



## **Irish Church leaders want doors opened to save refugees**

Church leaders have called on politicians here and across Europe to work together to help refugees fleeing conflict zones.

Presbyterian Moderator Dr Ian McNie urged "our own and other European leaders to work together with a real sense of urgency and

solidarity to find ways in which more can practically be done to help those who are currently so helpless.

"As Christians called to welcome the stranger and to love our neighbour, we need to open our arms to those who come to our shores," he said.

The Church of Ireland Archbishop of Armagh, Richard Clarke, called for leaders to work strategically to resolve political problems at their source.

"One way forward in the humanitarian sphere would be to look to the goodwill of local communities to take in and embrace manageable numbers of refugee families in their towns and cities, as others have done," he said.

Methodist Church secretary Dr John Stephens is struggling to see how society can "find a way forward out of the situation".

"There is a sense in which the European Union needs to develop some sort of co-ordinated approach and share responsibility that steps are taken to create a place of welcome and refuge for those who have left their troubled situation," he said.

## **Call for more refugees to be allowed into Northern Ireland - News Letter**

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/call-for-more-refugees-to-be-allowed-into-northern-ireland-1-6939893>

## **Migrants arriving in Northern Ireland 'would face tough situation' - BBC News**

People who work to support refugees and asylum seekers in Northern Ireland say they fear if large numbers of displaced people come to NI they will face a difficult situation.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-34148433>

## **Irish Methodist Church statement on refugees**

The Irish Methodist Church's Council on Social Responsibility have in the light of the current refugee situation have issued the following Statement.:

"For most of us in Ireland images of refugees moving in large numbers to seek a place of safety has been something that happened in other parts of the world. This summer it has been happening in Europe.

In Ireland we are right at the western edge, but we are an integral part of our continent. While we cannot immediately receive those who arrive on

European shores we can ask our representatives in Europe to ensure that sufficient monetary and personnel resources are put in places of arrival, to ensure that an adequate reception system is put in place immediately.

We can also, however, be prepared to welcome people to Ireland. It has been suggested that each town could welcome three families (more in larger centres). We recognise that in large urban areas there is already a housing crisis, so we must think creatively and urgently to find what is needed. In the past, other countries have welcomed Irish people in their time of need.

In comparison with much poorer countries who have found space for refugees we are not being asked to do much. We wish to express to our governments the willingness of members of the Methodist Church in Ireland to give a welcome and support to people who are in such a desperate plight.

We also recognise the need to grapple with the underlying reasons for their flight – through diplomacy, the U.N. and other bodies seeking peace. We acknowledge that this will not be a simple or quick process so, in the meantime, we must also respond to immediate need.

In the words of Irishman, Peter Sutherland, the U.N.'s Special Representative on Migration, 'History will look back on this moment as a moment of failure by Europe as things stand; to stand up for its values or to apply them, that's the bottom line.'

We continue to encourage the Methodist people to pray and offer their financial and practical support for those affected by this unfolding crisis."

## **Statement from the Archbishop of Armagh on the Refugee Crisis**

*The Most Revd Dr Richard Clarke, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, made the following statement on Thursday to the Belfast Telegraph (quoted in part in Friday's newspaper):*

The growing intensity of the refugee crisis and its human cost becomes more and more distressing each day. No-one, especially those who have or have had the care of children, could fail to be utterly moved by the harrowing images which have emerged from Turkey, alongside the constant stream of media images of suffering families and individuals. This is a heart-rending situation involving real people not statistics.

While it is vital to ensure that leaders work strategically to resolve political problems at their source – in the countries where people are fleeing from, and while recognising how extraordinarily difficult that may be – we need to look for both political and humanitarian solutions. One way forward in the humanitarian sphere would be to look to the goodwill of local communities to take in and embrace manageable numbers of refugee families in their towns and cities, as others have done. If people across this island, for example, could welcome refugee families into their communities in this way this could make a real difference to those who have left their homeland far behind in such desperate circumstances.

We pray for wisdom and compassion for those who must make political decisions that so affect the lives of vulnerable and distressed peoples.

## **Urgency and solidarity needed on refugee crisis – Moderator**

The Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Ian McNie has urged European leaders to work together with ‘a real sense of urgency and solidarity’ to find ways in

which more can practically be done to help those fleeing the brutal conflict in Syria.

In a statement Dr. McNie said, “No one can fail to be moved by the desperate plight of those fleeing the brutal conflict in Syria.

“We appreciate that the current refugee crisis is incredibly complex with no easy solutions. We do, however, urge our own and other European leaders to work together with a real sense of urgency and solidarity to find ways in which more can practically be done to help those who are currently so helpless.

“While European leaders need to take action to address the current refugee crisis, they along with other world leaders, also need to find ways to resolve the root causes that make ordinary people flee their homes, often in fear.

“As Christians called to welcome the stranger and to love our neighbour, we need to open our arms to those who come to our shores. We also need to pray for those fleeing the conflict and for wisdom and unity of purpose for governments as they face the very important decisions that need to be taken in the coming days and weeks.”

## **Belfast vigil to highlight refugee crisis**

Vigil to highlight refugee crisis & call for humane action - 5pm Monday 7th Sept, Belfast City Hall  
[#RefugeesWelcome](http://t.co/QxJMHpbM0) <http://t.co/QxJMHpbM0>

A vigil was held in Londonderry this week to demand that the UK opens its borders to refugees.

The Guildhall Square demonstration was organised by the People Before Profit organisation.

Activists in Belfast are staging a 'Refugee Lives Matter - No To Fortress Europe' demonstration outside the EU Commission on the Dublin Road.

## **President of Ireland to visit Enniskillen churches**

THE President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins is to visit Enniskillen on Wednesday September 16.

Fermanagh Herald - In exciting news confirmed (Thursday) by Dean Kenny Hall and Monsignor Peter O'Reilly, the President, accompanied by his wife Sabina will visit the county.



At 3pm on September 16 the president will go to St Michael's Church, before then crossing the street and making the short journey to St Macartin's Church of Ireland Cathedral.

A short service will be held at 3pm in St Michael's Church and after President Higgins will then cross the street St Macartin's to meet and greet a number of people representing both traditions in business, sport and education, as well as representatives of various organisations connected to the churches.

The visit will evoke memories of the visit of the Queen in June 2012.

## **Anglican Provincial Secretaries strengthen bonds at Dublin meeting**

The Eighth Provincial Secretaries Conference is currently drawing to a close in Dublin. The conference of Provincial Secretaries from across the Anglican Communion is an informal meeting organised to assist them in their professional development and to strengthen bonds across the Communion. The last such conference was held in Mexico in 2011.

The 2015 conference in Dublin has been taking Reconciliation as its theme – a key element of the work and priorities of the host province of the Church of Ireland and one of the Archbishop of Canterbury's personal priorities for ministry. Archbishop Justin Welby attended the conference Tuesday, the 1st September to lead a session and a Bible Study and met with delegates over lunch.

The Archbishop of Dublin, The Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson, opened the conference by leading a Bible Study last Friday and the Archbishop of Armagh, The Most Revd Dr Richard Clarke, hosted an evening meal in

Dublin and gave an overview of the history of the Church of Ireland on Monday evening.

During the conference, delegates have given and received reports from each province, including a welcome and introduction to the life and work of the Church of Ireland from Mr Adrian Clements, Secretary General of the Representative Church Body of the Church of Ireland, heard from various representatives from the Anglican Communion Office on practical and missional issues and received a presentation on the theme of Reconciliation from the Bishop of Derry & Raphoe, The Rt Revd Ken Good.

## **Young Fermanagh singer returns to give a parish concert**

Rossorry Parish Church presents 'Andrew Irwin in Concert' on Friday 30th October at 8.00pm.

In September 2012, at the age of 16, Andrew Irwin left Fermanagh to begin studying his A levels in Chethams School of Music, Manchester, studying under mezzo soprano, Helen Francis.

Andrew has now successfully completed his first year on the BMus performance course at Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, studying



under renowned tenor, Adrian Thompson. Andrew looks forward to representing his college in the Kathleen Ferrier Bursary Award in October 2015.

Previous operatic roles include the Defendant (Trial by Jury), Jaffett (Noye's Fludde), Clem and Alfred (The Little Sweep) and Captain Macheath (The Beggar's Opera).

Andrew has performed in venues such as Bridgewater Hall, Royal Festival Hall and St. David's Hall, but he looks forward to giving this recital in Rossorry, as he says it gives him that 'special home feeling'.

Admission is £10. Tickets are available from Lorraine Simpson - tel 028 66 329469 or 07974929303 or email [lgsimpson52@gmail.com](mailto:lgsimpson52@gmail.com) or contact Rossorry Parish Office on 028 66

329889.

Proceeds in aid of the Parish Repair Fund.

## **New Ballycastle Parish Centre opened**

The new Ramoan Parish Centre in the heart of Ballycastle was officially opened by the Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev Alan Abernethy, on Thursday September 3.

This state-of-the-art centre has full conference facilities, disabled access including a lift, a main hall which can accommodate 250 people, and several meeting rooms.

Located at the Diamond, Ballycastle, Ramoan Parish intends the new centre will be a safe and welcoming space for the whole community.

The rector, the Rev David Ferguson, said: “The opening and dedication of Ramoan Parish Centre was a celebration of the new life that this work will bring to the Parishes of Ramoan & Culfeightrin as we face the challenges of mission and ministry in the 21st century.”

David paid tribute to the Select Vestries of the church, past and present, who gave ‘great

leadership to the parish in stepping forward in faith to undertake this project.'

The new centre, adjacent to Holy Trinity Parish Church, is built on the site of the former sextons' bungalow which served as meeting rooms for several years. The bungalow was demolished, and the new building, which includes a church office, kitchen and tea and coffee point, was constructed in its place.

Local groups, including the Alzheimer's Society and the Art Society, are already making use of this new space, and when the summer break ends it will host the parish Sunday School, the indoor bowling club, youth group and Girl Guides.

David said: "It is our desire as a parish that this would be not just our Parish Centre, where we meet to do our things which are important, but would also be a safe and welcoming space in the midst of this community for our whole community.

"As we dedicated it to God, it was our prayer that this building will be used by all sorts of people who wish to build up our common life together – through spirituality, through health and sport, through activities and learning ."

Parish Secretary Brian Dillon said that the parish centre's very central location in Ballycastle, and the quality of accommodation offered, will make it an ideal venue for local groups to hold events, and will also lend itself to catering for events large and small.

Catering was provided at the parish centre for visitors to this year's Lammass Fair, and, in partnership with the Ballycastle Town Market, the driveway to the building proved a great location for a variety of artisan stalls.

## **Belfast Cathedral choir's successful tour in France**

An impromptu recital outside the Cathedral of Notre Dame, Paris, was one of the many highlights of the St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, Choir Tour to France. The tour, in early August, began in the small town of Poligny with a concert in Collegiale Saint-Hippolyte, as part of the 600th anniversary of the church.

Travel delays meant the choir arrived literally as the concert was scheduled to start, their only rehearsal was on the grass verge at a motorway service station en route! The programme included the 'Vierne Messe Solennelle', 'Dupre



***The Choir sings in the Church of St Madeleine in Paris.***

salutaris', the 'Parson's Ave Maria' and a few old favourites, such as Sumsion's 'They that go down to the sea in ships', the 'Rutter Gaelic Blessing', and finished with Parry's 'I was glad'.

The audience gave the choir a standing ovation at the end. The Dean, the Very Rev John Mann said: 'Rarely can I remember such a level of joyful, unbounded appreciation of the choir's singing.' The collection of €1,500 was kindly donated towards the work of the choir and its

tour, and the concert was followed by a reception.

The following day the choir travelled to Paris arriving at 5pm. Disappointed that Notre Dame was already closed, the choir found a piano on the bridge leading to the island site of Notre Dame, and gave an impromptu rendition of Parry's 'I was glad' at full volume, entertaining passing tourists!

'It was simply marvellous, great fun and hugely effective on a hot, sunny summer's evening,' said the Dean.

At Notre Dame itself the choir performed again; this time singing 'View me Lord' by Thomas Campion in front of the great west facade

After a day at EuroDisney, day four of the tour saw a concert in the Church of St Sulpice – the church that featured in the Da Vinci Code. The unaccompanied lunchtime concert opened with Taverner followed by Purcell's 'Hear my Prayer', the 'Parson's Ave Maria' and finally the Bairstow 'Let all mortal flesh keep silence'.

Later the group headed to scale the Eiffel Tower. The final concert was at the Church of St Madeleine in Paris. Here the choir was well



***Members of the St Anne's Cathedral Choir pose for photographs near the Eiffel Tower during their tour of France.***

received and gave its most technically polished performance.

Dean Mann said: 'That, alone, gives us encouragement, as so often a combination of tiredness and seeing the finishing line ahead can spoil what should be the climax to a project. St Anne's Choir, made of stern stuff, pulled out all the stops – to use a musical metaphor – and saved their best until last.'

Master of the Choristers David Stevens said: 'The tour was an excellent example of the talent and professionalism of the singers in the Cathedral's choirs. Not only did they cope with many hours of travelling, but they were able to perform well on little rehearsal, and in sometimes less-than-favourable conditions.'

David added: 'As well as the performing, it has been a great chance for the singers to bond socially, which can only benefit our music-making.'

## **Paradoxology at Electric Picnic**

If you're heading to Electric Picnic this weekend keep an eye out for Greg Fromholz, Pamela Rooney, Scott Evans and their team at Paradoxology at Electric Picnic. The sacred space tent - complete with tea-hab, a prayer wall, an Altar to an Unknown God and a prayer vending machine - will be located on the Arts

Trail. The team of 20 volunteers will be on hand to engage with festival goers about their faith.

## **Christ Church Dublin clergy fundraising for charities**

The Dean, the Very Rev Dermot Dunne ,will once again be participating in Focus Ireland's Shine a Light sleep-out, which this year takes place on the grounds of Christ Church Cathedral on October 16. We hope to raise even more than last year to help tackle the ever-increasing homelessness crisis.

The Dean can be sponsored at <https://www.justgiving.com/The-Very-Reverend-Dermot-Martin.../>

Christ Church's Residential Priest Vicar, Garth Bunting, is running the Dublin Half Marathon on 19 September in aid of Bishops' Appeal. Have a look at the video to find out more and if you can support him in some way (prayer, donations, encouragement) then please do. Follow his Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/lengthofmyself> to follow the training and fundraising progress.

## Sunshine and roses fundraiser for Donegal Parish

The recent 'Open Garden' event, organised by the Moville Group of parishes in Donegal, raised around €1,800 for church funds.

The event took place at the award-winning Foxrock Garden, at Shroove, near Greencastle, and was hosted by Margot Caldwell. Foxrock is the only Inishowen garden included in the Donegal Garden Trail and featured prominently in the August edition of the prestigious Irish Garden magazine.

The Rector of Moville, Donagh, Culdaff and Cloncha, Rev Terry Kerr, says the occasion was a great success. "The Lord supplied the clement weather. The ladies of the parishes provided their legendary refreshments and we were joined by a great number from the local community. As a result, the Moville Group of parishes enjoyed a wonderful day of fun and fellowship."

The proceeds from the event will be used to refurbish the local rectory. Rev Kerr has thanked everyone who supported the event and contributed to the fund-raiser. "In particular, may I express my gratitude to Margot Caldwell, who

was so generous in making her exquisite garden available.”

## Media digest

### **Stormont crisis: Lord Alderdice does not believe return of IMC would be a solution - BBC News**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-34152489>

### **Peter McVerry says hostels are such a disgrace he's been advising people to sleep rough - Journal.ie**

[http://www.thejournal.ie/peter-mcverry-sleep-rough-2310108-Sep2015/?utm\\_source=twitter\\_self](http://www.thejournal.ie/peter-mcverry-sleep-rough-2310108-Sep2015/?utm_source=twitter_self)

### **Retired bishop assaulted by drunken passenger on train - Irish Times**

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/retired-bishop-assaulted-by-drunken-passenger-on-train-1.2339444>

### **Book commemorates 72 fallen war heroes with memorial to be unveiled - News Letter**

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/roamer-book-commemorates-72-fallen-war-heroes-with-memorial-to-be-unveiled-1-6939427>

### **Guard/Times/FT/Tel/BBC/Ind/ITV**

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

Reports that David Cameron has agreed Britain is to take in thousands more refugees from Syria. It quotes the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, who talked about compassion and the harrowing images of those fleeing persecution. *Independent* looks at the response of Hungary's Prime Minister and his hard-line policies on refugees.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/sep/03/cameron-bows-to-pressure-to-allow-more-syrian-refugees-into-britain>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4547019.ece>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/nicola-sturgeon/11841808/David-Cameron-insists-he-cares-about-refugees-amid-criticism-from-Tories.html>

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/3fc9bc42-5250-11e5-b029-b9d50a74fd14.html?siteedition=intl#axzz3kkDjZntU>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4547139.ece>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-34135870>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/refugee-crisis-eu-faultlines-revealed-as-hungarys-pm-warns-of-risk-to-christian-culture-10485403.html>

<http://www.itv.com/news/update/2015-09-03/justin-welby-my-heart-is-broken-over-refugee-crisis/>

## **BBC/Mirror/Mail/Tel/Ind**

Further reports on claims that schools are asking parents for financial contributions breaching the rules on school admissions.

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

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/voluntary-contribution-letters-schools-illegally-6372110>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3221431/Scandalous-number-schools-England-demanding-illegal-financial-contributions-parents.html>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/11841561/Schools-put-pressure-on-parents-for-financial-aid-research-suggests.html>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/state-schools-across-england-are-demanding-money-from-parents-claims-british-humanist-association-10484008.html>

## **BBC**

Report that teachers at Blue Coat Church of England School & Music College in Coventry that was found to have a £1.4m shortfall earlier this year have gone on strike on the second day

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

of the new term. It states National Union of Teachers (NUT) members at said they wanted performance management rules withdrawn.  
<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-coventry-warwickshire-34136698>

## **BBC**

Report that thieves have damaged a newly-restored glass window panel at Beverley Minster and taken a small amount of cash. The Reverend Jeremy Fletcher, vicar of Beverley Minster, is quoting saying the damage to the window could run into several thousand pounds.  
<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-humber-34140265>

## **Mirror**

Further report that the Venerable Nick Barker, of Darlington's Holy Trinity Church has been sleeping in his church to protect a new roof after it was repeatedly targeted by metal thieves.  
<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/vicar-forced-sleep-church-stop-6377549>

## **Mail**

Article on how a Cardiff exhibition of photographs of Muslims, Jews and Christians playing football peacefully, which aimed to show

‘peace through football’, is likely to be boycotted because the pictures had been taken in Israel.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3221924/Fury-Cardiff-Council-cancels-photography-exhibition-Muslims-Jews-Christians-playing-football-pictures-taken-Israel.html#ixzz3kkJdnRQU>

## **BBC**

Report on comments in a video for the Church of Scotland with Scotland's former first minister Alex Salmond in which he says he prefers "people of faith to people of no faith or people who have lost their faith". It states Mr Salmond, who is now the SNP MP for Gordon, also said that he believed all denominations had a key role to play in society.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-34139292>

## **Letters**

### **Times**

Letters on how we should respond to the refugee crisis in Europe, include items from the Bishop of Manchester, David Walker and the Revd Jeremy Putnam, from All Saints Church, Truro.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/letters/article4546704.ece>

## **Blogs**

**Nick Baines:** Refugee crisis in Europe  
<https://nickbaines.wordpress.com/2015/09/03/refugee-crisis-in-europe/>

**Archbishop Cranmer:** Aylan Kurdis' drowning reveals our hypocrisy towards Europe's refugee crisis  
<http://archbishopcranmer.com/aylan-kurdis-drowning-reveals-our-hypocrisy-towards-europes-refugee-crisis/>

**Clerical Notes:** Europe's Shame - The migrant and refugee crisis  
<http://clerical-notes.blogspot.co.uk/2015/09/europes-shame-migrant-and-refugee-crisis.html>

**Opinionated Vicar:** Abraham, Isaac and Jacob spotted at Calais  
<http://davidkeen.blogspot.co.uk/2015/09/abraham-isaac-and-jacob-spotted-at.html>

**Psephizo:** Having the lectionary to hand  
<http://www.psephizo.com/life-ministry/having-the-lectionary-to-hand/>

**Are you a Twitter user?**

**Please click on TWITTER on home page to receive daily headlines from CNI**

**Facebook user?**

**Click on FACEBOOK on home page to receive daily headlines**

**Please share CNI with your friends**