



**The NI women's team in last year's Homeless World Cup in Norway. The initiative supported by the East Belfast Mission is currently raising funds to enable participatin in this year's cup - See report in this issue**

## **Irish Church leaders in Rome to mark Good Friday anniversary**



20 years after a referendum approving Northern Ireland's peace agreement, religious and political leaders gathered in Rome for an event introduced by the Vatican's foreign minister and organised by the British and Irish embassies to the Holy See, Philippa Hitchen writes in Vatican News

Leaders of the four main Christian Churches in Ireland came to Rome on Monday for an event marking the twentieth anniversary of the Good Friday agreement in Northern Ireland.

The event, organised by the British and Irish embassies to the Holy See, brought together the heads of the Catholic, Anglican, Presbyterian and Methodist Churches, alongside some key political figures who played a part in drawing up the landmark agreement.

Signed in Belfast on April 10th 1998, and approved in a referendum on May 22nd, the accord marked a major development in the Northern Ireland peace process, helping to bring an end to widespread sectarian violence between Catholic and Protestant communities.

The heads of the Catholic and Anglican Churches, Archbishops Eamon Martin and Richard Clarke of Armagh issued a joint statement to mark the twentieth anniversary, saying that despite the current fragile political situation, they hoped the occasion would rekindle a spirit of opportunity, healing and hope.

The two Church leaders talked to Vatican News about the most important achievements of the Good Friday agreement and about their expectations for Pope Francis' visit to Ireland in August.

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Archbishop Martin described the Good Friday agreement as a “life-saving moment” in “people north and south gave their assent to renouncing violence as means to poetical ends”.

Archbishop Clarke said it “opened a door away from violence into a world of goodwill”, giving the peacebuilders a “breathing space” in which to work. The role of Church leaders, he said, is to model good relationships in the hopes that hope that they can “cascade down” to the grass roots.

### **Fears over Brexit borders**

Both leaders express fears about the current climate of anxiety surrounding the Brexit discussions. Archbishop Clarke spoke of concerns that a ‘hard border’ could reignite “fears and antipathy that we are slowly working through”. Archbishop Martin said it’s vital to avoid “getting back into the language of barriers and borders and walls and division”. In Ireland, he said, “we’re quite good in Ireland at creating walls and barriers, we’re less accomplished at bridge building”. The risk of drawing lines on a map, he added, puts us “back into bunkers, back into our respective corners” where suspicions overtake the desire for reconciliation, creating borders in minds and hearts, which are harder to overcome.

### **World Meeting of Families**

Looking ahead to Pope Francis’ visit to Dublin for the World Meeting of Families, Archbishop Clarke said he hopes that the idea of “the gift of family” can be restored in the consciousness of all Christian traditions. He notes that Anglican church leaders, as well as the Mothers’ Union are involved in preparations for the event. Archbishop Martin said he hopes the Pope will “speak into our situation” where so many families have been traumatized by the impact of the Troubles, leaving deep wounds. He adds he hopes the Pope will offer reasons to hope, as well as an “affirmation for the fragile, fledgling peace process that has begun”

A recording of the interview with both archbishops is at [-https://www.vaticannews.va/en/church/news/2018-05/ireland-good-friday-agreement-20th-anniversary.html](https://www.vaticannews.va/en/church/news/2018-05/ireland-good-friday-agreement-20th-anniversary.html)

## **Prelate proposed all Irish Catholic bishops resign following abuse reports**

**Resignation of Chilean bishops ‘a very, very important development’, says Mary McAleese**



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Ireland's Catholic bishops considered resigning en masse following the publication of the Ryan and Murphy reports into child abuse in 2009, former president Mary McAleese has said, Patsy McGarry writes in the Irish Times.



“I do remember, at the time of our own problems with the Ryan and Murphy reports in particular, that there was a suggestion from a very senior cleric in [Ireland](#) that the Irish bishops might consider something like that,” she said in Dublin on Saturday. “It didn’t happen. I don’t really know if it was discussed.”

Ms McAleese was speaking in the context of the mass resignation by Chile’s 34 Catholic bishops last Friday after they were summoned to Rome to meet [Pope Francis](#) in connection with cover-up of clerical child sexual abuse in that country.

In a similar context, Ireland’s Catholic bishops were summoned to Rome in February 2010 to meet [Pope Benedict XVI](#).

That followed publication in May 2009 of the Ryan report, which investigated abuses of children in orphanages, reformatories and industrial schools, and of the Murphy report in November 2009, which investigated the handling of clerical child sex abuse allegations in Dublin’s Catholic archdiocese.

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## **Responsibility**

Ms McAleese said the Chilean bishops' resignation seemed to her "a huge acceptance of responsibility even from those who might not have been directly implicated in the story itself or in the narrative that led to this...".

She said it was "an interesting development" this "acceptance that maybe the right thing to do is to put your hands up, run up the white flag and say 'we are all responsible'. We had a bishop who did that here and indeed has gained himself huge respect in so doing."

This was a reference to former Bishop of [Kildare](#) and Leighlin [Jim Moriarty](#), who resigned in 2009 following the publication of the Murphy report because he had been "part of the governance of the [Dublin] archdiocese" and "should have challenged the prevailing culture".

As to whether the Irish bishops should have resigned then, Ms McAleese said: "I don't know. It wasn't really within contemplation at the time." Now that it has been done she felt "that it is a potential clearing of the decks and it's a signalling of what I might call in another circumstance 'corporate responsibility'".

Acceptance of such responsibility was "a very, very important development" in the church, she said.

## **'Badly advised'**

"I think the Chilean bishops must have looked at a pope coming to [Chile](#) after all we've been through, after all the reports, including what was going on in [Australia](#) with the royal commission."

He had been either "badly advised or chosen a particular side of advice" and, after five years as a popular pope, "made a blunder that really stands as a blemish, a big blemish on his papacy, that he had to apologise for publicly". She felt "this grand gesture by the bishops, it grabs all that, it mops all that up and it's a response to how big the story really is."

## **Damaging**

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As to whether it would now be damaging for Pope Francis not to accept the Chilean bishops' resignation, she said: "That I don't know because I think these are questions really for the people of Chile. What do the people of Chile want? What do the faithful of Chile want? What would restore trust for them in their sacred pastors?"

She suspected "that for many of them, as probably with us here, there is something isn't there about the person who takes responsibility, puts their hands up and says: "Even if I wasn't entirely complicit, I was part of the culture and so let me clear the space to make way for a fresh new culture.

"So I imagine that people would want that expression of their desire for resignation to be honoured. But it's a matter for the pope, of course."

See also - Chile's bishops resign en masse over sex abuse cover-up - Religion News Service

<https://religionnews.com/2018/05/18/chiles-bishops-resign-en-masse-over-sex-abuse-cover-up/>

## **Gala dinner with Northern Ireland boss Michael O'Neill helps raise £14,000 for Homeless World Cup team**

The event was organised by Street Soccer NI and raised funds for tournament in Mexico City

An impressive £14,000 has been raised for the Northern Ireland Homeless World Cup team.

The cash boost came following a special gala dinner hosted by Street Soccer NI which was attended by international football boss Michael O'Neill.

This year's Homeless World Cup takes place in Mexico City in November, and Street Soccer are working hard to raise the money to take a men's and women's team to the international tournament.



## Members of the Northern Ireland team at last year's Homeless World Cup

Alongside an intensive football coaching programme the players will receive support to tackle the issues they face and to help them to find their own home and to break out of homelessness for good.

**Street Soccer NI is supported by the Housing Executive, East Belfast Mission, and the Irish FA. The charity uses the power of football to transform the lives of people who are homeless.**

Television and radio personality Colin Murray helped host last week's dinner with the Northern Ireland boss O'Neill.

"Street Soccer NI is a brilliant Charity which makes a real difference in the lives of its players," O'Neill said afterwards.

"I have watched the project grow over the years and it's a real pleasure for me to be able to support Street Soccer to develop further. I wish all the players the best for this year's World Cup and in their futures."



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Murray added: "The work being done by Street Soccer is truly inspirational. Being part of this project offers so much to the players.

"Many people who are homeless feel excluded and invisible. Street Soccer brings them visibility and a sense of community as well as many other benefits."

Justin McMinn, Co-founder and Coordinator said: "We have witnessed so many lives transformed as a result of being involved with the project, people getting rehoused, into employment, coming off drugs or alcohol and more.

"It's a great honour to be a part of something so special that actually makes a difference. We were delighted to have Michael O'Neill and Colin Murray on board to support the project and we are so grateful to them for giving us a great night and for helping us to bring in this essential funding for our work."



**Martin O'Neill the N Ireland manager was present at last week's dinner**



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**Catrina Sheehan, who played for NI in last year's Homeless World Cup in Norway, described how Street Soccer NI has transformed her life.**

She said: "street soccer has impacted me greatly since joining last year, it's like a big family.

"I love being part of the team and everything they have to offer. It's given me something to focus on and helps combat my anxiety and depression. Being picked for the world cup made me proud to represent my country and to be part of the first NI Homeless women's team.

"It was amazing to meet different cultures and learn about their ethnic backgrounds. It was one of the best experiences of my life I'll never forget it. I now have my own home and look forward to what the future of street soccer holds for me."

Mark Heagney, who played in the Homeless World Cup in Glasgow in 2016 and was a volunteer coach in last year's tournament, said: "The first time I started Street Soccer I was living in hostel in Simon Community in North Belfast. I was struggling to see my kids, I had no stability in my life and nothing to get out of bed for.

"I got picked for the Homeless World Cup team heading to Glasgow. This was the best football experience in my life, I felt like a superstar, I was proud to represent my country, I felt important and my family were behind me.

"My plans for the future are to get a job, to see my kids more and to keep volunteering with Street Soccer." Report courtesy of Belfast Live.

## **Irish diocese sells clergy stoles to aid humanitarian projects in North Korea**

TOPIK (Towards Peace in Korea) is the Anglican Communion's official outreach to North Korea. Since 2007 TOPIK has participated in various humanitarian aid projects in North Korea.

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As part of its fundraising efforts to assist supplying medical supplies for two clinics in the Rason area in the northeast of North Korea, one hundred sets of reversible stoles have been made at a sewing workshop in Rajin City within the Rason area. These sets of two reversible stoles in traditional style with golden embroidery are now on sale for €65 per set.

The Very Reverend Paul Mooney, Dean of Ferns, who has family links with Korea, is encouraging people to buy them.

“Clergy may wish to purchase stoles for themselves or for their churches. Parishioners or friends of our various churches may wish to purchase a set of stoles in memory of a departed loved one or as a thank offering,” he says.

Sets of stoles can be purchased by making cheques for €65 plus €3 postage and packing payable to the *Cashel Ossory Board of Mission and Unity* and posting to: The Very Reverend Paul Mooney, The Deanery, Ferns, Enniscorthy, County Wexford.

Further details from Dean Mooney

on 085 707 2964 or

[pgmoon@hotmail.com](mailto:pgmoon@hotmail.com)

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



## What is 'lift up your voice', and for whom is it meant?

- Lift up your voice is melody-line music for singing in worship without needing a choir, band, or organist to lead it, and without needing to clear copyright.
- It is music for congregations to use ad hoc to add a lift to spoken services.
- It is the RSCM's recommendation of high-quality, easy-to-learn items for the non-music-reader.
- A short video explaining more can be found [here](#).

## What is special about it, then?

- The selection, drawn from a plethora of sources, has been honed to save you time and trouble.
- The choices are achievable and inspiring. They stand up to repetition.
- The selection covers various seasons, circumstances and worship preferences. Lift up your voice is ecumenical, practical, and economical.

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- The music can be introduced to a service with a minimum of explanation.

## How will we learn it in church? Will I like it?

- By listening to the recordings and watching the videos available on each product page.
- No one has yet disliked it on our taught 'lift up your voice' introductory days. That is a very good sign!

## Is it pointless if we already have singers and players?

- No, since it is worth singing anyway. Also, we have a bolt-on stream called...
- 'Pick up your instrument' for those many churches with one or two instruments, rather than a "group" or "ensemble".

## Have you road-tested this on real people?

- Yes! The teachings from the day courses have been taken back to real churches and used with great success. See, for example, footage from our day course in [Devon](#), and the hugely positive response we received in the [Diocese of Bangor](#)!

## How do I use this website?

- There are three categories of music:  
[Service of the Word](#),  
[Music for the Eucharist](#)  
[Other Repertoire](#).
- These categories can be found in the top left-hand corner of this page, or by clicking on the links above. Each category has several subcategories. For example, by visiting the 'Services of the Word' page you will find links allowing you to access the subdivisions of 'Morning Prayers' and 'Evening Prayers'.

## How do I download the music?



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- Each piece of music is available to download as a PDF. Simply scroll towards the bottom of each page, tick the box next to the instruction 'Download PDF', click 'Add to Cart', and your download will be added to your shopping cart. Once you have added as many PDFs to your cart as you require, proceed to check out (notice that no payment is required if checking out an item with a listed price of £0.00) and, in the order confirmation page, you will find a link called: 'Go to my Downloadable Products'. This will open a new window where you will be asked for a password. Enter your account email address as the password and the PDF will become available to view or download. The link will also be included in the confirmation email sent to your registered email address.

