



Patrick O'Brien, aged 76, pleaded guilty at Dublin Circuit Criminal Court to 48 sample counts of indecent assault and three counts of sexual assault of the boys between 1977 and 2010.

Church of Ireland praises the courage of those abused by lay worker

The Church of Ireland on Wednesday evening released a statement commending the courage of the victims of one of its volunteers.

Patrick O'Brien pleaded guilty at Dublin Circuit Criminal Court to 48 sample counts of indecent assault, including various instances of anal penetration, and three counts of sexual assault of the boys between 1977 and 2010.

O'Brien, of Knocklyon Road, Templeogue, Dublin, is a former volunteer at St Patrick's Cathedral. He used to hand out leaflets and would usher people to their seats for services. It was here he befriended his victims either directly or through their parents. One boy, who was nine when he was first abused in 1983, said it happened after his parents allowed him go on a day trip to Kildare.

The statement from the C of I reads: "St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, and the wider Church of Ireland community have been deeply dismayed at the nature and extent of the offences which have been brought to light in the ongoing case involving Patrick O'Brien.

"The Church commends the courage of Patrick O'Brien's victims in coming forward."

Sentencing

The 76-year-old pleaded guilty to 48 sample counts at numerous locations throughout the state including Kildare, Westmeath, on a boat in Loughrea, Galway and at St Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin where he worked as a volunteer.

He will be sentenced next month.

Sean Guerin SC, defending told Judge Melanie Greally that his client had written a letter in which he said he wanted to apologise “unreservedly” for the breach of trust and the suffering the victims and their families endured. He acknowledged his “deep heartfelt regret and shame”.

Counsel said O'Brien has completed 312 hours of group psychotherapy treatment since April 2014 which he said was a practical indication of remorse and efforts at rehabilitation even at this stage of his life.

Four victims were present in court for the sentence hearing. A number of victim impact reports were prepared but not all the men wanted their statement to be read out.

It took over 30 minutes to read out the charges in a sentence hearing that took place over two days to allow for all 14 statements of complaint to be read into the record.

Terrified

One man described in his victim impact report how his biggest fear over the years was that he might end up abusing his own daughter. He said he had read numerous cases about abused children becoming abusers themselves and it played on his mind.

One man outlined in his victim impact report that he had never married and said that this was down to the abuse he suffered. He said he felt now at 50 years old that the chance to have a wife and family had “passed me by”.

A lion without a roar

Another victim said he never wanted to have children because he didn't want to be responsible for them after the abuse he suffered as a young boy.

One of O'Brien's youngest victims, who was raped as a nine year old boy, described himself

in his victim impact report as “a lion without a roar”.

He said he developed a shield and like a tortoise, a shell, to bury this “violent secret” inside.

Detective Garda Anthony Maloney told Anne Rowland BL, prosecuting that various victims told gardaí that they had made efforts to avoid O’Brien as children.

The victims were told by their abuser that it was “their little secret” with some of the boys feeling they were being threatened. Others described him as being like an uncle to them and many said he was very much a trusted family friend.

The men also told gardaí that O’Brien gave them sweets, toys, cash and watches. One boy was given a bike.

In April 2014, O’Brien made a voluntary statement in which he agreed with the statements of his victims.

He said he had been abused himself and told gardaí “I would like to say how sorry I am for causing these lads such distress and apologise to them all absolutely”.

Judge Melanie Greally said she needed time to consider the case. She remanded O'Brien in continuing custody to November 10 for sentence.



Ex- Alliance chief, David Ford hopes for an atmosphere of respect and tolerance of different opinions

Yesterday David Ford, who had been removed from being an elder in his local congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, stated on Facebook - "I have not commented on social media over recent days, but have noticed a significant number of posts on twitter and

facebook about my position with the Presbyterian church, same sex civil marriage, fatal foetal abnormalities and even Stephen Nolan's manners.

“I am grateful to so many people who have expressed sympathy. Some are political colleagues, personal friends or fellow Presbyterians but many are not. I am also grateful that few have engaged in hostility towards the body that has upset me and - far more importantly - my family, who have had a difficult time. I am so proud of and grateful to Anne, Janet, Ruth, Martin and Helen.

“There are difficult moral issues that this society has not had to deal with over many years. As people from all sections of the community (including public representatives) grapple with them, I hope we can do so in an atmosphere of respect and tolerance of different opinions. For those of you of faith, this is an issue that deserves your prayers.

“I will not be making any public response to the official statement from Presbyterian Church House, but I stand over the statement that I

issued on Sunday and Monday.

“I will never be able to thank all those who deserve my thanks individually, but your support is appreciated.”

Belfast Telegraph - Ford risks further church anger by submitting Bill to reform abortion

http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/ford-risks-further-church-anger-by-submitting-bill-to-reform-abortion-35145468.html?utm_source=ipad_share&utm_medium=ipad_app&utm_campaign=clickbacks

News Letter - The removal of David Ford from his position as an elder within his Presbyterian congregation does not make the denomination a cold place for freedom of conscience, a prominent Northern Ireland cleric has insisted.

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/ford-s-removal-as-elder-doesn-t-make-presbyterian-church-a-cold-place-1-7636973>

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/presbyterian-church-ousts-david-ford-from-elder-post-over-gay-marriage-stance-1-7634237>

Celebration of Patron Saint of Luxembourg's Carlow connection

On Monday the 7th of November at 7.00pm in St Laserian's Cathedral, Old Leighlin, the Feast of St Willibrord, Patron Saint of Luxembourg and his Co Carlow connection will be celebrated with an ecumenical service led by the Right Reverend Michael Burrows, Bishop of Ossory, Cashel, Ferns, Lismore, Waterford and Leighlin along with the Most Reverend Denis Nulty, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin. This will be followed by a lecture by Professor Dáibhí Ó Cróinín, Department Of History, NUI Galway on Clonmelsh, Willibrord, and Carlow's Contribution to the Anglo-Saxon mission on the continent in the 8th century. All are welcome to attend.

St Willibrord was born near York in England and he is the Patron Saint of Luxembourg. He was trained and ordained at a religious site located in the townland of Garryhundon, Co Carlow commonly, referred to as Killogan, Rath Melsigi (Rathmelsh) or Clonmelsh Graveyard. During the seventh and eighth centuries this site was the most important Anglo-Saxon ecclesiastical settlement in Ireland. It was here from 678AD to c. 720AD that Willibrord and many other Englishmen were trained for the continental mission. He is buried in the Basilica of

Echternach, Luxembourg, which is the centre of his monastery.

The evening in St. Laserian's Cathedral will begin at 7.00pm with 'Vespers of Saint Willibrord' an ecumenical service led by the Bishop Michael Burrows, and Bishop Denis Nulty.

This will be followed (7.45pm) by a lecture by Prof. Dáibhí Ó Cróinín, Department of History, NUI Galway, on the history and importance of Clonmelsh, Willibrord, and Carlow's Contribution to the Anglo-Saxon mission on the continent in the 8th century. Since the early 1980s Prof Ó Cróinín has been researching and publishing articles on the connection with Carlow and the continental missions. In 690AD Willibrord led a successful mission from Carlow, made up of Irishmen and Englishmen. As part of his abbey in Echternach he established a very important scriptorium and for a considerable period of time the Abbey produced many of the bibles, psalms and prayer-books that are to be found today in the great libraries of Europe. It is likely that the first generation of these scribes were from Co. Carlow or had trained here. Many of the earliest Anglo-Saxon manuscripts were written in Irish script either by Irish monks based in Britain or by

Anglo–Saxons who were trained by the Irish. From Echternach he continued to co–ordinate missions to the surrounding countries until 739AD, when he died aged 81.

Great devotion and religious festivals are still held to this day in his honour and in particular a hopping procession, a dance that dates back to, if not predates St. Willibrord's life time. The hopping procession which takes place annually on the Tuesday after Pentecost Sunday sees thousands of people from across Luxembourg, Belgium, Holland and Germany descending on Echternach to partake This unique procession coupled with the European importance of the Abbey saw the procession granted UNESCO World Heritage Status in 2010.

In June 2017 both Bishop Burrows and Nulty will lead a joint Diocesan Pilgrimage to Echternach, the town in Luxembourg where St Willibrord is buried in the vault of the monastery he established there. This is one of the highlights of a programme devised for 2017 to celebrate the historical connection between the two areas. The pilgrimage bookings are being coordinated through Tully's Travel Agents, Carlow Town.

Bishop of Limerick pays tribute to Munster rugby legend

Bishop Brendan Leahy of Limerick has joined the outpouring of sympathy for the family of Irish rugby legend, Anthony Foley, following his untimely passing in Paris at the weekend.

On Monday, Dr Leahy expressed his deepest sympathy on behalf of the diocese to the wife, children, father, mother and sisters of the late rugby player and coach.

“It’s fair to say that the news of Anthony’s sudden passing simply took all our breaths away at the weekend. It’s one of those moments we will always remember where we were when we heard the news,” the Bishop said in a statement.

“Anthony Foley was simply that big of a figure in the lives of every sports fan from Limerick, Clare and, of course, the wider Munster and Ireland fan base.”

Bishop Leahy said that “The admiration in which he was held as a sportsman and person was very much reflected in the volumes of tributes that have come from right around the world.”



Anthony Foley, Marcus Horan and Jeremy Staunton.

Bishop Leahy highlighted that the sports star was a past pupil of St Munchin's College – a school under the patronage of the diocese of Limerick.

“The College is synonymous with rugby, of course, and Anthony Foley's association with it is a huge source of pride. His passing is badly felt there today.”

Anthony Foley won a Junior Cup Medal in rugby there before captaining the College to a Senior Cup Final against Pres Cork in 1992, which St Munchin's narrowly lost. Despite his team's

defeat in the match, Anthony Foley, by all accounts, “was heroic in it, something that became typical of the man throughout his career.”

The Bishop of Limerick said that “Whether on or off the field, Anthony displayed the same characteristics of honesty, integrity, loyalty, dignity and more. His loss will be immense but mostly, of course, to his wife Olive, sons Tony and Daniel, his father and mother and sisters.”

He concluded by stating that “Rugby is mourning the loss of a hero but nowhere was he as big a hero, I’m sure, than in the Foley family home.”

In January 2015, Munster rugby coach and former Irish international, Anthony Foley, joined Bishop Leahy and the then Minister for Education, Jan O’Sullivan, as well as 120 students and 200 past pupils at a formal re-opening of a refurbished and extended St Munchin’s College in Limerick.

The diocesan Catholic secondary school in Limerick is one of the oldest Catholic schools in Ireland, having been founded in 1796.

On Monday, the family of Anthony Foley issued a statement extending its deepest appreciation to the legions of friends and the wider rugby family in Ireland and abroad for the huge outpouring of support and sympathy since his tragic and most untimely passing.

“With Anthony’s passing, we have ultimately lost an amazing, adoring and loving father and husband; an equally caring, loyal and devoted son and brother; a central and go-to figure for the wider Foley and Hogan families.

“Our anguish at the sudden loss of Anthony is bottomless. We have been plunged deep into an incomprehensible darkness and sense of loss that we must work our way through over the coming days, weeks, months and years.

“We know, too, that his sudden death has brought the rugby worlds of Shannon RFC, Munster, Ireland and much further afield crashing down. You have lost a former player, coach, friend and all-round inspiration – your and our hero both. We mourn his loss together.

“We again wish to thank everyone for their support; it will help carry us through these darkest days,” they said.

‘Camino de Glendalough’ booklet available to download

A [beautiful booklet](#) has been produced to accompany those who undertake the Camino de Glendalough – either on November 6 or at any time. The booklet details the route of the Camino, which follows St Kevin’s Way from Hollywood to Glendalough, but also gives an insight into why people undertake pilgrimage and the story of the life of St Kevin. A brief history of the Monastic City of Glendalough is also outlined.

The booklet, provides information for walkers starting from points in West Glendalough – at St Kevin’s Church, Hollywood – and from East Glendalough – at St John’s Church, Laragh. Details of points at which you can join the Camino if you do not wish to walk the full 30 kilometres are also included along with walks around Glendalough itself.

The booklet concludes with the words: “What can we take away from our pilgrimage? We will all have come with different thoughts and expectations but hopefully we will depart carrying in our hearts something of the peace and beauty of a unique part of our heritage, something from

deep in our past that can still have meaning for us”.

The Camino de Glendalough will take place on Sunday November 6. The event will begin at both ends of St Kevin’s Way with services taking place simultaneously in St Kevin’s Church, Hollywood and St John’s, Laragh at 9.30 am.

Following the service in Hollywood, pilgrims will have the choice of making the 30km journey by foot, bicycle or car. A booklet will be provided to aid the journey. Those that travel by car will be able to stop at certain points in their journey where St Kevin’s Way meets the R756. Walkers should expect to take at least six hours to complete this route.

Those attending St John’s, Laragh, on the day, will be provided with a booklet outlining walks around the Monastic City and along the Green Road. There will also be an opportunity to take a shorter walk along St Kevin’s Way from the Wicklow Gap to Glendalough. This is approximately 12km and will take approximately two hours to complete. A bus will be provided to take walkers to Wicklow Gap. There are many other opportunities for short walks in the area around the Monastic City.

St John's, Laragh, will act as an information base on the day and participants are free to join in activities at any time that is suitable to them.

Weather permitting, the day will conclude with a gathering at the Upper Lake in Glendalough for a service of praise and thanksgiving at 3.30 pm.

The Camino arose out of the Come&C project but it also celebrates 800 years of the United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough.

[You can download the booklet HERE](#)

It is also available on the Come&C page on this website: <http://dublin.anglican.org/Come-and-C>

Creating a life-giving response for young LGBT+ Christians

The Revd Sally Hitchiner, the senior chaplain and inter-faith adviser at Brunel University in London and founder of Diverse Church, was in Dublin on Saturday October 15th at the invitation of Changing Attitude Ireland, Accepting Sexuality and ACET. The workshop she gave on how best



Scott Evans, Gareth Williams, the Revd Sally Hitchner and Richard Carson.

to help Young LGBT+ Christians in the churches in Ireland was greatly appreciated by all present from a wide range of age groups in the Molesworth Hall.

Among the themes included were: Living OUT your faith; the ability to tell your story; and how your story fits into the Christian Story of incarnation and resurrection.

Sally Hitchiner spoke eloquently and passionately about acceptance of all views on Gay Marriage and Celibacy within the response to young Christians coming out in Church

Communities. She pointed out that at the heart of the Trinity is diversity and this is reflected in us, both in how we are made and in how we deal with issues. She highlighted that grace is needed on all sides of the debate on human sexuality, reminding us of the love at the heart of God's wishes for us.

She spoke of the need to create safe spaces within our churches for testimony and story-telling to help all parties to come together in grace and begin to heal together. She spoke of many examples of this that she had experienced through Diverse Church.

One such story that struck a chord with those attending was when the Dean of Sheffield, speaking to a group from Diverse Church, brought up the story of the Prodigal Son. While many were expecting him to compare the young LGBT+ Christians to the wayward son, he actually compared them to the Father, while the Church was the wayward son, with the young LGBT Christians awaiting the Church's return to them. This was quite powerful and had tears in many participants' eyes.

The workshop considered the barriers faced by young LGBT+ Christians and the various ways

we can help overcome these in a practical manner, in the hope that they do not lose faith in God, in the Church or in life itself.

Vocations Ireland expands training

Irish religion teachers are to be offered vocations training.

Next February, in a special workshop organised by Vocations Ireland, members of religious communities will share about their vocation journey in a bid to help teachers to better understand and pass on the concept of vocation to their students.

The teachers will be given practical resources to help them in class and details of a liaison person they can contact for more help when required.

“We are also open to helping out during in-service days with this topic,” Margaret Cartwright, Director of Vocations Ireland told Catholicireland.net.

Over the next 12 months, Vocations Ireland will also provide training for other trainers or spiritual leaders.



Margaret Cartwright explained that these events are aimed at “assisting vocation directors with training in the use of social media, liturgy [and] spiritual accompaniment for young adults.”

An Irish team, including a vocations director, young person and communications expert, has already been to the United States earlier in the year on a course on vocations and social media such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

“We are refocusing our way of communicating with young people,” she explained.

A ‘Social Media Makeover Day’ was held in Cork on 16 October. Similar days are expected to be held in other parts of Ireland in coming months.



It was aimed at “getting the Good News out there on Facebook,” according to Alan Neville, director of Vocations, Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (MSC), who posted a video he prepared during the day on the MSC vocations website.

Present with him on the course were members of the Presentation family, Poor Clare Sisters, a Columban father, a Good Shepherd, an Ursuline and some lay people.

The event was part of a Vocations Ireland/NRVC (the American-based National Religious Vocation Conference) Ambassador Programme. The latter is funded by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, which in January 2016 announced it was giving Vocations Ireland grants worth €268,000 to help build capacity to support and nurture vocations to the consecrated religious life in Ireland today.

“It [the grant] is spread over three years. This first year we are spending on promotional material because we moved office,” said Margaret Cartwright. Leaflets with the new address have been prepared, along with a new website, but training is also underway.

“We’ve been working with vocations directors to up-skill them,” said Margaret Cartwright. She added that programmes with young people on discernment continue as usual. “So it is a twin-pronged approach. Next year we will work with families.”

Next Tuesday (25 October), the *Sharing the Call Towards Ministry to Others* series of seven evening sessions will begin. For young people aged between 18 and 30, these are an opportunity to hear the stories of the religious men and women through film, music and drama.

The sessions at St Paul’s, Arran Quay, Dublin will include the Carmelites, Franciscans, Vincentians and Religious Sisters of Charity, and there will be a session on priesthood with Fr Willie Purcell.

The now annual *Explore A Way* weekends for those who have already begun their journey of discernment will be held each month from

November to March at the Focolare Centre, Prosperous, Co Kildare (dates to be confirmed).

Samuel Groups will also shortly begin. They are for single young adults between the ages of 18 and 35, and are aimed at helping them to discern their direction in life, be it marriage, single life, priesthood or religious life.

The ‘Sisters’ Café’ events will also return, possibly in Maynooth. These involve young people gathering in a café setting with sisters from different congregations. They each speak for a short period and then circulate from table to table (not unlike speed dating) so the attendees can ask questions, chat and share stories more informally over a cup of tea.

For further details see: <http://www.vocationsireland.com/>

Reorganisation of Kilmore diocese

The Annual Joint Meeting of the Diocesan Synods of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh took place on Saturday 15th October in Carrick-on-Shannon Bishop Ferran Glenfield began his address to the Synod by observing that this year,

for the first time, one Diocesan council would be appointed to represent the united Diocese – a landmark event in our journey together as a united Diocesan family.

Bishop Glenfield thanked all those whose experience and service has facilitated this coming together as one Diocese. Maud Cunningham, Diocesan Secretary of Kilmore, Rev. Hazel Hicks, Diocesan Secretary for Elphin and Ardagh, and Anne Smith in the Diocesan Office for their continued efforts in developing the best model for organising the administration of the United Diocese going forward, and Dean Nigel Crossey for his painstaking work in the preparation of detail proposals to ensure that there is fair and balanced representation on the many and varied committees within Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh.

Dean Crossey's proposals were passed at this year's Synod and will come into operation during 2017. And finally, Cannon Billy Stafford, Des Lowry, William Foster and Trudi Williams for their diligent and dedicated work developing a new financial scheme for the United Diocese which was approved at last year's Synod and will come into effect on January 1st 2017.

Bishop Glenfield then announced a proposal to separate the Boyle and Riverstown group of Parishes in Elphin and the Kildallon and Swanlinbar group of parishes in Kilmore into smaller entities. During the meeting of the Diocesan Synod, resolutions were passed to separate the Kildallon Group (made up of Kildallon, Newtongore and Corrwallen) from the Swanlinbar Group (consisting of Swanlinbar, Kinawley, Tomregan and Templeport) . Similar resolutions were passed to separate the Boyle Group (consisting of Boyle, Aghanagh, Croghan and Ardcanne) from the Riverstown Group (made up of Taunagh, Ballysumaghan and Kilmactranny).

Vision 20/20 for the church in Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh contains two aspirations for the local church. The first is that they should prioritise children from pre–school to third level, passing on the faith to successive generations. Our ministry and mission to the young is essential. The appointment and commissioning of Hannah O’Neill and Marian Edwards to co–ordinate youth and children’s ministry in the Diocese has been an important step in supporting this essential area of church life.

A second aspiration is that local churches are world-looking, visible and active in the community. During his address, Bishop Ferran announced a partnership with the Leprosy Mission Ireland (TLM) to provide a Mission Consultancy Service in the Diocese to promote mission. Earl Storey, who will be facilitating this partnership, shared further details of this initiative in a presentation to the Synod. He said that mission is core to why we exist as a church and denomination and that the Diocese, clergy and parishioners are key agents in delivering mission. He said that this new initiative aimed to encourage and support action at the local level.

Following the Presidential address, the Synod heard greetings from guests from other churches, including Monsignor Liam Kelly from the Roman Catholic Church and Revd. Jeremy Nicoll from the Methodist Church. It was also lovely to have the opportunity to engage with representatives from various church agencies as well as listen to presentations from the Diocesan Youth Council, The Scribe and the Mother's Union.

Upcoming C of I Historical Society conference

The next meeting of the Society will be held in the Music Room, Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin (directly above the Chapter Room) on Saturday 5 November 2016

10.30am Coffee and registration

11am Dr Bronagh McShane: 'Clerical wives in early modern Ireland'

12pm Dr Judith Hill: 'When it was built the Chapel Royal was celebrated as 'the richest modern casket of pointed architecture to be witnessed in the British Empire.' Why was it so elaborate?'

12.45pm Lunch (in the cathedral crypt)

2pm Dr Heather Jones: 'Irish commemoration of the First World War'

3.15pm Launch of *The Boulter Letters* edited by Kenneth Milne and Paddy McNally

Speakers:

- **Dr Bronagh McShane** obtained her PhD from Maynooth University in 2015. She is a research assistant on a European Research Council-funded project 'RECIRC: the Reception and

Circulation of Early Modern Women's Writing, 1550-1700' at NUI Galway. Her primary interests focus on the history of women, religion and confessionalisation in early modern Ireland.

- **Dr Judith Hill** is an architectural historian, writer and heritage consultant. She is the author of *The Building of Limerick* (1991), *Irish Public Sculpture: A History* (1998) and *Lady Gregory: An Irish Life* (2005). She is a contributor to *Country Life* and the *Irish Arts Review*. She recently completed a PhD at Trinity College Dublin on Irish Gothic revival architecture in the early nineteenth century.

- **Dr Heather Jones** is associate professor at London School of Economics. She is a specialist in First World War Studies and has published extensively on the evolution of wartime violence and the cultural impact of the conflict in Britain, France and Germany. She is author of *Violence against prisoners of war in the First World War: Britain, France and Germany, 1914* (Cambridge, 2011).

Book Launch: Kenneth Milne and Paddy McNally (eds), *The Boulter Letters* (FCP, 2016). Originally published in 1769–70, the Boulter

letters represent one of the most important printed sources for the political and ecclesiastical history of Ireland in the early Hanoverian period. This collection reproduces for the first time the originally published correspondence in its entirety, includes previously unpublished letters written by and to Archbishop Boulter, and contains an extensive introduction to the collection.

Registration: You can register online at <http://churchofirelandhist.org/membership/> If you wish to become a member the annual subscription was fixed last year at €40 (or £35). This includes admission to our bi-annual conferences, lunch, book discounts, and exclusive access to the Society's podcasts. Non-members are most welcome. They are asked to subscribe €10 (or £7) at the door to assist with conference expenses (lunch not included). Queries may be either addressed to the honorary secretary, Dr Adrian Empey, by email at: secretary.coihs@gmail.com or visit the society's website: <http://churchofirelandhist.org/> The Church of Ireland Historical Society meets twice a year: in the Public Library, Armagh, in April, and in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, in November.

It exists to promote scholarly interest in the history of the Church, and to facilitate publication.

Cathedral and choral - Armagh recital

Mr Matthew Lazenby will give the second recital in the Theo Saunders Memorial Organ Recital Series on Sunday 30 October 2016 at 4.15pm in St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral, Armagh.

Matthew read Music at the University of Leeds. He holds the Archbishops' Certificate in Church Music, which is awarded jointly by the Archbishops of Westminster and Canterbury, and validated by Canterbury Christ Church University. He began playing the piano at the age of seven and realised at an early age that the study of music was going to be a major part of his life, with his enthusiasm spreading later to the organ.

With a diverse music portfolio, Matthew works as a piano teacher and an accompanist for exams, recitals and performance. He is Organist and Choral Director at St Martin's, Leeds and Choral Director at All Saints', Newton-on-Ouse, in North

Yorkshire. He is acting Musical Director of Horsforth Choral Society, and accompanist for the Heritage Masterworks Chorale and Leeds Male Voice Choir.

As a chorister, Matthew performed with numerous choirs in venues as diverse as Chester Cathedral, St Patrick's Cathedral in New York, and Manchester Cathedral. As an organist-accompanist, recent highlights have included performances in Chartres Cathedral, Leeds Minster, Morley Town Hall, Leeds Cathedral, St Bavo's Cathedral in Ghent, and a performance of Faure's Requiem in the Madeleine, Paris.

The Very Revd Gregory Dunstan, Dean of Armagh, said, "This will be Matthew's first recital in Armagh. We look forward to welcoming him to the Cathedral, and to hearing his programme, which will include music by Matthew Camidge, Henry Smart, Alexandre Guilmant and Josef Rheinberger."

As with all the recitals in this series, admission is free. The retiring collection will go towards the cost of a new piano for the Cathedral Choir's rehearsal room.

News briefs

+++ Annual Service of Wholeness and Healing - Dublin & Glendalough Diocesan Committee of the Church's Ministry of Healing welcomes you to their Annual Service of Wholeness and Healing. This service will be held on Sunday, 23 October 2016, at 3.30pm in Glenealy Parish Church in County Wicklow. Canon Roly Heaney will preach and there will be an opportunity for prayer with the laying on of hands and anointing with oil. All are most welcome to attend and stay for refreshments afterwards.

+++ Churches demand action on Aleppo - The Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Church in Wales, the Church of Scotland, Quakers in Britain, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church have released a statement calling upon the Syrian and Russian Governments and other forces to stop their bombardment of Aleppo.

+++ Britain's Royal Mint turns to bishop for Christmas coin design - Britain's Royal Mint has produced the UK's first-ever Christmas coin – and has turned to the Church in Wales' Bishop



of St Asaph, Gregory Cameron, for its design. Bishop Gregory, a former deputy secretary general of the Anglican Communion, designed the UK's [last round-pound](#), which was released in May. The Royal Mint are issuing just 30,000 of the new £20 silver coins. They have been produced for the collectors' market and, while legal tender, are not designed to enter general circulation. People who [purchase the coin](#) will also receive a specially designed booklet "with space to note down your favourite moments of 2016 and wishes for the coming year," the Royal Mint say. "Commemorative coins are generally treasured for their aesthetic and collectable value, or for their rarity," they said. "Collectors appreciate the detailed hand-finished processes and expert skills used to make them." The design features

the Magi's visit to the holy family, bringing gifts in homage to Jesus.

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

Cork bishop talks marriage, female priests and sexuality in the Catholic Church

Independent

http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/cork-bishop-talks-marriage-female-priests-and-sexuality-in-the-catholic-church-35144725.html?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter

Irish firm refuses to print invites to gay wedding for second time

Independent

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/firm-refuses-to-print-invites-to-gay-wedding-for-second-time-35145587.html>

Premier/Times/Christian Today

Further coverage of the meeting at Lambeth Palace between the Archbishop of Canterbury and his Holiness Kirill, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia. Archbishop Justin welcomed Patriarch Kirill and his delegation to Lambeth Palace for a private visit. The *Times* quotes the head of the

Patriarch's press service, Alexander Volkov, who said Patriarch Kirill raised concerns about Church of England teaching on the ordination of women as priests and bishops and on morals and 'family issues'.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/patriarch-scolds-welby-over-morals-rqdqv6k9k>

Christian Today

Further coverage that the former Archbishop of Canterbury Lord Carey could face “explicit criticism” by the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) over how he dealt with the Bishop Peter Ball case. Professor Jay, IICSA chair, made the comment in her ruling, published on the IICSA website, to allow Lord Carey core participant status. Peter Ball, a former Bishop of Gloucester, was jailed last year for sex offences against young men and misconduct in public office. In the ruling, Professor Jay said: “The inquiry will consider the extent to which any failings identified in relation to the diocese of Chichester and Peter Ball are representative of wider failings within the Church of England and/or the Anglican Church in general, and the nature and extent of any failings of institutions to protect children from abuse. It is possible that Lord Carey, in his capacity as former Archbishop of

Canterbury, may be subject to explicit criticism by the inquiry in due course.”

Guard

Background feature on the dismissal last week of 30 bell-ringers at York Minster. The article includes a statement from a spokesperson for the Minster which said, “We remain committed to embedding a strong safeguarding culture across the minster despite the protests that have resulted from our actions.”

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/oct/19/how-york-minster-campanologists-sacking-blew-the-lid-off-bitter-dispute>

BBC

Report on petition delivered to Lambeth Palace yesterday calling for the C of E to re-examine the case against Bishop George Bell. Last year the church announced it had settled a civil claim regarding sexual abuse by the late bishop in the 1940s and 1950s. A spokesman for Lambeth Palace is quoted and the article notes that an independent review of the processes used in the George Bell case has been announced in accordance with House of Bishops guidance on all complex cases.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-sussex-37703357>

BBC

Report that former hostage Terry Waite has revisited the site of his return to the UK 25 years ago. He was a special envoy for the then Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie when he was kidnapped in Lebanon in January 1987. After he was freed in 1991 he flew into RAF Lyneham in Wiltshire, where the bells of the nearby parish church were rung to mark his arrival. During his latest visit, he met the bell-ringers who had welcomed him home.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-wiltshire-37660325>

Christian Today

Reports an interview given by the Revd Kate Botley to the *Radio Times*. Speaking about beauty, Kate tells the magazine that real beauty comes from the divine spark that everyone has. "If you believe, as I do, in a greater God that created humans in his own image, then when we look at other people we should see a reflection of the divine, we should see that humanity is his most beautiful work," she says.

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