



## **MP condemns republican memorial outside Derry C of I parish church**

**DUP MP  
Gregory  
Campbell**



A Sinn Fein mayor has refused to condemn republican murals in Co Londonderry as tensions rise over painted kerbs and sectarian flags, the Belfast Telegraph reports.

DUP MP Gregory Campbell accused Sinn Fein of being one-sided in its handling of a row over loyalist paramilitary flags in Limavady.

"Sinn Fein's attitude to graffiti, flags etc, has been biased in the extreme," Mr Campbell said.

He made the remarks after Causeway Coast and Glens mayor Brenda Chivers called a meeting for local councillors to discuss ways of dealing with flags, emblems and political displays.

The request came after kerbstones were painted red, white and blue in the Benevenagh Drive area of Limavady and sectarian

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graffiti was daubed on St Mary's Catholic church.

## **Sinn Fein mayor Brenda Chivers**

But DUP councillors refused to participate after learning that no MPs or MLAs had been invited, and that republican murals in Dungiven were not on the agenda.

"Virtually every year Sinn Fein, and the SDLP to some extent, raise these issues as they apply to Limavady, but never in Dungiven," Mr Campbell said.

"Why is there a memorial to murder outside the Church of Ireland on Dungiven's Main Street?"

"Why a huge tribute to terror on a gable wall in the town centre close to the library?"

Mr Campbell, who has requested that the "unsightly" kerb paintings be cleaned up and condemned the attack on St Mary's, insisted that "terror tributes" on Dungiven roadsides must also be removed.

"Is it too much to expect the same level of unified condemnation across the political divide?" he asked.

Tricolours have since been erected in the nationalist Glens estate in Limavady and kerbstones painted green, white and orange in response.

The mayor strongly denied Mr Campbell's accusations of bias, which she branded absurd, although she refused to condemn the republican murals.



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"I'm not getting into Dungiven. I'm a Limavady councillor and it's a separate issue which is unrelated to the current crisis," she said. More at-

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/campbell-accuses-sinn-fein-mayor-of-being-onesided-as-tensions-rise-on-loyalist-and-republican-symbols-37194585.html>

## **Vatican proposed Irish State indemnify it against clerical abuse claims**

Former minister for foreign affairs [Dermot Ahern](#) says a senior [Vatican](#) official sought an agreement in 2004 under which [Ireland](#) would indemnify the [Catholic Church](#) against legal actions for compensation by clerical child sexual-abuse survivors, Patsy McGarry writes in the Irish Times.

“No one forewarned me. I was completely taken aback,” Mr Ahern said of the approach by Vatican secretary of state Cardinal Angelo Sodano.

Revealing details of the meeting for the first time, the former minister told The Irish Times: “The cardinal had just come off a plane from the US where he had successfully concluded claims. It was a very direct question. He wanted to know whether the Irish government would indemnify the Vatican against any similar claims in Ireland. He was as blunt as that.”

Mr Ahern told him that “on no account could I give such an undertaking and that it was a matter that would have to be decided by the government anyhow. I was very annoyed.”



**Former minister for foreign affairs Dermot Ahern. He told Cardinal Sodano “on no account could I give such an undertaking and that it was a matter that would have to be decided by the government anyhow”.**

## **Financial implications**

The cardinal referred to the Irish State’s heavy involvement in education as possible grounds for such an indemnity where the church was concerned. “He referred to the US cases and the potential serious financial implications [for the church] in Ireland,” said Mr Ahern.

“I spoke to him in no uncertain terms about the separation of powers in Ireland and how the Irish State was a Republic and about the redress board [set up to compensate people who had been in religious-run institutions as children].”

The cardinal “knew things were being investigated in Ireland”, Mr Ahern said. At the time, the Ryan commission

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was investigating the abuse of children in orphanages, reformatories and industrial schools run by 18 religious congregations, and the Ferns inquiry was also under way.

Four months previous to Mr Ahern's November 2004 meeting with [Cardinal Sodano](#), the Commissions of Investigation Act was passed by the Dáil mandating the government to set up an inquiry into the handling of clerical child sex abuse in Dublin's Catholic archdiocese.

The context of Mr Ahern's meeting with Cardinal Sodano were celebrations marking 75 years of diplomatic relations between Ireland and the Holy See, beginning in 1929.

### **'Very annoyed'**

Mr Ahern was en route to a meeting with Pope [John Paul](#) when he met Cardinal Sodano. "I was on my way back from [Palestinian president] Yasser Arafat's funeral and had begun our discussion about the Middle East. I was very annoyed. He was quite blunt." The subject was not raised again.

Mr Ahern said he could not remember whether he informed the government when he returned to Dublin. "I may have, informally. I probably told Bertie [then taoiseach Bertie Ahern]," he said.

At an event in Rome's Irish College during the same visit, Mr Ahern announced the Irish government's intention to institute arrangements for "an open, transparent and regular dialogue with churches and with philosophical and non-

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confessional organisations”. This structured dialogue was launched at Dublin Castle in February 2007.

In The Irish Times on Tuesday, former president Mary McAleese revealed that in November 2003, a year previous to Cardinal Sodano’s meeting with Mr Ahern, she refused to discuss an attempt by the cardinal to secure an agreement with Ireland that it would not access church documents.

What she described as “one of the most devastating moments in my presidency”, occurred during a State visit to [Italy](#) when she had a private meeting with Cardinal Sodano, who was then Vatican secretary of state.

“He indicated that he would like, and the Vatican would like, an agreement with Ireland, a concordat with Ireland. I asked him why and it was very clear it was because he wanted to protect Vatican and diocesan archives. I have to say that I immediately said the conversation had to stop,” Ms McAleese said. She hoped “those days are over, that everybody is more chastened now. Everybody knows now that the secrecy was certainly not conducive to the good of the church. It eroded credibility and it eroded trust,” she said.

## **Lisburn church’s Magnificent Seven run up 1.7K for Air Ambulance**

*The Magnificent Seven* from All Saints’ Parish, Eglantine, near Lisburn, have raised a fantastic £1,750 for Air Ambulance Northern Ireland.



**Grace Williams, area fundraiser for Air Ambulance Northern Ireland, right, was at All Saints', Eglantine, on August 5 to collect a cheque from The Magnificent Seven who competed in the Belfast Fun Run last May. Organiser Alison Leckey is second from right of the photo.**

The seven ladies were sponsored to undertake the Belfast Fun Run, organised as part of the Belfast Marathon in May.

They all successfully completed the course, and on Sunday August 5 they presented a cheque to Grace Williams, area fundraiser for Air Ambulance Northern Ireland.

Organiser Alison Leckey, a member of the Select Vestry of Eglantine Parish, is a regular volunteer with Air Ambulance, which is based at nearby Maze.

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She said: “This is the first parish event we have done in support of Air Ambulance Northern Ireland, and we hope to do more in future. We feel it is a very worthwhile charity and it is based just a few hundred yards from the church.

“We had great fun doing the run,” Alison added.

[Air Ambulance Northern Ireland](#) has just marked its first anniversary. Figures from the charity reveal that between July 2017 and June 22 this year, the air ambulance was tasked to 380 emergency missions across Northern Ireland, providing critical advanced care to patients, with 50 per cent of missions being for road traffic collisions.

## **Investigations reveal Malta’s Anglican cathedral tower damaged by World War II bomb**

A bomb or shell dropped on Malta during the Second World War struck the tower of the Anglican cathedral and “in all likelihood affected the structural integrity of the tower and spire”, the Diocese in Europe said. Both will be “painstakingly repaired and restored” as part of major restoration project planned for the 175-year-old building which is a dominant feature of the Valetta skyline.

The Cathedral is situated at the epicentre of the Maltese government’s regeneration plans for the West flank of Valletta between Lower Fort St Elmo and Mattia Preti Square. Major regeneration work will also include the restoration of the roof and ceiling to its former Victorian glory, the timber structure inside the tower, installation of





disabled access to the church and Undercroft, as well as several ecological environmental improvements.

Efforts to raise the estimated €3 million Euro (approximately £2.69 million GBP) cost of restoration has progressed to the extent that internal scaffolding will be installed in the the tower in late-summer and safety hoarding will be put in place shortly. Meanwhile, the external scaffolding around the tower will be erected early next year. The congregation plan to mark the building's 175th anniversary in November next year.

“The project to restore the Cathedral aims to contribute significantly to the regeneration of the area by turning it into a thriving and attractive communal and tourism centre,” Martin Scicluna, the Co-Chairman of the Save Valletta Skyline Appeal, said. “It seeks to be the social hub not just for the Cathedral’s congregation, but also for the local

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community, related groups and third party users for a range of activities from musical concerts to meetings and exhibitions, lectures and seminars.”

The Pro-Cathedral of the Diocese of European has deteriorated dramatically in recent years. Various interventions have taken place to repair the roof, but urgent restoration is now required, while the new structure will also re-establish the authenticity of the roof assembly to bring it closer to its former historical state.

A recent fund raising event saw nearly 200 people from Malta, Europe and the UK attend a Skyline Ball in Palazzo Parisio's gardens in Naxxar. The dinner, an auction and an anonymous donation saw around €32,700 raised for the appeal.

## **US bishop orders halt to Communion services without a priest**

The Bishop of Santa Rosa has ordered an immediate halt to Communion services in his diocese where a priest is not present, saying such services are “not consistent with the Instructions from the Holy See”.

Bishop Robert Vasa [told Catholics](#) in his Californian diocese that the services must cease as of August 1, citing an Instruction from the Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments issued in 2004. The Instruction says that diocesan bishops “should not easily grant permission” for Communion Services without a priest to be held on weekdays “especially in places where it was possible or would be possible to have the celebration of



Mass on the preceding or the following Sunday.”

Bishop Vasa said it had become popular in several

parishes and institutions in the diocese for deacons and laity to hold Communion Services on both Sundays and weekdays when a priest is not available to say Mass.

“The practice, while popular, is not consistent with the Instructions from the Holy See,” the bishop said. “Our respect for the Most Holy Eucharist requires that we take very seriously the Directives of the Church.

“Opinions about what should be done in our Parishes will certainly vary but what surrounds the Eucharist demands of us a deep fidelity to the Church and her Instructions.”

Bishop Vasa therefore ordered that Communion Services without a priest on Sundays and weekdays should cease, and added that “those who have been asked to do them in the past may no longer do so.”

Parish priests should instead make arrangements for the laity to hold prayer services according to the Liturgy of the Hours, such as Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer, or to

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hold a Liturgy of the Word (first half the Mass only). “Only a Deacon may preach,” the bishop added.

“These Services are to be conducted without the Distribution of Holy Communion.”

Bishop Vasa also said that those who have the duty of bringing Holy Communion to the sick and housebound should “under no circumstances” reserve the Blessed Sacrament in their own homes.

## News briefs

### **+++US Band concert in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin**

- welcomes the Algoma Community Band on August, 16th. Approximately fifty adults of all ages, walks of life, and skill levels, from average to semi-professional abilities, make up the membership. Performances include a wide variety of music from jazz, blues, show tunes, light rock, Latin, pop, marches, folk culture to serious music of a lighter nature. This provides performances that are appealing and enjoyable for both performers and audience. Admission is Free.

**+++ Eglinton churches marking last year's floods** - On Wednesday 22 August, from 5–7pm – a year to the day after the devastating 2017 flood in Eglinton (Derry diocese) – the local community will gather to celebrate their resilience and sense of community at a special event organised by the main local churches.

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Churches Together in Eglinton (Faughanvale) have combined to organise a Community Family Fun Day in the Rectory Grounds, Mill Path, opposite the Community Centre (weather permitting – otherwise at Faughanvale Presbyterian Hall).

The organisers state there will be lots on offer for the whole family: hamburgers; hot dogs; tea and drinks for kids; carousel; bouncy castle; music and more for young and old alike. They continue - “Come and celebrate the resilience of our community one year on from that fateful date last year. All local residents are very welcome to attend.”

Organised by the Churches Together in Eglinton (Faughanvale Presbyterian, Roman Catholic and Church of Ireland Churches).

**+++Belfast Cathedral's Autumn Talks** - series 2018 gets underway on Wednesday September 5.

Speakers this year are specialist conservation architect Graeme Moore; Roger Dixon MBE, from National Museums of Ireland; practicing barrister Patrick Good QC; and retired nurse Joan Thompson OBE, secretary of the Friends of Belfast Cathedral.

Graeme's topic for the first talk is *Royal Exchange – reconnecting the city centre* and Roger speaks on *Ghosts, witches and fairy tales from Ulster's haunted past* on Wednesday October 3.

On Wednesday October 31 Patrick will share some recollections on *The Bar of Northern Ireland*, while Joan concludes the series on Wednesday December 12 giving a

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talk entitled *In simplicity and singleness of heart* (Florence Nightingale 1859).

Talks begin at 12.45pm and last 45 minutes. Light refreshments will be served at 12.15pm. A suggested donation is £5.



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