

C of I Orange Chaplain condemns silence of church leaders on Kingsmill's tweet



Rev Dr Alan McCann, County Armagh Grand Chaplain in the Orange Order, is a rector near Carrickfergus and an Hon Secretary of the Connor Diocesan Council and Synod

A senior Orangeman has hit out at church leaders for remaining silent over Barry

McElduff's controversial social media post which appeared to mock the Kingsmills atrocity.

Rev Dr Alan McCann, Co Armagh Grand Chaplain, said the silence from mainline churches has "added to the sense of isolation" experienced by the victims' families.

Speaking of his "disappointment" in a statement issued yesterday morning, Rev McCann added: "It appears that the church hierarchies can make joint statements on almost every other topic except those related to supporting the innocent victims of terrorism.

"Many families are thankful to their local parish clergy for their support at such difficult times, but are saddened and further dismayed by the silence of their church leaders in the face of such blatant and wanton sectarian hatred." Rev McCann said he was not surprised by the



Barry McElduff

video posted by Mr McElduff, claiming the West Tyrone MP “has consistently in the past refused to condemn this atrocity nor has he been, along with Sinn Féin, willing to admit that it was carried out by the IRA”.

He added that the Sinn Féin member’s subsequent apology “rings hollow” and branded the suspension as “a callous PR stunt”. “It is clear he knew exactly what he was doing; the mask slipped, and the real Sinn Féin came to the fore,” Rev McCann continued.

“His bigotry, hatred and open sectarian mindset was revealed for all to see. He could not have but known the hurt, pain and anguish he would cause by his actions.”

Mr McElduff drew widespread criticism at the weekend after posting a video on Twitter of himself with a loaf of Kingsmill bread balanced on his head. The video coincided with the 42nd anniversary of the Kingsmills massacre, in which ten Protestant workmen were murdered by the IRA in one of the most notorious incidents of the Troubles.

Describing the video as a “calculated insult” to the victims’ families, Rev McCann said: “The deliberate placing of the Kingsmill loaf on his head in a so-called joke reveals an astonishing lack of humanity towards those who suffered at the hands of the IRA. “Mr McElduff, if he has an ounce of decency, should resign as

MP as he cannot in any way represent all the people of his constituency.

“How could a victim of IRA terrorism go to him to seek help on any issue knowing his attitude towards those who were brutally murdered on a roadside?

“If Mr McElduff had carried out this action in a place of work, he would have been sacked immediately and the Equalities Commission would have been instantly involved.”

Report courtesy The News Letter

Kingsmill's tweet 'deeply wrong', Presbyterian Church

Yesterday afternoon the convener of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland's Council for Public Affairs, Very Rev. Dr. Norman Hamilton, called the incident 'deeply wrong' and said that it 'clearly demonstrates

ethical poverty and a lack of awareness and understanding of the pain that many people are still living with’.

“There is absolutely no doubt that what happened in Kingsmills 42 years ago was one of the darkest moments in our very troubled past. This evil, sectarian act still leaves families grieving for their loss, wanting answers and craving justice for their loved ones,” Dr. Hamilton said.

“While we recognise that an apology has been issued, for an elected representative to add to this hurt, especially on an anniversary, is deeply wrong and clearly demonstrates ethical poverty and a lack of awareness and understanding of the pain that many people are still living with day-by-day.

“This awful episode has been detrimental to the building of better relationships, which is so much needed in our society at this time. It highlights again the need for all

those in public leadership to act with sensitivity and respect.”

Orly Watson to give first 2018 Armagh organ recital

The first organ recital of 2018 will be given by Mr Orly Watson on Sunday 21 January at 4.15pm in St Patrick’s Church of Ireland Cathedral, Armagh.

Orly is no stranger to the Cathedral’s organ recital series, having participated in several of them over the past five years. He was appointed to the position of Organist of Dromore Cathedral in 2016, and still finds time to give solo piano and organ recitals around England and Northern Ireland.

Outlining his programme, Orly said, “I will play two large-scale works and a couple of miniatures. Rheinberger’s Organ Sonata No. 13, Op. 161 is the main item, and is a very grand and substantial Romantic work, exploring the full range of the orchestral



sonorities of the Cathedral's organ." He continued, "I will also give the premiere performance of my own newly-published Armagh Suite, Op. 1. This is my first published work, and it is dedicated to Baron George Minne, Emeritus Organist of St Patrick's Roman Catholic Cathedral, Armagh. Its three movements all owe something to Armagh and the surrounding countryside, and it was composed with the cathedral organ in mind. It has recently gone on sale, but has not yet been played anywhere."

Orly's programme will also include short works by Bach and Vierne.

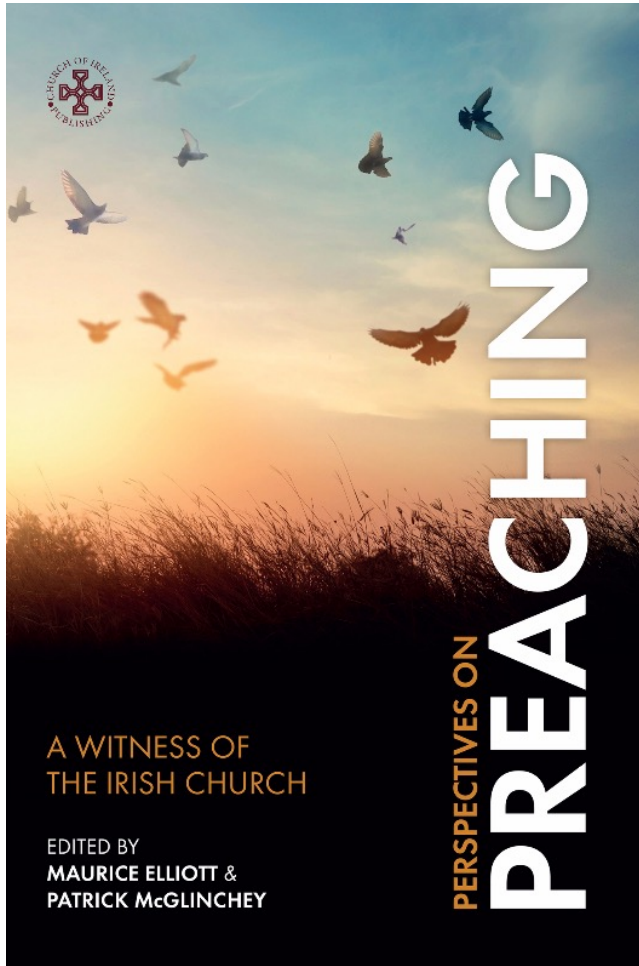
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The Very Revd Gregory Dunstan, Dean of Armagh, said, “We are delighted with Orly’s continuing association with the Cathedrals of Armagh, which began when singing as a boy in our choir under the late Theo Saunders. The publication of his Armagh Suite is a great achievement, and we are honoured that he should be giving its first performance in this Cathedral. Its dedication to Baron George Minne is most appropriate. The Baron has been a faithful friend both of this Cathedral, and of the programme of organ recitals.” Admission to the recital is free with a retiring collection most welcome towards the further endowment of the Cathedral choir through the Archbishop’s Choir Fund. For further information, please contact: St Patrick’s Cathedral, Armagh, Tel. 028 3752 3142

New C of I book on Perspectives on Preaching

A new book *Perspectives on Preaching: A Witness of the Irish Church*, published by



Church of Ireland Publishing (CIP) in conjunction with the Church of Ireland Theological Institute (CITI), will be launched by the Rt Revd Ken Good, Bishop of Derry & Raphoe, in the Music

Room of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, on Monday 22nd January 2018 at 5.30pm. The new book, featuring contributions from a wide range of preachers and thinkers, has been edited by Canon Dr Maurice Elliott (Director of CITI) and the Revd Dr Patrick McGlinchey (Lecturer in Missiology and Pastoral Studies at CITI), and has been produced with, in the words of Dr Elliott, ‘the underlying conviction that biblically-grounded, Spirit-filled and culturally-relevant preaching is a *sine qua non* for the health of any local church’. He continues, ‘The place of preaching needs urgently to be re-established as a consummately noble one within the life of every Christian congregation’.

Ahead of the book launch, Bishop Ken Good said, ‘I warmly welcome this publication. A recurrent theme in it is the need for the preacher not only to stretch people’s minds but also to move their hearts. I have to confess that my heart was excited as I read these preachers’ convictions about God’s transformative

power being released through the spoken word. Here we are reminded that the preacher, during his or her preparation, must be the first one willing to be touched by the Christ-centred message they are making ready to deliver. Then, as they speak out the message with authenticity and vitality, the hearts and minds of their congregation can be rekindled by the Holy Spirit in a way that enables influence for Christ to radiate out into the community. There is much in this book to encourage preachers and to raise their confidence in what God can accomplish in the Church and in the world through this vital ministry.'

The new publication engages with the themes of preaching Scripture, denominational charisms and preaching to the culture, across twelve different chapters. In addition to the editors, the contributors are: Archbishop Richard Clarke; the Revd Canon Patrick Comerford; the Revd Dr Shane Crombie; the Revd Dr Brian Fletcher; the Revd Barry Forde; Bishop Ferran Glenfield; Dr Katie

Heffelfinger; Bishop Harold Miller; the Rt Revd Dr Trevor Morrow and the Revd Dr Robin Stockitt.

The 242pp book will be available at the launch and thereafter from <https://store.ireland.anglican.org/store/product/140/perspectives-on-preaching-a-witness-of>. It is priced €11/£10.

Church school supporter is new Westminster Education Secretary

British prime minister Theresa May has removed Justine Greening as Education Secretary and replaced her with a Catholic supporter of faith schools, raising hopes the government will honour its pledge to scrap the much-criticised admissions cap.

Damian Hinds, the Member of Parliament for East Hampshire, was educated at St Ambrose College, a Catholic grammar school in Cheshire, before attending Oxford University. He is a long-time supporter of faith schools.



Damian Hinds arrives at Downing Street upon his appointment as Education Secretary. He is a Catholic who has called for the lifting of the admissions cap.

The Catholic Church in England will likely welcome his appointment, after his predecessor refused to remove the admissions cap which effectively prevents the Church from opening new schools.

Since becoming prime minister, Theresa May has vowed to scrap the rules which state new faith schools must admit at least 50 per cent of students from other faiths. The Church has stated that this regulation forces it to violate Canon Law, as it means over-subscribed

Catholic schools would have to turn away children because they were Catholic.

The Conservatives even included the pledge in their 2017 election manifesto, but the cap remained in place while Ms Greening was Education Secretary.

Damian Hinds has **previously called** for the government to drop the faith school cap, saying in a 2014 debate that Catholic schools would lose their “distinctive character” if the policy remains. As Education Secretary, he now has free reign to remove the cap at will.

Justine Greening has also left her role as Minister for Equalities, in which she proposed making it easier to change legal gender by removing the requirement for a medical diagnosis. She also called on religious groups to “keep up” with public opinion on same-sex marriage.

Transmit the faith with language of the family, Pope Francis

During Mass celebrated at the Sistine Chapel for the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, on Sunday



7 January, Pope Francis baptised 34 babies of Vatican employees and asked parents to ‘transmit the faith with language of the family’.

In his homily at the Mass, Pope Francis said, ‘You have brought your children to receive the Sacrament of Baptism. This is the first step in the task you have to fulfil: the task of transmitting the Faith. But we need the Holy Spirit to transmit the Faith, we cannot do it alone. Transmitting the Faith is a grace that comes from the Holy Spirit and this is why you bring your children here to receive the Holy Spirit, to receive the Trinity – the Father, Son and Holy Spirit – who will dwell in their hearts.’

‘There is just one thing I want to tell you, something that is up to you: the transmission of the Faith can only be done in “dialect”, in the “language” of the family, the “dialect” or “language” used by the father and mother, the grandfather and grandmother. The catechists will come later and develop this first transmission of the Faith, with ideas and explanations’

The Holy Father continued, ‘But do not forget this: if the “dialect” is missing, if at home you do not speak the language of love between parents, the transmission of the Faith is not so easy, it cannot be done. Do not forget. Your task is to transmit the Faith, but to do it with the language of the love of your home, the language of the Family.

‘Children, too, have their own dialect, and it makes us feel good! Now they are all quiet but if just one sets the tone, then the orchestra will follow! The language of children! And Jesus asks us to be like them, to speak like them. We must not forget this language of children, to communicate like they do. It is a language that Jesus appreciates so, in your prayers, be simple like they are: tell Jesus what is in your heart, like they do. Today they say it with tears but, yes, be like children. The language of parents must be the love with which they transmit the Faith, and

the language of children must be to receive that Faith from their parents and to grow in Faith.'

Pope Francis finished his short homily saying, 'Now we will continue with the ceremony and if the children start the concert (by crying), it is because they are uncomfortable or because they are too hot or feel hungry. If they are hungry, feed them. Don't be afraid. Go ahead and feed them. This too is the language of love.'

The World Meeting of Families 2018 will take place in Dublin from 21–26 August next. For more information please see www.worldmeeting2018.ie.

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