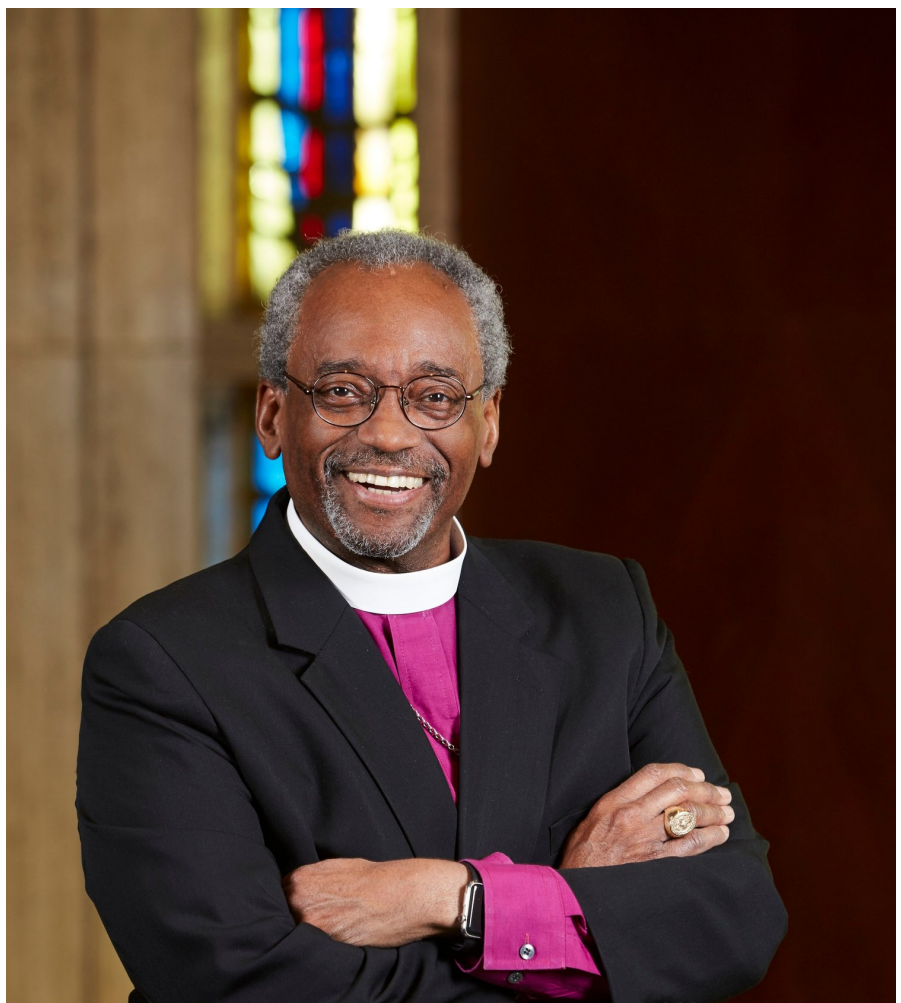




**Award to  
Presiding  
Bishop  
Michael  
Curry for  
royal  
wedding  
sermon**



An estimated 1.9 billion people watched Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, the first African American to

head the U.S.-based Episcopal Church, tell a congregation of royals and celebrities that “love is the way.”

Curry, presiding bishop and primate of The Episcopal Church, is to receive the 2019 Sandford St. Martin Trustees’

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Award in recognition of the huge media impact generated by his royal wedding sermon which helped to bring a better understanding of religious belief and its modern relevance to a new audience.

The Rt .Rev. Jan MacFarlane, bishop of Repton and chair of the Sandford St. Martin Trust, said: “One of the indisputable broadcasting highlights of the 2018 royal wedding was Bishop Curry’s sermon. His words were broadcast around the world and were instrumental in shining a spotlight on the central role faith plays in the wider social discourse, and, on how religion can be both hugely engaging and unifying for the public.

“His reminder to audiences of the ‘important stuff’ in life – like fellowship and love – has been crucial at a time such as this, when the social and political divisions in the U.K. and around the world are being so deeply felt.”

The Sandford St. Martin Trustees’ Award recognizes individuals, programs or organizations which have made outstanding contributions to their audience’s understanding of religion, ethics or spirituality. Previous recipients include author, journalist and broadcaster Joan Bakewell, composer Sir John Tavener, journalist Lyse Doucet, and, broadcaster and historian Neil MacGregor.

The U.K. writer, broadcaster and former chairman of the Equality and Human Rights Commission Trevor Philips will dedicate Curry’s award at a special ceremony at Lambeth Palace on June 13. Curry videotaped his acceptance speech for the ceremony, because a scheduling conflict prevents him from accepting in person.

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This year's shortlists, judging panels and previous winners are here.

The Sandford St. Martin Trust is an independent, non-profit organization. It has been making annual awards for the best programs about religion, ethics and spirituality since 1978. The Trust engages with a wide range of media organizations, individual journalists, broadcast content-makers and other media figures, many of whom give their time and expertise voluntarily to support the Trust's work. This work includes contributing to and participating in conferences, festivals and training as well as on-going public consultations and debates on the future of broadcasting.

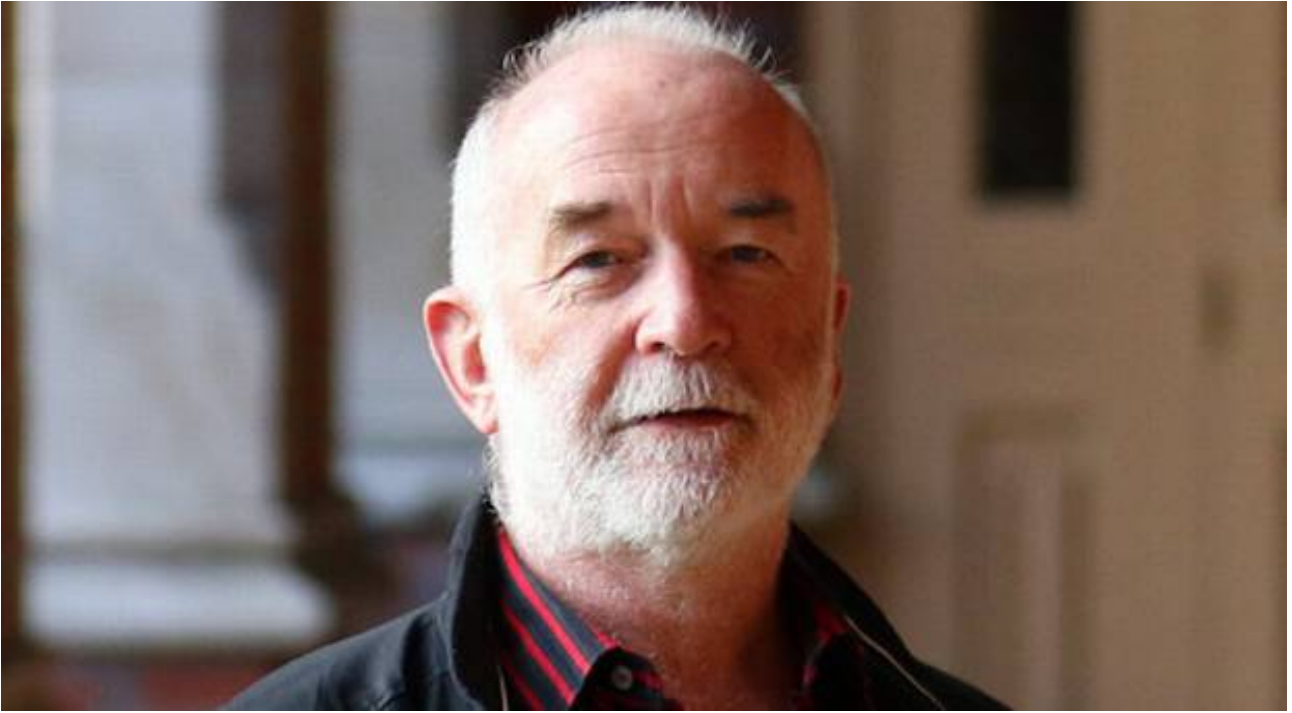
The Sandford St. Martin Trust supports thought-provoking, distinctive programming that engages with issues of faith, morality and ethics. In recent years the rise of "fake news," misinformation, hate crimes and an increasingly divided society means the need for religious literacy has never been greater.

## **Presbyterian Church's treatment of academic 'like Inquisition'**

A leading Scottish academic said on Tuesday, May 16, that the Presbyterian Church's treatment of a Belfast professor of theology reminded him of "the Inquisition", David Young reports in the Belfast Telegraph.

Rev Professor Laurence Kirkpatrick (62), who worked at Union Theological College for 22 years, was dismissed after being found guilty of "gross misconduct" by a disciplinary

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## **Rev Professor Laurence Kirkpatrick worked at Union Theological College for 22 years**

panel of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, which runs the institution.

His dismissal as Professor of Church History came after he told BBC Radio Ulster's Talkback programme that he would be "horrified" if students were taught that same-sex relationships were sinful.

Respected academic Ian Hazlett, Emeritus Professor of Theology and Religious Studies at the University of Glasgow, supervised Professor Kirkpatrick's doctoral studies there.

Prof Hazlett told the Belfast Telegraph that "Laurence Kirkpatrick's dismissal from his academic post by non-academic churchmen will in no way damage his good

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standing and reputation, academic and religious, outside Ireland. Rather, it will enhance them".

The academic also said he felt that the Presbyterian Church in Ireland "seems to be turning itself into an exclusivist holiness sect, a ghetto increasingly devolved from evolving mainstream Christian tradition... thereby destined for contraction and marginalisation".

In a personal statement, he added: "The long, semi-secret plotting and public leaks putting psychological stress on Prof Kirkpatrick and his family reminded me in some respects of the Inquisition."

The Inquisition was an institution within the Catholic Church which for centuries was used to root out heresy and was notorious for the severity of its torture and widespread killings.

In its letter of dismissal to Professor Kirkpatrick, the Presbyterian Church said that his contribution to the Talkback programme had brought Union Theological College, and by association his employer the Church itself, into disrepute.

Prof Kirkpatrick, who told the Belfast Telegraph last month he was now on Jobseeker's Allowance, is appealing the decision by the Presbyterian Church to sack him.

He is also pursuing a claim of discrimination at an employment tribunal.

A Church spokesman said last night: "As with all employers, it is never appropriate to comment on any employment matter."



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Last month Queen's University said that it intended to sever its links with Union College.

The Presbyterian-run college admits around 150 undergraduate students a year. It teaches Presbyterian theological students, and has currently no female academic staff or female students.

The decision by Queen's to break its ties with Union College means that the university will no longer award theology undergraduate degrees or postgraduate courses after the current students finish their programmes of study.

## **Pope Francis announces theme of next World Meeting of Families**

“Family love: a vocation and a path to holiness” is the theme chosen by Pope Francis for the next World Meeting of Families, due to take place in Rome from 23 to 27 June 2021.

A statement released by the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life explains that, as the event will be taking place on the 5th anniversary of the Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* and three years after the promulgation of *Gaudete et Exsultate*, “the aim is to emphasise family love as a vocation and a way to holiness, and to understand and share the profound and redeeming significance of family relationships in daily life”.

“Conjugal and family love reveals the precious gift of a life together where communion is nourished and a culture of

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### **Pope Francis in Dublin last year**

individualism, consumption and waste is averted”, reads the statement. It also places emphasis on recognizing the importance of the identity of each member of the family.

According to the statement, marriage and family shape a concrete experience of love. They demonstrate the “great significance of human relationships in which joys and struggles are shared in the unfolding of daily life as people are led towards an encounter with God”.

This journey strengthens love and enables the vocation to holiness. In this way, concludes the statement, the Christian Family is an expression of the “most attractive face of the Church”.

The last World Meeting of Families was held in Ireland in August 2018. The theme chosen by Pope Francis was “The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World”.

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## Archbishop of Mauritius to be Director of the Anglican Centre in Rome

Archbishop Ian Ernest, the Bishop of Mauritius and former Primate of the Anglican Church of the Indian Ocean, is to become the Archbishop of Canterbury's next Personal Representative to the Holy See and Director of the Anglican Centre in Rome. He will take up his new role towards the end of the year following an official Papal Visit to Mauritius by Pope Francis in September.

In his current role, Archbishop Ian has worked closely with his Roman Catholic counterpart, the Bishop of Port Louis, Cardinal Maurice Piat. The two have written joint statements on environmental and social issues and have delivered joint Christmas messages for Mauritian television.

The two co-lead one of the top schools on the Mauritian island of Rodrigues, the ecumenical Rodrigues College, which was formed in 1973 by the merger of St Louis Roman Catholic School and St Barnabas Anglican School. When Archbishop Ian's mandate as Archbishop and Primate of the Indian Ocean was renewed in 2012, he invited a Roman Catholic priest to preach the sermon.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, said that he was "delighted" with the appointment, saying that it "comes at an exciting time in the growing and important relationship between the Anglican Communion and the Roman Catholic Church."



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## Archbishop Ian Ernest the new Director of the Anglican Centre in Rome

He added: “The Anglican Centre in Rome was established just over 50 years ago at the time of the first public meeting between a Pope and an Archbishop of Canterbury since the Reformation. Over the past 50 years the relationship between my predecessors and successive Popes; and the connections between people involved in official ecumenical dialogues, has deepened that relationship. It is bearing much fruit – as the joint Anglican, Catholic and Presbyterian retreat at the Vatican last month for the political leaders in South Sudan demonstrates.

“Archbishop Ian will bring to his new role a wealth of experience in practical ecumenical engagement; and

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significant connections throughout the Anglican Communion. I look forward to working with him as we continue to develop our relationship with the Catholic Church.”

Bishop Michael Burrows, the Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory, chairs the Anglican Centre’s Board of Governors. He welcomed the appointment, saying that Archbishop Ian “brings with him to Rome great enthusiasm for the task, a warm personality and vast experience of his own province and the wider Anglican Communion as a former Archbishop of the Indian Ocean.

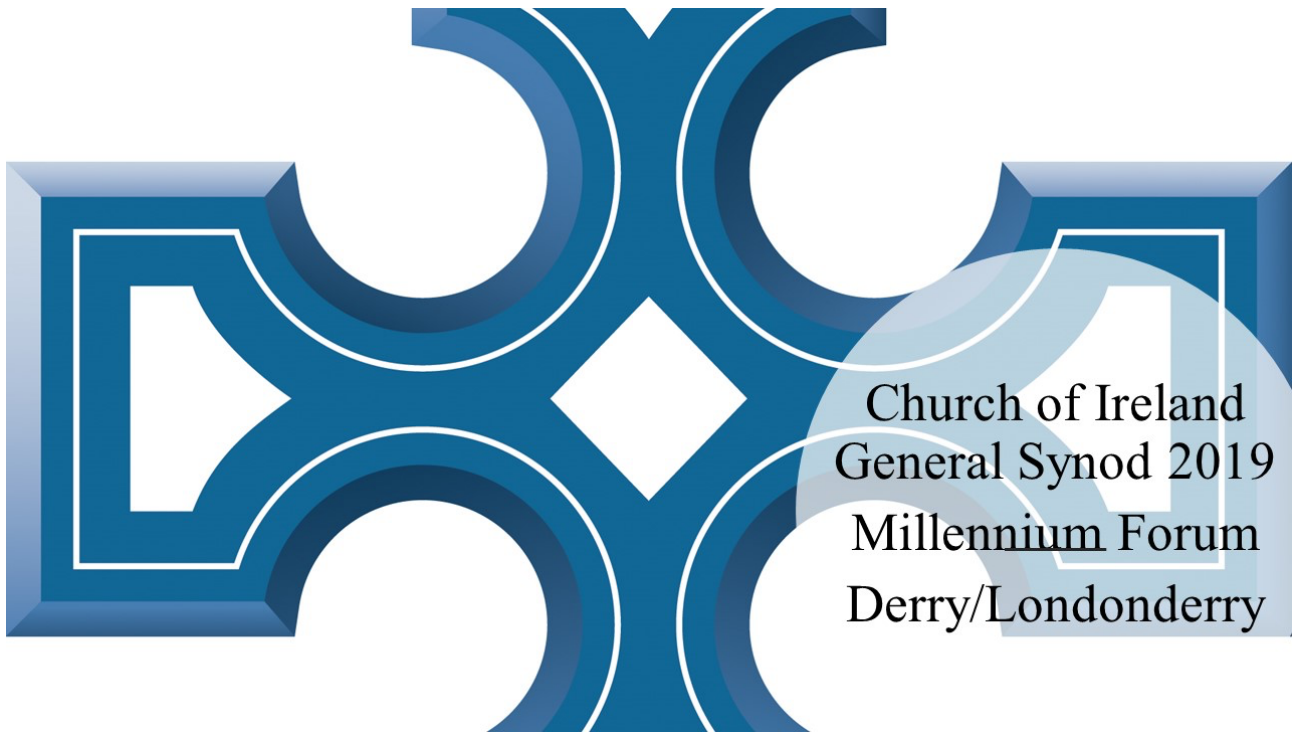
“He will be very well suited to the work of an ambassador for the whole Communion in Rome, and to strengthening the role of the ACR as a place of hospitality and study. His track record in practical ecumenism is highly impressive, and the Governors look forward to working with him in the coming years and cherishing his great vision and energy”.

## **Yesterday at the General Synod**

### **+++ Christian Unity and Dialogue**

Bishop Kenneth Kearon (Limerick and Killaloe) said that ecumenism, reconciliation among Christians, was vitally important because Christians can’t preach a gospel of reconciliation to the world effectively if they themselves are divided. The purpose of ecumenism is to enable the world to be reconciled under God, he added.

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“What I think is very remarkable is the extent to which conversations with others quickly leads to social action and engagement with some of the major issues of our day, as you read of conferences and meetings where the Church of Ireland is involved,” Bishop Kearon said.

“Conversations with the Orthodox churches lead to talk about migration and refugees, end-of-life issues and ecology; with Irish churches on the family, Brexit, reconciliation, and engagement with youth issues; with European churches on threats to peace and stability and military conflict in Eastern Ukraine.”

He added: “So engagement with others in any form is almost always productive and creative, and leads quickly to the sharing of experiences and best practice on many social issues facing us all”.

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Seconding the report, the Revd Katharine Poulton brought news to Synod of the 17th meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council which met in Hong Kong at the beginning of this month. Many new documents were launched encouraging the provinces to engage in Intentional Discipleship and in particular to encourage members to lead a Jesus shaped life.

She said that throughout the week the highlights were hearing the stories of the people coming to Hong Kong from very diverse situations. “Beginning to learn something of the very diverse situations from which our brothers and sisters come is very important as we travel together. For many of us, the words “Climate change” are simply words, for our brothers and sisters in some places in the Anglican Communion it is a reality, with a real and lasting impact on their lives,” she commented.

### **+++Prioritise the Great Commission**

The Council for Mission has urged General Synod to call on parishes to prioritise the Great Commission over the next 10 years. In a motion in the names of the Revd Andrew Quill and Bishop Ferran Glenfield, the council says that the move will better equip parishes to proclaim the good news about Jesus Christ and to disciple others to make a real difference in our world, bearing in mind the Five Marks of Mission. In proposing the Motion, the Revd Andrew Quill said that attendance figures in eight of the 12 dioceses of the Church of Ireland had seen a reduction in church attendance and suggested that the Church was weak at discipleship.

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“On the Council for Mission, we have been promoting the Five Marks of Mission – last year producing ‘Radiant Faith’ – and believe that effective discipleship would impact the other marks of mission and hence bring transformation to our communities and beyond,” he stated.

Discussing the motion Bishop Michael Burrows (Cashel, Ferns and Ossory) said there were some things worth considering. He said it was hard to assess what was achieved by the Decade of Evangelism and that there were dangers in setting a time. If we are going to do something aspirational for a decade without resources and a point by point idea of where we are going, he said.

“If you are looking at the next 10 years we must think of those who will grow up in the next 10 years. In my own life I am surrounded by these people who are passionate about the environment and their place in it but don’t necessarily connect with the church... It can be challenging to reconnect the church with their passions,” Bishop Burrows stated.

## **+++Five Marks of Mission**

The Revd Cliff Jeffers (Cork, Cloyne and Ross) who posed the question to Synod: ‘How can we proclaim the unchanging Gospel message in and ever-changing world?’

He said that it was the council’s role to remind Synod of the main purpose of the Church – that we are called to be active in God’s work. In the busyness of parish life Mr



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Jeffers says that it was easy to neglect this primary purpose.

The Council for Mission had been keeping the mission of the church on their agenda. This led them to refocus their attentions and a commitment to reflect on the Five Marks of Mission.

“Over the next five years, we are going to bring to your attention and the attention of the wider church, each of the five Marks of Mission for us to reflect on and encourage your participation in your personal lives and the lives of churches and communities. We are planning, with the help of the Priorities Fund, to create a short video for each Mark of mission that can be used in Select Vestries, shown at church services or on other parish occasions or to be viewed personally and shared on social media. The purpose of these videos is to help us to better understand and engage with the 5 Marks of mission as a way of understanding the mission of the church and enable us to better make plans and develop strategies in our local communities to share the Good News of Christ,” he stated.

Their focus this year will be on the first Mark of Mission – to Proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom. “This first Mark is fundamental, as it is the building block of our faith. Regardless of our church traditions or background, somewhere, somehow, each of us who are followers of Jesus heard that message proclaimed by someone, either in words that we came to understand and believe or in action that we copied and made our own,” Mr Jeffers said.

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## Today in Christian history

**May 18, 1291:** The last Christian territory taken by the Crusaders, Acre, falls to the Sultan of Egypt.

**May 18, 1834:** Sheldon Jackson, Presbyterian missionary to the frontier West and Alaska, is born in Minaville, New York. Jackson's reputation for ministering to the spiritual, physical, and social needs of both natives and settlers earned him the nicknames "Bishop of All Beyond" and "Apostle to Alaska".

**May 18, 1920:** Karol Wojtyla (who would take the name John Paul II when elected pope) is born in Wadowice, Poland

## News Links

[Church of Ireland Primate issues stark warning against 'populism'](#)

Irish Times

Populism is imperilling the very roots of democracy and if this does not frighten us, it should, the **Church of Ireland** Primate Archbishop Richard Clarke ...

[Church of Ireland primate warns of 'menacing' future](#)

Belfast Telegraph

**Church of Ireland** Primate Archbishop Richard Clarke has underlined the challenges facing the Church in general and also the people of Londonderry ...

['Forces of evil' will walk into political vacuum in NI, synod warned](#)

Irish Times

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“Forces of evil” will walk into the vacuum left by the continued lack of government in the North, the leader of the **Church of Ireland** has warned.

### [Presbyterian \*\*Church's\*\* treatment of academic 'like Inquisition'](#)

Belfast Telegraph

The academic also said he felt that the Presbyterian **Church in Ireland** "seems to be turning itself into an exclusivist holiness sect, a ghetto increasingly ...

### [Groups accuse Francis of 'stalling' over ordination of women](#)

The Tablet

The Association of Catholic Priests in **Ireland** has accused the Pope of ... at Pope Francis' suggestion that the **Church** is not ready to take this step.

### [MEPs express 'deep concerns' at McGuinness proposal on church access](#)

Irish Times

In a leaked report compiled by Ms McGuinness and obtained by **news** website ... European elections: Is **Ireland** ready to take them seriously? ... On Wednesday night, the Irish MEP said **religious** and philosophical opinion across the ...

### [Parents leaving it to schools to prepare children for sacraments](#)

Irish Times

**Ireland** is unique in its dependence on schools in preparing for the ... the sacraments are at risk of becoming a social rather than a **religious** event.

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[Abuse survivors want Westminster to intervene over compensation payments](#)

Belfast Newsletter

Abuse survivors in Northern **Ireland** have called for improved compensation and demanded a ... found widespread and systemic abuse in children's homes across Northern **Ireland**. ... the Catholic **Church**, the **Church** of **Ireland** and the children's charity Barnardo's. ... More from the Belfast **News** Letter.

[Order that refused to pay into redress scheme selling €3m retreat](#)

[Independent.ie](#)

The **Religious** Sisters of Charity announced it will sell the €3m Stella Maris ... The order, which has sisters in **Ireland**, England, Scotland, California, ...

[Lay leader links demise of Catholic Ireland to Church's 'surrender' to the world](#)

Lifesite

ROME, May 17, 2019 (LifeSiteNews) — An Irish life and family leader said his country's Catholic leaders have largely surrendered to the “spirit of the ...

[Permission for Kilkenny mosque overturned by An Bord Pleanála](#)

Irish Times

One objector said the decision was “better than an All-**Ireland** victory”. ... He said his problem with the proposal was not on **religious** or anti-Islamic ...

[Christ Church Cathedral to host free concert by US university wind symphony band](#)

[Independent.ie](#)

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Christ **Church** Cathedral to host free concert by US university wind ... year the Wind Symphony has decided to do a tour of **Ireland** and Scotland. ... The concert taking place at Christ **Church** Cathedral is free, but the event ... 'It's a nothing song', says Louis Walsh on **Ireland's** Eurovision hopes Music **News**.

[Northern \*\*Ireland\*\* author Sheila Llewellyn in running for prestigious literary prize](#)

Belfast Telegraph

A book by an author from Northern Ireland is in the running for a prestigious ... A debut novel by Irish writer and **Church of Ireland** minister Norma ...

[Bishop Sarah Mullally to officiate at royal engagements](#)

Premier

The Bishop of London is set to become the **Church of England's** lead at ... Bishop Sarah will officiate at major church services attended by the royal ...

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Premier

**Church of England** bishop suspended following police advice ... The **news** of his suspension comes just weeks after a BBC Panorama show ...

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The Guardian

[Bishop of Lincoln Christopher Lowson suspended from office](#) - BBC News

[Bishop suspended in abuse 'cover-up'](#) - The Times

[Litter picking with a prayer](#)

ChristianToday



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"Litter pilgrimages are a perfect example of how church communities can make a ... Dudley, who is a member of the **Church of England's** Environmental Working Group. ... "If church communities across the country engage with this, a lot of small actions ... Stay up to date with the latest **Christian news!**

**Poland's Catholic Church reeling over abuse documentary**  
Irish Times

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