



Fr Peter McVerry, SJ

Ireland has biggest homeless crisis since the Famine

Last year was the busiest ever for the Peter McVerry Trust which saw a 40% increase in the number of people supported in housing. We have more homeless people in Ireland now than at any

time since the Famine according to Fr Peter McVerry.

He wants the Government to place compulsory purchase orders (CPO) on the most suitable of the 186,000 vacant privately owned properties in Ireland.

According to the Jesuit it is cheaper and quicker to bring unused houses into use than to build from scratch.

Speaking on RTE's *Drivetime* Fr McVerry said, "The Minister's (for Housing, Simon Coveney) plan for homelessness and housing is a very comprehensive plan, it is better than any plan we have had before but it's not radical enough. We have an enormous crisis."

He added, "We had 1,000 homeless children a year ago, now we have 2,000 – so we have a crisis, a crisis that is way beyond resolving by small measures we need much more radical action than the Minister is proposing."

When asked how many houses should be bought by CPO he said 16,000 for a start rather than the 1,600 proposed by the Minister's plan (but not necessarily by CPO).

Fr McVerry said that although the Government might be challenged in court about CPO on private houses, he would expect the courts to rule in favour of what is for the common good, and allow for the purchase of empty houses for the homeless.

It also completed three major housing projects last year bringing vacant units back into the housing system.

Among these were 26 apartments, offering homeless people accommodation for life bringing the total number of apartments at year end to 132.

These are just some of the details in the Peter McVerry Trust Annual Report 2015 published in Dublin on August 30.

Some figures in the Peter McVerry Trust Annual Report 2015:

- 4,705 unique individuals across its services in 2015.
- 8,427 participant engagements across all services marking an increase of 89% on the previous year. (This reflects intensive supports with clients accessing multiple services)
- 31 – Average age of client group.

Poppies from Tower of London in parish's new war memorial

Some fascinating stories about a War Memorial erected midway through World War One in St John's Church, Donegore, near Templepatrick, will be related when the parish takes part in European Heritage Open Days on September 10 and 11.

The Parish in Connor Diocese will also be displaying its new War Memorial, created from poppies from the 2014 centenary display at the Tower of London and oak from northern France.

As part of its European Heritage Open Days programme, St John's will tell the stories of the men from the Parish of Donegore who served in the First World War.

For many years, on Remembrance Sunday, the poppy wreath in St John's was laid beside a framed Roll of Honour which had been created in 1916. The Roll of Honour names 43 men, connected with the Parish of Donegore, who served their country in the Great War. It includes the Rev Charles Newell who was Vicar of



Templepatrick and curate-in-charge of Donegore and who served as Chaplain to the Forces.

Parishioners have long been fascinated by the Roll of Honour and its significance, mainly because it was created two years before the end of the war and includes the names of men who returned home – such as Rev Newell. So clearly it was not a War Memorial as such.

The answer to many of the queries have now been found by new parishioner and historical researcher, Mr Michael Nugent. Michael has prepared information packs about each man named (and for three others who are buried in churchnewsireland@gmail.com

the churchyard but are not mentioned on the Roll of Honour) which tell about their home lives, where they served in the war, and whether they returned home or not.

The result is some fascinating stories (and a few even more fascinating unanswered questions). These will form the core of St John's display on the Open Days.

The parish will also be showing its new War Memorial, created from four of the poppies from the 2014 Centenary display at the Tower of London set into a piece of oak from Northern France, in the region of some of the battles that the men of Donegore fought in. The memorial was created by Mr Albert Patterson and is the gift of Mrs Pat MacKean.

St John's will be open from 2pm to 4pm on Saturday September 10 and Sunday September 11 in conjunction with European Heritage.

Bethany Children's home man takes case to European court

A man who said he suffered serious neglect at a children's home in Ireland is hoping to have his

case heard at the European Court of Human Rights.

Derek Leinster, 75, who was born at Dublin's Bethany Home in 1941, has campaigned for Protestant homes survivors to receive the same rights as those from Catholic institutions.

Mr Leinster, now living in Rugby, said his unmarried mother was at the home.

A Commission of Investigation inquiry is due to report by early 2018.

Papers have been lodged with the European Court of Human Rights and Mr Leinster and his solicitors are now waiting for a ruling. The Church of Ireland has not commented.

More than [220 children died in Bethany](#) between 1922 and 1949.

Mr Leinster, who was adopted aged four, said he contracted gastroenteritis, diphtheria, whooping cough and pneumonia at the Protestant-run home, which closed in 1970.

After revelations of child physical and sexual abuse over decades in various Catholic-run institutions, the Irish government set up a

compensation scheme for the survivors of, amongst others, industrial schools and orphanages. Mr Leinster wants an apology and compensation from the Irish government and Church of Ireland.

He said: "I want what is right and I want it not just for me but for Ireland." The Irish government said the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes was established in February 2015, to find out what happened to vulnerable women and children in 14 homes, including the Bethany Home, from 1922 to 1998.

"In the absence of all relevant information it is not possible for the State to consider the aspirations of some for financial redress in respect of the matters within the scope of the investigation," it said.

"[In 1999] the then Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, issued an unreserved apology on behalf of the State to all victims of child abuse."

Cows Week in Derry and Raphoe

It is going to be Cows' Week with a difference later this month when rectors and their teams gather to find out more about Derry and

Raphoe's strengthening link with the Diocese of Butere in Kenya – including the scheme to buy cattle for parishes there.

Parishes throughout the Diocese of Derry and Raphoe are being invited to a 'Butere Information Evening' which will take place in Glendermott Parish Hall on the last Tuesday of the month.

The meeting has been arranged to bring clergy and parish teams up to date about the developing link with Butere and to let them know how the cow project is progressing. Archdeacon Rose, from Butere, will give an overview of life in her Diocese. A video will be shown, too, detailing aspects of ministry there, particularly in terms of youth, children's and women's ministry.

While the meeting will focus initially on equipping the church in Butere with cattle so that it move towards self-sustainability, it will also explore other ways in which the two dioceses might share and grow together.

We hope to have some resources ready for teams to take back to their parishes. Each parish is invited to bring a car-load of people – of all ages – to the event in Glendermott Parish Hall on Tuesday September 27, from 8.00-9:30pm.

Wedding Outfit Exhibition in North Strand Church

Drumcondra and North Strand, Dublin, are celebrating 120 years of the union of their parishes with a wedding outfit exhibition. The exhibition will feature wedding outfits down through the decades as well as a display of wedding photographs. It will take place in North Strand Church, North Strand Road, Dublin, from Friday September 30 to Sunday October 2.

Preparations for the exciting weekend are gathering momentum and the organisers have received great interest from all over the Dioceses. They have been offered wedding outfits from many decades but are still seeking items from the 1940s.

They are also still hoping to hear from anyone who has photos of weddings that took place in either Drumcondra Church or North Strand Church to include in the display for the weekend.

The exhibition will be officially opened on Friday September 30. Throughout the weekend it will open from 5pm to 8pm on Friday; from 10am to 5pm on Saturday; and from 2pm to 6pm on

Sunday. The event will conclude with a Songs of Praise on Sunday October 2 at 7pm.

Admission to the exhibition will be €10 and there will be refreshments available.

How to watch live coverage of Mother Teresa's canonisation

The canonisation of Mother Teresa of Calcutta will take place on September 4 2016.

The Catholic Herald is broadcasting full live coverage of the canonisation, via the Vatican's YouTube channel. It will be available [here](#).

Pope Francis will declare Mother Teresa a saint in St Peter's Square at the Vatican during the canonisation Mass. The Mass will start at 10.30am local time. That's 9.30am UK time.

For a full schedule of events for the canonisation, [go here](#).

Cathedral and choral

+++ New post for Belfast Cathedral cleric -

The Rev Campbell Dixon MBE, who has been a churchnewsireland@gmail.com



valued member of the Cathedral Clergy team for five years, will be leaving in October to take up the position of Priest-in-Charge of St Mark's Parish, Ballysillan.

Campbell's ministry in St Anne's has focused on pastoral ministry and administration.

"They have been five very happy years, with challenges along the way," Campbell said. "I have met so many nice people and I appreciate

all the support and encouragement I have received. One of the blessings is when people invite you into their lives at times of sadness and illness and also at times of celebration. That is a wonderful privilege.”

Campbell grew up in and was a member of Ballyscullion Parish near Toomebridge. He studied Personnel and Human Resource Management at the University of Ulster, and has a Master’s Degree in Human Resource Management.

He worked with the police service for 33 years before training for ordination at the Church of Ireland Theological College, and was curate in St Patrick’s, Jordanstown, for four and a half years before his appointment to St Anne’s Cathedral. Campbell is married to Jacqui.

Looking ahead to the move, Campbell said: “St Mark’s will be a new challenge. I am looking forward to working with parishioners and to taking the parish forward in the next chapter of its history.”

Paying tribute to Campbell, the Dean of Belfast, the Very Rev John Mann, said: “We shall miss

Campbell very much. He has served St Anne's with distinction for five years and we wish him well in his new position."



An anti-gun-violence mural was painted on the exterior of Christ Church Cathedral in downtown Cincinnati as part of the cathedral's efforts to address gun violence.

+++ US cathedral takes aim at gun violence -

Seven people have been killed in Cincinnati, Ohio, by gun violence in the month of August alone. In 2016, there have been 63 homicides in this city of 300,000 people.

Christ Church Cathedral has responded by placing a 20-by-24-foot mural on its building's south side façade at a busy intersection in the city's downtown business district.

The mural, created in partnership with ArtWorks Cincinnati, a non-profit organisation that trains youth to create art for public impact, depicts a group of young men holding pencils that resemble guns with grips, triggers and magazine.

“The juxtaposition of an image that looks like a gun but is actually a pencil is the artist inviting us to imagine what might be possible if weapons were transformed into something quite different,” said the Very Revd Gail Greenwell, dean of Christ Church Cathedral.

The piece, designed by urban artists Icy and Sot, joins a series of banners and signs showing a young child erasing the image of a gun drawn on a chalkboard. These yard signs and vinyl banners, which reinforce the importance of education, are placed at homes and businesses hit by gun violence.

[WATCH: Moving RTE clip of dementia sufferer's joy as he sings in choir](#)

Irish Independent

Kildare Pastimes **Choir** is one of the highlights of the week for Tommy ... This clip, which will be aired on RTE's Keeping **Ireland** Alive: The health service ... to be upset' - Moving scenes of **Irish** woman's devotion to her sick...
TV News.

<http://www.independent.ie/entertainment/television/tv-news/watch-moving-rte-clip-of-dementia-sufferers-joy-as-he-sings-in-choir-35003796.html>

News briefs

+++ Ordination of Priests in Connor Diocese -

A Service of Ordination of Priests in Connor Diocese takes place in St Patrick's, Ballymena, on Sunday September 4 at 3.30pm. Denis Christie is to be ordained to serve as curate in the Parish of Ballymena; Aaron McAlister to serve as curate in All Saints', Antrim and Isobel Hawthorne-Steel will serve as curate in St Paul and St Barnabas.

+++ Royals relative moves closer to

sainthood - A relative of Princess Diana, Prince William and Prince Harry has moved one step closer to sainthood. According to reports from the Catholic Herald, a 20-year investigation into the life and works of Father Ignatius Spencer has recently been approved by Vatican historians.

The positio, or document used in the process to declare someone “venerable,” has officially been passed to the theologians of the Vatican Congregation for the Causes of Sainthood. If sufficient “evidence of sanctity” is found, they will appeal to Pope Francis to declare the Passionist priest “venerable,” the second of four major steps on the path to canonization as a saint in the Catholic Church. Fr. Ignatius Spencer was born George Spencer in 1799 and was an Anglican clergyman in the area of Althorp, Northamptonshire, where Lady Diana was buried after she was killed in a Paris car crash in August 1997. Fr. Spencer converted to Roman Catholicism at the age of 31, scandalizing some in the Victorian society.

+++ Armagh institution tonight - Revd Iain Jamieson, Curate of Ballymena (Kilconriola) and Ballyclug, in the Diocese of Connor will be Instituted as Rector of the Drogheda, Ardee & Kilsaran Unions tonight Thursday 1st September 2016.

+++ Rector – Parish of Ballynure and Ballyeaston (Ballyclare) - Enquiries are invited from clergy in respect of the above mentioned Incumbency which is vacant. This is a united

parish of two churches in the growing areas of Ballyclare, (St John's) and Ballynure (Christ Church). The parish has over 350 families and undertakes a variety of ministries to people of all ages....We are seeking to appoint a rector who will be able to offer strong pastoral care to parishioners of all ages.

- provide clear biblical teaching and discipleship.
- equip and encourage evangelical mission and outreach in the local area and beyond
- effectively lead, encourage and develop both staff and volunteer workers in the parish
- facilitate both contemporary and traditional worship.
- develop the existing vision strategy for the parish.
- work within the Connor Diocesan Strategy.

Further information including a brief parish profile is available on request from Mrs Tracey Taggart, Church of Ireland House, 61-67 Donegall Street, Belfast, BT1 2QH

Email: ttaggart@diocoff-belfast.org Enquiries should be received by Monday September 12, 2016.

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

'Our school lost the best teacher in the world'

Independent

Community 'rocked to the core' after murder-suicide

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/our-school-lost-the-best-teacher-in-the-world-community-rocked-to-the-core-after-murdersuicide-35009306.html>

Full life of Peter Barry remembered at dignified ceremony

Irish Examiner

... Ó Mathúna, Fr Pat O'Herlihy, Fr Pat O'Mahony, and Fr Christy Fitzgerald, with **Church of Ireland** Bishop of Cork, Dr Paul Colton, also presiding.

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/ireland/full-life-of-peter-barry-remembered-at-dignified-ceremony-418390.html>

212,210 people claiming Disability Living Allowance in Northern Ireland

Belfast Telegraph

Numbers up by up by 6,600

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/212210-people-claiming-disability-living-allowance-in-northern-ireland-up-by-6600-35010028.html>

French church attack: Faith leaders call for more security

BBC News

The Catholic daily La Croix also declares that "responding to hatred with hatred would mean that evil has triumphed", while the left-of-**centre** Liberation maintains that "the war that Islamic State is waging against us is not a war against France, it is ...
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-36901897>

[Knifemen 'shot dead' after hostage siege at French church](#)Aberdeen Evening Express

[Priest killed as knifeman storm church and take hostages in Northern France](#)Liverpool Echo

Normandy attack: UK churches should have guards following Rouen priest killing, says intelligence expert

The Independent

He said: "Both the police in the UK and **church** authorities should review the security of **churches**. The reality is not that a **church** has suddenly become a new target and nothing else - there is virtually nothing else in the UK that is not a target, with ...
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/france-church-attack-normandy-rouen-latest-news-isis-jacques-hamel-priest-a7157576.html>

[French church attack: Faith leaders call for more security](#)BBC News
[Isil knifemen who 'slit 85-year-old priest's throat' and took nuns hostage shot dead as second victim fights for life](#)Telegraph.co.uk

[French church attack: What we know](#)BBC News
[Middle East Eye -Aberdeen Evening Express](#)

York Press

Reports that the Archbishop of York will be joined by TV personality Warren Furman (Gladiator Ace) when he takes part in his *Crossroads Mission* in the Blackburn Diocese from 8-11 September (see above). Archbishop Sentamu, together with all of the Bishops of the Northern

Province and their teams, will be working alongside youth workers, ordinands and clergy.

http://www.yorkpress.co.uk/news/14712285.Gladiator_joins_archbishop_on_latest_mission/?ref=rss

BBC

Reports of the court case at Truro Crown Court of Jeremy Dowling who has denied six counts of indecent assault on a child and two counts of gross indecency with a child. The charges relate to assaults in the 1970s before Mr Dowling became Truro diocesan communications officer but during the time he was a lay preacher at two churches in the Bude area.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cornwall-37225234>

BBC/Tel/Mail/Exp

Reports the suspension of the Very Revd Martin Thrower by the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich after his arrest on suspicion of voyeurism. A statement from the diocese is quoted. Mr Thrower who is also Rural Dean of Hadleigh, was released on police bail until 10 October.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-suffolk-37218596>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/08/30/reverend-suspended-after-being-arrested-on-suspicion-of-voyeuris/>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3765077/Married-Suffolk-clergyman-suspended-arrested-suspicion-voyeurism-wife-vows-support-unconditional-love.html>

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/705161/clergyman-arrest-suspended-voyeurism-rev-martin-thrower-vicar>

Times

A diary item (scroll down) links cricket matches between the C of E and Vatican (one-all with the deciding game to be played in Canterbury next month), with the appearance of the Archbishop of Canterbury at last weekend's Greenbelt Festival.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/a-half-baked-bbc-interview-dnzzx6lgd>

Tel/Exp/Christian Today/Mirror

Reports on new guidance issued by the Home Office on the security of churches. The advice comes in the wake of the murder of a Catholic priest in France. It says churches should have "someone on the door of your church welcoming people into the building during service who can close the front door in an emergency. Make sure that someone is stood by the door before, during and after the service, whilst the congregation is present." Nick Tolson, director of National Churchwatch is quoted.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/08/30/churches-need-bouncers-and-cctv-says-counter-terror-advice/>

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/705534/parish-church-bouncers-doors-prevent-terror-attack-home-office-Father-Jacques-Hamel>

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/experts-fear-isis-terrorist-knifemen-8702162#ICID=nsm>

Christian Today

Further coverage of an initiative by nearly a dozen churches in the C of E to form a new conservative coalition in opposition to same-sex marriage. The move has been welcomed by the Global Anglican Future Conference, Gafcon. In a statement Gafcon UK, "warmly commends the initiative of the Revd Peter Sanlon and

others from a number of parishes in the Home Counties to set up a 'shadow synod'."

Tel/Mail

Reports that a man who caused £40,000 worth of damage to Winchester Cathedral has been jailed for 20 months. Paul Wild stole £10 from a charity donation box, caused damage to mortuary chests, then broke both his ankles as he smashed through its stained glass windows trying to escape.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/08/30/divine-retribution-rampaging-thief-breaks-both-ankles-after-smas/>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3765523/The-wrath-God-Thief-breaks-ankles-jumping-stained-glass-window-escape-40-000-burglary-vandalism-spree-Winchester-cathedral.html>

Mail

Reports that pop songs have overtaken hymns as the music of choice for funerals, according to a report published by undertakers. Frank Sinatra's *My Way* tops the list of popular songs as it becomes less common for mourners to sing hymns. The study among 300 Co-op funeral directors and 2,000 adults also found *The Lord Is My Shepherd*, *Abide With Me* and *All Things Bright And Beautiful* remain frequent choices.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3766145/Pop-goes-funeral-hymns-fade-Frank-Sinatra-s-Way-choice-increasing-numbers-playlist-send-off.html>

BBC/Times

Reports research that suggests children in England are among the unhappiest in the world, behind countries

such as Ethiopia, Algeria and Romania. The Children's Society report, which looked at 15 diverse countries, ranked England 14th for life satisfaction of its young people, ahead of South Korea. More than a third of English children said they had been bullied in school, and half had felt excluded, it found. The Children's Society called for a new law to provide counselling in schools. Ministers said schools were encouraged to have counsellors available and all schools must have measures in place to tackle bullying.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-33984082>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/survey-finds-283-000-girls-who-are-unhappy-with-their-lives-and-looks-096dbltms>

Blogs

Think Theology: Solving problems or making things new

http://thinktheology.co.uk/blog/article/solving_problems_or_making_things_new

Nick Baines: Who is Martin Luther?

<https://nickbaines.wordpress.com/2016/08/29/who-is-martin-luther/>

Psephizo: Does the Bible interpret itself?

<http://www.psephizo.com/biblical-studies/does-the-bible-interpret-itself/>

Archbishop Cranmer: Same-sex marriage/blessing confronts the Church of England with a structural flaw of fatal proportions.

<http://archbishopcranmer.com/same-sex-marriage-blessing-confronts-church-of-england-with-a-structural-flaw-of-fatal-proportions/>

Law and Religion UK: "Undue spiritual influence" - where next?

<http://www.lawandreligionuk.com/2016/08/30/undue-spiritual-influence-where-next/>

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