



Evangelism is central to being the people of God, says Archbishop Justin

Pope Francis appoints Bishop Kieran O'Reilly as Archbishop of Cashel & Emly



His Holiness Pope Francis has accepted the resignation, on the ground of age, of Archbishop Dermot Clifford as Archbishop of Cashel & Emly, and has appointed Bishop Kieran O'Reilly SMA as Archbishop of Cashel & Emly. This announcement was made yesterday (Sunday) in the Vatican

Bishop Kieran O'Reilly succeeds Archbishop Dermot Clifford as Archbishop of Cashel and Emly.

Bishop O'Reilly was born in Cork on 8 August 1952 to Seán and Theresa O'Reilly. Educated at Scoil Chríost Rí and Coláiste Chríost Rí, he entered the Society of African Missions in Wilton, Cork in 1970. Bishop O'Reilly was ordained for the Society on 17 June 1978. He served in Liberia for two years in the Archdiocese of Monrovia before studying for a licentiate in Sacred Scripture at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome. From 1984 to 1989 he lectured in Scripture at the Major Seminary of Saints Peter and Paul, in Ibadan, Nigeria. From 1989 – 2010 he served on the Irish and International Councils of the Society of African Missions. In May 2010 he was appointed by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI as Bishop of Killaloe.

At the time of the announcement of his appointment as the next Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Cashel and Emly, to succeed Archbishop Dermot Clifford, Bishop Kieran was serving as Bishop of the Diocese of Killaloe. He also serves as the Episcopal Secretary to the Irish Episcopal Conference.

See also Irish Times at -

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/new-archbishop-of-cashel-and-emly-appointed-1.2011866>

Bangor clergy visit Rome to mark start of St Columbanus anniversary year



L–R: Canon Simon Doogan, Rector of Ballyhome Parish, Fr. Henry McCann, Fr. Joseph Gunn and Canon Ronnie Nesbitt, Rector of Bangor Abbey at the Catacombs of St Sebastian, Rome.

Rector of Bangor Abbey, Canon Ronnie Nesbitt and Canon Simon Doogan, rector of St Columbanus, Ballyholme, last month accompanied a group from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Down and Connor who visited Rome to mark the beginning of the anniversary year of St Columbanus.

The group from Down and Connor joined numerous pilgrims from France, Germany, Austria, Switzerland and other parts of Italy to share in the festivities and Pope Francis made specific reference to the group in his Sunday greeting from the balcony of the papal apartments in St Peter's Square.



Canon Nesbitt is pictured above at the Irish Embassy with the Irish Ambassador to the Vatican, Her Excellency Emma Madigan, after presenting her with a copy of the History of Bangor Abbey. He also preached at an ecumenical service in the beautiful Basilica of St Paul's Outside the Walls in Rome.

Presbyterian congregation split over demotion of Girls' Brigade leaders

Belfast Telegraph - A Northern Ireland church has been rocked by a split in its congregation which a judicial commission has stated "is

injurious to the cause of Christ".

And the fall-out has led a prominent Ulster businessman to warn of a growing schism within the Presbyterian Church between liberals and those of a more traditional theology.

This claim follows a recent ruling by a judicial commission of the church which backed a decision by the Session of Killinchy Presbyterian to demote three members of the Girls' Brigade because they are members of another church.

In this case they are members of the Non-Subscribing Church, which is 400 metres away from the Presbyterian church.

The judicial commission was asked to rule on an appeal by the captain of the Girls' Brigade at Killinchy Presbyterian over the decision to demote three officers.

The commission ruled that "the responsibility for selecting suitable adults to work in a Girls' Brigade company rests firmly with the local church leadership."

It rejected the appeal of the GB captain Paula Burrows against the demotion of Lynne Patterson from GB officer to associate, and the demotion of Sarah Davidson and Tiffinee Dickson from sub-officers to associates.

However, it did recognise the "commitment and dedication of those who work within the Girls' Brigade company in Killinchy, commending all those who genuinely desire to lead girls to seek, serve and follow Christ".



The judicial commission stated: "It further recognises that the Church Session has rightly set itself goals that it believes will strengthen the leadership of the organisations in the congregation.

Killinchy Presbyterian Church has moved to demote three long-serving Girls' Brigade leaders because they attend the neighbouring Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church

"However, it must be remembered that all things are lawful...but all things are not expedient.

"The Kirk Session would be wise to proceed towards its commendable goals slowly, seeking to build trust and active co-operation with all church organisations in achieving these goals."

More at -

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/northern-ireland/killinchy-church-congregation-split-over-demotion-of-girls-brigade-leaders-30764643.html>

Sex texts cost married Irish vicar his C of E job and home

Daily Telegraph - A married Church of England priest has lost his job and is being evicted from his home after having an affair with a parishioner.

The Rev Stephen Vincent, 40, said his family had been left “on the brink” after his removal from office as a result of a relationship with a woman he had been asked to mentor.

He and his wife Erin, 30, with whom he has three young children, have remained together. This weekend she told The Telegraph that she had “been taught to forgive” and believed “everyone deserves a second chance”.

Mr Vincent was introduced to the woman where he ministered at [St Giles church in Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffs.](#) because she had expressed an interest in joining the clergy.

The pair went on to exchange “innumerable” messages over a three-month period. At one point the messages numbered more than 80 per day and were “full of double entendres about underwear” and discussions of sexual acts.

The exchanges were reviewed by a specially convened church disciplinary panel after complaints lodged by the woman, who cannot be named for legal reasons, and Mr Vincent’s archdeacon.

The panel heard that the pair met at local pubs and “committed adultery” during two liaisons in Newcastle in June and July 2012. The first of the two sexual encounters was in a place described as “an alleyway”, although Mr Vincent said it was a “courtyard”.

On the second occasion, the woman texted him: “I’m home now come and get me.” He replied that he would have to leave immediately afterwards.

More at -

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11248217/Sex-texts-cost-married-vicar-his-job-and-home.html>

‘Charting A Future with Confidence’ in Cork, Cloyne and Ross is launched by Archbishop

On Friday evening, 21st November, a two year programme of review, discernment and planning in the United Dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross was launched by the Archbishop of Armagh, the Most Reverend Dr Richard Clarke.

Thanking the Archbishop for travelling to inaugurate formally the Diocesan programme, the Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, the Right Reverend Dr Paul Colton, described the Archbishop's address as 'inspiring, challenging



The Archbishop of Armagh (second from left) at the inauguration of 'Charting A Future with Confidence' with I-r Linda Deane, Ann Buttimer, Edward Gash and Melvin Beamish.

and very motivating.' The residential conference to begin the work of 'Charting A Future with Confidence' continued on Saturday at the Charleville Park Hotel, Charleville, County Cork.

New resource encourages Christians to take action on climate change

Eco-Congregation Ireland (ECI) hopes that its new resource - [*Climate Change - Can I Make a Difference?*](#) - will encourage Christians throughout Ireland to become more eco-aware and eco-active at church and at home.

The resource, which is free to download [here](#) from the ECI website, includes some of the latest data from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's 5th assessment report as well as a comprehensive theological response to climate change, prayers for the environment and advice on how to reduce one's carbon footprint – as an individual and as a congregation.

Launching the resource at a climate justice event ECI co-hosted with Carrigaline Union earlier this month, Nobel Peace Prize-winner Emeritus Prof John Sweeney of NUI Maynooth said: "The resource provides a valuable perspective on the nature and impacts of climate change in an Irish context.

On a practical level it highlights the connection between local action and global consequences. It also demonstrates that the problem of climate change can only be tackled if ethical principles are coupled with scientific knowledge to inform and motivate policy makers. The disconnect between the science and the politics of national interest have bedevilled attempts to tackle our greenhouse gas emissions and the authors of the report are to be congratulated on highlighting these vital linkages."

The resource includes quotes from Mary Robinson as well as environmentalists Gavin Harte and Éanna Ní Lamhna, Anglican priest and BBC television presenter Rev Peter Owen-Jones, Alex Hill of the Met Office, Columban eco-theologian Fr Seán McDonagh, Monsignor Dermot Lane, President of the Mater Dei Institute, and Bishop David Atkinson, former Bishop of Thetford - all of whom have spoken at events ECI has organised in recent years.

"We hope this resource will encourage Christians in Ireland to incorporate eco-friendly habits into their lives - as churches, communities and as individuals - as they come to terms with the reality of climate change and how our carbon-guzzling lifestyles are already impacting the lives of many people living in developing countries," said ECI Chairperson, the Ven Andrew Orr.

ECI, a project of the Irish Inter-Church Meeting, encourages churches to adopt an eco-friendly approach to worship, lifestyle, property and finance management, youth and children's work, community outreach and contact with the developing world.

For further information see www.ecocongregationireland.com.

Evangelism is central to being the people of God, says Archbishop Justin

Don't wait to share Jesus with others, the Archbishop of Canterbury told Church Army annual meeting on Friday last.

Evangelism is not a survival strategy for the church, but is instead an activity "central to being the people of God", the Archbishop of Canterbury said.

Because we worship a God revealed in Jesus Christ who was "sent out to sow, to gather, and to draw back in", as Christians when we evangelise we reflect the nature of God, he said.

Archbishop Justin, [who has made evangelism a priority for his ministry](#), was speaking at the Church Army's annual general meeting in central London, where he addressed evangelists from across the UK and Ireland.



“Evangelism is never a survival strategy. It’s not a tool to ensure that the Church keeps going. God doesn’t do that. We cannot instrumentalise God,” he said.

“We can’t say we’re going to use God to ensure the church keeps going. The God we worship is a God who sends out and harvests in. And we see that most clearly in the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus is God himself, sent out to sow, to gather, and to draw back in.”

He continued: “So what you’re doing in evangelism isn’t a tool of the church, it’s not some sort of thing we do so we can still be there in a generation or two. It is the revelation of the nature of God. It is intrinsic to being the people of God.”

The Archbishop said he had “no fears about the future of the church of God” in this country.

“But I would really like, and I believe it’s part of God’s plan, that that future of the church of God includes a renewed, invigorated, confident, wonderful, celebratory, humble, delighting Church of England.”

But he said that sharing Jesus with others is not something that churches should wait until they are “ready” before doing.

“Worship and evangelism... neither are things you wait to be ready to do. You do them. You get on with them. That is the nature of the God we serve.”

He also stressed the importance of evangelism being grounded in theology.

“To earth our activity in theology, in who God is, is incredibly important. Because when we understand that this is the God we serve, that this is intrinsic to his nature, who he has revealed himself to be, that tells us that what we’re doing is not just one of those things that some people do and some people don’t – this is absolutely fundamental to being the people of God.

“And that’s quite encouraging, because when we’re being the people of God, the one thing we can be pretty sure about is that God will show up.”