



Victims of IRA accuse Taoiseach of hyping up hard border violence fears

The clergyman son of a Methodist local preacher killed in an IRA attack has hit out at Leo Varadkar after he claimed a hard border posed a "real risk" of a return to violence, the Belfast Telegraph reports.

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The Taoiseach held aloft a copy of the Irish Times during a leaders' dinner at the latest European Union summit in Brussels on Thursday.

It featured a story about nine people, including three IRA men, who were killed at a border checkpoint in 1972.

He later described the article as "a useful prop to demonstrate to all the European leaders the extent to which the concerns about the re-emergence of a hard border and the possibility of a return to violence are very real".

But Rev Dr David Clements, who lives in Carrickfergus, said the Taoiseach's actions have caused concern among families who experienced terror on their doorstep.

His father William, a reserve constable, was murdered in an IRA attack on Ballygawley RUC barracks in 1985.

"I am a few years older than Leo Varadkar and I can remember a hard border," said Mr Clements.

"In the 1970s I lived near it in the village of Ballygawley. My dad was a Methodist local preacher and regularly he went across the border on a Sunday evening to preach at Monaghan Methodist Church.

"Often I went with him. We had no trouble travelling south. On the way back, however, there were often long delays, sometimes an hour or two.

"This had nothing to do with us importing a joint of meat from the best butchers in Monaghan. It had everything to do with the vicious terrorist campaign waged by the IRA."

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Others who previously experienced the threat and violence of the IRA have also spoken out.

Former Ireland rugby player Trevor Ringland was diverted away from the carnage of a car bomb which exploded close to the border in April 1987, killing senior judge Lord Justice Maurice Gibson and his wife Lady Cecily.

Three team-mates - Nigel Carr, Philip Rainey and David Irwin - nearly died after the judge's car hurtled towards their vehicle.

He said: "There is no justification for using violence to try and bring about constitutional change on this island.

"It's extremely important that those in positions of leadership, such as the Taoiseach, are very careful with their language.

"We don't want to see anyone over-hyping the situation that could in any way give any respect or credibility to the use of violence.

"It (a custom check) is purely a business arrangement.

"There's no block in people crossing the border whatsoever, because Ireland is not in Schengen (area border arrangements), so that will continue as normal. As will the Irish rugby team and Irish hockey team."

The border runs for over 300 miles from Lough Foyle to Carlingford Lough.

John Sproule's 23-year-old brother Ian was killed by the IRA near Castlederg in 1991.

He said he was "sickened" by Mr Varadkar's comments.

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More at - <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/victims-of-ira-accuse-taoiseach-of-hyping-up-hard-border-violence-fears-37439393.html>

After 13 generations, American duo return to Co Down ancestral home – with a gift



Susan and Henry Livingston (US descendants of the founder of Killinchy Parish Church) in the church.

Thirteen generations and 382 years later, the relatives of a man who introduced Protestantism to an Ulster village returned to his old parish... bearing an extraordinary gift, the Newsletter reports.

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Henry and Susan Livingston came from New York state to Killinchy to trace the footsteps of their ancestor Rev John Livingston – a Scottish-born Presbyterian minister who was one of the early Plantation settlers, and who established the village's parish church.

In honour of their connection to the area – with Henry being John Livingston's 11th great grandchild – the Americans gave the church a fully-restored pipe organ dating back to 1899.



Harrison & Harrison 1899 restored organ in Killinchy Parish Church

The life of ancestor John Livingston was remarkable, and included an abortive effort to take about 140 would-be colonists from Ulster to America – believed to be the first such attempted sailing from the Province.

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He became rector of newly-created Killinchy Parish Church – the first Protestant congregation in the village – while in his late 20s in 1630.

The current rector of the church, Stanley Gamble, said nothing like today's plethora of Protestant denominations existed in John Livingston's time; instead it was essentially just the reformed faith, or the Roman one. Over time the parish church became Presbyterian, and then later Church of Ireland as it is today.

The current church was built in 1830, but on the same site of John Livingston's original one.

Rev Gamble said the US visitors, who both worked in Brown Brothers Harriman Bank (though Henry is now retired) had travelled to Northern Ireland last year on a kind of pilgrimage to John Livingston's former home.

"They discovered the parish church, and me, and made the offer of installing the organ in his memory," he said.

The instrument was recovered from a defunct Methodist church in northern England. Originally made by Harrison & Harrison, and restored by the Pipe Organ Preservation Company, their gift (thought to be worth five-figures) was formally presented at a gathering on September 29.

"We had a little house organ – but it wasn't much cop," Rev Gamble said. "Harrison & Harrison is like the Rolls-Royce of organs."

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The Americans' visit was marked by the first-ever Livingston Days festival (on September 29 and 30, which featured a choral concert, piping sessions, dancing, and more), and Rev Gamble said he aims to keep it going as a regular thing in the parish.



Rev John Livingston

“We’re eternally grateful to Susan and Henry Livingston for their generosity. They’ve opened a new chapter of cultural and musical life in this parish,” said Rev Gamble.

In terms of how John Livingston had ended up in Killinchy in the first place, Queen’s University Belfast professor Laurence Kirkpatrick said he was one of a wave of unemployed ministers dispatched by King James I to Ireland to the Plantation.

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But as a result of theological ructions he was “temporarily suspended, reinstated, suspended again and finally deposed in November 1635”.

“These clerics, originally drafted into Ulster as part of Government policy, were now persecuted as part of a changing Government policy,” he said. Whilst his own plan to emigrate ultimately failed, his children moved to Massachusetts, where grandson Johannes Livingston married Mary Winthrop – beginning the line of descendents including Henry and Susan.

John Livingston’s bid to emigrate was not plain sailing.

The ship, Eaglewing, left Groomsport on September 9, 1636, but Prof Kirkpatrick said: “Severe Atlantic storms damaged the ship and the group decided God was telling them to return to Ireland.

“They arrived back in Ulster on November 3.

“A baby boy was born during the voyage to a couple from the Killinchy congregation and Livingston baptized him the following Sunday, naming him ‘Seaborn’.” John Livingston himself died in 1672 in Amsterdam, about a decade after Charles II had exiled him over a theological dispute.

Unity theme of Cappella Caeciliana’s new CD

Cappella Caeciliana’s latest CD - UNITY May they all be one - will be launched on Friday 16th November.

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The launch concert will take place in Clonard Monastery, Belfast, at 8pm that day. Further details of the concert are available [here](#).

The CD takes its title from *Ut omnes unum sint* - Christ's exhortation for unity amongst his followers - which was composed by Sir James MacMillan for the choir's 20th anniversary. The title track was recorded in Good Shepherd Church, Belfast, on 12th March 2016, conducted by the composer and also featuring Cappella's founder members *The Priests*.

The remaining tracks were recorded in St Bernadette's Church, Belfast, on 3th and 4th March 2018, conducted by Donal McCrisken.

The running order of the CD is:

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1. *Ut omnes unum sint* by James MacMillan (b.1959) - featuring *The Priests* and conducted by the composer
2. *Ubi Caritas* by Ola Gjeilo (b. 1978)
3. *Ave Maria* by Franz Biebl (1906-2001)
4. *Hail, Gladdening Light* by Charles Wood (1866-1926)
5. *If Ye Love Me* by Thomas Tallis (c.1505-1585)
6. *The Deer's Cry* by Arvo Pärt (b. 1935)
7. *O Vos Omnes* by Tomás Luis de Victoria (c. 1548-1611)
8. *Crucifixus* by Antonio Lotti (1667-1740)
9. *Stabat Mater* by Alissa Firsova (b. 1986)
10. *Lead Kindly Light* arranged by Donal McCricken
11. *Seek Him that Maketh the Seven Stars* by Jonathan Dove (b.1959)
12. *Curoo Curoo* by Elaine Agnew (b. 1967)
13. *Child Within* by Elaine Agnew
14. *There is no rose* by Eric Sweeney (b. 1948)
15. *In the Bleak Mid-Winter* by Harold Darke (1888-1976)



The poster features a dark, starry background with a blue, multi-petaled flower-like design in the center. The text is white and gold, providing details about the concert.

UNITY
May they all be one
CD LAUNCH CONCERT

Cappella Caeciliana
Conductor: Donal McCricken
Organist: Stephen Hamill
Clonard Monastery, Belfast
Friday 16th November at 8pm
Tickets £12
Students and under 25s free, no ticket required
Available from Clonard reception, Matchetts (Wellington Place) and www.caeciliana.org

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If attending the launch concert, you can pre-order the CD [here](#) for collection at the concert. This will cost only £8, a saving of £4 on the normal price.

Otherwise, you can pre-order the CD by clicking the button below, and a copy will be posted to you shortly in advance of the launch date. The cost is £12 and postage is free, anywhere in the world.

Priest shortage forces parishes to alternate Sunday Mass

People have worshipped at the site of the Catholic Church in Boho in County Fermanagh for more than 1,500 years, BBC NI reports.

The Church of the Sacred Heart stands on the site of an early Christian monastery or nunnery where St Faber worked in the sixth century.

In the graveyard stands a carved tenth century Celtic cross.

But the continuous tradition of Christian worship in this parish has now been impacted by the shortage of priests.

For the first time anyone here can remember, two weeks ago there was no Mass on Sunday.

The Clogher diocese has introduced changes which means Mass is now celebrated on alternate Sundays in Boho and Monea.

It has not gone down well with everyone.



There has been Christian worship at the site of the Catholic Church in Boho for more than 1,500 years

The Immaculate Conception Church in Monea is too small to seat the combined congregation, and several dozen parishioners had to stand outside during the first service following the reorganisation.

One parishioner tells BBC News NI they were not consulted on the changes which they fear will threaten people's local identity.

'People will start to drift away'

"We have a very strong community here. We have very good attendance at church and we have so many young families who are bringing their children," says the parishioner.

"This sense of community, the sense of belonging, people have a strong association with it.

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"We fear we're going to lose out on that, that the community is going to become disjointed now because people will start to drift away.

"They'll either not go at all, or they'll go to other churches."

One man in his 90s, who has walked to church every Sunday in Boho, will now have to find a lift in order to go to Mass at another church.

For others in this rural community, the routine of their daily lives has been disrupted.

A Monea parishioner said their whole Saturday revolved around going to the vigil Mass in the evening and they always planned their day around that.

That service has now been scrapped.

'A great sense of loss'

More than 400 people have signed a petition to the Clogher diocesan administrator, Monsignor Joseph McGuinness, asking for their weekend Masses to be reinstated.

Msgr McGuinness says that the situation had become critical and the church had to deal with the reality that the number of priests will reduce still further.

"It's understandable that some people will find this very difficult and there will in some cases be almost a great sense of loss to people that the kinds of celebrations that there were in their churches previously may no longer be possible," he notes.



Fr Brian D'Arcy believes cutting Masses is "not the ultimate answer"

"Given the fewer number of priests, the convenient Mass may not necessarily be in their own parish, it may be within a church elsewhere in the area.

"However, we have to look again at the opportunities that this presents to us to do things in a different way, but in a way that keeps our churches alive as places of praise and worship."

He believes there is an opportunity for increasing the role of the laity to assist the mission of the church which he hopes will encourage more people to see a vocation in the priesthood in the future.

Last Sunday, nine men, including two prominent barristers, [were ordained as Catholic deacons in Belfast.](#)

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Fermanagh Passionist priest, Father Brian D'Arcy, says deacons are not a new idea.

He worked with two deacons in Africa 40 years ago and believes it is not the solution to the priest shortage.

'Why go the halfway house?'

"They did funerals, baptisms, preached on Sundays and it was great variety and everything else but it wasn't the answer because when the priest died, the deacon couldn't say Mass," says Fr D'Arcy.

"Why go the halfway house? If it's married deacons, why can't we have married priests?

"It doesn't make sense. Everybody knows that and there's no point trying to kid the people anymore."

Fr D'Arcy takes the view that reducing Masses is "not going to be the ultimate answer".

"Eventually it will come to closing churches if we keep on doing the same thing.

"We have to understand that perhaps this was the problem they had in the acts of the Apostles in the old days and what did they do? They let each community choose their own priests.

"The idea of compulsory celibacy, that a priest is living on his own, is dwindling and not meaningful to many people anymore.

"It seems the laity are only involved in the tail end of it, they are not involved in the decision making, and until that happens, we won't even begin to understand the problem."

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News links

Suspended Queen's lecturer 'faces sack' after Presbyterian college snub

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/suspended-queens-lecturer-faces-sack-after-presbyterian-college-snob-37432504.html>

Alf McCreary: Why Presbyterian Church should listen to critics rather than circle the wagons

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/life/features/alf-mccreary-why-presbyterian-church-should-listen-to-critics-rather-than-circle-the-wagons-37437663.html> ...

Ed Curran: Our futures hang worryingly on the decisions of people who know so little about us

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/opinion/news-analysis/ed-curran-our-futures-hang-worryingly-on-the-decisions-of-people-who-know-so-little-about-us-37435798.html>

Israeli politician Isaac Herzog on singing DUP's praises in NI and why a blue plaque to his late father should be returned

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/life/features/israeli-politician-isaac-herzog-on-singing-dups-praises-in-ni-and-why-a-blue-plaque-to-his-late-father-should-be-returned-to-his-former-belfast-home-37435340.html>

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20 Questions: Priests star Fr Eugene O'Hagan on looking after body and soul

[http://www.irishnews.com/lifestyle/2018/10/17/news/20-questions-priests-star-fr-eugene-o-hagan-on-looking-after-body-and-soul-1457375/ ...](http://www.irishnews.com/lifestyle/2018/10/17/news/20-questions-priests-star-fr-eugene-o-hagan-on-looking-after-body-and-soul-1457375/)

Claims of anti Catholic bias by the old Stormont regime are hugely exaggerated - Belfast Newsletter

<https://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/opinion/claims-of-anti-catholic-bias-by-the-old-stormont-regime-are-hugely-exaggerated-1-8667717>

Relive Armagh's Georgian Splendour at iconic four-day Festival

Armagh i

That evening the **Church of Ireland** Cathedral will host 'The Piper and the Faerie Queen', a performance inspired by fantastical literary works of the 17 ...

Dublin Bucket List: Top 15 Best Things to do in Dublin, Ireland

Out of Town Travel News (blog)

The cathedral is close to Christ Church Cathedral it is the national cathedral of the **church of Ireland**. According to tradition, this is where St. Patrick ...

Ireland welcomes its first breastfeeding friendly church in limerick

RSVP Live

Mount St Alphonsus **Church** in Limerick has proudly announced they had signed up to the initiative, 'We're Breastfeeding Friendly Limerick', run by ...

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Church of England digital team scoops five industry prizes

Church Times

Church of England digital team scoops five industry prizes ... THE **Church of England's** digital strategy received industry-wide recognition on ... C of E launched its Christmas campaign for this year, #FollowTheStar (**News**, 5 October).

Church wants gender recognition made easy

The Times

Transgender people should not face “excessive bureaucracy” in gaining a gender recognition certificate, the **Church of England** has said in response ...

Three designs proposed for Great Hunger memorial at Glasgow **church**

Scottish Catholic Observer

A Catholic **Church** in Glasgow has hosted three designs for a fitting and permanent memorial to those who fled **Ireland** during the Great Hunger, (An ...

Catholic **Church** faces federal inquiry into sex abuse

Irish Times

News of the subpoenas threatened to deepen the crisis faced by the Catholic Church as it struggles through a new chapter of the sex abuse scandal, ...

In Poland, another blow to the Catholic **Church**

Washington Post

In the small-town cinema where I saw it, the type of place where the **church** is meant to ... Places change; **Ireland**, once deeply Catholic, is no longer.

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Change is worse than a rest, say stressed clergy

Clergy struggle to cope with change, a new report on their well-being has said... the report, *Negotiating Wellbeing: Experiences of ordinands and clergy in the Church of England*, says that periods of transition, for example coming to the end of a curacy, can cause physical and mental stress, and prompt clergy to question their vocation. The report is the second to come out of the long-term Living Ministry study, which is following four cohorts over a decade: people ordained deacon in 2006, 2011, or 2015, and those who started training in 2016. The first report, published last year, suggested that most priests report high levels of well-being, including living in financial comfort and enjoying good health

<https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2018/19-october/news/uk/change-is-worse-than-a-rest-say-stressed-clergy>

Clergy Discipline Measure ‘causes innocent to leave the ministry’

Church Times

<https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2018/19-october/news/uk/clergy-discipline-measure-causes-innocent-to-leave-the-ministry>

Britain rediscovers the rosary

Earlier this month Archbishop Malcolm McMahon of Liverpool requested that every priest in his archdiocese invite the faithful to revive the practice of reciting the rosary on a regular, if not daily, basis. Some priests then went so far as to dedicate homilies to explaining to congregations what the rosary was, how to pray it, and how they might

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benefit from partaking in this scriptural and Christocentric devotion.

<http://catholicherald.co.uk/commentandblogs/2018/10/19/britain-rediscovers-the-rosary/?platform=hootsuite>

Synod of Bishops: A Christian obligation to welcome migrants

Ethiopian Cardinal addressed the issue of migration at length. He lamented how African migrants are treated in Europe.

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/church/news/2018-10/synod-youth-2018-press-briefing6.html#.V8iaPX35L1I.twitter>

Churches offered funding for science projects

<https://www.christiantoday.com/article/churches-offered-funding-for-science-projectsexecute1/130713.htm>

World Council of Churches again calls for release of Syrian archbishops, more than 2,000 days after they were abducted

<https://www.sightmagazine.com.au/news/10619-world-council-of-churches-again-calls-for-release-of-syrian-archbishops-more-than-2-000-days-after-they-were-abducted>

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