



Archbishop Sentamu accuses EU of ‘shunting’ migrants towards UK

The Archbishop of York has demanded that EU nations offer asylum to refugees in their own countries rather than “shunting” them ever more towards the UK.

European nations should stop “shunting” migrants towards Britain and “own up to what

they have created” in terms of the ["jungle" camp](#), the Archbishop of York has claimed.

In a series of strongly-worded comments, [Dr John Sentamu](#) said Schengen countries such as France and Germany needed to take responsibility and stop blaming Britain for [mass migration](#).

He went on to say Britain should stop being labelled a “soft touch” as government ministers, particularly Theresa May, had put in place mechanisms to deal with asylum seekers arriving, for example, via plane.

Speaking at the [Henley Literary Festival](#), Dr Sentamu said: “All of the asylum seekers in Calais have come through the Schengen Agreement, they have gone from nation to nation.

"My view is that the camp [is] a creation of the Schengen countries and they ought to own up to what they've created," he said.

He added that the issue – fuelled also partly by the [war in Iraq](#) – needed to be urgently addressed because among each group of

genuine asylum seekers could be “one or two member” of Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

French President [Francois Hollande has promised to dismantle the refugee camp](#), which is thought to be home to more than 10,000 migrants, by this winter.

Mr Hollande – on his first visit to Calais since his election since 2012 – called on Britain to accept more migrants from the camp and warned that it cannot shirk its “responsibilities to France” or “waive its obligations”.

His statement sparked a [furious row with the Home Office](#), who hit back at his claims and said it had been “crystal clear” about its decision to help resettle vulnerable children but no others.

Discussing the issue, Dr Sentamu – who admitted he felt “sympathetic” for “genuine” asylum seekers and voted Remain in the EU referendum – said migrants should be made to stay in the country that they originally arrive in.

“I think it should be that wherever the asylum seekers arrive, in that particular place you have a responsibility for their care, their love,” he said. “Schengen countries have not done that.”

He added: “When you get people from the rest of Africa, from Nigeria, yes there is Boko Haram and all that stuff, but why should they travel all the way from there, through Libya, come by boat to get to Europe, what's that about?”

Recent figures show around 106,000 people have arrived in Italy so far this year, having travelled from Tunisia, Libya and Egypt.

Dr Sentamu believes British ships should be sent to the Libyan coast to stop migrants getting into boats run by people smugglers.

Archbishop Eamon Martin is guest speaker at Connor C of I Synod

Guest speaker at the annual Diocese of Connor Synod was the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All-Ireland, The Most Rev Eamon Martin.

He spoke about re-imagining church in the present culture and the need to take risks and ‘get out there.’

“The people we really need to reach are on the periphery, on the margins, they are not coming in to meet us,” he said.



At Connor Synod are, from left: Bishop Noel Treanor, David Ritchie, the Chief Executive of the Representative Body, Archbishop Eamon Martin and Bishop Alan Abernethy.

“All of us in the church have found this exciting but also disturbing. We are used to doing what we do. If we have to do more it tends to be for the people with us already. The challenge is to leave them there and go out on the margins.”

He spoke about the different forms of poverty in the world – economic poverty, cultural poverty, spiritual poverty, and poverty of relationships.

“We need to write into today’s world the mercy of

God, that is one way of re-imagining what we are about,” Archbishop Martin told Synod.

“My challenge is to evaluate our parish structures and the way we are doing things in the light of mission. We have to re-examine our language and one way of doing that is to speak and write with the mercy of God.”

Archbishop Martin was joined by the Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev Alan Abernethy, as the floor was open to questions.

Bishop Abernethy also welcomed the Most Rev Noel, Treanor, Bishop of Down and Connor, who attended the evening session of Synod.

Earlier in the evening, members watched a video showing how three Connor parishes are doing very different – and innovative – things to connect with the communities they serve.

Featured parishes were St Jude’s, Muckamore, which among other things organises a festival during the week of the annual Eleventh Night Bonfire; Ballymoney Parish which has refurbished its old Schoolhouse and now runs a monthly contemporary worship there as well as Christians Against Poverty; and St Aidan’s in

Sandy Row which runs a thriving charity shop and a vibrant Messy Church.

During the afternoon business session, members stood for a minute's silence in respect of the late Canon Edgar Turner, Connor's Senior Registrar, who died in April at the age of 96. The silent tribute came before Registrar Canon William Taggart read communications from General Synod, something Canon Turner had done for many Synods previously.

Among the visitors at this year's Synod was David Ritchie, Chief Officer of the RCB (Representative Church Body) who is touring all diocesan synods as he familiarises himself with dioceses and parishes in this his first year in the job.

Lay Canons appointed to Belfast Cathedral

The Dean and Chapter of St Anne's Cathedral have announced the appointment of Mrs Myrtle Kerr and Mr Robert Kay as Lay Canons to serve in the Cathedral.

Dean John Mann said he has known both Mrs Kerr and Mr Kay for many years, describing them as ‘two wonderful people.’

“On arriving at Queen’s as a raw undergraduate in 1973, the Church of Ireland Student Centre became my home, and Cecil and Myrtle Kerr were there together, leading that student community and planning the new venture in Rostrevor. It was so inspirational,” he said.

“Robert Kay has been integral and vital to the Diocese of Connor and the RCB for a long time. We have been at many a meeting together, and he and his wife were with us on pilgrimage to the Holy Land, which was an amazing experience. These two appointments acknowledge two wonderful people and give me great joy.”

This is a historic move as the appointment of Lay Canons to Church of Ireland Cathedrals only became possible in 2010, and these are the first such appointments made at St Anne’s. Mrs Kerr and Mr Kay were nominated by the Dean and Chapter and appointed by the Bishops of Connor and Down & Dromore. They will be installed in the Cathedral on a date to be announced.

Mrs Kerr and her late husband Cecil moved from the chaplaincy in Queen's University, Belfast, to establish the Christian Renewal Centre in Rostrevor in 1974.

The Bishop of Down and Dromore, the Rt Rev Harold Miller, said Mrs Kerr was 'quite simply, a saint of God.'

Welcoming her appointment, Bishop Miller said: "She is an example to all of us of what it means to follow Jesus Christ and to carry in her very being the message of reconciliation."

He commented that she and Cecil had 'exercised a ministry more powerful than any prelate in the difficult days of the Troubles in this part of Ireland.'

Cecil was the leader of the Christian Renewal Centre, but Myrtle was always beside him, the Bishop said. "She prayed, cared and provided a warm family atmosphere for all who visited the renewal centre, whatever their tradition or political views, and must often have wondered where their financial provision would come from.

"The years have given Myrtle a great experience of life, in the ups and downs, a settled and

palpable love of the Lord, and a place bound to be recorded in God's book of the saints of Co Down."

Mr Robert Kay served faithfully as lay honorary secretary of the Diocese of Connor for more than 30 years. He also served on the Representative Church Body (RCB – the governing body of the Church of Ireland), the RCB Executive and was until very recently chair of the plans committee of the RCB. The Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev Alan Abernethy, said: "He offered his professional expertise as his service and it was indeed his ministry and example for us all. This was all done with humility and humour. I am delighted his ministry is recognised in this way as a Lay Canon of St Anne's Cathedral."

31 Donegal schools gather for worship

Around 640 children and adults took part in a service in Ramelton Presbyterian Church on Thursday for schools under Church of Ireland or Presbyterian patronage in Donegal. Thirty-one different schools were represented at the service – two more than at last year's inaugural service –



and organisers hope the service may become an annual event.

The worship was led by the Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Rt Rev Ken Good, and the Moderator of the Presbytery of Derry and Donegal, Rev Craig Wilson, gave the address. It was delivered in three sections and dealt with the theme of the service, 'Opportunity'.

Children from Convoy Joint National School performed the first reading, 'Jonah disobeys the Lord' (Jonah 1: 1-17). Killaghtee National School gave the second reading, 'Jonah's Prayer' (Jonah 2: 1-10). The third and fourth readings – 'Jonah's Obedience' and 'God's

Mercy' were performed by Holy Trinity National School in Dunfanaghy.

Pupils from all the schools in church – “from Ardara to Monreagh and Ballyshannon to Carndonagh” – took turns to read ‘Sorry’ prayers, ‘Thank you’ prayers and ‘Please’ prayers.

Clergy from throughout the Diocese of Derry and Raphoe and the Derry and Donegal Presbytery attended, including the Archdeacon of Raphoe, Ven. David Huss. The Minister of Ramelton Presbyterian Church, Rev Amanda Best, assisted in the service.

At the end of the service, a ‘goody-bag’ was given to each school which took part.

Mass-goer forced to film Fr Hamel’s murder speaks of ordeal

An elderly man left for dead by the killers of Fr Jacques Hamel has revealed he was forced to film the horrific murder as it took place inside the church near Rouen.

Guy Coponet, 87, had been attending Fr Hamel’s Mass with his wife when two Islamic extremists,
churchnewsireland@gmail.com

Adel Kermiche and Abdel-Malik Petitjean, burst in and attacked on July 26.

Speaking publicly for the first time, Mr Coponet told the Famille Chretienne, (Christian Family) website: “I had to film my friend Father Jacques’s murder! I can’t get over it.

“They even checked the quality of the image and that I wasn’t trembling too much,” Coponet said.

Mr Coponet was himself stabbed in the arm, back and throat. After waiting 45 minutes for help to arrive, he said he was lucky to survive. He continued: “I was convinced I would die, but...I was calm.

“The emergency medic who treated me told me ‘you had divine protection because the knife attacks missed your vital organs. But it really wasn’t far away – it’s like a miracle’.”

The Copenets say they are able to forgive their assailants, even for the murder of their beloved priest.

“We are just saying, ‘Father, forgive them, they know not what they do’,” the couple said.

Pope Francis has signalled that he is preparing to canonise Fr Hamel, who could be made a saint without needing miracles because he died a Christian martyr.

Sister Danielle, who was also a witness to the murder, said: “His last words were ‘Satan, get out of here, get out, Satan’.”

But she added that Fr Jacques was not claiming that his killers were possessed, but that “Satan was at work in a powerful way”.

Both attackers were shot dead at the scene by police.

The church at Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray is due to re-open at a ceremony tomorrow, Sunday.

Mothers’ Union a force to be reckoned with says Bishop Ken Good

The new President of Derry and Raphoe Mothers’ Union has urged members to be bold and to take risks as the organisation moves into



The new Diocesan President, Mrs Mary Good, with - from left - Canon Harold Given (MU Diocesan Chaplain), Bishop Ken Good and Canon John Merrick .

its 130th year in Ireland. Mary Good was speaking in St Columb's Cathedral shortly after the Mothers' Union Festival Service during which she was commissioned as the Diocesan President by her husband, Bishop Ken Good.

Three other members were also commissioned to office: Jennifer Given as Diocesan Vice-President, Brigid Barrett as Diocesan Secretary,

and Pearl Scott as the Indoor Members' Representative.

Worship during the service was led by the Pastoral Assistant at St Columb's Cathedral, Rev Canon John Merrick, and Bishop Good was the preacher. The Bishop told the congregation that women were among the most committed, most active and most involved parishioners in the Diocese. He said they were a force to be reckoned with. "From forty-plus years of experience I can tell you that the new Diocesan President is also a force to be reckoned with." Bishop Good revealed that his wife, Mary, had taken on the role with some measure of fear and trepidation, but he felt that the Lord would give her the strength and guidance for all that the responsibility would entail.

The Bishop said the Diocese of Derry and Raphoe would be so much the poorer without Mothers' Union. "In branches all over this Diocese, and all over this island and far beyond, Mothers' Unions really do reach out in love and service; they really do promote and support married life; they really do encourage parents in their role of developing faith in their children; they really do help family life where there is adversity;

they really do fund-raise for Mothers' Union programmes worldwide. When it comes to transforming community and radiating Christ the Mothers' Union in this Diocese is a force to be reckoned with, and I thank God for that."

The Bishop asked, though, what the spirit was saying to the Mothers' Union at the Festival Service? He said the Mothers' Union was quite good at self-analysis and was willing to be honest about challenges such as the age profile of members; honest about the need to convince younger women of the value of involvement in the Mothers' Union; and was becoming increasingly willing to step out in faith and take risks.

"What I have sensed tonight that the spirit is saying to the church and to the Mothers' Union is: 'You're facing a challenging future but the Lord wants to face it with you. Invite him into your planning, your dreaming, your envisioning, and be courageous in the risks that you take.'"

As the service drew to a close, the banners of the Diocese's 37 Mothers' Union branches were carried in procession from the front of the church and afterwards Mrs Good addressed the congregation. She said when Mary Sumner

started the first small branch of Mothers' Union in 1876, she had no idea how far reaching her vision to encourage mothers and families would reach. There was a lesson there for all of them, Mrs Good said: "If God plants an idea in our hearts, no matter how small it seems, he can fan that small spark into a mighty blaze that spreads farther than we could ever imagine." The new President urged women not to underestimate their own influence or God's ability to use their efforts.

Mrs Good said 2017 was going to be an exciting year for the organisation. "We are following in the footsteps of those sisters within Mothers' Union down the last 140 years. They have left indelible marks in history for us to follow.

"As we step into the next season of Mothers' Union, let us be bold, let us be creative, let us be faithful and let us take risks, as we remember that well-known illustration about footsteps in the sand: it is at the difficult times that we realise that it's Jesus who carries us. We don't walk the path alone. He leads us, he enables us, and he will carry us even when we falter. So let's not be afraid to stand up and do what he's asking us to do."

Mrs Good asked the scores of women present to see to it that their Rectors were at next year's Festival Service. And she asked them to support this year's '16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence' event, which will take place in St Columb's Cathedral on Saturday 26th November from 2-4pm.

Anglican resources to strengthen the Bible in the life of the Church

A new collection of resources to strengthen and support the use of the *Bible in the life of the Church* has been published by the Anglican Communion. Described as a tool-kit, the *Deeper Engagement* collection of educational resources has been prepared by the Communion's *Bible in the Life of the Church* (Bilc) project "to encourage us, as churches, to engage more deeply with the Bible," the co-ordinator Stephen Lyon said in a letter to Primates.

Deeper Engagement is a collection of around 120 different educational resources from different parts of the Communion. They have been gathered "to help us in our engagement with Scripture," Mr Lydon said. "Most have been used to great effect already and those responsible for

creating them are enthusiastic about sharing them with others in the Communion.”

In the foreword, the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby says “I see this project as utterly foundational for our life together. I can hardly stress that enough.”

The former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, said that he hoped that the resources would help to develop “a wider and fuller biblical literacy” within the Anglican Communion.

Bishop Williams, who was Archbishop of Canterbury when the Bilc project began in 2009, said: “To be a biblical church is surely to be a community that lives out this great story [of creation and redemption] day by day and commends it to people everywhere as the most comprehensible truth possible about the nature of God and God’s world.

“May God use this work to further that end, in our Communion and in all communities of his people.”

Deeper Engagement was produced following a request by the Anglican Consultative Council

when they met as ACC15 in Auckland, New Zealand, in 2012. It follows Bilc's first publication, *Deep Engagement; Fresh Discovery*, which was published that year.

The Anglican Communion Office has sent thousands of printed copies of the new resources, together with a memory stick, to all primates and archbishops as well as a good number of bishops and theological colleges throughout the Anglican Communion.

The resources have also been published on the Bible in the Life of the Church website: bilc.org. The contents of the website can be freely downloaded, used, and adapted for local contexts.

“The Anglican Communion has said consistently in its official documents that the Bible plays a central role in its life,” Mr Lyon said. “Would all our churches provide enough evidence to show we are living by this? Deeper Engagement is designed to encourage and help us live up to these ideals.”

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

**Video: Moving open air ceremony
consecrates memorial to an icon Bishop Daly**
Derry Journal

The **Church of Ireland** Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Ken Good, read from the Gospel of St Matthew, which speaks of the “happiness of those who are ...

<http://www.derryjournal.com/news/video-moving-open-air-ceremony-consecrates-memorial-to-an-icon-bishop-daly-1-7602193>

**Humanists urge vote on cutting 'God'
references from Constitution**

Irish Times

So too should clauses which the association claims prevent non-**religious** people from being appointed president of **Ireland** or a judge without ...

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/humanists-urge-vote-on-cutting-god-references-from-constitution-1.2810479>

Outrage as artist's infamous image of Christ is set to go on display in Derry

Belfast Telegraph

http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/outrage-as-artists-infamous-image-of-christ-is-set-to-go-on-display-in-derry-35088304.html?utm_source=ipad_share&utm_medium=ipad_app&utm_campaign=clickbacks

The Reformation and its consequences revisited

The Irish Catholic

Was it only then, as the **Church** was rebuilt in the era of the penal laws that a counter-reformation began in **Ireland**? It is outside MacCulloch's brief, but ...

<http://irishcatholic.ie/article/reformation-and-its-consequences-revisited>

Catholic canon welcomes 'symbolic' appointment at Belfast cathedral

The Irish Catholic

The first Catholic ecumenical canon of Belfast's **Church of Ireland** cathedral has praised the symbolism of his appointment. Fr Eddie O'Donnell, who ...

<http://irishcatholic.ie/article/catholic-canon-welcomes-%E2%80%98symbolic%E2%80%99-appointment-belfast-cathedral>

BBC/Times

Reports that Ben Emmerson QC, the most senior lawyer working for the independent inquiry into historical child sexual abuse in England and Wales, has resigned. In his resignation letter, Mr Emmerson said he was no longer the "right person" for the role, but denied he had stepped down due to a difference of opinion with chair Prof Alexis Jay. He had been suspended on Wednesday due to "concerns about his leadership". It has also emerged that his colleague Elizabeth Prochaska - the inquiry's second most senior lawyer - had stepped down on 15 September. The inquiry is investigating a number of institutions including the C of E.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-37514864>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/abuse-inquiry-in-doubt-after-lawyer-quits-962q3csbk>

Premier

Reports that [Sir Andreas Whittam Smith](#) has [announced he is to stand down](#) as First Church Estates Commissioner after 15 years in the role (see above). He will leave the position at the next

AGM of the Church Commissioners scheduled for June 2017. He was knighted for his services to the Church in 2015. The role of First Church Estates Commissioner involves overseeing the management of the C of E's £7 billion investment portfolio. Sir Andreas said, "I am proud to be leaving the Church Commissioners at a time when we continue to enjoy robust and sustainable growth, while contributing in a substantial and meaningful way to the ongoing operation of the Church and its ministry."
<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Sir-Andreas-Whittam-Smith-to-leave-role-at-Church-Commissioners-after-15-years>

Comment

Mail: Sense from Sentamu (scroll down)

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-3814896/DAILY-MAIL-COMMENT-Britain-not-sell-crown-jewels.html>

Christian Today: It's time for Christians to go to war on antisemitism

Blogs

Bishop in Europe: Archdeaconry Synod in Warsaw

<https://bishopineurope.wordpress.com/2016/09/29/archdeaconry-synod-in-warsaw/>

Law and religion UK: Independent inquiry into child sexual abuse suspends its senior counsel
<http://www.lawandreligionuk.com/2016/09/28/independent-inquiry-into-child-sexual-abuse-suspends-its-senior-counsel/>

Threads:

Some thoughts on guidance

<https://www.threadsuk.com/some-thoughts-on-guidance>

How to love like an introvert:

<https://www.threadsuk.com/how-to-love-like-an-introvert>

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