



Don't check England's World Cup quarter final score, C of E tells wedding guests



People attending weddings on Saturday afternoon are being warned by the Church of England against checking the score in England's World Cup quarter final clash while ceremonies are taking place.

Guests have been urged by Church leaders to be "fully on-side with the happy couple" by switching their phones off before the service starts, however conflicted they may feel about missing England's game against Sweden.

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Rev Sandra Millar, the Church's head of life events, told The Telegraph: "For those attending a wedding service at 3pm, I'd strongly encourage you to make sure you are fully on-side with the happy couple and switch off your mobile phone in advance.

Millions of people are expected to watch England take on Sweden in the third quarter final match of the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia. Kick-off at the Samara Stadium is at 3pm UK time - a popular time for wedding ceremonies and receptions.

Rev Millar added: "For those getting married on Saturday, like England fans, you might experience a few nerves - but you can be sure that it will also be the best day of your life, with memories to cherish. Who knows, come 6pm, that may be something you share with the rest of the nation too."

Saturday's match will mark the first time England has reached the last-eight of a World Cup since Germany hosted the tournament in 2006.

Dublin's Gateway a wider vision of mission

Gateway is about mission. We exercise mission in two broad categories – reaching in, and reaching out. In reaching in, we constantly try to engage with the community we already have. In reaching out, we seek to bring the Good News to those who have no contact with



The Revd Jack Kinkead.

Christian faith, Jack Kinkead writes on the Dublin & Glendalough web site.

At Diocesan Synod in October 2017, Gateway was launched by Archdeacon Ricky Rountree.

The Archbishop developed the analogy of the gateway to help us imagine how it is that we step through to an imagined but unknown future, having travelled a journey already. It is an open door – we do not close the door to the past as we journey on. As with all analogies, it serves a purpose only if not over-analysed!

The Archbishop wrote an article to articulate how Gateway is designed to be part of a wider diocesan vision, along with other projects, most notably, Come & C. Building a diocesan vision rooted in the Five Marks of Mission. Dublin & Glendalough, along with the Dioceses of Tuam, Killala and Achonry and Connor have gathered at facilitated talks, in an inter diocesan learning experience.

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We are a Trinitarian faith, and live, in many ways, a Trinitarian life – past, present, future. To that end, the flyer produced sums up Gateway: Celebrate the Past; Explore the Present; Craft the Future.

One of the great sources for faith in Anglicanism is Tradition. Tradition is such a loaded word in church circles. However, tradition as a major support for our faith, is to acknowledge that we are part of something bigger – a movement that has existed for over two thousand years before us, and which will continue for thousands of years after us, and in which we take our place. This is not traditionalism. It is not nostalgia. It is faithful witness to Jesus Christ in particular generations and contexts.

The idea behind Gateway is: do something. Trying new things doesn't mean reinventing the wheel. Retrying things that happened in the past doesn't mean moving backwards. Where there is integrity and authenticity in mission, it is worthwhile.

This diocese is great in many ways. But in a busy metropolis, we often operate largely independently. Gateway seeks to find ways to draw us together, and to build networks.

Over the past few months, a diverse group have been meeting with the Archbishop to discuss how we might identify and explore connections, support mission, and encourage leadership.

Explore connections: create and build a culture where people tell stories. It is important to note that we must have churchnewsireland@gmail.org

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the freedom to tell stories of failure, as well as stories of success. Also, stories which to us might seem mundane, ordinary, or uninteresting, may well be of tremendous value, so should be told too.

Incentivise mission: Excite the base in what they're doing already, and broaden our horizons to what might be. Create resources – e.g. Christian mindfulness for Primary Schools.

Empower leaders: Build up a priesthood of all believers, acknowledging that leadership takes many forms.

A pilot project is being trialled throughout the next year, drawing a variety of parishes together across the dioceses. There is nothing complicated or difficult about this – it is merely networking. Talking together, sharing, and supporting.

Summary: There are lots of small things developing within the dioceses, and there is lots of potential. There is no 'magic bullet' and mission will always require lots of hard work. Equally, each parish and community is different. However, a vision is emerging, where the different strands are being drawn together, where we might abandon the Irish begrudgery of success, where leaders (lay and ordained) might create initiatives that help build up our common life, and help bring us through the gateway.

Gateway can become whatever we make of it. It is about mission, and the work we can support one another in, to build sustainable integrated communities of faith.

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US youth group in Connor Streetreach



A group of 23 young people from the USA and their leaders who took part in Summer Madness have joined young people from Engage Connor Youth.

The Americans, all members of Christ in Youth, who worked as crew at Summer Madness, and camped at the Connor sub-camp, joined Connor Streetreach in Glenavy from July 3-6.

They have visited the Spectrum Centre in Shankill Road, and the nearby Connor / Church Army Centre of Mission, Connect Base, and St Michael's Parish Church.

Emilie Bartel, special events and hospitality director with The Kirk Presbyterian Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma, is one of the leaders of the American group.

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She said nineteen of the group are from The Kirk Church, and the others come from Ohio, Kansas and Missouri.

C of E warmly welcome ban on 'conversion therapy'

The UK government have announced plans to ban any form of 'conversion therapy' - a move approved by many, while others say it needs nuance.

The Government's [LGBT Action Plan](#) aims to improve the lives of LGBT people by setting aside funding to increase tolerance and remove any significant barriers to public life.

Included in their plans is the pledge to ban any 'conversion therapy', sometimes done by counsellors, therapists and churches with the aim of changing someone's sexual orientation.

The government's survey found 2% of respondents had undergone conversion therapy in an attempt to 'cure' them of being LGBT and a further 5% had been offered it.

The Church of England spokesperson said: "We warmly welcome the Government commitment to eradicate gay conversion therapy in this country.

"As a motion endorsed overwhelmingly by the Church of England's General Synod last summer concludes, the practice is unethical, potentially harmful and has no place in the modern world.

"Since then the Church of England has pressed the Government to consider outlawing the practice and the Second Church Estates Commissioner Dame Caroline

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Spelman has held a number of meetings with ministers to that end.

“As we await the detail of any proposals, we also welcome the recognition that any steps taken should not have the unintended consequence of preventing people seeking spiritual support from their faith leader in the exploration of their sexual orientation or gender identity.”

However, groups such as the Core Issues Trust say this is an abuse of the human rights for those who do want to have therapy. They said in a statement: "Some wish to modify behaviours and renounce as false the identity they formerly described as “gay”. Some are married and have children and wish to maintain the integrity of such marriages. The Trust supports the rights of autonomous individuals to take the pathways that reflect their goals and values".

Dr Peter May, a former GP and member of the General Synod spoke on the News Hour and was also concerned the ban could limit the choices of those who want therapy: "It seems more than likely that if somebody is distressed by desires they want to leave behind that therapies of some sort or another...can only be beneficial".

The [position](#) of the Living Out organisation, a group who support each other in their identity as Christians who experience same-sex attraction, is that conversion therapy is damaging and that even Christians who think engaging in a gay relationship would be unbiblical should not be pressured to have any kind of therapy to change their orientation.

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Speaking to Dr Peter May on Premier's News Hour was Rev Steve Chalke, who supports gay relationships. The founder of Oasis Church said: "There's still a huge amount of this kind of thing under many different names happening in churches around the country - and so it's not from registered psychotherapists but it is from amateur counsellors and amateur psychologists and pastors and elders and prayer groups and it has an incredibly destructive and distressing impact on the lives of many many people, it just breaks them".

He continued: "My concern about the terms of the ban..is that it's not extensive enough because I think there are a lot of churches who practice an intolerance of gay people, who pray the gay away, who when someone comes forward and says 'I think I'm gay', pile huge pressure on them one way or the other or remove responsibilities from them within the church".

Groundbreaking document released on how Anglicans and Roman Catholics can learn from each other

An agreed statement produced by the official commission for dialogue between the Roman Catholic and Anglican churches has been heralded as "ground-breaking" and an "important step on the pilgrimage towards fuller unity in Christ".

The text for the work – "Walking Together on the Way: Learning to be the Church – Local, Regional, Universal " – was agreed at a [meeting](#) of the third phase of the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC III) in the churchnewsireland@gmail.org



Members of ARCIC III

German city of Erfurt in May 2017. It was the first document produced by ARCIC III and is the culmination of seven years' work.

The document encourages Anglicans and Roman Catholics to learn from each other's differences, rather than concentrating on common ground. For example, Anglicans are invited to examine models of unity within the Catholic tradition and Catholics to look at empowering local church leaders and the laity in decision-making.

One commission member, the theologian Dr Paula Gooder, called the document ground-breaking.

"The agreed statement ... takes another step along the path of ecumenical dialogue which Anglicans and Roman

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Catholics have been journeying together for over 50 years," she told ACNS. "The method it uses models conversation at its best. The conversation here is rich, though also challenging – calling us to travel onwards into the future in mutual companionship and hope."

Bishop Christopher Hill, another member of the Commission, said: "The statement makes a new departure – a very practical, mutual examination of our respective authority structure. This gives Anglicans and Roman Catholics a timely opportunity for both self-criticism and mutual ecclesial learning – with authority questions high on our mutual agendas."

The dialogue's Anglican Co-Secretary, Dr John Gibaut, stressed the significance of the work and its timeliness.

"The fullest reception of this document will require changes in both communions," he said. "It will be particularly interesting to the Anglican Communion as we move forwards to the next Lambeth Conference in 2020."

The potential for reform was noted by Dr Jamie Hawkey, the Dean of Clare College, who has been writing the Anglican commentary on the statement.

"This document is a remarkable fruit of the high-level doctrinal consensus and real-but-imperfect communion which already exists between the Anglican Communion and the Roman Catholic Church," he said. "In both method and content, this agreed statement formally commends a new chapter of conscious mutual ecclesial learning, and encourages both communions to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit from one another."

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"Emboldened by such partnership and promise, the process of reform of our structures - for the sake of the Church's communion and mission - can be seen as an important step on the pilgrimage towards fuller unity in Christ."

The document will be published later this year. ARCIC III's next discussions will examine the discernment of right ethical teaching.

Archbishop of Canterbury makes a pastoral call after deadly Nigeria attack



The Archbishop of Jos, Benjamin Kwashi

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The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has telephoned a Nigerian archbishop whose home was attacked by armed raiders at the weekend. A neighbour who is reported to have challenged the attackers was shot dead in the incident.

The Archbishop of Jos, Benjamin Kwashi, was inside his compound when the raiders struck. He was unhurt. His home has been targeted before. In one incident, in 2006, a mob descended on his house, beat his children and assaulted his wife. This latest attack is being blamed on Fulani herdsmen.

In a statement, Lambeth Palace said Archbishop Justin had had a private, pastoral telephone discussion with Archbishop Benjamin. Details of the conversation would not be made public, it added.

In [April](#) Archbishop Justin met the Nigerian president, Muhammadu Buhari, in London. The two men discussed the security situation in Nigeria and the government's efforts to address it. Archbishop Justin expressed his concern about the suffering resulting from raids on Christian communities and villages and offered support in finding a solution to the herder-farmer conflict.

Australian archbishop to appeal conviction

The Archbishop of Adelaide will appeal his conviction for concealing child abuse, the Catholic Herald reports.

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Philip Wilson will not resign as archbishop while the appeal is ongoing, saying he has a right to due legal process.



The archbishop was sentenced to a year's detention on Tuesday, with a six-month non-parole period. He is the most senior cleric ever convicted of concealing abuse, but he maintains his innocence.

“I am conscious of calls for me to resign and have taken them very seriously,” Archbishop Wilson said. “However, at this time, I am entitled to exercise my legal rights and to follow the due process of law. Since that process is not yet complete, I do not intend to resign at this time.

“However, if I am unsuccessful in my appeal, I will immediately offer my resignation to the Holy See.”

Pope Francis has appointed Bishop Greg O’Kelly as Apostolic Administrator to run the archdiocese in Archbishop Wilson’s stead.



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