

CNI footnote - the Wetherspoon chain was started , developed and mainly owned by a young Belfast educated entrepreneur. Legend has it that he called the successful chain after a master whose report stated he would never make anything of his life! Another erstwhile alumnus claimed by the school of this legend is CS Lewis who once likened the place to a railway station where bells kept ringing and boys rushes in and out....

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