



CNI

Archbishop of Canterbury to celebrate with Corrymeela

The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev Justin Welby, will celebrate 50 years of the Corrymeela Community at a service in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, on Sunday November 1.

The Head of the Worldwide Anglican Communion will be joined by other church leaders, including the Roman Catholic Primate Archbishop Eamon Martin.

The service in St Anne's, which gets underway at 3.30pm, is the culmination of Corrymeela's anniversary celebrations. The service will have a theme of gratitude and thanksgiving for all that has been achieved over the last 50 years.

Pádraig Ó Tuama will lead the service, with contributions from Archbishop Martin and the Archbishop of Canterbury.

John Bell from the Iona Community has written a special liturgy for the service and the St Anne's Cathedral Choir and Voices Together will contribute.

This is a public service and all are welcome to join the Corrymeela Community to celebrate 50 years of peacemaking.

Corrymeela was founded in 1965 by Ray Davey, a former chaplain in World War II, and a group of students from Queen's University. During the war, Ray was a prisoner of war in Dresden and witnessed the bombing of the city. This experience profoundly changed him.

He returned to work as a chaplain in Belfast and became concerned at the tensions brewing between people of different political, religious and ideological differences in Northern Ireland. Corrymeela grew out of this concern.

He and the Queen's students raised £7,000 in just 10 days to buy a property outside Ballycastle. The site officially opened on October 30 1965. The area was already known as Corrymeela – one of a number of interpretations of this is 'Hill of Harmony.'

From its first days, Corrymeela has been a place of gathering, work, faith and discussion, bringing people of different backgrounds, different political and religious beliefs and different identities together.

Today it continues to promote tolerance. It offers space for an analysis of the underlying dynamics of conflict, fracture, scapegoating and violence affecting so many spheres of the world today. Corrymeela works with more than 10,000 people a year at its residential centre in Ballycastle and in schools and communities throughout Northern Ireland. It also has a dispersed community of more than 150 members who commit to living out Corrymeela's principles of reconciliation in their own communities.

Pádraig Ó Tuama, Corrymeela Community Leader, said: "All of this work helps us learn how to live well together. It helps groups learn how to work well together. Corrymeela believes in the power of people telling their stories, of shared hospitality, of telling the truth about the present, of turning towards each other and finding strength, life and hope in each other. Ultimately, the work of Corrymeela helps groups learn how to be well together."

Irish Presbyterian teachers in Pakistan tremor zone

Tremors were felt across Afghanistan, as well as in neighbouring Pakistan and northern India. Sadly, more than 150 people are believed to have been killed and hundreds more injured. So far, at least 123 people in Pakistan are confirmed to have been killed, and 35 in Afghanistan. However, there are fears that the death toll will rise much further.

PCI's Ron and Hilary McCartney, who teach at Foreman Christian College in Lahore (north east Pakistan), were having a cup of tea after lunch at 2.15pm (local time), when they felt the earth shaking for a full minute.

There are no reports of any injuries or damage on the campus. However, afternoon classes at the College were disrupted, with many students preferring to remain outside in the open air, rather than inside buildings, in fear of further quakes or tremors.

Rev. Liz Hughes (Convener of PCI's Council for Global Mission) said, "I would encourage people

to pray for all those who have been badly affected by the earthquake. Please also pray for the governments in each of the areas affected as they respond to this crisis."

See also -

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/world-news/afghanistan-earthquake-live-updates-children-die-in-stampede-as-they-flee-buildings-death-toll-of-more-than-100-34141764.html>

Bishop to lead Remembrance day at “flag burning” churches

The Church of Ireland Bishop of Down and Dromore will take Remembrance Day services in Newry following the resignation of the rector who burned Royal British Legion (RBL) flags.

Belfast Telegraph - There was no sign of Rev Kingsley Sutton at either St Mary's or St Patrick's churches, nor at the parish rectory, yesterday morning.

Instead, Rev Karl Teggarty stepped in to take morning services at the two churches.

***Rev Kingsley
Sutton***



He read out the lengthy apology which the Rev Sutton issued publicly last week, in which the Co Wicklow-born minister spoke of his deep regret at what he termed the "damage" he caused by "this inappropriate and unacceptable action".

In the statement, Rev Sutton also apologised to the Select Vestry and parishioners of St Patrick's and St Mary's for "abusing my role as their leader and for causing them deep embarrassment and tremendous stress".

Rev Teggarty then read out an open letter from Bishop Harold Miller to the congregation expressing his sorrow at recent events.

In this letter, the Bishop committed to spending Remembrance Sunday in Newry, taking the services at both St Mary's and St Patrick's, as well as attending the Cenotaph in the city.

He also spoke of his sorrow at recent events and offered his support. Last week the Bishop said he planned to meet the RBL, Select Vestries and the Apprentice Boys of Derry to seek a way forward.

Members of St Patrick's congregation contacted the Belfast Telegraph last month to voice concern at the removal of RBL standards from both churches.

However, they did not know Rev Sutton had burned the flags until last week. This newspaper understands that the flags, which commemorate soldiers who died in the two World Wars, were incinerated. The RBL called the destruction "unfortunate".

Rev Sutton had replaced the flag in both churches with a white flag bearing a single red heart from a prayer day at the Stormont Estate

several years ago. He explained this to his congregation at the time as an attempt to "make a break with the past".

But it emerged he had removed the flags against an order from Bishop Miller.

The white flag was missing from St Patrick's yesterday morning.

Prayers were offered during the service for Rev Sutton and his family.

Many parishioners yesterday morning did not wish to comment. However, one woman, who did not wish to be named, said Rev Sutton was a good man who had made a mistake.

"Kingsley is a good man," she said. "Everyone can stray. In this church we have learned about forgiveness.

"It is all in the hands of the Bishop now."

Rev Teggarty is a non-stipendiary minister who fills in at churches when needed.

"It is a sad and difficult time for the churches in Newry," he said.

"I would ask your readers to pray for both congregations."

There was no response at the Newry rectory on Windsor Avenue yesterday when the Belfast Telegraph called to speak to Rev Sutton.

First Larne's weekend of celebration

Presbyterianism in Larne can trace its roots back four centuries, with First Larne Presbyterian Church existing as an entity for the last 300 years. This special year of celebrations began with a Communion service conducted by the then Moderator, the Very Rev. Dr. Michael Barry and closed with a service where Dr. McNie was the guest preacher. Throughout the year there have been a number of exhibitions and special services, including Friday's launch of a book celebrating the anniversary entitled 'A People on the Move.'

The book focuses on the compelling story of the people, congregation and community over the last 50 years and the times they have lived through. During this period the congregation



At the book launch: (L-R) Rev. Dr .Colin McClure, Mrs. Jane McClure, Mr. Roger McAdoo, Mrs. Dorothy McAdoo. Mrs. Ann McNie, Rev. Dr. Ian McNie.

moved from an old building to a purpose-built complex, lived through the dark days of the 'Troubles' and the impact on employment local industry as changed. In recent years, First Larne has revamped its church website and engaged in an oral history project to make sure that the work and witness of past, present and future are not lost.

Speaking of the considerable length of time First Larne Presbyterian Church has been in existence, Dr. McNie said, "It was an honour and a privilege to take part in the special weekend that marked 300 years of the First Larne congregation. I have family connections with

Larne and served as a summer assistant minister in Craigyhill Presbyterian Church, not far from First Larne, so feel a personal connection to this place.

“Over the weekend I wanted to take the opportunity to encourage the congregation, as they continue to worship God and share His love. Their mission statement, ‘We are here to worship God, build up His church and share His love’, perfectly describes what each generation has aspired to do and be, and which I know they will continue to do.”

The Sunday evening celebration service was open to all, with neighbouring congregations invited to attend. Dr. McNie spoke and the Ballyclare Male Voice Choir led the praise. Copies of the book ‘First Larne Presbyterian Church – A People on the Move’ were also made available.

After supper, the Moderator spoke briefly of his recent visit to Malawi and thanked the congregation for the retiring offering, which would be given to a Scripture Union project in Malawi, under the directorship of [David McCullagh](#), one of PCI’s missionaries.

Prayer focus for Archbishop's Autumn Roadshows



The Archbishop of Armagh, the Most Revd Richard Clarke, will be hosting nine workshops on the theme of prayer in the Diocese of Armagh during November:

- 3rd, 10th & 24th November in Mullabrack
- 4th, 11th & 25th November in Killyman
- 5th, 12th & 26th November in Cookstown

Each roadshow will start at 8.00pm.

Archbishop Clarke's invitation to join with him states - "I was asked by a number of people if the

Archbishop' Roadshows this autumn might be on the theme of prayer and praying. I will be taking prayer as our theme at the roadshows, although I can make no claim to be an expert on prayer – who can?

“I hope in the first week to look at Ways of Praying. The second week, the Dean of Armagh, Gregory Dunstan, will introduce us to ideas of Contemplative Prayer. The final week, I will lead a session on the Lord's Prayer, the prayer that we all say regularly but perhaps need to think about a little more as we say it. I look forward to meeting many of you there.”

Gay Catholic group encouraged that synod will bring 'new era of pastoral care'

Gay Catholics have said they are encouraged by the Pope's closing address to the synod and are hopeful for a “new era” of pastoral care.

The Global Network of Rainbow Catholics (GNRC) said that while it was not always happy with terminology used to describe gay people, it felt it was the “beginning of a new era of inclusive

pastoral care for and white LGBT people and their families.”

It added it hoped dioceses could take on this attitude across the world.

In a statement, the group said it felt there was also “no longer any reason” to not include same-sex couples as well as children with same-sex parents in pastoral plans as the synod mentioned “specific attention should be paid to families that have a member with homosexual tendencies”.

However, GNRC said it rejected the synod’s implication that the best interests of a child, in adoptive or fostering situations, necessarily requires parenting by opposite sex couples.

It added: “Such a statement flies in the face of considerable social science research and denigrates the generosity of lesbian and gay couples, as well as single parents, in caring for unwanted children.”

GNRC argued the terminology used by the synod, such as “gender ideology” would continue to give “those who seek to find an excuse not to listen and respond pastorally to the realities of LGBT lives, and those of parents and families”.

Before the synod, the group released a briefing urging the synod to reject the global criminalisation of homosexual activities, including the use of the death penalty.

It claims the synod fathers did not take this into account, saying it “strongly rejected” the synod’s suggestion that financial aid to poor countries is conditional on the introduction of laws that institute marriage between same-sex people, calling it a “baseless accusation”.

The group said it saw the comments as a “failure to reject the criminalisation, torture, and death penalty inflicted on LGBT people in too many countries”.

Despite this, GNRC said it felt there were “expressions of apology” during the synod for what it termed “harmful and inaccurate language” when discussing gay people.

It added it felt “the door for a more sensitive attentiveness to LGBT issues in the Church has been opened...and despite opposition cannot be closed.”

The Vatican Synod on the Family is over and the conservatives have won - comment

This afternoon the Vatican Synod on the Family amended and approved the final document summing up three weeks of chaotic and sometimes poisonous debate – much of it focussing on whether divorced and remarried people should be allowed to receive communion
- Damian Thompson in the Spectator

The majority view of the Synod Fathers is that *they don't want the rules changed*. They especially don't want one rule to apply in, say, Germany and another in Tanzania. Pope Francis has just given [a cautiously worded \(but also, alas, rather waffly\) address](#) in which he acknowledges as much:

... we have also seen that what seems normal for a bishop on one continent, is considered strange and almost scandalous for a bishop from another; what is considered a violation of a right in one society is an evident and inviolable rule in another; what for some is freedom of conscience is for others simply confusion.

Significantly, the Fathers didn't back a 'solution' suggested by liberal cardinals, whereby divorced and remarried Catholics could consult their consciences and their confessors over whether they should follow the rules.

This was the liberal Plan B, hastily put together after it became clear at the beginning of the Synod that there was no chance that Cardinal Walter Kasper's radical plan to scrap the communion ban would be voted through.

[Read here](#)

Read also:

[Synod verdict: the Catholic Church is still Catholic](#) by Tim Stanley, Telegraph

[Cardinal Burke: Synods are meant to preserve doctrine and discipline](#), by Edward Pentin, ncRegister

and earlier, more pessimistic analysis during the Synod:

[The Catholic Church is in chaos, and Pope Francis is to blame](#), by Damian Thompson, Spectator

[Catholic divide deepens as traditionalists call for Synod walkout](#), by Ruth Gledhill, Christian Today

Media digest

BBC/Ind/FT/ITV

The most senior female bishop in the Church of England is set to take her seat in the House of Lords later today. The Bishop of Gloucester, Rachel Treweek, will be introduced as one of 26 Lords Spiritual by Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby and Bishop of London Richard Chartres. *The Independent* highlights comments made by Bishop Rachel about the common use of the male pronoun when referring to God. (See comment below)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-34634819>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/church-of-england-says-people-should-stop-referring-to-god-as-a-he-a6708401.html>

http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/30a857da-7746-11e5-933d-efcdc3c11c89.html?FTCamp=engage/CAP/webapp/Channel_Moreover//B2B#axzz3peTRq3xq

<http://www.itv.com/news/update/2015-10-26/first-female-bishop-to-sit-in-house-of-lords/>

BBC/Times/Tel/Guard/Mail/Mirror/ITV

The House of Lords is set to vote on whether to delay the government's proposals to cut tax credits or possibly to stop them completely. Peers will vote on a "fatal-motion" calling for the welfare changes to be scrapped.

Opponents of the tax credit changes say they will leave millions of existing recipients, who work but are on low incomes, some £1,300 a year worse off when they come

into effect in April. A motion in the name of the Bishop of Portsmouth urging further consultation is also tabled for debate. However, it is not clear if it will be voted on.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-34631156>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4596391.ece>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/georgeosborne/11953344/Cabinet-in-crisis-as-ministers-turn-on-George-Osborne-and-his-tax-credit-letter-timed-to-ruin-Christmas.html>

<http://www.theguardian.com/money/2015/oct/25/george-osborne-is-in-listening-mode-over-softening-tax-credit-cuts>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-3289269/George-Osbornes-tax-credit-cuts-face-Lords-showdown.html>

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/george-osborne-tax-credit-panic-6705227>

<http://www.itv.com/news/2015-10-26/controversial-tax-cuts-to-go-before-house-of-lords/>

BBC

Reports that thieves have stolen the lead from the roof of St John the Baptist church, Cherington, Warwickshire.

Insurers estimate it will cost the parish £25,000 to replace. A nearby business lent the church a tarpaulin to protect it from heavy rain, which meant its Sunday service could go ahead.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-coventry-warwickshire-34631757>

BBC

An additional 100,000 spaces in refugee welcome centres will be created under a deal agreed by European

leaders at a summit in Brussels. More than 9,000 migrants arrived in Greece every day last week, the highest rate so far this year. Under the deal, Greece will open reception centres with enough room for 30,000 migrants by the end of the year.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-34634214>

Comment

Ind

Beyond gender: The concept of God has always been androgynous.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/editorials/beyond-gender-the-concept-of-god-has-always-been-androgynous-a6708431.html>

Guard

Vandalise tax credit reform at your peril, my Lords

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/oct/25/tax-credit-reform-lords-george-osborne-cuts>