



## **Brexit an opportunity and challenge, Bishop of Derry & Raphoe**

The Bishop of Derry and Raphoe has told his Diocesan Synod that Brexit will present an opportunity as well as a challenge to the diocese and that, whatever transpires, the people of Derry and Raphoe “will get on with it”.

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The Rt Rev Ken Good's comments came during his Presidential Address to the synod – his fifteenth as Bishop – which was meeting in Londonderry. Bishop Good also announced a major review of 'Giving to God', which is expected to take place next autumn.

Addressing delegates in Clooney Methodist Hall, Bishop Good said when you think of mission, you must think of the context in which you are trying to relate to people. "One of the contexts in which we work in the North West," he said, "is a somewhat unusual border context.

"Ever since I was elected Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, I've maintained that the fact that these united dioceses are divided between two political jurisdictions should be regarded as a strength and not a problem, as an opportunity and not a weakness. I still believe that firmly."

Bishop Good said it was not easy being in a border diocese. It had to operate in two currencies, had two education systems, two different health systems, and two different child protection systems. "We do have to operate in two political systems: in one parish on one side of the border they're praying for the Queen while, just a mile or two down the road, in another

parish across the border, they're praying for the President. And it's complex.

“However, the reason I think it's so good and so important is that it emphasizes that the one diocese has to deal with the Kingdom of God that transcends political boundaries, that transcends international borders, that transcends human traditions, that transcends human allegiances. The Kingdom of God is bigger than all of those things and our diocese is a visual aid to remind us of that.”

Bishop Good conceded that the situation had possibly become even more complex since June's EU referendum. There was no clarity yet as to how 'hard' or 'soft' the border between the UK and the Republic of Ireland would become as a result of Brexit, and nobody knew whether visas or job permits would be required.

The Bishop said there was uncertainty among businesses, farmers and among many ordinary people but he was confident that the parishioners would cope. “The people of Derry and Raphoe have dealt with security crises on the border, they've dealt with customs challenges on the border, they've dealt with financial issues of currency with the border, they've dealt with

communal tensions across the border. And while the vast majority of us – and I certainly do – hope that the current ‘soft’ border will be maintained as far as possible, we will adjust to whatever transpires and we will get on with it in the Kingdom of God.

“And I am not just being naïvely optimistic when I say that we will view whatever transpires as an opportunity in the Kingdom of God. That’s the context in which I see us doing our mission.”

Among the representatives from other churches at this year’s synod were the Roman Catholic Bishop of Derry, Donal McKeown; the Methodist Superintendent, Rev Peter Murray; and the Moderator of the Derry and Donegal Presbytery, Rev Craig Wilson. Bishop Good said he and the other leaders wanted to be “people of Good News” in the community. Relations between the churches had improved, he suggested, and it was not a competition between churches but cooperation between them.

The Bishop said the church leaders, were “acutely aware” of the pressures that people were feeling in society:

## Countdown to World Meeting of Families has started

The countdown to the World Meeting of Families in Dublin in August 2018 has started, said Archbishop Eamon Martin of Armagh at the launch of preparations for the event in two years' time.

Nearly 700 delegates took part at the weekend in the launch at DCU St Patrick's College Drumcondra campus, where Dr Martin said: "In choosing Ireland to host the World Meeting of Families, Pope Francis has given a gift to our Church and our country which we have accepted with humility and openness to the graces that it can bring. My hopes for the World Meeting keep coming back to that word 'connection'.

"Family is all about 'connection'. Family connects us to a home, to 'ár muintir féin', the people who are our flesh and blood. It links us to a community, a parish, a county and an ever-expanding network of people and places. Family also connects us to a history and culture, a language and tradition, to our 'DNA', our roots, to our past, present and future. Family connects us

to faith and values, to baptism and the community of believers. I pray that Ireland's hosting of the World Meeting of Families will enable families to 'connect' and 're-connect' at a whole variety of levels, both with each other and with the wider 'family of families' that is their Church."

The World Meeting of Families, a pastoral initiative established by Pope John Paul II in 1992, has been held at a different location around the world every three years since 1994, which was the UN International Year of the Family. Families from across the world are invited to attend this event, which was last held in Philadelphia in 2015, and delegates participate in discussions about the role of the Christian family in the Church and in society.

When choosing Ireland for the 2018 event, Pope Francis gave it the theme 'the vocation and mission of the family in the Church and contemporary world'.

## **The Poppy and the Lily**

Contemporary Christianity is hosting a conversation with Joe Austin and Philip Orr on [churchnewsireland@gmail.com](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.com)

Tuesday November 8 at 7.30 pm. Joe Austin is a veteran of the Republican movement and a member of the National Graves Association. Philip Orr, having been a schoolteacher, is a local historian, a writer and facilitator.

This is an opportunity to hear about the work Philip and Joe have done around these two poignant symbols.

The evening will have both historical and contemporary contexts. The venue is Contemporary Christianity Office, 3rd Floor, 21 Ormeau Avenue, Belfast.

## **Christ Church focus on feast of St Laurence O'Toole**

As part of the Dublin and Glendalough 800 anniversary Christ Church Cathedral will be hosting a week of celebrations inspired by the feast of St Laurence O'Toole, Abbot of Glendalough and Archbishop of Dublin who played such an important part in the building of Christ Church. Music at all the services during this week will have a distinct Laurencetide flavour, starting with Ecumenical Evensong on the eve of the feast, Sunday November 13, and

culminating in Diocesan Evensong on Sunday November 20.

A series of lunchtime lectures about the early history of the cathedral and the United Dioceses will run throughout the week. A small exhibition about St Laurence will also be on display and we will launch our special free celebration tour and workshop programme for diocesan schools.

### **Sunday 13 November at 3.30 pm**

Ecumenical Evensong sung by the choirs of Christ Church and The Palestrina Choir with Archbishop Michael Jackson and Archbishop Diarmuid Martin in attendance.

### **Monday 14 November**

Opening of St Laurence O'Toole exhibition in Musician's Corner (running all week)

Launch of free D&G800 'Monks' Tour' of the cathedral and special workshops for all diocesan schools (these will run on a rolling schedule over the next few months and all diocesan schools will receive an invitation to join in)

**1.00pm**



Laurencetide lunchtime lecture

**Tuesday 15 November at 6.00 pm**

Compline sung by a Consort of Lay Vicars Choral and Choral Scholars

**Wednesday 16 November at 1.00 pm**

Laurencetide lunchtime lecture

**6.00 pm**

Choral Evensong sung by the Cathedral Girls' Choir

**Thursday 17 November at 1.00 pm**

Laurencetide lunchtime lecture

**6.00 pm**

Choral Evensong sung by the Cathedral Choir

**Friday 18 November at 1.00 pm**

Laurencetide lunchtime lecture

**Saturday 19 November at 5.00 pm**

Compline sung by the Cathedral Choir

## **Sunday 20 November at 11.00 am**

The Cathedral Eucharist sung by the Cathedral Choir

### **3.30 pm**

Diocesan Evensong – with the parish churches of the Dioceses of Dublin & Glendalough

## **Christians in Science speaker on humans and carnivores**

Christians in Science (CIS) held their first meeting of the season in the HUB in Elmwood Avenue, Belfast. The secretary, Dr Ethel White, from the AgriFood and BioSciences Institute introduced the guest speaker, Jonny Hanson, an environmental researcher currently studying part-time for a PhD in Cambridge.

Jonny entitled his talk rather provocatively ‘Little Red Wolf and the Big Bad Riding Hood’ with the overall theme of human relationships with large carnivores. He divided his talk into three areas – the morality of large carnivore behaviour; his own experience working with farmers in Nepal existing side by side with the snow leopard (a



***Dr Ethel White and Jonny Hanson at the Christians in Science lecture***

subject he covered in the *Methodist Newsletter* in February 2014); and the possibility of reintroducing carnivores such as wild cats, lynx and wolves to this part of the world.

It was a fascinating talk delivered with much passion and enthusiasm. At one point, Jonny asked which the most dangerous animal was and then gingerly brought out a small hand mirror and directed it at the audience – it made the point!

## **Catholic schools: future depends on ability to inspire**

Faith-based schools are called to foster not robots but “keen intellects and prolific pens [capable of] addressing the pressing subjects of the day”, according to the Archbishop of Dublin, Dr Diarmuid Martin.

Addressing a conference yesterday sponsored by the Irish Catholic on ‘The Future of Faith-Based Schools in a Pluralist Society’, Archbishop Martin said the future of Catholic schools in Ireland would depend on “their ability to help young people find faith in Jesus Christ, but a faith that can bring its impact effectively on the values which will inspire a future and different Ireland.”

Uniquely in Western Europe, Catholic schools dominated the educational landscape here. “These schools are at the same time State schools and Catholic schools, but in some cases they suffer from a split personality,” he said. The dominance of Catholic schools reflected a “religious and cultural demographical situation of the past.”

If Catholic schools feel that they can continue to be all things to all citizens, then they may well end up with a compromised ethos, trying somehow to fit in with the scrambled ethos of the student and family mix around them, he warned.

“Faith schools are not instruments of religious indoctrination,” he continued. “There is no reason why they cannot and should not be open to receive children of other traditions, just as they should not be limited exclusively to one social class. An exclusivist ethos should be alien to any faith school.”

But he said that faith schools would only be effective if they were not “compromised in their ethos.”

The Archbishop said that “A faith school must be one committed to an integrated vision of education which fosters a future generation who, to quote Newman, ‘know their creed so well that they can give an account of it’ and give that account in our times within a pluralist society.”

Dr Martin referred to a talk that formed ‘The President of Ireland’s Ethics Initiative’ by President Michael D. Higgins, in which the president set out to look at the philosophical

underpinnings of a view of the economy which, almost unnoticed, had driven Irish society down wrong roads.

“This same culture of narrow pragmatism which damaged our economy is also a threat which can undermine education,” said Archbishop Martin. “Ethical and philosophical reflections are not a luxury or a waste of time.”

Reflection and critical debate about the type of society we wish to attain and sustain and the values which should underlie it are part and parcel of an integral understanding of education. “The faith school must be a school rooted in solid values,” the Archbishop said, and it must be a school which “fosters the ability of critical reflection and societal conviction on the part of its students.”

As believers, we have to identify aspects of our faith-language which can be understood and find resonance and attraction in a more secular world where there is still a sense of seeking for meaning.

He concluded: “There is not just room for faith-based schools in a pluralist society, but a pluralist society needs quality faith-based schools.”

Archbishop Martin was one of a host of speakers at the one-day conference. Other speakers included: the former UK ambassador to the Vatican, Francis Cambell, who is now Vice Chancellor to St Mary's University at Twickenham; Baroness Nuala O'Loan, Columnist and Social Commentator; Daire Keogh, the President of St Patrick's College, Drumcondra; and Rt Hon. Ruth Kelly Former UK Secretary of State for Education.

## **News briefs**

**+++ Tribute to Trevor West** - Today in TCD of a book in memory of the late Senator Trevor West who was a palpable Church of Ireland presence in the academy, in the church and in the worlds of sport and politics.

**+++ Dublin MU Prayer Vigil on Gender Based Violence** - A Prayer Vigil to raise awareness of 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence (25th November to 10th December) organised by Dublin & Glendalough Mothers' Union, will take place in St Brigid's Church Stillorgan by kind permission of the Rector the Rev Ian Gallagher, who together with M.U.

Chaplain Canon David Mungavin will lead the Worship from 10.30am to 12 noon on Saturday 26th November 2016. The Vigil is open to everyone, members, non-members, friends and neighbours and those in the wider community. We hope to encourage as many people as possible to come along bring a friend and spread the word.

**+++ Derry & Raphoe appointments** - Rev Terence Kerr had been appointed Rector of Maghera and Killelagh, where he had been serving as Priest-in-Charge since earlier this year. He will be instituted on November 11th. The Rector of the Taughboyne group of parishes, Canon David Crooks, had been appointed Canon of St Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin as the Prebendary of Howth.

**+++ Derry Lay member of C of I Representative Church Body** - Chartered accountant Elaine Sproule has been chosen to replace her fellow Camus-Juxta-Mourne parishioner, Sydney Gamble, who is stepping down after 35 years of what Bishop Good called "exemplary service" on the RCB.

**+++ Lisburn institution** - The Rev Arthur Young, rector of Kill o' the Grange Parish, Diocese of



Dublin, was instituted as rector of St Paul's Parish, Lisburn, on Thursday October 20. He was instituted by the Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev Alan Abernethy. Preacher at the service was the Rev Trevor Stevenson. In 1999 he began studying for ordination at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute and was ordained in 2001. He was curate assistant in Donaghadee for three years, before being appointed rector of All Saints', Tullylish, Diocese of Down and Dromore, where he remained for nine years until his appointment to Kill o' the Grange in 2013.

**+++ Mothers' Union Scotland E News** - The latest edition of the biannual Mothers' Union Scotland E News is now available [here](#) and includes a focus on Syrians on Isle of Bute and Mothers' Union All-Ireland As well as the new 'Flavoursome food on a budget' recipe book – for food banks

<http://www.scotland.anglican.org/mothers-union-scotland-e-news/>

**+++ Chile to celebrate Reformation** - Anglicans from the Church of South America's Diocese of Chile will join thousands of Christians from other denominations in a public celebration of faith later this month. They will take part in a "March

for Jesus” on Reformation Day – 31 October – which is designated as a public holiday in the country. The day marks the anniversary of Martin Luther nailing his 95 theses to the door of the church in Wittenburg. His theses challenged the sale and purchase of indulgences for the forgiveness of sins and salvation and the act of nailing them to the door of the church in Wittenburg is widely recognised as the birth of the Reformation. At 10.30 am on 31 October, Christians from evangelical and protestant churches will set off from four different locations to the Paseo Bulnes – a large pedestrianised street and public square in the Chilean capital Santiago, where a massive act of celebration will be held

## **News links to reports on faith, politics and education**

### **51 Northern Ireland post-primary schools in debt**

BBC News

At least 51 Northern Ireland post-primary schools have budget deficits, Education Authority (EA) figures show, with four of them in the red by about £1m or more.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-37722295>

## **Shortage of 'suitable candidates' to replace Education Authority chief**

BBC News

The Education Authority (EA) halts the recruitment of a new chief executive to succeed Gavin Boyd.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-37726899>

## **Fears for Northern Ireland's £600m charity sector as EU funds could dry up**

Irish News

Brexit could hit the community and voluntary sector hard

<http://www.irishnews.com/business/2016/10/21/news/fears-for-northern-ireland-s-600m-charity-sector-as-eu-funds-could-dry-up-748430/>

## **Increase in civil weddings and age of couples, CSO figures show**

Irish Times

In the last ten years, the nature of weddings has also changed with declining numbers of Roman Catholic and **Church of Ireland** services and ...

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/increase-in-civil-weddings-and-age-of-couples-cso-figures-show-1.2836736>

## **"We cannot take this anymore" - Thousands of students take to the streets of Dublin**

The Journal.ie

Students are objecting to any consideration of the introduction of a student loan scheme in Ireland.

<http://www.thejournal.ie/student-march-dublin-3034957-Oct2016/>

## **Private girls' school in south Dublin set to close over debts and 'ever increasing' costs**

The Journal.ie

Notre Dame School in Churchtown caters for about 250 girls.

<http://www.thejournal.ie/notre-dame-closure-3035052-Oct2016/>

## **BBC/Obs**

Report that the first group of unaccompanied children without family ties to the UK have arrived in Britain from the migrant camp in Calais. 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.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-37741153>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/oct/22/lone-child-refugees-unaccompanied-dubs-amendment-arrive-uk-calais>

## **S. Tel**

Report 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”. Article includes full CofE quote saying it had arranged for Lord Carey to receive independent legal advice and is committed to the important work of the Inquiry.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/10/22/former-archbishop-of-canterbury-admits-he-deserves-criticism-ove/>

## **BBC**

Further coverage that a 51 year old vicar has been arrested in connection with historical sexual abuse; he was arrested in North Yorkshire on Wednesday following a complaint made to Durham Constabulary. The force said the man had been bailed pending further inquiries. The vicar has been suspended for the duration of the investigation, a spokesperson for the Diocese of Leeds said adding that appropriate pastoral and safeguarding arrangements had been put in place.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-york-north-yorkshire-37739183>

## S.Tel

Reports that the Bishop of Gloucester, Rachel Treweek launches a social media campaign this week that hopes to redefine how young people view themselves and challenge negative body image, which she fears is creating a new generation with low self-esteem and leading to mental health problems. It uses the hashtag, #liedentity – a wordplay on the fake and unrealistic representations of young people's bodies and lives that can be found online.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/women/life/britains-first-female-bishop-on-why-shes-leading-the-charge-agai/>

## Obs

A look at how black people's representation has changed in the UK in last 10 years. The article notes under 'Politics, law and religion' that Dr John Sentamu, the Archbishop of York, is the second most senior cleric in the C of E.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/oct/23/black-powerlist-10-years-on-michael-eboda>

## Christian Today

Reports that Archbishop Mouneer Anis of Cairo made a call to leaders of the Anglican Church worldwide, who face persecution, restrictions,

terrorism, and violence carried out in the name of religion, to "be ready to sacrifice (your) lives for the sake of Christ" Archbishop Mouneer was speaking at the Anglican Global South conference earlier this month in Cairo.

## **Mail on S**

Reports that head teachers around the country are banning pupils from sharing birthday sweets and cakes because of the growing fears about childhood obesity. Some are also increasingly worried that cakes may contain nuts, risking serious allergic reactions in some pupils.

Grayshott C of E Primary in Hindhead, Surrey is one of the named schools.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-3863412/Schools-ban-pupils-sharing-birthday-sweets-growing-fears-childhood-obesity.html>

## **S.Times**

Report on the background to the safeguarding concerns around the former lead bell ringer at York Minster.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/focus/bells-fall-silent-as-cries-peal-out-against-chief-ringer-dm50rtms0>

## **Comment**

**Observer:** Why is it vulgar to speak up for migrants? writes Eva Wiseman.

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2016/oct/23/why-is-it-vulgar-to-speak-up-for-migrants>

### **Yorks Post**

Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, writes about his new book *Agape Love Stories* to be launched on December 1.

<http://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/opinion/john-sentamu-a-love-supreme-that-weathers-all-storms-1-8194420>

### **Sun/Mail/Mirror**

Reports on arrest of 51 year old priest on suspicion of historical sexual offences. A statement from the Diocese of Leeds is quoted confirming a 51 year old priest has been suspended by the bishop following his arrest by Durham constabulary.

<https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/2026212/vicar-son-of-outspoken-former-archbishop-of-canterbury-lord-carey-molested-young-girl-in-1980s/>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3861182/Priest-son-former-Archbishop-Canterbury-Lord-Carey-arrested-claims-historic-child-abuse.html>

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/vicar-son-former-archbishop-canterbury-9100509>

### **Mail**

Report that the northern Iraqi town of Bartella heard the peal of church bells yesterday, a sound not heard from more than two years. Reuters report notes that 'a cautious calm returned to this historic Christian area'



following its recapture from Islamic State a day earlier. Bartella, once home to thousands of Assyrian Christians, emptied in August 2014 when Islamic State seized control.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/reuters/article-3860516/Church-bells-peal-town-retaken-Iraqi-troops-Islamic-State.html#ixzz4NnljKBfl>

### **Times/Church Times**

Report that the bellringer banned from York Minster's bell tower over safeguarding concerns insists he was not given a chance to defend himself and should be allowed to ring at the cathedral again, his lawyer has said. Article includes background on the case and notes comment from York Minster spokeswoman said that churches could make their own risk assessment if they "cannot feel confident about an individual". *Church Times* carries a full news report on the case.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/banned-bellringer-appeals-for-chance-to-peel-again-3f0j88pnl>

<https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2016/21-october/news/uk/safeguarding-issue-silences-bells-of-york-minster>

### **FT**

Report that the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, IICSA, 'is underfunded, teetering on collapse and should be thoroughly overhauled' according to legal experts interviewed by the paper. Article notes that the Anglican Church in England and Wales is one of the 13 strands of investigation by IICSA

[https://www.ft.com/content/cc5f7ccc-9706-11e6-a80e-bcd69f323a8b?FTCamp=engage/CAP/webapp/Channel\\_Moreover//B2B](https://www.ft.com/content/cc5f7ccc-9706-11e6-a80e-bcd69f323a8b?FTCamp=engage/CAP/webapp/Channel_Moreover//B2B)

### **Plymouth Herald/BT**

Reports that musician Peter Skellern, who two and half years ago was put forward for ordination training, and then was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumour, has been ordained priest and deacon by the Bishop of Truro, Tim Thornton following a special faculty from the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby.

<http://www.plymouthherald.co.uk/cornwall-terminally-ill-man-fulfills-ambition-to-become-a-priest-thanks-to-archbishop/story-29830081-detail/story.html#W2o34AxtkB9O165X.99>

<http://home.bt.com/news/uk-news/terminally-ill-mans-life-long-ambition-fulfilled-as-he-is-ordained-a-priest-11364107110331>