



CNI

Fr. Shay Cullen to receive the 2016 Hugh O'Flaherty Humanitarian Award

The 2016 Hugh O'Flaherty International Humanitarian Award will be awarded to Fr Shay Cullen, Dublin-born Columban missionary in the Philippines. The Award will be presented to Fr Shay by Cllr Brendan Cronin, Mayor of Killarney Municipal Authority on this evening (November 5) at an Award Ceremony in the Killarney Avenue Hotel.

This year marks the ninth year of the Memorial Commemoration of the Monsignor, organised to raise awareness of the Humanitarian work carried out by the Monsignor, when during WW2, together with his colleagues in the Rome Escape Line, he saved over 6,500 people from the clutches of the Nazis who had occupied Rome at the time. On October 30th 2013, on the 50th anniversary of the Monsignor's death a

permanent memorial to the Monsignor was unveiled in Killarney town centre. The memorial is a life-size sculpture of the Monsignor by Valentia based artist Alan Ryan Hall. On May 8th this year, a Plaque commemorating the Monsignor was unveiled at the German College, Vatican City, Rome where he lived from 1938 until 1960 and from where he organised the WW2 Rome Escape Line.

Over the past few months nominations have been invited for people or organisations, which have displayed the same humanitarian ideals and principals of the Monsignor and would be deserving of this Award. A shortlist of 11 Nominees was considered by the independent Award Panel, at which it was agreed that Fr Shay Cullen would receive the Award for 2016.

Born in Dublin, 27 March 1943, educated at Presentation College, Glasthule, Co. Dublin Fr Shay completed his college education at St. Columban's, Dalgan Park, Navan, and was ordained in April 1969. He was subsequently assigned to parishes in Zambales and Olongapo City, Subic Bay, on the main Philippines island of Luzon.

Father Shay Cullen established the (*) PREDA Foundation in Olongapo City, in the Philippines in 1974 to promote human rights, justice and peace. Believing that poverty, violence and child abuse are barriers to peace and give rise to extremism, he strives to eliminate child abuse and promote respect for children's rights. He works for peace by working to change the unjust economic political and social structures and attitudes that allow such abuse. His mission for justice and peace is ecumenical; open to people of all faiths. It is based on taking a stand for human rights and protecting the dignity of every person, in particular exploited women and children.

Chairperson of the Hugh O'Flaherty Memorial Committee Jerry O'Grady said "Fr Shay has given his life to protecting the human rights of oppressed and exploited children and has fearlessly challenged those who were not prepared to shoulder their responsibilities, including local vested interests, local and national government in the Philippines and the USA Government"

Upon hearing the news of the Award, Fr Shay said, "On behalf of those children we have

rescued and those human rights workers who like Monsignor Hugh, continue to work for the unjustly imprisoned ,the refugees trying to escape from Isis and war and those risking their lives to help them escape, I gladly accept the award”.

Journey towards Inclusion @ Changing Attitude AGM

The Annual General Meeting of Changing Attitude Ireland will take place on Saturday, November 19, 2016 in Belfast. Members and friends of CAI, along with enquirers, are cordially invited to attend.

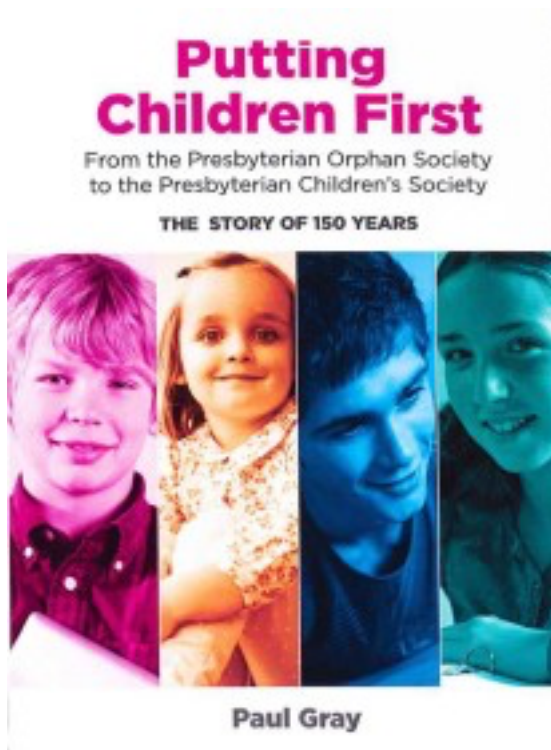
Proceedings will begin at 2.15pm with a Service of Holy Communion, followed by an address by Scott Golden, Chair of CAI, titled *Looking back. Moving Forward – the Journey towards Inclusion.*

Discussion and refreshments will follow, with an opportunity to establish or update CAI membership prior to the AGM itself, at which only paid-up members may vote.

With the Church of Ireland at a key stage in its deliberations on the recognition of LGBT relationships in church life and ministry, further

proposals being expected soon at General Synod, it is hoped that the day will bring us closer to a generally acceptable resolution.

New DVD and history of Presbyterian Children's Society



Heather Humphreys TD, The Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs will be the guest speaker at the launch of churchnewsireland@gmail.com

a DVD 'Taking the edge off . . .' about the work of the Presbyterian Children's Society. The event is on Monday 7 November 2016 at 2.00 pm in The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, 2 Titanic Boulevard, Belfast BT3 9HQ. RSVP to: Dr Paul Gray - paulgray1866@gmail.com or 028 9032 3737

There will also be a talk by Dr Paul Gray on Tuesday 8 November at 1.00pm in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland. Dr Paul Gray's history of the Presbyterian Children's Society (previously the Presbyterian Orphan Society) 'Putting Children First' is available from the Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland, 26 College Green, Belfast BT7 1LN, or order a copy via the PHSI website – <http://www.presbyterianhistoryireland.com>

'Hope and Resilience' theme at Christ Church candle lit film series

Christ Church Cathedral will embark on the second in its series of candle-lit film nights on Monday November 7. Following on from the success of their first 'Social Justice' series in February, they will be screening four films on a 'Hope and Resilience' theme on the four Mondays in November.

Screenings will take place in the Music Room, at the earlier time of 6.30pm, and entrance is free. Refreshments will be available and no booking necessary.

Once again, there will be a wide variety of films on offer and a very stimulating line-up of people to introduce them. The opening film on Monday November 7 will be the Charlie Chaplin classic 'Modern Times' and will be introduced by the Very Revd Dermot Dunne, Dean of Christ Church.

On Monday November 14 the film will be 'Grave of the Fireflies', a Studio Ghibli animation introduced by Mr Yuichi Yamada, First Secretary at the Embassy of Japan.

Bill Murray's 'Groundhog Day' will be screened on Monday November 21 and will be introduced by Prof Jim Lucey of St Patrick's Hospital.

The final film of the series, on November 28, will be Demain, an environmental documentary, which will be introduced by writer and activist, Manchán Magan.

Archbishop Eamon Martin invites families to join in a special Novena of Prayer

To mark the end of the Jubilee Year of Mercy on 20 November, Archbishop Eamon Martin, Archbishop of Armagh, has invited families to participate in a special Novena of Prayer by saying a prayer together for Mercy in the Family each evening for nine evenings.



In his message to the parishes of the Archdiocese of Armagh, Archbishop Eamon said,

“As the Jubilee Year of Mercy draws to a close on 20 November, I invite you and your families to join me in a Novena for Mercy in the Family, beginning at 6.00pm on the evening of Friday 11 November and ending on Sunday 20 November, the Feast of Christ the King.”

Archbishop Eamon continued, “Please gather whoever is at home on each of the nine evenings shortly after six o’clock for just a few moments, and pray this short prayer together:

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Holy Family of Nazareth, bless our family.

*Keep anger and violence far from our door.
May our home be a place of love, mercy and forgiveness.*

*Share our moments of happiness with us.
Whenever things are difficult, help us to overcome together the problems that come our way.*

Be with families in Ireland and around the world who are homeless or suffering.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph come into our home and our hearts and stay with us always.

Amen



US Election season makes pastoral demands of churches

For many Americans, the Nov. 8 general election can't come soon enough, and not because they're excited about it.

More than half (52 percent) of American adults report the 2016 election is a very or somewhat significant source of stress, research by the American Psychological Association shows. Democrats (55 percent) and Republicans (59 percent) are statistically equally likely to say the election is a very or somewhat significant source of stress.

The distress goes beyond who wins or loses.

“I think there’s a great deal of anxiety about the lack of civility and [the] divisiveness” that surrounds this election, said the Very Rev. Brian Baker, dean of Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Sacramento, California, in a recent interview with Episcopal News Service. “All of the judging, the polarizing, the clumping people into groups, the fear-mongering – all of that corrodes the soul of our communities.”

Baker said he believes that this election season is a time for the church to witness to a different way of being, to embody what he calls “the sharp distinction” between the church’s culture and that of the world. For instance, he said, raising children in a church community is “becoming less optional . . . if you want your child to be part of a community that really is talking about respecting the dignity of every human being.”

As the political climate has intensified, some congregations have held gatherings for their members to talk about their concerns and to discern how to respond faithfully to this season. Some have run voter-registration efforts and others plan election eve and Election Day prayer vigils.

‘It’s not a mortal sin to vote Democrat,’ says diocese

San Diego statement came after a parish bulletin warned that Catholics who voted Democrat risked damnation

It is not a mortal sin to vote Democrat, the Diocese of San Diego has said after a local church bulletin stated that it was.

According to the website Sacramento Bee, the Church of the Immaculate Conception in San Diego issued a flyer inside its weekly bulletin which warned that parishioners risk “descending into hell” if they vote Democrat in the presidential elections.

The flyer pointed out that the Democrats violated Church doctrine on abortion, same-sex marriage, embryonic research, euthanasia and human cloning.

In an additional statement on October 30, an article within the church bulletin compared Hillary Clinton to Satan, saying: “The devil does this through tactics outlined by Saul Alinsky, with the outcome as Hillary Clinton stated ‘And deep-seated cultural codes, religious beliefs and



structural biases have to be changed,' to draw us away from God's teachings regarding the sanctity of life to those of the world and its prince," the bulletin said.

Diocesan spokesman Kevin Eckery told the Union-Tribune: "It's not a mortal sin to vote for Democrats, number one. And number two, the Church doesn't take positions on this, and we're not going to.

"For all I know someone thought that they were doing a service," Eckery said. "The pastor said it was not something he had reviewed or approved."

Mr Eckery also said it was not clear who wrote the article comparing Clinton to Satan and it was not clear who authorised for it to be published.

Christians To Floodlight UK Churches Red For Middle East Martyrs

Churches around the UK have been urged to highlight the plight of persecuted Christians by lighting their buildings in red.

Westminster Abbey and Westminster Cathedral, the iconic Anglican and Catholic focal points in London, **will be floodlit in red on November 23**. Lord Alton of Liverpool, a Catholic peer and campaigner for Christians in the Middle East said it was something everyone should get behind.

"People have become very frustrated at the **failure of government** to respond to the plight of Christians, especially in the Middle East, where there is a genocide under way against the ancient church in Syria and Iraq," he told Christian Today.

He told young people to put something red on their Facebook page on November 23 or wear something red to school or work.



Westminster Abbey will be lit in red alongside its Catholic neighbour, Westminster Cathedral

"This is something that can be an act of unity standing together with those who have no voice to speak for themselves and whose rights have been trampled on and who have suffered and died for their beliefs," he said.

"We who have so many privileges, freedoms and liberties should use those freedoms to speak out for those who don't.

"We who have faith especially have a duty to work for those who are dying and suffering grievously for their faith.

"Surely if a faith is worth dying for, for the rest of us it should be worth living for."

The campaign is organised by the Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need (ACN). The red symbolises "the blood that has been shed by martyrs all over the world". It comes after the **Trevi fountain was also lit up red** on 29 April this year in honour of those who died for their faith. Lord Alton said the joint Catholic-Anglican venture was a "wonderful ecumenical gesture" and told Christian Today Jewish and Muslim leaders would join Christians at a ceremony on November 23. He added that two synagogues had said they would light up their building in "an act of solidarity" with persecuted Christians.

"This is something small communities of Christians up and down the country can get involved in."

The Catholic peer has tried to convince the government to recognise ISIS' atrocities against Christians and Yazidis as genocide. But despite a unanimous vote in the House of Commons the foreign office has refused to take action.

"If every parish in the country did the same [lit their buildings] it might at last wake up our political classes to the scale of the suffering," Lord Alton wrote in **Catholic Truth Society** in August.

News briefs

+++ Student Readers commissioned - Six ordinands at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute were commissioned as student Readers by Archbishop Michael Jackson on the evening of Wednesday November 2. Jonathan Brown (Down & Dromore), Emma Carson (Down & Dromore), Jonathan Cockerill (Connor), Graham Jones (Dublin & Glendalough) and Karen Salmon (Down & Dromore) were all licensed as Readers during the Community Eucharist in the institute. They were presented for licensing by the Director of the institute, Canon Dr Maurice Elliott and the Lecturer in Missiology, the Revd Dr

Patrick McGlinchey, who coordinates student placements.

Archbishop of Dublin's address at -

<http://dublin.anglican.org/news/2016/11/CITIs-New-Ordinands-Commissioned-as-Student-Readers>

+++ German football team to meet the Pope -

The German national team will have an audience with football-loving Pope Francis as part of a team-building drive before a friendly against Italy. Germany plays San Marino in a World Cup qualifier next Friday and will fly to Rome the next day, before travelling on to Milan for the friendly on November 15. The world champions will spend the weekend in Rome to look at “cultural and historical” sights, have a “team evening” and then have the private audience with the Pope on Monday morning. The Germans will then fly to Milan, where they play Italy the next day.

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

Between the sheets: Banned books censors didn't want you to read

BBC News - The books struck out by the censors for being 'damaging to young minds', too political or simply too sexy.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-37644648>

More than 100 new cases of sexually transmitted infections every week in Northern Ireland

Belfast News

People aged between 16 and 34 accounted for 82% of new STIs, even though they make up just a quarter of the population

Poor diet gives Republic sixth highest rate of cancer in the world

Irish Independent

The warning has emerged in a new study led by researchers at Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT) in collaboration with colleagues in Trinity College Dublin, University College Dublin and Queen's University Belfast. The study, published in the 'Journal of Public Health', looked at data from 184 countries and highlighted how Ireland has the sixth highest overall cancer rate in the world. The incidence of cancer is also rising faster in Ireland than in most other western European countries. So-called lifestyle-related

cancers - including bowel, oesophagus, breast, prostate and lung - are particularly common.

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/health/poor-diet-giving-us-sixth-highest-rate-of-cancer-in-world-35187231.html>

Exp

Further coverage of a speech made by the Archbishop of Canterbury at a Muslim-Christian dialogue on integration and religious freedom in Abu Dhabi. Report notes the Archbishop's ongoing concern for persecuted Christians around the world.

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/728435/justin-welby-archbishop-canterbury-christian-persecution-middle-east-muslim>

Tel

Report that almost a quarter (23%) of religious parents are not passing on their faith to their children for fear they will be alienated at school, according to a survey. The ComRes research for Theos think tank, also found that the greatest concern parents had was about social media with 34% saying they felt it would have 'more of an impact on my children's beliefs than my input.'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/11/04/parents-fear-that-religion-will-make-their-children-outcasts/>

BBC

Report of an interview with the Church in Wales' first woman bishop, Canon Joanna Penberthy. In it she said she wanted to reconcile with people who were not comfortable with the notion of female bishops.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-37864828>

BBC

Report on BBC interview with Bishop of Oxford, Steven Croft, who was responding to how a non current safeguarding case was dealt with.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-37852970>

Christian Today

Reports that churches around the UK have been urged to highlight the plight of persecuted Christians by lighting their buildings in red. Westminster Abbey and Westminster Cathedral will be floodlit in red on November 23. The campaign is organised by the charity Aid to the Church in Need (ACN). The red symbolises "the blood that has been shed by martyrs all over the world".

Premier

Further coverage of a new website launched by the C of E, www.achristmasnearyou.com which will enable would-be worshippers to find the nearest Anglican service over Christmas. Every parish in England is being invited to upload details of services and events taking place over the Christmas period onto the site during the next month before it goes live for the public in early December. The article reports that the site will be able to filter by date, whether there are carols and also users will be able to find out which Christmas services are serving mince pies or mulled wine.

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Mince-pie-search-included-in-new-Christmas-church-service-web-tool>

Te/ITV

Further coverage of a documentary to be broadcast next week on ITV which features a group of women who speak of being pressured into adoption by agencies working on behalf of the Catholic Church, and also the Church of England and the Salvation Army.

[http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/11/03/
cardinals-apology-to-mothers-over-babies-
handed-over-for-adoption/](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/11/03/cardinals-apology-to-mothers-over-babies-handed-over-for-adoption/)

[http://www.itv.com/news/2016-11-03/catholic-
church-apologises-for-forced-adoptions-as-
mothers-speak-out-in-itv-documentary/](http://www.itv.com/news/2016-11-03/catholic-church-apologises-for-forced-adoptions-as-mothers-speak-out-in-itv-documentary/)

Christian Today/Mail

Reports that French authorities have bulldozed the makeshift Orthodox church in the Calais 'Jungle' camp as the demolition continues. The *Mail* produces a photo gallery of the remains of the camp. The last residents of the camp have been evacuated with some 291 women and children transferred to family centres around France.

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3903006/
The-end-Jungle-Pictures-camp-looks-closed-
women-children-leave-Calais-mayor-says-Never-
again.html](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3903006/The-end-Jungle-Pictures-camp-looks-closed-women-children-leave-Calais-mayor-says-Never-again.html)

Spectator

Article written by the Revd Martin Thomas on some of the things people ask for at the door of an urban vicarage. The piece is headlined, "Vicar, will you clean my drains?"

[http://www.spectator.co.uk/2016/11/vicar-will-you-
clean-my-drains/](http://www.spectator.co.uk/2016/11/vicar-will-you-clean-my-drains/)

Economist

Reviews the new book, *The Evolution of the West: How Christianity Has Shaped Our Values* by Nick Spencer.

<http://www.economist.com/news/books-and-arts/21709520-west-has-gained-lot-christianity-there-still-more-learn-search-goes>