



The essential daily brief on the Irish churches

Church Nursery Voted One of the Best

**Puddleducks the
day nursery set up
by the Belfast
Central Mission of
the Methodist
Church has
received another
vote of approval.**



Puddleducks has been voted into the "Top 10 Recommended Nursery Award" in Northern Ireland by daynurseries.co.uk

Daynurseries.co.uk is the leading guide to day nurseries & nursery schools offering full day care throughout the UK. The Top 10 Nursery Awards 2014 highlight the most recommended day nurseries in each region of the UK. The awards are based on over 12,818 recommendations received during 2013-14 from parents, relatives and guardians of children who attend the nurseries.

Scale of alcohol misuse in Ireland heading to a national emergency - Catholic bishops

Bishop Eamonn Walsh on behalf of the Irish Conference of Bishops in a statement yesterday referred to findings showing that one in three Irish people are harmful drinkers and young people were even more disturbing: three quarters of alcohol is consumed as binge-drinking and two thirds of people in the 18 – 24 age bracket binge drink.

“Good Friday is a day when Christians of all denominations throughout the world take time to reflect on the Passion and death of Christ. On Good Friday, Catholics are asked to share in that sacrifice through the traditional practises of prayer, the veneration of the Cross and through fast and abstinence. Many people in Ireland still join in these religious practises and enter into the spirit of Good Friday and Easter, which is the most important feast in the Christian calendar.

“It is a matter for the civil authorities to decide on the context and content of legislation, and this should serve the common good. The sale of alcohol on Good Friday is an issue on which Christians can make up their own minds based on an informed conscience and on the content of proposed legislation. It is also true to say that each year we can enjoy Christmas Day without pubs being open.

“I am also acutely aware that only one week ago the Health Research Board’s study of Irish people’s alcohol consumption revealed that one-in-three of the population is a harmful drinker, and that 177,000 people are dependent on alcohol. The HRB’s findings concerning our young people were even more disturbing: three quarters of alcohol is consumed as binge-drinking and two thirds of people in the 18 – 24 age bracket binge drink. The Irish Bishops’ Drugs Initiative, Alcohol Action Ireland and others will continue to work to arrest the mental and physical human suffering which is the outcome of these results.

“These statistics indicate that Ireland’s relationship with alcohol is fast heading towards a national emergency – and it is incumbent on politicians to support solutions to address this crisis.”

Bishop Éamonn Walsh is auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Dublin and vice-chair of the Irish Bishops’ Drugs Initiative. The IBDI was established in 1997 as a Catholic Church response to the growing problem of drug / alcohol misuse in Ireland. The IBDI seeks to mobilise parish communities, together with other service providers, to make appropriate pastoral responses to prevent alcohol and drug misuse, and to respond to issues arising from the problematic use of alcohol and other drugs. The core values of the IBDI are founded on our Christian ethos and Catholic faith, along with the underlying principles of: respect, equality, partnership, pastoral care, professionalism and accountability. The IBDI works alongside clergy, pastoral councils or interested parties in parishes in assessing the gap and needs of the parish in relation to drug and alcohol problems.

United Reformed Church fails to agree on same-sex marriage

The United Reformed Church has issued [this statement](#) concerning its deliberations on same-sex marriage:

General Assembly has just passed the following resolution by agreement:

A clear majority of members of Assembly expressed the view that local congregations should be permitted to offer same-sex marriage to those who seek that opportunity. However, because our decision-making process is based on the seeking of full consensus, Assembly was unable to reach agreement.

Assembly therefore resolves to pursue this discussion in the most constructive and consultative way that it can, as follows:

(1) to invite synods and local congregations (a) to reflect on the report of the Facilitation Group, (b) to discuss whether they would wish a future meeting of the Assembly to authorise local church meetings to offer same-sex marriage services, and © to report their views to the General Secretary by 31st March 2015.

(2) to authorise the officers of Assembly to furnish these discussions with appropriate resources, including an offer of the support of facilitators.

Media reports of this:

BBC [United Reformed Church fails to agree on gay weddings](#)

Pink News [UK United Reform \[sic\] Church fails to pass same-sex marriage](#)

South Wales Evening Post [No decision on gay weddings for United Reformed Church](#)

A second look at Summer Issue of Search

The summer issue of the Church of Ireland journal, *Search*, edited by Canon Ginnie Kennerley, is largely concerned with matters of reconciliation – between groups within the Church, between individuals, or between Churches.

The Revd Dr David Hewlett, Principal of the Queen's Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education in Birmingham, and a former Lecturer in Systemic Theology in the Church of Ireland Theological College, begins with the proposition that we learn most and change most transformatively when we listen to those who are most different from us. The Revd Dr William Olhausen, Theological Advisor to the Archbishop of Dublin, follows up with a challenging to think and speak in a logical and disciplined manner – even in the sexuality debate.

The Rector of Killinchy, Dr Stanley Gamble suggests, as the 12 July approaches, taking a new look at the Orange Order, and what it can do and has done to promote peace in Northern Ireland, and the Very Revd David Godfrey, a longstanding member of the Corrymeela Community, reflects on what Corrymeela has taught us about the incarnational aspect of our “face to face” relationships with one another, as channels for Christ's compassion and healing.

Healing is the theme of Iva Beranek's article about another community that crosses divides in Northern Ireland, 'Restoration Ministries', founded by Ruth Patterson in 1988 and still offering a ministry of spiritual listening and healing to individuals and groups alike. It has taught her lessons that all parishes could learn from in terms of allowing time to go deeper into past trauma so that painful scars can be erased in prayer. From another angle, the Revd Dr Ian W Ellis, Secretary of the Church of Ireland Board of Education (N.I.) looks at the potential for community reconciliation through shared education systems in Northern Ireland.

Lastly, this issue deals with healing of rifts between Churches, a topic of the moment now that mutual recognition of ministry has been agreed with the Methodist Church in Ireland. But this is nothing new. The Church of Ireland has been in communion with the Lutheran Churches of the Nordic area for some two decades, but few are aware of the depth of mutual recognition and cooperation between the churches. The Archdeacon of Clogher, the Ven. Helene Steed, originally from the Church of Sweden, and the Revd Ása Björk Ólafsdóttir from Iceland, have both been in parish ministry in the Church of Ireland for some time, and they offer respectively an outline of the developments and a personal story, to give us a sense of how such relationships proceed. - C of I Correspondent to Irish Times.

Summer Music at Sandford

The Summer Music at Sandford series of lunchtime recitals take place on Fridays throughout the summer from June to September. The concerts are

held in Sandford Parish Church, Ranelagh, starting at 1.10 pm and concluding at 1.50 pm. Admission is free to all recitals.

July 11th: David Tobin (Violin) and Shirin Goudarzi–Tobin (Piano)

Including music by Fauré, Messiaen and de Falla.

July 18th: Niamh Fitzgerald (Soprano) and David O'Shea (Piano)

Vocal and solo piano music by Mozart and Wagner.

July 25th: Rónán Murray (Organ)

'Soft Sounds of Summer': a recital exploring the gentler voices of the organ.

Lunchtime Recitals at St Ann's, Dawson Street

St Ann's Church will hold a series of Lunchtime Recitals over the coming months. All recitals begin at 1:15pm following Daily Eucharist. Entrance is free and donations are welcomed.

Thu 24 July Elizabeth Pink (Contralto) and David O'Shea (piano)

Fri 25 July Gregory Harrington (violin)

Thu 31 July Ana Margarida Silva (piano)

Concerts in St Mary's Limerick

Free admission. All welcome. (Retiring collection in aid of The Companions of St. Mary's Cathedral music) at 1.15 pm

Wednesday 23rd July - Edel O'Brien (alto) Irina Dernova (piano) - *Music by Elgar and Berio.*

Wednesday 30th July - Sarah-Ellen Murphy (alto) with Peter Barley (piano) - *Songs by Brahms, Wagner, Wolf, Liszt and Dvorak.*

Thursday 31st July - Lions Youth Brass Band.

Wednesday 6th August - As part of Limerick's inaugural Pipe Organ Festival, itself part of Limerick City of Culture 2014. Stuart Nicholson (organ) - *Music by J.S.Bach, Parry and Whitlock.*

Irish classes in Church of the Good Shepherd, Monkstown

The Church of the Good Shepherd, Monkstown, Connor diocese, will be running a beginners' level Irish class on Wednesday evenings from 8–9pm starting on September 3 2014

The class is free and will run for 14 weeks. Successful completion of the course will result in the award of a Cupla Focal certificate (basic Irish) and badge.

There will also be a parallel eight week class (days/times still to be confirmed) for those whose Irish is beyond beginners' level. Please contact the Rev Arlene Moore if interested in any of the classes or for further information (07450) 284484.

Press Coverage

Phyllis had third child after being raped by a priest

Professor Ivor Browne talks to Niamh Horan about the final secret Phyllis Hamilton kept hidden from the world

Irish Independent - The woman, who took on the Catholic Church after living an extraordinary double life with Fr Michael Cleary, gave birth to a baby girl following the sexual assault.

The baby was born after the two boys she had with Fr Cleary and was given up for adoption to a family in America.

The latest chapter in the tragic life of Phyllis Hamilton has come to light - it has been revealed she had a third child, after being raped by a priest.

It is not known where the girl - who would be in her 20s now - is today, or whether she has tried to find her birth mother since.

The final sad instalment to the legacy of Phyllis Hamilton has become public 13 years after she died from cancer, having undergone DNA tests to categorically prove her son Ross Hamilton was fathered by Fr Cleary.

In an exclusive interview with the Sunday Independent Professor Ivor Browne, a long-time therapist to both Ms Hamilton and Fr Cleary, explained the sequence of events and confirmed there was a third child.

"Phyllis had a third child, a baby girl, but she gave her up for adoption shortly after she gave birth, to a family in America," said Prof Browne.

"She had the child with a priest who knew her secret with Fr Cleary and he blackmailed her and had sex with her. He threatened to expose her if she ever told anyone about it. It was rape, really. And when she eventually told people, he was expelled out of the priesthood after that."

The news comes only a week after Dublin priest Fr Arthur O'Neill questioned whether Fr Cleary really fathered the children with Phyllis, who was his housekeeper - allegations which in the mid-1990s provoked a huge scandal in the Irish Catholic Church.

- See more at: <http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/news/phyllis-had-third-child-after-being-raped-by-a-priest-30409392.html#sthash.KVgrc98Q.dpuf>

C of E Bishops consecrated

BBC - Report on how the Archbishop of York Dr John Sentamu has consecrated the new bishops of Whitby and Selby in a ceremony at York Minster. It states the Ven Paul Ferguson becomes the Bishop of Whitby and the Rev Canon Dr John Thomson takes the role in Selby.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-york-north-yorkshire-28145412>

BMJ supports choice in assisted dying

Tel - Report on how the British Medical Journal argues for Lord Falconer's assisted dying bill insisting that choice is now the most important principle in medical ethics. Breaking ranks with the medical establishment, it has issued an outspoken editorial backing a bill tabled by the former Lord Chancellor Lord Falconer which would open the way for a form of assisted suicide in the UK.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/health/healthnews/10940767/Legalise-assisted-suicide-because-choice-the-most-important-principle-in-medicine-says-BMJ.html>

Official Logo and Prayer for World Youth Day 2016 Revealed

The official logo and prayer for World Youth Day 2016 have been revealed! The World Youth Day, which in 2016 will take place in Krakow, Poland, has over the years attracted millions of young Catholic faithful to gather in a show of great love and unity with a view to carrying that love to all corners of the earth. The World Youth Day in 2013, which took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, attracted 3 million youth to Copacabana beach for the final Mass with Pope Francis. Click here to find out all about the new logo and prayer for 2016: <http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2014/07/03/world-youth-day-2016-logo-and-prayer-revealed/> [...]