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‘Disappointment’ at some DUP politicians who failed to attend War Memorial church service where priest participated



Lurgan War Memorial

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A MLA has voiced disappointment that some DUP politicians failed to attend a church service to commemorate The Fallen - and claimed they did so because a priest was present.

But the DUP has slammed the claim as “unseemly and inaccurate”.

Ulster Unionist MLA Doug Beattie was speaking after a service at Shankill Parish Church in Lurgan on Sunday to dedicate the names of the Fallen from both world wars which had been missing from War Memorial.

There is a second service this Sunday to dedicate the names of those who were omitted to the Portadown War Memorial.

Mr Beattie said: “I have spent over 36 years in the military and at no stage did I ask or need to know anyone’s religion. I have lost friends and colleagues from both traditional communities in Northern Ireland and more from around the country.

“Therefore I was disappointed that some - and I must stress it was some - DUP Councillors felt they could not attend a church service within Shankill Parish Church to dedicate the names of our fallen from both world wars that had been missing from the Lurgan War Memorial for nearly 100 years.

“It is not to attack to say that I was disappointed, it is a genuine expression of regret that because a Roman Catholic Priest was participating in the service they felt that they could not attend.

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“It was my party colleagues within Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, particularly the Mayor Julie Flaherty and Army reservist Cllr Glenn Barr, who brought the Motion to council to ensure those names that had been omitted be given their rightful place on the war memorial in both Lurgan and Portadown and further afield in the Borough. They did so without delving into the religion of each man or woman that was to be added.

“Of course it is for others to decide what they feel is tolerable and I understand how religious beliefs are very personal.

“However, as someone who has served, I place huge store in remembering our war dead, particularly those who fought side by side in two world wars.

“I believe it is incumbent on us all to reach out and challenge ourselves on issues like this. Those who chose not to attend failed to give due recognition and respect to those who gave their tomorrow for our today in a war that few fully understood at the time.

“I believe that at the very least we should set aside this type of intolerance and be united in our remembrance and reflection.”

“If this was a one-off then I believe it was a bad decision. However the reality is that there were reports from France in July this year that some councillors from the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council refused to attend some of the remembrance events, particularly those

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around the Guillemont, again because they had a cross community religious element. This plays into the us and them narrative, when for those that shared the trenches – be they 36th Ulster Division, the 16th Irish Division, or other independent Irish battalions in different Divisions - there was no us and them, just a desperate fight to stay alive in the mud and the blood, the fear and the strain, the death and the destruction.”

“If your religious beliefs mean you cannot attend an event then don’t attend. But if you decide to go because there is a photo opportunity only to sneak off when entering the church because there is a priest involved then I feel you have let yourself down, let unionism down and more importantly, let those that sacrificed so much for our freedoms down. There is no religion in a trench apart from that between the individual and his own private prayers and thoughts to God.”

Cllr Baxter said he had a prior family engagement so couldn’t attend the service last Sunday.

He said: “As we approach the 100th anniversary of armistice day our focus should be on paying tribute to the people from all backgrounds, religions and races who fought and gave their lives during the Great War. Not some petty party political fight. If the UUP has to stoop this low to attack the DUP they should be ashamed.

“In Lurgan at the weekend there was a cross-denominational element to the ceremony held at the War Memorial as well as the later church service. I attended the cross-community service at the war memorial but not the

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church. I had another prior family engagement . Some colleagues attended both and others attended none. But regardless we all stand united in tribute to those who gave all.

“Unseemly and inaccurate claims about the attendance of Councillors at events both at home and in France do nothing to give due recognition and respect to those who gave their tomorrow for our today.

“Out of respect for those who organised a dignified and solemn ceremony of remembrance we will not allow the event to be dragged further into the mire of party politics.”

Presbyterian Church in Ireland supports change in blasphemy law

With the Referendum on the removal of the offense of blasphemy from the *Constitution of Ireland* taking place this Friday (26 October) the Presbyterian Church in Ireland has said that it supports the proposed change to the Constitution.

Speaking ahead of the referendum, the Clerk of the General Assembly and General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Rev Trevor Gribben said, “In all elections and referenda, we encourage church members to consider matters before them prayerfully and with great care and then to vote in accordance with their conscience, as the Church does not direct members in how to vote.

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“Like other denominations who have stated their position publically, we also acknowledge that the current reference to blasphemy in the Constitution is largely obsolete and may give rise to concern because of the way such measures have been used to justify violence and oppression against minorities in other parts of the world.

“As a member of the Irish Council of Churches we supported its 2013 submission to the Constitutional Convention when they considered the blasphemy clause. The submission stated that ‘The promotion of freedom of religion and freedom of conscience for all in society greatly enriches the social fabric of a country, and is one aspect of respect for the dignity of human persons. The human right of faith communities to contribute to public life, including public debate on issues that are of importance to everyone, without being subjected to attack or ridicule, needs to be acknowledged and respected.’

“It also urged the Government of Ireland to make the country ‘a leading example of protection for freedom of religion, freedom of conscience and the human rights of minorities.’

“As the ICC’s report said, ‘It is vital to ensure that the rights of individuals and communities to practise and live out their faith openly are protected by law. These guarantees may be better achieved through established or new constitutional and legislative provisions for the protection for freedom of religion, belief and expression, as well as legislation against discrimination and hate crimes.’ Sentiments that we as a denomination share,” Mr Gribben continued.

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“Protection for freedom of religion, belief and expression are important rights to be enjoyed at home and overseas. While we live in a pluralist society here in Ireland that has a deep Christian heritage, the Presbyterian Church in Ireland recognises that this is not the same in every country. As a Church we therefore continue to express our solidarity with Christians and all those throughout the world who are experiencing persecution, and human rights abuses, because of their faith or beliefs.”

New student worship launched for Dublin's universities

Students from across Dublin's universities gathered for the launch of ONE Dublin – Student Gospel Music Services, on Sunday evening (October 21) in St Thomas's Church in Dublin 1.

ONE Dublin is an initiative of ACT3 (Anglican Chaplaincy Team at Third Level) and brings together different student ministries and Gospel Choirs, to provide dynamic, student-orientated Anglican worship.

The theme of the launch Service was 'Harvest' and the church was decorated colourfully, There was a strong spirit of thankfulness in the manner of the worship.

There were a number of contributions from students from across Dublin's universities about various initiatives they were involved in, from plastic-free campaigns, to wildlife photography, to urban planning principles.

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DCU Students of the Church of Ireland Centre with DCU Chaplain and Discovery Gospel Choir Bass, Philip McKinley.

The Revd Rob Jones, chairperson of ACT3, DIT Chaplain and Rector of Holy Trinity Church, Rathmines, spoke of the benefits of ACT3. “By creating a formal structure for Dublin’s Anglican Chaplains to work collaboratively and collectively, it has allowed us develop and harness a much wider range of student creativity and vitality. ONE Dublin couldn’t have happened without the networking chaplaincy approach which we have building for the past three years,” he said.

The music for the launch was provided by Discovery Gospel Choir. The service itself followed a Kenyan 1989

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Eucharistic text, which had also been used at the opening of the Lambeth Conference in 1998.

The preacher, Philip McKinley, Church of Ireland Chaplain in Dublin City University, described the launch as the “beginning of a new student movement, which has the potential not just to impact Dublin 1, but the whole of Dublin city”.

The next ONE Dublin Service will take place on Sunday November 18 at 7.30pm, where the preacher will be UCD’s Church of Ireland Chaplain, Scott Evans.

Archbishop Eamon Martin describes young people as “Agents of Evangelisation”

The Synod of ‘Young people, faith and vocational discernment’, concludes on 28 October. On Tuesday 23 October a summary address, by Archbishop Eamon Martin, to the Synod Fathers on the discussion of English language group A, was issued.

“The Holy Spirit is rejuvenating the Church through this Synod” was the opening statement of Archbishop Eamon. He recalled the address of Pope Francis at World Youth Day in Kraków, who asked the young people several times, “Can we change things?” Each time they responded with a resounding “Yes!”

Archbishop Eamon said that over the course of the synodal journey: “In a curious reversal of roles, it is the young people here present who have accompanied us, helping us

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to scrutinise ‘the signs of the times’ and to discern, ‘in the light of the Gospel’ what the Holy Spirit is saying to the Church.”



In terms of engaging young people at the parish or diocesan level, Archbishop Eamon’s group highlighted the following areas for pastoral action:

1. Practical resources and guidance for parents and grandparents as the ‘first teachers’ of the young, and for the family which is ‘the little Church’, ‘the school of love and humanity’;
2. Renewed encouragement for our Catholic schools and universities, for quality teacher formation and vibrant chaplaincies; (after all, as Pope Francis has said, “to educate is an act of love, it is to give life”).
3. A greater contribution from women, families and young lay leaders in seminary formation;
4. Organised opportunities for young people to connect

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with their peers and others on pilgrimages, gatherings and events of popular piety;

5. 'Youcat', 'Docat' 'Kidcat?!' and other Programmes to support a 'kerygmatic catechesis' which offer a sound understanding of faith within a prayerful context of encounter and friendship with Christ in His Church;

6. Opportunities for art, music, youth choirs, and sport to open up beauty, friendship, belonging and teamwork;

7. Active participation of youth in liturgy, in associations, movements, basic Christian communities and in all Church activities, including in consultative and decision-making roles.

Archbishop Eamon argued for the “re-imagination of parishes and structures so that young people are heard, listened to, appreciated and encouraged. The goal of this work is to offer to them, as *Christifidelis Laici* puts it so beautifully, a threefold experience of Church – as ‘mystery’, ‘communion’ and ‘mission’.”

One of the central points of the Archbishop’s address was how young people can reach those who are far from the Church. He stated that: “young people are not simply the OBJECTS of our evangelisation and pastoral ministry; they are also the AGENTS of evangelisation to each other and, indeed, to the whole Church.”

Archbishop Eamon recalled Pope Francis’ August visit to the shrine of Our Lady of Knock, in Ireland. He said: “Almost forty years ago Pope Saint John Paul II said there: “Every generation, with its own mentality and characteristics, is like a new continent to be won for Christ”.

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“Spirit has revealed to us that the greatest resource in winning this new generation, this new continent for Christ, is our young people themselves. Why should we be surprised at this, since God chose from among the sons of Jesse, David, the youngest, the shepherd boy, and bestowed his Spirit powerfully upon him? Why should we be surprised that God might again be choosing the youngest of His faithful as His ‘champions’ to confront the giant ‘Goliath’ challenges in today’s world?”

Vatican prepares to open debate on married men joining priesthood

The Vatican is preparing to open formal debate on opening up the priesthood to married men.

Pope Francis has convened a meeting of South American bishops next year focusing on the plight of the church in the Amazon.

During that synod, the question of ordaining married men of proven virtue - so-called "viri probati" - is expected to figure on the agenda.

This week, a two-hour documentary on Italian television is likely to contribute to the conversation.

The Choice: Priests And Love profiles more than a dozen men in four European countries who are either living secretly with women, have created their own unsanctioned church communities where married priests preside at Mass, or left the Catholic priesthood altogether to marry.

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The documentary makes the case that many of these men would gladly return to the priesthood and offer their pastoral services.

Their plight has found a sympathetic ear in Francis, who has long expressed a willingness to consider "viri probati" to address pastoral needs in the Amazon. He has also expressed sympathy for priests who have made the anguished choice to leave.

Vocatio, an Italian association of these "married priests", wrote to Francis earlier this month pledging their solidarity as he copes with the global fallout of the sex abuse scandal, and once again offering their services in ministry.

"We would like you to take into consideration - without prejudice or pretence - the opportunity of allowing us an active presence in diocesan activity, given our experience and competence in the sacraments we have lived: ministry and matrimony," the group wrote.

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The head of Vocatio, former priest Rosario Mocciaro who married civilly in 1977, estimates there are about 5,000 men in Italy alone who have left the priesthood, a third of whom would seek a return to married ministry if allowed.

He said he was hopeful for progress under Francis and some sympathetic Italian bishops, saying they brought "a new air and atmosphere" to a long-standing problem.

"The possibility of having 'viri probati' would be a great opening, a great step forward," he told AP, adding it would begin to sensitise the church and public opinion to the prospect of both a married and a celibate priesthood.

Woman wins legal battle to challenge Northern Ireland abortion laws

A Belfast woman has won High Court permission to challenge Northern Ireland's strict abortion laws. Sarah Ewart was granted leave to seek a judicial review, amid claims the near-blanket ban breaches her human rights.

A judge ruled on Wednesday that she has established an arguable case against the Departments of Justice and Health at Stormont. Mr Justice McCloskey said: "The applicant's case overcomes the necessary threshold against both."

He also pledged to have full proceedings completed no later than January next year.



Sarah Ewart, left, with Grainne Teggart of Amnesty International at a previous hearing at Belfast High Court

Five years ago Mrs Ewart, 28, was forced to travel to England for a termination after being told her unborn child had no chance of survival. She had backed a previous challenge taken by the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission. Unlike other parts of the UK, terminations are only legal within Northern Ireland to protect the woman's life or if there is a risk of serious damage to her well-being.

England's cathedrals continue to enjoy a strong turnout for Christmas services

Attendance continues to swell at England's cathedrals over the Christmas period, according to the latest statistics from the Church of England.

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A Christmas service at Winchester Cathedral



The new figures showed that a total of 135,000 people came through the

doors of Church of England cathedrals to worship on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day in 2017 – up three per cent on 2016 and the highest number since records began in 2000.

However, the report also revealed a significant drop in the numbers attending Advent services, such as Nativity plays and carol services.

While cathedrals reported a turnout for these services of 631,000 in 2014, this had fallen by 9 per cent to 576,000 in 2017.

Despite the dip in Advent service attendance, the Bishop of Worcester, Dr John Inge, is hoping more people will choose to celebrate Christmas in a cathedral this year.

'Christmas is a natural opportunity for people to re-connect with their church or cathedral, and the growth in numbers of those doing so over the past ten years is very encouraging,' he said.

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Worcester Cathedral's Crib service is popular with children

'We hope that still more people will have the joy of rediscovering the Christmas story in a cathedral or church in 2018, and our campaign #FollowTheStar is all about helping them to do so. Everyone can be assured of a very warm welcome.'

There has been a general upward trend in cathedral attendance over the last decade, with the average turnout at weekday services throughout the year more than doubling from 7,000 in the year 2,000, to over 18,000 last year.

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The number of people attending weekly services at cathedrals has risen by 10 per cent from 33,000 in 2007, to 36,200 in 2017.

Cathedrals continue to be an important place for marking significant events, with 1.3 million people attending over 5,000 civic services and events at cathedrals in 2017.

Dean of Lichfield and Chair of the Association of English Cathedrals, Adrian Dorber, suggested cathedrals appeal to the curiosity of increasing numbers of religiously unaffiliated young people.

'Cathedrals minister in a culture that is more and more diverse, spiritually attuned, but religiously unaffiliated,' he said.

'They offer a mixture of absolute reliability, being open every day, and missionary enterprise. We attract large numbers of committed and skilled volunteers and the public likes to visit not only at Christmas and for national commemorations but also for events, performances and exhibitions where they are free to think new thoughts, wonder, reflect and pray.' Ely Cathedral is just one of the Church of England cathedrals enjoying a boom in Advent attendance - with attendance jumping by 31 per cent between 2015 and 2017.

News briefs

+++Candle lit film series in Christ Church, Dublin

Christ Church Cathedral has announced details of their fifth candle-lit film series taking place on four Mondays in November at 6.30 pm in the Music Room. As always, the churchnewsireland@gmail.org

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screenings are completely free of charge and all are most welcome. Doors open at 6.15pm and no booking is required.

The latest installment is entitled 'The Heavens'; a selection of four thought-provoking films exploring astronomy and the universe, introduced by a selection of interesting speakers:

Monday 5 November @6.30pm *Galileo* (1975) introduced by Prof Luke Drury, Emeritus Professor of Astrophysics

Monday 12 November @6.30pm *A Brief History of Time* (1991) introduced by Dr Eric Finch, School of Physics, Trinity College Dublin

Monday 19 November @6.30pm *Nostalgia for the Light* (2011) introduced by Kieran Clifford, Campaigns and Activism Manager, Amnesty International

Monday 26 November @6.30pm *The Farthest* (2017) introduced by its producers Clare Stronge and John Murray

+++Tearfund broadcast service of thanksgiving

Tearfund Ireland is celebrating 10 years of change in some of the world's poorest places with a service of thanksgiving to be broadcast on Sunday, 28th October, on RTÉ 1 television at 11.10am.

During the service, the Rev Adam Pullen from Stranorlar, Co. Donegal, and Chair of the Church of Ireland's Council for Mission, will be interviewed about his experiences in Ethiopia where he met women whose lives have been transformed by involvement in self-help groups. The service will also feature an interview with Nigist Honja, a widowed mother of four in Ethiopia about how being part of a self-help group has changed her life for the better.

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Nigist says: ‘Being part of a self–help group has made me more confident. I am now a stronger person. I now believe in myself and know I can achieve my dreams.’

+++Vacancies at Belfast Cathedral

An exciting opportunity exists to become part of team of Casual Events Sextons to help with Belfast Cathedral events and take care of the Cathedral buildings, furnishings and grounds. More information at:

<http://www.belfastcathedral.org/home/staff-vacancies/>

+++Vacancy for lay pastor at Willowfield

Willowfield Church is seeking to employ a Lay Pastor, to assist in the vision of the parish, to support, disciple and encourage people to reach others in real ways for Christ and build up His Church.

If you would like to apply, please click and download the Job Description, Person Specification and Application Form from the [Jobs section of the Willowfield website](#). Closing date for applications: Friday 9 November at 12 noon.

+++Archbishop of Canterbury visits Ecumenical Patriarch

Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby was in the Turkish capital Istanbul on Friday for a “cordial and informal” meeting with the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople – the spiritual leader of the Orthodox Churches. The meeting took place as the International Commission for Anglican–Orthodox Theological

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Dialogue was concluding its annual week-long meeting in Cyprus. During their meeting, the pair discussed the situation surrounding the Orthodox Church in Ukraine. Read the full article here.

+++C of E takes fight on slavery into classrooms

The Church of England's Clewer Initiative is taking its fight against modern slavery into primary and secondary schools, with lesson plans, assembly guides and a fun song, which it is encouraging schools to sing as part of a national competition. The project is based on the premise that the tools to tackle modern slavery already exists in local communities, and that the church – present in all those communities – has the primary responsibility to lead the efforts to tackle it.

Read the full article here.

+++New Episcopal bishop for Europe elected

The Rev. Mark D.W. Edington was elected bishop of the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe on Oct. 20. He will become the second elected bishop of the convocation, after Bishop Pierre Whalon. Edington currently is rector of Saint John's Episcopal Church in Newtonville, Massachusetts, and director of the Amherst College Press. "I begin to work with you from a position of learning and posture of humility," Edington told the assembled delegates at the Convocation's convention in Waterloo, Belgium, via cellphone. "I come to you as a person eager to learn, eager to be a disciple." Prior to his appointment at Amherst, Edington served as the senior executive officer of interdisciplinary research centers at Harvard, including the

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Center for the Study of World Religions and the Harvard Decision Science Laboratory. He is a life member of the Council on Foreign Relations, where he is active in the Religion and Foreign Policy program, and his essays have appeared in The Atlantic Monthly, the New York Times, the Christian Science Monitor and other national publications. His wife, Judith, is a tax attorney.

News links

Pain of Shankill bomb is just as real after 25 years - Belfast Newsletter

<https://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/pain-of-shankill-bomb-is-just-as-real-after-25-years-1-8678536>

RHI: Máirtín Ó Muilleoir asked consent from highly secretive senior republican - Belfast Newsletter

<https://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/rhi-mairtin-o-muilleoir-asked-consent-from-highly-secretive-senior-republican-1-8678501>

Sinn Fein's O Muilleoir: 'I was kept in the dark about RHI - it was a runaway train and we needed to stop it'

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/sinn-feins-o-muilleoir-i-was-kept-in-the-dark-about-rhi-it-was-a-runaway-train-and-we-needed-to-stop-it-37451911.html>

Lack of progress on ending paramilitarism is frustrating, Independent Reporting Commission says - The Irish News

<http://www.irishnews.com/news/northernirelandnews/2018/10/23/news/lack-of-progress-on-ending-paramilitarism-is-frustrating-independent-reporting-commission-says-1466761/?param=ds441rif44T>

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Secretary of State urged to intervene to ensure implementation of suicide prevention strategy - Belfast Newsletter

<https://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/secretary-of-state-urged-to-intervene-to-ensure-implementation-of-suicide-prevention-strategy-1-8680020>

Tory MPs urge Theresa May to drop NI veteran probes - Belfast Newsletter

<https://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/tory-mps-urge-theresa-may-to-drop-ni-veteran-probes-1-8678509>

Defy republicans seeking to re-write history, Sammy Wilson tells PM over Troubles soldiers prosecutions

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/defy-republicans-seeking-to-rewrite-history-sammy-wilson-tells-pm-over-troubles-soldiers-prosecutions-37448728.html>

We won't celebrate moment unionists secured 'their wee statelet,' says Sinn Fein's Mary Lou McDonald of Northern Ireland...

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/we-wont-celebrate-moment-unionists-secured-their-wee-statelet-says-sinn-feins-mary-lou-mcdonald-of-northern-ireland-centenary-37448965.html>

Bon Secours sisters agree to contribute €2.5 million to costs Tuam excavation

<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/bon-secours-sisters-agree-to-contribute-2-5-million-to-costs-tuam-excavation-1.3673413>

Garda Commissioner would treat whistleblowers with 'utmost seriousness'

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/breakingnews/ireland/latest-garda-commissioner-would-treat-whistleblowers-with-utmost-seriousness-880783.html> ...

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Ireland's complex Jewish history: influential figures who were anti-Semites

<https://www.irishtimes.com/culture/books/ireland-s-complex-jewish-history-influential-figures-who-were-anti-semites-1.3671755>

This abortion campaign could have staggering consequences – especially for Northern Ireland

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/commentandblogs/2018/10/22/this-abortion-campaign-could-have-staggering-consequences-especially-for-northern-ireland/>

[Fr Sean McManus hits out after Ulster Unionist mocked by DUP for attending Pope 'antichrist' event](#)

The Irish News

President of the Methodist **Church in Ireland**, Rev Billy Davison, attended the reception and the World Meeting of Families event at Croke Park.

[Presbyterian moderator defends split with Scottish church - 'Why we had to take a stand'](#)

Belfast Telegraph

THE Moderator of the Presbyterian **Church**, Dr Charles McMullen, has defended the decision to cut ties with the **Church** of Scotland over gay marriage.

[Separation of church and State a 'good thing', says C of I Bishop](#)

Irish Times

The separation of Church and State is a “good thing”, the **Church of Ireland** Bishop of Cork has said. Speaking at a civic service in St Mary's Cathedral ...

[Amnesty and ICCL call for Yes vote in blasphemy referendum](#)

Irish Times

Last week the Church of **Ireland** also called for removal of the blasphemy ... **Religious** freedoms were already protected under Article 44.2.1. of the ...

[Blasphemy referendum: Your questions answered](#)

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Nobody has been prosecuted in **Ireland** under the offence of blasphemy since 1855 and that ... Will the referendum limit **religious** worship in **Ireland**?

[Church And Restaurant Targeted In Sion Mills Crime Spree](http://4ni.co.uk)

4ni.co.uk

At St Theresa's **Church**, a large stained glass window was smashed and attempts were made to steal ... shock at the disparity between Northern **Ireland** health services and those throughout the rest of the UK. ... Other **News** In Brief

[Kilgarriffe **Church** celebrates bicentenary](#)

Southern Star Newspaper

TWO HUNDRED years of worship at Kilgarriffe Church in Clonakilty by the **Church of Ireland** community were celebrated in a very special service last ...

[Wicklow Male Voice Choir bursary contest](#)

Wicklow People

... which will consist of two contrasting pieces, will be held on November 23 in the **Church of Ireland**, Church Hill, Wicklow town, before a live audience.

[First female bishop in Bristol installed at ceremony](#)

BBC News

The 24 most senior Bishops in the **Church of England** - along with the Archbishops of Canterbury and York - have an automatic right to sit in the House ...

[CofE calls for simpler gender transition process as Christian doctors' group labels gov plans ...](#)

Premier

The **Church of England** says the process of someone changing their gender needs to be made easier so transgender people feel more welcomed.

[Row over Muslim scholar's invitation to preach at Anglican service](#)

The Guardian

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An invitation to a distinguished Muslim scholar to preach at a eucharist service in an Oxford **church** on Sunday has triggered complaints from ...

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