



## **Play revisits the Reformation and role of Martin Luther**

The 500th anniversary of the Reformation is being marked by an iconic play following its leading protagonist, Martin Luther, at Belfast Waterfront, 24-28 October.

Presented by Centre Stage Theatre Company, this epic dramatisation of John Osborne's Tony award-winning play delivers a vivid portrayal of

the sixteenth century monk who publicly spoke out against the archaic customs and corruption within Roman Catholicism.

Osborne's Luther is a multi-faceted character with deep religious convictions whose actions provided the catalyst for a theological revolution that transformed Christianity forever, with consequences that still affect modern society.

The key historical figure of the Reformation, Luther objected to the teachings and practices of the Roman Catholic Church and his public proclamations led to the establishment and subsequent proliferation of reformed churches across western civilisation.

John Osborne is acknowledged as one of the greatest playwrights of the 20th century, as well as a pioneering writer for film and TV. He was renowned for his cutting prose and intense critical stance towards established social and political norms.

Osborne's productions include the seminal *Look Back In Anger* - later turned into the classic movie starring Richard Burton - and *The Entertainer* starring stage and screen legend Sir Laurence Olivier. He is also fondly remembered

for movie roles in Michael Cane's Get Carter, Tomorrow Never Comes and Flash Gordon.

Luther was first performed in 1961 before becoming a huge transatlantic hit on Broadway. Legendary classic actor Albert Finney originally played the title role. The play was made into a 1974 film starring Stacy Keach (of Mickey Spillane's Mike Hammer fame) as Martin. This play has been decribed as a "work of power and integrity" with language that is "urgent and sinewy, mingling gutter candour with cadences that might have come from the pulpit oratory of John Donne".

Tickets for Luther are available at [www.waterfront.co.uk](http://www.waterfront.co.uk) or call 02890 334 455.  
Report courtesy The News Letter

The 500th anniversary of the start of the Reformation in Germany, together with the 25th Anniversary of the Porvoo Common Statement were brought together in the 2017 annual Clergy Conference at Ballylickey in Cork, Cloyne and Ross.



## **The Reverend Dr Jan Eckerdal speaking at the Conference.**

The guest speaker, the Reverend Dr Jan Eckerdal, Diocesan Chaplain with responsibility for Theological Education in the Diocese of Strängnäs in the Church of Sweden, spoke on the theme of *The Lutheran Thread of the Church Catholic*. In the first of his four talks - *Anglicanism and Swedish Lutheranism: Two Kindred Spirits?* - Dr Eckerdal engaged with and teased out the shared heritage of both Sweden and Ireland at key moments: the Christianisation of the countries, the Reformation experience, and, more recently, the Porvoo Agreement. These themes were referred to again and again throughout the clergy days together.

This year marks the 500th Anniversary of the start of the Reformation in Germany, a movement which spread and, very soon transformed Europe as a first step. That anniversary is on 31st October.

As it happened, the last day of the Clergy Conference this year was on Wednesday 11th October, which was the 25th anniversary of the visit to Porvoo Cathedral in Finland for a Sunday morning celebration of the Eucharist by the representatives of the Anglican Churches in Britain and Ireland (including the Reverend Paul Colton, as he was then, representing the Church of Ireland, now Bishop of Cork), and the representatives of the Nordic and Baltic Lutheran Churches. The representatives had agreed the Porvoo Common Statement which, when signed by the participant churches in ensuing years established the [Porvoo Communion of Churches](#).

## **Revealed: The most Roman Catholic county in Ireland, according to the CSO**

The latest Central Statistics Office (CSO) figures from last year's Census shows that Ireland remains an overwhelmingly Catholic country but

there's a surge in the number of people with no religion.

Catholicism is still the dominant religion in Ireland as 3.7m people declared themselves as Catholics in this year's Census, down 3.4 percent since 2011.

Offaly has the highest percentage of Catholics in the country at 88.6 percent, while Dun Laoghaire - Rathdown in South Dublin has the lowest percentage at 69.9 percent.

'No religion' is the second most popular religion in Ireland with 10 percent of the population (468,421) not identifying with any faith. It's an increase of 73.6 percent in five years, making it the fastest growing 'religion'.

The Church of Ireland has the third highest membership with 126,414 people, while census figures show that the Muslim (Islamic) population has risen by 28.9 percent since 2011 with 63,443 members.

Meanwhile the Christian Orthodox religion saw the second biggest growth at 37.5 percent with its numbers standing at 62,187, with Romanians making up 33.5 percent of the overall population.

**88.6%**

**Offaly** has the highest % of Catholics

**69.9%**

**Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown** has the lowest

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Religion	Population	Average age
Roman Catholic	3,729,115	38.2
No religion	468,421	34
Church of Ireland	126,414	40.3
Muslim	63,443	26
Orthodox	62,187	30.2

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**Students** had the largest response to no religion at **15.3%**  
Up from 9.4% in 2011

**63,443**

Ireland's **Muslim** community

**33.5%**

**Romanians**, the largest group among Orthodox Christians

Census data also looked at ethnicity in Ireland. Those who indicated a “White Irish” ethnic or cultural background amounted for 88/2 percent of the population.

This was followed by 'any other White background' at 9.5 percent, 'non-Chinese Asian'

at 1.7 percent and 'other incl. mixed background' at 1.5 percent.

The vast majority (94.1 percent) of those with a 'White background' were born in Ireland. Of the 5.9 percent (226,078) born elsewhere, 121,174 were born in England and Wales and 53,915 were born in Northern Ireland.

Over one in three of those with African ethnicity (38.6 percent) were born in Ireland (22,331 persons), along with 31.3 percent (2,126) of those with "other Black backgrounds". Among those persons with Chinese ethnicity, over half (55.7 percent) were born in China, with 8.3 percent being born in Malaysia and 6.4 percent born in Hong Kong.

Of those with "Any other Asian background", 22.4 percent were born in India, followed by 16.1 percent in the Philippines and 13.7 percent in Pakistan.

The figures show that the Irish Travellers' population (30,987) has risen by 5.1 percent since 2011. Dublin city and suburbs had the largest number of Irish Travellers with 5,089 persons. This was followed by Galway city and suburbs with 1,598 persons and Cork city and suburbs with 1,222.



Tuam had the highest number of Irish Travellers with 737 persons.

While 10,653 Travellers were in the labour force, the vast majority, 8,541 (80.2 percent) were unemployed. Report courtesy of the Irish Independent

See - <http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/news/revealed-the-most-catholic-county-in-ireland-according-to-the-cso-36220711.html>

Irish Times -

<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/it-s-official-offaly-is-the-most-catholic-county-d%C3%BA-laoghaire-the-least-1.3253668>

The Journal.ie -

<http://www.thejournal.ie/census-religion-most-catholic-county-3642741-Oct2017/>

RTE News

<http://www.rte.ie/news/2017/1012/911813-census/>

# CNI

## An Post issues new stamp to mark the 100th anniversary of the Fatima apparitions

Yesterday, 12 October, Ireland's national postal service An Post issued a new stamp to mark the 100th anniversary of the apparition of Our Lady in Fatima, Portugal. Archbishop Eamon Martin, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, welcomed the new stamp in a tweet from his account @ArchbishopEamon, inviting the faithful to post a prayer card to a loved one.

Details of the new €1.35 stamp were included in the quarterly An Post booklet *The Collector*. Designed by 2b:creative, a design house based in Lisburn, Co Down, the new stamp features a statue from Fatima of the Virgin Mary. The statue was purchased by Archbishop Martin when, in 2015, he led a pilgrimage from Armagh and Belfast to Fatima in preparation for the centenary of the apparitions. The statue of Our Lady is on display in his oratory.

The commemorative stamp and the first day cover can be purchased on [www.irishstamps.ie](http://www.irishstamps.ie).

2017 marks the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima. Between 13

May and 13 October of 1917 three shepherd children, Lucia Santos and her cousins Jacinta and Francisco Marto, reported visions of the Virgin Mary. Pope Francis travelled to Fatima on the Feast day of Our Lady of Fatima in May where he canonised the young shepherds Jacinta and Francisco Marto.

## Church of Ireland funds buy stake in Nama holding company

The [Church of Ireland](#) has emerged as a shareholder in the holding company behind Nama, in a deal that allowed a UK hedge fund to lock in some gains following its purchase of a stake in the agency at the height of the financial crisis. Clergy pensions fund and Representative Church Body hold a combined 5.75%, the Irish Times reports.

Minister for Finance [Paschal Donohoe](#) disclosed in response to a parliamentary question from [Fianna Fáil](#) TD Seán Fleming this week that the Church of Ireland Clergy Pensions Fund and the [Representative Church Body](#) hold a combined 5.75 per cent stake in the holding company of Nama.

The funds bought the holdings from a UK hedge fund, called [Walbrook Capital](#), which acquired a

17 per cent stake in the holding company, [National Asset Management Agency Investment Limited \(NAMAIL\)](#), in 2012 at a deep discount to its nominal value of €17 million.

Efforts by The Irish Times to get comment from spokesmen for the Church of Ireland on Wednesday were unsuccessful.

Nama was set up in 2009 with NAMAIL as its holding company, under a construct designed to keep the bad bank off the State's balance sheet at a time when Government debt was ballooning and there were concerns that the agency would end up making a large loss over its lifetime.

More at -

<https://www.irishtimes.com/business/financial-services/church-of-ireland-funds-buy-stake-in-nama-holding-company-1.3252621>

## **Prayers answered in sale of site on Model Farm Road**

The purchaser of a 4.6 acre house development site next to Hilton on the Model Farm Road in Cork city's suburbs has been confirmed as up-

and-coming Munster builder Donal Relihan, of DNR Homes, reports the Irish Examiner.

While confirming the purchaser's identity of the land sold by the Church of Ireland's Carrigrohane parish, agents Peter O'Meara and James O'Donovan of Savills Cork declined to comment on the exact selling price, which is understood to have been around €3.5 million. The land had discretely gone to market in the summer at a guide of €2.8/2.9m.

News of a low-profile sale emerged last month, when the Church of Ireland's Canon Ian Jonas confirmed they had acquired a former military building, the Gun Store, at the Gunpowder Mills in Ballincollig, as a church and parish centre, for about €1.2m after an Allsops/Bid IX auction offer and which will be converted to more pacifist uses over the next year, as a result of the church's land sale windfall.

At that eventual c €3.5m sales level, it equates to a strong €750,000 per acre for residential development land, and DNR saw off competing lower bids from long-established developers, it is understood. DNR Homes was established more than 10 years ago, is based in Mallow and is currently completing a development at a 23-unit scheme called Gort Fada in Glounthaune.

There, DNR Homes had three-bed semis for sale in early 2017 at prices just under, and over, the €300k mark via Savills New Homes

At their now-acquired 4.6 acre Model Farm Road site, homes will be more upmarket and pricier given the western suburban setting, one kilometre from the Poulevone Roundabout and 5kms from Cork city. It's understood DNR may be looking at a scheme of 35-40 homes, which indicates a site 'stand' cost of up to €100,000 per unit.

More at -

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/property/prayers-answered-in-sale-of-site-on-model-farm-road-460756.html>

## **Cahal Daly left footprints 'on the sands of time'**

Cahall Daly's commitment to dialogue was rooted in his upbringing in Loughguile in the Glens of Antrim, an article in The Irish News states.

There, the seeds of good neighbourliness were sown in a community in which the majority



**Cardinal Cahal Daly, who was born on October 1 1917. He died on December 31 2009. Picture by Hugh Russel**

Catholic population enjoyed strong and positive relations with a significant Protestant minority.

The soil was also remarkably fertile in terms of growing both Catholic and Protestant clergy.

In his 1998 memoir *Steps on My Pilgrim Journey*, the future Cardinal recalled that several Protestant families had sons studying for the ministry at the same time that he was studying for the priesthood.

They formed friendships and links which, as Cardinal Daly put it, "were maintained throughout later life and were greatly cherished".

"They included Reverend William Hanna, Presbyterian, later minister of Randalstown Old Congregation and then of Windsor, and Reverend Robert Hanna, Reformed Presbyterian, of Corkey, who had also an uncle Reverend Tom Hanna, a Reformed Presbyterian minister," wrote Cardinal Daly.

"Robert and William were second cousins and were both neighbours of the Dalys when we lived in Ballybradden.

"There were also the Reverend Professor Adam Loughridge, Reformed Presbyterian of Friary, and Reverend James Hamilton of Tober.

"Reverend John Young, Presbyterian, later minister of Belmont, was a son of Hugh Young, our 'bread man', of Ballymoney.

"He used to accompany his father on his weekly rounds of Loughguile and often called at our house in Tully.

"John was one year older than I and we compared notes of secondary school and theological college days and remained lifelong



friends particularly during the years of 'the Troubles'.

"Another well known Loughguile clergyman was Reverend Samuel Hanna, also of Ballybradden who was long serving Presbyterian Minister in Berry Street, Belfast who died in 1944.

"He had the unusual qualification of completing his medical studies and conducting a medical practice while still in active ministry.

"He was the uncle of the Reverend William Hanna. At the time of my ordination, there were five living Catholic priests from the parish of Loughguile.

"Loughguile was manifestly a community of lively faith both among its Catholic majority population and its Protestant minority."

This friendly, faith-based upbringing clearly made a lifelong impact on the young Cahal Daly.

So too did his earliest memory, as recounted in Steps on My Pilgrim Journey: "My earliest memory is of being in my father's arms in my night attire, outside our house in Ballybradden, a townland of the parish of Loughguile, County Antrim, and pointing up at the fire on the roof and trying, in whatever words I then knew, to ask

who lit the living room fire up on the roof of the house.

"This event obviously and naturally made a deep impression on the mind of a child. I was then aged about four."

The house had been set on fire, he said, as a result of "an operation by the North Antrim IRA during the troubles of 1916-1922".

Of the long list of faithful clergy from Loughguile, the Rev Robert Hanna, now retired from full-time ministry in the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland, is the survivor.

Born and reared at Corkey, Loughguile, he remembers his "early in life neighbour and acquaintance" fondly.

"I had to make contact with Dr Daly at times and always had a reply," he recalls.

"As arranged beforehand through Fr William McKeever, I had lunch with him and his Eminence the Cardinal on January 31 1999 in the old parochial house at Loughguile.

"He was busy that afternoon as he had to attend an engagement at Magherahoney. I enjoyed the time spent with him reminiscing.

"Ecclesiastes 3:2 encourages us to remember our origin and mortality - 'a time to be born and a time to die'."

Rev Hanna said that when he thinks about Cardinal Daly now, he is reminded of the words written by the poet Henry W Longfellow: "Lives of great men all remind us, we can make our lives sublime, and, departing, leave behind us, footprints on the sands of time."

## **Christian Aid welcomes UK and Canada-led global alliance on the transition from dirty coal**

Responding to the [joint announcement](#) from the United Kingdom and Canada that they will work to build a global alliance on the transition from unabated coal-fired electricity to cleaner energy, Mohamed Adow, Christian Aid's International Climate Lead, said:

“The UK and Canada’s announcement provides an opportunity for countries to fast track the phase-out of the dirty and dangerous coal-fired electricity and accelerate the shift to renewables to secure better growth and benefits, such as cleaner air, better energy security and a safer climate.

“It is worth noting that both the UK and Canada have already committed to unabated coal phase-out in their domestic energy policies. They are now encouraging the rest of the world to join in the [shift away from coal](#) to safer and cleaner energy sources.

“Not only will this fast track the transition towards low-carbon future, but it will also increase the chances of the world delivering the Paris Agreement goal for the world to achieve zero carbon economies by mid-century.

“The UK’s commitment on this issue is vital because it needs high-level political attention – attention that is sorely missing from the Trump-led United States. It will show that the UK is the global climate leader the Government claims to be.

“Coal has helped the UK and the developed world to become rich, but it has been the biggest cause of climate change which is affecting the world’s poor. For cleaner air, a safer climate and brighter future we must now leave it behind.

“To help developing countries leave coal behind and continue to prosper, the UK and Canada,

together with other rich countries, must help them harness the renewable energy sources at their disposal. In the same way, Africa has leapfrogged landline phones to mobiles, the developing world must leapfrog the dirty and dangerous fossil fuels of the past to the clean energy sources that will dominate the future global economies of the future.

“The good news is that clean energy is already cheaper than fossil fuels in many contexts, thanks to the rapid falls in the cost of renewable technology. Leaving poor nations stuck with antiquated and polluting fossil fuel systems while richer countries reap the benefit of clean, cheap renewables, will be just another act of betrayal.”

## **Christchurch City Council consults on \$10 million cathedral contribution**

The local governing authority for the New Zealand City of Christchurch has launched a consultation on how to fund its \$10 million NZD (approximately £5.36 million GBP) share of the re-build costs for the city's cathedral. Christ Church Cathedral was severely damaged in an earthquake in 2011. Diocesan plans to replace



**The “cardboard cathedral” will continue to provide a temporary home for Christ Church Cathedral until the original earthquake-damaged building is rebuilt.**

the cathedral were delayed by unsuccessful legal challenges. Last month the diocesan synod decided to re-instate the building after promises of funding by the national government and Christchurch City Council.

The decision to reinstate the cathedral was dependent upon the promised \$10 million grant from Christchurch City Council, a \$10 million grant and \$15 million loan from the national government, and \$13.7 million from the Great

Christchurch Buildings Trust, a heritage group which had been campaigning for a rebuild rather than a new building. Diocesan authorities will contribute \$42 million from the proceeds of the cathedral's insurance payout. The remaining \$104 million estimated cost will be met through a fundraising campaign.

The city council is now asking for the public's view on how their \$10 million grant can be funded. One suggestion is for a targeted tax, which would cost ratepayers an extra \$18 for each of the next four years – a total of \$72. The council is also considering borrowing the \$10 million, which would cost tax-payers a total of \$120 over 30 years.

Since the earthquake, the cathedral has been meeting in an award-winning temporary “cardboard cathedral”.

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