



The two bishops of Cork - John Buckley and Paul Colton, together with the CEO of Cork County Council, Tim Lucey, speaking with HRH The Prince of Wales in Cork

Lord Alderdice - Social media response

David Forde MLA, and former leader of the Alliance Party, commented on Facebook on Lord Alderdice's resignation from the Presbyterian Church.



Standing ovation for the RTE NSO soloist David Leigh under the direction of conductor David Brophy as part of Pipeworks Ireland at St Patrick's Cathedral

He stated: "I have great sympathy with my colleague **John** (Alderdice) and with the decision he has taken, but (for now) I respectfully disagree.

"Having been removed from the active eldership of my congregation, unlike John I have no responsibility to implement the decision of the PCI Assembly to endorse the doctrine committee report which has, implicitly, suggested that being in a same sex relationship is uniquely sinful. It is also a moot point whether the provisions of the Code,

June 18 2018

**Very Rev Dr
William Morton
Dean of St
Patrick's
Cathedral
Dublin at the
annual Gift Day
on Saturday**



which give responsibility for decisions on admission to communicant membership and baptism to the Kirk Session of each congregation, can be overturned by a simple resolution of the General Assembly.

“Last week at the General Assembly saw, as John said, an effective withdrawal from meaningful international contact by PCI. If PCI cannot maintain the courtesies of generations in inviting representatives of the Church of Scotland and the United Reformed Church to Assembly and attending their Assemblies, It has no valid witness in a divided world.

“The vote on the doctrine committee recommendations to exclude gay people from full membership and their children from baptism is now being presented in the media in a tone which equates to “we are the only people who are interpreting scripture correctly and every other mainstream Presbyterian and Reformed Church in these islands is wrong”. Even if sincerely believed, the refusal to engage in the kind of dialogue which the Church of Scotland has conducted is a sign of weakness, not strength.

“I understand the hurt of my gay brothers and sisters in Christ. I share the practical concerns of Arthur Acheson on the potential incompatibility of the General Assembly’s decision and Northern Ireland charity law. I thank those who had the courage to oppose the rightward trend last week. I wish that some others had turned up to express their view: only a minority of those entitled to vote did so.

“For now, I believe that those of us who want to see a more open, inclusive, tolerant, compassionate Church should continue to work and pray for that within the PCI. But I understand that for others that possibility is now past.”

Other comments :

“The PCI is going through a very difficult time reminiscent of similar battles in 60s over withdrawal from World council of Churches,I share your concerns for the future of PCI and my future in it.However for the present we cannot let the the PCI become a replica of the Free Presbyterians...”

June 18 2018

“I was appalled when I heard of the vote to cut links with the Church of Scotland as it does not reflect the views of our local congregation. I also doubt if it reflects the views of our minister the Moderator Charles McMullen. The fact that he was elected Moderator gives me some hope and I feel the decision was a kick in the teeth to him as his theme was to Build Bridges...”

“It was UDI from the main stream of Presbyterianism and an indication of an intention to go further. I felt that to stay would, for me, be a form of collusion, but I entirely recognise that for some their limit came earlier and for others, such as you and [David Ford](#) it will come later.”

Parents of Christians in same sex relationships

Lesley Macauley commented, “One week ago I posted a comment following the Presbyterian Church in Ireland’s vote to target Christians in same sex relationships for excommunication. Since then I have been inundated with heartbreaking stories from other families like mine who have been deeply hurt by this singling out of the tiny minority of LGBT Christians in the PCI. It’s been distressing to hear the impact on the wellbeing and mental health of LGBT Christians and their families. If you’ve been hurt please remember you are not alone and we can support each other. Nothing can separate us from the love of God.”

Possible Charity Commission implications

Another commented, “The BBC’s The View with Arthur Acheson, Clerk of Session of May Street Belfast and Frank Sellar, former Moderator and Minister of Bloomfield

June 18 2018

Presbyterian Church discussed discrimination against gay couples taking Communion and their children from Baptism. Communion and Baptism are the only two sacraments in the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

“Arthur raised the matter of public funds being spent on churches and that he with other members is a trustee and accountable to the Charity Commission. In the spending of public funds, churches must not discriminate against who is in membership. He has written to the Charity Commission for clarification in relation to his role as a trustee. Churches have charitable status and are exempt from payment of rates.”

The Belfast Telegraph carried this report - Watchdog is called in to investigate whether same-sex ruling breaches charity regulations

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/watchdog-is-called-in-to-investigate-whether-samesex-ruling-breaches-charity-regulations-37008215.html>

Methodist cleric reminds Sinn Féin: “Reconciliation is not a project but a process that never ends”

Methodist minister Rev Dr Laurence Graham addressed the Sinn Féin ard fheis during the two hour ‘live session’ which is broadcast on RTE, Alan Meban writes on the Sluggeroole web site. Every three minutes another party representative steps forward from the queue at the side of

June 18 2018

the stage to deliver their speeches from the autocue before some short applause and the cycle beginning again.

Twentieth in line was the minister and former Methodist President who first met Michelle O'Neill when she [attended an event with Arlene Foster at Castlewella Park last summer](#). Graham follows in a long line of annual speeches by protestant and unionist voices on the topic of reconciliation and healing. Minister of 1st Derry [Rev David Latimer spoke at the 2011 Ard Fheis](#), the last time the party visited the Belfast Waterfront. [Revs Martin Magill and Steve Stockman spoke in Derry in 2015](#). And [Prof Pete Shirlow popped up last November in the RDS](#).

“Reconciliation is not a project but a process that never ends,” Graham said, adding “These are personal remarks, I don’t speak with an official position of the Methodist Church in Ireland or any other group.”

“Wouldn’t reconciliation be very easy if we were all beginning with a blank sheet of paper. Wouldn’t it be so much easier to be reconciled if we all didn’t have a past. But of course there is no blank sheet of paper. We all have a past ... but the key issue for reconciliation is what we do with the memory now, and how do we unlock the future.”

He offered three challenges.

“The first one is a personal challenge to every single citizen ... I would challenge every single person to make a point of going and looking for somebody that you know you will disagree with and have a coffee with them ... Take time to get to know them. The aim of meeting isn’t necessarily to come to agreement, but just to get to know the person who you disagree with. It’s still all easy in this land to spend our



**"Go and have coffee with someone you disagree with."
Rev Dr Laurence Graham, outgoing President of the
Methodist Church in Ireland, speaking at the Sinn Féin
Ard Fheis.**

whole lives among people who we agree with. And a segregated community where we only know people that we agree with will never be reconciled. It's only as people from the other side become people that we know personally that the fear of difference can be removed."

He described his second challenge as "corporate", aimed at Sinn Féin as a party.

"We can't forget our past. But if healing and reconciliation are to come then we need to find ways of remembering without celebrating, of commemorating with glorifying ... One thing that everyone can agree on is that there was no military victory for anybody. Clearly many were killed and injured on every side. And clearly every side will want to commemorate and remember. But when that is done in a glorifying, celebratory, victorious way then it hinders

June 18 2018

reconciliation and it increases pain instead of fostering healing.

“Furthermore, as we remember we must also examine ourselves as to whether we need to apologise for wrong things we have done, even if we continue to believe they were done for the right reasons. And so if we regret any of the means we used in the past, then we should express that regret, because words of apology and regret can play an important part in opening the door of reconciliation and healing.”

The final challenge was applicable to Sinn Féin and the other parties in Northern Ireland.

“During my year – which has just finished – as President of the Methodist Church in Ireland, I’ve had the opportunity to speak with political leaders of all persuasions. And you know what? I’ve heard them all say that they want the same thing. Namely, the betterment of life for all people in this society ...

“So I would urge you and all the other parties to unite around on what you agree, which is that you want the best for all people. Get on with doing that. Start working together on issues that matter to people, and let the issues of sovereignty and so on which divide us follow in due course.

“I want to finish by referring to a conversation recorded in the Bible ... recorded in John chapter 4, between Jesus and a Samaritan woman he met at a well. And when they first met they were separated by gender, by culture, by religion, by politics, and by history. Because he was a Jewish man and she was a Samaritan woman. And yet the

June 18 2018

encounter which they had at that well changed her life and, in fact, led to the transformation of the whole village and the surrounding area.

“But you know how it began? It began when Jesus asked the woman to help him get a drink from the well. In other words, uniting around working for the essentials of life was the beginning of a process of healing and reconciliation.

“And so I pray that all the political parties here can unite around their common desires for the betterment of life for all people and start working together on these issues even as disagreements on issues of sovereignty and history may persist.

“People reconcile as they work together.”

Sticking to his script, Graham delivered suggestions that were met with a standing ovation. Nothing controversial, yet a message from outside the republican fold.

C of I Clergyman takes over as leader of the Royal Black Institution

A Church of Ireland clergyman from Co Armagh has been elected as the new Sovereign Grand Master of the Royal Black Institution.

Rev Wiliam Anderson’s appointment comes following a meeting of the Loyal Order’s ruling body in Co Monaghan.

The clergyman, a member of Causnagh RBP 352 and of the Orange LOL No 98, succeeds Millar Farr, who announced he would step down from the role last month. He served as Grand Master for 10 years.



The bells of St Paul's Cathedral, London, have been moved for the first time since their arrival 140 years ago. They are heading off to be restored so they can continue ringing for many years to come!

Saturday's bi-annual meeting of the organisation's Grand Council took place at the Union hall in Newbliss. It was the first time the Institution has selected its new leader at a

June 18 2018

meeting held in the Republic of Ireland.

A Church of Ireland clergyman from Co Armagh has been elected as the new Sovereign Grand Master of the Royal Black Institution.

Rev Wiliam Anderson's appointment comes following a meeting of the Loyal Order's ruling body in Co Monaghan.

The clergyman, a member of Causnagh RBP 352 and of the Orange LOL No 98, succeeds Millar Farr, who announced he would step down from the role last month. He served as Grand Master for 10 years.

Saturday's bi-annual meeting of the organisation's Grand Council took place at the Union hall in Newbliss. It was the first time the Institution has selected its new leader at a meeting held in the Republic of Ireland.

He said: "I am extremely honoured to be elected Sovereign Grand Master by my fellow Sir Knights, and very humbled to be following in the footsteps of those who have served in the post previously.

"Like my predecessors before me, I pledge to represent the membership to the best of my ability at all times, and in so doing, uphold the Christian ethos of the Institution; promote the Reformed faith; and continue our longstanding track record of exceptional charitable outreach.

Rev Anderson has previously held the offices of Assistant Sovereign Grand Master, an Imperial Deputy Grand Master, and Imperial Deputy Grand Chaplain.

He paid tribute to the "outstanding leadership" of Mr Farr, who he maintained over the past decade had led the Loyal

June 18 2018

Order with “great foresight”, enhancing its position in the mainstream of community life.

He continued: “This is a very exciting time for the Institution as we proceed with plans to develop our new headquarters in Co Armagh, which we anticipate will open to the public in 2020.

“Such a major development has energized and enthused our membership, as we count down to our traditional flagship parades this summer.”

“I look forward to participating in such events and meeting with members, and the wider community, over the coming weeks,” he added.

Rev Anderson’s first significant public appearance as Sovereign Grand Master will be at the annual Sham Fight in Scarva next month.

Former Sovereign Grand Masters of the Imperial Grand Black Chapter have included William Logan, Lord Molyneaux and Sir Norman Stronge.

Meanwhile, Billy Scott and David Livingstone were re-elected as Imperial Grand Registrar and Imperial Grand Treasurer respectively. Report courtesy Armagh i

First permanent deacon ordained in Clogher diocese

Yesterday in St Michael’s Church, Enniskillen, Martin Donnelly, Enniskillen was ordained to the Diaconate. Martin is the first permanent deacon in the Diocese of Clogher



Martin Donnelly in front of St Michael's Church, Enniskillen.

since the Permanent Diaconate was re-introduced by the Second Vatican Council (1962-65). The ordaining prelate was Bishop Alan McGuckian SJ, Bishop of Raphoe. The Diocesan Administrator of the Diocese of Clogher, Monsignor Joseph McGuinness, was one of the concelebrants of the Mass.

Martin's wife Caitlín and

members of their family took part

in the liturgy, along with other members of the parish community of St Michael's.

The diocese stated, "The ministry of deacon is one of service – at the altar, of the Word of God and in promoting charity in the community. Deacons serve at the altar during Mass, bring the Eucharist to the sick at home and in hospital, preside at the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction, celebrate Baptism and Marriages and preside at Funeral Rites such as reception and burial. A deacon also leads the celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours (Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer) and the Liturgy of the Word (outside of Mass). A deacon may proclaim the Gospel and preach the homily at any liturgy and can lead sacramental preparation and renewal programmes for other ministries in the parish. The work of the deacon in the community is very important. This may include the visitation of the sick, the bereaved and those in

June 18 2018

prison. A deacon has a very important role in the promotion of social justice.”

Martin Donnelly and his wife Caitlín live in Enniskillen. They have two children Ciara (married to Cathal) and Brian (married to Ruth) and a nine-month old Grandson, Lorcan. Martin spent his working life in the field of Education as a teacher, Principal and Senior Education Adviser. His educational post graduate studies included Masters degrees in Education Policy, Management and Philosophy. Following early retirement in 2011 Martin studied Pastoral Liturgy (H.Dip) in St Patricks Pontifical University, Maynooth before commencing the academic and human formation for Diaconate. Martin has been active in parish ministry throughout his life. He has served as chairperson of the Parish Pastoral Council of St Michael’s Parish, Enniskillen and Lisbellaw and is the current chairperson of the Clogher Diocesan Liturgy Commission. He has been assigned to minister in the Enniskillen Pastoral Area (Enniskillen & Tempo parishes).

‘Michael Curry effect’: Church of England opens up congregations to black-majority pastors

Anglican congregations will be allowed to share services and preachers with black-majority churches under a major overhaul of Church of England law to be debated next month.



Bishop Michael Curry's sermon at the Royal wedding was the most tweeted about moment of the day

The move is likely to be dubbed as 'the Michael Curry effect' after the African-American bishop's barnstorming sermon at the Royal wedding last month. The change will relax rules that govern what links parishes can make with other churches.

The injection of preachers from black-majority congregations, which are growing rapidly across the UK, into the CofE comes after Curry's sermon was the most tweeted about moment of last month's wedding between Prince Harry and Meghan Markle.

June 18 2018

'A lot of the life of Christianity in England is in Pentecostal churches, black-led, black majority churches,' said William Nye, general secretary to the CofE's ruling general synod.

'This is a framework to make it easier for parishes to work with what is the fastest growing expression of Christianity in England; to welcome them, celebrate them, work in partnership with them and learn from them.'

Historic church law previously meant that only ministers from a set list of national churches can lead prayers, preach or perform marriages in Church of England buildings. But the change will mean bishops can approve ministers from other churches, including newer independent evangelical, Pentecostal and charismatic groups, to lead services.

Rev Dr Joe Aldred, a Pentecostal representative on the CofE's synod and a bishop in the Church of God of Prophecy, said: 'This is a great moment for relations between the Church of England and Pentecostal and charismatic denominations and congregations, including many black-led churches, as we share the task of building the Kingdom of God in this country. In working together and worshipping together our churches have the potential to transform their neighbourhoods. The shape and style of the Church in England has changed considerably over the years and this legislation reflects the new reality on the ground.'

News briefs

+++Irish Presbyterian team in Brazil

Prayers are requested for safety as Deborah Doherty (Christian Aid), James McCormick (PCI Head of Creative of

June 18 2018

Production) and Chris Nelson (videographer) travel to Brazil to develop promotional material for the 2018 PCI World Development Appeal. <http://bit.ly/2cgVbSa>

+++Home concert and Paris tour by Parish Choir of St George's, Belfast

The Trebles and Gentlemen of the Parish Choir of St George's Church, High Street, in Belfast, will perform at a number of events in Paris this summer. Under the direction of Mr David Falconer, the choir will sing at Mass on 30 June at the Notre-Dame-d'Auteuil, on 1 July they will sing the Eucharist at St George's church in Paris, and on Monday 2 July the choir will perform for Ireland's ambassador to France, Patricia O'Brien, ahead of a concert at 4pm that day at L'église de la Madeleine. Ahead of their trip, the choir will be holding a Summer Concert at St George's to celebrate the end of their choir year next Friday evening at 7.30pm. The trebles and gentlemen, accompanied by members of St George's Chamber Choir will perform music by Bairstow, Duruflé, Finzi, Taverner and more. All proceeds from the evening will go towards the parish funding of their upcoming tour.

+++Dublin choral and musical events

On June 20 A feast of beautiful music at St Patrick's Parish Dalkey from the 17th and 18th Centuries Corelli, Purcell, Bach, Couperin, Vivaldi Jenna Raggett – baroque violin Aisling Lyons – baroque violin Gabrielė Dikčiūtė – baroque cello

On Saturday 23 June the vocal ensemble, Peregryne, directed by Stuart Kinsella, will sing works by Victoria,

June 18 2018

Gesualdo, Monteverdi and Lassus in University Church, St Stephen's Green, Dublin, at 7pm.

At the same time, in Trinity College Chapel, the Mornington Singers, directed by Orla Flanagan, will mark their 21st anniversary with a concert which will include music by Byrd, Mendelssohn and Parry as well as more recent works by Irish composers John Buckley, Rhona Clarke, Frank Corcoran and Seán Doherty.

+++Dean's Gift Day at St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin

This year the Dean appealed for funds for a replacement chair lift for the south-west porch which will improve access to the building for those with disabilities. The Dean, Dr William Morton, was in St Patrick's on Saturday from 11.30 until 1pm to talk about this important initiative and receive gifts. Last year €24,719 was raised towards providing new railings and gates for the graveyard.

+++Revisiting the Celtic Way on Iona

Revisiting the Celtic Way: 25yrs on from his seminal book, Prof Ian Bradley will be on Iona in October @stcolumbahotel with a radical re-assessment of Celtic Christianity and to ask how we can best follow the 'Celtic Way' today. Details at iona.org.uk/2018-seasonal-...
#celticspirituality

+++Friends of St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin

Friends of St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin attended Festal Evensong yesterday when the preacher was the Dean of churchnewsireland@gmail.org

June 18 2018

Christ Church, the Very Revd Dermot Dunne. A Garden Party followed.

+++Blessing of animals

Yesterday in Kilfithmone parish church there was a service with the blessing of animals for the Templemore union of parishes

+++Major church unity archive going online

Scholars and students around the world will soon have access to a unique collection of documents that relate to the search for Christian unity online, instead of having to visit the archives in Geneva of the World Council of Churches



June 18 2018