



# CNI

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## **Priests to hear confessions in a Belfast shopping centre**

Priests are to hear confessions later this month inside a west Belfast shopping centre, The Irish News reports.

Redemptorists from Clonard Monastery will be available for confession and a chat at the Kennedy Centre in a specially created 'Mercy Tent'.

The gazebo structure will be placed opposite the food court on the first floor, where priests will be seated ready for shoppers interested in the sacrament of reconciliation.

Organisers hope to create a "comfortable, prayerful atmosphere" with Clonard volunteers and co-workers available to assist city shoppers.

The Mercy Tent is being launched in an bid to bring Clonard closer to the people of west Belfast.

As part of the Year of Mercy in which Pope Francis urged people to make a special effort in their faith, organisers aim to reach those who would not otherwise have contact with the Church.

It is not the first outreach project by Clonard, which held a 'Novena on the Streets' initiative in May.

The outreach initiatives were inspired by the Pope who, when a cardinal in Argentina, travelled to the poorest areas of his diocese to celebrate open-air Masses.

The Mercy Tent will operate on Friday November 18 from 5pm to 9pm, and from 11am to 3pm on Saturday November 19. Clonard's Holy Door will be closed by Bishop Noel Treanor on Sunday November 13 at 11am Mass. The Kennedy Centre visit will be the final event in the Jubilee Year of Mercy, which will officially end with Masses on Sunday November 20.

## **Cathedral and Corrymeela join in Cantate on St Cecilia's Day**

St Anne's, Belfast, will resound with some heavenly music when the Cathedral joins with

November 8

Corrymeela to present CANTATE! – a concert to celebrate St Cecilia's Day, on Tuesday November 22 at 7 pm.



ST. ANNE'S  
CATHEDRAL

# CANTATE!

A concert to celebrate  
St Cecilia's Day

22nd November @ 7pm in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast  
**COME CELEBRATE**  
with Belfast Cathedral & The Corrymeela Community  
An evening of music and poetry featuring  
Jubilate! Chamber Choir  
St Anne's Girls' Choir  
Voices Together Community Choir

Tickets £10 on sale from St Anne's Cathedral, Corrymeela or  
[www.musicglue.com/belfast-cathedral/](http://www.musicglue.com/belfast-cathedral/)

the  
corrymeela  
community

 @BelfastCathedral

The concert will feature three choirs - Jubilate! Chamber Choir, St Anne's Girls' Choir and the Voices Together Community Choir

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There will be poems and readings by the Very Rev John Mann, Dean of Belfast and Pádraig Ó Tuama, leader of the Corrymeela Community.

St Cecilia, born in the second century, is a famous Roman Martyr - she was reported to have been beheaded by a sword. She is the Patron Saint of Music, and a number of musical compositions are dedicated to her. Her feast day, November 22, has become the occasion for concerts and musical festivals.

The concert in St Anne's Cathedral will raise funds for the Corrymeela Community, Northern Ireland's oldest centre for peace and reconciliation.

Mrs Desney Cromey, one of the concert organisers, said: "Dean John Mann and Pádraig Ó Tuama have a well-established working relationship and are keen to further reconciliation and outreach in Belfast.

"This is an opportunity for us to work with some of the best resources we have which on this occasion is beautiful music. It will be a superb evening."

Desney added: “The concert takes place the week before Advent. It is a peaceful time and it will give people an opportunity to reflect, with some of the music leading into Advent.”

“It will be a cold winter night so please come in and warm your heart with some heavenly music.”

Tickets, at £10, are available from <https://www.musicglue.com/belfast-cathedral/> or call into the Cathedral office or at Corrymeela.

## **Shortage of priests could lead to fortnightly Masses in Limerick**

A shortage of priests, coupled with falling attendances at Mass, may give rise to a situation whereby, according to the bishop of Limerick, “some churches will have Mass every second Sunday or one Sunday a month.”

In an in-depth interview with the Limerick Leader this week, the bishop of Limerick, Dr Brendan Leahy, said “We are not trying to pretend it isn’t there. One of the things we are doing here is we have moved more clearly towards a team ministry model, that is three or four priests looking after several parishes together. There will be teething problems because it’s new and we



***The bishop of Limerick, Dr Brendan Leahy***

have to think it through but we have to move in that direction.”

Bishop Leahy acknowledged that the shortage of priests in the future may mean that a parish priest may find himself in charge of three or more parishes. He said, “That is going to be a challenge. How can he be the parish priest of two or three parishes? He can’t keep going with all the work and administration, so we are going to have to reflect on it.”

Bishop Leahy also said that the role of lay people will be of the utmost importance going forward in the Church in Limerick.

“We are going to see teams of priests but not just teams of priests. I think we will see lay people working within the teams so that is going to be a development. Here, for instance, we have the first new lay general manager, lay diocesan secretary, Catherine Kelly, who replaced Fr Paul Finnerty – it was always a priest before that.”

Speaking about the future, Bishop Leahy said that while the Diocese of Limerick may have enough priests to say Mass, “what we may ... have is that not every church will have Mass every Sunday. It might be that some churches will have Mass every second Sunday or one Sunday a month.”

## **Child-friendly spaces needed for children of Mosul**

Children fleeing Mosul are arriving at camps, showing the effects on their physical and mental health of two years' living under IS occupation, World Vision reports.

“Many children have been stuck in their homes while bombings, sniper fire or chaos rules around them. Others have witnessed the death of family

members,” the charity’s programs manager in northern Iraq, Aaron Moore, said.

“One little boy, who is five-years-old, arrived at the camp too terrified to speak. He saw his 15-year-old brother killed while they fled ISIL. He was not mixing with the other children: he was simply staring at them.

“Many children don’t want to play. When painting, they have been recreating war scenes with tanks and war planes.”

The charity has set up “child-friendly spaces” in northern Iraq as part of its emergency response work to the conflict

## **News briefs**

**+++ New chaplain to The Archbishop of Canterbury appointed** - It was announced on Monday. Revd Isabelle Hamley will oversee the development of the Archbishop's priority of prayer and the renewal of religious life, especially through the Community of St Anselm, in addition to her duties as chaplain. The St Anselm Community is a monastic-style year-long programme based at Lambeth Palace and focused on prayer and service to the poor. "I am



delighted to welcome Isabelle to the team at Lambeth," Archbishop Justin Welby said. "The Chaplain is a central part of life here, supporting the Archbishop and the family, maintaining the rhythms of worship and prayer and providing pastoral support for the community who live and work here."

**+++ Lisburn Poppy launch** - The Rev Nicholas Dark, rector of Magheragall Parish Church, attended the launch of Lisburn's Royal British Legion poppy appeal on Saturday November 5. Also present was Magheragall parishioner George Dixon and the Mayor of Lisburn and Castlereagh, Councillor Brian Bloomfield MBE, who is a member of Lambeg Parish Church.

**+++ Connor resources** - The Diocese of Connor Development Team has been building up resources which are available on loan to parishes. These include a prayer bucket with lights, along with maps, pens, play dough, bunting and other items. There are examples for all age prayer stations which could be used as part of a prayer room or as part of a session within church groups.. Please contact any of the team: Development Officer Trevor Douglas,

Youth Officer Christina Baillie, Children's Ministry Officer Jill Hamilton or Church Army Evangelists Karen Webb or Stephen Whitten if you would like to enquire about any of the above. Please give the team as much notice as possible so the resources can be put together.

## **News links to reports on faith, politics and education**

### **Anti-Muslim leaflets left on cars in Lisburn condemned**

Irish News

Dozens of leaflets claiming to be from far-right group Ulster Awake were left on cars on Saturday afternoon outside Bow Street Mall

<http://www.irishnews.com/news/northernirelandnews/2016/11/07/news/anti-muslim-leaflets-left-on-cars-in-lisburn-condemned-77280>

### **Christian Today/Times/Ind**

Reports on Tweets and a Facebook post by the Archbishop of Canterbury in which he said he was "horrified" by abuse levelled at the High Court judges who ruled that the Prime Minister

must seek Parliamentary approval to invoke Article 50, triggering the process of leaving the EU. Archbishop Justin said independent judges were 'fundamental' to British values. "I'm horrified by the trolling of British judges and those going to court - British values call for honest but good disagreeing. We need reconciliation, not abuse," he wrote. "Those criticising the judges are not distinguishing between "Should we leave EU?" (yes we should, the vote said so) and "How legally do we do it?" (parliament confirms it)." The Times and the Independent note comments made by the Bishop of Leeds, Nick Baines, to Radio 4 Sunday programme in which he called the reaction against the judges alarming, damaging and potentially a threat to public debate.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/tory-grandee-calls-for-javids-sacking-27kt2762n>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/senior-bishop-nick-baines-brexit-high-court-judges-daily-mail-daily-telegraph-nazi-germany-zimbabwe-a7400891.html>

## **York Press**

Report that dozens of delegates from the C of E took part in a Sports Ministry day. The

Archbishop of York John Sentamu and the Archbishops' Sports Ambassador, Tony Porter, Bishop of Sherwood, welcomed 36 delegates to Bishophthorpe Palace for the event. Archbishop Sentamu said, "Whatever sport you follow or play, it gives a great opportunity to work towards a common goal and to strive for excellence in the gifts that God has given us.

[http://www.yorkpress.co.uk/news/14846720.Christian\\_ethos\\_is\\_goal\\_for\\_sporting\\_delegates/?ref=rss](http://www.yorkpress.co.uk/news/14846720.Christian_ethos_is_goal_for_sporting_delegates/?ref=rss)

## **FT**

Report on CofE buildings and issues of funding, linking to decline in church attendance.

Article notes that three quarters of the Church's 16,000 places of worship, are "listed" for architectural importance and maintaining and repairing England's rural churches costs parishes an estimated £55m a year, 80 per cent of which is funded by parishioners and other local fundraising initiatives — the balance coming from the Heritage Lottery Fund and other grant giving bodies. Includes comment from Bishop of Worcester, John Inge, lead bishop on church buildings, and refers to previous comments by Giles Fraser on closing churches. Includes video

interview with Father Andrew Mitcham, vicar of Walsingham parishes.

<https://www.ft.com/content/1951ce6c-a103-11e6-891e-abe238dee8e2>

<http://video.ft.com/5196975877001/Churches-struggle-to-pay-for-repairs/World>

## **Mail**

The paper publishes its final extract of the Revd Matt Woodcock's new book "Becoming Reverend" published by Church House Publishing, described as the 'hilarious and very human diaries of a likely lad who, to his wife's alarm, decided to become a man of the cloth'

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3911718/Oh-Lord-rockin-Rev-Crowd-surfing-Liam-Gallagher-Swiggling-port-midnight-feeling-fraud-surplice-concluding-unlikely-trainee-vicar-s-laugh-loud-memoirs.html>

## **Tel/Even Stand**

Further coverage that a husband and wife have been prevented from trying to adopt their two young foster children after social services said it would not consider the couple's request because they had aired "concerning" opinions about the possibility of a same-sex couple being chosen as the adoptive parents instead.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/11/06/christian-couple-blocked-from-adoption-amid-gay-parents-row/>

<http://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/christian-couple-blocked-from-adopting-foster-children-amid-gay-parents-row-a3388456.html>

### **Tel/Sky/ITV/BBC**

Further coverage following a report published in The Sunday Times that three former staff at Christ's Hospital, a co-educational Christian boarding school in Horsham, West Sussex have been arrested as part of an investigation into claims of historical sex abuse on pupils, including the alleged rape of a girl, in the late 1980s and early 1990s. All three men are on bail until December 15.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/11/06/former-staff-at-top-boarding-school-arrested-in-sex-abuse-invest/>

<http://news.sky.com/story/three-held-over-christs-hospital-boarding-school-abuse-claims-10647367>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-sussex-37888775>