

The Problems caused by the lack of Executive: MCI President



The Rev. Dr Laurence Graham, President of the Methodist Church in Ireland has issued the following Statement on the problems affecting the Health Service as a result of a non-functioning Executive.

“The Hippocratic Oath contains these words "First, do no harm." I wish this was part of an oath taken by those elected to our Assembly.

www.churchnewsireland.org

NEWS October 2

Currently, we are devoid of our elected Assembly and the outcome of this is the inability to adequately address the tsunami of problems bearing down on our worlds of education and health.

“Because of the lack of an Executive, we have the plight of MS sufferers being unable to be given drugs which are freely available elsewhere in the United Kingdom; Members of the public experiencing the cancellation of medical procedures repeatedly. There is also the plight of the elderly who are suffering as a result of cutbacks in the provision of domiciliary care with the result that many are unable to be discharged from hospital.

“I appreciate the bind that all of this has put on those Senior Civil Servants charged with carrying out the work of their Departments but I am adding my voice to those who have spoken out on these matters and am calling on our politicians to strive even further in their dialogue so that a resolution of these problems could be brought about quickly.”

CNI

Catholic Bishop under fire for his claims on cervical cancer vaccine

A Catholic Bishop has come under fire for claiming that the HPV cervical cancer vaccine is only "70 per cent" safe, the Irish Independent reports.

Bishop Phonsie Cullinan, Bishop of Waterford and Lismore, told Independent.ie that he has "serious concerns" about the HPV vaccine.

Bishop Cullinan claims the vaccine offers "no absolute guarantee" of "full protection" against cervical cancer.

He added that it is a "lifestyle issue" and that "we should be doing more to protect young girls".

"We're giving 12-year-olds an injection against something that is sexually transmitted. What kind of message is that to give a 12-year-old girl?"

CNI

Healing service to support persecuted churches

This Monday evening service organised by Divine Healing Ministries in Belfast Cathedral at 8pm will be on behalf of the persecuted Church.

The speaker will be a lady from Eritea who has suffered greatly for her faith. All of the offerings will go to the persecuted Church. Worship will be led by Paul and Beulah Shields.

Canon David Jardine said, “Divine Healing Ministries is running this service in conjunction with Release International, a great organisation who have done wonderful work with the persecuted Church. Please try to support us on Monday, October 2.”

Derry cleric to Brittany via USA

The Reverend Robin Adams, a native of Glendermott, Londonderry has been appointed to Christ Church Brittany in the Diocese of Europe. He is currently rector of Church of the Word, Diocese of the Mid Atlantic, USA. He served in Down and Dromore and Connor before moving to the USA. He served in Maraghlin from

79 to 82, Coleraine from 82 to 86 and St. Aidan's Belfast 86 to 89.

Nine priests have died by suicide after false claims of abuse, says cleric who was also wrongly accused

Nine priests who were wrongly accused of abuse have died by suicide, a cleric who was the subject of false accusations has claimed, the Irish News reports.

Fr Tim Hazelwood, a priest in the parish priest of Killeagh in Co Cork, was falsely accused of the sexual abuse of a child in 2008.

An anonymous complaint was made about him to the Diocese of Cloyne and forwarded to the Health and Safety Executive and Gardaí.

Fr Hazelwood, who is in his 50s, took a civil case in the High Court in Dublin.

Last year his accuser admitted making up the complaint and made a donation to charity.

The priest told RTÉ's Liveline programme yesterday that priests are presumed guilty even if they have done nothing wrong and are struggling under the strain.

"It is still happening today....nine priests have taken their own lives...I am not saying that that was the case in all of them, but in some cases people had breakdowns."

The priest said that a "plethora" of clerics had been wrongly accused - citing 14 other cases in the Diocese of Cloyne alone - and that he had "seen the effect it has had...tragic in some cases."

The priest, who claimed he had no official support from the Catholic Church as he tried to clear his name, said he was speaking out in a bid to "ensure that this type of thing doesn't happen again."

During his ordeal, Fr Hazelwood received anonymous phone calls and a letter and ended up seeing a doctor.

He said he has been undergoing therapy as part of his recovery.

He said: "My initial reaction was to get a Bible and I swore on it that it wasn't true. Going to sleep was the hardest part. I am getting on well now....life has changed."

Former director of Alliance party to train for C of E ministry

A former executive director of the Alliance party, who stood as a candidate for election to Westminster, is to become an Anglican priest.

Gerry Lynch, who worked as the party's executive director from 2007 until 2010, said he would begin training to become a Church of England priest next year.

A former pupil of St Malachy's College in Belfast, Mr Lynch is currently the communications director for the Church of England diocese of Salisbury.

In a tweet posted on Friday, Mr Lynch wrote: "The Church of England has recommended me for training for ordination as a priest. Starting training Sep 2018."

Within hours of the post on Twitter and Facebook, Mr Lynch had received dozens of congratulatory messages, with one stating:



"Really delighted to hear that, Gerry. You will make a fantastic priest."

During a gap year from his politics studies at Queen's University, Mr Lynch worked for Alliance as an office assistant in the talks period that led to the Good Friday Agreement.

After spending seven years working in senior policy roles across different UK government departments in Whitehall, the Belfast man returned to Northern Ireland in 2007 following the restoration of devolution to take up the post of executive director of the Alliance party. He stood as the Alliance candidate in the East Antrim constituency in the Westminster election of 2010.

For five years, Mr Lynch was also vice-chairman of Changing Attitude Ireland, which campaigns for the full "affirmation" of lesbian, gay and transgender people within the churches in Ireland.

Training to become a priest in the Church of England usually lasts between two to three years, depending on age, prior learning and experience.

Chinese to build their own church in Dublin

While a dwindling flock and shortage of priests is causing Catholic churches to close in Ireland, the growing Chinese Christian community is planning to build its own place of worship in Dublin.

The Sino-Irish congregation has applied for planning permission to build a 200-seater church in Santry, north Dublin. Located at Schoolhouse Lane, it will be two or three storeys in height, with 7,725 sq m of floorspace.

The community, whose representative declined to comment pending planning approval, says it has a congregation of about 200 in Dublin. The

plan is for the pastor to live in a house alongside the new church. The congregation refers to itself as the Dublin Christian Life Church.

It s estimated there are now 67 million Christians in China.

Ex-scientologist warns about multi-million new Irish base

An ex-scientologist has warned of his concerns over the controversial sect ahead of the opening of a massive new Irish base.

The cult will open its new European headquarters this month at the Victory Centre in Firhouse, [Dublin](#).

The site was purchased for €6million last year, a third of its asking price during the boom, the Irish Sun reports.

Renovation work has been ongoing for some time with a 1,300-seater auditorium set to open.

But a former member of the Church of Scientology Ireland, John McGhee, insisted that they are only financially motivated.



The Victory Centre in Firhouse which is undergoing renovation

John told the Irish Sun: “Although I was with them for two-and-a-half or three years, I was on their books for about six.

“They seek money from members. You pay to join and then you pay some more. I got nothing back.”

The Church of Scientology Ireland has set up a new website called IdealIreland.org, but it gives little information about the sect, except a request for donations.

ohn said: “That’s what they do.

“It tells you nothing, doesn’t say what they do, what good they do, nothing like that.

“They’re looking for money. There’s only about 50 registered scientologists in Ireland so this is a huge centre for them to open.

“They’re supposed to be bringing people over from all over the world to work in this place.

Anglican primates meet as temperatures rise (again) on same sex marriage

The first same-sex church wedding in the UK has taken place despite the threat that it will prompt punitive sanctions against the Scottish Episcopal Church (SEC) that held it.

Peter Matthews and Alistair Dinnie were married two weeks ago at St John’s Church in Edinburgh after the SEC which runs it overturned the Anglican canon law stipulation that marriage must be between a man and a woman in a vote in June.

An SEC spokeswoman confirmed that same-sex weddings had since taken place in churches in

Glasgow and Moray, with more ceremonies lined up, according to a report in The Times.

Proposed sanctions against Scottish Anglicans for accepting gay marriage are not strong enough, conservative leaders are claiming, in the first sign of disputes that may mar this week's summit of Church leaders in Canterbury.

Leaders from around the worldwide Anglican Communion will meet for five days to discuss religious persecution, climate change and the refugee crisis as well as their own deep divisions over sexuality.

'Consequences' are expected to be imposed on the Scottish Episcopal Church which would see them barred from representing the 80-million strong Communion on formal bodies or voting on decisions relating to policy or teaching.

The same 'consequences' were handed to the US Episcopal Church at the last summit in January 2016 after they passed gay marriage in 2015.

But conservative primates will push for stronger punishments, Christian Today reports, In an indication of the north-south divide within the Communion, traditionalist primates largely from Africa and South America will demand those

from the USA, Scotland and Canada are not invited to next Lambeth Conference in 2020 – a landmark gathering of Anglican bishops every ten years.

Leaders from the powerful conservative grouping GAFCON say the 'consequences', which the Archbishop of Canterbury insists are not punishments, are not effective and have not been imposed, with figures from the US Episcopal Church playing a full part in an Anglican meeting in Lusaka later that year.

'From our perspective the sanctions have not been strong enough,' a GAFCON source told Christian Today.

'If this meeting just repeats what happened last time [when the primates met in January 2016], then what happened in 2008 [when African bishops boycotted the last Lambeth Conference and set up a rival meeting] will happen again.

'If they do so the credibility and the authority of that meeting will be diminished.'

Justin Welby personally spoke to every head of the 39 Anglican provinces over the summer to assure them the 'consequences' have been imposed to the best of his ability.

Despite this three of the 39 primates will boycott next week's gathering in protest at what they see as increasing tolerance towards gay relationships.

Earlier this week the heads of the Human Sexuality Group, which represents almost half the Church of England's general synod, wrote to all the primates urging them to tackle LGBTI discrimination in their own countries and saying the CofE was becoming more gay-friendly.

'The direction of travel for the Church of England is clearer than ever,' the letter tells the primates.

'There are inevitably those who would like to deny these measured steps towards the full inclusion of all within the Body of Christ, but their voices are becoming fewer,' they write.

Giles Goddard, the group's chair, said: 'The status quo is no longer an option — people are deeply concerned about the impact on our mission to the nation of the Church's current stance towards LGBTI people.'

See also:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/sep/27/scottish-anglican-church-faces-sanctions-over-vote-to-allow-same-sex-marriage>

Anglican Consultative Council staff excluded from Primates' meeting

Sources have indicated that the staff of the Anglican Consultative Council will not be present at the Primates' Meeting. This is a departure from previous meetings and will be a source of concern for those who feel that the most major ongoing resource and expertise in the Anglican Communion is not present in its customary support role and its on site availability for consultation at the Primates' meeting.

This can be described as a departure into unfettered prelacy and inimitable to the constitutional position of the ACC as agreed by its member churches. There are also concerns about the style and manner of Archbishop Welby's chairmanship of the primates' body which may translate into a further diminution of Canterbury as the focal point of unity within the Anglican Communion.

CNI

**Help CNI grow
Please commend
CNI daily news to your
friends**

www.churchnewsireland.org

CNI