



***Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, Archdeacon Gordon Linney and Sharon Morrow of the Laura Lynn Children's Hospice at the launch of 'Thinking Anew – Faith in a World of Change and Doubt'.***

## Archbishop Diarmuid Martin on the challenge of new book by C of I archdeacon, Gordon Linney

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin spoke at the launch this week of “Thinking Anew – Faith in a World of Change and Doubt’ by Gordon Linney, former Archdeacon of Dublin.

*Thinking Anew – Faith in a World of Change and Doubt* is published by Columba Press and contains just some of Archdeacon Linney’s popular *Thinking Anew* articles from the last 10 years which seek to highlight the connections between life and faith. The royalties from the book will be donated to the Laura Lynn Children’s Hospice.

Launching the book, Archbishop Martin said that the title could be seen as an agenda for the future of all Churches. “One of the big challenges that believers and Church institutions must ask themselves today and even more so in the future, is precisely the question about ‘faith in a world of change and doubt’,” he stated.

Archbishop Diarmuid placed his remarks within the context of his recent visit to Philadelphia for

the Pope's celebration of the family there and the forthcoming synod in Rome. He had received letters from people who found it hard to accept that Pope Francis could challenge accepted wisdom and they could not see that, in challenging, the Pope was really enhancing what is true wisdom about the family.

He commented, "In my ministry I receive a large number of letters from people who are unsettled by change and are even angry at change.

Sometimes I feel angry myself at what they say, but then I have to pause and realise that we, as a Church, have made them like that. We created a climate around faith which generated scruples and failed to free people and give them an experience of a Jesus who liberates us from entrapment and who is there with his mercy to free us once again from entrapment when we fail.

"I like the title of Gordon Linney's book. Even though at first sight the book might seem to be a look back at past writings and events, I see the title as an agenda for the future of all our Churches today.

"One of the big challenges that believers and Church institutions must ask themselves today

and even more so in the future is precisely the question about “faith in a world of change and doubt”.

“Gordon Linney’s book is an example of someone who never allowed change and doubt to prevent him from thinking anew and expressing that new thinking through the medium of a secular newspaper. His thinking anew was not thinking angrily out loud. It was thinking anew which spurred his readers on to reflect on how faith can interpret and enlighten events of the day.

“Gordon’s book came to completion in his retirement and in the changed experience of life brought about by the loss of his wife, Helen, to whom this book is dedicated. Reading through this collection of past articles from the Irish Times, I came away with the clear feeling that this may be a book of memoirs of a man getting older, but above all that this is the book of a man who will continue to think anew and with that creative youthfulness that the Christian Church needs much more of, especially in times of change and doubt.”

Gordon Linney thanked everyone who had helped with the publication of the book and those who had facilitated the launch in St Paul's Parish Centre in Glenageary. The book is dedicated to the memory of his wife, Helen, and he thanked everyone who supported them over the 22 years of her illness. He also thanked the Irish Times who had given him the privilege of writing the column every second week for 10 years.

He said that the book had a very simple aim – it was not just him thinking anew but thinking aloud of the connections between life and faith and encouraging people not to give in to secularism which he said took away but gave nothing back. “Secularism is a spiritual desert. The simple answer is, if Churches all disappeared tomorrow, the spiritual questions would remain – who am I? What is the purpose of my existence?” he stated.

The forward to the book is written by the Revd Olive Donohoe, Rector of Athy. She concludes it by saying: “Gordon Linney has an eye for the great saints and heroes of our world, and is effortlessly able to distil the wisdom of seemingly disparate groups including theologians, philosophers, scientists, thinkers and commentators in a stimulating and accessible

way. The clear, unambiguous writing style, in a language that speaks clearly and courageously to the issues of the day, of our day, is very appealing... Let me end with a fervent prayer: Thank you God, for the sheer pleasure of books such as this, books which we can treasure, books which we can hold in our hands, keep on the bedside table, share with our families and give to our friends as gifts! Amen.

## **Panellists announced for Presbyterian Church's Economic Conference**

The conference on the theme Economic Hope will focus on society's approach to the economy and how a more just society can be created.

The panellists – Rosamond Bennett, CEO of Christian Aid Ireland, Peter Bunting, Assistant General Secretary of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, Ellvena Graham, Independent Chair Economic Advisory Group in Northern Ireland, Glenn Jordan, Director of the Law Centre NI, and economist and commentator, Alan Bridle – will answer questions and shape discussion around



***Michael Schluter***

the issues raised during the conference. They will also complement the presentations made by the main speakers and conference co-hosts, Dr. Michael Schluter and Dr. Paul Mills from the Jubilee Centre.

Looking forward to the one-day conference, Dr. Schluter said, “This conference will provide a biblical framework for leaders in church and business, as well as Christians in public leadership, to identify the relational dimension of the issues we face today. We will explore the language for understanding these issues and then strategies for tackling them in a way that reflects God’s intentions for national life.”

Michael Schluter trained as an economist before working as a research fellow at the Research Institute and consultant with the World Bank in East Africa.

He led the Keep Sunday Special Campaign and launched a number of non-profit organisations including the Jubilee Centre, Relationships Foundation, CityLife, Credit Action and Concordis International. He is an international speaker and writer, having co-authored *The R Factor* (1993), *Jubilee Manifesto* (2005), *The Relational Manager* (2009), *Transforming Capitalism from Within* (2011) and *After Capitalism* (2012).

Since 2009 he has been leading Relational Research. More recently his work has focused around launching Relational Analytics, the Relational Schools Project, and the Relational Thinking Network. He was awarded a CBE for services to charity in 2009.

Paul Mills graduated in economics from Cambridge University and worked initially with the Jubilee Centre. He joined the UK Treasury in 1992 after finishing his PhD on non-debt financial thinking and systems at Cambridge. Paul specialised in government debt management, culminating in helping to establish the UK Debt Management Office in 1998. As a



Financial Economist, both in the UK and in the United States, he has worked on government regulation and international financial stability. He has written several Cambridge Papers on topics such as finance, the Euro, and time. His most recent paper is entitled 'Prodigal Stewards: The looming government debt crisis and what we can do about it'.

With Michael Schluter, he also wrote 'After Capitalism: Rethinking Economic Relationships'. He speaks to international audiences on the Bible and finance, and is an elder at a Baptist church in Fulham, London.

'Economic Hope: A biblical roadmap for a just society' will be held in Assembly Buildings, Belfast on Friday, 9th October from 9.30am to 3.30pm. To register and for more details, see [www.presbyterianireland.org/publicsquare](http://www.presbyterianireland.org/publicsquare).

## **Annual Diocesan Service for Primary Schools in Cork, Cloyne and Ross**

St Peter's Church, Bandon, County Cork was full to capacity on Thursday last for the Annual Diocesan Service for Primary Schools in the



***Children arriving for their annual schools service***

United Dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross.

Schoolchildren from every school in the Diocese, teachers, board members, and representatives of the Diocesan Education Committee had all accepted the invitation to be present from the Bishop, Dr Paul Colton, who is patron of all but one of the schools in the Diocese.

The children themselves led all the parts of the Service. They had made banners for their schools and each brought a school bell 'to signal' themselves to all the others present. The Bishop had a bell too and there was a joyous cacophony of sound at the end of the Service as

all the bells were rung at the same time. The organist was Colin Nicholls and the sermon was preached by the Reverend Sarah Marry.

Collections in the schools, for the third year running, raised a lot of money for the Diocesan Project in partnership with the Bishops' Appeal and Christian Aid to build houses in Haiti in the wake of the earthquake there.

## **Wales rugby coach amazed as priest 'punches the air' at victory over England**

After defeating England in a historic victory at Twickenham last Saturday, the Wales rugby union coach Shaun Edwards thought that offering a few quiet prayers of thanksgiving at Mass the next morning would be the decent thing to do.

But he was surprised to find that the frenzy of the terraces had spread all the way to the pulpit of his local Church of All Hallows in Miskin, South Wales.

He watched from the pews as parish priest Fr Allan Davies-Hale punched the air in ecstatic celebration of the 28-25 win that put the Wales



side firmly on course for the World Cup quarter finals.

Edwards said he had “never seen anything like it”.

“The priest came out and put his hands up in the air to celebrate,” Edwards told the Wigan Observer. “That is when you know you are making a difference to the nation.”

Edwards is a Catholic whose uncle, Fr John Johnson, is the sub-dean of Wigan and the parish priest of St John’s and St Mary’s, two busy churches in the town centre.

The former Great Britain rugby league international attended St John Fisher Catholic High School in Wigan and then nearby St John Rigby Catholic Sixth Form College but left at the age of 17 when he signed as a professional for Wigan rugby league club, now known as the Wigan Warriors.

But he was still an altar server when he was playing as the captain of Wigan at the age of 21 – and building a reputation as one of the toughest and most tenacious players in the game.

Edwards was this week reluctant to name his local priest in public but his identity was later leaked to the Daily Telegraph, which tracked him down.

## **Archbishop Justin addresses Muslim Council of Wales**

The Archbishop urged faith groups to "go the extra mile" for the common good in a speech at the Muslim Council of Wales dinner in Cardiff on Thursday night.

Archbishop Justin Welby and the Anglican Archbishops of Wales, Scotland and Ireland came together with members of the Welsh Muslim community at [the event at Cardiff City Hall](#), which was called Working for the Common Good: A Christian & Islamic Perspective.

The Archbishop said, “This evening, I shall seek to speak as a Christian, not glossing over differences, but challenging fear. Darkness is cast out by the light of truth and love.

“Within the Christian tradition, there are a number of theological and philosophical truths and values that are eternal, springing from the very nature of God. They thus apply in all circumstances everywhere. They are the values that have called Christians to martyrdom over the centuries, and with other faith groups to stand up against apartheid, to resist the Nazis, to acknowledge guilt where we have gone wrong, as we often have. They are values that spring out of the person of Jesus Christ.”

More at -

<http://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org//articles.php/5622/archbishop-justin-addresses-muslim-council-of-wales>

## **Belfast's St Peter's and Clonard in the frame if Pope comes to Ireland**

News that the World Meeting of Families in 2018 will take place in Dublin has heightened speculation that Pope Francis will be paying a visit to Ireland in three years' time writes Francesa Ryan for Belfast Media Group,

The four-day international conference is most often organised in conjunction with a Papal visit. If the Pope does come north during any visit to Ireland, then there are realistically just two destinations: Armagh, the ecclesiastical capital of Ireland, and Belfast, which has the largest Catholic community in the north and is Ireland's second city. St Peter's Cathedral in Divis and Clonard, home of the annual Novena, one of Ireland's largest spiritual celebrations, would be obvious choices for any Papal visit to Belfast

The Clonard Solemn Novena sees tens of thousands of worshippers gather in the church of the Most Holy Redeemer across nine days every June and is only too ready to warmly welcome Pope Francis should he come to Belfast.



***Clonard is home to the annual Solemn Novena, one of the largest spiritual gatherings in Ireland***

Fr Noel Kehoe, in his first year as Rector following the departure of Fr Michael Murtagh, says he's hoping for a Papal visit to Ireland – and maybe even to West Belfast.

“I firmly hope that such a visit would be possible and I am sure that Pope Francis would be warmly welcomed by the people of the north,” he said. “Clonard, in its turn, will gladly open its doors to this man of faith, peace and reconciliation.”



Fr Noel said there are many reasons, why “we should support and pray for a visit of the Holy Father to Northern Ireland”.

“Pope Francis has refocused the world to see the real needs of those who are often excluded from society – the economically poor, refugees, the elderly, prisoners, the abused,” he said.

“In the simplicity of his words and actions, and by his priorities and choices, we have discovered again the dynamic and practical power for good that the Gospel of Christ offers to our world. This has brought a new wave of hope and enthusiasm into our church and in the world. We need such hope in Northern Ireland!

“Like the saint who inspired his name choice, Francis also knows how to build bridges and be a peacemaker. His role in the reopening of diplomatic relations between the USA and Cuba is well documented. That was unthinkable not so long ago. What might this man of peace achieve here in cementing and strengthening our own peace process?

“As a bridge builder, Pope Francis’s affection and openness to the evangelical and Protestant churches, indeed to all faiths, would certainly help us take a further and important step in ecumenical relations between churches in the

north. The role of faith communities, inspired by the Gospel, is and will be the cement of peace in Northern Ireland.

“But there is one other reason why we should welcome this Pope to Northern Ireland. When we clear away ideologies, political and religious divisions, when we focus on the essential, we discover that fundamentally the quality of our lives depends on relationships that are built on decency, mutual respect, joy, compassion and friendship. Pope Francis embodies so many of these qualities. I am sure that we would all be touched and enriched by the friendship of Pope Francis.”

## **Diocese asks lapsed Catholics why they left**

The Diocese of Portsmouth has launched an online survey aimed at baptised Catholics who have drifted away from the faith.

The diocese is working with St Mary's University to encourage baptised Catholics to share their reasons for leaving the Church as part of a scheme called “share your story”.

The survey will be conducted between October 1 and January 1 and will ask such questions about whether they agreed with Church doctrine and whether they felt welcome. The survey takes 15 minutes and is anonymous.

Bishop Philip Egan of Portsmouth said: “We want to hear from anyone who was baptised Catholic but no longer identifies as Catholic or regularly attends Mass.

“We are committing all our efforts to the new evangelisation within the Diocese of Portsmouth. In order to reach out to those who no longer practise in a more informed way, we are undertaking this project with St Mary’s University. We pray and hope that this short and anonymous survey will be a means of enlightening us all – priests and laity – about the challenges the Church faces in the contemporary world, and of listening to the different experiences of each individual the Church strives to serve.”

## **Media digest**

**New directors for NI education authority cutting hundreds of staff - Irish News**

<http://www.irishnews.com/news/educationnews/2015/09/26/news/new-directors-for-authority-cutting-hundreds-of-staff-273483/>

## **D Mail**

Report that in a letter to a conference on climate change attended by senior judges, the Prince of Wales said they should 'discuss ways courts can support the achievement of climate change goals'. Article states the intervention follows that of the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, who is leading a campaign for new international greenhouse laws

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3254256/Back-climate-change-agenda-Charles-tells-judges-Prince-makes-public-bid-influence-courts.html#ixzz3nClr02Uz>

## **Guard**

Report that black British activists have warned David Cameron that pressure to make reparations for slavery will no go away, after the prime minister faced calls to make amends for Britain's historical role in the trade before his trip to Jamaica. Article notes in 2006, Tony Blair expressed his "deep sorrow" for slavery, months after the Church of England apologised for its role, but said the prime minister stopped short of admitting historical guilt.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/sep/29/slavery-reparations-david-cameron-jamaica-visit>

## **BBC**

Report that the Ven Ruth Worsley was to be consecrated at St Paul's Cathedral (see above), at Bishop of Taunton.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-somerset-34379198>

## **ITV**

Report that the Vicar of Hull's Holy Trinity Church, Rev Canon Dr Neal Barnes, has written to MKM Executive Chairman David Kilburn congratulating him on his "coup" in bringing rock star Rod Stewart to Hull next year and thanked him for nominating the church's development project to benefit from the show.

<http://www.itv.com/news/calendar/update/2015-09-29/vicars-tribute-as-holy-trinity-set-to-benefit-from-rod-stewart-concert/>

## **Times**

Article by author Bill Bryson on why the Green Belt matters.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/arts/books/extracts/article4571206.ece>

## **BBC**

Report that the loss of 421 people including sailors, women and children when a warship sank during WW1 will be marked by a series of events. HMS Natal capsized in the Cromarty Firth in the Highlands minutes after ammunition on board exploded. The commemorative events will begin today with a memorial church service at Invergordon Parish Church.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-34388839>

## **Mirror**

Report that a serial robber who pinched a pensioner's handbag during an Easter service then tried to mug her

friend in front of shocked parishioners has been jailed. Arthur McDonagh, 41, targeted the two elderly women as they attended a church service at St James' Church in Gorton, Manchester Crown Court heard yesterday.

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/serial-crook-who-targeted-elderly-6543645>

### **Obituary**

Rev Kenneth Leech, Anglican priest who founded the charity Centrepont after ministering to the homeless on the streets of London in the Sixties.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/obituaries/article4571384.ece>

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