



Dublin & Glendalough Clergy Visit Refugee Centre in Rome

Clergy from Dublin & Glendalough visited the Nafuma Refugee Centre in Rome on Wednesday past, November 23. The centre (pictured above) is run in part of the Episcopalian Church of St Paul Within the Walls in Rome and has been operational for 30 years.

Clergy learned of the genesis of the project, of its funding and its daily life. They also learned of the

strength and the sensitivities needed to sustain this work not least as Italy is one of the countries in which refugees frequently arrive and are ‘Dublined’ – that is registered at their first point of entry into Europe. While they may travel further into Northern Europe many of them may soon find themselves, for a series of complicated reasons, back in Italy after being removed from another European country and ‘re–Dublined.’

“The perspective of the staff and volunteers was inspiring and the conversations with refugees from a wide range of countries across the globe were unforgettable. Their honesty and sense of hope point to the inspirational spirit of the human person in the face of incalculable adversities and obstacles,” Archbishop Michael Jackson commented afterwards. Clergy from Dublin & Glendalough have been on retreat in Rome.

C of I wants more nuanced approach to abortion reform in Republic

The Standing Committee of the General Synod of the Church of Ireland approved a statement, at

its meeting on Tuesday (22nd November), for submission on behalf of the Church of Ireland to the Citizens' Assembly in the Republic of Ireland.

The statement relates to the Assembly's consideration of the Eighth Amendment of the Constitution:

'While the Church of Ireland has consistently expressed the view that abortion should be confined to situations of strict and undeniable medical necessity, it has also since 1983 publicly questioned the wisdom of addressing such complex moral problems by means of amendments to the Constitution.

'Indeed unfolding events and a range of tragic human cases over the past three decades have demonstrated the deficiencies of the constitutional approach. However, we would wish to emphasise that to review or question the value of the Eighth Amendment at this time is not by implication to call for easy access to abortion. Rather, it is to suggest that those complex and hopefully rare situations in which medical necessity might require termination of pregnancy would be more suitably addressed through nuanced legislation. The Church of Ireland offers

its good wishes and prayers to the Assembly in its weighty duty of striving to find a way forward in this sensitive matter, so that the rights of both mothers and the unborn may be duly balanced and careful reflection may take place regarding the place of the Constitution in addressing complex moral and social matters.’

NI Human Rights Festival: Anti-abortion talk sparks row

BBC News

Organisers behind anti-abortion talk defend decision to include the event after resignation

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-38081796>

Archbishop Eamon Martin launches online 2016 Advent Calendar

Archbishop Eamon Martin, Archbishop of Armagh and Chair of the Council for Communications of the Irish Catholic Bishops’ Conference, has launched a specially commissioned 2016 Advent Calendar on the homepage of the Irish Catholic Bishops’ website www.catholicbishops.ie to coincide with the beginning of Advent on Sunday next 27 November.



Launching the calendar, Archbishop Eamon said, “The season of Advent marks the beginning of the Catholic year and the time of spiritual preparation for the Lord’s coming at Christmas. It is a time of waiting, conversion and hope. Advent also prepares us for the second coming of Christ at the end of time. As Christians, we must always be prepared for the coming of the Lord – ‘You must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect’ [Mt 24:37-44]. Preparation does not happen at once but over time and so each day of Advent amounts to a

period of time which allows us to journey and reflect on the joy of the Gospel. Our online calendar is a helpful resource in this journey.”

Archbishop Eamon continued, “This year, the beginning of our Catholic new year coincides with the conclusion of the Jubilee Year of Mercy which we celebrated as a universal Church at the invitation of our Holy Father Pope Francis.

Across Ireland, in parishes, schools, religious communities and places of pilgrimage, hundreds of special gatherings and events took place to mark the Jubilee Year and to emphasise its key message – that the name of God is mercy; that God’s mercy is available to all, and we are, in turn, called to be merciful as our Heavenly Father is merciful.

I welcome the inclusion of content from Pope Francis’ *Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love)* and his new Apostolic Letter *Mercy and Peace* in this year’s Advent Calendar. I invite everyone during the Advent season to visit and to reflect on the information provided on our online calendar, especially the themes of love in the family as well as mercy and peace.”

Archbishop Eamon concluded, “As Advent is the season of preparation for the coming of our Lord, I encourage the faithful, notwithstanding our hectic schedule over the coming weeks, to make time to pray – alone and with loved ones – and by so doing to draw nearer to Christ.”

C of E bishops updated on sexuality study

The House of Bishops of the Church of England met at Lambeth Palace on Wednesday 23 November.

The formal meeting was preceded by a Eucharist where the Bishops remembered St Clement. Prayers were said for those across the globe who are persecuted for their faith, victims of religious violence and those with responsibility for Government.

The meeting received an update on the work of the Bishops' Reflection Group on Sexuality by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York in September 2016 to assist the process of consideration.

As with the meeting of the College of Bishops in September, the considerations of the House of Bishops took place in private, with reflections due to be shared with the wider College of Bishops next month.

It is envisaged the House will prepare material to bring to the General Synod for initial consideration in February 2017.

Statement following the College of Bishops in September 2016

<https://www.churchofengland.org/media-centre/news/2016/09/statement-from-the-college-of-bishops.aspx>

Announcement of membership and terms of reference of Bishops' Reflection Group on Sexuality

<https://www.churchofengland.org/media-centre/news/2016/09/bishops%E2%80%99-reflection-group-on-human-sexuality.aspx>

Lay Leader of Irish Methodist Church for EC Children and Migration forum

From 29th-30th November 2016, Dr Fergus O'Ferrall, the Lay Leader of the Methodist Church in Ireland, will be in Brussels at the invitation of the European Commission to



participate in a Forum considering the important topic of ‘Children and Migration’. The urgency generated by this topic has come centre stage with the demolition of ‘The Jungle’ camp at Calais.

Dr O’Ferrall who has written and spoken on this issue says: ‘My focus at the Forum will be on the “moral responsibility” we have to children who

are unaccompanied in the European Community.’

The Methodist Lay Leader is also of the opinion that there is a need to organise a new Government Agency to address what will be a long-term challenge.

Nuncio pledges to reach out to dissenting priests

The Pope’s representative in Ireland has pledged to do all he can to help re-integrate priests who have been disciplined by the Church for promoting views contrary to Catholic teaching.

Papal Nuncio Archbishop Charles Brown also said that Irish Catholics had to face up to the reality that parishes will increasingly be staffed by non-Irish missionary priests.

In a revealing and in-depth interview broadcast on *The Meaning of Life* with Gay Byrne on RTÉ television on Sunday evening, Archbishop Brown was asked specifically about the cases of Fr Tony Flannery and Fr Brian D’Arcy, both of whom have had restrictions placed on their ministry for promoting views at odds with Catholic teaching.



“There’s a lot of priests who are unable to minister fully for different reasons. And whatever the Church can do, or whatever I can do, to re-integrate them, to help them to re-integrate, I’m obviously going to do that,” the archbishop said.

However, he also cautioned that “the people who are actually involved directly in those cases would be the religious superiors of the men”.

Black and Red Santas meet before dashing

Santa – meet Santa... Belfast’s Black Santa, Dean John Mann, welcomed several traditional

Santas to St Anne's Cathedral as the Santa Clauses prepare for the fifth annual Santa Dash!

The colourful spectacle, which takes place on Sunday December 4, is organised by Downtown Radio and Cool FM's Cash for Kids charity which supports disadvantaged children across Northern Ireland.

Hundreds of Santas will gather in Writer's Square, opposite St Anne's, and dash off along a 2.5km route. This family-friendly event features lots of festive fun with prizes up for grabs on the day.

Registration for adults is £7.50 and includes a Santa suit, and kids can join in for free! To find out more and to register go to www.coolfm.co.uk/dash

This Christmas the Cash for Kids' Mission Christmas toy appeal will support thousands of local disadvantaged children who otherwise would wake up on Christmas morning with nothing. Last year Cash for Kids supported 8,864 children aged 0-18, and the charity says it is expected that this year the need is greater than

ever before. Anyone wishing to donate to the appeal should visit www.coolfm.co.uk/mission

Dean Mann will launch the 40th annual Black Santa Sit-out on the steps of St Anne's Cathedral on Friday December 16. The tradition was founded in 1976 by Dean Sammy Crooks, and was maintained by Dean Jack Shearer and Dean Houston McKelvey.

This will be Dean Mann's sixth sit-out and it is expected that in the early part of the sit-out he will receive the £1 that will take his fundraising total to £1million.

C of E Issues fierce rebuke to conservative body GAFCON

The Church of England's top lay official has issued an extraordinary admonishment to the conservative Anglican body GAFCON UK after it **published a list of clergy and church leaders in same-sex relationships.**

The astonishing rebuke **was in a letter published on Tuesday evening** from William Nye, secretary general to the Archbishops' Council, a senior

leadership body of the Church. It was addressed to Andy Lines, chairman of GAFCON UK.

GAFCON UK's document painted a "significantly misleading picture both of the teaching and practice of the Church of England", Nye wrote.

In turn GAFCON UK has released its own defence of the controversial briefing which was branded as a "name and shame" list by the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement (LGCM).

The group insisted it had only published names already known publicly and held back on others who remained private.

"There was never any intention to 'shame' anyone, but simply to collate information that was already widely known," a statement on the GAFCON UK website read.

It insisted "confusion" over the "seriousness and extent of the breaches of Lambeth I.10" prompted the compiling of the list.

"The real story, the main story, and the story that has been missed by many, is that this briefing catalogues the inability by the leadership of the

Church of England to maintain biblical church order, or abide by the agreements reached at the conference it itself hosted in 1998," it read.

GAFCON was set up in 2008 in opposition to what it saw as a trend towards liberalisation on sexuality within the wider Anglican Communion. The UK branch has only recently been formalised but caused outrage when it published a list of church leaders who had "violated" an oft-cited landmark resolution from 1998 known as Lambeth 1.10.

Nye insisted that resolution was "not legally binding" but rather expressed the "view of the attitude of the Communion" at the time.

"It is not the only important resolution, from that Conference or others. It does not have the force of Scripture, nor is it part of the deposit of faith," he wrote.

He added that Church teaching remained that marriage was exclusively between one man and one women.

"At this point no change has been made to teaching, nor has there been any formal proposal to do so."

Nye refuted GAFCON UK's claim that there had been many "violations" and pointed out clergy were allowed to enter civil partnerships and could offer prayers of support for same-sex couples.

Andy Lines told Christian Today GAFCON UK had never claimed the Lambeth 1.10 resolution was binding. He said: "But it carries moral and spiritual authority because the collegial mind of the assembled bishops of Communion expresses the apostolic position as received.

"It is authoritative in that it accurately articulates the biblical revelation about human sexuality."

He added he was grateful Nye addressed "the real issue, ie what is the teaching of the Bible and the worldwide church on sexual ethics, and how do we apply this in the C of E".

The unusual intervention by the CofE comes as the Church's senior body, the House of Bishops, was preparing to meet on Wednesday past to **discuss next steps on sexuality**. See report above.

Hundreds Of Pentecostal Christians To Gather In London For Landmark Meeting

Hundreds will mark the UK's first ever National Pentecostal Symposium in London on Saturday.

As estimated 250,000 Christians will be represented by 20 organisations from across the UK at the celebration in Kensington Temple, West London.

Pentecostalism is the fastest growing Christian movement worldwide according to academics such as Alan Anderson and frequently offsets the decline seen in the Church of England and other more traditional expressions. There are currently an estimated 280 million pentecostals around the world, three times more than the 85 million-strong Anglican Communion.

The symposium on Saturday will combine sung worship and preaching with academic discussion. Four papers will be published from the day on areas such as Pentecostal history and diversity and Pentecostal relationship with ecumenism, social, economic and political relations.

Bishop Dr Joe Aldred, Churches Together in England's (CTE) Pentecostal and multicultural relations secretary, said the growth showed "decline is not inevitable, even in a post-Christendom world".

He told Christian Today: "In an age of scepticism where faith is deemed by many people to be something that only the non-smart engage in, it is important that we resist the temptation to gravitate towards the emotional, the sensational and only appeal to the wilder side of human nature.

"While we need to give some vent to emotion I think it is important that we spend time reflecting on our faith and discussing it and appealing to the mind."

He added: "We must use heart and head, God-given emotion and intellect, to explore how we improve Christian mission in the world; deepening our understanding of the legitimate differences we have; embracing the dynamism the Holy Spirit brings."

The Revd Dr David Cornick, CTE general secretary said: "Pentecostalism's roots lie deep

in the holiness traditions of the 19th century, and their presence in Britain dates back to a series of revivals which rippled through these isles in the early years of the 20th century. One of the remarkable features of 20th century Christianity was the growth of the Pentecostal churches and the emergence of the charismatic movement.

"We are delighted that the churches of these traditions are coming together to celebrate the gifts God has given them and to share their insights with their Christians friends from other traditions."

News briefs

+++ Knocknamuckley Church goes Beyond the Walls - Knocknamuckley Church recently held a three day event called Beyond the Walls. This involved a youth event, family fun day and Harvest celebration.

+++ Vigils on gender violence - Mothers' Union **Dublin & Glendalough** is holding prayer vigil to raise awareness of gender based violence this Saturday morning, November 26, in St Brigid's Church, Stillorgan, from 10.30 am to 12.00 noon. The vigil is part of the 16 Days of Activism

Against Gender Based Violence which runs from November 25 to December 10. The Rector, the Revd Ian Gallagher and Mothers' Union, Chaplain Canon David Mungavin, will lead the worship. The vigil is open to everyone, members non-members, friends and neighbours and those in the wider community. MU is encouraging as many people as possible to come along and bring a friend and spread the word.

Mothers' Union in **Cork, Cloyne and Ross** will hold a vigil at St. Mary's Church, Carrigaline, County Cork on Saturday November 26 from 7.30 - 9.30pm. Details for **Derry and Raphoe** - see yesterday's News on CNI.

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an international campaign which takes place each year and runs from November 25 (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) to December 10 (Human Rights Day), and also encompassing other important key dates. Widely known as the '16 Days Campaign', it is used as an organising strategy by individuals and organizations around the world to call for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls.

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

'She moved food around the fridge so it looked full': One Irish mother's story

The Journal.ie

A telephone team member at St Vincent de Paul describes the difficulties facing some families in Ireland.

<http://www.thejournal.ie/vincent-de-paul-frontline-stories-3096145-Nov2016/>

New CS Lewis square in Belfast

News Letter

Some of the most famous creations of CS Lewis will be celebrated at a new £2.5 million public space in east Belfast dedicated to the author.

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/cs-lewis-celebrated-in-new-2-5m-public-space-1-7690649>

Former President's Doctorate at Vatican had highs and lows

Belfast Telegraph

Professor McAleese still keeping the faith despite her tortuous studying of canon law

http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/republic-of-ireland/mcaleese-still-keeping-the-faith-despite-her-tortuous-studying-of-canon-law-35240663.html?utm_source=ipad_share&utm_medium=ipad_app&utm_campaign=clickbacks

Times

Diary item (scroll down) that Mark Carney, the Governor of the Bank of England was photographed on the London Underground yesterday reading an advance copy of *Dethroning Mammon*, a book written by the Archbishop of Canterbury for next year's Lent reflection in which he "explores the tensions that arise in a society dominated by economics and finance".

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/a-comedy-double-act-wlhj6pk8w>

Tel/[Even Stand/Christian Today](#)

Reports that Westminster Abbey, the Houses of Parliament, Lambeth Palace and a string of other landmarks around Britain turned red yesterday to draw attention to the plight of people around the world being killed or persecuted for their faith. A tweet from Lambeth Palace by the Archbishop of Canterbury is featured in the *Telegraph* article. Churches, mosques and synagogues were among buildings illuminated as part of "Red Wednesday", a campaign by the Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/11/23/britain-turns-red-remember-modern-religious-martyrs/>

York Post

Reports that the Archbishop of York hosted a Great British Tea Party in support of York-based charity Antibiotic Research UK. The Archbishop is patron of the charity, which was founded in 2014 to raise money for antibiotic drug development, and to educate the public and professionals, and give patients support and information. The charity is trying to raise £550,000 in the next 12 months to extend its first research programme to develop a new antibiotic therapy in the next five to seven years.

http://www.yorkpress.co.uk/news/14921093.Archbishop_s_party_helps_York_charity/

Christian Today/Premier

Further coverage that an [independent, lessons learnt review](#) into how the Church of England handled the case of the late Bishop George Bell is to be led by barrister Lord Carlile, a Liberal Democrat peer. The review is in accordance with the House of Bishops' guidance on all complex cases. Last year the Church settled a civil claim

over allegations of sexual abuse by the Bishop Bell, in the late 1940s and early 1950s. Articles include comment from Lord Carlile and Bishop of Bath and Wells, Peter Hancock, the CofE's lead bishop on safeguarding.

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Peer-to-review-handling-of-alleged-paedophile-bishop-case>

Te/BBC/Premier

Reports the statement of the Revd Paul Knight, Vicar of Birstall on the conviction and jailing of Thomas Mair for the murder of MP Jo Cox. He said, "We want to concentrate on the good things that can come out of this. Jo was so positive and changed so many lives. We want to make sure that's the thing that's remembered, not the guy that did it." Premier Christian Radio reports on an interview with the Bishop of Huddersfield Jonathan Gibbs, in which he offers prayers for the family of Mrs Cox.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leeds-38065618>

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Bishop-offers-prayers-for-Jo-Cox-family-after-guilty-verdict>

Guard

Reports that London's Mayor, Sadiq Khan, is being urged to halt the construction of a skyscraper because it mars a centuries-old view of St Paul's Cathedral. Conservationists are calling on him to take action against a 42-storey tower in Stratford in East London, which they say damages the view of Sir Christopher Wren's landmark from King Henry's Mound in Richmond Park.

Premier

Reports that the Dean of Gloucester climbed 100 feet to bless new solar panels at the city's historic Cathedral. Stephen Lake ascended to the nave roof where he blessed and switched on 150 panels. He said, "By embracing this very modern technology, we are celebrating God's gift of creation and making this remarkable building a greener and more sustainable place for future generations.

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Dean-climbs-100-feet-to-bless-Cathedral-panels>

Christian Today

Reports on a letter sent to Edward Leigh MP by the Education Secretary Justine Greening. In the letter Ms Greening said: "I see Church and faith schools playing a strong role alongside other

types of school, as part of a diverse system that gives parents greater choice and drives up standards."

Christian Today

Reports that the remains of 19 Christians, women, men and children who lived and died in Anglo-Saxon Britain, are to be reinterred in a service at St Cuthbert's church, Kirkleatham, N. Yorkshire on Saturday. The Bishop of Whitby, Paul Ferguson, will be among those attending the reinterment.

BBC

Video report that hundreds of keen knitters have created a huge scarf which has been wrapped around Selby Abbey. The 550m (1,804ft) long bright woollen scarf was knitted by volunteers to raise money for charity and draped around the Abbey by local firefighters.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-york-north-yorkshire-38075172>

Comment

Mail

Columnist Peter Hitchens on the announcement that an independent, lessons learnt review into how the Church of England handled the case of

the late Bishop George Bell is to be led by Lord Carlile of Berriew.

<http://hitchensblog.mailonsunday.co.uk/2016/11/some-cause-for-modest-hope-in-the-george-bell-case.html>

Obituary

[Telegraph](#): Canon Ian Tomlinson, Anglican scholar-priest.