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Bernstein at 100 – Belfast Cathedral screening of concert film

On Wednesday October 17, Belfast Cathedral and Belfast International Arts Festival invite you to experience Leonard Bernstein's finest concert film in an immersive screening at St Anne's Cathedral to celebrate #BernsteinAt100.

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Directed by Humphrey Burton at Ely Cathedral in Cambridgeshire during August 1973, this incredible film showcases Bernstein and Mahler at their best.

Show-stopping performances from the London Symphony Orchestra, Edinburgh Festival Chorus with Dame Janet Baker and Sheila Armstrong, along with Bernstein's passionate conducting will make this an unforgettable experience.

The film features a specially filmed video introduction by Humphrey Burton.

Signed copies of Humphrey Burton's biography on Leonard Bernstein and various Bernstein CD recordings will be available for purchase at the Cathedral shop. The performance begins at 7.30pm. Tickets, costing £10, are available [here](#).

Archbishop Eamon Martin tells Rome Synod reconnecting with young people rejuvenates mission

On Wednesday, 10 October Archbishop Eamon Martin told the Synod in Rome on Young People, Faith and Vocational Discernment that by reconnecting with young people, we can bring fresh joy and enthusiasm to the mission of the Church.

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Archbishop Martin of Armagh and Bishop Donal McKeown of Derry are representing Ireland at the XV Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops which is taking place in Rome from 3-28 October. Archbishop Martin is Relator (reporter/secretary) of English speaking Group A.

Speaking on Wednesday Archbishop Martin said: “At the final Mass of the World Meeting of Families in Dublin, Pope Francis remarked that it is ‘the Spirit of God, who constantly breathes new life into our world, into our hearts, into our families, into our homes and parishes’. He said that ‘each new day in the life of our families, and each new generation, brings the promise of a new Pentecost, a domestic Pentecost, a fresh outpouring of the Spirit, the Paraclete, whom Jesus sends as our Advocate, our Consoler and indeed our Encourager’.

“In other words, it is the Holy Spirit who ‘rejuvenates’ the Church. That is why I would like us to speak more about the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of our young people. For me, the Working Document lacks the punch and fire that the Spirit brings! Did you realise that Baptism is only mentioned three times in the entire Document and Confirmation is not mentioned at all?

“I’d like to hear more of the joyful language of the ‘new springtime’, the ‘new Pentecost’ which every Pope since the Council has called for. As our new Saint (to be) Paul VI famously said: ‘The Church needs her eternal Pentecost. She needs fire in her hearts, words on her lips, a glance that is prophetic (General Audience 291172)’.

“I am convinced that the Spirit is already actively at work preparing us for a new springtime of growth and abundance

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in faith. During the recent abortion referendum in Ireland many young people showed extraordinary courage by being ‘ambassadors for life’ despite enormous peer pressure to do otherwise. They were responding to the Holy Spirit challenging them to get right out of their comfort zones in the service of something much bigger than themselves. Similarly, at the World Meeting of Families we met thousands of young people in the ‘Teen Global Village’ who were clearly filled with the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

“How can we encourage our young people to be more alert and open to the Holy Spirit, calling them and ‘gifting’ them for the service of the Gospel? Every day I pray for vocations to the priesthood and to the consecrated life. But I also pray that all our young lay faithful will find ‘new life in the Spirit’ and realise more and more that they are called personally by Baptism and Confirmation to be part of the ‘new springtime’ for the faith. It is the Holy Spirit who can enable them to embrace their unique role in the new evangelisation.

“How I long for the New Pentecost, for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit to transform and renew the faith of our young people and, through them, to rejuvenate our Church!”

Newpark Students share their views during Ministerial visit

Students at Newpark Comprehensive School welcomed the Minister of State at the Department of Education, Mary

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Transition Year students highlighting the damage plastic does in oceans.

Mitchell O'Connor TD, to their school. (Wednesday October 3).

The Minister met a group of sixth year students before viewing a number of activities being run by Transition Year students to highlight the need to reduce the use plastic and its effect on the environment. The Minister also viewed the school's award winning sports centre.

During their meeting, which was also attended by Newpark's principal Derek Lowry, chairman of the board of management Robert Grier and chaplain the Revd Suzanne Harris, the students raised a number of issues with the Minister.

They highlighted their initiative to ban single use plastic in Newpark. They also spoke of the stresses of the Leaving
churchnewsireland@gmail.org

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Assistant manager of Newpark Sports Centre Jessica Davies with chairman of the board of the school Robert Grier and Minister Mary Mitchell O'Connor.



Cert which they felt could be alleviated by the introduction of continuous assessment at senior cycle. They discussed entry to third level education and the pros and cons of the Irish CAO system. The way Irish is taught was also discussed.

Other issues raised included gender balance in classroom settings, mental health issues and the difficulty of readjusting to academic demands following Transition Year.

Minister Mitchell O'Connor took note of all the points made by the students and promised to follow up on them and pass them on to the Education Minister Richard Bruton. As Minister with special responsibility for Higher Education she reminded the students to consider the options of apprenticeships and Colleges of Further Education which, she said, offered additional and excellent pathways to careers. She added that plans were at an advanced stage in relation to the Institutes of Technology which are set to become Technological Universities in the near future.

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The Minister praised the students for their confidence and ability to articulate their views and noted positively that they were not afraid to challenge her position.

Before leaving the school, the Minister visited Newpark Sports Centre which just last week was declared Leisure Centre of the Year 2018 at the QMark Awards. There she met assistant manager, Jessica Davies.

Pope Francis: Abortion is like hiring a hitman

In his general audience on Wednesday, Pope Francis said that abortion “suppresses innocent and helpless life in its blossoming.”

“Is it right to take a human life to solve a problem? It’s like hiring a hitman,” Pope Francis said in St. Peter’s Square Oct. 10, in a departure from his prepared remarks.

“Violence and the rejection of life are born from fear,” the pope added.

For this reason, parents who learn that their unborn child will have a disability need “real closeness, true solidarity to face reality; overcoming understandable fears,” he explained.

Pope Francis lamented that parents receiving a difficult prenatal diagnosis often “receive hasty advice to stop the pregnancy.”

It is contradictory to suppress “human life in the womb in the name of safeguarding other rights,” the pope insisted.

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“How can an act that suppresses innocent and helpless life in its blossoming be therapeutic, civil, or simply



human?” The pope’s remarks on abortion came during a reflection on the fifth commandment, “Thou shall not kill.” In recent weeks, the pope has dedicated his weekly general audiences to a series of lesson and reflections on the Ten Commandments recorded in the scriptural books of Exodus and Deuteronomy.

“One could say that all the evil done in the world is summarized in this: contempt for life,” Pope Francis told the pilgrims gathered in St. Peter’s Square.

“What leads man to reject life? They are the idols of this world: money, power, success. These are incorrect parameters to evaluate life. The only authentic measure of life is love, the love with which God loves it!”

The positive meaning of the fifth commandment is that “God is a lover of life,” he continued.

“In every sick child, in every weak old man, in every desperate migrant, in every fragile and threatened life, Christ is looking for us, he is looking for our heart, to

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disclose the joy of love. It is worthwhile to accept every life because every man is worth the blood of Christ. We can not despise what God so loved!" Pope Francis said.

While a sick child or an elderly person who needs assistance can be viewed as a burden, this can actually be "a gift from God," explained the pope. This vulnerable life can "pull me out of self-centeredness and make me grow in love."

Children suffered emotional, physical and sexual abuse at Scottish Catholic-run homes

Two homes run by a Catholic religious order were places of fear where many children suffered emotional, physical and sexual abuse, an inquiry has found.

The first interim report by the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry (SCAI) concluded there was "coercive control, threat and excessive discipline" in Smyllum Park orphanage in Lanark and Bellevue House in Rutherglen over more than two decades from the 1950s. Both institutions were operated by nuns from the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul.

From November last year, the inquiry heard evidence over 20 days from 54 witnesses about their experiences at Smyllum and Bellevue from 1957 until 1981, and 21 written statements were also submitted.

Allegations of historical abuse made by former residents included claims of beatings for wetting the bed,

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humiliations, cold showers and children being force-fed inedible food.

In a statement issued as she published her report, inquiry chair Lady Smith said: “For many children who were in Smyllum and Bellevue, the homes were places of fear, coercive control, threat, excessive discipline and emotional, physical and sexual abuse, where they found no love, no compassion, no dignity and no comfort.”



In her findings, Lady Smith noted that for some children, being hit was “a normal aspect of daily life”. She concluded: “Children were physically abused. They were hit with and without implements, either in an excess of punishment or for reasons which the child could not fathom.

“The implements used included leather straps, the ‘Lochgelly Tawse’, hairbrushes, sticks, footwear, rosary beads, wooden crucifixes and a dog’s lead.”

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Lady Smith found: “Children were abused emotionally in different ways. They were frequently humiliated, controlled and insulted, made to feel worthless, denigrated and subjected to punishments which were unjustified.”

The inquiry further reported that children were sexually abused in Smyllum and at St Vincent’s in Newcastle, a home run by the order on behalf of the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle, to which a Smyllum family was transferred.

“Children were sexually abused by priests, a trainee priest, Sisters, members of staff and a volunteer,” Lady Smith said.

A statement from the Daughters of Charity said: “Lady Smith’s findings describe events and practices which are totally out of keeping with the fundamental values which underpin our life and mission and we are committed to giving this report our utmost attention.

“We most sincerely offer our heartfelt apology to anyone who suffered any form of abuse whilst in our care.

“Our respectful desire for the future is to build appropriate relationships with INCAS (in care abuse survivors) and others, to effect healing in whatever ways are possible for this generation.”

Encouragement and challenge at Down clergy conference

No fewer than 8 different speakers brought encouragement and challenge to the Down and Dromore Clergy Conference

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which has just finished in Donegal town. Also, for the first time, Bishop Harold Miller gave the Bible readings at evening worship in the parish church, preaching from 2 Timothy.

The speakers were Canon Dr Christina Baxter (Church of England), Fr Mark Ephrem (Benedictine Monastery, Rostrevor), Bishop Ken Good (Derry and Raphoe), Bishop Bill Love (Albany), Mr Peter Lynas (Evangelical Alliance), Revd Dr Heather Morris (Methodist), Dr Jasper Rutherford (Christ in Youth) and Presbyterian Moderator, Revd Dr Charles McMullen, who preached at Wednesday morning worship.

The bishop explained: “What our contributors all have in common is a knowledge of the diocese but from the perspective of their own tradition. I’ve asked each of them

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without any other agenda or instruction, to come as ‘critical friends’, and speak to us candid words of encouragement and words of challenge, hopefully in equal measure.”

Almost 150 leaders, guests and staff were there including a group of 12 from Albany Diocese. The programme included morning and evening worship, with Holy Communion on Wednesday, a healing service, some free time and the the hilarious ‘Big Quiz’.

News briefs

+++Meath and Kildare Canon - Bishop Pat Storey has appointed Revd Isaac Delamere as a Canon of the two cathedrals, St Patrick’s, Trim and St Brigid’s, Kildare. This appointment is in recognition in particular of Isaac’s work in the dioceses on Safeguarding Trust and his spearheading of the diocesan tent initiative at the Ploughing Championships. The date for Isaac's installation will be confirmed shortly.

+++Connor youth project - Affirm, a new project to support young people going through difficulty, is being launched in Connor Diocese. The project will develop greater access to support for young people and provide training for leaders within local parishes. Read more at <https://bit.ly/2OeG12F>

+++Black Santa applications deadline - Charities wishing to apply for funding from the Cathedral’s annual Black Santa Sit-out are reminded that the deadline for completed applications is October 26. An application form can be

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downloaded from the link below or collected from the Cathedral Office. This year will see the 42nd annual Black Santa Sit-out on the steps of St Anne's Cathedral in the days before Christmas. It will be Dean Stephen Forde's first Sit-out, although he did spend some hours on the steps last year as Black Santa in training! Funds raised will be distributed to successful applicants at the Good Samaritans Service in February 2019. Most of the money raised at the Sit-out goes to charities in Northern Ireland, with a proportion given to Christian Aid. The range of charities includes medical research; those caring for children, youth and the elderly; those which work to improve opportunities for young people and a host of small charities which cannot afford paid fundraisers. To access the application form please click [HERE](#).

+++Cork choristers sponsored walk - The choristers of St Fin Barre's Cathedral Choir, Cork, together with their families embarked on an 8km walk around Mahon Point and Blackrock Village in Cork last Saturday, 6th October. The weather could not have been better and this drew some extra supporters who came out for a walk in the sun at the last moment. Almost 60 people met at Mahon Point Shopping Centre and headed towards Blackrock Castle on the riverside walkway with many people remarking that they had never walked on this route before. After passing the Castle the next stop was the Natural Foods Bakery in Blackrock Village where a drink was picked up and a well-earned piece of cake. The break was limited though as the final destination was still some way down the old railway line back to Mahon Point. There were several tired faces in the choir stalls on the following Sunday morning after an invigorating afternoon of exercise.

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+++School chaplaincy - St Andrew's Press has published this month "Time for reflection: A Guide to School Chaplaincy and Spiritual Development" by Sam Younger. Now in stock <https://bit.ly/2MelBRu>

News links

Troubles investigations should be abandoned in favour of cash for victims, ex-Northern Ireland ...

The other signatories to letter included former Church of Ireland primate Lord Eames, Lord Patten, who oversaw the creation of the Police Service of ...

Peers call for victims to be prioritised over historical probes

The other signatories are former Church of Ireland Primate Lord Robin Eames, ex-Northern Ireland Office minister Lord Des Browne, one-time ...

Westminster group urges Bradley to draw a line under Northern Ireland's past

The group also includes former Church of Ireland primate Lord Eames, who co-authored a report on dealing with the past in 2008, Lord Patten, who ...

C of I Troubles Legacy submission

<https://www.ireland.anglican.org/cmsfiles/pdf/Resources/CASC/CASC-Addressing-the-Legacy-of-the-Past.pdf>

Disharmony at Church of Ireland school in Greystones 'regrettable', synod told

Disharmony among parents and teachers at the **Church of Ireland** St Patrick's primary school in Greystones, Co Wicklow was described last night as ...

Being Anglican in Ireland can only become more difficult due to Brexit says Archbishop

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It was “a **religious** and a psychological issue, not a political or territorial issue. I fear that this difficulty can only become more difficult in the days of ...

SOAPBOX: Why Presbyterians should support same-sex marriage

Presbyterian marriages were not recognised by the state as they were not conducted in accordance with the rite of the reigning **Church of Ireland**.

Diarmuid Martin laments growing 'language of polarisation' within Church

Diarmuid Martin laments growing 'language of polarisation' within **Church** ... Acknowledging the change in the religious culture of **Ireland**, the ...

Repeated vandal attacks force closure of Donegal church

The Vestry of Christ Church, Buncrana's Church of Ireland community, has taken the decision following recent vandalism at the church (pictured), ...

Donegal church closes after numerous vandalism attacks - Irish Times

Many favourable comments for Templemore from this year's Tidy Towns report

St. Mary's **Church of Ireland** set in a landscape of mature trees and enclosed with a limestone plinth wall with railings on top is delightful".

Special event as 'Blessing of Animals' to take place in Limerick city school

Limerick Animal Welfare (LAW), in conjunction with the **Church of Ireland** Limerick City Parish, have arranged for a 'Blessing of Animals' to take place ...

New Archdeacon of Glendalough Announced

The Revd Neal O'Raw Appointed Archdeacon of Glendalough. The appointment of the new **Church of Ireland** Archdeacon of Glendalough has been ...

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Dunlavin Flower and Harvest Festival

The Catholic and Church of Ireland churches will be the venues for the Festival exhibits, on which judging will take place in private during the Friday ...

Pope orders 'thorough study' of all documentation relating to disgraced US cardinal

The latest crisis began in August during the pope's visit to Ireland. ... Vigano accused a long list of current and past Vatican and US church officials of ...

In silent protest, relatives call for action on Ireland's Tuam babies

In silent protest, relatives call for action on **Ireland's** Tuam babies ... the site of a former **church**-run home for unwed mothers in the **Irish** town of Tuam.

Pope blames devil for Church divisions and scandals

The devil is alive and well and working overtime to undermine the Roman Catholic **Church**, Pope Francis has said. The pope is convinced that Satan ...

Church of England backs ban on gambling adverts during live sporting events

Lord Chadlington, a leading Tory peer and donor, has forged an alliance with Labour, LibDems, SNP and the **Church of England** to demand ministers ...

Melbourne consecration of bishop whose brother-bishop is her bishop brother

... Area Bishop of Horsham in the **Church of England's** Diocese of Chichester in 1993. ... Bishop Lindsay has spent most of his ministry in England. ... and responded to greetings after the service," Anglican **Media** Melbourne reported.

'Brutally shocking'- Nearly 150 homeless people die in Northern Ireland during 11 month period

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<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/brutally-shocking-nearly-150-homeless-people-die-in-northern-ireland-during-11-month-period-37397971.html>

Stormont: Draft bill to enhance civil servants' power -

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-45791511>

Priest left 'feeling flat' after visit of Pope Francis, meeting hears

<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/politics/priest-left-feeling-flat-after-visit-of-pope-francis-meeting-hears-1.3659210>

Ex-Tyrone GAA priest steps aside amid investigation into historical claims

<https://www.irishpost.com/news/ex-tyrone-gaa-priest-steps-aside-historical-claim-made-160612>

Shock poll finds 87% of Northern Ireland leave voters say peace process collapse price worth paying

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/brexit/shock-poll-finds-87-of-northern-ireland-leave-voters-say-peace-process-collapse-price-worth-paying-for-brexit-37395306.html>

Christian Aid calls on Ireland to cut it's 'sky-high' carbon emissions

<https://www.christianaid.ie/news/christian-aid-calls-ireland-cut-its-sky-high-carbon-emissions>

More than 630 Irish deported from Australia since 2016

<https://www.rte.ie/news/world/2018/1008/1001637-irish-deported-from-australia/>

EU tax plan 'is a bigger threat to Ireland than Brexit'

<https://www.irishtimes.com/business/economy/eu-tax-plan-is-a-bigger-threat-to-ireland-than-brexit-1.3220094>

