



CNI



Irish abuse survivor Marie Collins, who is a member of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, with Cardinal Sean O'Malley

Marie Collins thanks members of Vatican commission on abuse for support

Marie Collins, the abuse survivor who recently resigned from the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, has thanked members of the commission for supporting her, the Catholic Herald reports.

Collins, a founding member of the commission resigned on March 1, citing what she called “unacceptable” resistance to the commission’s proposals from the Vatican’s doctrine office, which is responsible for processing cases against abusive priests.

Collins mentioned in particular the alleged refusal by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF) to implement proposals approved by the Pope and to collaborate with the commission.

In a statement on Sunday, the commission expressed support for Collins and, separately, several members said they agreed fully with her criticism of the doctrine office.

Catherine Bonnet, a French child psychiatrist and author on child sex abuse, said: “What Marie has said is the truth. It is more than the voice of a survivor. She has a general view of what is needed.”

In a series of tweets on Monday, the Irish abuse survivor said she “appreciated the support of the Pontifical Commission members” and appeared to specifically thank Bonnet for “confirming” that she was “telling the truth” over her resignation.

Collins, who resigned from the commission, thanked one of its members for 'confirming that she was telling the truth' over her decision to quit

Another Commission member confirms I am telling the truth. This is important to me as there has been much misinformation circulating #pcpm <https://t.co/hbx8BWghKw> – Marie Collins (@marielco) March 27, 2017

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Meanwhile, in an interview with Crux, Cardinal Sean O'Malley, who heads up the commission, said that Collins will join him in Rome in April to give "a curial presentation" and that her "relationship (with the commission) continues to be strong".

When asked about the disagreement between Collins and the CDF, Cardinal O'Malley said "the idea simply was to give the CDF the jurisdiction over these (abuse) cases" but that when Pope Francis presented this proposal to his staff, "that's when it was altered".

In the days after Collins's departure, Cardinal Gerhard Müller, who runs the CDF, responded to her criticisms by telling Italy's Corriere della Sera newspaper that it was time to do away with what he called the "cliche" that the Vatican bureaucracy was resisting Francis's initiatives.

However, Cardinal Müller admitted that he opposed the commission's proposal, approved by the Pope, to send letters to abuse victims acknowledging that their cases were being processed. And he confirmed that the congregation and other Vatican offices had opposed the commission's proposal, approved by the Pope, to create a tribunal section to hear cases of bishops who botched handling abuse claims.

Speaking about the proposed reforms, Cardinal O'Malley said: "The intention was the same, to deal with the responsibility of bishops who had abused their authority by not attending to these cases, or by transferring priests who were paedophiles.

"Our original plan, developed by one of our members who was also a member of the CDF, was that the responsibility would be there. In the meantime, something else was substituted for what we had asked for."

Cardinal O'Malley told Crux that currently the responsibility for looking into abuse cases rests with the Congregation for Bishops.

In the interview, the cardinal also discussed Peter Saunders, the abuse survivor, who took “a leave of absence” from the commission in June of last year after his strong criticisms of the speed of Vatican reforms.

Cardinal O'Malley said Saunders was “in a good place” and “very much involved with this commission in England”. However, he added that it was “unlikely” Saunders would return to being “an active member” of the commission as “this particular commission only has one more plenary”.

Church in Wales investigates official complaints into homophobia against gay cleric

Insiders have lodged an official complaint after a gay cleric was barred from being appointed Bishop of Llandaff.

Five members of the Church in Wales' secretive electoral college that debates and votes for

candidates have spoken of 'deeply inappropriate' references to Dr Jeffrey John's homosexuality when considering his nomination, Christian Today reports.

In a letter to the Church's most senior executive Simon Lloyd, the electors said the remarks against Dr John 'prejudiced' the process making it 'invalid'.

A formal investigation has now been launched into the process and a legal panel chaired by a judge will decide whether to scrap the decision not to take Dr John's nomination forward.

The complaint signed by five of the 47-strong body read: 'We object to the raising at electoral college of the matter of sexuality or civil partnership status, in direct contravention of the Church in Wales's own policy that sexuality or civil partnership status is not a bar to appointment as a Bishop.

'We consider that this action was deeply inappropriate, and prejudiced the electoral college proceedings so as to render them invalid.'

In response Mr Lloyd asked members of the electoral body to approve that normal rules of



The electoral body met in Llandaff Cathedral for three days but failed to elect a candidate despite Jeffrey John winning more than half the vote and unanimous support from local representatives

confidentiality should be waived to allow an investigation.

The appointment for a new bishop is now on hold and may be delayed until the investigation is complete.

Mr Lloyd told electors: 'The timescale is a matter for the Legal Sub-committee and is dependent upon the amount of analysis required and how many times they need to meet. The deliberations

of the Committee cannot and should not be hurried.'

A statement from the Church in Wales read: 'Five members of the Electoral College, which was assembled to elect the Bishop of Llandaff in February, have now submitted a complaint to the Secretary of the Electoral College. Their complaint is in relation to certain aspects of the conduct of the College. This matter has now been referred to the Legal Sub-Committee, which is a body in the Church in Wales assembled to consider legal and governance matters.

'The responsibility of appointing the next Bishop of Llandaff has passed to the Bench of Bishops. It is too early to say whether the deliberations of the Legal Sub Committee will have any effect on the timing of an announcement.'

Dr John, currently Dean of St Albans Cathedral, was nominated to be Bishop of Llandaff and despite winning more than half the votes and unanimous support from local electors, he narrowly missed out on the two-thirds needed to be appointed.

The decision was then passed to the Welsh Bench of Bishops who refused to reconsider his nomination in a new shortlist.

But in a letter following his dismissal, Dr John said the only reason he was blocked was his sexuality.

'The only arguments adduced against my appointment – in particular by two of the bishops - were directly related to my homosexuality and/or civil partnership – namely that my appointment would bring unwelcome and unsettling publicity to the diocese, and that it might create difficulties for the future Archbishop in relation to the Anglican Communion,' he wrote in a highly unusual open letter to Bishop John Davies, the senior Church leader in Wales.

'To ride roughshod of the very clearly expressed, unanimous view of a diocese in this way is extraordinary, unprecedented and foolish,' he told Bishop Davies.

'You decided, arbitrarily, to ignore the submissions that you had asked for, and to declare that those who were discussed at the Electoral College were now, in fact, no longer to be considered. This is a clear and ludicrous breach of process, and a further insult to the people of the diocese, and very many others who took the trouble to contribute their view.'

The Church in Wales strongly denies allegations of homophobia.

A statement from the Church read: 'Neither homosexuality nor participation in a civil partnership are a bar to any candidate being either nominated or elected as a Bishop in the Church in Wales. Moreover, this was made clear to members of the Electoral College by its President, the Bishop of Swansea and Brecon.'

Pope's activities in Holy Week and Easter 2017

The Vatican has released details of the celebrations that Pope Francis will preside over for Holy Week and Easter 2017.

A note from the liturgical office said that on Palm Sunday, 9 April, the Pope will lead a procession for the blessing of the olive and palm branches in Saint Peter's Square, starting at 10.00am, and then celebrate the Mass of Our Lord's Passion. Palm Sunday also marks the XXXII World Youth Day with the theme taken from Saint Luke's Gospel 'The Mighty One has done great things for me'

On Thursday 13 April Pope Francis will preside at the Chrism Mass with the blessing of the holy oils in Saint Peter's Basilica, starting at 9.30am.

On Good Friday, 14 April, the Pope will lead the celebration of Our Lord's Passion in Saint Peter's Basilica, beginning at 5.00pm.

That will be followed at 9.15pm by the traditional Via Crucis, or Way of the Cross, at the Colosseum, after which the Pope will greet the crowds and impart his Apostolic Blessing.

On Saturday 15 April the Holy Father will celebrate the Easter Vigil in Saint Peter's Basilica beginning at 8.30pm with the blessing of the new fire and a procession with the Paschal candle.

During the celebration he will administer the Sacrament of Baptism before concelebrating Mass with the other cardinals and bishops.

Finally on Easter morning, Sunday 16 April, beginning at 10.00am, Pope Francis will preside at the Mass of Our Lord's Resurrection in Saint Peter's Square before giving his '*Urbi et Orbi*' blessing (to the city of Rome and to the world) from the central balcony of Saint Peter's Basilica.

News briefs & Upcoming events

+++ Resourcing Pastoral Carers Course completed in Down & Dromore - A group of 22 people from seven parishes in the diocese of Down & Dromore have just completed a Resourcing Pastoral Carers Course.



The aim of the course is to develop the knowledge and skills of participants in pastoral care and was open to anyone across the diocese with a desire to learn more about pastoral care. Over 10 sessions the participants were taught about various areas of pastoral care such as human need, pastoral relationships, listening skills and reflective practice.

The course was hosted by St. Donard's church in Belfast. The facilitators of the course were Jean Pillar and Lisa Martin from Pastoral Care NI. This brings the total trained in the past six months to 30.



Cllr Oliver Tully (Mayor of Drogheda), Bishop Pat Storey & Rev Roy Taylor

+++ New Rector for Julianstown - There was a packed church in St Mary's Julianstown for the Institution of a new rector, Rev Roy Taylor. The Service took place on the evening of Thursday 23 March. Bishop Pat Storey (Church of Ireland dioceses of Meath and Kildare) instituted Roy into his new post. Neighbouring clergy and colleagues from across the dioceses joined with

parishioners to welcome the new Rector. St Mary's church is situated just to the south of Drogheda. Councillor Oliver Tully, Mayor of Drogheda, also attended the event. Bishop Pat Storey was the preacher at the Service. Following the Institution speeches of welcome were made by Mr Tom Watters (Church Warden), Archdeacon Leslie Stevenson, Canon John Clarke (Rural Dean) and Bishop Storey. Roy is English and has served in England, Geneva, Tenerife and Poland. As well as a background in ministry he has also worked extensively in education. He is married to Monika, who is Polish, and they have a grown-up family. Bishop Storey said, "We warmly welcome Roy to the dioceses. We are also delighted for Julianstown and we believe Roy and Monika will be very happy in their new surroundings".

+++ New rector calls on Derry mayor - The new Rector of Glendermott and Newbuildings, Rev Robert Boyd, paid a courtesy call to Londonderry's Guildhall on Monday afternoon to meet the Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District Council, Alderman Hilary McClintock. The Mayor invited Rev Boyd and his wife May to the Guildhall to welcome them formally to the North West. Rev Boyd was instituted as Rector of Glendermott and Newbuildings two months ago. He and his wife were accompanied to the

meeting in the Mayor's Parlour by parish stalwart Albert Smallwoods. Londonderry's is the only surviving guildhall still in civic use in Ireland. The visitors enjoyed refreshments with the First Citizen in the spacious Parlour, which was redesigned and relocated as part of the £9.5m restoration of the Guildhall. The project was completed in 2013. The Mayor showed Rev and Mrs Boyd portraits of her many predecessors hanging in her own office as well as in the adjoining Whittaker Suite.



+++ Tribute to Derry layman's road safety service - Veteran road safety campaigner Albert Smallwoods has received a special award from the Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District

Council, Alderman Hilary McClintock, in recognition of more than half a century's voluntary service trying to reduce carnage on the North West's roads. Alderman McClintock invited Mr Smallwoods to the Mayor's Parlour on Monday afternoon to collect the award. The Watersideman – who is now in his 52nd year of membership of the Foyle and District Road Safety Committee – is the only surviving member of the original committee, which was established in the mid-sixties. Mr Smallwoods is also involved with the Londonderry Home Safety Committee, the Scout movement and St John Ambulance, and he is a diocesan representative on the Church of Ireland's Bishops' Appeal Committee for the Diocese of Derry and Raphoe. He was awarded an MBE by the Queen in 1993.

+++ Dromore and District Male Voice Choir in Clogher concert - in Mullaghduin Parish Hall, Letterbreen on Friday 31st March – at 8pm as part of the Bi-centenary celebrations. Everyone welcome. Light refreshments served.

+++ RTE1 Service with Raheny & Coolock - There will be a service with a congregation from The Grouped Union of Parishes of Raheny and Coolock on RTE 1 television on Sunday 2 April at

11.10 am. Worship will be led by the Rector, the Revd Norman McCausland.

+++ Friends of St Macartan's Cathedral, Clogher - 62nd Friends' Service and Annual Reunion in St Macartan's Cathedral, Clogher at 3.30pm. On Sunday 2nd April Preacher; The Most Revd Pat Storey, Bishop of Meath and Kildare.

+++ Connor Mothers' Union annual Festival service - takes place in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, on Sunday April 2. Speaker at this service will be Lady Christine Eames. The theme is Faith in Action. This is the 130th anniversary of Mothers' Union in Ireland '13 Decades of Love and Service' and at this service the Trustee Body and Executive Committee will be commissioned. The banners parade at 3.20pm.

+++ Curtis Magee in Concert - Friday 7th April in the Protestant Hall, Clones from 8.00pm until late. Proceeds towards Drummully Parish Church funds. Tickets €10/£10 including supper or pay at the door.

+++ Waterford Good Friday Requiem - The choir of Christ Church Cathedral, Waterford, will perform Fauré's Requiem on Good Friday, 14th April 2017, at 8pm. Soloists: Eoin Power

(baritone) and Laura Delahunty (soprano).
Directed by Eric Sweeney.

+++ Spring Lecture The Biblical Association for the Church of Ireland -

will be given by Dr Margaret Daly–Denton under the title ‘Supposing Him to be the Gardener (Jn 20:15): Reading John’s Gospel from an Ecological Perspective’. The lecture will draw from her book ‘John – an Earth Bible Commentary’ to be published by Bloomsbury/T&T Clark in July 2017. Venue: Rathfarnham Parish Centre, Main Street, Rathfarnham Village. Time: 7.15 for 7.30pm. Date: 27th April 2017. Places are limited but can be secured through BACI treasurer, Barbara Bergin (email: berginba@gmail.com / tel. 01–288 8877). Free entry for members – or €5 cover charge.

+++ Seminar on on issues of mental health -

The Church and Society Commission of the Church of Ireland is holding an information seminar for Church leaders. Taking place on Wednesday 26th April, this seminar will focus on issues of mental health – in particular issues around post–natal depression (PND). The seminar will run in Church of Ireland House, Donegall Street, Belfast, from 9.30am–12.30pm and will conclude with lunch. It is open to all those involved in Church leadership, and

members of their congregations. The speakers on the day will be: Revd Dr Pat Mollan – Faith and Mental Health. Pat is the Director of the Church's Ministry of Healing in Northern Ireland. Dr John Kyle – The GP Perspective. John has a long career as a General Practitioner in East Belfast. He is also a member of Belfast City Council. Lindsay Robinson – The Lived Perspective. Lindsay started a blog about her own experience of PND and has since gone on to be an advocate for the issue, writing and speaking on the issue in a wide range of media. For catering purposes, please register your attendance by emailing seminar@ireland.anglican.org

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