



**If I lied, I'd still be a priest**

## **Catholic schools' chiefs 'afraid of change'**

News Letter - A leading supporter of integrated education has called for a public debate with the body responsible for Catholic maintained schools after its "surprising" submission to the Stormont Education

Committee calling for the department to stop supporting the sector.



Noreen Campbell, chief executive of the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education (NICIE), said her body is "shocked and dismayed by this controversial demand".

"We are concerned by the deeper implication that this would have for the Belfast Agreement which includes the same commitment," she said. "We are equally concerned by the reasons advanced for such action."

Mrs Campbell said that, in their submission, "CCMS (Council for Catholic Maintained Schools) argues that our society is too polarised, with divided communities fearful of each other, for integrated education to be successful".

She said: "The integrated movement was established to address this division.

"Fear of change runs deep in our society and there is much evidence of such fear in the CCMS's submission.

“CCMS’s submission is based on the assumption that the statutory obligation is being fully implemented.

“NICIE argues that this is not the case and a recent judicial review reminded the department of the need to keep this obligation live.”

She said that CCMS also draws attention “to the issue of transformation but fails to explain why only one maintained school has ever explored this option, Clintyclay Primary School in recent months”.



*Noreen Campbell, chief executive of the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education (NICIE)*

She added: “CCMS also has never explained why they have not supported the transformation process by appointing Catholic governors to the boards of transformed schools.

“CCMS ignores the barriers to the expansion of integrated education. The most significant is the absence of a means of planning for providing the choice of integrated schools.

“A Catholic parent seeking a Catholic education will have a choice of these schools at hand.

“The same parent, if they wish an integrated education, is expected to get together with other parents and plan this provision themselves.

“Such a situation is inequitable and discriminatory and must be redressed.”

She added that area-based planning might have helped had planning happened on an area basis “but instead it is carried out on a sectoral basis”.

“CCMS says we must wait for a mature society before we can change,” she said.

“NICIE says trust the wishes of parents, reflect the changed society we have and recognise the power of education to lead and shape change. These are the issues we wish to debate in a public forum with CCMS.”

The CCMS submission to the Committee for Education, who are undertaking an inquiry into shared and integrated education, called for ministers to stop promoting integrated education.

More at -

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/regional/catholic-schools-chiefs-afraid-of-change-1-6372800>

## **Girls re-cycling achievement in East Belfast Methodist project**

The first group of girls from East Belfast have completed a 6 week Build a Bike course at Recycle, one of the East Belfast Mission's Social Enterprise projects.



The girls are pictured with Michael Lowry, the Recycle Workshop's co-ordinator.

The girls spent the 6 weeks learning how to repair and build bicycles. At the end of the course each of the girls had a fantastic bicycle to use.

Recycle is a workshop for upcycling old bicycles which are then resold at an affordable price. It is funded by the Department of the Environment's Rethink Waste campaign, the bikes are sold from East Belfast Mission's shops which are located in Antrim, Larne, Belfast and Newtownards.

## **Religious congregations response to victims 'inconsistent'**

RTE - The Catholic Church child protection watchdog has found that eight religious congregations often failed to contact directly people making child sexual abuse allegations against priests, brothers and nuns and their support for complainants continues to be inconsistent.

In audits of the congregations, the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church also found the time frame for reporting allegations against congregation members to the civil authorities was variable up until 2009.

However, it has improved considerably since the introduction of new church standards.

This latest tranche of audits by the NBSCCC examines the responses of eight religious congregations to allegations of abuse against their members.

The congregations are the Presentation Sisters, the Vincentian Fathers, The Redemptorists, the Sisters of St Louis, the Sisters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, The Pallottines, The Mill Hill Fathers and the Missionaries of Africa, also known as the White Fathers.

It said allegations were made against a number of priests ministering abroad by children both in Ireland and in missionary countries.

It said the congregations' management of those situations varied, but is increasingly dealt with by returning the accused priests to a restricted environment in Ireland.

But the NBSCCC has said where allegations have been made abroad, it is rare for the complainant to do anything that might result in the trial of the accused.

It said that in these instances, church inquiries are critical in establishing if there is a semblance of truth to the allegation and in the management of risk.

More at - <http://www.rte.ie/news/2014/1023/654337-religious-audits/>

## **New Irish Choir - Music of First War concert in Jordanstown church**

The New Irish Choir & Orchestra on 7th November will present a blend of music and stories reflecting the Great War, examining the lives of Irish men and women who gave so much for others. Tickets are £12, available through St Patrick's Parish Office or by contacting Jonny Campbell-Smyth on [07808 479649](tel:07808479649) or [jonathan@campbellsmyth.co.uk](mailto:jonathan@campbellsmyth.co.uk). Tickets are going quick so even reserve your name for a quantity.

## **Bishop's vision for his diocese**

Bishop Ferran Glenfield outlined his vision for the Church of Ireland in the Diocese of Kimore at the annual diocesan synod held this week.

He said - What is God's vision for His church? To answer this we need to go back to the beginning of the church in the New Testament. In the Book of Acts, the early church, in spite of its excesses and failures, laid a template of

what it is to be a living church. In Acts 2: 42–47 we see the marks of a living church.

A living church is a learning church. Its pastors teach and preach from the Scriptures. Its parents teach their children the Scriptures at home. Its members read and reflect on the Scriptures daily in order to grow in the faith.

A living church is a caring church. Those early Christians loved and cared for each other. Their lives were marked by generosity.

A living church is a worshipping church. Their worship was formal and informal, reverent and joyful. The quality of their worship acted like a magnet and drew others in.

A living church is an evangelizing church. The early church reached beyond themselves into an uncertain world. In fact in only thirty years the early church changed the world for all time with the message and love of Jesus.

God's vision of His church has to do with relationships. A living church is an Apostolic church, which relates to the teaching of the Apostles. Secondly, a living church relates to each other, it is a caring and sharing church. Thirdly, a living church relates to God, in worship and service. Lastly, a living church relates to the world beyond in witness and action.

This is God's vision for the church, our church and the churches in Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh.

Vision is about seeing clearly, seeing things as they are and seeing ahead. Opticians talk about 20/20 vision, meaning clarity of vision which the average person sees at 20 feet or 6 metres. Having looked at God's vision for the church in the New Testament and having listened to what came out of the Conversations, which were reported in The Scribe and Councils, I want to offer you a 20/20 Vision for the church in Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh. The 20/20 Vision looks something like this:

Each local church should be a community which nourishes growth through worship, the Scriptures and prayer.

Each local church should be welcoming, caring and generous in raising and resourcing ministry and mission.

Each local church should be a place where ministry and mission is for all: clerical and lay, young and old. People should be trusted and trained for service within and outside the church.



Each local church should be world looking, visible and active in the community and beyond.

Each local church should be connected in prayer and partnership with each other and the worldwide church.

Each local church should prioritize children, from pre-school to third level, passing on the faith to successive generations.

Diocesan administration and structures should be relevant, accountable, representative and supportive of the local church. Diocesan resources should be released to this end.

## **C of I Clergy Join in Golden Jubilee of RC Church in Cork**

Church of Ireland parishioners of St. Michael's Church, Blackrock joined to celebrate with neighbours in St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church as part of the church's Golden Jubilee. This year marks 50 years since the rebuilding of St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church, the original building having been destroyed by a fire. As part of the Jubilee Celebrations, an ecumenical service was held on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October.

Members of the two parishes dedicated to St. Michael gathered together in celebration and in friendship, a theme reflected in the prayers led by Fr Kieran Twomey and Canon Tadhg Ó Mathúna. The St. Michael's Church Folk Group lent their voices to the singing of hymns reflecting again a shared vision of friendship and Christian fellowship. Preaching at the service Archdeacon Wilkinson said:

The links of respect and solidarity between us as Christian Churches in Blackrock are long-standing and mature. When the earlier church on this site was burned down in 1962, the then rector Archdeacon Hutchinson, with characteristic ecumenical generosity, immediately offered the use of St. Michael's Church on Church Road as a place for worship. In today's world where the choice often presented is between faith and no faith, it will be all the more important that the Churches can witness together to their shared faith in Jesus Christ.

## **Canon appointed to Cork and Ross cathedrals**

The Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, the Right Revd Dr Paul Colton, has announced today that he has appointed the Revd Trevor Lester, Rector of

Kilmoe Union of Parishes (Schull, County Cork) to be a Canon of both St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork, and also St Fachtna's Cathedral, Rosscarbery.

Canon Lester will be Prebendary of Dromdaleague and Kilnaglory in St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork and Prebendary of The Island in St Fachtna's Cathedral, Ross. These are the stalls vacated recently by Canon Paul Willoughby when he was appointed representative Canon from Cork, Cloyne and Ross at St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin. Canon Willoughby also now becomes Canon Treasurer of St Fin Barre's Cathedral Cork.



Canon Lester was ordained in 1989 and served first in the auxiliary ministry in Cork Diocese. He then transferred to wholtime stipendiary ministry and, having been Bishop's Vicar in St Canice's Cathedral, Kilkenny he returned to Cork as Incumbent of Abbeystrewry Union from 1995 to 2003. From 2003 to 2011 he was Dean of Waterford and returned to his native Diocese in 2011 to serve in Kilmoe Union in West Cork.

### **If I lied, I'd still be a priest**

Clare Champion - Account of Ennis-born Fr Bernard Lynch who now works as a psychotherapist in London. He says lying about your sexuality within the Church is more acceptable than telling the truth.

<http://www.clarechampion.ie/if-i-lied-id-still-be-a-priest/>

### **Allegations against the former Dean of Manchester**

Reports that the Archbishop of York has published the report of an independent inquiry into allegations against the former Dean of Manchester, Robert Waddington. Reports noted the findings of the inquiry of a "systemic failure" by the Church to follow its own safeguarding procedures. Reports also note Dr. Sentamu apologised to victims of sexual abuse and suggested that the Church needed to re-examine the confidentiality of the confessional in cases where people disclosed the abuse of children. Reports also note the criticism of Lord Hope by the inquiry report.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2804151/Archbishop-welfare-sex-abuser-priest-child-victims-Judge-says-actions-allowed-paedophile-escape-exposure-punishment.html#ixzz3GwGderb3>

<http://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2014/oct/23/senior-anglicans-apologise-for-failing-to-deal-with-abuse-allegations-in-australia>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-29726198>