



## **Honorary degree for Dean of St Patrick's for his contributions to Derry**

The Very Reverend William Morton has received the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters (DLitt) for his outstanding civic contributions to the community of Derry/Londonderry.

The University stated - As a former Dean to St Columbs Cathedral, he was dedicated to the service of his parishioners and the building of interfaith relationships. During his tenure, he developed a number of cross community and ecumenical events which helped to strengthened the fabric of the city.

In his search for peace and reconciliation William negotiated agreement around parades though his work with local community groups, police and church leaders.

With the support of his wife Rosemary he oversaw a substantial restoration of the Cathedral and opened it up to the wider community.

Not only has it added to the physical structure of the city, it has enhanced the tourism offering and has become a place where music and culture has come alive.

Through the Cathedral's arts and music programme he initiated, Derry/Londonderry has become the 'Capital' in Ireland for Pipe Organ Events.

## **Mary McAleese likes 'argumentative' Pope Francis who 'likes you to argue back'**

Former president of Ireland, Mary McAleese has said she likes the fact that [Pope Francis](#) is "an argumentative pope." She liked it that he encouraged debate within the [Catholic](#)

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[Church](#) and wasn't afraid of divergence, the Irish Times reports.

“He’s an argumentative pope and he likes you to argue back”, and that made him very different from either of his immediate predecessors, Benedict XVI or [John Paul II](#), she said. However, he could also be “puzzling . . . he says one thing one day and a contrary thing another day”, she said.

But his track record on women was “poor”, she said. He had promoted a handful of women but given them no more voice.

She felt that ordaining women had ceased to be a relevant question, even if theology preventing this was “thin”. The main issue was how the church could hope to represent women when they had been effectively disenfranchised.

“Tell me how do you propose to allow the 600 million women who are members of the church to make a significant contribution to doctrine, to the interpretation of doctrine, to dogma, to church teaching, given that they can't do it the conventional way?” she asked.

## **Problem**

The overriding problem with the church was that it operated as an empire in an age when that model of governance was long since outdated, she said. At the centre was a small all-male cohort who acted as “legislators and judges and juries” as well as being “purveyors of doctrine”.

The problem was a structure in which the men at the top spoke down to the people at the bottom. But that way of communicating was becoming increasingly problematic for



church leaders because the people at the bottom had found their voices and were speaking up, and cardinals and bishops were not able to control that – as in the recent abortion referendum in [Ireland](#), she said.

In an interview with the *Tablet* magazine, she compared the church to a plane with metal fatigue that needs to be grounded and fixed.

“It’s been flying long hours and delivering people safely and doing a good job, but now there are a million little cracks that have not been observed and have not been tackled or addressed, and it wouldn’t take an awful lot to throw a spanner in the works and for it to fall out of the sky,” she said.

### **Surging power**

It needed “to be looked at very intently to identify what parts need to be replaced”, she continued.

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As a committed Catholic, she hoped the church would galvanise itself to be an agent of real change, change that would improve the lives of such as young women and gay people.

“The Catholic Church can become an enormous power, a surging power, a tsunami of good in the world and would have across five continents a fantastic influence that could open up new feelings of grace,” she said.

What it needed first, though, was a period of self-reflection and self-criticism, qualities it had not prioritised for a long time, she said.

## **'We call on all parties to find a peaceful solution': UK gov on religious violence in Nigeria**

The UK government says it's working with politicians in Nigeria to bring about peace following months of religious based violence in the African country.

A question was put to ministers here by Lord Alton based on the attacks by Fulani militia which included the targeting of the home of Archbishop of Jos Most Rev Benjamin Kwashi.

In a written answer, Lord Ahmad who is a Foreign Office minister and is also the UK's religious freedom envoy, said: "This issue has also been raised with Abba Kyari, President Buhari's Chief of Staff.





"It is imperative that the Nigerian government works with the affected populations to develop a solution that meets the needs of all the communities affected. We welcome President Buhari's engagement on this issue and his commitment to prioritise ending violence in Northern Nigeria.

"We join his call on all parties to find a peaceful solution to the complex underlying causes of these incidents and will continue to work with the Nigerian Government, NGOs and civil society to improve the security situation and human rights for all the people of Nigeria." The Christian Association of Nigeria estimates that 6,000 have died in the violence which it labels "pure genocide"

## **C of E to consider personality tests for future clergy**

Personality tests could be brought in to avoid the ordination of those who simply seek authority and see if a potential vicar is up for the challenges.

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Julian Hubbard is the director of the Church's Ministry Division, making decisions about the vocation and ordination process.

He told the Daily Telegraph: "We are considering the use of psychological assessment as part of the process of discernment for those seeking ordination in the Church of England, for possible introduction in 2019.

"This has been given added focus by the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse and the requirement to provide greater assurance on the effectiveness of the selection process. So we are examining its potential as a means to identify candidates who might pose a risk to others.

"But this is not only about safeguarding. It is vital to use all means available to find people with the right skills and aptitudes for this unique, but very challenging, calling."

Hubbard said personality tests wouldn't be entirely new and added: "Some dioceses have been using forms of assessment for a while to provide insight about how candidates might develop and respond to the challenges of the role.

"They have also found that it can be a useful tool in helping candidates grow in self-awareness.

"Of course, candidates are generally very well-known over a period of years and any psychological assessment would

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be only one of several sources of information by the time a decision is made."

## **Data protection blamed over church prayer complaint**

New rules, known as GDPR, are being blamed after a man complained that a church was unable to pray for his friend by name.

Ian Duckworth had asked Bridport Methodist Church to remember in prayer his friend who had recently been admitted into a hospice.

He was told that wasn't possible to do by name as the friend hadn't given his consent for others to know about his sensitive information.

The new rules, which came in across Europe in May, mean that organisations who hold data need to have the consent of the person to which that data belongs.

It most commonly affects electronic communications.

Responding to the story, a spokesperson for the Methodist Church said: "Prayer is not covered by GDPR, but churches need to be mindful that details of someone's health is sensitive data."

Premier News Chief Operating Officer Kevin Bennett has worked on GDPR on behalf of the charity.



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Speaking on the News Hour, he said: "This was not what GDPR was intended to do.

"It was intended to deal with social media giants who were abusing data or PPI claims handlers - it was never intended to impact on who can pray for who."

Encouraging churches, who fear breaking the rules, not to give up on public prayers, he said: "Pray by using first names - that's not personally identifying them.

"If the person can't be identified by what's shared then there's no issue with that action."

## News briefs

### **+++Dublin World Meeting of Families breaks records -**

Bookings for World Meeting of Families events in Dublin next month "before it ever starts, has already exceeded all records," Bishop of [Kildare](#) and Leighlin Denis Nulty has said. The event, which began in Rome in 1994, has taken place every three years since. Other cities where it has been hosted include [Rio de Janeiro](#) (1997), [Manila](#) (2003), Valencia (2006), [Mexico City](#) (2009), Milan (2012), and [Philadelphia](#) (2015). It has been in Rome twice, in 1994 and 2000. In his homily for Aifreann na Clainne (Mass of the Family), which took place at the [RTÉ](#) studios in Donnybrook Sunday morning and was broadcast on TV and radio, [Bishop Nulty](#) said that "in 41 days' time [Pope Francis](#) arrives for the World Meeting of Families". "On the first day that the tickets went online, those for Knock were completely gone in just over four hours. By midnight of that

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first day that tickets became available, 353,874 had booked tickets for the Mass in the [Phoenix Park](#). “This World Meeting, centred here in Dublin, before it ever starts, has already exceeded all records.”

### **+++Holywood Peru team**

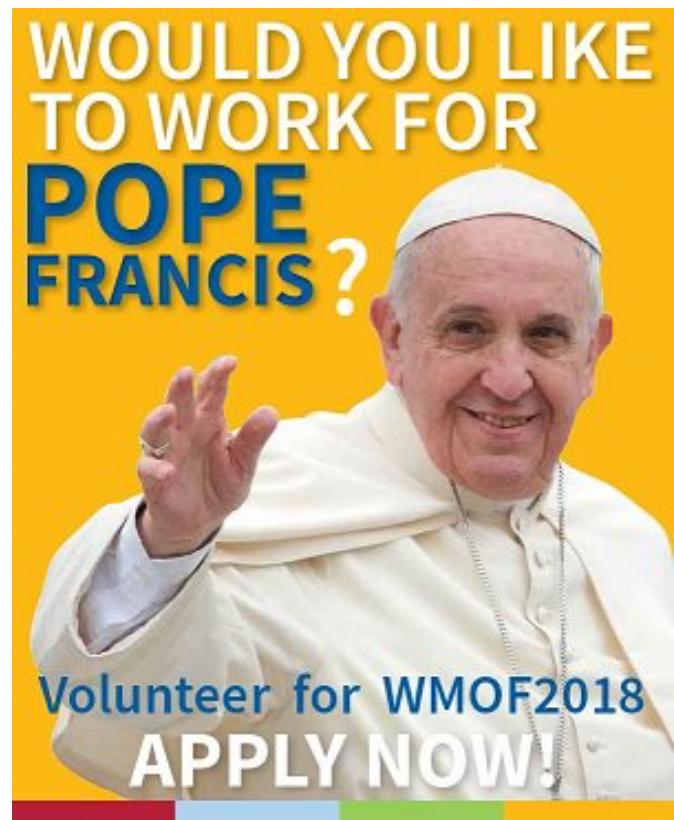
- The team from Holywood C of I parish had lots of fun putting on a puppet show for the kids at Jesus el

Salvador! “We shared much laughter with the children as we learnt about King David!”

**+++Drumbeg team heads home from Uganda** - The rector, the Revd Willie Nixon sums up in a short video <https://bit.ly/2ut2kpe>

**+++Would you like to work for Pope Francis?** The WMF organisers have now opened up one-day volunteer roles at the Papal Mass in Phoenix Park on Sunday 26th August: Volunteer Papal Mass Stewards and Holy Communion Team volunteers. Apply now! <https://www.worldmeeting2018.ie/en/Get-Involved/Volunteer>

**+++ Pope on missionary discipleship** - Pope Francis spoke about two characteristics of missionary discipleship during the Angelus on Sunday: mission has a centre; mission has a face





**+++Cross-Community human chain** - Wreaths torn from a war memorial in Newry and thrown into a muddy riverbed were retrieved by a "cross section of the community" and replaced within hours. The vandalism of the cenotaph at Bank Place was spotted by people making their way to work in the town on Saturday. Before long they had formed a human chain to gather the poppies from Clanrye River and return them to the display. It came less than a week after wreaths remembering 18 soldiers killed at Warrenpoint were damaged at the Narrow Water Memorial.

**+++Methodist soapstone crosses** - NEW hanging soapstone cross in grey. These fairly-traded soapstone crosses help disadvantaged people across the developing world, trade themselves out of poverty. Order yours now, only £2.50 [ow.ly/1JNF30kmGxq](http://ow.ly/1JNF30kmGxq)

**+++Start your own Bible Book Club** - Love reading and studying the Bible in a group setting? Why not think about starting your own Bible Book Club? Here are a few tips to get you started! [bit.ly/2s55qOZ](http://bit.ly/2s55qOZ)

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**+++Nationwide vote sought for L'Arche Belfast** - L'Arche Belfast have been shortlisted to receive a grant of £11,000 from the Nationwide Fund. This would enable the community to furnish their third house and create a sensory room. If you're a Nationwide member, please vote!

**+++Friends against Scams** - There will be a presentation, 'Friends against Scams', delivered by Community Banker, Stephanie Roberts (of the Ulster Bank) in Older People North West, Malvern House, Chapel Road on Wednesday 18th July at... [facebook.com/11661152502040...](https://www.facebook.com/11661152502040...)

**+++Roman Catholic Choristers' Course with RSCM** - Roman Catholic choristers are invited to this day course, led by Rosemary Field of the RSCM. Following on from successful courses in the UK, we are delighted to bring this course to Ireland for the first time. The day will include vocal technique and recreation. All choristers welcome – no auditioned entry. Venue: Mullingar Cathedral, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath Start Date: Monday 20th August 2018 00:00 End Date: Monday 20th August 2018 00:00 Cost: €12 Director: Rosemary Field

**+++Bishops consecrated for potential new Anglican province of Chile** - Major steps were taken in the journey toward the creation of the 40th province of the Anglican Communion, when two new bishops were created for the Diocese of Chile. The diocese is currently part of the province of the Anglican Church of South America, but is set to become its own autonomous Anglican Communion province later this year. The move has been ratified by both the diocesan Synod and the Provincial College of Bishops.



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Next month an international delegation led by the chair of the Anglican Consultative Council will visit Chile to decide whether it is ready to become a separate province. Read the [full article here](#).



**+++The President of the Methodist Church in Ireland** - Great to call this week with this great team of leaders & volunteers which includes the Royal Servants from USA as The Surf Project at Portrush prepares for Kids Summer Club with Christian Teaching, Fun Games & Surf Lessons. Please remember them in your prayers.

**+++Mothers Union Summer sale** - Whilst it may be hot and sunny right now [@MUeShop](#) has just released their [#Autumn](#) catalogue. Browse the new additions now online at <https://mueshop.org>

[churchnewsireland@gmail.org](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.org)

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