



Firefighting former Tyrone footballer's faith sharing international

A former Tyrone footballer who was among the first firefighters at the scene of the Omagh bomb has revealed his journey from the isolation he felt in his hometown after marrying a Protestant girl, to speaking of his Christian faith in front of a

televised audience of up to eight million people, the Ulster Herald reports.

Paddy Quinn, who also captained his club St Enda's to the Tyrone county title, has travelled across America and parts of Africa speaking about finding his faith and also helping to train firefighters in developing countries.

This Sunday, Paddy will share his remarkable life story in the Hope Central Elim church in Omagh.

“At 17 I ended up at Omagh Technical College where I met a girl called Wendy Burton who had been at Omagh High School. Wendy attended St Columba's Church of Ireland, Omagh,” said Paddy in a short biography to promote the talk.

“At that time it was difficult for people from two different traditions, so we moved to England... we came back to Omagh in 1984.

“I attended St Columba's Church. It was hard because most of my friends and family attended the Sacred Heart 50 metres away. I felt isolated,” he explained.

“When I look back now I often wonder how I missed the message of God’s grace. Maybe I was like a lot of people, just too busy to listen to God who was trying to get through to me.”

As a teenager, Paddy said his passion was football both Gaelic and soccer. “I thought if I played for the Tyrone senior team once I would die happy. I used to pray that we would win. The more we lost, the more I prayed. I decided that it was wrong to pray to win, and that it was up to me to train harder. God was for the really big things in life, emergencies.”

He became a part-time fire-fighter in 1995 and went on to take up a full-time post with the rescue service.

He continued, “In that time I experienced many traumatic incidents, searching for someone in a burning house and feeling my ears were going to melt, witnessing accidents in which people I knew lost their lives, being stoned by protesters. I was part of the first crew that responded to the Omagh Bomb. That day I understood why people cannot forgive.”

In 2007, Paddy joined Firefighters for Christ, a group which he admits, he would normally have given “a wide berth”. And a year later, a friend helped him to pray which he said was the “moment that I came to a living faith in Jesus Christ”.

“Now I know that God loved me for who I was, not as I or anyone else thought I should be.”

In the intervening years, Paddy who is both a church warden and parish reader at St Columba’s, Church of Ireland, has spoken in San Diego, California and New York with the Firefighters for Christ as well as travelling to Uganda on several missions.

He added, “On the last mission I was asked to speak at a church. Thankfully I didn’t realise that it was being broadcast live to seven to eight million people. I have recently been interviewed for a BBC Songs of Praise programme featuring the work of fire-fighting.”

Paddy Quinn will share his journey as part of the Fire-Side Life Stories at 7.30pm on Sunday, October 30 at Hope Central Elim church.

Archbishop of Jerusalem to visit Dublin and Glendalough

In December the Archbishop of Jerusalem and his chaplain, Canon David Longe, will visit the diocese of Dublin and Glendalough for the first time officially since the signing of the Epiphany Agreement in January. On Sunday January 10 2016 the Epiphany Agreement was signed in St George's Cathedral in Jerusalem by the Archbishop of Dublin and the Archbishop of Jerusalem. The agreement officially established a link between the United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough and the Diocese of Jerusalem. The Epiphany Agreement commits to developing a link relationship of equal partners between the two dioceses which is sustainable, practical, effective, mutually supportive and mutually enriching.

Apart from devising an interesting and varied programme for the visitors, the Council for Mission is also creating the opportunity for members of the dioceses and beyond to learn more about our partner diocese in the Land of the Holy One and the Christians who live there, who call themselves 'the living stones'.



Diocesan Council for Mission members, Geoffrey McMaster, the Revd Norman McCausland and Derek Neilson, promoting the Jerusalem Link at Synod earlier this month.

There will be many opportunities to meet Archbishop Suheil and Canon Longe during their visit. Apart from many visits to schools and other organisations, people can join them for Evening Prayer in St Doulaghs, Malahide at 4.00 pm on Friday December 2. There will be an Ecumenical Service with Dublin Council of Churches in Christ Church Cathedral on Saturday December 3 at 5.00 pm. This will be followed by a cultural evening in St Ann's, Dawson Street featuring

Armenian and Irish Music and Middle Eastern food.

On Sunday December 4 at 11.00 am you are welcome to join Archbishop Michael Jackson and Archbishop Dawani for Holy Communion in Nun's Cross Church, Killiskey. That afternoon both Archbishops will attend the 150th anniversary celebration of the opening of Kenure Church and Archbishop Jackson will preach.

On Monday December 5 there will be a very interesting seminar in the Church of St John the Baptist in Clontarf at 7.30 pm. Entitled "Christians in the Middle East – their plight and the challenges for the West", the seminar will feature panellists including Archbishop Suheil, Fr Canon Kieran O'Mahony, Georgina Coptly (a Palestinian Christian living in Ireland) and Linda Chambers (a member of the Council for Mission), among others. Those attending will gain a better appreciation of life in the Holy Land and will be helped in considering the impact of conflict there on the West. The seminar will be preceded by launch of Pilgrimage. a course suitable for pilgrimage and Bible study groups.

On Tuesday December 6 all are invited to join Morning Prayer in Hollywood at 10.00 am

followed by a visit to parts of the Come&C Camino.

The Council for Mission is actively looking at arranging a pilgrimage group from the United Dioceses to the Holy Land in November 2017. Not only will the group visit the holy sites but also link up with Christians there and learn of their daily lives and struggles.

Pope 'would like to come to Ireland' in two years

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin has given his strongest indication yet that a papal visit by Pope Francis is on the cards for Ireland in just under two years' time.

The Archbishop of Dublin, who is president of the 2018 global church event which takes place in a different location around the world every three years, said Pope Francis had said "he would like to come to Ireland".

"I am very hopeful that he will come," Archbishop Martin told reporters on Saturday at the official launch of the World Meeting of Families, which the Irish Church will host in August 2018.

But he stressed the Pope's programme is always finalised at a later stage so there will be no official confirmation until next year. He said Francis's age also had to be taken into consideration, as he will be 81 when thousands of families and groups working with families from around the world gather in Ireland. Pope Francis personally chose Dublin as the venue for the 2018 event and the theme of the gathering is 'The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World'.

Last Friday, Taoiseach Enda Kenny said Archbishop Martin had informed him of the Irish bishops' invitation to the Pope. In Brussels, Mr Kenny said if Francis accepted the invitation, he had assured Archbishop Martin that "the Government would respond appropriately, would welcome Pope Francis, and would make all the arrangements to treat him in a proper and respectful manner as befits his position as the head of the Catholic Church".

Vatican: Ashes must not be scattered or kept at home

The Vatican has set out guidelines for Catholics who want to be cremated, saying their remains

cannot be scattered, divided up or kept at home but rather stored in a sacred, Church-approved place.

The new instructions were released yesterday (Tuesday) by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

For most of its 2,000-year history, the Catholic Church only permitted burial, arguing that this best expressed the Christian hope in resurrection. But in 1963, the Vatican explicitly allowed cremation as long as it didn't suggest a denial of faith about resurrection.

The new document repeats that burial remains preferred but lays out guidelines for conserving ashes for the increasing numbers of Catholics who choose cremation.

It said it was doing so to counter what it called "new ideas contrary to the Church's faith" that had emerged since 1963, including New Age ideas that death is a "fusion" with Mother Nature and the universe, or the "definitive liberation" from the prison of the body.

The Vatican said ashes and bone fragments cannot be kept at home, since that would deprive the Christian community as a whole from remembering the dead. Rather, Church authorities should designate a sacred place, such as a cemetery or church area, to hold them.

Only in extraordinary cases can a bishop allow ashes to be kept at home, it said.

The document said remains cannot be divided among family members or put in lockets or other mementoes. Nor can the ashes be scattered in the air, land or sea since doing so would give the appearance of “pantheism, naturalism or nihilism,” the guidelines said.

It repeated Church teaching that Catholics who choose to be cremated for reasons contrary to the Christian faith must be denied a Christian funeral.

The new instruction carries an August 15 date and says Pope Francis approved it on March 18. It wasn't clear if the guidelines were retroactive or what Catholics should do if they have disposed

of their loved ones in ways now deemed improper.

The author of the text, Cardinal Gerhard Mueller, was asked at a Vatican briefing if Francis had any reservations about the text, particularly the refusal to let family members keep remains of their loved ones at home.

“The dead body isn’t the private property of relatives, but rather a son of God who is part of the people of God,” Mueller said. “We have to get over this individualistic thinking.”

While the new instruction insists that remains be kept together, Vatican officials said they are not about to go gather up the various body parts of saints that are scattered in churches around the world. The practice of dividing up saints’ bodies for veneration was a fad centuries ago but is no longer in favour.

“Going to all the countries that have a hand of someone would start a war among the faithful,” reasoned Mgr Angel Rodriguez Luno, a Vatican theological adviser. See also -

<http://www.irishnews.com/news/worldnews/2016/10/25/news/vatican-says-no-more-scattering-cremation-ashes-754875/>

Cathedral and choral

+++ BBC Radio Ulster School Choir Of The Year - The BBC Radio Ulster School Choir Of The Year is set to return to the airwaves next year, it has been announced.

Following on from the huge success of the second series earlier this year, the search to find the very best primary and post-primary school choirs in Northern Ireland will continue in 2017.

Presented by John Toal and Kerry McLean, The BBC Radio Ulster School Choir Of The Year is organised in association with the Ulster Youth Choir and supported by the Arts Council Of Northern Ireland (ACNI).

This year's winners Dalriada School, Ballymoney and St Patrick's Primary School, Drumgreenagh, Rathfriland beat off strong competition from 62 other competing choirs to perform in a live final in the Ulster Hall in April. Since then both choirs have been featuring across a range of BBC Radio Ulster's programming and events.

Details on how to enter BBC Radio Ulster School Choir Of The Year can be found at:
www.bbc.co.uk/schoolchoiroftheyear

+++ RSCM Ireland's final event of 2016 - takes place in Saint Bartholomew's Church, Dublin 4 on Saturday 29 October where Tristan Russcher (Saint Bartholomew's Church) will direct 'come and sing' Duruflé Requiem & Vivaldi Gloria accompanied by David Leigh (Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin).

The event will start at 2pm (please register from 1.30pm) and the performance will take place at 5pm following the rehearsal. Please bring your own scores where possible, limited scores will be available on the day. Refreshments will be provided during the day.

The cost for the event is €10 and you may book your place (please book the appropriate voice part) via this Eventbrite link: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/come-and-sing-duruflé-requiem-and-vivaldi-gloria-tickets-26195939761>

Please book your place today or as soon as possible so we can determine final numbers. We look forward to seeing you at this event and hope that you can bring a number of fellow singers and

friends along with you to make this event a success.

Further details on our planned 2017 events are available at www.rscmireland.com/events/

News briefs

+++ The Boulter Letters edited by Kenneth Milne & Paddy McNally - will be launched at 3.15 p.m. on Saturday 5 November 2016 in The Music Room, Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin. The book will be officially launched by Professor David Hayton. The Archbishop of Armagh, the Most Revd Richard Clarke, will also speak. The launch is hosted by Four Courts Press and the Friends of Christ Church Cathedral

+++ ‘Science, religion and healing: Cancer’ - The Revd Dr Gillian Straine will give a public lecture in the Upper Gallery of Trinity College Dublin’s Chapel on Monday November 7 at 2.30 pm. Dr Straine is trained to doctorate level in science and has masters degree in theology from the University of Oxford. She is passionate about engaging others in these twin magisteria. Gillian’s lecture will be : ‘Science, religion and healing: Cancer’. She will also be preaching at

Choral Eucharist at 10.45 am on Sunday 6th Nov
at Trinity Chapel

+++ Suicide prevention roadshow - Flourish! is holding a suicide prevention and mental health roadshow in St Patrick's Parish Church, Ballymena, on Wednesday October 26. This is particularly aimed at clergy and pastoral care workers. Flourish! is a partnership between Lighthouse Ireland and clergy from across the Christian churches in Northern Ireland. The initiative has the support of the leaders of the four larger churches in Ireland and has been developed in partnership with and supported by the Public Health Agency. The organisers of the suicide prevention and mental health roadshow said: "Clergy play such a vital role within our communities and as such we would like to invite you to take some time out of your busy schedule to hear your views on the resources that have been produced by Flourish." The roadshow runs from 2-4pm. [Book tickets](#).

+++ Clogher auctions - Thursday 3rd November – Parish Auction in Galloon Church Hall, Newtownbutler at 12noon. Viewing from 11.00am. Usual items will be on offer and refreshments will be served. Saturday 5th

November – Derryvullen South Auction where the usual timber and home made produce will be on sale.

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

Executive waives accounting rules to allocate up to £90m on favoured projects

Irish News

<http://www.irishnews.com/news/2016/10/24/news/executive-waives-government-accounting-rules-to-allocate-up-to-90m-751189/>

United Ireland would mean huge job cuts for Northern Ireland... says the academic hailed by Sinn Fein

Belfast Telegraph

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/united-ireland-would-mean-huge-job-cuts-for-northern-ireland-says-the-academic-hailed-by-sinn-fein-35154942.html>

Queen's University survey suggests lack of leadership

BBC News

Fewer than a third of staff at Queen's University believe it is being led effectively, according to a survey carried out by the university.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-37744192>

Special needs: Review of plans to cut NI nursery school hours

BBC News

The Education Authority (EA) begins a review of its plans to cut hours for pupils at special school nurseries.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-37757507>

Still 70,000 empty desks in schools after decade of closures

Irish News

There have been 83 schools shut down by consecutive NI education ministers, while a further 58 have been involved in mergers

<http://www.irishnews.com/news/2016/10/25/news/still-70-000-empty-desks-in-schools-after-decade-of-closures-753072/>

Schools' discrimination of pupils with health needs out of order

Irish Examiner

<http://www.irisht Examiner.com/viewpoints/columnists/michael-clifford/schools-discrimination-of-pupils-with-health-needs-out-of-order-427323.html>

FT/City AM

Reports that the Archbishop of Canterbury is urging the UK's financial watchdogs to "practise what they preach" amid concern that regulation aimed at preventing another financial crisis is weakening. Archbishop Justin, who sits on the advisory board of the think-tank New City Agenda, is backing a report by the organisation on the need for improvements in the regulatory culture of the Bank of England, Financial Conduct Authority and Prudential Regulation Authority, the FT reports. The New City Agenda report warns that, without this, the UK will be "sleepwalking into the next financial crisis" and that "crucial change" after the 2008 financial crisis "is already being watered down".

Archbishop Justin is quoted as saying: "New City Agenda's report into cultural change in the UK's financial regulators is an important piece of work which reminds us that restoring trust requires regulators to practise what they preach. The report sets out clearly the progress made by the

FCA, PRA and Bank of England and where improvements are still needed."

[https://www.ft.com/content/](https://www.ft.com/content/708fbe38-99f5-11e6-8f9b-70e3cabccfae?FTCamp=engage/CAPI/webapp/Channel%20Moreover//B2B)

[708fbe38-99f5-11e6-8f9b-70e3cabccfae?](https://www.ft.com/content/708fbe38-99f5-11e6-8f9b-70e3cabccfae?FTCamp=engage/CAPI/webapp/Channel%20Moreover//B2B)

[FTCamp=engage/CAPI/webapp/](https://www.ft.com/content/708fbe38-99f5-11e6-8f9b-70e3cabccfae?FTCamp=engage/CAPI/webapp/Channel%20Moreover//B2B)

[Channel Moreover//B2B](https://www.ft.com/content/708fbe38-99f5-11e6-8f9b-70e3cabccfae?FTCamp=engage/CAPI/webapp/Channel%20Moreover//B2B)

[http://www.cityam.com/252118/box-ticking-](http://www.cityam.com/252118/box-ticking-watchdogs-accused-allowing-uk-sleepwalk-into)

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Christian Today

Report that Bishop Angaelos, General Bishop of the Coptic Church in the UK, has reminded Christians of their “responsibility to proclaim the good news, to set captives free and to be light and sight to those who may live in darkness and blindness” at the annual Coptic New Year service in Westminster Abbey attended by a congregation including MPs, peers and government officials. The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby paid tribute to the Copts as a “suffering community” in a message delivered to the congregation by the Bishop of Lambeth, Nigel Stock. Human Rights Watch has warned that Copts face increasing persecution in Egypt, Christian Today reports.

Times

Reports that almost 80 years after the building was destroyed by the Luftwaffe, researchers are using virtual reality to transport visitors back to Coventry's original gothic cathedral. The original church of St Michael was built in the 14th and 15th centuries when Coventry was a centre of the cloth trade, before being elevated to Cathedral status in 1918. The computer-generated 3D reconstruction from Rising Global Peace Forum, a partnership between the cathedral, university and council, aims to show visitors the beauty and importance of what was lost. The technology will be available to the public during *Rising 16*, a peace forum to be held in the city on November 15 and 16.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/coventry-cathedral-rises-again-in-virtual-reality-3lwgt3x25>

Even Stand/Tel

Reports that Westminster Abbey was the venue for the post premier reception of the new Marvel Comics film *Doctor Strange*. Actor Benedict Cumberbatch who plays a brain surgeon-turned-superhero in the Marvel blockbuster, and his wife Sophie Hunter were the centre of photographers' attention.

<http://www.standard.co.uk/showbiz/celebrity-news/doctor-strange-premiere-benedict->

[cumberbatch-and-pregnant-sophie-hunter-hit-the-red-carpet-as-rachel-a3377696.html](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/films/2016/10/24/doctor-strange-premiere-benedict-cumberbatch-sophie-hunter-and-r/)
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/films/2016/10/24/doctor-strange-premiere-benedict-cumberbatch-sophie-hunter-and-r/>

Ind/Mail/Mirror/Even Stand

Further coverage of the arrival in Britain from the migrant camp in Calais of the first group of unaccompanied children without family ties to the UK. The Bishop of Croydon, Jonathan Clark, a spokesman for the campaign group *Safe Passage UK*, said the new arrivals were "not just children seeking to reunite with their families, but also the most vulnerable who are at last being transferred to Britain".

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/calais-jungle-child-refugees-age-controversy-dubs-amendment-unaccompanied-minors-migrants-a7376151.html>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3865108/Another-coachload-young-migrants-arrive-Britain.html>

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/first-group-stranded-children-arrive-9108252#ICID=nsm>

<http://www.standard.co.uk/news/world/seventy-unaccompanied-refugee-children-arrive-in->

[london-from-calais-in-first-wave-before-the-jungle-a3376436.html](#)

Guard

Report that a consortium including the Church Commissioners has received at least £180 million from Royal Bank of Scotland for backing the bank's attempt to float 300 branches on the stock market via a convertible bond. The article contains a comment from a Church Commissioners spokesman.

https://www.theguardian.com/business/2016/oct/23/rbs-paid-consortium-including-church-of-england-at-least-180m-for-flotation?CMP=tw_t_gu

Times

Report that the former Bishop of Rochester Dr Michael Nazir-Ali has said the government inquiry into Sharia is flawed and failing to address fundamental defects in the theology. In written evidence to the Commons Home Affairs Committee, Dr Michael Nazir-Ali said that the Home Office review was scratching the surface by only examining the way that Sharia was applied.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/inquiry-into-sharia-will-avoid-issues-whpxrnxd>

Premier

Further coverage that Rachel Treweek has launched a social media campaign to help teach young people that life is about more than body image. The Bishop of Gloucester has teamed up with pupils from All Saints' Academy in Cheltenham, to promote the message that who you are is more than your external appearance. Bishop Rachel said, "So many young people today are sourcing their identities from social media and advertising and in the process losing their self-esteem, which is one of the reasons why our campaign is called #liidentity."

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Bishop-of-Gloucester-launches-self-esteem-campaign>

Mail/Times/Christian Today

Further coverage that former Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Carey, has admitted he deserves to be criticised over his handling of the Bishop Peter Ball case; Ball was jailed last year for sexual assault. Professor Jay, chair of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, IICSA, has granted Lord Carey core participant status saying he can expect to face "explicit criticism".

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3864624/Clearly-Church-didn-t-handle-Former->

[Archbishop-Canterbury-admits-face-criticism-ex-bishop-sex-abuse-cover-up.html](http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/i-let-down-abuse-victims-admits-former-archbishop-rz9djs6r7)
<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/i-let-down-abuse-victims-admits-former-archbishop-rz9djs6r7>

Exp

Reports on the publication of Dixe Wills' new book which focuses on Britain's smallest churches.

<http://www.express.co.uk/life-style/life/724292/Dixe-Wills-Britain-top-10-smallest-churches>