

Why is the Catholic Church cannibalising the Book of Common Prayer ?

Archbishop of Canterbury for Downpatrick on St Patrick's Day

As one The Archbishop of Canterbury will be the principal guest at Downpatrick next year. He will attend the Holy Communion service at Saul and join in the pilgrimage walk to Down Cathedral where he will preach at the Festival Service.

It is over 50 years since an Archbishop of Canterbury, Most Revd Michael Ramsey, took part. The Dean of Down, Very Reverend Henry Hull said he was thrilled that the Archbishop would be taking part and looked forward to welcoming him.

The pilgrimage was started by Bishop FJ Mitchell in the 1950's. They were affected by the troubles and other local celebrations. Bishop Gordon McMullan revived the large inter-denominational service in the cathedral.



Community needs people of hope rather than people of fear - Archbishop Clarke

The Archbishop of Armagh, Most Revd Dr Richard Clarke, said yesterday that "the vast majority of people want the talks at present being mooted as a means of resolving difficulties between the different political viewpoints to be pursued with integrity, energy and commitment. *We want the talks to work.* People want to see hope".

Archbishop Clarke, used his Presidential Synod Address yesterday morning at the 2014 Diocesan Synod in Church House, Armagh, to emphasise that

the entire community needed to be 'people of hope rather than people of fear'.

Speaking on the themes of the international threats of both ISIL and the Ebola virus, Archbishop Clarke said: 'Only when we can grasp, *and accept in our hearts*, that in God's eyes there are no "people like us" and "people not like us", can we begin the process of bringing hope, a hope that begins with real solidarity, to those around us.' He continued: 'From the very first book of the Scriptures, we are told firmly that every human person has a *total* value and dignity and a unique purpose in God's eyes, for every human person is made in His image



and likeness. This essential truth is given its fullest expression – its complete expression – in the Incarnation of Jesus Christ and in his death and resurrection. This is the basis of all hope, and it is not merely "hope" as an interesting theological formulation, it is a hope that must drive us out to bring that hope into the lives of others.'

Continuing on the theme of hope in the context of the political talks in Northern Ireland, Archbishop Clarke said: 'Here in Northern Ireland, I believe that the vast majority of people want the talks at present being mooted as a means of resolving difficulties between the different political viewpoints to be pursued with integrity, energy and commitment. *We want the talks to work.* People want to see hope, they want to believe that those who lead our country are actually interested in holding out hope for all the communities of Ireland, and within both the jurisdictions represented in this diocese.'

Archbishop Clarke also highlighted the importance of road safety in the light of road deaths statistics and the PSNI call for greater awareness, saying, 'We should all, young or old, take to heart the Christian imperative that we accept the gift of the life we have been given, and that others have been given, with a genuine reverence.' The Archbishop also commended work being done to raise awareness about suicide prevention and, finally, commended the 'fab / Flesh and Blood' campaign promoting blood and organ donation, saying that

by taking part in it 'We can give hope to those who would otherwise have little hope of living a full life or even perhaps of surviving beyond a few months or weeks'.

The Archbishop paid tribute to the recently retired Archdeacon of Armagh, Ven Raymond Hoey, who had served in that office for twenty years. He conveyed good wishes to his successor, Ven Terry Scott, and to the recently retired Cardinal Sean Brady and Canon Michael Kennedy.

First World War Film 'The Boys from East Belfast' to be Screened at St Mark's Dundela

A specially commissioned short film documentary 'The Boys from East Belfast' focusing on the discovery of letters written by ten soldiers from East Belfast and serving at the Western Front is to be given its first screening at St Mark's Church, Dundela on Monday 10th November at 6.00pm.

The film is a collaboration between the RCB (Representative Church Body) Library in Dublin and the Church of Ireland Historical Centenaries Working Group who have produced it to coincide with Remembrance-tide in this the 100th anniversary year since the start of World War One. Filmed and directed by Tim Hood, 'The Boys from East Belfast' re-enacts the full story of how a small collection of letters written by ten soldiers serving at the Western Front who were also parishioners of the Church of Ireland parish of Dundela ended up in an old tea chest in Kilmore See House, and their subsequent transfer for permanent safekeeping in the RCB Library, Dublin. There, in 2014, a group of local historians from East Belfast who have traced the lives of the letter writers viewed them for the first time, almost 100 years after they had been written.

The screening event on the 10th November will also be an opportunity to hear from Dr Susan Hood of the RCB Library, who discovered the letters, and from the East Belfast historians. The event will be part of a range of Remembrance-tide events taking place over several days at St Mark's Dundela, Holywood Road, and the letters themselves will be on display there during that period. The event is open to the public. Following its public screening on the 10th November, the film will be

available to view on the Church of Ireland website as the RCB Library's November's 'Archive of the Month'.



Anger over priest's blessing of hare coursing club grounds

Limerick Post - Animal rights protesters in Limerick

are up in arms over a priest blessing a field used by Glin Coursing Club last weekend.

The Irish Council Against Blood Sports (ICABS) have not only complained to Bishop of Limerick Brendan Leahy, about what they deem as a “grotesque blessing”, but have also tweeted Pope Francis about the matter. In their message to the Vatican, ICABS asks the Pontiff to “act to stop clergy involvement in Ireland’s cruel hare coursing”.

In a letter to Bishop Leahy, the animal rights group pointed out that the blessing at Glin Coursing Club’s new grounds is in direct contravention of the official Catechism of the Catholic Church which clearly states that “it is contrary to human dignity to cause animals to suffer and die needlessly.”

“We also pointed to the part of the Catechism which says that ‘animals are God’s creatures. He surrounds them with his providential care. By their mere existence they bless him and give him glory. Thus men owe them kindness’,” explained Aideen Yourell of ICABS.

“The blessing of a hare coursing field by a Catholic priest is a gross misuse of a blessing and should not be permitted in your diocese,” ICABS stated in a message to Bishop Leahy,” she added.

According to ICABS, the hares used at Glin coursing meeting were trapped from the wild in nets, kept captive in compounds and on the days of coursing, used as bait to run before two greyhounds. They allege that hares that are struck by the dogs can be mauled and severely injured, resulting in death.

“This priest should be thoroughly ashamed of himself, giving his blessing and that of the Catholic church to this barbarity. It is even more inappropriate, given the fact that this coursing meeting took place last weekend, which not only coincided with World Animal Week but also with the feast day of St Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals,” she concluded.

More at -

<http://www.limerickpost.ie/2014/10/20/anger-over-priests-offensive-blessing-of-coursing-club-grounds-in-county-limerick/>

Service to Methodist College, Belfast, recognised

Methodist College's annual prize distribution took place with The Right Honourable Lord Justice Gillen as guest of honour. A pupil from 1958-66 and a former chair of the Old Boys' Association, Sir John currently chairs the Fundraising Committee. Speaking in the William Whitla Hall at Queen's University, he urged Methodist pupils to aim to become people of value. He warned them this goal would not come easily and would entail many failures along the way – but embracing it was the path to purpose and meaning in life.

Earlier, tribute had been paid to three members of the school's Board of Governors who epitomised the qualities of character and commitment to which the pupils were urged to aspire. The Rev Dr Edmund Mawhinney, Dame Mary Uprichard and the Rev Winston Graham retired from the Board during the year, having contributed some forty-eight years of service between them.

These are people who have given freely of their time and talents for the good of the school community. And what a community it is! Once again this year the amazing range of the pupils' academic, extra-curricular and sporting achievements was recognised and applauded, as was the vital input of the staff. And then there was the music – one of Methodist's hallmarks – wonderfully directed and beautifully performed. All in all an encouraging and inspirational event.

Parenting Teenagers Workshop in CITI

A one day workshop focusing on how parents, grandparents and guardians can support their teenagers takes place in the Church of Ireland Theological Institute, Braemor Park, Dublin 14, on Saturday November 22.

Entitled 'Parenting Well', the workshop will be facilitated by Love for Life, a leading Christian advice agency on teenager relationships and well being.

The workshop is part of the Faith in Everyday Living series. This is a new series of lay training opportunities being hosted by the Church of Ireland Theological Institute and Edgehill Theological College.

The series is designed to encourage theological reflection, fellowship and discussion on everyday discipleship matters.

The workshop will run from 9.30 am to 4.00 pm in CITI and the cost is €20 per person which includes lunch. Reservations must be made by Thursday November 20.

The booking form can be downloaded by clicking [here](#) and can be returned to davidbrown@theologicalinstitute.ie

‘Heaven in Ordinary’ - an evening with Church Missionary Society Ireland

“Impact” is CMS Ireland’s Annual Celebration Event. It’s an evening full of worship, sharing and inspiration celebrating stories of God at work, transforming lives. It’s also a great way to begin the Advent Season and to be reminded of how God does extraordinary things through ordinary people and their ordinary acts of love and service.

This year’s event, entitled Heaven in Ordinary includes: Worship led by Ian Hanna, Bible reflections by Rev Andrew Forster, Stories from CMSI’s Global Partners and the staff team, Conversations over a cuppa (and treats). Belvoir Parish, Belfast at 7.30 pm on Friday November 28

Former Spiritual Advisor to Bill Clinton visits St Patrick’s, Coleraine

Tony Campolo, former spiritual advisor to Bill Clinton, and song writing legend Graham Kendrick, visit St Patrick’s Parish, Coleraine, on November 2.

They are taking part in an evening of worship and challenge which offers an opportunity to learn more about the work of Compassion.

For more than 60 years, Compassion UK has been giving, working with some of the poorest children in the world. Through child sponsorship, children are connected with someone who cares and has made the decision to be there for them. Today they are transforming the lives of over 1.5 million children, teaching them that they can have a hope and a future.



Tony Campolo



Graham Kendrick

Tony Campolo is a renowned sociologist, pastor and social justice campaigner and is the former spiritual advisor to President Bill Clinton. Graham Kendrick is seen by many as the ‘father of modern worship music’ and has contributed hundreds of songs to the church.

The rector of St Patrick’s, the Rev Roger Cooke, said: “It’s a rare treat to get two leaders like this in one place. We are delighted to welcome Graham and Tony, and look forward to an evening to remember!”

The concert gets underway at 7.30pm and tickets at £12 are available from www.compassionuk.org

New Prayer Ministers Commissioned in Dublin and Glendalough

Archbishop Michael Jackson commissioned eight new prayer ministers for Dublin and Glendalough at the Church’s Ministry of Healing annual Diocesan Service on Sunday October 20.

Audrey Hamilton (Howth), Cynthia Lang and June Gleeson (Celbridge Straffan With Newcastle Lyons), Gillian Keogh and Jean Salter (Killiney–Ballybrack), Lindsey Ryan (Rathdrum), Trilly Keatinge (Taney) and David Caird (Malahide) were commissioned at the service which took place in St Patrick’s Church, Powerscourt.

The congregation was welcomed by the Rector, Archdeacon Ricky Rountree and the Revd Bruce Hayes, Rector of Dalkey, who is Chaplain to the Church’s Ministry of Healing in the dioceses. Archbishop Jackson thanked those who were willing to undertake the work and ministry of prayer. He also thanked the Revd Bruce Hayes for taking on the role of Chaplain and Avril Gillatt for her work with the Church’s Ministry of Healing in the dioceses.

In his sermon, the Archbishop spoke of the importance of touch to healing. Referring to Naaman the Leper, the Woman with the Issue of Blood and the Good Samaritan he gave “three random examples of touching as the means

of healing; of God working through the human touch of one person by another person; and healing transforms through the presence and the power and the care and the love of God”.



He suggested that these people had taken risks against the religious conventions of their day to be healed and restored to a right relationship with God and that relationship with God was as vital to them as the restoration to health.

“The challenge for us is that our society gradually has watched the gap open up and now almost completely has separated out these two experiences and these two hopes: right relationship with God and health itself. The sense of personal authority that people who are sick have, the sense of personal dignity that they wish to retain and to regain and to restore through healing along with this focus of their spiritual energy is something that we should never underestimate and should always address – sensitively, compassionately, hopefully. It is God’s gift to them. They share with us the gift of God’s generosity in the interchange of healing and refreshment. And they give us more than we give them because they create the understanding of God’s presence where on our own we see only God’s absence. And touch is intrinsic to presence for most of us,” the Archbishop said.

He explained that prayer is a ministry of touching when the minister is not with the person in need. He added that those prayer ministers being commissioned had been called and invited into the rich ministry of Jesus Christ.

The Archbishop’s sermon is at -

<http://dublin.anglican.org/news/2014/10/New-Prayer-Ministers-Commissioned-in-Dublin-and-Glendalough.php>

Worship, Welfare and War – St Matthew’s, Irishtown, Remembers

The role of St Matthew’s Parish and the local community in Irishtown during the troubled years of 1914 to 1918 will be examined at a special lecture in St Matthew’s Church on Saturday November 8 at 2.30 pm.

Entitled ‘WWW – Worship, Welfare and War’, the lecture will be delivered by Patrick Hugh Lynch who has carried out extensive research into the circumstances of returning World War 1 ex–servicemen during the early days of the Irish Free State.

He will examine how Canon O’Hanlon, the Revd Carolan and George Reynolds gave the area well known names and places.

Patrick’s research work provides an insight into the often complex and controversial story of the Irish men and women who left Ireland to join the Forces of the Crown during the Great War. His primary research is directed at what happened to those thousands of Irish men and women who came home. He has looked at the provision of welfare service for veterans, the history of the Royal British Legion in the Irish Republic.

'Fr Gabriel is more than his sexuality, he's a cornerstone of our parish'

Irish Independent - In a small yellow church on a hill overlooking Crossmolina parish, a group of faithful worshipers gathered at 10am yesterday (Sunday) for their usual Saturday mass.

But there was nothing usual about this particular occasion. Their priest, Fr Gabriel Rosbotham, found himself in the glare of the media spotlight all week when court proceedings over the ownership of a house revealed his secret relationship with his lover and long-term partner, former Franciscan brother Hugo Crawford.

On Friday, a judge ruled that Fr Gabriel was entitled to a 27pc share of a house he shared with Mr Crawford on and off between 1994 and 2002. The pair first met at university in Galway in the 1970s in a very different Ireland.

Their relationship was cemented when the two were Franciscan Friars in Dublin in the 1980s, but ended in acrimony over ownership of the house.

The 10-year legal battle in the courts was resolved last week, but left a lot of questions in its wake.

Yesterday morning, a handful of worshipers sat in the stillness of the church, listening intently to hear what parish priest Rev Francis Judge would have to say on the matter. Or, indeed, if he would say anything at all.

And then it came: "We pray for Fr Gabriel this morning and for all those who are hurting," said the cleric before a long pause; "Lord hear us."

It was met with a rallying response: "Lord graciously hear us."

This was no hollow attempt at Christian goodwill. As mass ended and they filed out into the courtyard, locals were resolute in their stance. Fr Gabriel had their full support. Support he needs now more than ever, as his future in the church hangs in the balance.

Not only has Fr Gabriel questions to answer over his vow of celibacy, but also on his sexuality. News this week that Pope Francis is now moving to soften the Catholic Church's views on homosexuality couldn't have come at a better time.

Fr Gabriel was nowhere to be seen in his home parish yesterday.

A letter sent by the Bishop of Killala, John Fleming, to the people of the parish yesterday said Fr Gabriel "has decided to take some time to himself, away from the diocese, to reflect on his life" and also on "the commitments he made and on his ministry".

Bishop Fleming said news of the court case came as "a complete shock to me", adding: "This news has caused deep distress and I want you to know you are in my thoughts and prayers at this difficult time."



Fr Gabriel Rosbotham and (inset) Hugh Crawford

But parishioners I spoke to yesterday had nothing but words of support for Fr Gabriel.

More at -

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/fr-gabriel-is-more-than-his-sexuality-hes-a-cornerstone-of-our-parish-30674891.html>

Why is the Catholic Church cannibalising the Book of Common Prayer?



Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury (c.1547)

Daily Telegraph. Christopher Howse writes in Sacred Mysteries: The words of the Reformation leader Thomas Cranmer now appear in a new Order of Mass

I've always felt sympathetic to foreigners on holiday in England who come across a church advertising Mass and displaying crucifixes and statues inside. When they discover later that they have been at a service of the Church of England, not of the Roman Catholic Church, they are puzzled and confused.

So what would you think if you went into a church and heard the clergyman begin: "God, unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit..."?

If you said it was an early part of the Anglican service of Holy Communion, you'd be right. But I've just been looking at a new service booklet with the Order of Mass according to the Use of the Ordinariate. It begins with that prayer, yet it is a Roman Catholic liturgy. Instead of bells-and-smells Anglicans stealing the Catholics' clothes, as it were, we have Catholics (Roman Catholics) cannibalising the Book of Common Prayer.

It's the work of the Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham, set up under Pope Benedict XVI to allow Anglicans become members of the Catholic Church while retaining their "Anglican patrimony". This struck some Anglicans as poaching. More optimistic souls thought it might serve as a template for ecumenical pluralism: one Church, several traditions.

When the Ordinariate held a solemn Mass in Westminster Cathedral recently, I was hard put to it to spot the differences from a regular Catholic Mass there. Mgr Andrew Burnham (a Church of England bishop who wrote on liturgical development wisely before joining the Ordinariate) earlier this year commented on compilation of a Missal for the group. "Looking back at the classical Anglican rite of Holy Communion," he said, "this is clearly a Protestant service. Yet there is much that can be rescued."

What they have salvaged, like Robinson Crusoe from his wreck, is "largely familiar to congregations of the period up to about 1965 in such unlawful but widely used adaptations of the Roman Mass as the English Missal and Anglican Missal".

In the intervening 50 years, Anglo-Catholics in England have generally used modern Anglican and Roman rites. Even so, Mgr Burnham thinks "it is good that there is a distinct Ordinariate Order of Mass, that it is in the sacral language of the Prayer Book".

It might seem odd that the prayers which Catholics in penal days were ready to go to the scaffold to avoid, and that Anglo-Catholics were happy to break the law rather than use in worship, should now be embraced by Catholics who value Anglican patrimony. But the language of Cranmer is something that many Anglicans treasure. Already, the Ordinariate has been authorised by Rome to use the Psalms in Coverdale's translation, as in the Book of Common Prayer. Now they are to use Cranmer's collects.

I've heard some academics suggest that, if not one by one, then in aggregate these reflect Calvinist theology. I'm not capable of judging. An avowed Calvinist might embrace this phrase from one collect: "we, who for our evil deeds do worthily deserve to be punished". But it is surely quite consistent

with Catholic doctrine. It's as though forms of words seen as dubious if used schismatically gain a kind of insulation when used by the universal church.

Elements have changed. The Ordinariate "Use" does not employ the Eucharistic prayer of the 1662 Book of Common Prayer. On surface matters, the liturgy preserves thees and thous, as it does familiar phrases such as "before all worlds", "the quick and the dead" or "manifold sins and wickednesses".

I'd have thought there was room here for that rare virtue, generosity. Since the finished product is not 1662 or 1970 or Common Worship or the current rejigged Catholic Order of Mass, Anglicans or Catholics visiting Ordinariate churches should grab a booklet before opening their mouths.