



Archbishop of Canterbury calls for end to foodbanks, nightshelters in barnstorming TUC address



The Archbishop of Canterbury has used an address to the Trade Union Congress to make an impassioned plea for economic justice for vulnerable and disadvantaged people.

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Beginning with an appeal to the Magnificat, Mary's song at the beginning of Luke's Gospel that speaks of God 'scattering the proud' and 'filling the hungry with good things' – words that drew a ripple of applause – he said the Bible is 'political from one end to the other', though 'we step into dangerous territory when either the left or the right claim God is wholly on their side'.

He called for an end to the rollout of Universal Credit, saying it was leaving people poorer, and hit out at tax-avoiding large companies and the inflated salaries of chief executives.

He warned of the toxic nature of the divisions in modern society, saying: 'Where inequality and profound injustice seem entrenched, insurmountable, it leads to instability in our society: divisions between people, and vulnerability to the populism that stirs hatred between different ethnicities and religious groups, the rise of ancient demons of racism, antisemitism, Islamophobia and xenophobia. And the rise of extremism.'

He spoke of the rise of antisemitism and of the 'anxiety' from his Jewish and Muslim friends about the language they heard used about them.

'That is an anxiety I share,' he said. 'From the left and the right, we have seen language that is insensitive to those who have too often been talked about and less often talked with.'

When any vulnerable group is trolled on social media, he said, 'we are all diminished'.

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He drew applause when he quoted Martin Niemoller's famous lines during the rise of Nazism beginning, 'First they came for the socialists and I did not speak up because I was not a socialist.'

Using words from the prophet Amos as a recurring theme – 'let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream' – Welby called on this and future governments to put his Church's foodbanks and night shelters out of business.

'Five years ago, I said to the chief executive of Wonga that I wanted credit unions to compete him out of business,' he said. 'Well, he's gone.

'Today I dream that governments, now and in the future, put church-run food banks out of business. I dream of empty night shelters. I dream of debt advice charities without clients. When justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream, the food banks close, the night shelters are empty, families and households are hopeful of better lives for themselves and their children, money is not a tyrant, and justice is seen.'

He hit out at levels of household debt, noting that households were now more indebted than they were in 2008 before the financial crash.

That is the result of low pay, an economy that allocates rewards through power, not for labour,' he said.

He referred to the work of Bradford-based debt support charity Christians Against Poverty, who were seeing more and more people caught in debt slavery.

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'More than that, when these charities help them, strengthening their families, working with them to negotiate with their lenders, it has been the understanding that the creditors would contribute so that the charity can help people get their life back on track. A full third of lenders and debt collectors simply fail to contribute. That is not an economic failure of the market, it is a failure of common human decency and values.'

His fiercest criticism was levelled at large companies that avoided paying tax.

'Not paying taxes speaks of the absence of commitment to our shared humanity, to solidarity and justice. If you earn money from a community, you should pay your share of tax to that community,' he said.

'I was in business, and I know that, within limits, its right and proper for people to arrange their tax affairs, and for companies to do so. But when vast companies like Amazon, and other online traders, the new industries, can get away with paying almost nothing in tax, there is something wrong with the tax system. They don't pay a real living wage, so the tax payer must support their workers with benefits.

'And having leached off the tax payer once they don't pay for our defence, for security, for stability, for justice, for health, for equality, for education. Then they complain of an undertrained work force, from the education they have not paid for, and pay almost nothing for apprenticeships. Those are only a fraction of the costs of aggressive tax management.'

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In comments that will infuriate libertarians, Welby said unions were vital for economic and social justice: 'There must be Unions in the gig economy. There must be unions in industries being automated, unions wherever workers are vulnerable. There must be a new unionisation, or, President, there will only be a new victimisation.'

He excoriated the pay differentials between workers and chief executives, pointing out that while for those at lower income levels real earning were virtually the same as they were 20 years ago and lower by seven per cent than they were at the financial crash, but that FTSE 100 chief executives' remuneration had risen by 11 per cent over the last 12 months alone. 'We need genuine living wages that enable people to save more than 10 pounds a month, if they're lucky, and put an end to the days when replacing a fridge or a car tyre is a household crisis. Unions are crucial to achieving real living wages.'

He said only a partnership between governments, civil society – including unions and churches – business and community could 'heal the sicknesses of society now and in the future'.

In questions following his address he confirmed that he wanted to see a minimum wage as set by the Living Wage Foundation – £10.20 in London and £8.75 in the rest of the UK. Noting that he and his family had been reliant on the benefit system when their children were younger, he said: 'There should be a real living wage, enough to live on and live decently.'

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He said he would encourage everyone to join a trade union, including clergy.

Asked about the troubled Universal Credit system, he said: 'It was supposed to reform the benefit system, to make it simpler and more efficient. It has not done that. It has left too many people worse off than they were.' More people were left at heightened risk of hunger, debt, rent arrears and needing to use foodbanks, he said. 'What's clear is that if they can't get it right they need to stop rolling it out.'

His address had been trailed with an interview in which he stressed the importance of trade unions as 'one of the civil society institutions essential to the aim of solidarity, the common good and fully valuing all people regardless of differences in nature and capacity'.

Asked how unions should address declining membership and make themselves relevant to new generations, he replied in terms that would also resonate for the church. He said: 'I would say return to your founding values frequently. What are you here to do? But don't be afraid to change the strategy. How effective are you being? Like us, you also have to let new generations come in and shape the way you do things.'

Last week Welby had been [attacked in right-wing media](#) for his co-authorship of a [report](#) by the Institute for Public Policy Research which called for higher taxes and a reformation of the economy to serve working people better. In an article for the Daily Mail he said bluntly: 'I do not believe we can continue with an economy that works so badly for so many.'

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In advance of his address to the TUC, Justin Welby tweeted a link to [an article](#) he wrote for the Huffington Post in March with the comment, 'I'm often told that Archbishops should "stick to religious and spiritual matters" and "stay out of politics".'

I have a feeling today might be another one of those days, so I'm just going to leave this here.'

In his article, entitled 'Is mixing faith and politics worth the risk?' he notes that five of his predecessors have died violently, three because they were involved in politics – including St Thomas Beckett. However, he continued: 'Jesus was highly political. He told the rich that, unlike the poor who were blessed, they would face woes. He criticised the King as a fox. He spoke harsh words to leaders of the nations when they were uncaring of the needy.'

'He did this because God cares for those in need and expects those who claim to act in his name to do the same. That means action – and words.'

He referred to the part the church played after 1945 in 're-imagining Britain' – the title of his [book](#) – and urged the need for the church take part in forming Britain's values today.

New regional Inter Faith network holds first meeting in Ireland

The inaugural meeting of the Network of Inter Faith European and North American Concerns (NIFENAC) took

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Contributors to the inaugural meeting of NIFENAC in Dublin: Back row: Philip McKinley (DCU Anglican Chaplain), Ms Clare Amos (Diocese of Europe), Archbishop Michael Jackson (Church of Ireland), Dr Ethna Reagan (School of Theology, Philosophy and Music, DCU), Bishop Michael Ipgrave (Church of England), Dr Peter Admirand (Centre for Inter-religious Dialogue DCU), Revd Prof Anne Lodge (Church of Ireland Centre, DCU).

place on Monday (10 September 2018) in Ireland. The meeting was chaired by the Archbishop of Dublin, the Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson.

The meeting was hosted by the Director of the Church of Ireland Centre of Dublin City University (DCU), the Revd

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Prof Anne Lodge, in conjunction with Prof Ethna Regan, School of Theology, Philosophy and Music at the university. This initial gathering engaged people from the Church of Ireland, Church of England and Church in Wales with members of DCU staff and members of the Dublin City Interfaith Forum to share experiences of inter-faith dialogue and plans for development. Also present were participants from Lambeth Palace, the Anglican Communion Office and the Diocese of Europe.

NIFENAC is one of five regional groups which, while operating independently, will feed into the work of the Anglican Inter Faith Commission which was launched at the Primates Meeting in Canterbury in October 2017. The Commission's remit is to bring mutual understanding and to build trust between different faith groups where there is ignorance, fear and hostility.

The Commission will build on the work done in recent years by NIFCON (the Network for Inter Faith Concerns) which latterly was chaired by Archbishop Jackson. Through the five groups which cover the areas of Africa, Oceania, Europe and the Americas, South East Asia and Jerusalem and the Middle East, the Commission will gather research into the engagement of Anglicans around the world with other faiths.

The meeting opened with greetings from the chairperson of the Commission, Bishop Mouneer Anis, the Bishop of Diocese of Egypt with North Africa and the Horn of Africa, and Dr Josiah Idowu-Fearon, Secretary General of Anglican Communion. These were delivered by Bishop Michael Ipgrave of the Church of England who is a member of the Commission.

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Bishop Ipgrave stressed the importance of the regional groups stating that it was not possible to have a global conversation without having local conversations. NIFENAC will seek to engage with Anglicans in North America and Latin America to gather information on their contexts, he said.

Dr Clare Amos (Diocese of Europe) led an illuminating Bible study on 'The Other' based on St Mark 4: 1–41. A further reflection was offered by Dr Peter Admirand of the Centre for Interreligious Dialogue at DCU.

Participants agreed to share their local ecumenically–based Inter Faith Networks; reflect on communications from the Commission; and develop Bible studies on New Testament passages suitable for use in an inter–faith context. They expect to continue to meet annually.

NIFENAC comprises Anglicans and others who share a concern for interfaith issues in their region. Those attending Monday's inaugural meeting included:

Archbishop Michael Jackson (Church of Ireland Archbishop of Dublin); Bishop Michael Ipgrave (Church of England); Adrian Cristae (Dublin City Interfaith Forum); Dr Peter Admirand (Centre for Interreligious Dialogue, DCU); Kat Brealey (Church of England); the Revd Tricia Hillas (Church of England); the Revd Richard Sudworth (Church of England); Katie Hodgkinson (Lambeth Palace); Dr Ethna Reagan (School of Theology, Philosophy and Music, DCU); Swami Purnananda Puri (Dublin City Interfaith Forum); the Revd Dr John Kafwanka (Anglican Commission Office); the Revd Dr Ainsley Griffiths (Church in Wales); the Revd Prof

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Anne Lodge (Church of Ireland Centre, DCU); the Revd Flora Winfield (Church of England); the Revd Bonnie Hills–Evans (Church of England); the Revd Susanne Cousins (Church of Ireland); the Revd Aled Edwards (Church in Wales); Clare Amos (Diocese of Europe); Philip McKinley (DCU Anglican Chaplain); Iman Arslaan Khan (Dublin City Interfaith Forum); and the Revd Myozan Kodo (Dublin City Interfaith Forum).

‘Solution’ reached in Enniskillen memorial stand-off

A ‘solution’ has been agreed for a memorial to the victims of the 1987 ‘Poppy Day’ bombing in Enniskillen to be located “within the gable wall of the Clinton centre”, after a long-running standoff between families and a Catholic trust that owns the land around the proposed site.

Eleven people were killed – including three married couples – and 63 were injured when an IRA bomb detonated during the annual Remembrance service at the town’s cenotaph. Another victim, Ronnie Hill, died after spending 13 years in a coma.

The Ely Centre group commissioned a large stone tablet, which lists the names of the 12 people who died as a result of the blast, with a view to having it on permanent display at the scene of the atrocity.

However, St Michael’s Diocesan Trust owns the land around the bomb site and had decided to reject the proposal, citing a number of concerns. Monsignor Peter O’Reilly, parish

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The Very Rev Kenneth R J Hall of St.Macartin's Cathedral in Enniskillen is pictured with The Rt Hon The Viscount Brookeborough Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Co.Fermanagh, at the unveiling of the memorial for the victims of the 1987 Poppy Day Bomb at 30th anniversary commemorations.

priest of Enniskillen and a director of the Trust, had said the size of the memorial posed “insurmountable” problems for access to the site. He had also said there were issues around maintenance and “liability” for insurance purposes.

Families had expressed hurt and dismay over the stand-off. In May, Steven Gault, whose father Samuel died in the blast, said: “Hurt does not scrape the surface of how we are feeling.”

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He asked: “Why can’t we have a simple, innocent memorial to remember our loved ones murdered by terrorists 30 years ago?”

However, a meeting was held on Tuesday involving “all parties”, chaired by the Dean of Enniskillen Cathedral.

The Very Rev Kenneth Hall said an agreement has now been reached. “Good progress has been made and a solution has been reached by all parties involved to site the memorial within the gable wall of the Clinton Centre subject to necessary approvals,” the Dean said in a statement issued yesterday.

“However we envisage that this work will take time but all parties are committed to work together to complete this matter within a reasonable time scale.” Report courtesy News Letter

DCU Chaplain gives TedTalk in Dublin

Dublin City University Church of Ireland Chaplain Philip McKinley took part in the recent TEDxFulbright talk in front of a packed Tivoli Theatre in Dublin, speaking on the theme, ‘Why every nation needs a Harp’.

The talk was part of a series entitled ‘Notion of a Nation’, which featured nine speakers across a range of disciplines from sexual consent, to equine therapy, to the modern role of the United Nations.

Regional TED Talks regularly take place around the world and each ultimately feed into the main TEDTalk community

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which is based in the United States. The stated purpose of a TEDTalk is to communicate an ‘idea worth sharing’.

Speaking after the talk Philip McKinley said, “There’s an onus on all people of faith, not to simply complain about about how they might feel marginalised, but instead to explore imaginative responses to the ongoing and formative conversations of the public square. If Christians really believe they have some vital to share with humanity, then it’s important that they continuously speak to the key itches of society”.

Philip’s talk explored the historic and contemporary role of the Irish Harp in the formation of Ireland’s values, most especially around themes of inclusion, integration and imagination.

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C of E nuns and monks multiply as young people feed spiritual hunger

In the popular imagination, monks and nuns probably belong in medieval times. But the Archbishop of - Canterbury, Justin Welby, says religious communities are enjoying an unexpected revival.

The Archbishop said that despite society's "commitment-phobia" they have been resurrected, with young Christians increasingly joining for a year, or juggling a religious order with a full-time job. Religious communities offer an "ancient and powerful answer" to loneliness and isolation, he argued.

"With endless options and opportunities for pleasure, distraction, and personal advancement, fewer and fewer of us are willing to commit ourselves to something. Coupled with that, we have seen, in the West, more generally a trend towards people being more isolated, and communities more atomised," he wrote in the *Church Times*.

The Archbishop launched a push to revive the communities in the Church of England in 2013. In February its General Synod heard that they were being modernised, with new-style orders removing many of the strictest rules.

The Archbishop also contrasted the movement with the grand ambition of social media giants to link up millions of people all over the world.

"Last year, the founder of Facebook, Mark Zuckerberg, announced the social media company's vision for "building global community" – no mean feat, with two billion users worldwide.

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“Religious communities come at things from the exact opposite direction: small numbers of people living together and learning to accept each other, in real life, without the possibility of “blocking” those they do not like, or whose ideas they find challenging. Their impact can be enormous,” he said.

Traditional communities have declined but more than 5,000 people are thought to be members of “acknowledged communities”, which do not require members to take a vow of celibacy and allow them to work and live outside of conventional monasteries and nunneries.

New communities have particularly targeted young people between 20 and 35, including the Archbishop’s Community of St Anselm, launched in 2015, and the Community of St Frideswide, in Oxford, which launched on Sunday.

The Rev Kate Seagrave, mission priest to the community, said she was “astonished” by the level of interest from young people. “There’s a real hunger for proper community in a society that is fractured. People feel disconnected from each other.

“There’s a deep, deep hunger for spiritual things.”

Shame over abuse scandals a ‘fundamental stress’ for priests

“When you are the only priest in town, everyone demands your attention,” says Canon Shane McCaughey. “It can mean you go from one emotional extreme to another in a

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short space of time.” - Patsy McGarry writes in the Irish Times.

A Diocesan secretary in [Clogher](#) and newly-appointed parish priest in [Castleblayney](#), Co Monaghan, he was commenting following the announcement that Masses in the diocese are to be reduced by 15 per cent from next month due to a shortage of priests.

We feel the shame greatly and we will carry it forever

Such demands are just one source of stress where priests are concerned, he says. “A lot of angst comes from the dreadful abuse scandals,” which was “right and proper,” he says.

“We are people with the mark of Cain on our foreheads. We feel the shame greatly and we will carry it forever,” he says. “Much greater than that, each of us knows the damage to people of my parents’ generation who had held the church in such high estimation.”

This was, he notes, “a fundamental stress” for priests. But they were “overjoyed” by the World Meeting of Families “and that Pope Francis walked so humbly among us”.

Many priests in Clogher were now well into their 70s and 80s and while people are not blind to this, priests can be “a bit overpowered” at times, he says.

We are in a new place, smaller, more humble. But people who attend want to be there

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The changes were intended “to provide the best opportunities for priests and the community to celebrate together”.

In his own [Mid Monaghan](#) pastoral area, there were 10 priests. “Two are in their 90th year, one is 80, two are 75, and five are under 75,” he said. The retirement age for priests is 75.

At weekends the five priests celebrated five vigil Masses on Saturdays and 11 on Sundays, sometimes assisted by the older colleagues.

Canon McAughey says the changes were short term and would be reviewed in five years’ time. He accepts congregations were smaller.

“We are in a new place, smaller, more humble,” he says. “But people who attend want to be there.”

Demand for church weddings remains high, particularly in rural parishes, but more frequently “a prayer service was possibly more suitable than a Mass” he said.

First Communion, First Confessions, Confirmations and church funerals remain “as busy as ever”.

Pope Francis: Bishops must pray to overcome “the Great Accuser”

“‘The Great Accuser’ has been unchained and is attacking bishops...in order to scandalize the people,” Pope Francis said during his daily Mass homily on September 11.

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Pope Francis gives the homily as he celebrates morning Mass in the chapel of his residence, the Domus Sanctae Marthae, at the Vatican Sept. 11.

While preaching on the day's reading from the Gospel of Luke, Pope Francis lamented that in our times "the Great Accuser" is "attacking bishops" by uncovering their sins "in order to scandalize the people."

According to [a summary](#) of the Holy Father's homily published by Vatican News, Pope Francis called upon bishops to be humble men of prayer and not to "remain distant from the people."

Vatican News quotes the Holy Father:

"The bishop cannot remain distant from the people; he cannot have attitudes that take him away from them... He doesn't try to find refuge with the powerful or elite. No. The "elites" criticize bishops, while the people has an attitude of

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love towards the bishop. This is almost a special unction that confirms the bishop in his vocation.”

Prayer and humility are attributes necessary for bishops as they face “the Great Accuser,” the Pope said:

“In these times, it seems like the “Great Accuser” has been unchained and is attacking bishops. True, we are all sinners, we bishops. He tries to uncover the sins, so they are visible in order to scandalize the people. The “Great Accuser,” as he himself says to God in the first chapter of the Book of Job, “roams the earth looking for someone to accuse.” A bishop’s strength against the “Great Accuser” is prayer, that of Jesus and his own, and the humility of being chosen and remaining close to the people of God, without seeking an aristocratic life that removes this unction. Let us pray, today, for our bishops: for me, for those who are here, and for all the bishops throughout the world.”

Pope Francis was preaching on the day’s Gospel reading, Luke 6:12-19, which recounts the calling of the Twelve Disciples, whom Francis called “the first bishops.”

News briefs

+++Galway institution - The Service of Institution of Canon Lynda Peilow as Rector to the Church of Ireland parishes of Galway and Kilcummin will take place in the Collegiate Church of St Nicholas on Friday September 14 at 8pm, by the Rt Revd Patrick Rooke, Bishop of Tuam, Killala and Achonry. Canon Peilow comes to Galway from Edenderry, with husband Clive and their three children, Chloe, Peter, and Amelie. This is a momentous occasion as she is the

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first woman elevated to this role in the church's almost 700 year history. All are warmly invited to attend.

**PHSI
Library
And
Archive
Open**

+++Presbyterian Historical Society relocates - The PHSI Library and Archive is now open as usual following its relocation to the Ground Floor of Assembly Buildings, Fisherwick Place, Belfast. Email: phsilibrarian@pcinet.org Telephone: 028 9041 7299 (Change of number). Website: <http://www.presbyterianhistoryireland.com>

+++Sudanese bishop killed in aircraft crash - The Anglican Bishop of Yirol, Simon Adut Yuang, was one of 20 people killed when a plane carrying them from the South Sudanese capital Juba crashed into a lake as it attempted to land at Yirol Airport. Reports say that thick fog around Yirol, in the centre of the country, may have played a part in the accident. Only three of the plane's passengers: two children and an Italian doctor, survived. Other victims include a member of the Red Cross in South Sudan. "When it arrived the weather was so foggy and when it tried to land it crashed into Lake Yirol adjacent to Yirol town", regional government minister Abel Aguek was quoted by the AFP

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news agency as saying. “The whole town is in shock, the shops are closed, some people have taken their relatives for burial. It is a commercial plane that crashed.” Local fishermen were first on the scene to rescue survivors and retrieve the bodies of those killed.

