



## **Young people, faith and vocational discernment focus of 2018 bishops synod in Rome**

The theme chosen by Pope Francis for the XV General Assembly of the Ordinary Synod of Bishops taking place in October 2018 will be “Young people, faith and vocational discernment.” A press release from the Vatican

on Thursday said the Pope made the choice after consulting, as normal, with Bishops Conferences, the Eastern Catholic Churches *sui iuris* and the Union of Superior Generals, in addition to having listened to the suggestions of the Synod Fathers from the last Synod and the opinion of the XIV Ordinary Council.

Describing the theme “as an expression of the Church’s pastoral concern for the young,” the statement said the chosen topic follows on from the findings of the recent Synods on the family and the conclusions contained in the post-synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*. It said by discussing this theme, “the Synod wishes to accompany young people along their existential journey towards maturity so that, through a process of discernment, they can discover their life plan and achieve it joyfully, opening themselves up to an encounter with God and humanity and actively taking part in the building of the Church and society.”

## **Church of Ireland concern ahead of next Tuesday’s Budget**

The Church and Society Commission of the Church of Ireland has issued the following statement ahead of the Republic of Ireland's Budget on Tuesday, 11th October:

The Preamble to the Constitution of Ireland acknowledges our accountability to God and indicates a commitment to implementing Christian teaching and values in social and economic policy, including standing up for the poorest in society.

At a time of crisis in homelessness and health care, there is a need to ensure that the level of taxation reflects fairly the level of income and that tax policy contributes to improved public services and a reduction in inequality. We would have concerns about any plans to move towards the abolition of the universal social charge, which has been recognised as a fair and progressive form of taxation.

The Archbishop of Armagh, The Most Revd Dr Richard Clarke, has recently called on political and other leaders to consider how to seriously address social inequalities and improvements to public services, including the challenges of reducing poverty and increasing public finances.

Archbishop Clarke proposed that it is time for 'serious, reasoned and reasonable discussions' on taxation. The Budget for 2017 provides an opportunity to make a start on that debate.

## **Task force demand and Masses in response to Longford job losses**

The Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnois, the Rt Rev Francis Duffy has stated, "I am very shocked to learn that 170 skilled jobs will be lost at the Cameron plant in Longford. This is a terrible blow to the employees, to their families and to our local economy."

Bishop Duffy called for a response from government. He commented ."The fallout from this announcement will have a devastating impact on the fabric of our local community, and on the dignity of those who are to lose their jobs. Relative to other regions, Longford and the midlands have been neglected in terms of State economic support. Today I am calling on the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise & Innovation, Ms Mary Mitchell O'Connor TD, to immediately establish a dedicated task force which should include representatives from the IDA and

Enterprise Ireland, and to report by the end of November on possible ways to secure future employment for those affected.”

This weekend, special prayers will be said at Sunday Masses in Longford parish and in neighbouring parishes for all those whose livelihoods are affected.

## **Christian Aid continues to work towards peace in Colombia**

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The vote was the culmination of four years of negotiations which would have seen an official peace deal reached after more than 50 years of conflict.

Thomas Mortensen, Christian Aid Country Manager in Colombia, said: “This vote casts huge uncertainty over the peace process. The rejection of this peace deal for Colombia could mean a missed opportunity to end one of the world’s longest conflicts and work towards a more equal society. Those that opposed the agreement, the FARC and the government must work to find a solution for peace in Colombia.

Mr Mortensen continued: “We are however very hopeful that a peaceful solution can be found. Even during this period of uncertainty, it’s hugely important that the cease fire with the FARC is maintained so that the parties have time to find a political solution.

“Despite the results of the vote, Christian Aid and our partners in Colombia will continue to work for a negotiated solution to the armed conflict. We must not lose hope but redouble our efforts to build peace in Colombia.

“Our message to the world is to not give up on Colombia. Now more than ever Colombia needs the engagement of the international community. The UK has played an important role supporting peace in Colombia and we urge the UK government to do even more to build peace in the country.”

For more than half a century, Colombia has been devastated by an internal armed conflict. Almost a quarter of a million people have been killed, there are an estimated eight million victims and at 6.9 million the country has the among the world’s largest number of internally displaced people.

The FARC are not the only group responsible for crimes over the last five decades. Right-wing paramilitaries and the army, acting in collusion with each other or individually, have been responsible for the vast majority of serious human rights violations.

## **News briefs**

**+++ Cork Youth Cape Clear weekend** - The annual Cork Diocesan Youth Council (CDYC)

weekend on Cape Clear Island (Oileáin Chléire) took place from 23rd to 25th September last. Cape Clear Island is the most southerly point of Ireland. Facing severe weather forecasts, 20 young people and 4 leaders set off from Baltimore on Friday evening. The crossing was rough but all fared well. The weekend was full of activities, and the weather turned out to be very good, with a lovely sunny day on Sunday. Activities included jumping off the pier, walking, challenges, and games. There were also a series of talks on characters of the Old Testament: Moses, Joshua and Gideon. On Sunday, the rector of the Parish of Abbeystrewry Union (which includes Cape Clear) the Reverend John Ardis travelled out to the Island to celebrate Holy Communion. He was accompanied by a number of parishioners from the mainland, and, along with the visiting youth, they were joined at the Service by some of the Island's residents.

### **+++ Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland**

- Forthcoming Talk - 'The Rev Jonathan Simpson of Portrush' Mission worker in the south and west of Ireland, biblical expositor and evangelist, leader in the 1859 Revival and Father of the Portrush Lifeboat. By Rev Dr Joseph Thompson. On: Saturday 15 October 2016 at



2.30pm. In: Portrush Presbyterian Church, 1 Main Street, Portrush BT56 8BL. Everyone welcome. Refreshments provided

**+++ Church Music Dublin new syllabus launch** - You are invited to attend Evening Prayer in Monkstown Parish Church. on Sunday 16 October 2016 at 4 pm. The revised syllabus for the Archbishop of Dublin's Certificate in Church Music will be launched during the service. Present and former students will play the organ. Light refreshments will be served following the service. The Archbishop of Dublin's Certificate in Church Music (ACCM), alongside the less demanding and recently added Foundation Course, offers specialised, relevant, skills based education for church musicians.

**+++ Sharing her journey** - Sr Martina Purdy will be the special speaker at Interdenominational Divine Healing Ministries' service in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, on Monday 17th October at 8pm. Martina will share on her journey from a 'dream job' as a BBC News journalist to her life now as an Adoration Sister, which she has described as truly 'living the dream'. Worship will be led by the music group from West Church, Bangor. Personal prayer and anointing with oil

will be available at this service. Come and be inspired to 'live the dream' that the Lord has prepared for you. Born in Belfast and raised in Canada, Martina Purdy started in journalism in 1991 and initially worked as a journalist with the *Irish News* and *Belfast Telegraph*. She was a political correspondent with BBC Northern Ireland between 1999 and 2014, when she announced her decision to enter her new vocation with the Adoration Sisters.

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

### Orangeman 'will not attend' cathedral service involving new Catholic canon

Irish News

<http://www.irishnews.com/news/2016/10/06/news/senior-orangeman-will-not-attend-cathedral-service-involving-new-catholic-canon-723242/>

### Hate crime has become a fact of life in Ireland' - Fianna Fáil

Irish Times

**Ireland** is one of the few EU member states without effective hate crime ... ethnic and **religious** composition of **Irish** society, she noted that to some, ...

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/politics/oireachtas/hate-crime-has-become-a-fact-of-life-in-ireland-fianna-f%C3%A1il-1.2817165>

[churchnewsireland@gmail.com](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.com)

## **Minister hits out at treatment of Troubles' victims during service**

Belfast Telegraph

The Rev Alan Irwin told those who were gathered at Colaghty **Church of Ireland** in Lack that victims have been promised much during the peace ...

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/minister-hits-out-at-treatment-of-troubles-victims-during-service-35097688.html>

## **Ardoyne parade negotiator linked with bid to resolve Drumcree**

Belfast Telegraph

Every Sunday a number of lodge members walk from Drumcree **Church of Ireland** to a nearby small bridge, where they hand in a letter of protest to ...

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/ardoyne-parade-negotiator-linked-with-bid-to-resolve-drumcree-35100009.html>

## **Prince Charles visited his grandmothers grave in Jerusalem**

Jewish Press

<http://www.jewishpress.com/news/breaking-news/prince-charles-quietly-visits-grandmothers-grave-in-jerusalem/2016/10/04/>

## **Tel/Christian Today/Mail Online**

Reports that the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Pope have publicly pledged to press on

towards the full reunification of the Roman Catholic and Anglican churches - while admitting they “do not yet see” a solution to differences over the female clergy and sexuality. In a joint declaration in Rome, where they led prayers together, they spoke of decades of progress on reaching common ground on the major areas of disagreement but acknowledged there were still “serious obstacles” to full communion.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/10/05/welby-and-pope-francis-set-sights-on-reunification--but-no-way-a/>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/ap/article-3823828/Pope-Anglican-leader-celebrate-50-years-dialogue.html>

## **Times**

Reports that the Archbishop of Canterbury has backed comments on refugees made by the Archbishop of York, saying Britain’s hospitality to migrants must not come at the cost of “fragile communities in our own country”. He was answering questions during his trip to Rome (see above).

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/refugees-welcome-but-the-poor-must-not-suffer-says-welby-mb8d8mzg0>

## **Times/Tel/Mail Online/Exp/ Lancs Evening Tel/ Premier**

Reports that a coroner has halted an inquest into the death of a newborn baby boy at a vicarage after new evidence emerged revealing that he could have been saved if the mother and her father had called paramedics earlier. Alan Wilson, coroner for Blackpool and Fylde, referred the case of Jonathan Percival to the director of public prosecutions (DPP).

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/vicar-and-daughter-face-murder-charge-mwzjgvm6p>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/10/05/inquest-into-baby-death-at-vicarage-halted-as-coroner-refers-cas/>

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3822851/Inquest-death-newborn-baby-Jonathan-Percival-opens.html?](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3822851/Inquest-death-newborn-baby-Jonathan-Percival-opens.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

[ITO=1490&ns\\_mchannel=rss&ns\\_campaign=1490](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3822851/Inquest-death-newborn-baby-Jonathan-Percival-opens.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/717836/Police-inquest-death-baby-boy-vicarage-Lancashire>

<http://www.thisislancashire.co.uk/news/14784096.Inquest-into-baby-s-death-at-vicarage-halted/?ref=rss>

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Inquest-begins-after-baby-discovered-dead-in-vicarage>

## Comment

**Spectator:** Simon Jenkins, "Why Cathedrals are soaring?"

<http://www.spectator.co.uk/2016/10/why-cathedrals-are-soaring/>

**Open Democracy:** The BBC must improve its religious affairs coverage with ref to COFE response to BBC White Paper

<https://www.opendemocracy.net/bbc-must-improve-its-religious-affairs-coverage>

**Mail:** Peter Hitchens: "Has the 1662 Prayer Book become a subversive text? A service in memory of George Bell."

<http://hitchensblog.mailonsunday.co.uk/2016/10/has-the-1662-prayer-book-become-a-subversive-text-a-service-in-memory-of-george-bell.html>

## Blogs

'Poetry gives us a way of reading the world'

<http://cofecomms.tumblr.com/post/151398012257/poetry-gives-us-a-way-of-reading-the-world>

How and why to embrace those living with dementia in your church

<http://cofecomms.tumblr.com/post/151339742952/how-and-why-to-embrace-those-living-with-dementia>

How chaplains and the Mothers' Union support dementia patients in hospital

<http://cofecomms.tumblr.com/post/151377543077/none-of-us-is-the-perfect-image-of-god-we-meet>

**The Art of Uncertainty:** I'm sorry, I haven't a clue

<https://theartofuncertainty.com/2016/10/05/im-sorry-i-havent-a-clue/>

**7 Minutes:** God on the web

<http://7minutes.net/blog/christians-on-the-internet/>

**Apples of Gold:** Dog-collar dilemma part 2

<http://www.pickingapplesofgold.com/dog-collar-dilemma-part-2-uniform-vs-individual-style/>

**Think Theology:** The ten commandments are everywhere

<http://thinktheology.co.uk/blog/article/the-ten-commandments-are-everywhere>

**Psephizo:** When is God coming on the clouds?

<http://www.psephizo.com/biblical-studies/when-is-god-coming-on-the-clouds/>

**Archbishop Cranmer:** The Spectator brands Justin Welby liberal left for seeking Islamist understanding

<http://archbishopcranmer.com/the-spectator-brands-justin-welby-liberal-left-for-seeking-islamist-understanding/>

**Law and Religion UK:** Sacking of remarried teacher not a violation of article 8 ECHR

<http://www.lawandreligionuk.com/2016/10/05/sacking-of-remarried-teacher-not-a-violation-of-art-8-echr-travas-v-croatia/>

**Threads:** What goes through your mind when you're caught up in the aftermath of a brutal massacre

<https://www.threadsuk.com/what-goes-through-your-mind-when-youre-caught-up-in-the-aftermath-of-a-brutal-massacre>

**The Wee Flea:** Anthropoid - film of the year

<https://theweeflea.com/2016/10/04/anthropoid-film-of-the-year/>



**Brightest Day:** When Jesus is challenging  
[https://bengarry.wordpress.com/2016/10/01/  
when-jesus-is-challenging/](https://bengarry.wordpress.com/2016/10/01/when-jesus-is-challenging/)

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