

British efforts to influence choice of new Archbishop of Armagh revealed



Cahal Daly was named the new Archbishop of Armagh

British government efforts to influence the choice of a new Catholic Archbishop of Armagh are revealed in secret government papers released yesterday, the Irish News reports.

Documents show how the issue of approaching the Vatican was raised following the sudden death of Cardinal Tomás Ó Fiaich in May 1990.

Details are contained among almost 800 previously confidential state files released by the Public Record Office.

A memo to direct rule minister Brian Mawhinney documents a meeting in which the Northern Ireland Office was asked to advise on "the modalities of transmitting an appropriate message to the Vatican" with the aim to "register our interest in an element of consultation over the appointment of a successor to Cardinal Ó Fiaich".

It also discloses details of a meeting of the British Ambassador to the Holy See with Archbishop Gerada, the Apostolic Nuncio to Ireland, who assured the ambassador that "the three names... he was required to put forward would all be people he knew were well regarded by us" - with Bishops Edward Daly and Cahal Daly mentioned.

Political historian Brian Feeney said the British government wanted Cahal Daly, then Bishop of Down and Connor, to become the new leader of the Irish Church.

"They recognised the effects that bishops and archbishops had on their congregations," he said.

"He would have been seen as someone who was making strong, intellectual sermons. The British regarded Cardinal Ó Fiaich as more sympathetic to republicans and were shocked by his comments on the 'dirty protest' in the 1970s, in which he spoke out about his shock at the conditions of prisoners, which didn't go down well with the British.

"It was quite clear the British preferred Cahal Daly and pushed hard for him."

Bishop Daly, then 73, was appointed Archbishop of Armagh in November 1990.

The documents released today relate mainly to 1991, though some cover preceding years when some of the most controversial killings of the Troubles took place, including the shooting of three IRA members by the SAS in Gibraltar in 1988.

They reveal how [Taoiseach Charlie Haughey](#) ["implored" the British government to keep the bodies away from the Republic](#), urging that the RAF fly the remains straight to Belfast rather than allowing them to travel through Dublin in a

propaganda coup for Sinn Féin. The records also suggest that [Ian Paisley favoured religious fundamentalists](#) over his [DUP deputy leader Peter Robinson](#) during the first round table peace talks between the main parties.

Presbyterian church launches new discipleship resource

Essentials - a brand new practical discipleship resource was unveiled this week at the Presbyterian Church in Ireland's (PCI) Special Assembly in Coleraine, as part of the Church's vision to resource whole-life disciples across the denomination.

Billed as 'an eight-week journey helping followers of Jesus to reflect on and live out the essentials of discipleship', launching the resource, Presbyterian Moderator, Rt. Rev. Dr. Noble McNeely said, "At our Special Assembly, 'Everyday Disciples' this week, we have been discovering together, and perhaps rediscovering, what it means to be an everyday disciple, a follower of Jesus Christ, in 21st Century. So it is entirely appropriate that we launch this engaging and practical congregational resource here.

“In Luke Chapter 9, Jesus says to his friends and followers, ‘If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.’ The phrase that jumps out of the text for me is ‘...daily and follow me’, which implies that a follower of Christ is actually someone who follows in the ways of Jesus every day.

“Being a disciple of Jesus isn’t one lifestyle choice amongst many, it is integral to who we are in Him and we need to recognise what the essentials are to following Christ. To me it is the most exciting and amazing vocation anyone can be engaged in, and I hope this new and very practical resource will help to equip us effectively in reaching our full potential for Jesus each and every day.”

Essentials has been designed specifically for the context of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and draws on a wide collection of voices, insights, teaching and testimonies from right across the denomination. Developed by PCI’s Council for Congregational Life and Witness, Essentials comprises eight short films contained on a special USB pen drive and an accompanying participants eight-session guide.

Rick Hill, PCI's discipleship officer who has been leading the project explained that Essentials will be ideal for use in small groups, midweek gatherings or for short term courses. "This resource is about equipping and resourcing every member of a congregation for their ministry.

"Having been called to follow Jesus we need to be participants rather than passengers in the kingdom of God, radically impacting the world around us in simple ways, like showing love to a colleague, working well for an employer, living well in our neighbourhood and sharing faith with a friend. Essentials will help us in that daily discipleship journey," he said.

For more information visit

www.presbyterianireland.org/essentials

Over 50 leading musicians and composers protest at Musicians' Church stopping commercial concerts

More than 50 musicians, including John Rutter, top composers and performers, and several directors of music at cathedrals, have written a

letter to *The Guardian* protesting against the decision by St Sepulchre's, Holborn to close its doors to commercial concerts

The letter describes the timing of the announcement, during the Proms season, as a "bitter irony".

"This move was made without consultation and contradicts assurances given when the church was taken over in 2013 by Holy Trinity Brompton," the letter says. "It is deeply regrettable that the current incumbent, the Revd David Ingall, wishes to exclude superb music, even as he asserts that 'our ministry as the National Musicians' Church continues to be a core part of our church's identity and vision.' We don't understand how excluding musicians and listeners who regularly visit the church during rehearsals and concerts would further this goal.

"We understand that churches are principally places of worship and sympathise with the challenges faced in achieving a sustainable balance of activity. However, the unique 'mission' for St Sepulchre's has been to musicians, providing a welcoming space and encouraging them to be involved in running the parish. That its custodians are now willing to

abandon this unique national cultural remit is difficult to understand and harder to accept.

“We urge a reversal of this ban on external hirers, followed by open consultation with a range of music stakeholders on a way forward to ensure that the mission of the National Musicians’ Church is assured.”

Signatories include Steven Isserlis, John Rutter, Howard Goodall, James Macmillan, Judith Weir, Will Todd, Andrew Gant, Aled Jones, Giles Swayne, Harry Christophers, Julian Lloyd Webber, and Nigel Short. Others are the directors of music at St Paul’s Cathedral, Southwark, and Rochester Cathedrals, and Christ Church, Oxford.

Another signatory is the director of music at St Martin-in-the-Fields, Dr Andrew Earis, who formerly held the role at St Sepulchre’s. He said last week that, if the two strands of contemporary and traditional music could be combined at the church, it could be a “beacon of hope on how you could bring the Church together”.

In a statement last week, the leadership of St Sepulchre’s said that they would reflect, pray, and consult with musicians.

Anglican archbishop urges Australia to reject gay marriage



The Archbishop of Sydney has told Australians the UK serves as a warning against the "profound ramifications" of legalising gay marriage.

The Most Rev Glenn Davies urged voters to [oppose plans to allow same-sex couples to wed when a voluntary postal vote is held next month.](#)

The country's most senior Anglican leader said: "We know from recent experiences in the United Kingdom and North America that the ramifications of such a change are profound.

"Their experience shows us that if the law is changed, it will have direct impact on people of faith and faith-based institutions."

Archbishop Glenn said his stance "is not a homophobic reaction" but about recognising "God's plan". He also said that "retaining the (current) definition of marriage is best for our society".

In an open letter, he went on to say: "As Christians we know it (heterosexual marriage) is God's plan; but it is God's plan for humanity, not just the people of God.

"It is the best structure for society and for the procreation of children in the secure nurture of a family with a mother and a father."

Thursday was the last day for Australian citizens to register to vote in the postal survey. The Australian Electoral Commission revealed 50,000 people had signed up since the vote was announced a fortnight ago.

Archbishop Glenn voiced concern that the legalisation of gay marriage could see Christians who oppose the idea losing some of their rights in the workplace.

He continued: "Despite the claims of some, that religious freedom will be protected, all proposed legislation to date has been totally inadequate to safeguard people who work for church-run

institutions such as schools, hospitals and universities.

"It is also unclear whether church-based organisations will be free to employ staff who share their church's teachings and ethos.

"In some countries where marriage has been redefined, schools are prevented from teaching that marriage is between a man and a woman, even in faith-based schools."

Reformation Centenary conferences

500 years ago this October, the Augustinian Friar, Martin Luther changed the world as it was then known. The publication of his 95 theses was to unleash a torrent of reform that would reach far beyond the spheres of religion and ecclesiastical authority.

The first part of the Conference will explore the beginnings of this Reformation, how it impacted on Ireland and on the Augustinian friars. The second part will explore the theological dimensions of the Lutheran Reformation and the



current state of agreements between Roman Catholics and Lutherans.

To download the conference brochure please click [HERE](#)

Everyone is invited. Admission is free. Registration is essential. Early registration is advisable as places are limited. To register for the conference please contact:

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Sponsored by the Irish Province of the Augustinian Friars in association with the Department of Theology & Religious Studies, Mary Immaculate College, Limerick.



The Church of Ireland Historical Society, together with its friends in the Catholic Historical Society of Ireland, will be co-hosting a two day conference marking the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. It will take place on **Friday 20th October** and **Saturday 21 October 2017**.

The event is FREE and all members of the public are welcome to attend. As places are limited, however, registration is required. Please click on the following link: https://reformation_500.eventbrite.ie. The conference programme is available [here](#).

Proceedings on Friday 20th October will take place in the Music Room at Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, beginning at 3pm. Dr Scott Dixon (Queen's University, Belfast) will kick off

the conference with a presentation on ‘Martin Luther and the Reformation’. After a short coffee break, Professors Peter Marshall (University of Warwick) and Alec Ryrie (Durham University) will lead an open discussion entitled ‘Tudor Brexit: How European were the British and Irish Reformations?’.

This will be followed by the launch of a book edited by Dr Mark Empey, Professor Alan Ford and Dr Miriam Moffitt, entitled *The Church of Ireland and its past: history, interpretation and memory*, which was co-funded by the Church of Ireland Historical Society.

On Saturday 21st October, the conference will be at St Patrick’s College, Drumcondra, Dublin City University commencing at 10am, where Professors Alan Ford (University of Nottingham), Graeme Murdock (Trinity College, Dublin) and Jane Dawson (University of Edinburgh) will discuss reform movements in England, Ireland and Europe. This will be followed with presentations by Dr Alison Forrestal (NUI Galway) and Professor Tadhg Ó hAnnracháin (University College Dublin) who will examine the Catholic reformations in Ireland and Europe.

Professor Mícheál Mac Craith (St Isidore’s Irish College, Rome) and Professor John McCafferty

(University College Dublin) will then look at how the Reformation was written in Europe and Ireland. The conference will end with a roundtable discussion on commemorating the Reformation, which will be chaired by Professor Marian Lyons (Maynooth University).

For informal inquiries, you can contact either Professor Marian Lyons (Marian.Lyons@nuim.ie) or Dr Adrian Empey (secretary.coihs@gmail.com).

Chaplain: Majority of UCC students ‘not anti-Church’

The chaplain at one of the country’s biggest universities has said only a small number of students are “anti-Church” and “make a lot of noise” and that many are “not completely disconnected” from their faith, Noel Baker writes in the Irish Examiner.

Fr Marius O’Reilly, the chaplain at University College Cork, admitted that when he was appointed to the position three years ago he was “a bit afraid”.

But he said his experiences in the role had shown him that “there is still a great connection

with the Church for many of our younger generation.”

Writing in the most recent issue of Intercom magazine, Fr O'Reilly said: “A small number of people may be anti-Church in UCC, and indeed wider society, but they can make a lot of noise. This makes us think there are more of them than there actually are. The majority in UCC and in society at large are probably either indifferent or have just fallen away, but they are not anti-Church or anti-faith.”

He said that the younger generation “largely come from non-practising homes” and that many had stopped attending Mass because their parents had stopped going.

“They live noisy and distracted lifestyles,” he wrote. “A large portion of their time is spent on social media (often a kind of fantasy world) and the internet. There is simply no time for reflection or to gaze upwards. They also come from more complex backgrounds, and almost 12% of our student population attended a counselling session in the past year.

“It is in this context that you begin to realise the importance of the chaplain’s role.”

Fr O'Reilly outlined those duties as including the organisation of activities off campus and hosting weekly social events, as well as aiding students from other parts of Ireland or overseas who are far from home.

He also mentioned the role of the chaplaincy in assisting the families of students who have died, referring to four bereavements this year.

“There is still a great connection with the Church for many of our younger generation,” he said. “Many students do come to Mass during the week.

“On days like Ash Wednesday, between 500 and 700 students come to one of our three Masses.

“Our two student choirs have also grown each semester. Whilst the bulk of students probably don't practise their faith with any degree of regularity, they are not completely disconnected.”

Most third-level institutions have more than one chaplain in place, including UCC, which as of last year had five posts.

Last year it emerged that lay people would be entitled to apply for state-funded chaplaincy posts in third-level colleges under public sector

recruitment rules, following a review by the Higher Education Authority.

That report also found that existing arrangements meant that in some cases Catholic dioceses have a right to appoint chaplains.

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