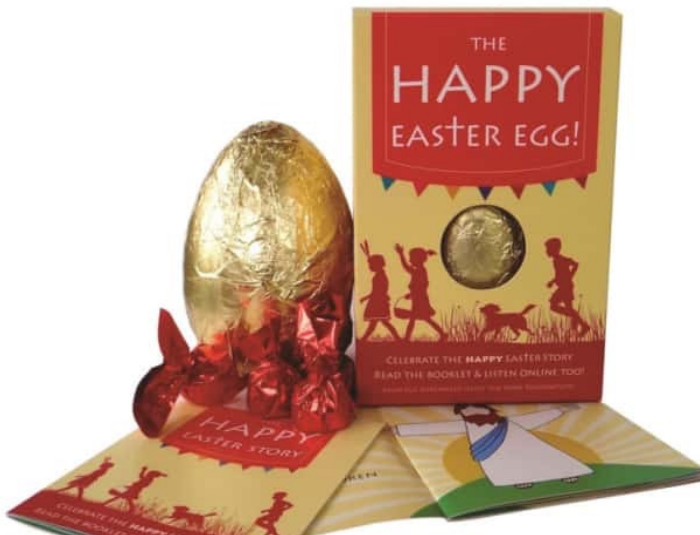


Churches backing 'Happy Easter Egg'



The 'Happy Easter Egg' aims to put Jesus back at the heart of Easter

Various church leaders have given their backing to a Christian bookshop owner's campaign to put Jesus back at the centre of Easter. Julie Carvill, who runs the small bookshop in Co Wicklow, created the 'Happy Easter Egg' after reading about a survey a few years ago that

found nearly half of British schoolchildren didn't know the true meaning of Easter, the News Letter reports.



Julie Carvill

And last year, Prime Minister Theresa May condemned as “absolutely ridiculous” a decision to drop the word Easter from a Cadbury and National Trust egg hunt.

The competition was called the “Cadbury’s Great British Egg Hunt”. This year, the National Trust has restored the word Easter, after organising over 250 “Cadbury Easter Egg Hunts” .

In response to what she sees as the growing secularisation of Easter, Julie Carvill has created an Easter egg that comes with a booklet telling the true story of Easter in easy-to-read rhyme and with great illustrations.

Her 'Happy Easter Egg' has been backed by leading figures from the Church of Ireland, the Methodist Church in Ireland, and the Catholic Church in Ireland.

The Church of Ireland Bishop of Down and Dromore, the Rt Revd Harold Miller, said: "The truth of the resurrection of Jesus, which we celebrate at Easter, is right at the heart of the Christian gospel. "That Christ is risen and sin and death are defeated is the Good News for all people.

"That's why Easter is so important for Christians worldwide." He added: "Of course the Easter Egg represents new life and new birth, so the Happy Easter Egg is a perfect way to share the resurrection story." Rev Dr Heather Morris, who was President of the Methodist Church in Ireland from 2013 to 2014, said: "I think the Happy Easter Egg is wonderful because it explains the real meaning of Easter for everyone."

Julie Carvill said: “I read some years ago about a survey taken where they’d asked schoolchildren what Easter was about. There were quite a few of them who said it was the Easter Bunny’s birthday.

“Just recently I walked down the aisle in one of the local supermarkets where they had all the Easter eggs, and you wouldn’t have known it had anything to do with Jesus. In fact, not one of them even had the word ‘Easter’ on them.” She continued: “The Happy Easter Egg is about telling the true story of Easter in a way that children can easily understand.”

To find out more, visit www.happyeasteregg.ie

La Mon victims remembered in 40th anniversary service

A service to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the La Mon House Hotel bombing has taken place in Lisburn.

Twelve members of the Irish Collie Club were killed in the IRA firebomb attack on 17 February 1978.



A stained glass memorial window was re-dedicated to the victims

Relatives of those who died placed a lily for each of them in a memorial wreath during the service at Lagan Valley Island in Lisburn.

Saturday's Order of Service read, "La Mon. You say the name, I see the place".

A stained glass memorial window was re-dedicated to the victims after being moved to the new council offices. Survivors of the atrocity, families, representatives of the emergency services as well as civic and political leaders attended.

DUP leader Arlene Foster, UUP leader Robin Swann, Alliance leader Naomi Long and TUV leader Jim Allister were in attendance.

Chief Constable George Hamilton was also present.

Andrea Nelson was 14 when her parents Paul and Dorothy were murdered in the bomb.

She told BBC News NI that the service had brought back strong memories from the time.

"As the years go on you become more accustomed to saying, "No, I don't have my parents."

"Losing them at such a young age we lost a lot of our childhood.

"Luckily, they were able to pour a lot of love into the first 14 years we had with them and we have kept that with us for 40 years," she said.

She added: "We are honoured and grateful people are still remembering.

"Every single life is precious. We are taught that from a young age. Losing someone in such tragic circumstances so needlessly and at the hands of evil men, is traumatising.

"It broke our hearts as young girls. It's really important to take the time to remember the loss we have all borne.

"The service was very moving and they talked about how the impact had reached out into the community.

"It affected the people who were involved in the fire service and hospitals, those were were hurt and even those who were not, were all really badly affected."

She said she did not believe reviews would uncover evidence not already in the public domain and she knew this was not what the families wanted to hear. Speaking about La Mon she said: "I understand that this is not the decision they were hoping for, but I do not believe that an independent review would reveal new evidence or reach a different conclusion from the investigations that have already taken place." Report courtesy of BBC News NI

Bishop Miller was right to intervene on Marathon decision

Alf McCreary writing his weekly church-related column in the Belfast Telegraph states that

Bishop Miller was right to intervene on Marathon decision.

He writes - Special seasons like Lent give a particular shape to our annual calendar, but they are also a reminder that Christianity is not just for Sundays, and that true religion still has a crucial role in our everyday secular world.

A good example of this was the intervention by the Anglican Bishop Harold Miller who has asked Belfast City Council to defer its decision on a proposal that Belfast Marathon, which is held traditionally on a Monday, should be transferred to a Sunday.

Harold Miller is a man of the real world as well as a man of the cloth, and he is no spoilsport. He points out, however, that many race participants go to church on a Sunday and therefore would not be able to take part. As well, the churches along a Sunday marathon route would be inconvenienced.

Bishop Miller has asked that the marathon should be kept open to all. Those who want to stage the race on a Sunday claim they want to generate more revenue and bring in more visitors, irrespective of people's deeply-held religious views.



In one sense they want to maximise the marathon but there is more to civic life than making **money**, and Bishop Miller is right to protest at this latest marginalisation of Christianity.

If you doubt that this marginalisation by secularists is taking place, I refer you to the Sunday Times which carried last a week a mock up of the Prime Minister and her Cabinet colleagues seated around a table in the manner of Leonardo's painting of Christ and his disciples at the Last Supper.

No doubt that this was seen as a great way to get a political message across to the secular

world, but the paper would not dare print a similar caricature of the Prophet Mohammed.

It would not do so because of the inevitable outcry from Muslims, but Christianity remains a soft target because Christians are commanded to turn the other cheek to satire and insults.

So it is good that Lent reminds us of other, more important values. A world totally run by politicians and people interested only in making money is reminiscent of the wise comment about those who know the price of everything, but the deeper value of very little.

More at -

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/opinion/columnists/alf-mccreary/lent-reminds-us-that-christianity-still-has-a-crucial-role-in-our-secular-world-36612188.html>

Café run by Ireland's migrant community opens at Christ Church, Dublin

Starting last Saturday, a café will be set up in the outdoor area of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin that's run by Ireland's migrant communities, *TheJournal.ie* reports.



Pictured at the launch of a pop-up cafe in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin are Ray Yeates, Kathleen Warner Yeates and Lucky Khambule.

The project is called Our Table, and began as a pop-up kitchen in 2016 in the Project Arts Centre. It describes itself as “a community-driven, non-profit project aiming to highlight the need to end Direct Provision in Ireland”.

Direct Provision is the government programme that facilitates 4,300 asylum seekers in Ireland while they wait for their applications to be processed. It gives people just under €20 a week for expenses, and houses people in hotels, which doesn't give them cooking facilities, or the right to work.

One of the founders and director of the Our Table project, Ellie Kisyombe told *TheJournal.ie* that after their three-month run in the Project Arts Centre, they decided to look for a more permanent residence for the project, to “facilitate change through conversation over food”.

On those days, a ten-person team of volunteers will work as waiters, managers, and chefs among other jobs, to hand out food for people between 10am and 4.30pm.

“If it picks up we might change it to more days,” she said. From what she had gathered from the number of RSVPs and calls she had received, she was expecting the kitchen to be “highly in demand”, she said.

The idea is to highlight the problems with Direct Provision, that there’s a situation that doesn’t allow people to cook their own food or give people the right to work.

She said this was a “community-driven project” where people of different ethnicities could meet and talk to one another.

“We’re asking people to come along and support Our Table. It gives out a strong message that you can create spaces for people in Direct Provision instead of waiting.”

Saturday evening, the café launch will be held from 6.30pm for invited guests, and will include food and music as well as talks from people living in Direct Provision.

Welcoming the launch the cathedral's Dean, Reverend Dermot Dunne, said that the marks and signs of a living church community were evidenced in its outreach beyond its walls to the wider community.

“The cathedral’s commitment to engage with those in the Direct Provision system is evidence of just one of many social outreach programmes adopted by the cathedral.

“It is a joy that one of the fruits of this outreach is the launch of the Our Table enterprise. It is good that the cathedral facilities can be used in such a productive and empowering way and I am very happy to endorse this programme,” Dean Dunne added.

Cavan Presbyterian affinity shaped C of I writer’s first novel

“I sensed of course that he was deeply conflicted, but I had no pity for him; there was pity only for myself, and I’d sit for hours hugging myself to myself.” Therein lies the problem with



Reared as a Presbyterian in Cavan, Norma McMaster lives in Skerries, where she is a minister in the Church of Ireland

Norma McMaster's debut *Silence Under a Stone*. Her protagonist Harriet Campbell is a strict Presbyterian who looks back on a life made bleak by her adherence to her faith, staunch unwillingness to forgive and the resulting bitterness that emerges from such an unyielding attitude, states an Irish Times review on Saturday, Feb 17, 2018.

There is little in her character for the reader to sympathise with, less still any hope of change or redemption. Set over the course of a gloom-and-guilt-ridden 20th century, the novel charts the efforts of a Presbyterian community on the

Border as it tries to maintain a foothold amid increasing Catholic dominion.

McMaster's expressive prose captivates in early chapters that show a 16-year-old Harriet being handed over by her mother to a Presbyterian farmer twice her age who treats her both as a child and an object. The dour Thomas paws at her chest on their first outing and teases her over the course of a short courtship with a bag of boiled sweets and "a grin like the slipe on a mower".

Such descriptions show McMaster's affinity with her landscape, which can result in lovely detail: Harriet eats "a porringer of buttermilk"; Thomas's voice is "like the burr of a saw". In a concurrent narrative set in a nursing home in the 80s, Harriet reflects on her life, "yet even so I do admit that a kind of a fog, what we used to call a haar, is beginning to creep over me".

With quotes from the Bible weaved into the narrative, McMaster makes clear the partisanship of strict religious belief: "[Lord Jesus](#) is the only head of the Church, and the pope is Antichrist and the son of perdition." The author is attuned to the irony: "Rome brings chains, my dear, but we Presbyterians know the freedom of the Gospel." That this so-called freedom results

in bitter family divisions and ruined lives is clear. The senselessness of sectarianism hangs over the novel, but it is not enough to carry the insipid storyline.

The C of I correspondent to the Irish Times on 19 April 2008 commented -In recent years the Columba Press has built up an impressive catalogue of clerical reminiscences, memoirs and biographies in which the Church of Ireland has been well represented. The latest example of this genre, *Over My Shoulder: A Memoir* by the Rev Norma McMaster, was published earlier this month.

Norma McMaster was ordained in 2004 into what was then called the auxiliary ministry and is now styled the non-stipendiary ministry, and she served in the Dublin inner-city parish of St George and St Thomas until her retirement in 2007.

However, her family background was Presbyterian, and this memoir is largely concerned with growing up as a Presbyterian in Co Cavan in the 1940s and 1950s, going to boarding school and then to university, first in Magee College, Derry, and then Trinity. Described by Eugene McCabe as "a gentle and valuable memoir of otherness permeated with

unashamed nostalgia, great accuracy of detail, familial love and a sense of neighbourly affection", this book recreates a world which now barely exists but which many can still remember.

On November 3, 2000 the Irish Independent reported on Norma's commissioning as a lay reader by Archbishop Walton Empey in Christ Church Cathedral. Norma emigrated to Canada as a young girl where she studied counselling at McGill University. She has worked as a professional counsellor for many years.

<https://www.irishtimes.com/culture/books/silence-under-a-stone-review-insipid-storyline-with-a-morose-character-1.3385156>

Gaudete Singers to mark death of Parry end of the Great War

The Gaudete Singers return to Dublin's Saint Bartholomew's on Saturday, 10 March at 8.00pm for "Songs of Farewell: Music by Parry, Stanford, and Wood." The concert will be directed by David Leigh and will feature music to mark both the centenary of Sir Charles Hubert Hastings Parry's death in October 1918 and the end of the Great War in November 1918.



Tickets are available at the door for €15, €10 concession, and €5 for students with ID. Included in the ticket price is a glass of wine or soft drink after the show.

Programme:

Songs of Farewell: C. Hubert H. Parry (1848 – 1918)

Justorum animae: Charles Villiers Stanford (1852 – 1924)

Coelos ascendit hodie: Charles Villiers Stanford

Beati quorum via: Charles Villiers Stanford

Hail gladdening light: Charles Wood (1866 – 1926)

Nunc Dimittis: Charles Wood

Parry, along with many of his generation, was devastated by the huge loss of young life during the war. For Parry, who held German music and its traditions in the highest esteem, it was especially agonising to see the war decimate the population of up-and-coming composing talents at London's Royal College of Music.

Most of the Songs of Farewell were written in 1915, and the first performance of five of the six motets was in May 1916. Sadly, Parry did not live long enough to hear the entire set performed as a group; he died of influenza in October 1918. One of his motets— "There is an old belief" — was sung at his funeral at St. Paul's Cathedral in London, where he is buried. Parry's Songs of Farewell are widely acknowledged as masterpieces of unaccompanied choral writing and are a fitting tribute to commemorate the centenary of the end of the Great War.

Archbishop of Canterbury reexamines the state of the nation in new book

The UK is at a political and moral tipping-point, the Archbishop of Canterbury argues in a new

book, to be published next month, the *Church Times* reports.

His book, *Reimagining Britain: Foundations of hope* will be published by Bloomsbury on 8 March. Archbishop Welby said last week that he



had written to contribute to the debate on the future of the country, particularly after Brexit.

In an interview with the *Church Times*, the Archbishop said: “I think we’re at one of those moments which happens probably every three or four generations, when we have the opportunity and the necessity to reimagine what our society should look like in this country.”

In his book, Archbishop Welby proposes that Christianity has a vital part to play in the reimagining of society, and could be the driving force behind change. It remains, he says, foundational to ethics and values in the UK.

Archbishop Welby's earlier book, *Dethroning Mammon*, examines the ethics and practices of the financial markets ([Books, 3 February 2017](#)). In the forthcoming work, he ranges wider, looking at possible reforms in the areas of housing, healthcare, and education. He looks at the environment and climate change, and also immigration and integration.

Speaking last week, he said that the book asked the question: "What kind of society fills our lives with hope and purpose, and what do we base that in?"

The book's subtitle, *Foundations of hope*, was crucial to his argument, as he believed that the country needs a debate "about what our dream is, to have a hope-filled future for the next years".

The country needed to recreate the "extraordinary outpouring of change and reform" that it experienced under the consensus of the post-war Labour and Conservative

governments, which, he said, was as a “result of Keynes’s rethinking of economics”.

New Anglican Inter Faith Commission begins work with meeting in Cairo

Members of the Anglican Communion’s new Inter Faith Commission will gather for their first meeting this week in Cairo, Egypt. The AIFC was requested by the Anglican Consultative Council when they met in Lusaka in 2016, and launched at the Primates’ Meeting in Canterbury last October. Its purpose is to “bring mutual understanding and build trust where there is ignorance, fear and hostility” between different faith groups.

Read the [entire article here](#).

Cardinal O’Malley reappointed president of Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors

Cardinal Sean O’Malley of Boston has been reappointed president of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, the Vatican confirmed on Saturday.



Mark Vincent Healy meets Pope Francis in 2014 and Cardinal Sean O'Malley of Boston.

The membership of the Commission lapsed last December after completing its three-year term.

Earlier in the year, the two survivors of clerical abuse on the Commission's membership, Marie Collins and Peter Saunders, resigned from the advisory body in protest over curial resistance to the PCPM's work.

On Saturday, Pope Francis announced that nine new members had been appointed to the Commission, and seven of the previous members reappointed including Jesuit, Fr Hans

Zollner and Mgr Robert Oliver from Boston who returns as the Commission's secretary.

However, six members of the first Commission were not reappointed including French psychotherapist Catherine Bonnet, Baroness Sheila Hollins, Bill Kilgallon, a New Zealand church official, and religious congregation advisor Krysten Winter-Green.

Speaking to the National Catholic Reporter, Marie Collins expressed regret over the Commission's loss of members with so much experience. Three of those not reappointed were leaders of the PCPM's six working groups.

"I'm shocked at the discarding of some of the most active and independent members of the commission. Some of those who have gone were really the most active and had the most experience of working in child protection and working directly with survivors," Collins told NCR.

The eight new members of the abuse commission are:

- Benyam Mezmur, who teaches law at Ethiopia's Dullah Omar Institute;

- Religious of Jesus and Mary Sr. Arina Gonsalves, a vice provincial for her order in India;
- Neville Owen, a former senior judge of the Court of Appeal of the Supreme Court of Western Australia;
- Sinaelelea Fe'ao, coordinator of religious education for the Tonga and Niue diocese;
- Myriam Wijlens, a canon law professor at the University of Erfurt in Germany;
- Ernesto Caffo, a professor of child and adolescent psychiatry at Italy's University of Modena and Reggio Emilia;
- Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood Sr. Jane Bertelsen, her order's congregational leader; and,
- Nelson Giovanelli, founder of a Brazilian drug rehabilitation centre.

In a statement on Saturday, Cardinal O'Malley said the new appointees would add to its global perspective in the protection of minors and vulnerable adults.

“The Holy Father has ensured continuity in the work of our Commission, which is to assist local churches throughout the world in their efforts to safeguard all children, young people, and vulnerable adults from harm.”

The Commission's press release noted that the eight men and eight women who form the membership of the new Commission were chosen "from a multi-disciplinary field of international experts in safeguarding children and vulnerable adults from the crime of sexual abuse."

According to the press release, several members of the Commission are themselves victims of clerical sexual abuse. It is unclear who they are.

When the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors was set up in 2014, it was mandated with bringing forward proposals for best practice on protecting minors and vulnerable adults from sexual abuse and promoting educational programmes to help local churches safeguard children, young people, and vulnerable adults.

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