



***Former CICE staff and students protesting at the college's former campus in Rathmines***

## **Former C of I College of Education staff protest following move to DCU**

A group of former staff and students of the Church of Ireland College of Education has accused its governors of failing to deliver on

their responsibilities and commitments to staff and students, RTE reports

They made the accusation during the transition from the college's old campus in Rathmines to the onetime Catholic-run St Patrick's College campus in Drumcondra.

The move last August saw the a major Catholic teacher training college and the Republic's only Protestant one become part of Dublin City University.

However, the protestors who picketed the former CICE campus in Rathmines this afternoon, which included former governors, say the move has resulted in the termination of the programmes CICE once offered.

They also criticized the way the Rathmines college was closed last August with less than 24 hours notice to staff to pack their office contents.

In a statement, the group said that no clear plan has yet been communicated on how the financial, administrative and support services provided by the former CICE will continue for the nearly 100 students completing the former college's programmes in DCU.

Meanwhile, the General Secretary of the Irish Federation of University Teachers, Mike Jennings, has said former part-time CICE staff have not received satisfactory contracts and face uncertainty regarding hours and payment in their new employment. It has appealed to the board's chairman, Archbishop of Dublin and Glendalough Dr Michael Jackson, to urgently facilitate a speedy resolution of the problems.

Dr Jackson has responded by saying his Board has repeatedly sought the intervention and engagement of the Department of Education in order to resolve staff issues. In a statement, he adds that the CICE has also engaged with staff through the Workplace Relations Commission.

See also - Irish Times

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/staff-and-students-protesting-at-former-cice-site-in-rathmines-1.2953680>

## **All- Ireland parish development conference in Dublin**

Church 21 is organising a major Parish Development Conference in Dublin in March. The conference, which aims to help parishes to



## PARISH DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE



If any of these statements relate to your parish then you may want to get involved in the next CHURCH21 PARISH DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

CHURCH21 is about enabling parishes to develop:

- A clearer sense of direction.
- A clarity of focus on priorities.
- A commitment to collaborative leadership.
- And confidence for the future.

The process recognises that each parish is at a different stage of development and allows the parish to evaluate its own needs and to set its own agenda. Sharing the journey with other parishes offers a creative stimulus and an added degree of motivation.



develop, takes place in the Emmaus Retreat Centre, Swords, on Saturday March 25 from 10.00 am until 4.00 pm.

The Revd Ian Coffey, Director of Leadership Training at Moorlands College, and internationally renowned speaker, will be the facilitator and areas covered will include: Getting from A to B, Harnessing Frustration, Turning Dreams into Reality and Stepping Stones of Parish Development.

In addition, participants will be learning from churches who have embarked on their own journeys of development in very different contexts.

Church 21 is encouraging parishes to send one ordained leader and at least four people. Of those attending they say that, ideally, one will be under 45 and one under 25. The subsidised cost per person is €18 which includes coffee and lunch.

For further information see the Church 21 website: [www.church21.ie](http://www.church21.ie) To book please sign up on the website or contact the Church 21 Administrator: Tessa Marsden on 071-9147007 by Friday 24 February 2017.

The Parish Development Working Group is a sub-committee of the Standing Committee of the General Synod of the Church of Ireland. The members are all volunteers rooted in the life the church and with a wide variety of experience and a commitment to keep learning and growing through the Church 21 process.

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## **Pastoral Carers course underway in Belfast**

The second of two pastoral care courses provided for the diocese of Down & Dromore has just begun in St. Donard's parish halls. The 'Resourcing Pastoral Carers Course' enables people to develop their understanding of pastoral care from a Christian perspective and become more effective in relating to and caring for the people and communities around them. It is being facilitated by Jean Pillar, the Pastoral Associate at Carnmoney Presbyterian using a course developed by Pastoral Care UK.

The course is aimed at those who want to learn and develop pastoral relationships with those around them, either informally or as part of developing a pastoral care team for the parish. It involves 10 different sessions over 8 weeks looking at areas such as human need, listening skills, the pastoral care relationship and reflective practice.

The course was arranged by the development Officer, Andrew Brannigan, as part of a number of opportunities being provided through the 'Life Changing Leadership' Project in the diocese. Commenting shortly after the course started he stated: 'We are very excited to be able to offer this course to the diocese to help develop pastoral skills for lay people across a number of parishes. We are also very grateful for the course tutors, Jean Pillar and Lisa Martin for Pastoral Care NI, who have given up valuable time to provide this course for us. The area of pastoral care provision is just one of a number of opportunities we want to develop to help train up lay people for leadership and ministry across the diocese and it is encouraging to see this course full.

For more information on other training opportunities in 'Life Changing Leadership' contact Andrew on [andrew@downanddromore.org](mailto:andrew@downanddromore.org)

## **Prince Charles complains Brexit 'obsession' has stifled debate on Christian persecution**

The Prince of Wales has complained that the public has become overly 'obsessed' with Brexit

to the detriment of other burning issues including the plight of Christians in the Middle East, Robert Mendick writes in The Daily Telegraph

According to a well-placed source, Prince Charles expressed his concerns at a Lambeth Palace reception hosted by the Archbishop of Canterbury the Most Reverend Justin Welby at which he was guest of honour.

“People are more interested and obsessed with Brexit than persecuted Christians.” Prince Charles

The heir to the throne told fellow guests that he believed a major report into religious persecution had “sunk without trace” because it was overshadowed by the ongoing fallout from the European referendum.

Prince Charles told guests at the event on Thursday evening: “People are more interested and obsessed with Brexit than persecuted Christians.”

The comments have not been denied by Royal aides. Clarence House said it did not comment on private conversations.



***Prince Charles: "People are more interested and obsessed with Brexit than persecuted Christians"***

The theme of religious persecution has become a growing preoccupation for Prince Charles in recent years, who has never been shy at speaking out over causes close to his heart, such as the environment or modern architecture.

[In December the prince delivered Radio 4's Thought for the Day in which he spoke out about the dangers of religious persecution and warned against a repeat of "the horrors of the past".](#)

He spoke movingly of his meeting with a Jesuit priest from Syria who had told Prince Charles "of

mass kidnappings in parts of Syria and Iraq and how he feared that Christians will be driven en masse out of lands described in the Bible”.

Prince Charles said at the private reception at Lambeth House he was dismayed that a report by Aid to the Church in Need (ACN), a Catholic charity that supports oppressed Christians, had received little coverage.

The report Religious Freedom in the World 2016 was launched at Clarence House at an event attended by the Prince.

He even posted a video message supporting the study. But the report received little coverage in the mainstream media and no mention on national television, much to Prince Charles’s chagrin.

The source at the Lambeth House event said: “Prince Charles complained that the Aid to the Church in Need report had sunk without trace because people were so obsessed with Brexit.”

ACN welcomed the prince’s comments while confirming it had received a donation from the Prince of Wales’ Charitable Foundation.

Neville Kyrke-Smith, ACN’s national director, said: “Despite highlighting the genocidal attacks

on Christians and other minorities in the Middle East, the secular press showed little interest in the Religious Freedom in the World Report and there was no national television coverage.

“It is those who are suffering at this time who are left abandoned unless ACN and other charities respond to their terrible plight.”

Prince Charles attended the event at Lambeth House as part of the 50th anniversary celebrations of the Anglican Centre in Rome, which was set up to improve relations between the Anglican and Catholic churches. Also present at the event was Cardinal Vincent Nichols, the leader of the Catholic Church in England Wales. Prince Charles received a gift of a wooden cross made from wreckage of a refugee boat that had washed up on Lampedusa, the Italian island in the Mediterranean which is about 70 miles from the north African coast.

## **Pope stresses Order of Malta's sovereignty as Grand Master's resignation is confirmed**

The Knights of Malta say Pope Francis has written to their leaders stressing the sovereignty

of the ancient Catholic lay order, following the Vatican's intervention in the order. The Grand Master, Fra' Matthew Festing, has resigned at Pope Francis's request. The order's Sovereign Council in Rome today accepted his resignation, with "[a handful](#)" of votes against (out of at most 10), and a papal delegate will soon be appointed to run the Order.

Fra' Festing had dismissed the order's foreign minister, Albrecht von Boeselager. The minister was removed as grand chancellor following allegations of misconduct, some relating to the distribution of condoms under his watch. Boeselager denied all wrongdoing.

The Vatican intervened on the minister's behalf. On Saturday, the council scrapped the disciplinary measures against von Boeselager, who resumes his post. The Knights say Francis wrote to them on Friday, stressing the order's sovereignty.

Until Festing's successor is elected, previous Grand Commander (number 2) Fra' Ludwig Hoffmann von Rumerstein serves as its interim leader.

See also -

The Knights have had painful clashes with the Vatican before. They can survive this too

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/commentandblogs/2017/01/27/the-knights-have-had-painful-clashes-with-the-vatican-before-they-can-survive-this-too/>

## **Derry & Raphoe's first Confirmation Fun Day proves a big hit**

Around 60 young people from Counties Donegal, Tyrone and Londonderry took part in a 'Confirmation Fun Day' on Saturday, which was organised by Derry and Raphoe Youth (DRY).

The teenage participants came from seven different parishes in the Diocese. This year DRY decided to replace its traditional 'Confirmation Overnight' with a one-day event, which meant those preparing to receive the sacrament in 2017 didn't have to spend the night in sleeping bags on the floors of the Diocesan Centre.

The 'Fun Day' began with doughnuts and fruit juice, and an introduction by the Diocesan Youth Officer Martin Montgomery. The young people were then addressed briefly by the Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Rt Rev Ken Good, who will be confirming them later this year.



teenagers were taken by coach to the Foyle Arena in the Waterside for activities which included 'Bubbleball' and archery. The games were sandwiched between lunchtime hot-dogs and teatime pizza. The day concluded with a short evening Youth Service .

There were three ministers in attendance throughout Saturday's event: Rev Paul Whittaker from Errigal and Desertoghill; Rev Ruth West from Inver, Mountcharles, Killaghtee and Killybegs; and Rev Naomi Quinn from Derg and Termonamongan.

## **Bóthar sends its 1000th heifer to Rwanda**



including its 1000th heifer, to Rwanda. The Irish charity sends in-calf Irish heifers and other animals, donated by Irish farmers, to the African country which suffered genocide in 1994.

Many of the donor farmers turned up at Roscrea Mart to see off their animals on Tuesday (24 January 2017) and were welcomed on behalf of Bóthar by Tipperary's All-Ireland winning senior hurling manager Michael Ryan.

“We live privileged lives here but there are people across the developing world who obviously don't. I've been very struck by the impact Bóthar has on families,” said Michael Ryan, who is also a part-time farmer.

“The farmers who donate the cows, in particular, deserve huge credit because, and I know this as a part-time farmer, this is no small donation. In-calf heifers could fetch over €1,500, so that’s a very generous contribution. Similarly, people who donate to Bóthar make a very important contribution.”

It was a GAA double for Bóthar, as Dublin’s two-in-a-row winning football manager Jim Gavin was there three months ago when Bóthar sent out an airlift of animals to Rwanda for its 25th anniversary trip.

This 1000th heifer adds to an already strong ‘Irish herd’ now in Rwanda. The herd is multiplying every year as Bóthar returns with artificial-insemination straws from Ireland to put the cows back in calf. The in-calf heifers are treasured in Rwanda, where agriculture is a leading industry.

“Last October when we arrived there the Rwandan Minister for Agriculture Gerardine Mukeshimana was present to welcome us, as well as a troupe of traditional dancers. It was great to see just how much Rwandans appreciate this gift from Irish people,” said Bóthar CEO Dave Moloney.



***Sophie Walker, Convent of Mercy National School,  
with Michael Ryan***

“We got out to the countryside to meet families who had received cows from us as many as seven years ago. It was heartening to see the difference this made to their lives,” he said.

He described meeting a woman who had just lost her husband and two of her five children back in 2009. Bóthar gave her a cow, and from the proceeds of the sale of the calves and the milk, she was able to build a better house and put two of her remaining three children through second and third level education.

“You can still see the sadness in her but her life has become far less of a struggle thanks to that single Irish cow,” he said.

The latest consignment was possible thanks to the generosity of farmer donors and members of the general public who supported the Christmas campaign, he said.

He added, “It was our best Christmas in probably ten years and that means we will be able to send out more animals this year again. That’s going to mean more families having their lives transformed.”

Animals donated by Irish farmers are given to women widowed by the genocide in which between 800,000 and 1 million people were slaughtered in a 90-day period in a country slightly larger than the province of Munster.

Last October, Bóthar sent its biggest ever cargo consignment to Rwanda as part of its 25th anniversary celebrations. The Bóthar ‘Ark’ plane took over 300 animals, including 37 in-calf dairy cows, 3 bulls, 160 pigs, 100 dairy goats and 5,000 chicks.

The animals help feed families who give their first-born female animal to a neighbour, and that

neighbour does the same, so the gift of a single cow from Ireland multiplies over the years.

While Bóthar receives donations of animals from Irish farmers, it fundraises to pay for shipping, housing and feeding the animals. It also trains the people to care for the animals once they arrive in their new homes in Africa, India and elsewhere.

The first Bóthar flight left the same airport 25 years ago with a cargo of just 20 cows. It was intended as a one-off by a group of Mid-West farmers, among them legendary farm leader TJ Maher, as their way of marking the 300th anniversary of the Treaty of Limerick.

A quarter of a century later, the charity continues its work.

For more information on the work of Bóthar, see [www.bothar.ie](http://www.bothar.ie).

## **News briefs**

**+++ Limerick recital** - There will be a lunchtime recital in St Mary's cathedral, Limerick, on Wednesday at 1.15pm by Ed Creedon (viola) accompanied by Sabine Ducrot (piano). Admission is free with a retiring collection for the Companions of St Mary's Cathedral Music.

**+++ Retreat in the City** - The very popular 'Retreat in the City' returns to Christ Church cathedral, Dublin, next Friday evening. 'Going up the Holy Mountain: A Journey of Love' takes place in the Lady Chapel from 3 to 5 February and will be led by the Ven. Gary Hastings, Rector of Galway. The sessions will be based on his book *Going up the Holy Mountain*, a reflection on the Croagh Patrick pilgrimage. The retreat will include a series of stations related to our relationship to ourselves and to God and to the brokenness that is part of our human existence, as well as reflections on loving God, neighbour and self. The retreat is open to all. It is non-residential with a registration fee of €100. To register contact the cathedral office on 01-677 8099 or [welcome@christchurch.ie](mailto:welcome@christchurch.ie)

**+++ Limerick dedications** - Yesterday morning a new columbarium in St Mary's cathedral grounds was dedicated. During the same Eucharist, which is a united service for Limerick City parish, the St Mark's Chapel and the fine stone pulpit was also re-dedicated. The pulpit was re-sited following restoration work in the cathedral, and has a beautiful carving of the scene of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple on the front so making yesterday a very

appropriate Sunday on which to re-dedicate the pulpit.

**+++ Derry institution** - Parishioners of Glendermott with Newbuildings have been urged to 'come on board' with their new Rector, Rev Robert Boyd, who was instituted by the Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Rt Rev Ken Good, at a Service on Thursday evening. The appeal was delivered to a packed Glendermott Parish Church by the preacher, Canon Neville Hughes. Among those in the congregation were the Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District Council, Alderman Hilary McClintock, Londonderry's Deputy Lieutenant, Mrs Jean Davidson, and the new incumbent's wife May and children Ellen and Reuben. Also present were a number of former curates at Glendermott, including Canon Walter Quill, who was ordained in the church almost 57 years ago

**+++ Plough Sunday celebrated** - a service was held yesterday in **Staplestown parish church, Co. Carlow**. to mark the start of the growing season. The service, which is a local ecumenical initiative was jointly led by the rector, the Revd. David White and Fr. Seán Hyland from St. Joseph's Church, Tinryland. This service traditionally took place on the first Sunday of

Epiphany and goes back to Victorian times, but behind it there is a much older observance, associated with the first working day after the twelve days of Christmas.

**+++ Doneraile concert** - Following the success of last year's variety concert in St. Mary's Church of Ireland, Doneraile, it is planned to hold another there on Friday February 10 at 8pm. Along with some old favourites, like the Cahirmee singers, Nagle Rice School Choir, Gospel Singer, Pamela Muganwa and local tenor, Michael O'Keeffe organiser say they are fortunate to have talented newcomers, Cuisle Avondhu Senior Orchestra (Traditional Musicians), Marian Quirke and Edward Winter lined up to perform on the night. Admission is €10 and tickets can be obtained from Centra Supermarket, Doneraile or by phoning Ina at (022)25295 or (087)6921649.

**+++ Part time administrator wanted** - Wicklow & Killiskey Parishes are looking for a part time administrator to help with church communication, event marketing, management of records and financial record keeping. Flexible working hours up to 14 per week. Rate of pay circa €10.50 per hour. To find out more and request a job description, please email Rev Jack

Kinhead at [revjackkinhead@gmail.com](mailto:revjackkinhead@gmail.com) by the 6th of February.

**News links to reports on faith,  
politics and education - please see  
separate posting on CNI site.**