

Best-selling Christian author Barbara Brown Taylor in conversation in Belfast



The Revd Barbara Brown Taylor will be in conversation with Pádraig Ó Tuama of the Corrymeela Community on Sunday 26th May, 7pm in Fitzroy Church, Belfast.

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Barbara Brown Taylor is the author of the recently published *“Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others”*

Barbara Brown Taylor left parish ministry to teach world religion at a college in rural Georgia. To her surprise, what she learnt from decades of living with the truth claims of the world’s great faiths is not – contrary to popular opinion – that all religions are alike, but something subtler, more mysterious and more life–giving: a ‘holy envy’ of the riches of other traditions, and the chance to be born afresh and more deeply within her own tradition.

In this very special evening, Barbara, in conversation with Pádraig Ó Tuama, will share some of the gifts, questions and paradoxes that she found along the way. If there is only one God, why are there so many religions? Can our faith be improved by the faith of others, even those we fundamentally disagree with? And is the Holy Spirit at work in all this?

The Revd Barbara Brown Taylor is an American Episcopal priest, theologian, Professor of Religion, and New York Times best–selling author. In 2014 TIME magazine named her as one of its 100 most influential people in the world. Her best–selling guides to the spiritual life include *An Altar on the World* and *Learning to Walk in the Dark*. Her new book is *Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others* (Canterbury Press 2019).

At 5.15pm there will be a short ‘Corrymeela in the City’ reflective service in Fitzroy. You are welcome to come to this event in advance). Event cost: Free. donation accepted; books also available.

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Anglican Consultative Council's new youth member elected to the Standing Committee

On the final morning of the formal meetings of the 17th meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC-17) in Hong Kong, three new members have been elected to the Standing Committee including, for the first time, a youth member. The three newly elected members include, from the Anglican Church of Tanzania, Joyce Haji Liundi; and from the Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East, Hosam Elias Naoum, the Dean of St George's Cathedral in Jerusalem. The other newly elected member is Basetsana Makena. She was attending her first ACC meeting as one of the new regional Youth Members, representing the continent of Africa, she is a member of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa.

The Standing Committee is a 15-member group which includes the Archbishop of Canterbury. Seven are elected members of the ACC and five are members of the Primates' Standing Committee. The other two members are the Chair and Vice-Chair of the ACC, elected by the members in plenary session. The Standing Committee's function is together to assist the Churches of the Anglican Communion in advancing the work of their mission worldwide.

Mothers' Union coordinator

Joyce Liundi is 48 years old, married and has two sons. She holds several diplomas and certificates, amongst others, in leadership, clinical assistant, financial management and development studies. She has served and works as

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Newly elected members of the Anglican Consultative Council's Standing Committee: Joyce Liundi, Basetsana Makena, and Dean Hosam Naoum

Mothers' Union coordinator in Masasi for the last six years, has been a zonal MU co-ordinator since 2007 and facilitator for East Africa.

Secretary of the Anglican Students' Federation of Southern Africa

Basetsana Makena currently serves as the General Secretary of the Anglican Students' Federation of Southern Africa. Commenting on ACC-17, she said: "over the last few days here at the ACC, I have had the honour of engaging with many other delegates from other provinces which have opened my eyes to a lot of challenges that other provinces

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are faced with and also the many triumphs which we can use to learn from. . .

“It has been so wonderful for me to learn that as both the present and the future of this Anglican Communion, the youth delegates agree on critical issues such as climate justice, gender equality, and youth empowerment through education amongst many other things.”

First indigenous Dean of St George's, Jerusalem

Dean Hosam Naoum is the first indigenous Dean of St George's, Jerusalem. He originally served as Canon Pastor at the Cathedral from 2005 and was then the Acting Dean from 2007 to 2009. He serves as Pastor to the Cathedral's Arabic and English-speaking congregations.

Dean Hosam completed his initial theological training at the College of the Transfiguration in South Africa. In 2011, he earned a Master of Theology degree in Canon Law from Virginia Theological Seminary in the USA. He is also the Secretary to the Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem and is actively involved in the work of ecumenical and interfaith dialogue.

The newly reconfigured Standing Committee will meet for the first time this afternoon. It usually holds a week-long residential meeting each year and a number of electronic meetings. As they have met in-person at ACC-17, they will not hold another residential meeting until next year.

See also News Links, this issue.

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GAFCON confirms they will boycott Lambeth conference of bishops

A conservative evangelical wing of the Anglican communion, GAFCON, has confirmed that their representatives will not attend the global meeting of Anglican bishops in a year's time.

Anglicans on both sides of the debate about sexuality within the church are unhappy with plans for the Lambeth Conference in 2020, with some, including the Bishop of Liverpool, Rt Rev Paul Bayes, saying their partners will not come, in protest at same-sex bishops not being allowed to bring their partners.

Current Church of England doctrine states that clergy cannot conduct a same-sex wedding and the rules on whether clergy can marry a same-sex partner varies in different countries, with the Episcopal Church in the US allowing same-sex marriage since 2015, but in England only civil partnerships are allowed, on the assumption that they remain celibate, and marriage is not.

Aside from the issue of gay partners attending, there are complaints that clergy in same-sex partnerships are being allowed to attend themselves.

GAFCON (Global Anglican Future Conference), a group of Anglicans who say they 'work to guard and proclaim the unchanging, transforming Gospel through biblically faithful preaching and teaching', are the main voice of this concern.

In June 2018, their members gathered in Jerusalem and called on the Archbishop of Canterbury, Most Rev Justin Welby, "not to invite bishops of those Provinces which have

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endorsed by word or deed sexual practices which are in contradiction to the teaching of Scripture and Resolution I. 10 of the 1998 Lambeth Conference, unless they have repented of their actions and reversed their decisions."

There are bishops in the Anglican communion who are in same-sex relationships, such as Bishop Mary Glasspool in New York, Bishop Kevin Robertson in Toronto and Bishop Thomas Brown in Maine.

Speaking at a GAFCON gathering in Australia, Archbishop Foley Beach, chair of the GAFCON Primates Council, said of the Church of England: "They've changed the discussion to inviting the *partners* of the gay bishops when the issue is the bishops themselves. So, the Lambeth conference is in itself in violation of Lambeth 98 1.10 ([doctrine on sexuality](#) that says the Church does not legitimise same-sex relationships) itself by having these bishops in homosexual marriages coming to the conference. So, what are we to do with that?

"The primates have written a letter to Archbishop Justin and we'll see how he responds".

Dean of Westminster Abbey regrets criticism of nuclear deterrent service

Very Rev Dr John Hall, who spoke at the service, says people are criticising without information. On Friday, Westminster Abbey hosted a service for the Royal Navy 'recognising' fifty years of the UK having nuclear deterrents at sea.



The ceremony was attended by the Duke of Cambridge, Prince William, and the Abbey's Dean did the bidding and address.

Very Rev Dr John Hall prayed that the navy would never have to use the weapons but added: "We give thanks for all the thousands of people who have designed, built, supported, and crewed the submarines during these past fifty years and for their families, and we continue to pray for the life and work of the Royal Navy, in particular for its submarine service."

In his address, the Dean spoke about a Japanese bishop whom he had once heard speak about his experience of witnessing the atomic bomb on Hiroshima in 1945. The Dean explained how different things were now, with nine countries said to have nuclear weapons and that major global conflicts, he said, had been largely avoided.

He referenced the controversy around the event: "Since we announced our intention to hold this service, I have received very many personal letters, and our communications team a very large number of emails, telling us that the General Synod, the governing council of the Church of England, had

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Some of the Carnalea Methodist Church members who took part in the nine mile walk at yesterday's Belfast Marathon for the Irish Methodist Church's World Development fund.

voted against nuclear weapons. Moreover, they said, the message of Jesus was about peace, not violence. They asked us repeatedly to abandon this service. Clearly we have not done so, and are proud to be holding it here in the Abbey.

"The General Synod of the Church of England did indeed have a debate last year about nuclear weapons at the time of the centenary of the 1918 armistice. However, the Synod did not call for unilateral nuclear disarmament but asked Her Majesty's Government to respond positively to the 2017 UN
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The President of the Methodist Church, Rev Billy Davison (second from right) visited the RUC GC Garden of Remembrance

Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which had not been signed by the UK, and to reiterate its obligations under the 1968 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

"As a Christian Church, as followers of Jesus Christ, we hear what Jesus has to say about peace. 'Blessed are the peacemakers' is one of the Beatitudes, a profoundly rich and important saying of Jesus...True peace is only to be found in Jesus Christ himself; the systems of this world do not of themselves make for peace, though we are obliged to work for peace as far as we possibly can. It is to that goal

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that our armed forces exist; indeed the only legitimate aim for any country's military capability is securing peace."

The Bishop of Colchester, Roger Morris, criticised the Dean's involvement in The Spectator, [saying](#): "The Ministry of Defence has been clear that the celebrations planned for this year also act as recognition of the innovation and skill of those who designed and built nuclear weapons. That is something that I cannot condone in a place of worship."

He continued: "Churches have been embracing this message of peace for hundreds of years. In the UK there is a long and proud tradition of Christians working and praying for peace. The vast majority of denominations are opposed to nuclear weapons and just last year the Church of England General Synod passed a motion which called on Christians to 'work tirelessly' for the eliminations of nuclear weapons 'due to their indiscriminate and destructive potential'. Many will find it impossible to square the circle between that motion and the service today."

The Dean wrote on twitter that it was: "Regrettable that the Bp of Colchester decided not to discuss the service with me, rather than simply criticising without information".

Pope at Mass in Bulgaria: God calls, God surprises, God loves

In his homily at Sunday Mass, Pope Francis reflected on the day's Gospel episode where Jesus reveals Himself again to His disciples at the Sea of Tiberias after His resurrection. The episode he said reminds us of three amazing things that are part of our lives as disciples, namely, *God calls, God surprises, God loves*.

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Pope Francis celebrates Mass in Prince Alexander I Square in Sofia, Bulgaria, May 5, 2019.

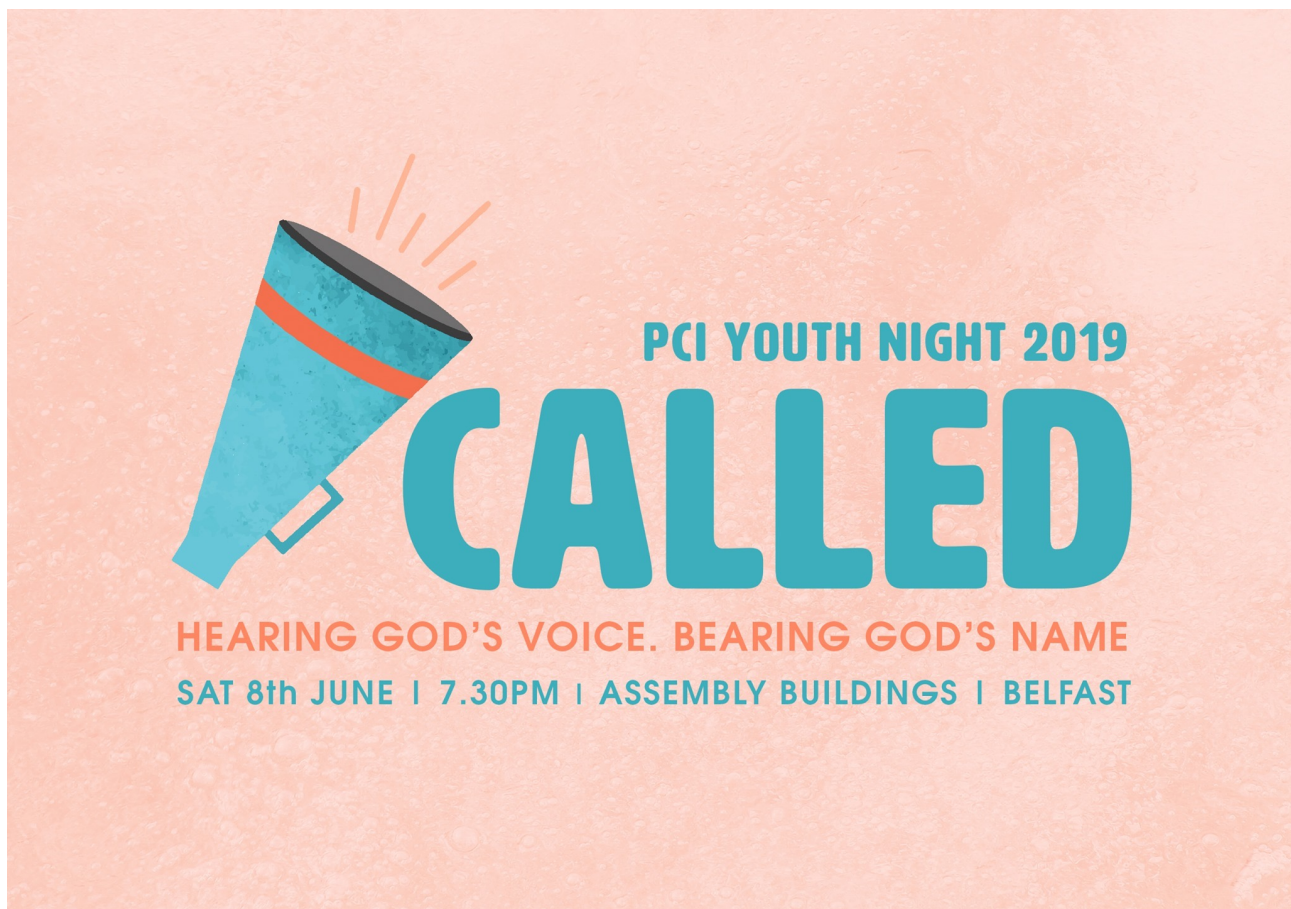
The Pope pointed out that it was on the shore of the Sea of Galilee that Jesus first called Peter to follow him. But now, burdened with pain and guilt and weighed down by suffering, disappointment and betrayal on the death of their Master, Peter and several disciples of Jesus were going back to their former life of fishing.

The Pope said that the Lord is aware of the subtle and dangerous temptation to be disheartened and give up, wanting to take back what we had decided to leave behind. This is the *tomb psychology* leads us to indulge in a soothing sense of self-pity that, like a moth, eats away at all our hope. Faith thus wears down and degenerates into small-mindedness making us think everything is normal.

[Pope in Bulgaria: Full text of homily at Mass](#)

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News briefs



+++Dunfanaghy institution - The celebration supper following the institution of Rev David Skuce as Rector of the Dunfanaghy, Raymunterdoney and Tullaghobegley on Friday evening culminated in the arrival onstage, in the local parish hall, of the rector's beloved pet dog, Tara. It brought a cheery end to an enjoyable but breezy evening in the seaside village of Dunfanaghy in North West Donegal. For the Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Rt Rev Ken Good, it was a last Service of Institution. For the new incumbent, it marked a return from Clogher to a diocese where he'd served previously, albeit a number of years ago. The preacher in Holy Trinity Church, Rev Paul Thompson, said the new Rector had come to Dunfanaghy to do God's work. "When

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someone is ordained, that person is being set apart – chosen – to carry out a ministry that isn't simply a personal whim or a private thought or a good idea, but a ministry that is always, at all times, carried out and offered in the name of God and the Church.

+++Methodist President at Edgehill House - The President, Rev Billy Davison recently had a morning of fellowship with staff and students in Edgehill House. He said, "We celebrated holy communion, followed by an informal discussion around ministry and mission in the contemporary world. We pray for Principal pro tem Rev Dr Janet Unsworth , Director of Ministry Rev John Alderdice, as they seek to equip God's people for works of service."

+++Edinburgh Be a Chorister Afternoon - St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral and St Mary's Music School in Edinburgh are running their next Be a Chorister Afternoon on Friday 24 May. See - stmarysmusicschool.co.uk/events to find out more.

+++ Kilkeny Music vacancy - Post of Choral Director, Kilkeny College / Director of Music, St Canice's Cathedral, Kilkeny. The Board of Directors of Kilkeny College jointly with the Dean & Chapter of St. Canice's Cathedral seek to appoint a Choral Director at Kilkeny College and Director of Music at St. Canice's Cathedral, Kilkeny (commencing August 2019).

The successful candidate will further advance the close links between the College and the Cathedral. We seek a musician of the highest calibre, sympathetic to the Anglican and Western Choral Tradition in addition to contemporary and traditional genres, who will maintain and build on the

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outstanding standards of Music at Kilkenny College, leading the College Choirs, ensembles and co-ordination of major annual College occasions in conjunction with the members of the Music department.

In the Cathedral the Director of Music will foster the Anglican Choral Tradition, continue to recruit and train adult and child choristers, engage with the Kilkenny Arts Festival and the wider community, and share with the Cathedral Organist in the development of Organ Scholarships. Enquiries may be made to the Dean of Ossory, The Very Revd David MacDonnell: ossorydean@gmail.com / (056) 7721516.

Applications including a full CV and references should be submitted to:–

The Principal, Kilkenny College, Castlecomer Road, Kilkenny

Closing date for receipt of applications is 5 p.m. Monday 20th May 2019. Full Job Description and outline terms and conditions available from doloresdowling@kilkennycollege.ie

+++Food for thought - “Our cause is never more in danger than when a human, no longer desiring, but still intending, to do our Enemy's will, looks round upon a universe from which every trace of Him seems to have vanished, and asks why he has been forsaken, and still obeys.”

CSLewis, Screwtape Letters

Today in Christian history

May 6, 1527: An army of barbarians who had been sent—but were no longer controlled—by Emperor Charles V sacks Rome. Many Protestants interpreted the attack as a divine

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rebuke, and some Catholics agreed: "We who should have been the salt of the earth decayed until we were good for nothing," wrote Cardinal Cajetan, Luther's adversary. "Everyone is convinced that all this has happened as a judgment of God on the great tyranny and disorders of the papal court.

May 6, 1638: Dutch theologian Cornelius Jansen, who inspired a reform movement in the Roman Catholic Church, dies. Jansen opposed the teachings of the Jesuits and of Thomas Aquinas, urging the church to rediscover Augustine's doctrine of irresistible grace. For his views on grace and predestination, the church prohibited Jansen's teachings.

News Links

ACC

Anglican Consultative Council 17

ACC17 is underway in Hong Kong

<https://www.anglicannews.org/news/2019/04/seventeenth-meeting-of-the-anglican-consultative-council-begins-on-sunday.aspx>

Archbishop Welby had time to visit some local ministry sites

<https://www.anglicannews.org/news/2019/05/archbishop-of-canterbury-visits-jackie-pullinger-to-see-discipleship-in-action.aspx>

Interesting Updates from the ACC Standing Committee

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including potentially recognizing Sri Lanka and Egypt as separate Provinces and moving the Anglican Center in Rome from the authority of the ABC to the ACC.

<https://www.anglicannews.org/news/2019/04/anglican-communions-standing-committee-meet-ahead-of-acc-17-in-hong-kong.aspx>

Here is the link to the Anglican Communion News Service's feed dedicated to all things ACC

<https://www.anglicannews.org/tag/acc17.aspx>

And Simon at Thinking Anglicans has a roundup as well

<https://www.thinkinganglicans.org.uk/more-from-acc-17-in-hong-kong/>

MEDIA

Ireland 'still on' for gay-hate preacher Steven Anderson after Dutch ban

The Times

Ireland 'still on' for gay-hate preacher Steven Anderson after Dutch ban ... Steven Anderson, founder of the Faithful Word Baptist **Church** in Arizona, ... Gay Community **News**, an Irish LGBT **news** website, has also launched a petition.

Cork choral festival to see 50000 visitors and €10m boost

Irish Times

Some 50,000 visitors are expected to attend over 100 scheduled events which are part of the Cork International **Choral** Festival and this weekend.

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Churches invited to “pray for peace and freedom” in the run-up to EU elections

The Lutheran World Federation

Prepared in collaboration with the partner **churches in England**, Latvia, ... The partner church in Latvia prays: “We are witnessing cases of fake **news** ...

Public spat between bishop and dean over Westminster Abbey's nuclear deterrent commemoration

Telegraph.co.uk

... who is an anti-nuclear activist, said: “The **Church of England** has a duty to ... ”However, the original **press** release from the Royal Navy spoke of ...

Horrors of Hiroshima echo over service for Trident

The Times

The devastation of Hiroshima was recalled by a **Church of England** dean at a service for Trident crews at Westminster Abbey. The Dean of ...

[Westminster Abbey Dean thanks God for the UK's nuclear deterrent](#) - Premier

[Anti-nuclear activist breaches Westminster Abbey security at Nuclear deterrent service](#) - Yahoo News

What does aligning with the Paris climate agreement mean?

IPE.com

The **Church of England** Pensions Board is co-chairing the IIGCC initiative, and Adam Matthews, its director of ethics and engagement, said the ...

Exxon Directors Face Shareholder Revolt Over Climate Change

Bloomberg

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The New York State Common Retirement Fund, led by New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli, and the **Church of England** said they would vote ...

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