



## Christchurch terror attack - worshippers return to Mosque

Worshippers have returned to Al Noor Mosque in [Christchurch](#) for the first time since dozens of people were killed in a deadly terror attack.

Hundreds of people visited the mosque to lay flowers and tributes, or pray, after police removed a cordon.

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It is the first time people have been allowed back into the mosque to visit since 50 people were gunned down while at Friday prayers.



Crews had replaced windows that worshippers smashed in a desperate attempt to escape when the attack during Friday prayers. Bullet holes were plastered over and painted.

Shagat Khan, the president of the Muslim Association of Canterbury, said they had not planned to open the mosque so soon but when they saw the crowds gathering after the police cordon was removed, they decided to allow people to enter in managed groups "so the mosque will be alive again".

"Those who lost their families are of course quite emotional," he said.

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"And those who were present here during the incident, of course the memories come back. The flashbacks."

A total of 50 people were killed at two mosques in Christchurch on March 15, in the country's worst terrorist attack.

Australian Brenton Tarrant, 28, has been charged with murder and is scheduled to make his next court appearance on April 5.

Abdullahi Ibrahim Diriye, the uncle of the youngest victim of the shooting, three-year-old Mucaad Ibrahim, visited the mosque with the boy's father.

Mr Diriye said: "Always he was a happy boy, and he liked every person he met, not only Muslims."

Prince Hassan bin Talal of Jordan, who travelled to [New Zealand](#) to pay his respects, hugged a man at the entrance of the mosque and told him to "be patient".

He said: "He was crying deeply from his heart for a loved one he had lost.

"And I was saying, this is God's will, be patient. Because only through patience can you endure."

## **King's College choir has tough time finding new recruits**

KING'S College choir is finding it harder to recruit choristers because parents want family time at weekends, the outgoing conductor has said.



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**Over 60 people took part in the Anglican Chant workshop in Christ Church Cathedral Dublin last Saturday morning. The workshop was led by Ian Keatley, director of music at the cathedral.**

Stephen Cleobury spent 37 years at the helm of the Cambridge choir – one of the most famous in the world.

Now the married father-of-two has spoken out about the difficulties in getting choristers to dedicate their time to singing at weekends.

He says persuading parents and their children to commit to attending services is challenging because families often want to spend their days off together.

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“When I was first doing this sort of thing, 40 to 50 years ago, it would be quite common to audition a youngster who was already singing in a local church choir. It’s much more rare today,” Mr Cleobury, 70, told Bachtrack, the online music magazine.

***‘There’s a question of understanding what the commitment is and [making] it’***

“It’s a commitment for families and parents. When we’re assessing the choristers, we have to make sure that every party is comfortable with the idea, because the parents are increasingly likely to be attending services as often as they can. If you look at the way a family might spend time at the weekend, there’s much more in the way of leisure activity and people wanting to go away, so there’s a question of people understanding what the commitment is and being prepared to make it.”

The Choir of King’s College, Cambridge was founded in the 15th century and is best known for singing *A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols*, the Christmas Eve service that the BBC has broadcast since 1928.

Mr Cleobury has worked with leading soloists, singers, instrumentalists and orchestras – including the Academy of Ancient Music, the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, the Philharmonia, Britten Sinfonia, the BBC Concert Orchestra and the distinguished ensemble Endymion.

Made a CBE in 2009, Mr Cleobury conducted for the final time at King’s College Chapel on Christmas Eve.

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# Presbyterian Church responds to Cyclone Idai

The Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI), Rt Rev Dr Charles McMullen, launched a special appeal on 22 March for those affected by Cyclone Idai. The cyclone swept through Mozambique, Malawi, and Zimbabwe causing severe flooding and major loss of life. PCI will be sending an initial £60,000/€69,192 to its partners working on the ground.

With an estimated 2.6 million people affected by the widespread devastation across the region, the risk of food shortages and the need for clean water, food shelter and medical aid, Dr McMullen has written to all ministers and congregations across Ireland to launch a special appeal.

“I am sure that we have all been distressed to see the news reports this week from southern Africa of the devastating effects of Cyclone Idai, one of the worst tropical cyclones on record in the Southern Hemisphere,” Dr McMullen said.

“It is unimaginable what those affected must be facing! Large areas of agricultural land have been submerged by the floodwaters, undoubtedly destroying crops. At present, our thoughts and prayers are with those who are grieving loved ones, are still waiting to be rescued and those in need of emergency assistance. Sadly, however, the consequences of this disaster are likely to be felt over the coming months and years, with many people likely to be in need of food and emergency aid for some time.

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“I have always known our Church to be a caring and generous church, with a great heart for those in need and its people faithful in prayer and sacrificial in giving. I am therefore calling on Presbyterian members and congregations again to respond to this crisis in a prayerful and generous way.”

The Church has immediately released £60,000/€69,192 to be distributed to Christian Aid and Tearfund who are already working through their partners on the ground to get food, shelter and medical help to those in need, and also to PCI's partner church in Malawi, the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (Blantyre Synod), who have been deeply impacted by this disaster and also engaged in the relief effort.

The area in and around the coastal city of Beira in southern Mozambique appears to be one of the worst affected areas, suffering a 4.4 metre storm surge, heavy rain, and winds over 100 mph. Airborne debris alone injured over 1,500 people. All 17 of the city's hospitals and health centres were damaged. It is estimated that 90% of the city's buildings are damaged or totally destroyed.

Dr McMullen concluded by saying, “Two years ago in a similar appeal, Presbyterians raised nearly £700,000 / €805,000 for east Africa following the worst drought the region had experienced in half a century. Can I encourage members of our congregations to pray earnestly for those who are experiencing such unimaginable hardship, loss and suffering at this time and to give generously.”

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For more information on the responses of Christian Aid and Tearfund to the disaster, go to:

- [\*\*Christian Aid Cyclone Idai Appeal\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Tearfund Cyclone Idai Appeal\*\*](#)

Over the last 9 years there have been 7 Moderator's Special Appeals that have raised over £3.3 million for various humanitarian relief efforts around the world:

- October 2018 Indonesia (tsunami) £377,000
- March 2017 East Africa (drought) £693,000
- April 2015 Nepal (earthquake) £660,000
- August 2014 South Sudan (famine) £340,000
- November 2013 Philippines (Typhon Haiyan) £500,000
- March 2013 Syria (refugee crisis) £135,000
- August 2011 East Africa (famine) £422,000
- August 2010 Pakistan (flood) £600,000

## **C of I €10,000 emergency funds after Cyclone Idai**

The Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal is releasing €10,000 emergency funds to support the relief efforts in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe in the wake of Cyclone Idai.

They will add further funds over the coming weeks and welcome support from parishes and individuals who wish to contribute.



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The devastation has resulted in over one million people affected, with 80,000 people displaced from their homes.

Immediate concerns include access to hygiene kits, shelter, safe drinking water and food. There are also major concerns for the spread of water borne diseases.

Bishops' Appeal partners Christian Aid and Tearfund Ireland are on the ground providing life saving aid.

For all the ways you can donate visit  
[www.bishopsappeal.ireland.anglican.org/give](http://www.bishopsappeal.ireland.anglican.org/give)

## **Radical shake-up could see priestly training move to parishes**

Under new plans being considered, men training to be priests in the Catholic Church in Ireland would spend most of their time working in parishes rather than in the traditional seminary environment.

It would see seminarians living in parishes with more time involved in active pastoral work alongside priests and lay pastoral workers and would, according to one bishop, give them a more realistic insight into priesthood in contemporary Ireland.

A committee appointed by the hierarchy is currently drawing up a new programme for the formation of priests in Ireland. It is part of what Primate of All-Ireland Archbishop Eamon Martin has called “courageously moving the whole formation experience beyond past and present methods so that priests will be suitably prepared to engage with, and



## **Bishop Fintan Monahan**

evangelise, the secularised contemporary culture”. The document is known as the *Ratio Nationalis*.

Bishop Fintan Monahan of Killaloe told The Irish Catholic that he believed seminarians being formed in parishes “would be more practical” than the current model. He said it would give them “first-hand experience of working together with priests and laypeople”.

“The seminaries are almost monastic in character, and it is a shock to the system for newly-ordained priests when they come to the parish.

“Something based in the parish would help make it a more seamless transition,” Bishop Monahan said pointing to the “very positive” impact he sees the pastoral year seminarians complete at present having on aspirants to the priesthood.

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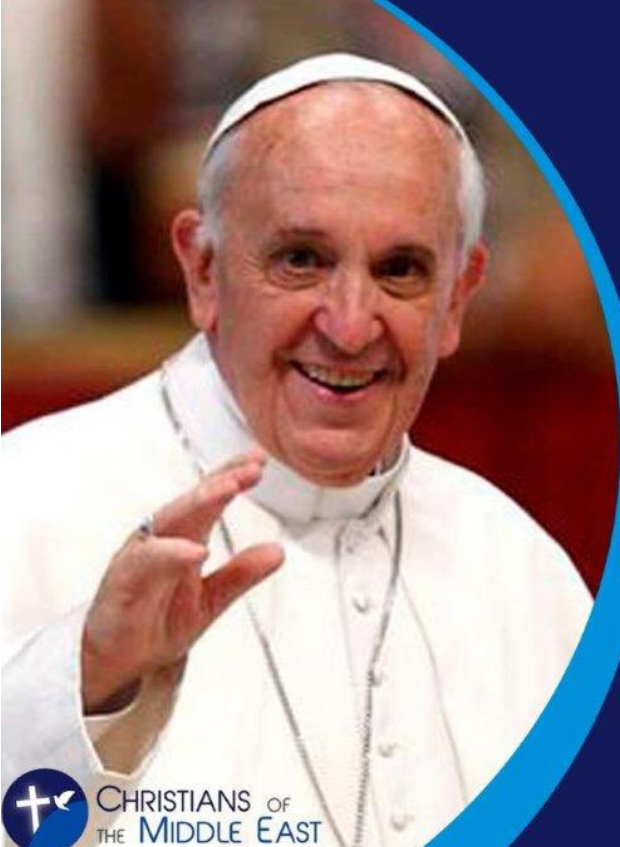
He said “every option is being looked at in the context of decreased numbers” of people preparing for priesthood.

He said the evidence from abroad – particularly in France – is that the parish-based model “has been reasonably successful”.


However, he cautioned that there are challenges – particularly for dioceses that do not have a university. “Some parishes are a long way from a university where they could study and that would present practical difficulties in some cases”.

He said he believed that a parish-based programme could help make formation “more down to earth”.

Citing other examples of ‘practitioner-based’ training such as for nurses and doctors, he said the parish model “would



**Outward appearance, money, career, hobbies: these are sirens that enchant us and then set us adrift. Lent is a time of grace to free our hearts from vanities.**  
**March 23, 2019**

 **CHRISTIANS OF THE MIDDLE EAST**

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allow for a seminarian to be steeped and immersed in parish and diocesan life”.

There are approximately 23 seminarians in Maynooth at present and around a dozen in the Irish College in Rome, and Bishop Monahan said that the low numbers in formation has “focused attention”. “Can we keep two seminaries?” he asked.

“The old seminary model served its purpose, but there’s a definite need to look at other models now,” he said.

Describing both Maynooth and the Irish College as “national treasures” he said there is “huge affection” for both institutions.

Fr Tom Surlis, rector of Maynooth, said the consultation process has been going on since the start of the year and that the committee has already received responses from diocesan vocations directors, councils of priests and leaders of religious congregations amongst others.

## **Formation**

He said that the committee is working “in tandem with the trustees of the college, the wider Episcopal Conference” and others “to learn from the insights gained at various conferences on new models of priestly formation held in the past two years in Maynooth and in Rome.

“The key task facing the committee is to ensure that the programme of priestly formation in Irish seminaries continues to be fully in keeping with the teaching of the Magisterium and the law of the Church”.



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He said a key part of the work of the committee will be looking at how prospective priests are accompanied before and during their formation.

“In a vocational environment where most applicants have either completed a third-level qualification and/or have worked in their particular field for a number of years, this period of accompaniment and discernment is very important in terms of helping applicants to properly examine their motivations for pursuing a vocation to the diocesan priesthood in Ireland,” he said.

## **News briefs**

**+++Solidarity with Islamic Community in Kilkenny** - The Dean of Ossory paid a courtesy visit to Iman Ebrahim Ndure at an exhibition of Islamic literature and artefacts in the Rivercourt Hotel. Dean David offered his solidarity and support to the Islamic Community in Kilkenny in the wake of the recent terrorist attack in Christchurch, New Zealand.

**+++Spring Craft Fair** - If you're at a loose end next Saturday, why not pop into the Faulkner Memorial Hall between 10am and 3 pm (the earlier the better) and enjoy the Spring Craft Fair in aid of Kilcronaghan Parish Church. Rev Carmen Hayes will be only too happy to see you.

**+++Food for thought** - A man can no more diminish God's glory by refusing to worship Him than a lunatic can put out the sun by scribbling the word 'darkness' on the walls of his cell.” - CSLewis

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## March 24 in Christian history

**March 24, 1208:** After England's irreligious King John opposed his choice for Archbishop of Canterbury, Pope Innocent III places Britain under an interdict. Innocent had all religious services canceled, churches closed, and the dead were not given Christian burials until John surrendered. Soon after, the king signed the Magna Carta, in which the first article affirms "That the Church of England shall be free . . .

**March 24, 1816:** Methodist Bishop Francis Asbury, age 71, preaches his last sermon. The sermon, delivered at the Old Methodist Church in Richmond, Virginia, lasted an hour—even though Asbury, weakened, spoke while lying on a table (see issue 45: Camp Meetings & Circuit Riders).

**March 24, 1820:** Blind hymnwriter Fanny Crosby, author of more than 9,000 hymns, is born. Her works include "Blessed Assurance," "All the Way My Savior Leads Me," "To God Be the Glory," "Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior," "Safe in the Arms of Jesus," "Rescue the Perishing," and "Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross.

**March 24, 1980:** Roman Catholic archbishop Oscar Romero, a vocal opponent of the San Salvador military, is assassinated while saying mass in his country. Several men, believed to be part of a death squad, were arrested for the murder but were later released.

## News Links

[Church of Ireland Archbishop of Dublin expresses solidarity with NZ Muslims](#)

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[RTE.ie](http://RTE.ie)

**Church of Ireland** Archbishop of Dublin Michael Jackson has been expressing his sympathy and solidarity with the Muslim people of New Zealand and ...

### [Irish Muslims organise New Zealand solidarity march](#)

Irish Times

It's a really good mix of ages and **religions**, “ said 21-year-old UCD student ... Growing up in **Ireland** all had personal experience of Islamophobia.

### [Standing the test of time: Dublin's buildings from 1940-72](#)

The Times

St Mary's **Church of Ireland** in Crumlin is a gem of the period, designed by Edmund Lionel Crosby for the architectural firm McDonnell & Dixon, and ...

### [Concert moved from Barntown Church after previous complaints](#)

Wexford People

Concert moved from Barntown Church after previous complaints ... place there has been relocated to St Iberius **Church of Ireland** in Wexford town.

### [Fifty great years of karate club](#)

Drogheda Independent

... years with a pictorial review of those five decades at the **Church of Ireland** hall. ... He was introduced to the former All Ireland champions and Irish ...

### [5 Interesting Things about Ireland's Eye You Never Knew](#)

Ireland Before You Die

**March 24, 2019**

Here are 5 interesting things about **Ireland's** Eye that you (probably) never knew! ... Most notably, an 8th-century **church** and a small Martello Tower (a ...

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