



Primus Chillingworth calls on UK government to act compassion to refugee situation

The Most Rev David Chillingworth, The Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church, in a statement yesterday said :

“The image of the body of a young boy lying drowned on a beach encapsulates the humanitarian tragedy of the present migrant crisis. Daily we watch as people who have

nothing strive with a desperation born of helplessness and fear to reach places where they hope they may have a better life. We understand that questions of migration and immigration are among the major political issues of our times. We need a major public debate about our response and the values which shape it.

“Christians and people of many faiths share a particular concern for the refugee and for the homeless. We call on the Prime Minister and our government to recognise that the scale and the human cost of this situation now demand a response which allows compassion to outweigh immediate political considerations. We cannot continue to accept that children will die on beaches.”

Bishop calls for church and Irish state to co-operate on refugees

The Catholic Bishop of [Limerick Brendan Leahy](#) has called for the State, NGOs, the Catholic Church and other organisations to work together to help find a solution to the ongoing refugees crisis facing [Europe](#).

Irish Times - Such a major interagency and organisation response is required if [Ireland](#) is to have a meaningful impact in aiding the biggest refugee crisis since the second world war, he said.

He also said that a wider strategic review needs to take place in relation to Ireland's handling of asylum seekers generally, with facilities and conditions for refugees falling way below acceptable standards.

“Anyone listening to their conscience now can't but feel challenged by what we are witnessing these days, weeks and months on our television screens and other social media networks. Last month alone, according to reports, a record 107,500 migrants crossed the European borders.

“The word ‘migrant’ could as easily be replaced by ‘refugee’ as over 60 per cent have come from [Syria](#), [Eritrea](#) and [Afghanistan](#), nations in the grip of war and religious persecution. In all reality we are probably looking at over 70 per cent of people crossing into Europe eligible for asylum,” he said.

More at -

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/bishop-calls-for-church-and-state-to-co-operate-on-refugees-1.2338857>

Refugee crisis : Focus on the need, not the numbers - Christian Aid

The media of late has been full of stories of desperate people arriving in Europe, with the press focus largely concentrating on the growing numbers, rather than the conflict, injustice and oppression from which many are escaping.

The public debate which has accompanied such graphic depictions of human need is evidence of how uncomfortable the scenes have made us feel as a nation. But in truth, the reaction of many in the UK and elsewhere in Europe has been far from sympathetic.

The language frequently used to describe those seeking entry to European countries, particularly the numbers stranded in Calais as they try to reach the UK, has been deplorable, both derogatory and de-humanising.

Each year millions of people globally are forced to flee their homes due to violence, conflict and disaster. Most remain displaced within their own countries, but millions of others must cross borders to reach safety, the majority even then remaining in the developing world, hosted by some of the poorest countries in the world.

It is not a new phenomenon - Christian Aid was founded 70 years ago to assist refugees and the displaced in Europe following the Second World War.

Today we support those affected by war and violence in numerous countries, including Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Colombia, providing practical assistance through local organisations embedded in their communities.

Through their aid budgets, the UK and other governments are also contributing significantly to help refugees and the displaced in various parts of the world.

But the need to address the root causes of refugee flows and the migration of the desperate- conflicts, inequality and the impacts of climate change, to name but three – has never been greater.

Many of our local partners are working to tackle violence, build peace and improve governance in the communities where they are based. We support them too in campaigning for justice in areas such as climate change and tax abuse, which exacerbate poverty and require political will to tackle.

While the main focus of our work is in developing countries, we recognise this is not the whole picture, and stand in solidarity with churches and others providing practical support for refugees and migrants here in the UK.

In Europe, we work with partners in the ACT Alliance and other agencies to support practical and political action to help those fleeing, and address the longer-term issues.

We urge governments to play a full and constructive role in efforts to find safe routes, and provide adequate support for refugees worldwide. And we appeal to them to meet fully their own international, legal obligations to all those affected, respecting their universal rights and demonstrating care and compassion rather than just being driven by alarmist headlines at home.

Donors wishing to support refugee relief in Europe can donate to Christian Aid (via our website, www.christian-aid.org) to support work by our ACT Alliance partners. Those specifically wishing to support work in Calais might wish to contact Caritas France (Secours Catholique) at: <http://bit.ly/1Lygc2G>

Syria: 'Refugees' or 'migrants', they are children of God - Open Doors UK & Ireland

http://www.opendoorsuk.org/news/stories/syria_150902.php

Sea Arrivals to Southern Europe - UNHCR

<http://www.unhcr.gr/Arrivals/greece/>

Martin McGuinness makes direct plea to David Cameron to accept more refugees from Syria and Middle East - Belfast Telegraph

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/martin-mcguinness-makes-direct-plea-to-david-cameron-to-accept-more-refugees-from-syria-and-middle-east-31499744.html>

Ireland should accept more refugees and migrants, says Howlin - Irish Times

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/ireland-should-accept-more-refugees-and-migrants-says-howlin-1.2338839>

Germany greets refugees with help and kindness at Munich central station -The Guardian

http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/sep/03/germany-refugees-munich-central-station?CMP=tw_t_gu

EU faces migrant crisis of 'biblical proportions' as Germany registers 3,500 new

refugees in just one day - as it happened on Tuesday September 1 - Telegraph

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/eu/11838521/EU-migration-crisis-as-it-happened-on-Tuesday-September-1.html>

Archbishop to establish Laudato Si prize for schools

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin of Dublin has said he hopes to initiate a Laudato Si prize for schools in the Dublin area to honour an ecumenical project on the care for the cosmos.

Speaking after a liturgy for World Day of Prayer for All Creation at Holy Cross College Clonliffe, the Archbishop said “young people can teach us about doing a lot more” on care for the environment and he added that his generation “don’t really have the same sensitivity” to the environment as the younger generation.

He praised all that was done in schools’ green flags projects and he said he would be working on the details on establishing this new prize.

Calling on Irish society to do more in relation to renewable energy, the Archbishop revealed that he had solar panels installed on his residence



and ensured that the house was properly insulated.

“I think we should all be looking at the ways in which we use the resources of nature,” he said and he appeared to back the ideas that parishes would some sort of energy audit to see how best to conserve energy.

Flanked by members of the Orthodox Churches, Church of Ireland, Quakers and Salvation Army, Archbishop Martin said in his address during the liturgy on Tuesday that the prayer for creation was “a cry to all to develop a totally new and different relationship with the world that surrounds us”.

An ecological spirituality of care for creation is about what God plans for his creation and about the place of each one of us in that plan and therefore an act of faith and conversion and not a concession to political correctness or about turning the Church into a “green NGO”, he said.

Hundreds at court to support Pastor McConnell

Pastor James McConnell, who is 78 and from the Shore Road in Newtownabbey, made the remarks from the pulpit of Whitewell Metropolitan Tabernacle during a sermon last year which was streamed online.

UTV - He is being prosecuted under the 2003 Communications Act.

Hundreds of supporters of the pastor packed Belfast Magistrates' Court during a hearing on Thursday morning.

Defence for McConnell, who has pleaded not guilty, said they have been “inundated” with potential witnesses willing to give evidence on his behalf.



Pastor McConnell outside the Laganside courts on Thursday morning.

“We are working our way through that,” they said.

The case was adjourned until 1 October and as McConnell left Laganside, supporters gathered around him singing hymns.

Pastor McConnell defence team 'inundated with witnesses' who want to give evidence, court told - Belfast Telegraph

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/pastor-mcconnell-defence-team-inundated-with-witnesses-who-want-to-give-evidence-court-told-31499253.html>

Dungannon Methodist Cleric hikes to 15 churches in England on his first day

A minister from Northern Ireland has walked more than 27 miles around 15 churches to introduce himself to his congregation.

Belfast Telegraph - Rev John Purdy who started his new job yesterday - completed the arduous mission having just taken up a ministry at the Methodist churches at Bishop Auckland and Rosemount Road South Church in Co Durham.

The 44-year-old man of the cloth began the 12 hour prayer walk at Cockfield at 7.30am and finished at Heighington before sundown. Speaking to the Belfast Telegraph from his new home in Bishop Auckland, the Dungannon native said he was in remarkably good shape following his exploits.

"I'm totally unfit but I only have a small blister on each foot which isn't too bad," Rev Purdy said.

"We walked somewhere between 25 and 30 miles in total depending on where we got lost or cut corners.

"It was a spiritual experience and it was an honour to pray with people at all of the chapels."

Rev Purdy grew up in Northern Ireland but left, aged 18, to study Pharmacy at Bradford University in England. However, he said he spent too much time with student Christian groups at the expense of his studies.

After being "thrown out of" the course, he ended up in Bangor, Co Down, and spent a year on the Methodist Youth Team, going round all the Methodist churches in Ireland, and then two years as a youth and community worker for Queen's Parade Methodist Church.

"I candidated for the ministry in 1996 and spent three years at Edgehill College at Queen's University," he said. "I trained there while I helped out part-time at Jennymount Methodist Church in north Belfast."

A three-year stint in west Limerick was followed by six years in west Cork and a further seven in Co Donegal, which is where he had been up until now.

His recent move to England was prompted by the ill health of his wife Vanessa's mum and dad.

"This is officially my first day on the job," he said.

"I asked the Irish Conference to give me permission to come to the north east so we could be near Vanessa's parents.

"Her mother Betty, who is about to turn 80, had a stroke last year and her 81-year-old father Gareth has been in and out of hospital recently so it's good for us to live nearby."

His own 80-year-old mother May still lives in Dungannon and his brother Noel (42) is in Stranmillis.

More at -

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/cleric-hikes-to-15-churches-on-his-first-day-31495727.html>

Top Salvation Army honour for actress Roma Downey

Actress Roma Downey is to receive the Salvation Army's highest honour.

The Londonderry-born TV star and producer, will receive the Sally Award at a gala event in Los Angeles next month.

The Sally Award has previously been awarded to Bob Hope , President Ronald Reagan and actress Angela Lansbury.

The glamorous Christian is being honoured for her commitment to helping people in need, the Salvation Army said.

Downey has been involved in films and TV shows with religious themes, including *The Bible* and *Touched by An Angel*.

In *Son of God* in 2014 she played the Virgin Mary. Her latest faith-based series, *Answered Prayers*, hit US TV screens in July.

Derry & Raphoe Youth placement

The age profile of the Diocesan staff has been lowered considerably by the arrival of its newest recruit.

Eighteen year old Eleanor McManus has joined the Diocese as a Student Youth Worker. The young Limavady woman will be attached to Derry and Raphoe Youth (DRY) throughout her three years studying with the Institute for Children & Youth Ministry (CYM), where she is studying Youth and Community Work with Applied Theology.

“I’m really looking forward to the opportunity,” Eleanor said, on her first day in the post.

“Although I’m quite young, I have already been



active in youth work at parish and community level, and even abroad.”

Eleanor, who belongs to Drumachose Parish, attended Central Primary School and then Limavady Grammar. She became a Sunday School teacher when she was 13 years of age and joined her local youth group, ‘Limavady Ducks’, when she was 14. In 2013 and 2014 she was part of the Derry and Raphoe Youth team which went to the Czech Republic. “We ran Holiday Bible Clubs for orphans there. It was challenging but I enjoyed the experience immensely.”

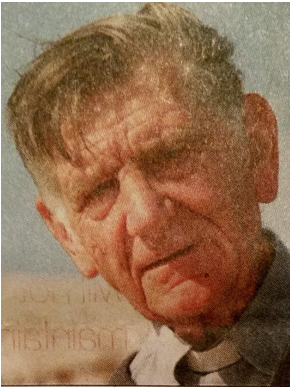
Diocesan Youth Officer Martin Montgomery says Eleanor will work strategically with All Saints Clooney Parish in Londonderry during her first twelve months. “During her second and third years she will undertake new placements around the diocese, reaching more rural areas. Her job is to come alongside parishes, support existing youth work and – where possible – develop new initiatives.”

One of Eleanor’s main tasks will be to raise the profile of youth work in parishes. But she will be working with the Diocese, too, shaping its strategy and vision.

Martin says he is excited by Eleanor’s addition to the Diocesan team. “This is a great opportunity for us to invest in one of our young people who can now go on and contribute to our various churches.”

Parishes who are interested in finding out more about becoming a placement in year two and three should contact Martin at the Diocesan Centre.

Desmond Curran brother of murdered Patricia Curran reported dead in South Africa



The Late Father Desmond Curran

In March this year I wrote a short piece about the murder in 1952 of Patricia Curran ([here](#)). Patricia was the daughter of a judge, the police investigation of her death was thwarted by the judge, a ‘confession’ was obtained from an innocent man who, in a travesty of the legal process, was found ‘guilty but insane’ and incarcerated in a mental hospital for seven years.

Sluggar O\Toole website - This man was Iain Hay Gordon; no explanation was given for his release, though he was required to live under an assumed name. Only in 2000 was he acquitted on appeal.

When I wrote the piece, I noted that Patricia’s brother, Desmond, was then the only survivor and witness of this tragedy, and ended with an appeal for information. Desmond came from a

staunchly protestant family, but some years after her death he converted to Catholicism, later taking holy orders. He became a missionary in South Africa.

I received an email today with a link to [a Facebook page](#). Desmond had remained in S Africa, and had recently died there. He was remembered with affection; and the author only discovered Desmond's story after many years, confirming his view of Desmond, that he had a 'past', that he carried a 'burden'.

A search found [another post](#), a short note dated 25 August 2015, noting Desmond's death — scroll down to read it.

With Desmond's death, it seems that we will never know what exactly happened to Patricia Curran.

Massive mural of Pope Francis to look out over New York

A 225ft tall billboard of Pope Francis has been placed in Midtown Manhattan ahead of the Pope's visit to the city on September 24.

The billboard, on one of the city's busiest intersections, on the corner of Eighth Avenue and 34th Street, is close to Madison Square Garden, where the Pope will celebrate Mass on September 25.

The mural was commissioned by DeSales Media Group, the communications and technology arm of the Diocese of Brooklyn.

Van Hecht-Nielsen, who created the ad, [told the Diocese of Brooklyn's Tablet magazine](#): "My wife (Ashlee) and I were very excited. We are both converts to the faith. "It is wonderful to see the way the pope is touching the world."

Hecht-Nielsen, a parishioner of St John the Evangelist Church in Loveland, Colorado, with 10 years of experience painting billboards across the country, added: "People are getting excited and it is a blessing because I think it sends a message to the community."

The mural includes the public hashtags #PopelnUSA and #PapaEnUSA, and is expected to be seen by 700,000 people each week.

The mural has been attracting the attention of workers and passersby.

"As a tourist, I think it is fantastic. I am Catholic so I am happy to see them doing that mural,"

Chilean Lorena Quezada told diocesan Tablet newspaper. "It is impressive ... I think the Pope is going to like it."

New Yorker Charles Wickliffe said the mural made people think about religion and God.

"It is nice that [Pope Francis] is coming to Madison Square Garden and that people are putting his picture [on the billboard] instead of putting pictures of cars," he said. "I'm looking forward to hearing what he has to say."

Media digest

Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry: IRA murder of Bernard Teggart 'most horrific' case - BBC

The IRA murder of a 15-year-old boy is the "most horrific" case of child abuse being considered by the Historical Institutional Abuse inquiry, it is revealed.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-34130277>

HIA Inquiry: School told abducted boy's sister to call back - BBC

A sister of a boy abducted from school and shot by the IRA in 1973 says his school told her to call back the next day when she asked about his disappearance.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-34136474>

HIA Inquiry: De La Salle order failed to report child abuse claims in 1980s - BBC

A member of a Catholic order failed to report alleged child abuse at a Belfast school at the height of the Kincorea sex abuse scandal, an inquiry is told.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-34136479>

Quilts pay homage to victims of the Troubles - News Letter

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/quilts-pay-homage-to-victims-of-the-troubles-1-6936182>

Sinn Féin politician slams 'partitionist' McDonald's burger - The Journal.ie

http://www.thejournal.ie/mcmor-mcdonalds-sinn-fein-partitionist-2307837-Sep2015/?utm_source=twitter_self

61% of people support easier organ donation in NI - UTV

http://www.u.tv/News/2015/09/03/61-of-people-support-easier-organ-donation-in-NI-44276?utm_source=UTV+feed&utm_medium=twitter

Limerick funeral hears calls for increased rural policing – Irish Times

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/limerick-funeral-hears-calls-for-increased-rural-policing-1.2336155>

Archaeologists in bid to unearth Armada 'graves' - Irish News

<http://www.irishnews.com/paywall/tsa/irishnews/irishnews/irishnews//news/northernirelandnews/2015/09/01/news/archaeologists-in-bid-to-unearth-armada-graves--248322/content.html>

BBC

Reports that Christine Hardman, 64, is to be the 12th bishop for the Diocese of Newcastle. They state she will be seventh woman bishop and the second to be in charge of a diocese.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-tyne-34127420>

BBC

Item on how the Bishop of Lichfield, Jonathan Gledhill, has announced he has Parkinson's disease as he approaches his retirement. It states he will formally step down from his post this month after 12 years as bishop.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-34129679>

Tel (yesterday)

Further report on the Archbishop of Canterbury writing for the Re-imagining Europe website which aims to act as a forum for differing views on the future of the European Union.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/eu/11838521/EU-migration-crisis-as-it-happened-on-Tuesday-September-1.html>

Guard/Ind/Tel/Times

Article discussing the Prime Minister's position on refugees coming into the UK which examines various views on the issue and looks at the position of local authorities over accepting people fleeing persecution in the Middle East. Papers also publish photos of a drowned child on the beach in Turkey - a victim of the ongoing migrant crisis.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/sep/02/david-ferguson-migration-crisis-will-not-be-solved-by-uk-taking-in-more-refugees>

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/sep/02/the-grassroots-response-to-the-refugee-crisis-should-shame-our-government>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/eu/11840069/Image-of-dead-Syrian-boy-captures-human-tragedy-of-Europes-migrant-crisis.html>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/world/europe/article4546099.ece>

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/sep/02/shocking-image-of-drowned-syrian-boy-shows-tragic-plight-of-refugees>

BBC

Report that the British Humanist Society claims schools asking parents for financial contributions may be breaching the law.. A Department for

Education spokesperson is quoted as saying the School Admissions Code says financial contributions - whether voluntary or compulsory - must not be asked for as any part of the admissions process.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/education-34129659>

BBC & ITV

Report that the Venerable Nick Barker, of Darlington's Holy Trinity Church has been forced to sleep in his church after it was repeatedly targeted by metal thieves. It states he hopes his actions will prevent future thefts as restoration work costing £420,000, which was raised in grants and donations, takes place.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-tees-34132959>

<http://www.itv.com/news/tyne-tees/2015-09-02/vicar-forced-to-sleep-in-church-to-stop-thieves/>

Mail

Story of how a British Army chaplain brought back a wood carved inkstand used to sign off victims in Belsen Nazi concentration camp. It says the Reverend Charles Martin King Parsons, from Leicestershire, kept the inkwell in his vestry at Breedon Church, where he was vicar until he died in 1953. It says he was among the first troops to liberate the camp in 1945 and also took a series of photos printed in the report.

Tel

Further article discussing Pope Francis' announcement that he will allow priests to forgive women who have had abortions.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11838591/Catholics-and-abortion-Welcome-to-the-20th-Century-Pope-Francis.html>

And finally...

BBC

Report that the Bishop of Birmingham, David Urquhart will bless an alpaca, bearded dragon and several donkeys to mark the opening of a new zoo.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-birmingham-34132432>

Blogs

Archbishop Cranmer: The social gospel is a legitimate child of evangelism

<http://archbishopcranmer.com/the-social-gospel-is-a-legitimate-child-of-evangelism/>

Internet Monk: Little brave unselfish things

<http://www.internetmonk.com/archive/59269>

Law & Religion UK: Consideration of PCC liability, engagement of amenity societies & c
<http://www.lawandreligionuk.com/2015/09/02/considerations-of-pcc-liability-engagement-of-amenity-societies-c/>

Reimagining Europe: Europe and the shifting boundaries of belonging
<https://reimaginingeurope.wordpress.com/2015/09/01/europe-and-the-shifting-boundaries-of-belonging/>

Psephizo: Complement-Arianism
<http://www.psephizo.com/gender-2/complement-arianism/>

[Christian Today](#)

Harry Farley: EU referendum could leave Britain 'dispirited and divided', Archbishop warns

[Christian Today](#)

Carey Lodge: Seventh woman bishop appointed in the Church of England

New Internationalist

Joe Ware: Where climate change and the church come together

<http://newint.org/blog/2015/09/02/greenbelt-festival-climate-change/>

Huff Post

Philip Christopher Baldwin: The Beginning of my Journey with Faith

http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/philip-christopher-baldwin/the-beginning-of-my-journ_b_7962780.html

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