



Cardinal Peter Turkson, President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, Dr Lorna Gold, Trócaire's head of policy and advocacy, Trócaire's Executive Director Éamonn Meehan.

Irish leadership at Vatican conference on people and the planet

Mary Robinson is to address conference on 'People and Planet First: the Imperative to Change Course' today, Friday.

Trócaire's head of policy and advocacy, Dr Lorna Gold, is acting as Moderator during the two-day conference in the Vatican this week where the issue of climate change will be central to discussions.

The conference is organised by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and the International Alliance of Catholic Development Organisations (CIDSE).

It has brought together Church leaders, decision makers, scientists as well as a wide range of representatives of Catholic and civil society organisations from different regions of the world.

Over yesterday and today, delegates and speakers will focus on the publication of Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si* and its guidance for the struggle against climate change and towards economies and lifestyles that ensure the well-being of the earth and a dignified existence for everyone.

They will also address upcoming key political moments in 2015 such as the Third international conference on Financing for Development in

Addis Ababa in July, the United Nations summit for the adoption of the Post-2015 sustainable development framework taking place in New York in September, and the climate negotiations towards COP 21 in Paris.

Same-sex marriage: Bishop raps Church of Ireland over referendum

A Church of Ireland bishop has bluntly warned that the church was afraid to speak out during the Republic's gay marriage referendum debate and said that the church risks becoming "irrelevant" if it cannot articulate its views on such major social issues.

Belfast News Letter - Bishop Kenneth Kearon told a church gathering that he was concerned at how Anglicans had struggled to speak up during the recent campaign.

According to a report in the Church of Ireland Gazette, Bishop Kearon told his first Diocesan Synod since his election to the Diocese of Limerick and Killaloe that the Republic's same-sex marriage referendum debate was "very commendable ... with both sides arguing well, yet respectfully, on very serious matters affecting the future of our country and the result was certainly decisive".



But the bishop added: “I can’t say our church’s performance during that debate was equally commendable and I acknowledge my own part in that.

“My perception is that, as a church, we tried to keep our heads down and hoped that we wouldn’t be drawn into the debate.”

Over recent years, the Church of Ireland has been bitterly divided about the issue of homosexuality. Many members, particularly in Northern Ireland, believe that homosexual practice is sinful and explicitly condemned throughout the Bible.

But other members, particularly in the south, believe that homosexuality is normal and that same-sex relationships should be embraced.

The Bishop said: “Just as God, through the Incarnation, came alongside humanity in Jesus Christ, so too we, as a Church, need always to stand alongside people of every shade of opinion and situation.

SplRE - new institute of spirituality announced

“We don’t want to see spirituality studies dying in Ireland” Dr Michael O’Sullivan said as he announced the setting up of a new spirituality institute which will be formally launched later in the year.

SplRE – the Spirituality Institute for Research and Education – was announced in Milltown last week and represents something new and something old in the field of Irish spirituality studies.

Two of the driving forces behind the new institute are very well known within academic circles.

Dr Michael O'Sullivan SJ and Dr Bernadette Flanagan PBVM have been prominent in the school of spirituality in All Hallows College in Dublin and also lectured in Milltown Institute of Theology and Spirituality.

SpIRE has already negotiated to have an MA in Spirituality on offer to students under the auspices of Waterford Institute of Technology by Autumn 2016.

The hope is that in time, doctoral research will also become accredited too. A further partnership is currently under discussion with a third level college in the US

In addition to the academic course and research, SpIRE will also be involved in hosting/partnering a number of conferences, public lectures and summer schools.

Last week, Dr O'Sullivan gave the keynote opening address at the conference on Spirituality and Health organised with the School of Nursing and Midwifery in Trinity College Dublin.

Between 17-21 August, SpIRE will run a summer school in spirituality.

Later on 5 September, Professor Mark Stephen Burrows of the University of Applied Sciences in Bochum in Germany will give a lecture in Milltown on Rainer Maria Rilke titled: 'The Ripening: Imagining a truer God (and self) with the poet Rainer Maria Rilke'.

Jesuit Dr Michael O'Sullivan explained that SpIRE is currently in the process of becoming a legal entity and when that is sorted out there will be a formal launch of the new Institute.

"We are trying to keep spirituality studies going in Ireland", he explained and referred to the warning some years back that Ireland not only needed to be recapitalised financially but also spiritually.

Dr Bernadette Flanagan introduced Dr James Finley who hosted a day of contemplative practice and dialogue on Thomas Merton in Milltown.

However, as part of the announcement of SpIRE, Dr Finley gave an address the evening before his main programme of lectures, touching on his six years as a monk in the Trappist Abbey of Gethsemani in Kentucky where Thomas Merton was his spiritual director for three years.

He reminded his listeners of Thomas Merton's teaching, 'You cannot love and live on your own terms'.

Bishop Chillingworth welcomes Episcopal Church's new Presiding Bishop

As reported on CNI, Bishop David Chillingworth, Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church, was present at the General Convention in Salt Lake City. It was an event at which history was made with the election of the first African American to the position. Bishop Daid says, "This is a good day for the Episcopal Church, for the world church and for the Anglican Communion".

The Primus describes the occasion -

"The Episcopal Church has elected Bishop Michael Curry as the new Presiding Bishop – with typical American razzmatazz. This is one of those moments when a remarkable person with distinctive gifts steps onto the stage. Such moments are potentially transformative ...

Here is Bishop Michael today with Bishop Barbara Harris, first woman bishop in the Anglican Communion.



Bishop Michael Curry Presiding Bishop with Bishop Harris the first African American woman to be drained bishop

“I’ve known Michael for about five years in his role as Bishop of North Carolina. He is an African American with the oratorical preaching gifts which go with that culture. He speaks passionately – and often quietly – about God and grace. He has personal charisma and charm in abundance. His sharp intelligence enables him to express our faith tradition and the story in ways that are fresh – often very funny – and which speak to the heart.

“I watched people around me as his election – by an overwhelming vote – was announced. Younger people in particular were deeply moved. One young priest said to me that she ‘feels her vocation more strongly today’ because of this election.

“This church is reflecting deeply on its place in the Anglican Communion. Several people – and the Episcopal News Service – wanted to know what the wider impact would be. It’s not for me to say. But I expect and hope that the fact that the new Presiding Bishop is an African-American who carries the story of racial prejudice in America – and the story of slavery – and the history of colonialism in his very being will change all the relational dynamics. And that’s because many of the most difficult issues of the

Communion are rooted in the enduring impact of colonialism.

“I’m looking forward very much to working with Presiding Bishop Michael. This is a good day for the Episcopal Church, for the world church and for the Anglican Communion”

Major scout award for Fermanagh leader

Maurice Lee, current Fermanagh Scout President and International Commissioner recently received Award of Bar to Silver Acorn in recognition of further distinguished service to Scouting, having previously been awarded Chief Scout's Commendation in 1991, Medal of Merit in 2002 and Silver Acorn in 2007. The Award of Bar of Silver Acorn is only awarded after 30 years of service and has only previously ever been awarded to two other Scouters from Fermanagh, Mark Scott and Jean Stuart.

Maurice is the Founder member of 1st Magheraculmoney Scout Group, Kesh in 1984. Over the years Maurice has held a number of Fermanagh Scouting appointments, both at Group and County level.

At Group level: Cub Scout Leader, Scout Leader and currently holds the role of Group Scout



Maurice Lee and Wayne Bulpitt

Leader. At County level he has held appointments of Assistant County Commissioner for leader Training, Assistant County Commissioner for Cub Scouts, Fermanagh County Commissioner and is currently International Commissioner for Fermanagh and President of Fermanagh Scout Council.

Over the years Maurice has been involved in organising many various Scouting events and promoting the International aspect of Scouting

by leading groups of Scouts attending International Jamborees.

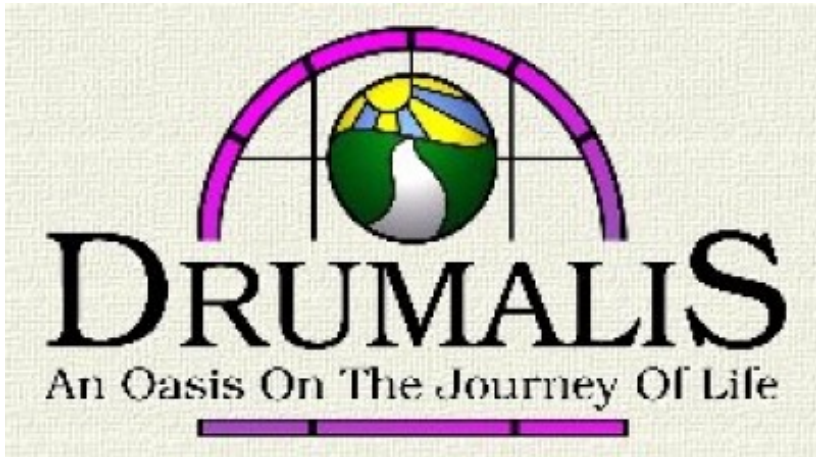
Maurice along with 12 young people from Fermanagh attended the 18th World Jamboree in Holland in 1995. The publication 'Scouting in Fermanagh' was compiled and published by Maurice. Some time ago Scouting Ireland recognised Maurice for his work carried out between the two Scouting Associations by the Award of Silver Commendation.

The Award of Bar to the Silver Acorn is part of the Scout Association National St Georges Day awards and those from Northern Ireland received their Awards at a function held at Maldron Hotel, International Airport, Belfast. In attendance were many Scouters from the Province including Phillip Scott, President of Northern Ireland Scout Council, Ken Gillespie, NI Executive Commissioner and Colin Lammey, NI Chief Commissioner. The Guest of Honour was Wayne Bulpitt, UK Commissioner for Scouting, who presented the Awards.

Diploma in Pastoral Theology at Drumalis

Diploma in Pastoral Theology at Drumalis in association with St. Patrick's Pontifical College,

Maynooth - A two-year, part-time intensive course beginning in September 2015.



Do you want to study and reflect on Christian life and ministry and the way ordained and lay ministry complement each other?

Would you like to combine a study of pastoral theology with the acquisition of new skills and supervised practical experience of ministry?

Are you willing to listen and to share the journey with others?

If your answers are 'yes', perhaps the Diploma in Pastoral Theology is for you.

Further information about the course is available from the Drumalis website –www.drumalis.co.uk

Alternatively, please contact the centre directly during office hours (Mon-Fri, 9 am – 5 pm)
Telephone 02828 276455/02828 272196 or email maura@drumalis.co.uk

Secular pupils feel left out in Church's schools

A study which features the views of 100 schoolchildren has found that many of them see First Communion as a significant benchmark in their childhood and a normal part of coming of age and school participation.

Irish Examiner - The study, by Karl Kitching and Yafa Shanneik and funded by the Irish Research Council, features the views of 100 children aged seven and eight from schools in and around Cork City, as well as some Traveller projects.

It found that children did not have fully formed ideas about religion, and that not being involved in events like First Communion made them more likely to feel excluded.

According to the study: "It [is] implicit in many children's language in second class in Catholic settings that being non-Catholic was a 'failure to live up to the norm'."

More at -

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/ireland/secular-pupils-feel-left-out-in-church-schools-339811.html>

CPE graduates at Cork University Hospital

Friday, 26th June was graduation day for five CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education) students at Cork University Hospital, including the Revd Anne Skuse from the Diocese of Cork. The students undertook and completed a twelve-week full time course in CPE. CPE is the formal method of education for those involved in or preparing for pastoral ministry. It is an essential requirement for accreditation as a healthcare chaplain in Ireland.

The course was directed and supervised by Sr. Mary Jo Corcoran, Director of CPE at Cork University Hospital and by the Revd Canon Daniel Nuzum (Supervisor in training). Canon Nuzum is an accredited Healthcare Chaplain working at Cork University Hospital, Marymount University Hospital and Bons Secours Hospital, Cork. CUH is the largest university teaching hospital in Ireland and offers an ideal setting for CPE training.



Sr Mary Jo Corcoran, Director of CPE, Cork University Hospital, Mr Billy Caulfield, Ms Anita Treacy, Mr David Vard, the Revd Anne Skuse, Mr Evin O'Brien, and Canon Daniel Nuzum, CPE Supervisor-in-Training

Firm links and partnership have also been established between CUH and St Luke's Home Education Centre where CPE modules are also taught, drawing on the particular expertise of Saint Luke's in the care of the elderly, as well as dementia and Alzheimers sufferers.

Bishop Paul Colton (Chairman of the Board of Directors of St Luke's Home) and Bishop John Buckley were present at the graduation Service. The certificates were presented by Mr Tony McNamara CEO of Cork University Hospital Group and by the Rev. Bruce Pierce, President of ACPE Ireland and Director of Education at St

Luke's Home Education Centre, Northridge House, Mahon, Cork.

Milestones of Medieval Dublin

The next talk in the Milestones of Medieval Dublin series will take place on Tuesday July 14 in the Wood Quay Venue at 1.05pm. It will be given by Stuart Kinsella who will discuss the foundation of Christ Church Cathedral.

USA: Episcopal General Convention approves marriage equality

In the wake of the June 26 U.S. Supreme Court ruling legalizing same-sex marriage for all Americans, General Convention followed suit on July 1 with canonical and liturgical changes to provide marriage equality for Episcopalians.

ENS - The House of Deputies concurred with the House of Bishops' approval the day before of a canonical change

eliminating language defining marriage as between a man and a woman ([Resolution A036](#)) and authorizing two new marriage rites with language allowing them to be used by same-sex or opposite-sex couples ([Resolution A054](#)).

The resolutions marked the culmination of a conversation launched when the 1976 General Convention said that “homosexual persons are children of God who have a full and equal claim with all other persons upon the love, acceptance and pastoral concern and care of the church,” said the Very Rev. Brian Baker, deputy chair of the Special Legislative Committee on Marriage. “That resolution began a 39-year conversation about what that full and equal claim would look like. The conversation has been difficult for many and painful for many.”

Resolutions A054 and A036 represented compromises reached after prayerful consideration and conversation within the legislative committee, and then the House

of Bishops to make room for everyone, Baker said. “I know that most of you will find something ... to dislike and to disagree with” in the resolutions, he said, asking deputies to “look through the lens of how this compromise makes room for other people.”

Deputies defeated an attempt to amend each of the resolutions. Following 20 minutes of debate per resolution, each resolution passed in a vote by orders. A054 passed by 94-12 with 2 divided deputations in the clerical order and 90-11-3 in the lay order. A036 passed 85-15-6 in the clerical order and 88-12-6 in the lay order.

Besides authorizing two new marriage liturgies, A054 also approves for continued use “The Witnessing and Blessing of a Lifelong Covenant” from “Liturgical Resources I,” which General Convention approved for provisional use in 2012, “under the direction and with the

permission of the bishop exercising ecclesiastical authority.”

Earlier in the week, the bishops divided the portion of A054 dealing with the existing rite from that addressing the new liturgies for the purposes of discussion, ultimately voting to approve both portions. They approved A036 in a roll call vote, with 129 for, 26 against and five abstaining.

“At my first General Convention in 1991, I don’t think I ever dreamed that we would have such a resolution before us,” Atlanta Deputy Bruce Garner said as debate began on A054. “I came to Salt Lake City a second-class citizen in my nation and my church, and I hope to leave here a first-class citizen in both.”

Media digest

A question of faith: Can politics and religion mix in Northern Ireland? - BBC News

Issues of morality and questions of faith have been writ large on Northern Ireland's politics lately.

Debates on [so-called gay blood donation](#), [abortion rights](#) and [equality legislation](#) have seen opinions clash in the assembly and on the streets.

Now a BBC poll of MLAs has looked at how many MLAs are religious and how many do not profess any faith.

All 108 MLAs were asked if they were a person of faith, regardless of denomination.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-33330092>

Mail

Report that the U.S. Episcopal Church voted overwhelmingly on Wednesday to let gay couples wed in the denomination's religious ceremonies, reinforcing its support for same-sex nuptials days after the U.S. Supreme Court legalized gay marriage nationwide. It states the Church, part of the worldwide Anglican Communion, became in 2012 the largest U.S. religious denomination to approve a liturgy for clergy to use in blessing same-sex unions,

including gay marriages in states where they were already legal.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/reuters/article-3146708/U-S-Episcopalians-vote-let-gay-couples-wed-churches.html#ixzz3ehtBx14p>

Times

Column by Tim Montgomerie on how revulsion at the Tunisia terror attack should not turn us into a society that tries to eradicate all vestiges of religion. He writes that true Christianity could be part of getting society back on track and in 'our relations with each other, including the new secular fundamentalists' relationships with people of faith, we need less moral majority-style finger-pointing and more Amazing Grace.'

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/columnists/article4485398.ece>

Tel

Further report that the Church of England (Church Commissioners) has sold its £1.6m stake in SOCO - a British oil and gas company over allegations of bribery, corruption and human rights abuses and the company's failure to rule out drilling for oil in Africa's Virunga national park.

Times

Preview on new BBC drama, *A Song for Jenny*, starring Emily Watson and telling the story of Julie Nicholson, a mother and former vicar who lost her daughter to the 7/7 bombings (Sunday, 9pm, BBC One).

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/arts/tv-radio/article4485101.ece>

Tel/Ind/FT

Further reports on controversy over the proposed expansion of Heathrow airport affecting St Mary's Church, Harmondsworth.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/newsbysector/transport/11709288/Heathrow-third-runway-wins-over-Gatwick-live.html>

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/b00ff3c-1ff8-11e5-aa5a-398b2169cf79.html?siteedition=intl#axzz3ecFFM1Vn>

Mail

Article that writer and columnist Julie Burchill announced the son she lost custody of has taken his own life. It states she says she found God after being 'saved' by the Chaplain of Sussex University, Gavin Ashenden, who invited her to his church after reading one of her columns.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3146632/NATALIE-CLARKE-Agony-star->

writer-Julie-Burchill-son-lost-custody-takes-life.html#ixzz3ehv4Fc1l

Guard

Report that The Vatican may consider, but is not committed to, divesting its holdings in fossil fuels, a Catholic church official has said, despite Pope Francis's call for bold action to fight climate change and global warming. The statement was made at a press conference on Wednesday to discuss the pope's recently released encyclical on the environment.

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/jul/01/vatican-may-consider-divestment-from-fossil-fuels-despite-popes-call-to-arms>

Get CNI headlines on Twitter each day
Click on logo at CNI Home page

Become a Facebook Friend of CNI
Click on logo at CNI Home page