



Brian Friel, one of Ireland's foremost playwrights, has died

Archbishop's tribute to playwright Brian Friel, former seminarian

The Irish playwright Brian Friel, a former seminarian, died last week aged 86. Brian Friel's most famous work was the play *Dancing at Lughnasa*, later made into a film starring Meryl Streep.

Taoiseach Enda Kenny said the world had “lost one of the giants of the theatre”. He said: “His mythical stories from Ballybeg reached all corners of the world from Dublin to London to Broadway and onto the silver screen.

“All of his plays, including *Translations*, *Faith Healer*, *Philadelphia*, *Here I Come!* and *Dancing at Lughnasa*, will forever form part of the canon of greatness in dramatic writing.”

Mr Kenny said: “The consummate Irish storyteller, his work spoke to each of us with humour, emotion and authenticity.”

B

orn near Omagh, Co Tyrone, in 1929, and educated at St Columb’s College, Derry, Brian Friel spent two years as a seminarian at St Patrick’s College, Maynooth. He trained as a teacher at St Joseph’s College, Belfast, and began teaching in 1950.

He married Anne Morrison in 1954 and the couple, who had five children, remained together until his death.

Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, Eamon Martin paid tribute to Brian Friel -

It is with a great sense of sadness that I learned of the death today of the incomparable Brian Friel. Generosity and modesty were the hallmark of this great Irishman, who never strayed far from his roots.

During my time as President of Saint Columb's College in Derry, I had contact with Brian on a number of occasions, he being a most distinguished past pupil of the college. He was genuinely interested in the students' progress and especially supportive with regard to the development of their literary skills.

Brian Friel's many achievements, nationally and internationally, are too numerous to mention and his legacy is a truly great one. We are all honoured to have had him in our midst.

My prayers today are with his beloved wife Anne, and children Mary, Sally, Judy and David. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.

McAleese: Church stance on homosexuality simply wrong

Former president Mary McAleese has ridiculed the concept of 300 elderly celibates coming



Former President Mary McAleese: “The Catholic Church’s teaching on homosexuality is simply wrong”

together to discuss family questions - writes Paddy Agnew in The Irish Times on Sat. October 3...

Addressing a meeting of the Global Network of Rainbow (LGBT) Catholics on the eve of the Vatican’s Synod on the Family, Ms MacAleese said:

“In the days when I was president, we had workshops on various issues and if I wanted to look at an issue, I would consult the experts... But look at the Synod, I have to ask the question: If I wanted expertise on the family, I honestly cannot say that the first thing that

would come into my mind would be to call together 300 celibate males who, as far we know, have never raised a child...

“Let me repeat a question I asked last year when I saw the Vatican’s lengthy pre-Synod questionnaire, namely how many of these men have ever changed a child’s nappy? For me that is a very important question because it is one thing to say that we all grew up in families, we had mothers, we had fathers but it is a very different thing to raise a gay child, a very different thing to live daily in a relationship and to police the relationships between children and the world.”

Acknowledging that the Synod will doubtless be considering the Catholic Church’s pastoral approach to homosexuals, Ms McAleese described herself as “cynical” about the outcome of the forthcoming three week consultation. Describing herself as someone slow to discover that the Church was not a champion of the rights of women or gays, but rather was the opposite, namely a conduit for homophobia, she said:

“The Catholic Church’s teaching on homosexuality is simply wrong. Catholic teaching tells us that homosexuality is

‘intrinsically disordered’ and that homosexual acts are evil... but I would say that it is my Church’s teaching on homosexuality that is intrinsically disordered, a teaching that leads to homophobia...”

To be gay is not a choice, she said. Talking about her gay son, Justin, she recalled how when he told her that he was gay, he had added that “if this was a choice, I would not make it”.

She said that some of the bitter homophobic attitudes she had encountered amongst a small number of priests in Rome, where she has been studying in recent years, had reminded her of the difficulty of that choice.

Welcoming the victory in May’s same-sex marriage referendum, Ms McAleese said it was the “work of real grace” amongst the faithful, adding: “We don’t talk about gay marriage in Ireland anymore we just talk about the marriage of our citizens.” This report at -

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/mcaleese-church-stance-on-homosexuality-simply-wrong-1.2378042>

Vatican acts after priest declares publicly that he is gay and has a partner - Catholic Herald

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2015/10/03/vatican-acts-after-priest-declares-publicly-that-he-is-gay/>

Vatican fires gay priest on eve of bishops' meeting - Irish Times

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/world/europe/vatican-fires-gay-priest-on-eve-of-bishops-meeting-1.2377991>

Ukip fury after last-minute snub from Belfast Methodist centre

Ukip has reacted with fury after a Methodist-run centre cancelled its booking to hold a public meeting – just hours before it was to start.

Sam McBride reports in News Letter - The party said that the Skainos Centre on the Newtownards Road phoned it on Friday morning to tell the party that it could not use the facilities for a meeting about immigration.

Skainos did not respond to phone calls or emails from the News Letter.

Ukip's Northern Ireland leader, David McNarry, told the News Letter that an employee at the Methodist-run centre told his office that she had



Ukip MEP Steven Woolfe MEP (left) and NI leader David McNarry during their visit to the Skainos Centre

been “instructed” by the centre’s board to cancel the booking because it does not allow political parties to use its facilities.

However, just last year the centre hosted the Green Party conference and a political speech by the then NI21 MLA John McCallister.

Mr McNarry said that the centre had been booked a month ago and that on Thursday Ukip staff had been there with Skainos staff,

discussing the layout of the room and how much catering would be needed.

The meeting – which had Ukip MEP Steven Woolfe, the party’s immigration spokesman, as its main speaker – had to be moved at short notice to the Park Avenue Hotel in east Belfast.

The party denounced the decision as “a blatant attempt to stifle democratic expression of a legitimate national political party representing four million people across this country”.

On Friday afternoon, Mr McNarry and Mr Woolfe went to Skainos in an attempt to speak to staff about what had happened but Mr McNarry said that there was no one there to speak to them.

Mr McNarry said that Mr Woolfe — on his first visit to Northern Ireland — was “fuming”, particularly as the building was partly funded by the European Union and he is a Member of the European Parliament.

“We booked the building over a month ago and have been in constant contact with them,” he said.

“No later than yesterday [Thursday] at 3pm my staff were in Skainos with Skainos staff working out the seating arrangements. Skainos

suggested we put the seats in a U-shape and we settled on the amount of tea, coffee and biscuits.”

He accused the centre of “shockingly unprofessional” behaviour and said it had been “most disrespectful” of Ukip.

It is not yet clear whether Ukip will legally challenge the decision — which appears similar to that taken by Ashers Bakery, which cancelled an order for a pro-gay marriage cake and was found to have broken equality laws — but Mr McNarry said that the centre “didn’t have a leg to stand on”. He said that the party had been “discriminated against”, something which he said was “intolerable” and added that Skainos seemed to “not want a Ukipper about the place”.

Ukip’s estranged former Northern Ireland chairman, Henry Reilly, said that the Skainos decision was “apparently because of my performance on the Nolan TV Show on Wednesday night”, something he said “seems a bit unfair when I am not even part of Ukip now”.

Report at -

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/northern-ireland-news/ukip-fury-after-last-minute-snub-from-methodist-centre-1-6991054>

Muslim generosity as Anglican Primates meet in Wales

Last week the Primates of the Anglican Churches in Ireland, Scotland, Wales and England met in Wales. During the visit the Archbishop of Canterbury addressed the Muslim Council of Wales. (See report CNI, October 3 and links below in Media digest)

Commenting on his blog after the visit, Most Rev David Chillingworth, Primus of the Scottish episcopal Church wrote -

“There were two strands to this visit. The first was a meeting of the Anglican Primates of Ireland, Wales, Scotland and England. I think this is the first time such a meeting has taken place. So Archbishops Justin, Barry, Richard and I sat down together for a 24 hour meeting – joined for part of it by Archbishop Josiah, the new Secretary General of the Anglican Communion. There was a lot to talk about.

Most obviously there are the challenges of the Primates Meeting which is due in January. But there is no shortage of other things to talk about – poverty, migration, Europe, religiously-motivated violence, devolution ..



I carried people's generosity – literally – back with me from Cardiff- Bishop David Chillingworth

“We also went as a group to a dinner hosted by the Muslim Council of Wales – hence the challenge of slipping a substantial cut-glass bowl into my carry-on bag. It was a fascinating and impressive evening. I got the feeling of a significant part of the community in Wales – increasingly self-confident – and generous too.

“We have much to Learn”.

Lectures mark restoration of St Bartholomew's, Dublin

To mark the work of restoration currently in hand in St Bartholomew's, one of Dublin's finest and most elaborate High Victorian Gothic churches, a series of lectures will be held in Litton Hall, Christ Church, Leeson Park, on Wednesdays at 8pm throughout October 2015.

The lectures will examine the circumstances that gave rise to the building, its architectural style, its unique interior decoration, and its distinctive musical tradition.

Howley Hayes architects, who are overseeing the works on the building, will explore the principles of church conservation and explain some of the conservation challenges that have arisen during the course of the works so far. A ticket for all five lectures costs €40, and individual lectures are €12 each. Proceeds will go to the restoration fund.

The series begins on Wednesday when Professor Alistair Rowan will speak on the architectural history of the church from 1863.

Subsequent speakers will be James Howley on conservation principles in historic churches, Tristan Russcher on the music and musical tradition of St Bartholomew's, Alistair Rowan on interior decoration, stained glass, painting, and mosaics, and the series will conclude with a progress report by Silvia Mambriani.

Tickets for individual lectures are on sale at the door & the series may be booked via the church website www.stbartholomews.ie Further information is also available from berginba@gmail.com

50th anniversary of Ad Gentes and Mission Sunday

The Irish Bishops at their recent meeting welcomed the message of Pope Francis for Mission Sunday on 18 October, and for his invitation to reread and reflect on the contents of Ad Gentes, the Second Vatican Council's Decree on the Church's Missionary Activity which was promulgated by Blessed Pope Paul VI fifty years ago in December. The bishops also noted that the late Bishop Donal Lamont, a native of Antrim, played a significant role in the drafting of Ad Gentes.

They welcomed the theme for mission month and for Mission Sunday which is: 'Abundant Life'. The bishops viewed a new DVD, produced by World Missions Ireland, and which features the work of missionaries. This seven minute DVD which has been circulated to parishes throughout Ireland highlights the work of missionaries with people who live in a cemetery in Manila in the Philippines, and children rescued from people traffickers and with people with AIDS in Seoul, South Korea.

The bishops expressed their appreciation to Irish missionaries and asked the faithful to continue to support their work in bringing light and hope into the lives of the most marginalised and oppressed.

Irish bishops delegation to visit to the institutions of the European Union in Brussels

A delegation from the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference will undertake an information visit to the institutions of the European Union in November. While in Brussels the delegation will meet with politicians and officials, as well as with representatives of COMECE, the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European

Community. Previous such visits took place in 2002 and in 1993.

European churches call for unified political response to current migrant crisis

A Joint Statement has been issued by the two major church bodies in Europe.

Bishop Christopher Hill, President of the Conference of European Churches (CEC), and Cardinal Reinhard Marx, President of the Commission of the Episcopates of the European Community (ComECE) issued the following statement:

The European family of nations finds itself confronting a humanitarian crisis on a scale without precedent in its post-war history. Civil war in Syria, widespread political instability in other areas of the Middle East and dire poverty in many parts of sub-Saharan Africa have forced upwards of two million people, many traumatised by war, others rendered hopeless by poverty, to seek asylum or the opportunity of a better life in Europe. The migrant crisis has received wide media coverage, the political

world has scrambled to find solutions, religious communities and civil society across the EU have responded with sometimes amazing warmth and generosity, especially to those whose need is greatest. The crisis risks overwhelming us and the suffering of those looking to Europe for refuge, asylum and the opportunity of a better life risks becoming more acute - not least with the coming of winter - unless a political response, supported proportionately by all EU member states, is forthcoming.

Christian leaders across the continent have made their voices heard, pleading for humane treatment for migrants, asking the member states to be generous in their hospitality and pleading for solidarity across the Union in extending welcome to asylum seekers, with particular sensitivity to the most vulnerable, especially families with children and unaccompanied minors. We, speaking as presidents of the two largest groupings of Christian communities within the European Union, renew our plea for a concerted, unified political response to the current migrant crisis and pledge the support of the Churches we represent by playing our part, at every level, from the local/parochial to the national, in embracing with generosity the twin challenges of welcoming

brothers and sisters from beyond our territorial frontiers in desperate need and who turn to us for help, and of making them an integral part of the European society to which we belong.

Media digest

S Exp

Report that a powerful lobby including the former Archbishop of Canterbury Lord Carey is demanding that the world must act now to save Christians in Syria from the Islamic State.

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/609728/Christian-genocide-Syria-Islamic-State-ISIS-persecution-religious-leaders>

BBC/Obsv

Reports that the the run up to the Roman Catholic synod of bishops to focus on family issues has been dominated by a row over a Vatican priest who on Saturday announced he was in a gay relationship. Article notes the priest was later dismissed from his post at the Vatican's office in charge of guarding Roman Catholic doctrine.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-34436671>

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/oct/03/priest-with-vatican-ties-sacked-for-being-gay>

Tel

Column on middle-class reality of housing refugees, including ref to offer made by Archbishop of Canterbury to house a refugee family at Lambeth Palace.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11908507/The-middle-class-reality-of-housing-a-refugee.html>

BBC

Report that the railway carriage used to transport the body of executed WW1 nurse Edith Cavell, has gone on show in her home county of Norfolk for the first time. Edith Cavell, a committed Anglican, was known for saving the lives of those fighting on both sides in the War without discrimination. October 12 is marked in the Anglican Church as a commemoration day.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-norfolk-34063860>

BBC

Report that hundreds of people packed Wells Cathedral yesterday to welcome the new Bishop of Taunton, Ruth Worsley.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-somerset-34433042>

Mail on Sun

Report that film director Richard Attenborough, who died in the summer, made a request for his ashes to be placed with those of his daughter and granddaughter he lost in the Boxing Day tsunami. Canon Robert Titley, Rector of St Mary Magdalene Church, Richmond, is quoted confirming the ashes will be interred alongside those of his family in a vault at the church.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3259126/Put-ashes-girls-lost-tsunami-Lord-Attenborough-s-moving-plea-buried-daughter-granddaughter-died-2004-tragedy.html#ixzz3naOCa8Nt>

BBC/Cardiff University

In a speech in Cardiff, the Archbishop of Canterbury has said that faith groups must go the extra mile to work together. He was speaking at an event to mark the 10th anniversary of Cardiff University's Centre for the Study of Islam in the UK.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-34417891>

<http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/news/view/144048-10th-anniversary-for-universitys-centre-for-study-of-islam>

BBC/Mail/Times/Guard/Exp/Tel/FT

Extensive reports of the deaths of nine people in a shooting at a college in Roseburg, Oregon. Telegraph article states that the gunman, a local man, asked his victims their religion, before shooting them. The papers report President Obama's repeated call for tighter controls on gun ownership in the States. Many refer to the recent shooting at the church in Charleston, North Carolina.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-34419802>

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3256971/Our-thoughts-prayers-not-President-Obama-calls-tougher-gun-laws-wake-Oregon-college-shooting.html?](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3256971/Our-thoughts-prayers-not-President-Obama-calls-tougher-gun-laws-wake-Oregon-college-shooting.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

[http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/world/americas/](http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/world/americas/article4573820.ece)

[article4573820.ece](http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/world/americas/article4573820.ece)

<http://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/oct/01/obama-oregon-college-shooting-routine>

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/609382/Barack-Obama-Oregon-shooting-victims-gun-control-President-Congress>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/northamerica/usa/11905602/Shooter-on-university->

[campus-of-Umpqua-Community-College-in-Oregon-live.html](http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/84d8f2c8-6874-11e5-a57f-21b88f7d973f.html?FTCamp=engage/CAP/webapp/Channel%20Moreover//B2B#axzz3nNpoa39n)

[http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/84d8f2c8-6874-11e5-a57f-21b88f7d973f.html?FTCamp=engage/CAP/webapp/Channel Moreover//B2B#axzz3nNpoa39n](http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/84d8f2c8-6874-11e5-a57f-21b88f7d973f.html?FTCamp=engage/CAP/webapp/Channel%20Moreover//B2B#axzz3nNpoa39n)

Mail

Report that the Bishop of London has new accommodation in the City, the Old Deanery close to St Paul's Cathedral. The paper described the property as a 'penthouse'. The Bishop is quoted as saying his new home has been developed from rooms, which were formerly servants quarters.

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3256930/My-penthouse-City-no-modest-lodgings-Bishop-London-defends-residence-shadow-St-Paul-s-Cathedral.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490

Tel

Reports a court case in which a father has been denied custody of his 16 year-old daughter on the grounds that his Christian views were towards women were antediluvian. The professional man, who cannot be named, wanted to take over his daughter's education and to ensure she went to church.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/11904795/Christian-ruled-too-sexist-to-care-for-his-daughter.html>

Eve Stand

The Revd Rosemarie Mallett of St John the Evangelist Church is quoted as part of a series of reports about a week in the life of the Angell Town estate in Brixton, south London.

<http://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/stylish-housing-a-model-redesign-so-what-went-wrong-in-angell-town-a2971676.html>

FT

Reports that the Old City of Jerusalem is overcrowded and its buildings are suffering from the protracted Israeli-Palestinian conflict, in which both sides lay claim to the city as their capital.

http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/c1c94aaa-65d3-11e5-a28b-50226830d644.html?FTCamp=engage/CAP/webapp/Channel_Moreover//B2B#axzz3nNpoa39n

Tel

Reports that the Vatican's cricket team will play a team of Muslims in Yorkshire later this month. They will also play teams from the CofE and the Royal Household.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/vaticancityandholyse/11904368/Vatican-cricket-team-to-play-Muslim-club-from-Yorkshire.html>

Blogs

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