



Derry clergy change of plan following Paris attacks

The declaration of a state of emergency in France, following the terrorist attacks, has prompted two Tyrone clergy to revise their plan to take a cargo of relief aid to a refugee camp in Calais. The Rev Mark Greenstreet and Rev Mark Lennox are instead drove the aid cargo to a depot in London at the weekend, from where it will be transported to Calais in a few days' time.

More than 120 people were killed in Friday's gun and grenade attacks in Paris which have been admitted by the terror group Islamic State (IS). The French interior ministry has today given local authorities the power to impose curfews if necessary and laid out increased security measures across the country.

The Tyrone clergymen were advised that, in light of Friday night's incidents and the ongoing state of emergency, it would be best not to travel directly to Calais. They sailed instead from Dublin to Holyhead and drove through the night to London, where the shipment was dropped off at a depot run by the relief agency, CalAid.

The ministers have asked parishioners to pray for the people of France – especially those affected by last night's atrocities. "Let us pray for their government, and ours, as they strive to deal with the aftermath of these attacks."

The two clergy had filled a transit van with clothing, bedding, books and foodstuffs donated by parishes in the Derry and Raphoe Diocese and by the wider community.

New Parish Centre officially opened in East Belfast

On Saturday 14 November, the Bishop of Down & Dromore, Rt Rev. H. Miller, officially opened St Donard's new Parish Centre, a project which marks the next chapter in the life of the Bloomfield parish.

The bishop was presented with the key by Architect, Judith Hamilton, before being invited by the Churchwardens to unveil a commemorative plaque in the entrance hall. The builders, Killowen Contracts, were represented by one of the Directors, Maurice McGivern.

The opening ceremony, which was relayed live to the church, was immediately followed by a service of celebration and dedication led by the rector, Canon Ken Higgins. Local clergy, special guests, and parishioners past and present had gathered to mark the occasion and to thank those whose generosity and hard work had made the new building possible. The congregation included at least 3 former curates and their wives – Archdeacon Cecil and Mrs Hilary Pringle, Revd



David and Mrs Daphne Coe and Revd Jim and Mrs Robina Stewart.

Although this was the official opening, the new Centre has already proved a valuable asset and was used to full capacity at the recent [‘Recharge’ Parish Mission](#).

The Parish Centre is single–storey, connected to the church by the former vestry which has become a multi–functional space with storage. The 2 original external windows have been retained as a feature on either side of double doors which open out into a coffee bar/breakout space. The coffee area is furnished with small tables and colourful seats and chairs and is



glazed from floor to ceiling. As well as offering lots of natural light, passers-by will have a window into church life and in warm weather, activities will be able to spill out onto the new patio.

All of the areas are equipped with multi-media facilities and, apart from the hall and kitchen, fitted with grey/blue carpet throughout.

St Donard's is a listed building and known locally as 'The Church on the Corner'. The existing two-storey halls have serious structural weaknesses and, because of listed building regulations have to be demolished. Once taken down, however,

the church and Parish Centre will be clearly visible from the Bloomfield Road and the grounds will gain some attractive soft landscaping.

The entire project, including demolition of the old halls, cost approximately £950,000 and was seed-funded by 2 legacies. The Architects were Knox and Markwell.

[Follow this link to a photo gallery.](#)

Dublin Council of Churches Walk of Light 2015

The 10th annual Dublin Council of Churches Walk of Light takes place on Sunday November 22 from 4.30 pm to 7.00 pm. All are invited to join the inter-church journey which this year starts at the Mary Immaculate, Refuge of Sinners Church in Rathmines, continues on to St Finian's Church, Adelaide Road and finishes at St Teresa's Church, Clarendon Street.

People from all walks of life will join the ecumenical journey which is organised in conjunction with the Church of Ireland, Korean, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian, Roman

Catholic and Ethiopian Orthodox congregations in the area.

The theme for the Walk of Light 2015 is “God has taken the Lowly and raised them on high”. This theme will be explored in each of the three host churches along the way during a short act of worship which has been put together by groups from across the Christian traditions. This year all three stops will combine to make one liturgy.

Participants gather for the first leg of the journey in Mary Immaculate, Refuge of Sinners, Roman Catholic Church, Lower Rathmines Road, where there will be a welcome and opening prayer.

At 5.00 pm they will depart and walk to St Finian’s Lutheran Church, Adelaide Road, arriving at 5.30 pm for the next stage of the liturgy. They will leave there at 6.00 pm and walk to St Teresa’s, Roman Catholic Church, on Clarendon Street for the concluding prayer at 6.30 pm. There will be light refreshments at 7.00 pm. All are welcome to join for part or all of the journey. For more information on the Dublin Council of Churches see

www.dublinchurches.ie.

Rector appointed hon chaplain to Lord Mayor of Belfast

The Rev Kevin Graham, rector of St Bartholomew's, Stranmillis, has been appointed an honorary chaplain to the Lord Mayor of Belfast, Councillor Arder Carson.

In the role, Kevin is part of an interfaith chaplaincy team reflecting the multi-cultural nature of Belfast in the 21st century.

On Armistice Day several members of the chaplaincy team accompanied the Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor for the service at 11am to mark with a two minute silence the anniversary of the end of WW1 at the war memorial at Belfast City Hall.

Kevin said: "It's a great honour and privilege to serve the Lord Mayor and all the people of Belfast as part of the multifaith chaplaincy team. It's encouraging that faith is not excluded from our civic life but is afforded an opportunity to affect that civic life. I look forward to all that I may experience in this time."

Colourful Opening for New Outreach Centre in Glendermott

Dozens of Glendermott and Newbuildings parishioners braved wintry showers on Saturday to see their new outreach centre and charity shop being formally opened by the Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Ken Good.

‘Another Chance’ is located in Glendermott Business Park in Tullyally and is part of the parish’s response to Year of Opportunity 2016.

Young and old gathered outside the centre to see Bishop Good cut the ribbon, marking the outreach centre’s official opening, and scores of balloons were released to celebrate the occasion.

‘Another Chance’ – a ‘not for profit’ operation – is the first venture of its kind in the Tullyally area and seeks to provide a unique, innovative, spiritual, Christian-focused space. In addition to the bulging rails of charity goods and refreshment area, there is a prayer room where patrons can reflect in silence.

As he opened the centre, Bishop Good congratulated the parish team and clergy in



Glendermott and Newbuildings, and thanked God for planting the “concept, vision and dream” of ‘Another Chance’. The Blshop prayed that the new venture would enrich the lives of local parishioners and the wider community.

Business was brisk on the centre’s opening day, and 20 per cent of proceeds from the first day’s trading will be donated to the BBC’s Children in Need Appeal.

‘Another Chance’ will be open three days a week: from 10am-4pm on Mondays and Wednesdays, and from 10am-2pm on Saturdays.

Pope Francis preaches on End Times and 'blasphemy' of Paris attacks

Pope Francis used his Angelus message on Sunday to preach about the end times, encouraging a focus on living in the present and Jesus' victory.

The Pope also explicitly addressed the Paris attack, expressing his "deep sorrow for the terrorist attacks that bloodied France late on Friday, causing many casualties."

"We wonder how can it come to the heart of man to conceive and carry out of such horrible events", he said.

"The road of violence and hatred does not resolve humanity's problems. And using the name of God to justify this road is blasphemy."

Reading from Sunday's scripture, the Pope spoke of Jesus' preaching on the end of the world containing "apocalyptic elements, like war, famine, and cosmic catastrophes."



Although he acknowledged these signs, he highlighted that they are not the most important things. Rather, "our final goal is the meeting with the resurrected Lord."

Rather than focusing on when or how the end will come, Francis compelled his audience to "live in the present."

"This is our goal: this meeting. We do not expect a time or a place, but we encounter a person: Jesus."

At the end of the world, Francis said, "Jesus' triumph will be the triumph of the cross, the demonstration that the sacrifice of oneself out of

love for one's neighbour, in imitation of Christ, is the only victorious power and the only stable point in the midst of the upheavals and tragedies of the world."

Conference of European Churches grieves loss of life in Paris, condemns attacks

The Conference of European Churches in a statement said: grieves the loss of life and mourns with all those affected by this enormous tragedy. We pray for the victims, their families and friends, and for the men and women who risked their own lives last night in service to others.

In a message of solidarity to the Council of Christian Churches of France, CEC General Secretary Guy Liagre condemned the attacks as a vile aggression against France and an affront to all humanity. "These tragic events impels CEC to strengthen our peacebuilding and reconciliation work," remarked Liagre. "We must strive to follow the words of the Psalms—depart

from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.”

The Conference of European Churches urges a peaceful response to the tragedy, both in France and throughout Europe. “We must continue, on the basis of our Christian faith, to uphold our values,” Liagre continued, citing the 2001 Charta Oecumenica. “We work towards a humane, socially conscious Europe, in which human rights and the basic values of peace, justice, freedom, tolerance, participation and solidarity prevail.”

The Conference of European Churches (CEC) is a fellowship of some 114 Orthodox, Protestant, Anglican and Old Catholic Churches from all countries of Europe, plus 40 national council of churches and organisations in partnership. CEC was founded in 1959. It has offices in Brussels and Strasbourg.

Abuse survivors allocated \$21 million in Milwaukee diocese bankruptcy plan

A nearly five-year chapter in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee’s history came to a close on November 9, when Chief Judge Susan Kelley of the US Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District

of Wisconsin approved the archdiocese's plan of reorganisation

The plan calls for \$21 million to be paid to 355 abuse survivors. It also includes a \$500,000 therapy fund that will allow all survivors to receive counselling for as long as they need it.

The hearing, which concluded a process that began on January 4, 2011, when the archdiocese filed for bankruptcy, drew the largest attendance to any of the proceedings. More than a dozen attorneys representing the archdiocese, the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors, other claimants, the archdiocesan Cemetery Trust, insurance companies and other entities were present. Also attending were Milwaukee Archbishop Jerome ListECKi, representatives from the archdiocese and more than a dozen abuse victim survivors.

In stating the case number — 11-20059 — to open the hearing, Kelley added, "I'm hoping I never have another case that I memorise the case number on."

Attorneys for the archdiocese and the claimants, most of whom were represented by the creditors'

committee, entered mediation — which was not ordered by the court — from July 15-17 and came to an agreement on the plan for reorganisation. Mediation attempts in 2012 and 2014 had failed.

After Kelley approved the archdiocese's disclosure statement for the plan of reorganisation on September 30, claimants had until November 3 to vote for rejection or acceptance of the plan. Attorneys for the claimants had encouraged them to accept the plan.

Kelley granted a request by Frank LoCoco, one of the archdiocese's attorneys, for Archbishop ListECKi to speak in court. After thanking the judge for her time and for "handling the complexities of this case," the archbishop continued, "I apologise to the victims and their families for what they endured under these clergy who exercised criminal and immoral behaviour. There is no resolution that will ever bring back what the victims have lost and their families have suffered."

The archbishop told the victims their courage to come forward and to tell their stories made a difference.

“A change has occurred, and that change is the changing of the consciousness of the archdiocese and dioceses across the nation to pay attention in any way, shape or form to those things that may endanger our children,” he said.

Noting that the archdiocese will return to its charitable, educational and spiritual work, the archbishop added, “But having said that, we will never forget this moment. It has and continues to shape us as we continue into the future.”

The reorganisation plan stipulates that Archbishop ListECKi will meet personally with any victim requesting a meeting.

At various times throughout the one-hour, 46-minute hearing, Kelley encouraged victims to speak. Kevin Schultz said that he, his brother, and two sisters were all abused by the same priest.

“It caused a rift in our family. We didn’t talk about it until 2005,” he said. “In 2005, the archdiocese provided me with help. I’m better now, but I’m still

dealing with it on a daily basis. I've gone through a divorce, and my daughter doesn't speak to me. I can't set a foot in church, but I would like to get closer to God."

Schultz said he still asks God why this happened to them.

"It shouldn't have happened. It should have been stopped, but they (the archdiocese) moved him (the abuser) from parish to parish. We were left helpless," he said. "The Church should not even come out of bankruptcy. They are not the Church Jesus started."

Kelley told the court, "Hopefully, as the archbishop said, a page can be turned, some resolution can be had, and with therapy provided, there can be some peace for the survivors."

Media digest

Paris Terror Attacks: Irish Muslim leaders condemn senseless bloodshed

Irish Independent

Muslim leaders in **Ireland** have condemned the Paris terror attacks as an ... Dr Al-Qadri is calling on **religious** leaders, **religious** communities and ...

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/news/paris-terror-attacks-irish-muslim-leaders-condemn-senseless-bloodshed-34201558.html>

Same-sex marriage is now legal in Republic of Ireland

BBC News

The Marriage Act 2015 only applies to civil marriage, and no Irish **church** or religious organisation that objects to the new law will be forced to perform ...

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-34810598>

Church of England News

News from Diocese in Europe on Paris attacks and link to radio interview with Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe, Robert Innes

<http://europe.anglican.org/news/news/post/982-bishop-robert-on-radio-about-the-paris-attacks>

Star/Guard/Mirror

Continuing coverage of the Paris attacks with comment from world leaders including the Archbishop of Canterbury. The *Guardian* and *Mirror* both profile the British victim of the Paris attacks, Nick Alexander. Mr Alexander, of Colchester, Essex, was selling merchandise at the Bataclan concert hall. The Bishop of Chelmsford, Stephen Cottrell is quoted.

<http://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/latest-news/475622/Paris-terror-attacks-David-Cameron-Barack-Obama-Angela-Merkel-Jeremy-Corbyn>

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/nov/15/architect-student-engineer-critic-among-identified-paris-attack-victims>

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/superstars-music-world-pay-tribute-6838270>

Tel

British householders will be encouraged to "adopt" a Syrian family and treat them to a welcome lunch as part of the government's plans to take in 20,000 Syrian refugees. The British families will be asked to help the Syrians adapt to life in the UK said Richard Harrington, the newly-appointed Minister for Syrian Refugees. Mr Harrington said he wanted to harness the "goodwill" of the thousands of Britons who have offered rooms in their homes to Syrian asylum seekers, these include the Archbishop of Canterbury.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/11992175/Britons-encouraged-to-adopt-a-Syrian-family-as-part-of-David-Camerons-refugee-scheme.html>

Times (Sun)

A disabled playwright will challenge the director of public prosecutions in the High Court over the law on assisted suicide. Nikki Kenward will argue that Alison Saunders liberalised the policy last year by reducing the likelihood of prosecution for doctors in assisted suicide cases. The former Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Carey is quoted.

<http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/article1633346.ece>

Premier

Three primary school children from St Stephen's Church of England Primary School in Bolton have offered the

contents of their piggy banks after Poppy Appeal money was taken. The money was amongst items stolen at a break in at the school.

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/CofE-school-children-offer-piggy-banks-after-Poppy-Appeal-money-stolen>

Comment

Express: As the first plane bringing Syrian refugees arrives as part of the government's operation to offer 20,000 refugees a place in Britain over the next 5 years, Max Hastings expresses fear about who might be on board.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3319873/As-plane-loads-Syrian-refugees-arrive-MAX-HASTINGS-reveals-deadly-threat-Britain-s-enemy-within.html>

News from Archbishop of Canterbury

Archbishop's statement on Paris attacks

<http://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/articles.php/5639/statement-on-paris-attacks>

News from Archbishop of York

Statement on Paris attacks

<http://www.archbishopofyork.org/articles.php/3354/statement-by-archbishop-of-york>

BBC/S Exp/[Christian Today](#)

Further reports on the Paris terror attack on Friday including comment from Archbishop of Canterbury (*see above*) and Scottish church leaders. Bishop of Chelmsford, Stephen Cottrell is interviewed on BBC news saying he was praying for Nick Alexander's family (the

first UK victim named) and had sent a message of support to their local church.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-34824903>

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/619493/Paris-Scots-music-fans-hid-cellar-escape-concert-massacre>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-34820132>

Ind on Sun

Reports on publication of the paper's Rainbow list - celebrating the 101 most influential lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people in Britain. List includes religious commentator Vicky Beeching and Revd Andrew Foresheew-Cain who is commended for his pledge to campaign for the church to deal with sexuality in an "honest and compassionate way."

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/people/>

[therainbowlist/rainbow-list-2015-1-to-101-a6731391.html](http://www.independent.co.uk/news/people/therainbowlist/rainbow-list-2015-1-to-101-a6731391.html)

Ind on Sun/Eve Stand

Report that retired vicar Roger Wakely, from Exeter, has been jailed for sex offences committed over four decades while a teacher and priest in both London and Leicester.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/retired-vicar-roger-wakely-jailed-for-sexual-assaults-on-pupils-over-four-decades-a6734556.html>

<http://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/retired-vicar-jailed-for-sex-assaults-on-young-boys-over-four-decades-a3114371.html>

Guard

Review of new BBC series *Island Parish* from the Falklands focusing on the work of the chaplain and his wife.

<http://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2015/nov/14/an-island-parish-falklands-last-nights-tv-bbc2-review>

Premier

Interview with Dean of Coventry Cathedral, John Witcombe to mark today's 75th anniversary of the Coventry Blitz and 75 years of peace building and reconciliation in the city.

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Courage-overcomes-destruction-as-Coventry-Cathedral-reflects-on-75-years-since-Blitz>

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