



Sell your gold to save teaching post, priest asks Church

International delegates attend Christian Aid Ireland / University of Ulster peace conference

A major one-day conference is taking place at the University of Ulster which will bring together peacemakers from 13 different conflict zones around the world.



Paul Lansana Koroma from Sierra Leone at the conference

Christian Aid Ireland and the Transitional Justice Institute at the University of Ulster have invited delegates from Sierra Leone, Israel/Palestine, Myanmar, Pakistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Colombia and Angola to the 'Civil society, conflict transformation and peace building' one-day conference at the university on Monday.

Karol Balfe of Christian Aid Northern Ireland said: "They are coming specifically because of the history of the conflict here and the ongoing work in this area. The aim is that all different organisations would give and share their experiences to each other.

"The people attending are often threatened for what they do in their own countries so this is an opportunity for them to come out from these situations and discuss their situations with academics.

“One major issue is tackling the root causes of conflict – failure to deal with this often leads to other problems later on.”

One of the groups taking part in the conference, she said, is Belfast-based Bridge Of Hope which has brought together republicans and loyalists.

Discussion groups at the conference will cover subjects such as achieving justice and dealing with the past, amnesties and the rule of law, gender and peace building.

Professor Fionnuala Ni Aoláin, associate director of Ulster University’s Transitional Justice Institute, said her organisation “has rapidly become internationally recognised as a leading centre in the study of law in societies emerging from conflict”.

The conference is “an important opportunity for us to further global links between Northern Ireland and other societies” which have experienced transition from conflict, she added.

Paul Koroma from the Network Movement for Justice and Development in Sierra Leone said he hopes to both learn from others and share his own experience during the Christian Aid-organised conference.

More at

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/regional/international-delegates-attend-university-of-ulster-peace-conference-1-6393351>

Silent walk for the Disappeared

BBC News - Relatives of IRA victims have attended an annual silent walk for [the Disappeared](#) at Stormont in Belfast.

Among those in attendance at the walk were the brothers of Brendan Megraw, who was murdered and secretly buried by the IRA in 1978.

The family are awaiting DNA confirmation that remains found in County Meath last month by a search team, are those of the missing Belfast man.

They made an appeal for information.

Brendan's brother, Kieran Megraw, said other victims still required help to find their loved ones.

"The family have been hoping and praying for so many years that Brendan would be recovered from the desolate place he was hidden all those years



The relatives walked from Carson's statue up to the steps of Parliament Buildings at Stormont

ago so that he can be buried alongside his mother and father in the family grave where he should rest," he added.

"We are truly grateful for the dedication of the Independent Commission for the Location of Victims' Remains (ICLVR) who have made this possible and also to whoever came forward with more accurate information.

System

"The system in place to find the Disappeared works and there are other families with us today who need the same help from those who have information.

"We appeal for anyone with information to come forward".

At the event, a black wreath containing white lilies representing those who have yet to be found was carried by Dympna Kerr, the sister of Columba McVeigh from Donaghmore, County Tyrone.

Disappeared remembered in Stormont's Silent Walk

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/disappeared-remembered-in-stormont-s-silent-walk-1-6393247>

Sell your gold to save teaching post, priest asks Church

David Raleigh in Irish Independent - A priest in Limerick who chairs the board of management of a school in one of the country's most disadvantaged

communities has appealed to the Church to sell off its "dusty and unused gold" to help save an under-threat teaching post in his parish.



Moyross parish priest Fr Tony O'Riordan

Moyross

parish priest Fr

Tony O'Riordan said Corpus Christi

primary school, located less than 5km from the home of the minister for education, has had to privately hire a teacher after the department pulled funding for the teaching post a week before mid-term break. It is understood the teaching post had been under review for some time.

Fr O'Riordan said the school had now taken the decision to employ a teacher privately for as long as they can raise the funds.

He said the school has funding in place for a month but he issued an plea for help last night.

"I am appealing to churches and parishes around the country who have gold vessels and religious goods stored away and unused to consider selling these goods for a greater good," Fr O'Riordan said.

"While we will not give up the campaign to lobby the department to meet its responsibilities, [but] we will not let these children suffer education disadvantage if we can help it, and so we are appealing for help — we are asking that churches disposes of luxury goods to help us pay for an essential good.

"I know that many families have been forced to sell some gold and jewellery in recent years just to make ends meet, and I know that the Church family up and down this country has many gold objects gathering dust, so I hope that those with charge of these goods might listen to this appeal and help us meet the needs of these disadvantaged children and give them an opportunity for their God-given gifts to flourish."

The removal of the teaching post left the school facing the prospect of merging two junior infant classes in to a 32-pupil class.

Fr O’Riordan said it would have left the class with a teacher-pupil ratio of 1:32 which is 50% over the department’s ratio for DEIS schools.

“How could that lead to anything other than poorer educational outcomes for these children?” he asked.

He said the school just couldn’t stand over that situation and decided to hire a teacher privately. The teacher who has been hired with the help of a local bag-packing fundraising drive starts work today but Fr O’Riordan said if they couldn’t raise extra cash by the end of the month, the post would be gone.

The salary for the job is around €30,000, and Fr O’Riordan said they would be delighted if they could raise €20,000 through this appeal. “It would mean we could keep an appropriate teacher/pupil ratio in place and it allow us to continue to lobby the department for the resources to get the job done,” he said.



Belfast parish supports children in Ukraine and Russia

The C of I Parish of St Peter and St James on Belfast’s Antrim Road, has supported the charity Child Aid for the past eight years, and last month sent a donation of £2,250.

The funding, sent to Child Aid by the parish’s Charity Action Group, will help children and young people in Russian and Ukraine.

Needy families in Chita, Russia, will benefit from a donation of £750.

The same amount has been sent to help with the construction of the second phase of the House of Light in Mukachevo, Ukraine. This is a project designed to support young people coming out of state care homes, offering the opportunity to acquire skills they need to find employment and to avoid many of the pitfalls which can damage young people.

A third donation of £750 is going to the EUREKA Appeal, which is trying to get emergency supplies for children into areas which have been severely damaged in the recent violence in Eastern Ukraine. Many of these areas are under ‘rebel’ control, and often larger agencies cannot get access to help.

The Charity Action Group says that in dividing the funding, the money has gone to help those on both sides of the conflict and those caught in the middle. The group expressed its thanks to the Select Vestry and congregation for their support in raising the funding for Child Aid.

For more information on Child Aid, visit www.childaidrr.org.uk.

Church ‘leaving falsely accused priests in limbo’

Caroline O’Doherty in Irish Examiner - A Catholic priest found not guilty of sexually assaulting a teenage girl is embroiled in a row with his order and the Archbishop of Dublin over claims they are punishing him for being accused. Carmelite father Chris Conroy, 81, who is banned from saying public Mass and is defying orders to leave his family home and live in a monastery, says the Catholic Church has its own “Guantanamo Bay” for falsely-accused priests.

The former missionary from Co Wicklow, who was the subject of an award-winning documentary about his work with the Indians of the Peruvian Andes, says he has been in limbo for the last 10 years since his court case ended.

In his memoirs, to be launched next month, he accuses Archbishop Diarmuid Martin of interfering without authority to have him prevented from saying Mass and says his Order has shown undue deference to the Archbishop in attempting to impose other restrictions.

“This is why I wrote the book. I had to make a stand,” he said. “I spent my time in Peru fighting and putting my life on the line for the poor Indians and the suffering and injustice that they were enduring.

“Then I came back to Ireland to injustice and I said I’m not going to accept this, especially in the Church that I love and in the Carmelite Order that I love.”

In a statement, Archbishop’s House said it was not the practice of the archdiocese to comment on individual cases involving allegations of child sexual abuse.

Head of the Carmelites in Ireland, Fr Martin Kilmurray, however, said the memoirs contained “gross inaccuracies” about Fr Conroy’s dealings with the leadership of the order and with the archbishop.

Fr Kilmurray said he was “deeply concerned” that details of the case involving the teenage girl had been reproduced in the book.

“We see this as a blatant disregard for the wellbeing and right to privacy of this person. We have initiated contact with her, with a view of offering pastoral support,” he said.

Fr Conroy said he bore his accuser no ill will but he had to recall the case to illustrate the risks to clergy from unfounded accusations and their own hierarchy.

“Every priest in Ireland should read my book because it could happen to them tomorrow. I’m very lucky in one sense because I was accused publicly, I went to the public court and I was acquitted publicly.

“Supposing I had been accused and it didn’t go to the court and the Church was just dealing with it. I’d be in limbo forever. The Church doesn’t know how to deal with these types of cases.”

Dublin’s November Church Review

The November edition of The Church Review is out. This month’s Dublin and Glendalough diocesan magazine is packed full of news and information - pictures and reports from the opening of parish facilities in Whitechurch, Newcastle and Newtownmountkennedy and Arklow.

Ordinations to the Diaconate and the Priesthood are featured in words and photographs and there is news of the dedication of a plaque in memory of Seamus Heaney in Nun’s Cross

There is a report from Dublin Council of Churches forum on the Reformation.

The first Board of Education

conference for Protestant Second Level Schools and first start of year service for second level is covered as is the annual diocesan primary schools’ service.

There is an insight into what is happening with Dublin’s church plant, the ICON Community, led by the Revd Eoghan Heaslip and his family.



In his regular column, Canon Patrick Comerford writes about 'Zorba the Greek' which he says continues to challenge myths after 50 years.

Media review

Mail/Sun/Ind

Further reports on the Government inquiry into historic child abuse, stating William Hague has said it could be ordered to start work without a chairman following Fiona Woolf's resignation last week. Independent comment on the issue also states the Archbishop of Canterbury says child abuse is rampant in our society and a weekend YouGov poll found that 12 per cent of those polled said they or a family member had been victims.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2817519/Top-lawyers-tipped-replace-Fiona-Woolf-head-abuse-inquiry-previously-rejected-post.html#ixzz3HyvD0DmB>

<http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/politics/6054633/Brian-Moore-I-would-inquiry-on-paedophiles.html>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/comment/child-abuse-inquiry-yet-another-expensive-time-consuming-and-cynical-strategy-9834358.html>

Tel

Article that abortion on grounds of gender is expected to be declared illegal by Parliament this week..Confusion over the law was exposed last year by the decision of the then Director of Public Prosecutions, Sir Keir Starmer, not to bring charges against two doctors caught on camera agreeing to arrange abortions of baby girls purely because of their sex.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/health/healthnews/11202450/MPs-poised-to-declare-gender-abortion-illegal.html>

Mail/Tel/Guard

Further reports that Nicky Morgan, the education secretary, is to "take on Britain's faith schools by ordering them to teach pupils to be tolerant of other religions and respect lesbian, gay and transgender relationships." Telegraph states Education department officials have been criticised after appearing to suggest that gay rights are not "British values".

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2817819/Schools-indoctrinate-children-against-homosexuality-face-closed-new-Government-rules.html#ixzz3Hz21WR89>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/11203931/Education-departments-gay-rights-tweet-sparks-row.html>

<http://www.theguardian.com/education/2014/nov/02/faith-schools-promote-british-values-nick-morgan>

Express

Comment article reports on a Westminster lunch when the Archbishop of Canterbury recalled the ignominy of being unrecognised weeks after he had been appointed. It says he was approached by a man in Chichester Cathedral who asked him if he could introduce him to the visiting Archbishop. He said, 'Well actually it's me.' Looking me up and down in a disappointed fashion he said, 'Oh,' and walked away."

<http://www.express.co.uk/comment/expresscomment/530510/Cross-Bencher-Cameron-ally-backs-Boris-as-Tory-leader>

Mail

Comment article stating the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Carey, has bemoaned novelty Advent calendars, saying: 'The commercialisation of these calendars does sadden me because they miss something deeply important about Advent and the Christmas story.'
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2818302/SEBASTIAN-SHAKESPEARE-Newsnight-s-Emily-Maitlis-puts-shapely-foot-it.html#ixzz3HyuPz2as>