

## **Bishops of Derry condemn violence during visit to trouble spots**



### **Bishops get close-up view of Londonderry violence**

The Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Rt Rev Ken Good, and the Bishop of Derry, Dr Donal McKeown, had just paid a



### **The Moderator at the recent national service of remembrance**

joint visit to the Fountain and the Bogside, to meet people affected by the petrol bomb attacks on the Fountain and by subsequent rioting in the Bishop Street and Lecky Road areas.

The bishops met youth workers at the Cathedral Youth Club in the Fountain and residents living beside the nearby peace wall, where trouble has flared for the last four nights. They also talked to senior citizens living in sheltered accommodation on the other side of the peace wall at Alexander House and in St Columb's Wells, who have witnessed some of the worst of this week's violence.





**The Duke and Duchess of Sussex visited the Famine Memorial during their visit to Dublin this week**

They were accompanied on their visit to the Fountain by Rev Canon John Merrick from St Columb's Cathedral, and in the Bogside by Waterside priest Fr Michael Canny. In both areas, the churchmen talked to community workers who have been trying to divert young people and quell the disturbances.

As the bishops left St Columb's Wells, a white commercial van was abandoned at the foot of Lecky Road flyover and set on fire. By the time firefighters arrived to deal with the incident the vehicle was well alight.

Bishop McKeown and Bishop Good issued a joint statement condemning this week's trouble and urging parents to use their influence to stop it. They said -

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“The continuing attacks on the Fountain – indeed, attacks on people in any part of our community – are an affront to our society and deserve our unqualified condemnation,” Bishops McKeown and Good said in a joint statement.

“There is no justification for the stone-throwing and petrol bombing which has terrorised people living in the Fountain, terrified residents of Alexander House, and appalled the vast, vast majority of their fellow citizens.”

The bishops said they were thankful that no one has been seriously injured or worse as a result of the recent attacks, but recognised that people might not be so lucky in the coming days.

In their joint statement they condemned the violence and urged parents to use their influence to stop it. They offered full support to the PSNI and commended the many local community workers who work to prevent interface violence and improve community relations. They encouraged political representatives to do their utmost to end the stalemate which has paralysed politics in Northern Ireland.

## **Protestant churches push Irish government to keep RE as core subject in primary schools**

Representatives of Protestant churches in Ireland have told the taoiseach Leo Varadkar that religious education must be retained as a core subject in the primary curriculum, The Times reports.

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Minutes of meetings between Protestant churches and a government delegation, released under the Freedom of Information Act, show they have raised concerns about proposals by the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) to turn religious education into a discretionary subject.

At a meeting on January 22 between the churches and a government delegation, the education minister Richard Bruton defended the proposal, saying he had a “constitutional obligation to deliver primary education to all, including an increasing number of children not belonging to any denomination”. Bruton said he was aware of the “diversity which Protestant schools have to offer”.

## **Christian parents of boy rescued from Thai cave: 'There's nothing God can't do'**

The Christian parents of a boy who was part of a youth football team rescued from a flooded cave in Thailand have thanked God that he has been rescued.

Their son is sponsored through Compassion, a Christian children's charity.

They told the organisation: "Thank you to God who helps us to see our son very soon.

"We are so happy to hear that our son is out of the cave and to welcome him home. It's the love that God gives to our family. God is great love and there's nothing He can't do."



The daring rescue mission ended an 18-day ordeal that claimed the life of an experienced volunteer diver and riveted people around the world.

The twelve boys and their football coach were trapped deep within the labyrinth.

Ewan McGregor, a British missionary living in Chang Rai where the hospital the boys are being taken to is located, told Premier the rescue is a miracle and people are feeling relived and excited.

"It really is a miracle and a result pf prayer and I'm just excited to hear the testimonies of the boys when they're safe and well.

"In the beginning it looked hopeless after nine days without hearing anything and after that the whole story turned... from a sad story to a really great story."

He said that Christians should pray for the boys' lives now they've been rescued.

"My prayer is they can settle back into normal life. I think they're going to be quite well known throughout the city

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and across Thailand. I pray that their testimonies and the things they say and do after this that God will use for the nation of Thailand."

## **Prince Charles visits churches as part of his summer tour of Wales**

The Prince of Wales, Prince Charles, has visited a number of Anglican churches as part of his annual summer tour of the country. In his tour this year Prince Charles visited two churches in St Davids Diocese and one in St Asaph, which has within its churchyard a Yew Tree thought to be 5000 years old.

In St David's Diocese, he visited St Jerome's Church in Llangwm, near Haverfordwest. Here he saw an award-winning tapestry depicting Llangwm's links with its historic Flemish past and, along with his wife Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, presented an award to parishioner Pam Hunt, whose vision gave rise to the project, in recognise of its imaginative use of digital technology.

Later, he visited another church with Belgian links – St Gwenog's Church in Llanwenog, Ceredigion. Here he saw some rare carvings by the sculptor Joseph Reubens, who fled Belgium and found refuge in the village during World War One. The church is home to the carvings.

Accompanied by Canon Suzy Bale, the Prince toured the church and met local parishioners and pupils from the local school, Ysgol Dyffryn Cledlyn.





**Prince Charles the Prince of Wales and the Bishop of St Asaph, Gregory Cameron, inspect a 5000-year-old yew tree in the churchyard of St Gwenog's Church in Llanwenog**

In St Asaph, Prince Charles visited St Digain's Church in Llangernyw near Conwy, on the north Wales coast, where he was met by the Bishop of St Asaph, Gregory Cameron, and local vicar Gwenda Cooper. The ancient yew tree is said to be the oldest living thing in the UK. Toby Hindson, co-founder of the Ancient Yew Group, briefed the Prince about the science behind the aging of the tree. Prince Charles then examined the sixth century crossed stones in the churchyard before heading inside the church to meet members of the local community.

“Christian worship has taken place on this site at Llangernyw since the fifth century, yet this Yew Tree seems



to pre-dates those early Christians by several thousand years,” Bishop Gregory said. “This Yew Tree is an important feature and landmark on the 130-mile North Wales Pilgrim’s Way, which links the ruin of Basingwerk Abbey near Holywell with Bardsey Island off the Llyn Peninsula.”

The vicar of Llangernyw, Gwenda Cooper, said: “It was an honour to welcome Prince Charles to our village, show him our treasured Yew Tree and introduce him to the many people who run so many organisations and groups which keeps our community thriving.

“The Yew Tree in our churchyard is a very visual reminder that we, as the church, are custodians of our nation’s history and heritage. We take our responsibilities very seriously and encourage as many people as possible, be they pilgrims or tourists, to visit our church and reflect on the many people who have passed through this place over the centuries.”

## WEB review

**+++Preparing for uni** - A great gift for young adults going to university. Developed over many years of supporting freshers & training student workers, the Student Linkup Box is packed full of resources and books that encourage and inspire. It is full of essential advice and tools that prompt & provoke important space to reflect, pray and plan for the transition to university. Developed over many years of supporting freshers and training student workers, the Student Linkup Box is packed full of resources and books that encourage and inspire. It is teaming with essential

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<https://www.fusionmovement.org/box>

### **+++Lattes pray: Church of England to deliver sermons in coffee shops**

- The Church of England is holding services in coffee shops in an attempt to reinvigorate congregations. As part of a £27million expansion, new congregations will be set up in coastal areas and housing estates, with more relaxed meetings designed to appeal to millennials and attract new worshippers. Many of them will follow the example of a “café-style” church in Margate, which was set up 10 years ago and offers churchgoers coffee and cake before an evening service.

[https://digitaledition.telegraph.co.uk/editions/edition\\_MkAW5\\_2018-07-11/data/517069/index.html?](https://digitaledition.telegraph.co.uk/editions/edition_MkAW5_2018-07-11/data/517069/index.html?)

## **News briefs**

### **+++Archbishop of Canterbury**

- On Friday I'll be hosting a conference at @LambethPalace with

@LivabilityUK on

how we ensure people with disabilities can participate fully in the @churchofengland. Please pray for this important gathering and follow along on #CofeBelong



**Welcome**  
**+ Inclusion**  
**+ Participation**  
**+ Your church**  

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**Livability**

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**+++Moderator of PCI** - Tweeted - Three days at the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Wales. A warm hearted and welcoming fellowship. I loved their logo bringing together the Bible and the dove - the Spirit illuminating the Word.



**+++Methodist Chaplain TCD** - Photo above -Great to be in South Africa with students from around the island of Ireland! So far so good! Irish Methodist world mission partnership

**+++Presbyterians in Portugal** - A team from Adelaide Road Presbyterian Church in Dublin arrived in Portugal yesterday to work with James and Heather





Cochrane in the church plant at Senhora da Hora. Pray for the outreach activities which the team will be involved in.  
[bit.ly/2cgVbSa](http://bit.ly/2cgVbSa)

**+++Children's Monks' Tours of Christ Church Cathedral**  
- A children's Monks' Tours of Christ Church is being held every Saturday morning at 12.00 from 3 Jun until 27 Sept. The tour is set in 1268 and you will be led around the cathedral by a guide who is your prior. Dress up in a monk's robe and learn all about how monks lived.



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