

**‘Some want to rob
church of hope’:
Archbishop Martin**

**C of I Bishop
elect presented
with Episcopal
ring in Rome as
a "symbol of
deep Anglican,
Roman Catholic
relationship"**



(L to R) The Most Revd Brian Farrell, Secretary of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and Canon Kenneth Kearon, Secretary General of the Anglican Communion and Bishop-elect of the Diocese of Limerick and Killaloe

The Most Revd Brian Farrell, Secretary of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity has presented Canon Kenneth Kearon with an Episcopal Ring to mark his election as Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe in the Church of Ireland.

The presentation took place recently in Rome during a meeting of the Informal Talks, an annual meeting between senior officials in the Vatican and the Anglican Communion. Bishop Farrell and Canon Kearon were the joint chairs of the meeting.

"This is both a personal gift from someone who has become a good friend during our annual meetings and other conversations, and also symbolic of the deep relationships which now exist between our two Communion, which are now being expressed at every level of our churches", said Canon Kearon.

This year, 2014, marks the 50th anniversary of the promulgation of the Decree on Ecumenism by the Second Vatican Council in November 1964, a document which transformed Roman Catholic attitudes to other Churches and to ecumenical engagement.

This was followed by a meeting between the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael Ramsey to Pope Paul VI in March 1966, at which the Pope gave an Episcopal Ring to the Archbishop.

That meeting led to the setting up of the Anglican Centre in Rome that same year, and to the inauguration of the series of dialogues between the two traditions known as ARCIC (Anglican Roman Catholic International Commission).

Dublin's Trust dealt with homeless people of 15 nationalities in one week this month

Irish Times - In just two days this month 54 people attended a social and health agency premises in Dublin's Liberties.



Trust, a non-denominational, befriending, social and health agency working since 1975

with people labelled homeless, occupies the basement of the Iveagh House building, between St Patrick's Cathedral and Christ Church Cathedral.

"We own no property, spend no money on fundraising or PR, and don't send out begging letters. Our running costs for 2013 – our last audited accounts – was €265,000. As we are not grant aided, these costs are met by voluntary donations which we receipt and gratefully acknowledge," said director and co-founder [Alice Leahy](#).

She was speaking yesterday in St Bartholomew's [Church of Ireland](#) on Dublin's [Clyde Road](#), during the ecumenical "Walk of Light" organised by the Dublin Council of Churches to mark the beginnings of the new liturgical year.

“Those we work with are generally treated and seen as outsiders in our world,” Ms Leahy said. “By implication, those who work with people who are outsiders can be made to feel outsiders themselves.”

Of the 54 people, she recalled, “two were new, one male, one female, both Irish” while six of those people called on both days.

The 54 came from 10 countries – [Ireland](#), [Poland](#), [South Africa](#), [Romania](#), the US, [Slovakia](#), [Latvia](#), [Lithuania](#), [Czech Republic](#) and [Mauritius](#).

In the same week, “people also came from Zimbabwe, [Estonia](#), [Turkey](#), [Ukraine](#) and [Senegal](#) –15 nationalities in total in one week”.

They slept rough “in squats, tents and cars, [Harcourt Street](#), Garda stations, internet cafes, Pearse Street, Rathmines, Talbot Street, Camden Street, Baggot Street, Parnell Street, Aungier Street, Henry Street, Blessington Street, [Wilton Place](#), Nicholas Street. Some were sofa surfing in flats and hostels,” she said.

In all, 33 people had showers and 35 sets of clothes were given out in those two days, she added.

“We are not a public washing facility and our submission to Dublin City Council on need for same can be seen on our website [trust-ireland.ie].”

“We know we cannot change the world but we can all make a difference,” she said.

Pope Francis on migration: 'We cannot allow the Mediterranean to become a cemetery'

Pope Francis has today called for a "united response" to the arrival of migrants in Europe, and urged for immediate action to increase protections.

Speaking before the European Parliament in Strasbourg, the Pope said: "We cannot allow the Mediterranean to become a vast cemetery.

"The absence of mutual support within the European Union runs the risk of encouraging... solutions which fail to take into account the human dignity of immigrants, and thus contribute to slave labour and continuing social tensions."

Recent figures reveal that more than 3,000 migrants have died crossing the Mediterranean this year – double the number in 2013.



The International Organisation for Migration has labelled Europe the most dangerous destination for 'irregular' migrants, and Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International issued a joint statement in September, calling for a "comprehensive and

collective" EU response to the crisis.

Amnesty spokesman Nicolas J Beger said: "As the EU builds its walls higher and higher, migrants and refugees are increasingly taking to the Mediterranean waters in a desperate bid to reach safety and sanctuary in Europe. Tragically they are increasingly paying the highest cost, losing their lives at sea."

Pope Francis today echoed that call, asking leaders to establish a Europe that "revolves not around the economy but around the sacredness of the human person". He is known to be passionate about the cause; one of his first official acts as Pope was to visit Lampedusa, an Italian island where 300 migrants drowned last year.

Comparing Europe to a grandmother who is "no longer fertile and vibrant", he insisted that more jobs are needed, as well as better conditions for workers.

"The time has come to promote policies which create employment, but above all there is a need to restore dignity to labour by ensuring proper working conditions," he said.

"This implies, on the one hand, finding new ways of joining market flexibility with the need for stability and security on the part of workers; these are indispensable for their human development."

The Pope also accused European leaders of exploitation, something he said was an "inevitable consequence of throwaway culture and uncontrolled consumerism".

"Economic questions dominate political debate, human beings are reduced to cogs in a machine, items of consumption to be exploited," he said.

"The result is that when human life is no longer useful to the machine, they are discarded when not wanted, the old, the unemployed, the children killed before they are born. It is a great mistake when technology is allowed to take over, there is a confusion between ends and means."

Pope Francis on human rights

Pope Francis has [warned](#) MEPs that Human Rights legislation could lead to further conflict and violence. Addressing MEPs in Strasbourg this morning (Tuesday) the pontiff said that the concept of duty was "equally essential" to the concept of rights, a fact which he viewed as no longer linked.

And he sought to remind members that it is impossible to have "rights" without "responsibilities". Abandoning this view, he added, is something which has caused social angst.

Criminals have previously used the European Court of Human Rights to escape deportation to face trial, and Article 8, the right to a family life, has cost the tax payer untold millions in extradition appeals and delayed hearings whilst fundamentalists live in social housing, sometimes with multiple wives and huge families.

High profile cases include Abu Qatada, the hate cleric accused of links to Al-Qaeda. He was finally deported to Jordan in 2013 to face charges of terrorism after the Strasbourg court and the UK Special Immigration Appeals Commission took the view that he faced torture if extradited.



This interpretation of Human Rights was criticised by The Pope:

"As a result," His Holiness said, "the rights of the individual are upheld, without regard for the fact that each human being is part of a social context wherein his or her rights and duties are bound

up with those of others and with the common good of society itself.”

And he said that the long term approach should be to focus on society as a whole, rather than simply sticking to the letter of the law and causing divisions amongst communities.

“I believe, therefore, that it is vital to develop a culture of human rights which wisely links the individual, or better, the personal aspect, to that of the common good, of the ‘all of us’ made up of individuals, families and intermediate groups who together constitute society,” he said.

Pope Francis’s speech to the Council of Europe in full

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2014/11/25/pope-franciss-speech-to-the-council-of-europe-in-full/>

On the fifth anniversary of publication of Murphy report – Archbishop Diarmuid Martin reflects



‘The audits show that there has been a vast improvement in the manner of dealing with cases and of reporting to the Gardaí and the Children’s Agency Tusla. But the improvement was often from a low starting base.’ Above, Gordon Jeyes, Chief Executive, Tusla, Taoiseach Enda Kenny, Frances Fitzgerald, Minister for Children and Youth Affairs and Norah Gibbons, Chairperson Tusla, at the official launch of the Child and Family Agency Tusla, in Dublin Castle.

Irish Times - Opinion: Catholic Ireland a much safer place for children thanks to Murphy Commission The fifth anniversary of the publication of the [Murphy Report](#) on the management, by both Church and State organisations, of allegations of the sexual abuse of children by priests working in the

[Archdiocese of Dublin](#), brings back to me the horror of the revelations that the report contains.

Inevitably, my first reaction is to remember and recognise the horrible abuse that children experienced, which has left them with wounds and hurts in their lives which still remain today. The second reaction is to note how their hurt was in many cases made worse by the inadequacies of the responses of Church leaders and of the HSE and [Garda Síochána](#).

Looking back over these past five years, and over the years examined by the [Murphy Commission](#), my thoughts have curiously been dominated in these days by one group, rarely mentioned, but who are real heroes of the abuse scandals: the mothers and fathers of children who had been abused who turned to the Church authorities, not with a reaction of hostility but simply with a passionate concern to ensure that no other child would have to endure what their child did.

They did not come with legal knowhow or with psychiatric expertise or with any intention to damage the Church. They simply wanted to tell what had happened to their child and tried to put into words how deep the wound was. In some cases the story they had to tell ended in the tragedy of someone taking their own life.

Their evidence made it abundantly clear that the effects of sexual abuse of children were truly devastating. These parents came forward with great courage, very often without any other support than that of their own hurt and their own conscience. Very often, at the time they came forward, abuse was still taking place. The simple language of these mothers and fathers ought to have been enough to touch hearts and change policy.

Sadly, all too often, their courage was responded to with vague promises of addressing a problem and all too often the measures that were taken were not just inadequate but actually placed other children at risk.

The number of children who were abused, especially by a group of serial abusers, in the Church of [Jesus Christ](#), in the Archdiocese of Dublin, is staggering. Yet it took a very long time to bring people to realise that there was only one way to respond to the appeals of these courageous parents and that was to remove any priest who was a risk to children and to report crimes.

The National Board for the Safeguarding of Children in the [Catholic Church](#) has now carried out audits of all the 26 dioceses in [Ireland](#) and the reports

have been published. Audits are continuing of the religious congregations, male and female, and the results will be published over the coming months.

Primus and Archbishop of Canterbury meet with First Minister of Scotland



First Minister Nicola Sturgeon met with The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev Justin Welby and The

Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church, the Most Rev David Chillingworth this morning at Bute House and says:

“I warmly welcome the Archbishop of Canterbury to Scotland and meeting with the Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church and I look forward to building on the strong and respectful relationship the Scottish Government has with Scotland’s Churches.

“We have a shared commitment to tackling inequality, in particular combating the impact of welfare changes and addressing the issue of poverty among those in work, and I am eager we continue to work towards our aim of creating a more fair and just society.

“The Scottish Government recognises the substantial and enduring influence of the Christian faith in transforming and inspiring Scotland’s people and culture. We further look forward to the continuing participation of Scotland’s Churches in conversations about Scotland’s future. Modern Scotland is a multi-faith and multi-cultural society, and as a Government we welcome and value the contribution made by all Scotland’s diverse faith and belief communities, to enrich us all.”

‘Some want to rob church of hope’: Archbishop Martin

Derry Journal - The Derry-born leader of the Catholic Church in Ireland has warned that there is “a definite temptation” nowadays to “rob the Church of hope”.

Archbishop Eamon Martin made the comment in his homily at a concelebrated Mass in Italy at the weekend.

Elsewhere in his homily, the Primate of All Ireland said: “We often hear people speaking about the decline in Church practice, or the lack of vocations to the priesthood and religious life as signals that Europe has ‘lost the faith’.”

He acknowledged that it was true that many people in Europe had drifted away from regular Church practice.

He also referred to an increasing loss of the ‘sense of the sacred’ with more and more people appearing to be growing used to living their lives with little or no reference to belief and trust in God.

However, he reminded people that Pope Francis tells us that it is now, more than ever, that the world needs to hear the song of the Lord, ‘the joy of the Gospel’.

“He challenges us to get out there and to bring faith to life. A Church which does not come out of herself to evangelise, he said, becomes self-referential and then gets sick,” Dr Martin said.

He added that the greatest challenge and opportunity facing the Church these days was how do we become ‘missionary’ and get out there... “singing the new song of the Lord to the world.”

Oxford diocese move could herald Church of England fossil fuel divestment

IPE - The diocese of Oxford, one of the Church of England’s 41 dioceses in England, has voted to disinvest from fossil fuel companies and called on the Church as a whole to do the same.

The vote was passed by the diocesan synod – the Church’s local assembly – on 15 November.



The diocese has also committed to exploring opportunities for reinvesting in clean energy alternatives.

The diocese owns approximately £65m (€82.1m) of glebe funds – used to pay clergy salaries – which are invested through Newton Investment Management both directly and through

several managed funds, and £2.8m in other trust funds, principally invested in [the Church's] Central Board of Finance funds.

These portfolios include investments in the oil and gas sector and other companies that produce coal, in proportions that are in line with the respective shares of the UK All Share Index and global indices.

However, staff pensions will not be affected at present, as they are managed by the Pensions Trust and/or the Church of England Pensions Board.

The Rev. Darrell Hannah, who brought forward the motion, said: "Oxford Diocese is challenging the Church of England as a whole to take seriously the threat of climate change and what we as Christians do about it."

However, John Tattersall, chair at Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance, said in a background paper the diocese's investment advisers had estimated an immediate annual cost of disinvestment from coal and tar sand companies in terms of yield and additional management expenses – because of the increased proportion of the portfolio that would be invested directly – of around £115,000.

The advisers estimated that, in the longer run, disinvestment from all companies producing fossil fuels would cost the diocese up to £214,000 per annum, or approximately 1.1% on the annual share that would need to be requested from parishes.

The motion also called on the General Synod – the Church's Parliament – to debate a similar motion on disinvestment, which could, if passed, apply to the Church Commissioners' £6.1bn endowment fund and the Church of England Pensions Board's £1.6bn-worth portfolio.

If there is sufficient support, the motion will be considered by a future meeting of the Synod.

But Richard Burrige, deputy chair of the Ethical Investment Advisory Group, which advises the Church on ethical investment, said: "There are many ways of practising ethical investment, including active engagement with companies and policymakers.

"The recommendation to divest immediately from all energy stocks is just one of a number of options, rather than being a silver bullet that will end the multiple threats of climate change.

“Carbon emissions remain so embedded in our economic system that the EIAG’s ethical investment policy recommendations will need to be sophisticated.”

The EIAG’s own policy review on climate change and investment is expected to be published in the first half of 2015.

<http://www.ipe.com/news/esg/oxford-move-could-herald-church-of-england-fossil-fuel-divestment/10004903.article>

Media Digest

Tel/Mail/Time

Articles on release of new attendance figures for the Church of England states attendance at midweek services in cathedrals have doubled in a decade while numbers in parishes on Sundays continue to fall. The Dean of Lichfield, the Very Reverend Adrian Dorber, said many people still crave quiet reflection, but are seeking out less "pressurised" times in the week to worship than Sunday mornings.(see Christian Today blog)

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11250990/Sunday-morning-inconvenient-for-church-services-...-says-Church-of-England.html>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2848240/Churchgoers-opting-DIY-Sundays-Modern-life-means-worshippers-seek-mid-week-services.html>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/faith/article4277410.ece>

BBC

Report that the Bishop of Lincoln, Christopher Lowson, blessed gritters as part of preparations to make Lincolnshire's roads safer this winter. The bishop said it was unusual, but he had also blessed church toilets and that both gritters and toilets are important parts of people's lives. It states the [Bishop of Chelmsford blessed the Queen's Bentley](#) last year when it failed to start following a Sandringham church service and the car then burst into life.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-lincolnshire-30181618>

Mail

Report on new style BBC Songs of Praise as a magazine-style programme, states loyal viewers have been left feeling it is becoming little more than 'the One Show with added hymns'. It quotes the Reverend Sally Hitchiner senior chaplain at Brunel University in West London, who tweeted: 'Thinking of starting a campaign to get #SongsOfPraise to bring back actual worship eg bible reading & prayers...Thora would agree with me!'

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2848193/Songs-Praise-New-look-programme-ridiculed-little-One-hymns.html#ixzz3K3dhOAwR>

Tel/Mail

Reports that the Law Society has withdrawn guidelines for solicitors on how to compile "Sharia compliant" wills amid complaints that they encouraged discrimination against women and non-Muslims. Mails states Sharia law has gained growing respectability since 2003, when the then Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams said British courts might recognise sharia tribunals and that official acceptance of sharia 'seems unavoidable'.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11250643/Sharia-law-guidelines-abandoned-as-Law-Society-apologises.html>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2848319/Controversial-Sharia-guidelines-lawyers-help-compile-wills-comply-laws-withdrawn-claims-encourage-discrimination.html#ixzz3K3ZX8pFa>

Mirror

Report on funeral of teenager Lauryn Lee, after her death from cancer. It states more than 1,500 children lined the streets outside a teenager's school in the West Midlands and there was standing room only for her funeral at Holy Trinity Church, in Smethwick. The Rev David Gould is quoted.

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/lauryn-lee-funeral-1600-schoolmates-4687801>

Obituary

Tel

Obituary report on the Venerable Richard Ninis, who died aged 82, was Archdeacon of Lichfield from 1979 to 1998, having previously been Archdeacon of Stafford, also in the Lichfield diocese. Happy to be described as "a fixer, a mover and a shaker", at the time of his retirement he was the longest-serving archdeacon in the modern Church of England.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/obituaries/11250529/The-Venerable-Richard-Ninis-obituary.html>