



The essential daily brief on the Irish churches

New vision for teacher training and development



Minister for Education Ruairi Quinn, TD, Archbishop Michael Jackson, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin and Dr Martin McAleese with local school children outside the Department of Education at the announcement of changes in teacher training and professional development.

Minister for Education & Skills, Ruairí Quinn TD, has launched a report outlining the vision and structure of a ground-breaking new Institute of Education which will improve the quality of education for all the children of Ireland. This will be created through the coming together of Dublin City University, St Patrick's College Drumcondra, Mater Dei Institute of Education and Church of Ireland College of Education.

The Institute will represent the largest critical mass of education expertise on the island of Ireland. It will provide initial teacher education and continuous

professional development for teachers and educators from early childhood through primary and secondary to third and fourth level.

For the first time in Ireland, DCU will create a space enabling different Christian traditions to teach and learn collaboratively side-by-side. In line with DCU's ethos as a non-denominational, secular university with a strong commitment to pluralism, the new Institute of Education will provide a place of mutual respect for the formation of teachers for denominational (Roman Catholic, Church of Ireland/Reformed Christian traditions), non-denominational and multi-denominational schools.

Speaking at the launch of the report, **A New Vision of Education for all the Children of Ireland**, Minister Quinn said,

"I warmly welcome this development. I want to commend the institutions involved for showing leadership in creating this flagship institute of education. I am particularly pleased to see the commitment to interdenominational diversity, the Church of Ireland, Roman Catholic, non-denominational and multi-denominational traditions all side by side and working together; it is a wonderful symbol of a mature, modern Ireland."

Archbishop Michael Jackson stated: 'This is a significant moment. The new Institute at DCU signals a fresh era for education in Ireland and the Church of Ireland is pleased to take its place as a constituent part of this exciting institution bringing together partners who meet as distinct equals. The document presented today which encompasses the Institute of Education's governance and vision will enable all four institutions to move forward together while safeguarding the ethos and identity of the individual bodies within a secular university.'

'Today's announcement is the fruition of detailed negotiation and collaborative discussion which has been brought about as a response to the emerging needs of a pluralist Ireland. The new institute will meet these educational needs while maintaining the Church of Ireland's existing links and honouring our commitment to our schools, our teachers and our children.'

Archbishop Diarmaid Martin also welcomed the new development, commenting: 'The Institute reflects a modern understanding of pluralism. Pluralism should not produce negative rivalry or antagonism or give rise to elitism or social division, or a culture which seeks to maintain positions based on narrow ideologies. We need to build up positive relationships within the entire educational community in such a way that our children learn to respect

each other and to understand what it means to live one's values with conviction within a respectful pluralist framework, in a modernity of mutual and respectful understanding.'

'Catholic education HAS a vital place in today's Irish educational system, as something which brings a unique value system, a value system which is recognized also by families of a variety of religious traditions who opt to send their children to a Catholic school.'

'If religious education is one of the fundamental pillars of the Irish education system, then there is a public interest in seeing that those involved in religious education and in denominational education in public schools are adequately trained for their task. The new Institute will offer great opportunities to ensure that training for those working in denominational education takes place within an atmosphere of excellence and that those involved in religious education will in their own way be able to enrich that excellence.'

Diamond Jubilee of ordination of leading Catholic educationalist

Today, 20th June 2014, Monsignor Colm McCaughan of Down and Connor celebrated his Diamond Jubilee of his ordination to the Priesthood.

Monsignor McCaughan attended secondary school in St. Malachy's College Belfast and went on to attend Queen's University Belfast. Following his studies in Belfast, Msgr McCaughan attended St Patrick's College, Maynooth in the Republic of Ireland and was ordained to the priesthood in 1954.

From 1968 to 1987 he was chosen as Secretary to the Diocesan Education Committee. In 1987 he was then selected by the Northern Bishops as an interim Director of the New Council for Catholic Maintained Schools until 1993. He was then appointed as Chancellor of the Diocese of Down and Connor in August 1993, a post he held until his retirement in September 2009. He continues in his role as senior advisor to the Bishop.

C of I group meets with Orange Order leaders

Members of the Church of Ireland's Northern Ireland Community Relations Working Group met with representatives of the Orange Order at Church of Ireland House, Belfast yesterday (Monday).

A church statement said the meeting was for “for informal conversation, to actively listen to one another’s views and to pray together for peace during the parading season and beyond.”

The Working Group members – Bishop Harold Miller, Bishop John McDowell, the Revd Barry Forde, the Revd Adrian Dorrian, Ms Kate Turner and Mr Peter Munce – met with Mr Edward Stevenson (Grand Master of The Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland), Mr Drew Nelson (Grand Secretary of The Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland), Mr Stuart Brooker (Co. Fermanagh Grand Master), Mr Robin Matthews (Co. Antrim Grand Master) and Mr Henry Latimer (Co. Cavan Grand Master) over lunch. Discussion ranged from issues around parading, attacks on Orange Halls, cross-community engagement and faith and society.

The Working Group and the Orange Order representatives agreed that further engagement should follow and to meet again after the Twelfth of July period.

Unionist councillor reports Telegraph journalist to PCC for 'insult' to Orange Order



A Daily Telegraph Correspondent in Baghdad compared Shia militia to Orangemen for being insensitive to areas 'stained by sectarian bloodshed'

Orange Order supporters watch the police near Drumcree,

Guardian reports - The [Telegraph Group](#) – Ulster unionism's one time loyal champion on Fleet Street – has been reported to the [Press Complaints Commission](#) over an alleged insult to the loyalist [Orange Order](#) for comparing it with Islamic extremists.

The [Ulster Unionist Party](#) has complained to the newspaper watchdog over an article allegedly drawing parallels between an armed Iraqi Shia militia and the Orange Order. It was prompted by a dispatch from Baghdad by Colin Freeman, the [Sunday Telegraph](#)'s chief foreign correspondent.

In his [report from the Iraqi capital](#), Freeman writes: "Waving rocket-propelled grenades and Kalashnikovs, the convoy of Shia militiamen rolled down the Baghdad street, a 30-vehicle column of vans, pick-ups and battered saloon cars." Freeman then continues: "Rather like Belfast's Orange parades, the militiamen have no compunction about driving through neighbourhoods already stained by past sectarian bloodshed."

In response, Stephen Nicholl, an Ulster Unionist councillor in Ballymena, County Antrim, has confirmed he made a complaint to the PCC about the article. "I believe Mr Freeman's inaccurate and wholly irresponsible comparison of the Orange institution with a gun-toting militia is a breach of the editorial code of practice and a retraction and apology must be forthcoming," he said.

"At a time when there are continuing efforts to reduce tensions in [Northern Ireland](#), Mr Freeman's contribution is as unhelpful as it is unwanted and inaccurate."

While the Daily Telegraph was the most trenchantly pro-unionist of national [newspapers](#) during the Troubles, it became a source of frustration to David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader and future Nobel peace prizewinner, during the latter stages of the peace process. The paper did not back his line that unionists should support the 1998 Good Friday agreement peace deal; instead, it called for the unionist population to vote no to the accord. Although Trimble's official biographer, Dean Godson, who stood as a Conservative parliamentary candidate, was a former Daily Telegraph leader writer, his editorials expressed opposition to the Good Friday agreement and any reforms aimed at including Sinn Fein in the political process.

Mission Global Partners Preparation begin

Preparations for the teams traveling with CMSI in 2015 to over 10 Global Partners began on Sunday night with a META (Mission Experience Team Abroad) launch in Drumcree Parish, Portadown.

As part of their 3 year partnership commitment with Matana Diocese in Burundi, members of the church are hoping to go out to engage with our Partners for 2 weeks next summer.

Kelly Yates had the opportunity to update parishioners on what is happening in Burundi, as well as highlighting ways in which their support has made a difference to church planting initiatives within Matana Diocese. Specifically funding the purchase of motorbikes so pastors can travel around more easily, as they seek to build God's kingdom, and see lives transformed.

"Don't expect to come back the same person", was Rev Gary Galway's opening reflections on his visit to Burundi 3 years ago, with a team from his Parish.

Heather (mother) and Gareth (son) Galway shared that they had never experienced anything like African hospitality, and were treated like "royalty" and "family".

Ruth, who was an older and wiser member of the team, gave out the challenge to those attending the evening service at Drumcree, "Pick up and go - you won't regret it!"

Conversations afterwards with Kelly and Gillian were buzzing, with 5 individuals asking for forms with another potential 4 wanting to apply, who couldn't be at the service.

Continue to pray for staff and interviewers who will be involved over the summer, in selecting individuals from link Parishes to experience what God is doing throughout the world.

Inter faith concern on welfare, deprivation and desperation in Northern Ireland

The Community Faiths' Forum has issued a statement that it is "deeply concerned about the increase in poverty in Northern Ireland."

The statement continues - There is special concern about the current level and expected increase in child poverty in the future which will blight and stunt the lives of so many; more than 1 in 4 children currently live in poverty and this is expected to rise to be well over a third of children by 2020. "Household incomes, poverty rates and the labour market have all worsened in Northern

Ireland in the last five years. In each case, this deterioration has been greater than in Great Britain.”

The Community Faiths’ Forum is composed of members from different faiths with involvement in social and community issues. We are clear that this area is one of the most essential for government and society to get right. Things need to change.

There are of course questions about what can be afforded by state and society, particularly after a long recession. But there are also questions about what we cannot afford to ignore. The current and developing situation is storing up financial and relational problems for the future and creating unnecessary suffering for people of all kinds and in most parts of Northern Ireland, many of whom are ‘working poor’.

We recognise that there are all sorts of problems in dealing with the issue of poverty. One of these is the differences in political orientation between parties in Northern Ireland, and therefore agreeing an approach. The greater parameter of UK-wide welfare levels, changes and cuts, is another, overarching, factor.

However it is clear that Northern Ireland is in the process of losing a very significant amount of money, hundreds of millions of pounds, due to a variety of factors. Some of this loss (such as reform of Incapacity Benefit) was instigated by the previous government at Westminster. There is debate about the financial effect of the Welfare Reform Bill at Stormont which would usher in Universal Credit, and it may be relatively neutral. (*4) However it is clear that what will be lost overall, in a population of 1.8 million, is not across the board but by the very poorest. This could represent a loss of hundreds or thousands of pounds to some families already struggling to survive.

In relation to the Welfare Reform Bill the Community Faiths’ Forum is not advocating any one particular response. A variety of possibilities exist. However, while faith communities, community and other groups have expressed great concern, we feel there needs to be a much wider societal debate about what support is provided to vulnerable people in society. Such a debate should not be for its own sake but a prelude to action in support of those who are suffering.

More at - <http://www.irishchurches.org/news/1694>

Dublin's Lord Mayor recalls finding 17-year-old pregnant girl in bin

The Lord Mayor of Dublin has recalled the moment he found a 17-year-old pregnant girl in an industrial bin while volunteering with a homeless charity.



Christy Burke, who volunteers with the group Inner City Helping Homeless, announced that 80 new beds will be provided by homeless services in Dublin in the next two weeks.

Thejournal.ie -

Christy Burke said that the number of pregnant women on the streets had increased “over the last 12 months”.

“I found a 17-year-old at one stage in an industrial bin who was pregnant and she had to be handed over to social services.”

Burke said that he also met a woman who had given birth six days previously and put her child into care as she “didn’t feel she had a life to give”.

Last week, volunteers from Inner City Helping Homeless found a semi-conscious 24-year-old pregnant woman on O’Connell Bridge in Dublin city centre.

ICHH say there’s been a 53% increase in homelessness in Dublin in the past 6 months. The group counted [154 rough sleepers](#) in the city last Thursday night.

Speaking on RTÉ’s [News at One](#), Burke said that homeless services in the city will provide an additional 80 beds “in the next week or two”.

“They are not overnight beds, they are long-term beds where additional support services will [be provided] ... to address [their] issues. More at -

http://www.thejournal.ie/homelessness-dublin-3-1533219-Jun2014/?utm_source=email

No devil in detail of Church of England's new baptism service



The C of E General Synod is to be asked to approve simplified service with no mention of the devil to make it easier for families with no experience of church

Princess Elizabeth and parents at christening in 1926. The traditional charge on parents was that they should 'call upon him to hear Sermons ... and all other things which a Christian ought to know and believe to his soul's health'.

Guardian - The Church of England is to introduce a simplified baptism service which omits mention of the devil after clergy who had tried it last year welcomed the move.

The church's General Synod, meeting in York next month, will be asked to approve the provisional use of a shorter, clearer liturgy which is meant to make it easier for families who have no experience of church.

The synod's meeting will be dominated by the attempt to clear the last obstacles preventing women from becoming bishops. The opponents, who managed to muster a blocking majority among the laity three years ago, have been pressured, flattered, and tempted with office by the archbishop of

Canterbury and it is now almost certain that the legislation will pass, which would make it possible for a woman to become a bishop this winter.

Among the compromises on offer, conservative evangelicals who reject the notion that women should ever have authority over men have been promised that one of their number will become a bishop soon.

Among the other business, the revision of the baptism service will attract most attention. The present modern language version asks parents whether they will "reject the devil and all rebellion against God", "renounce the deceit and corruption of evil" and "repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour". In the new version they are asked only to say that they "turn away from sin" and "reject evil".

The Church of England is making the changes to adapt to a population which increasingly has no Christian background at all. Where once the pattern was for couples to get married, live together, have a baby, and then have it baptised at about six weeks, they are increasingly living together, having babies, and then, after a couple of years, getting married and having the children baptised at the same time.

As a result, there is a need for a shorter, simpler service that will not put off people who are offended to be addressed as sinners. In the traditional service, which was in use for around 400 years, from 1662 to the 1960s, the priest would ask the parents and godparents: "Dost thou, in the name of this Child, renounce the devil and all his works, the vain pomp and glory of the world, with all covetous desires of the same, and the carnal desires of the flesh, so that thou wilt not follow nor be led by them?"

Where the traditional prayer book charge on the parents was that they should "call upon him to hear Sermons ... [and] provide that he may learn the Creed, the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments in the vulgar tongue, and all other things which a Christian ought to know and believe to his soul's health", in the proposed new liturgy they are told: "Here, we shall do all that we can to ensure that there is a welcoming place for you. We will play our part in helping you guide these children along the way of faith."

The change reflects a much wider cultural change within the Church of England as well as in the society around it. It must now compete for membership with other Christian churches in an unprecedented way and, above all, with apathy and a society which sees no pressing reason to spend Sunday mornings or any other time in church.

