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Catholic Church calls for government to step up homelessness crisis response



Catholic Bishops' Conference, a press conference was held in the Columba Centre of Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth, to launch a pastoral letter on housing and homelessness, *A Room at the Inn?*. In attendance at

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the press conference were Bishop Kevin Doran of Elphin and acting chair of the Council for Justice and Peace; Father Seán Donohoe OFM Cap, co-director of the Capuchin Day Centre in Dublin city; and Dr Emer Crooke, research coordinator of the Council for Justice and Peace.

The Catholic Church has called for the Irish Government to step up its response to the growing homelessness crisis saying it cannot be left to the voluntary sector.

A pastoral letter, launched on Monday at the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference, addresses housing and homelessness and describes the root causes of the crisis.

The letter details 18 key findings and calls for a number of measures including fair pricing and security in the private rental sector, vacant sites to be taxed and action to be taken to increase the supply and reduce the price of housing.

At its autumn general meeting, the bishops' conference said the Government is struggling to tackle the growing homelessness crisis.

One bishop said some landlords should "examine their consciences as to the extent of profit they make".

Bishop Kevin Doran of Elphin, acting chairman of the Council for Justice and Peace, added: "This is not just a problem for Dublin, but a problem that faces all of us in society.

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"The magnitude of the problem is so great that it cannot be solved by voluntary effort alone. The state must take the lead partner on this - this cannot be left to the private sector either."

Father Sean Donohoe, co-director of homelessness charity Capuchin Day Centre in Dublin, said it is not the responsibility of the church to solve the homelessness crisis.

"It's the responsibility of the state of civic society through our governmental process," he said.

"We do from 300 to 350 breakfasts every day and this morning we gave out baby food and nappies to 250 families.

"The day centre was opened for a place of shelter but as the needs grow we have responded. For the first while it was just men, and then it was men and women, and now, tragically and horrifically, it's men, women and children.

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"Our youngest was about two weeks old and oldest is 92 and it's everybody in between, for all different reasons.

"It is getting worse and the Government says it is doing what it can, I believe that they are doing what they can, but I believe the problem is growing quicker than what they are doing.

"There is need for a more urgent response, it should be given the highest priority."

As part of its recommendations, the church calls for compulsory purchase powers to "utilise potential sites" which lie undeveloped for a long period of time.

Bishop Doran accepted the church is not exempt from these recommendations and said it has been undertaking an audit of its properties and assets.

He said: "Local church leadership has to make the decisions about vacant sites and land and we would encourage parish priests to make sure they have a policy in relation to vacant properties which includes the possibility of making it available for housing."

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Fr Donohoe added that church properties around Dublin have been donated and are used by homelessness charities.

He added: "Our numbers are growing and the Government is not on top of it and they have acknowledged that.

"The crisis isn't over and it hasn't hit the high point yet." Please see the following link to the full text of *A Room at the Inn?* : Bishops' pastoral letter on Housing and Homelessness 'A Room at the Inn?'

Limerick Cathedral to revive Civic service

On Sunday 21st October at 11.15am Saint Mary's Cathedral, Limerick, will host the City Civic Service.

In the past, this event took place for many years in the Cathedral and as part of the Cathedral's 850th Anniversary celebrations, the service is being revived.

The service celebrates community leadership and civic life across Limerick. Guests in attendance will include the Mayor of Limerick, Cllr James Collins, Councillors, members of the Judiciary and Oireachtas. There will also be representatives from all walks of life in the City, including the universities, churches, the Emergency Services, voluntary societies and schools.

Members of the public are most warmly welcome to attend this special service, which includes a colourful procession and music sung by the Cathedral Choir.

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The guest preacher will be the Right Revd Dr Paul Colton, Bishop of Cork.

Saint Mary's, which was gifted to the Church by Donal Mor O'Brien, the last King of Thomond, has been a site of Christian worship since 1168 and it is one of the oldest buildings in Limerick City. The service forms part of this year's festivities which is celebrating and promoting the Cathedral within Limerick and beyond.

Annual New Law Term service in Dublin

The annual service to mark the commencement of the Michaelmas Law Term took place in St Michan's Church of Ireland, Church Street, Dublin , on Monday morning (1 October 2018).

Each year the service gathers a wide range of people associated with the law including members of the judiciary, legal practitioners, representatives of the Garda Síochana, the Defence Forces and the Prison Service as well as members of the Diplomatic Corps. A similar service takes place in the nearby St Michan's Roman Catholic Church on Halston Street at the same time.

The Archbishop of Dublin, the Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson, presided and with him was the Archdeacon of Dublin, the Ven David Pierpoint. The address was given by the Revd Barry Forde, Dean of Residence, Queen's University, Belfast and the choir was from the King's Hospital School.

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The Choir of the King's Hospital School and director Helen Roycroft are pictured with the clergy – Archbishop Michael Jackson, the Revd Barry Forde, Dean William Morton (centre), the Revd Alan Rufli and Canon Peter Campion (left) and Archdeacon David Pierpoint and the Revd Ross Styles (right).

The congregation included visiting judges from Northern Ireland, Scotland and England and Wales as well as political leaders, members of the Irish judiciary, An Garda Síochána, the Defence Forces and the Diplomatic Corps.

In his sermon, the Revd Barry Forde looked at our place or role in the world, our relationship with God and the components that make up identity. You can read the full text of the sermon here.

<https://dublin.anglican.org/news/2018/10/01/how-might-we-live-if>

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Moderator on Templepatrick Presbytery tour

Presbyterian Moderator, Rt Rev Dr Charles McMullen, has completed his first full day of his Templepatrick Presbytery tour.

Made up of 20 congregations, which includes over 10,700 members, Templepatrick Presbytery takes in the towns of Antrim, Crumlin, Randalstown and Templepatrick itself and lies to the north and eastern shores of Lough Neagh. Extending to just before Toome in the northern part and as far as Ballyeaston to the northeast and Dundrod in the south of the Presbytery, it reaches to Mullusk at the Presbytery's eastern edge.

He kicked off the weeklong visit by giving the sermon in Muckamore Presbyterian on Sunday morning. Looking forward to the tour, Dr McMullen said, "Since June when I became Moderator, I have visited many congregations, some of them in the Presbytery. But a Presbytery Tour, however, is a very focussed opportunity to spend time with people, building relationships and seeing some of the work that they are doing in their local communities for the glory and Kingdom of God."

"During my year in office I will undertake four such tours, this week in Templepatrick Presbytery being my first. In fact previous Moderators used to undertake three tours a year, so the Church is getting their money's worth! Barbara and I are very much looking forward to this week as it will enable us to experience the life and witness of our churches and brothers and sisters in Christ at first hand. It will also be an opportunity to encourage colleagues and their families,

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The Moderator, Dr Charles McMullen at Muckamore Presbyterian Church is pictured with Agnes Hanlon, who has been the church



caretaker for the past 45 years, Brian Hill, clerk of session (left), and Muckamore's minister, Rev Peter Dickinson (right).

which I am very keen to do.”

The Presbytery has arranged a busy week for the Moderator. He will be visiting six congregations, which also includes a joint mid-week service in First Randalstown that is open to members across the Presbytery. At Templepatrick Presbyterian he will attend a 24-hour prayer meeting and a Presbyterian Women's coffee morning at Loanends Presbyterian.

Dr McMullen will also visit some of the key industries and public services in the area. These include Antrim Area Hospital, Belfast International Airport, Radox Science Park, Greenmount College and the Police Service in Antrim. Education is also on the agenda with visits to Riverside Special School in Antrim and the Integrated Primary School

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and College in Crumlin. Dr McMullen will also pay a courtesy visit to the Mayor of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council, where he will have lunch.

Rev Desi Paul, minister of Crumlin Presbyterian Church and Clerk of Templepatrick Presbytery said that Dr McMullen would visit a dairy farm and attend a 100th birthday party for a member of First Randalstown. He will also encourage the work of Christians Against Poverty, in which all the Presbytery's congregations are involved.

Dr McMullen will conclude his tour this Sunday when he speaks at OC Randalstown at the morning service and Greystone Road Presbyterian in Antrim in the evening.

Irish Church Leaders Support ScamwiseNI Campaign

Having met with the PSNI earlier this year to hear about the impact of scams on people across the whole community, the leaders of the main Churches here have endorsed the ScamwiseNI Partnership's campaign and key message: 'If you can spot a scam, you can stop a scam'.

Scams target people of all ages, backgrounds and income levels and the PSNI's Economic Crime Unit (ECU) has seen the devastating effects that this type of crime can have on people and their families.

The Scamwise Partnership advises that one of the best way to fight scammers is to take steps to prevent being caught out in the first place using a simple four-step scam test: you're being scammed if something **Seems** too good to be

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PSNI Temporary Chief Superintendent Simon Walls with the Church leaders. Left to right: the Revd Brian Anderson, Irish Council of Churches President; Archbishop Eamon Martin, Catholic Church; Archbishop Richard Clarke, Church of Ireland; T/Chief Superintendent Simon Walls; the Rt Revd Charles McMullen, Presbyterian Moderator; and the Revd Billy Davison, Methodist President.

true; you're **C**ontacted out of the blue; you're **A**sksed for personal details and **M**oney is requested.

On behalf of the Church leaders, the Revd Brian Anderson, President of the Irish Council of Churches, said, 'We are encouraging clergy and church members alike to be alert to the problem of scamming and to spread the Scamwise message to friends and family members, especially those who might seem most vulnerable in society. Scamwise leaflets and helpful information will be made available across church networks during the coming weeks.'

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Temporary Chief Superintendent Walls said: ‘The ScamwiseNI Partnership exists to raise the awareness of members of our community to the very real risk of scams but also to educate them to some very simple steps they can take to become scam-wise. I am delighted and encouraged that the Partnership has the endorsement and support of the leaders of the main Churches who have undertaken to share the Scamwise message across their many congregations.

Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, to retire in 2020 after Queen Elizabeth extends tenure

The Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, will retire on 7 June 2020 – Trinity Sunday – three days ahead of his 71st birthday, it has been announced.

Church of England clergy are required to retire at the age of 70, but the Queen, as Supreme Governor of the Church of England, has the power in her discretion to extend that for up to one year if she considers that there are special circumstances which make it desirable to do so.

Before he retires, Archbishop Sentamu will take part in three pre-planned international mission events.

He will also lead “bishops missions” in three northern dioceses: Liverpool, Southwell & Nottingham, and York before he retires. Bishops missions are something he

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The Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, speaks with Queen Elizabeth during a reception at the UK's Houses of Parliament in Westminster, London, on 20 March 2012.

introduced a few years ago, and involves all the bishops of the York province taking part in a weekend of diocesan-wide evangelism events.

Within his diocese, he will launch and begin to embed the new diocesan evangelism and discipleship programme, "Reach, Grow, Sustain"; and he will continue his work facilitating discussions on possible political devolution for the Yorkshire region of England, under the "One Yorkshire" plans for possible regional mayoral election in 2020.

"I have decided to announce my retirement now in order to provide the Church of England with the widest possible

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**The
Archbishop
of York, Dr
John
Sentamu,
during a
mission
weekend in
York Minster.**



timeframe to
pray, discern

with wisdom and insight and put in place a timetable for my successor and to consider fully the work they will be called to do in service to the national church, the Northern Province and the Diocese of York”, Dr Sentamu said. “I am deeply grateful to Her Majesty The Queen for graciously allowing me to continue as Archbishop of York until June 2020 in order to enable me to complete the work to which I have been called.

“I am full of joy and expectation to see all that God is doing and will be doing in this diocese and in the Northern Province over the coming months.”

Before being installed as the 97th Archbishop of York in November 2005, Dr Sentamu served as Bishop of Birmingham and prior to that as Bishop of Stepney, an Area episcopacy in the Diocese of London. Dr Sentamu is a Ugandan by birth; having been born near Kampala. He served as a lawyer in the country, becoming an advocate of the Supreme Court and a High Court Judge.

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He was imprisoned for speaking out against former dictator Idi Amin and was threatened with death for refusing to clear one of Amin's relatives of a crime. He managed to flee to the UK with the support of Anglican missionary Keith Sutton, who later became Bishop of Lichfield. Sutton supported Dr Sentamu through his studies at Ridley Hall in Cambridge and, as Bishop of Kingston, Sutton appointed Sentamu to his first ordained post, as Curate of St Paul's Church in Herne Hill, South London.

The Archbishop of York heads one of two Provinces in the Church of England and is known as the Primate of England. In contrast, the Archbishop of Canterbury is known as the Primate of All England.

Responding to the announcement, Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby told Dr Sentamu: "your devotion to Christ and service to the Church of England is something we rejoice in with great gratitude!

"Be assured of my prayers – and those of the whole Church – for you and Margaret over the coming period of transition."

C of E starts 'Big Conversation' about clergy care

The Church of England has begun a 'Big Conversation' on ways to improve its approach to the care of its clergy.

It has published the [text](#) of a 'Covenant for Clergy Care and Well-being' modelled on the Military Covenant, with a set of

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proposed shared commitments between ministers, churches and the wider church.

The documents have been drawn up by a working group appointed last year following a debate at the General Synod which heard of the impact of stress, isolation and loneliness on clergy's lives and ministries.

The group offers a proposed covenant text including the commitment to 'promote the welfare of our clergy and their households in terms expressed in the Covenant for Clergy Care and Wellbeing'.

It says: 'We undertake to work together to coordinate and improve our approach to clergy care and wellbeing so that ordained ministers may flourish in their service of the mission of God within and beyond the Church.'

It continues with an outline of 'Shared Commitments' under the headings 'Baptismal and Ministerial Vocation', 'The Call to Care and Self-Care', 'The Minister as Public Figure' and 'The Minister's Household'.

While the paper says the working group wishes to avoid being too prescriptive, it stresses the need for pastoral supervision and reflective practice, clear expectations and 'holy habits', and ministerial development reviews.

Working group chair Canon Simon Butler said: 'Our aim is not to be prescriptive, but to promote a conversation which will lead to action across all levels of the church, from members of local churches through to the Cathedrals and National Church Institutions.'

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'Our goal is to bring about a culture change in the Church towards greater awareness of our shared responsibility to promote clergy care and well-being and a significant move towards a preventative approach alongside responsive care.'

He said: 'The Working Group is very keen to listen to the responses before taking that into the final document for the Synod next summer. We are hoping that the Covenant and the report will be debated by every Diocesan Synod by the end of July 2020.'

News briefs

+++Tuam retirement

- The clergy of Tuam Killala and Achonry with their spouses gathered in Ballina to wish Revd. Canon Derek Swann and



his wife Irene a happy and healthful retirement. After an excellent lunch in the Manor Hotel, a presentation was made to Derek by Archdeacon Stephen McWhirter. Bishop

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Patrick Rooke echoed the sentiments of those present when he wished Canon Swann every blessing for the future, saying that while Derek would not be doing quite as much as he has in his years in Tubbercurry and Rathbarron, still, he hoped that Derek would not entirely lose touch with ministry in TKA.



+++Dublin ordination - Canon Professor Jim Lucey, the Revd Anthony Kelly (Rector of Holmpatrick) Archbishop Michael Jackson, the Revd Tom O'Brien and the Revd Stephen Farrell (Registrar).

The Revd Tom O'Brien was ordained to the priesthood in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, on Sunday afternoon (September 30). Archbishop Michael Jackson presided over what is always a special service which was sung by the Cathedral Choir and attended by many of Tom's clerical

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colleagues. Tom's wife, Daniela and their three children were present along with other members of their family and many friends. Tom was also supported by parishioners from Holmpatrick where he will serve as Curate and from Howth where he served as Deacon Intern for two years. Tom has been ordained to self supporting ministry and will continue to work at his day job in the area of health and social work. The address was given by Canon Professor Jim Lucey, Medical Director of St Patrick's Mental Health Services in Dublin and a Lay Canon of Christ Church Cathedral. Canon Lucey looked at the issue of burnout and said that the occupational challenges of the clergy had much in common with others in the secular workforce. He described the three features of burnout: emotional exhaustion, diminishing personal achievement and depersonalisation (or loss of belief in the value of the occupation). He said burnout is common and added: "Burnout is not a disease. It is an occupational injury. Looking after the clergy means considering their health and acknowledging their risks of burnout. It is our duty to seek proper remedy for those who are currently experiencing this disabling problem".

+++Connor institution - The Rev Andy Heber will be instituted as Vicar of Carnmoney Parish at a service on Thursday October 18 at 8pm

+++Children's Ministry resources - A reminder that Children's Ministry resources are available on the Church of Ireland's Children's Ministry Network website Resources include: Children's Ministry Harvest Newsletter 2018, and All-Age worship video and much more. <http://www.cm.ireland.anglican.org/>

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+++Family Routes Board members sought - As part of a reorganisation of its activities, Family Routes, a charity providing adoption and counselling services, is seeking new members for its Board. While Family Routes is an independent charitable organisation, it had historic links with the Church of Ireland in Northern Ireland. Following recent conversations with the Honorary Secretaries about its plans for the future, Family Routes hopes that it may find volunteer board members from among the Church of Ireland community in Northern Ireland. Volunteers should be keen to have an active role in delivering this important family-oriented service with the relevant skills to fill some of the positions on the new Board. A fuller description can be found at the following link: www.ireland.anglican.org/vacancies/570/voluntary-board-members-family-routes

+++The Dublin Festival of History - continues this week with lectures, panel talks, and readings by Irish and international historians. For more information see <http://www.dublinfoestivalofhistory.ie>

