



Catholic synod: Gay rights groups 'disappointed'

Catholic primate Eamon Martin urges 'open minds' during NI political talks



Eamon Martin said he was going to pray for Northern Ireland's politicians

The Catholic Primate of All-

Ireland has called for politicians to enter the latest round of talks with open minds.

Archbishop Eamon Martin said he was praying for the political leaders to make the negotiations work.

[Talks aimed at resolving difficulties among the five parties](#) in the devolved Stormont government began on Thursday.

Archbishop Martin told the congregation at St Patrick's Cathedral in Armagh it would take "courageous and creative leadership" to move things forward.

He said that leadership would have to have "enough self-belief and commitment to the greater good to look beyond the next election or purely party-political interests".... "If we just keep on digging trenches for ourselves then there is a real risk that confidence in the ability of politics to resolve problems will be undermined," he said.

"That is why I ask and pray that our politicians will have open minds and generous hearts during these talks, together with steady nerves and prudent speech.

"I appeal strongly to them on behalf of so many people to make the talks work this time.

"I am confident that many of us in the churches and civic society stand ready to play our part in making their agreements work on the ground."

Prime Minister David Cameron said the talks must "lift the blockages" preventing the power-sharing executive from delivering effective government.

More at - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-29677408>

Presbyterians celebrate Global Mission

The Presbyterian Board of Mission Overseas will once again host their popular 'Celebration of Global Mission' evening on Tuesday, 21st October at Assembly Buildings in Belfast to highlight and promote the work of the Church's many mission programmes abroad.

Based around the theme 'Body and soul...a people of service and outreach', the service will feature a range of speakers and provide an interesting, informative and challenging focus on PCI's wide spectrum of involvement in God's mission to the world.

Secretary to the Board of Mission Overseas Rev Uel Marrs said, "The Celebration of Global Mission event has become a highlight in our calendar each autumn. It is a great opportunity for Presbyterians to come and hear of the many projects and programmes we as a Church are involved in overseas alongside partner churches and agencies.

"Mission personnel on home assignment will take part and share something of what God is doing where they are working; and of the challenges and needs facing those they are working with, as well as the communities and people they are seeking to serve."

Speakers will include Volker Glissmann, Director of TEEM (Theological Education by Extension in Malawi) who trains leaders in rural congregations, and Derek Roulston who will talk on his work out in Kenya working on the 'WHEAT' project that was highlighted in a recent BBC Songs of Praise episode. The programme will also include a special focus on 'Bible poverty'.

The event will start at 7.30pm and is expected to end around 9.30pm, tickets are not required for the event.

www.pcimissionoverseas.org

Irish Methodists and the First World War

Irish Methodists and the First World War is the title of a lecture to be given by Keith Jeffery who is Professor of British History at Queen's University Belfast whose research interests encompass a wide range of topics in Irish, British, and British imperial history.

A particular emphasis has been on Ireland and the First World War, which was the subject of his Lees Knowles Lectures in 1998 while at Trinity College, Cambridge.

In 2005 he was appointed to write the first Official History of the British Secret Intelligence Service (SIS), covering the years 1909-49.

In 2009 he was elected a Member of the Royal Irish Academy.

The lecture is organised by the Irish Methodist Historical Society and will be held at Edgehill College, Belfast on 24/10/2014 at 7.30 pm



New chapel dedicated at Bandon Grammar School, Cork

One of the first goals of the Reverend Anne Skuse when she was appointed part-time chaplain at Bandon Grammar School, County Cork, was to persuade the Board of Management to set aside space in the school's Richmond House for use as a chapel. The Board readily agreed and the new chapel was prepared under the supervision of school bursar George Bradfield.

The room chosen was once the headmaster's study – a place of oversight, care, stewardship, pastoral concern, advice, and, no doubt, at times, some discipline! The room subsequently became a Board Room where decisions were made. For a time it was a place of academic study and reflection. Now

all those elements are consummated in the space's new purpose, as a school chapel. On Friday, 17th October, the Bishop of Cork, the Right Reverend Dr Paul Colton, set aside and dedicated the room for its new use as a Chapel. He was joined by the Archbishop of Armagh, the Most Reverend Dr Richard Clarke who was the school's guest at the annual prize day ceremony later that day. Appropriately, the Archbishop dedicated a Bible, given by the school community in memory of Mrs Linda Clarke, who had been a religious education teacher at the school.



Students, teachers and members of the Board of Bandon Grammar School join (centre l-r) the Archbishop of Armagh, the Bishop of Cork and the Reverend Anne Skuse for a photograph after the dedication of the new school chapel. (Photo: Donal Warren)



The procession from the Deane Building at Bandon Grammar School to the new school chapel in Richmond House. (Photo: Donal Warren)

Bishop Colton drew the gathered community of students, teachers, parents and Board members, to the rarity and unique features of a Dedication Service such as this in Cork, Cloyne and Ross. He said:

The last entirely separate Church building to be consecrated in this Diocese was consecrated by Bishop Meade in 1905

in Aherla – St Mark's Church, Kilbonane. Since then a number of chapels within buildings and institutions have been dedicated, but not many: the Chapel of Christ the Healer in Cork University Hospital, the new Chapel at St Luke's Home, and the Chapel of St Andrew at Ashton Comprehensive School. This is a rare and special occasion. It is a wonderful and holy thing for God that Bandon Grammar School are creating this space to gather as a community of the Word and of the Sacraments.

The school community processed from the Deane Building (an academic building built in recent years and named in honour of a former chairperson of the School Board, Canon JLB Deane). The various furnishings and gifts for the new Chapel were carried in procession, as well as the Paschal Candle from the local parish Church – St Peter's, Bandon emphasising the school's connection with and place within the local Church of Ireland Parish.

More at - <http://churchofirelandcork.com/>

Linen Hall hosts BCM's 'Changing Scenes' Exhibition



Celebrations are taking place at Belfast Central Mission (BCM) to mark the 125th anniversary of the charity which was founded in 1889. As part of those celebrations the Linen Hall Library, Belfast will be hosting an exhibition of

BCM's archive photographs, documents and artefacts at the Linen Hall Library in Belfast from 22 October to 29 November.

The exhibition is called 'Changing Scenes'. On display will be some of BCM's nationally important collection of early twentieth century Hogg images of life in the Belfast slums together with a variety of items representing BCM's involvement in the life of the city.

Dr Myrtle Hill, (until recently) Senior Lecturer in Women's and Gender Studies, Queen's University, Belfast says, *"The archives are both fascinating and unique, offering fresh insights into life in late 19th, early 20th century Belfast from a wide range of perspectives. Though urban missions were both highly vocal and visible in the 19th century, poor record-keeping, inadequate preservation and an often narrow analysis threatens to undermine their historical significance. That this collection of documents, photographs and other ephemera has survived in such quantity and quality is itself unusual."*

Julie Andrews, Director of the Linen Hall Library, says, *"The Linen Hall Library was just over 100 years old when Belfast Central Mission was founded. The Library's founders and the institution itself were philanthropically minded and involved in a number of projects to help the underclass. We are delighted to be hosting this excellently researched exhibition that gives a realistic look at the hard life many had to survive in the late 19th and early 20th centuries."*

BCM's continues today to work across Northern Ireland with projects in North Down and Ards as well as Belfast, Dungannon and Armagh. The charity works throughout all communities in Northern Ireland to help the whole person by providing support and practical help for a cross-section of society.

Catholic synod: Gay rights groups 'disappointed'

BBC - Catholic gay rights groups say they are disappointed after bishops rejected proposals for wider acceptance of gay people, which had the Pope's backing. The call to "accept and value" homosexuals was in a draft report, but failed to win the backing of two-thirds of the bishops at a synod in Rome.

The final report says only that anti-gay discrimination is "to be avoided".

Two other paragraphs suggesting divorced and remarried Catholics could receive communion also failed to pass.

The synod will meet again in a year's time for further discussion.

More than 200 bishops from around the world had spent two weeks at the Vatican discussing some of the most controversial issues around family life.

The gathering has revealed a fracture line in Church opinion over how to adapt traditional teaching on human sexuality to 21st Century attitudes, says the BBC's David Willey in Rome.



Pope Francis greets cardinals after the Mass to beatify Paul VI

Pope Francis had made a powerful appeal to traditionalists not to lock themselves within the letter of the law, but conservative cardinals and bishops carried the day at the end of the synod, our correspondent adds.

On Sunday Pope Francis beatified one of his predecessors, Paul VI, who banned artificial contraception for Catholics in 1968.

The beatification is the final step before declaring someone a saint, and the move sends a strong message about the continuity of traditional Catholic teaching, our correspondent says.

'Very disappointing'

The New Ways Ministry, a US Catholic gay rights group, said it was "very disappointing" that the synod's final report had not retained "the gracious welcome to lesbian and gay people that the draft of the report included".

But it added that the synod's "openness to discussion" provided "hope for further development down the road".

Another group, DignityUSA, said in a [statement](#): "Unfortunately, today, doctrine won out over pastoral need."

"It is disappointing that those who recognised the need for a more inclusive Church were defeated."

More at - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-29678751>