



Canadian Primate says 2018 Lambeth unlikely



Pope Francis sends his blessing to Kilmore Diocesan Assembly

Pope Francis has sent a message to those attending this weekend's Assembly in the Diocese of Kilmore. The message was relayed to Bishop Leo O'Reilly through the office of the Apostolic Nuncio.

Pope Francis prays that, "by walking together in this Assembly, the participants will encounter the truth and

source of hope for their lives, Jesus Christ, and, filled with joy and gratitude, will share this gift by collaborating in building the kingdom, illuminating even the fringes of our world by their profession of faith and leading to 'fruitfulness in the work of evangelisation'. (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 11)". He concludes by "commending all who gather at the Kilmore Diocesan Assembly to the intercession of the Most Holy Mother of God and imparting his Apostolic Blessing as a pledge of peace and joy in the Lord Jesus."

The Assembly, the third in the diocese since 2000, takes place in Saint Patrick's College, Cavan, on Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 October next and marks the culmination of two years of planning and consultation. It is expected that over 300 delegates will attend, including representatives from each of the 35 parishes in the diocese, priests and permanent deacons,

religious, pastoral assistants, and representatives of church-based organisations operating in Kilmore. Representatives from some of the other Christian faiths in the diocese will attend the opening session.

The theme of this year's Assembly is taken from three words Pope Francis used during his first homily as Pope: “***Walking Together, Building the Kingdom, Professing our Faith.***” Over the course of the two days, delegates will discuss a number of issues including:

- The findings of a diocese-wide listening survey
- Current patterns of sacramental practice
- Effective ways of ministering to young people
- Proposals for future directions for the diocese in the light of the decreasing and aging number of clergy.

There will be a number of small group and open forum discussions during the Assembly in order to hear the views of the parish delegates and other participants on how to address key pastoral challenges facing the Church in Kilmore. The Assembly will seek to offer broad directions for the diocese, which the Diocesan Pastoral Council will develop into a more detailed pastoral strategy for the next five years.

Commenting on the opening of the Assembly, Bishop O'Reilly said, “In the planning for this Assembly, the Diocesan Pastoral Council and the Steering Committee were conscious of the importance of hearing the views of people in the parishes, and particularly those on the margins of the Church. There was a serious effort made to reach out to those who would not normally come to Church. The feedback from those listening sessions in the parishes gives us the context in which people live out their lives in our society today and the context in which we must try to preach and live out the message of Jesus.

“The goal of our discussions and reflection will be to discern what the pressing issues for the Church in Kilmore are at present and how we will go about engaging with those issues in the years ahead.

“Previous assemblies in the Diocese held in 2000 and 2007 produced proposals and plans that have had a real impact on our parishes. We now take for granted a level of lay involvement in parish that would not have been imagined in the past. We have a range of initiatives ranging from adult faith formation courses to pre-sacramental programmes to pastoral area planning, youth programmes and so on, that all had their seeds in the assemblies of those years.

“It is within our power to bring about important changes in many areas which affect the life and worship of our parishes. I believe we need to look again at our celebration of the most important sacrament of all – the Sunday Eucharist. If the Eucharist is, as the Second Vatican Council told us, the source and summit of the Christian life, we have a duty to ensure that, as far as possible, people experience it as that.”

In addition to Bishop O'Reilly, the guest speakers at this weekend's Assembly include

- Fr Michael Router P.P. V.F., Bailieboro who will speak on the outcomes of the Listening Survey in the Diocese
- Fr Michael Drumm from the Diocese of Elphin and Executive Chairperson of the Irish Catholic Schools Partnership Trust who will discuss 'Sacramental Practice and Modern Culture'.
- Matthew McFadden from Clogher don Óige in Monaghan who will share his experience of 'Reaching Out to Youth'
- Fr Enda Murphy, Diocesan Director of Pastoral Services and Youth Ministry, who will outline ideas on 'The Future Direction of our Diocese'
- Breda O'Brien, Mother of Four, Second-Level Teacher and Columnist with *The Irish Catholic* and the *Irish Times*

Bishop Leo O'Reilly will be the principal celebrant and homilist at a special concelebrated Assembly Mass in the Cathedral of Saints Patrick and Felim, Cavan, on Sunday morning at 11:30a.m.

150th anniversary of Jewish religious services in Northern Ireland

On Sunday 26 October there will be an afternoon of presentations at Belfast Synagogue to mark the 150th anniversary of the first ever Jewish religious services in what is now Northern Ireland and the 50th anniversary of the current synagogue on Somerton Road.

The Guest of Honour is Lord Levy, former advisor to Prime Minister, Tony Blair. Presentations will be given by local historians on aspects of the history of the Belfast Jewish community. By invitation only.

Photographic exhibition to mark 50 years of the Jewish community in North Belfast

"Memories of the Future" is the theme of a photographic exhibition by Grace Radford. Coinciding with 150 years of the Jewish community in North Belfast this photo intaglio, print and photographic exhibition, is based on abstractions

of images taken by the artist at Jewish sites in Belfast, London, Krakow, Jerusalem and Marrakech in 2014.

It will be held from 27/10/2014 – 8/11/2014 in Duncairn Centre for Culture and the Arts, Duncairn Avenue, Antrim Road
Free admission. Open to the public 9.00am – 5.00pm

Grace undertook a diploma at the Belfast College of Art and is currently enrolled in a Fine Art degree programme at The Cass – the exhibition aims to raise awareness of Jewish art, culture and heritage and to address anti-semitism.

The Opening Night of "Memories of the Future" is Saturday 25 October 2014, 19.30 - 20.30

Dublin Diocesan Board of Education Welcomes New Minister but Urges Action on Teacher Morale

The appointment of Deputy Jan O'Sullivan as Minister for Education and Skills has been welcomed by the Dublin and Glendalough Board of Education. Speaking to propose the board's report at Diocesan Synod earlier this week, John Aiken, Deputy Head of the King's Hospital, said he hoped Minister O'Sullivan would have a better grasp of the issues facing Protestant schools than her predecessors.

Mr Aiken said the Minister's presence at the General Synod Board of Education's conference for second level schools last month and at the start of year service afterwards in St Patrick's Cathedral gave hope as did her statement on the importance of Protestant education.

Those who set up Temple Carrig School in Greystones were praised and congratulated on the early appointment of an RE teacher. Mr Aiken thanked the previous Minister for Education and those in the Department of Finance for their contribution to the project.



Senator David Norris

He welcomed the modest increase in the Block Grant and thanked David Wynne for his work in this regard.

However, Mr Aiken said that the cuts and pupil teacher ratios would not be restored. He referred to the Minister's statement that the quality of teachers would have a greater impact on children's education than anything else. So he urged that the morale of teachers be looked at urgently.

He added that there was an underlying presumption that Protestant schools were better placed than others to take cuts. Disputing this, he stated that parents in fee-paying schools were no better placed to make up for government shortfalls than others.

David Wynne (Councils) said that the demand for the SEC Block Grant this year was €7 million. He said they were grateful for the extra money but added it had not gone far enough. He hoped there would be further increases over the coming years. The Revd Niall Sloane (Killiney, Holy Trinity), mentioned the Diocesan Service for Primary and Junior Schools and drew members of Synods attention to three other ministries to children – the Children's Ministry Officer the Revd Baden Stanley, the Annual Building Blocks Conference and the Ministry to Youth.

Senator David Norris (St Patrick's Cathedral) told Synods that politicians needed to be briefed about issues of concern. Quoting Albert Reynolds he stated the brief should be "one page with a telephone number". The Revd Scott Peoples (Leixlip and Lucan) highlighted the building of their new primary school following a long campaign. He paid tribute to all involved in helping the parish reach their goal.

Peter McCrodden (St Ann's and Principal of St Andrew's NS in Bray) spoke of the new model of supports for children with special educational needs. He said schools needed to be aware of the Department's proposals and realise that they could be worse off. He also encouraged schools to get involved with the Droichead Scheme for schools. The Revd Norman Gamble (Malahide) paid tribute to Trevor Richmond who retired as Principal of St Andrew's, Malahide, after 42 years in the post. He praised his dedication to the job and paid tribute to all teachers at primary level and urged that they be encouraged and supported in these difficult times.

New Diocesan Lay Readers for Derry and Raphoe

The Dean of Raphoe, Very Rev. Arthur Barrett hosted a Service of Commissioning on the 19th October for six new Diocesan Lay Readers in St Eunan's Cathedral, Raphoe.



The Warden of Readers, Canon Derek Quinn presented Georgina Armstrong, Claire Henderson, Linda Hughes, Paddy Quinn, Anne Speers and Maureen Williams to Bishop Ken Good, declaring them to be ready and fit to undertake the office of Lay Reader in the Diocese of Derry and Raphoe.

A very large congregation of family, friends and well wishers filled the Cathedral to capacity. The Archdeacon of Derry, Venerable Robert Miller was the preacher. He encouraged those who were embarking on this new ministry to be faithful in prayer and in the study of God's word; he also suggested that the impact of their message should first be felt in their own lives, and reminded them that people are not only influenced by a preacher's sermons but also by the manner in which they live.

Diocesan Readers are lay people who have been selected, trained and licensed by the Bishop to preach, teach and lead worship in a pastoral context. There are 300 Diocesan Readers in the Church of Ireland, 32 of whom serve in Derry and Raphoe.

The Bishop, Rt Rev. Ken Good, added, 'To licence six readers is a significant event for the diocese. I have closely followed the progress of Georgina, Claire, Linda, Paddy, Anne and Maureen as they have gone through their selection and training and I am delighted to commission them for the journey ahead. I warmly congratulate them and I encourage them to persevere in preaching the Gospel "in season and out".'

Canadian Primate says 2018 Lambeth unlikely

Archbishop Fred Hiltz, primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, said he hasn't heard directly from the Archbishop of Canterbury whether the next Lambeth Conference will be postponed, but "it's pretty obvious that in all likelihood it would not be in 2018 because it takes three, four, years to plan."



Archbishop Fred Hiltz, primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, and Katharine Jefferts Schori, presiding bishop of The Episcopal Church, walk among other bishops on their way to Lambeth Palace at the start of the 2008 Lambeth Conference.

Hiltz responded in an interview with the *Anglican Journal* to media reports that the next Lambeth Conference, for which bishops from across the Anglican Communion usually gather every 10 years and which was expected to be in 2013, would may be delayed, perhaps until 2019 or 2020.

In an [interview](#) that aired Oct. 5 in a BBC Radio 4 Sunday program, Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby said that he was following through with a promise he made—to the primates of all provinces in the Anglican Communion when he was installed at Canterbury—to visit all primates in their home countries before consulting with them about the timing of the meeting. "The next Lambeth Conference needs to be called collegially by the primates together with real ownership of the agenda and a real sense of what we are trying to do with such a large effort, such costs," he said. "And so when we meet as primates, which I hope [will be] with reasonable notice after the end of this trip that I have done, then we will decide together on the details, but the reality is that by then it will be too close to 2018 to have one in 2018.

Hiltz said that sort of consultation is "okay," but noted that it is a change from the way the meeting has been called in the past. "He may want to style it so that it is the Archbishop of Canterbury in consultation with and support of the primates, but historically it is the Archbishop that convenes a Lambeth

Conference, and then people decide whether they will come or not, including some primates.”

Although Welby told BBC Radio that he was “never going to say definitely,” he did say that “it would be enormously difficult simply to book a place big enough” to host the Lambeth Conference for 2018. “One of the places, the place that they’ve gone for the last few conferences, is already booked up for 2018. Two or three years is far too little [time] to arrange such a huge operation.”

Aside from such logistical challenges, Hiltz observed that the Archbishop hopes to host a Lambeth Conference that is broadly representative of the whole Anglican Communion. “The other piece that seems to be coming out of interviews he is doing in England is that his ardent hope is that we will get to a point in the Communion that when it’s called, everyone will come.”

The worldwide Anglican Communion has been divided over issues such as the blessing of same-sex unions and the consecration of bishops in same-sex relationships, and in the past, some bishops have boycotted the conference in protest. Also as a part of the BBC interview, Welby said that his tour of all provinces of the Communion, which should be complete by the end of November, has shown him that the Communion is “alive and incredibly vigorous. It is noisy, argumentative, diverse, has churches in 165 countries in 37 provinces. It would be bizarre if there were not tensions in something that was so incredibly diverse.” When the Lambeth Conference is called, Welby said primates “will make up their minds at the time” whether to attend.

Sham wedding trial of south London vicar collapses

The trial of a vicar accused of presiding over a 'conveyer belt' of sham marriages between people who never met has collapsed.

The judge accused immigration officers of lying under oath, and of "serious misconduct" including the concealing of evidence.

[According to Channel 4 News](#), the Home Office has revealed that three immigration officers have now been suspended. Upon being questioned in the witness box, "it emerged that evidence had been tampered with or concealed, possibly destroyed, video footage had gone missing, and an investigation log had been doctored." Judge Nic Madge therefore stopped the trial. ""I am satisfied that officers at the heart of this prosecution have deliberately concealed important evidence and lied on oath," he said.

"The bad faith and misconduct started in 2011 when two of the principal defendants were arrested and has continued throughout the course of this trial.

"In my judgment, it has tainted the whole case. It has tainted the prosecution against all seven defendants. It is a case in which the prosecution should not be allowed to benefit from the serious misbehaviour of the officer in the case or the disclosure officer."

Seven defendants, including Rev Nathan Ntege, were therefore formerly acquitted of being involved in marriages set up purposefully to bypass UK immigration laws.

The marriages were alleged to have been between illegal immigrants and EU nationals with the right to live in the UK.

[Attention was drawn to the church](#) when weddings increased from six a year to six a day. On one occasion, nine weddings were booking in a single day; couples apparently queued up to say their vows and some brides even shared the same wedding gown.

Ntege, who is originally from Uganda, is said to have conducted 482 marriage ceremonies over a 15-month period at St Jude's and St Aidan's in Thornton Heath, south London.

He was also facing a fraud charge for the £69,498 of marriage fees he allegedly failed to pay the Diocese of Southwark.

Connor Connections autumn issue now available

The autumn issue of Connor Connections is now available free to all parishioners in the diocese.

Features include interviews with Paula Lough, from Monkstown Parish, who has lived in Cambodia as a missionary with



Youth with a Mission, and George McGrand, St Stephen and St Luke, whose charity runs orphanages in the Philippines.

There are reports on Connor Diocesan Synod, the visit by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the latest on the Connor Yei partnership, youth and children's ministry, mission outreach in Sandy Row, and much, much more.

Holy Land pilgrimage

The Rev Amanda Adams, rector of Ballyrashane and Kildollagh, is to jointly lead a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in May next year.

Her co-leader on the 11 day trip will be the Rev Canon David Humphries, rector of St Molua's, Stormont.

The pilgrimage will take place from May 26, returning home on June 5, and pilgrims will be based in Jerusalem and later in Tiberias on the shore of the Sea of Galilee.

This is Amanda's first pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

The pilgrimage is organised by McCabes, and the cost is £1,995 per person sharing a twin bedded room. To reserve a place, please contact Canon Humphries at St Molua's Rectory, 3 Rosepark, Belfast, BT5 7RG or email wdhumphries@hotmail.com.

The 'media synod' has eclipsed the real one

Catholic Herald - Last Saturday, the synod closed with the voting on the final report and with a final address by the Pope, which was greeted with a prolonged standing ovation. The week of high drama ended with a great sigh of relief: schism, which seemed imminent, had been avoided.

On most issues, a near unanimity had been established. The final report, with the exception of three paragraphs out of 62, had been approved by an overwhelming majority. The report is a impressive document, considering that is was the product not just of one but of several committees. Even more impressive was the closing message from the synod fathers to families, which is almost poetic at times. It is Franciscan in tone. Both it and the main content of the final report were almost totally ignored by the media.

Instead, the secular media highlighted the three paragraphs that did not achieve the required two thirds majority: in particular, the one dealing with same-sex relations (number 55). Some media coverage gave the impression that the extraordinary synod was primarily devoted same-sex relations. The one paragraph that did mention the topic rejected discrimination, as could be expected, and rightly called for sensitivity in dealing with persons in such relationships, but it also reiterated Church teaching on the matter, including the rejection of any attempt to equate same-sex unions even remotely with marriage.

What the media ignored was paragraph 56, which was approved by an overwhelming majority. It rejected, in effect, the attempt to intimidate Church pastors with regard to this question, as well as taking international organisations to task for linking aid to poor countries with legislation for so-called “marriage” of people of the same sex.

In a sense, there were two synods taking place over the past week, one inside the Synod Hall and the other in the media. And the media, whether secular or Catholic, cannot be entirely blamed for this. They had to interpret the selectively leaked information from what should have been an open synod – and naturally each side chose whatever fitted their own particular agenda or concern. Catholicism and sex is a heady mixture that fascinates the western media. Media coverage can be like a hall of distorting mirrors. The distorted images of the Synod deliberations fed into the public’s expectations and/or fears. They fuelled the initial confusion caused by the way the first week of the synod was clearly manipulated by those who were convinced that they acting according to the mind of Pope Francis. Inside the synod, things were, by all accounts, quite different.

The actual situation was summed up by the Pope in his closing address. The synod was an exercise in real collegiality and rare frankness. He referred to the ups and downs, the tensions and excitement of a sometimes very heated debate between committed pastors, albeit coming from different perspectives, some radically different. It was a battle of the titans. Some of the drama leaked out and made the headlines. The final report came as a real surprise. It is not a great literary masterpiece, but it is a document rooted in good theology and sensitive to the myriad problems that beset marriage, the family, children, and single people today.

Pope Francis concluded his address by quoting his immediate predecessor extensively. The supreme rule of conduct for all the ministers of God is, Benedict XVI wrote, “an unconditional love, like that of the Good Shepherd,

full of joy, given to all, attentive to those close to us and solicitous for those who are distant [...], gentle towards the weakest, the little ones, the simple, the sinners, to manifest the infinite mercy of God with the reassuring words of hope [quoting St Augustine].” The Pope, in Francis’s own words, “is not the supreme lord, but rather the supreme servant the servant of the servants of God; the guarantor of the obedience and the conformity of the Church to the will of God, to the Gospel of Christ, and to the Tradition of the Church, putting aside every personal whim, despite being by the will of Christ Himself the supreme Pastor and Teacher of all the faithful [...] and despite enjoying supreme, full, immediate, and universal ordinary power in the Church [quoting Canon Law].”

He had prefaced his remarks on the Papacy with the following comment on the Church, Bride of Christ, Mother of the afflicted, which provides their correct theological context: “[...] And when the Church, in the variety of her charisms, expresses herself in communion, she cannot err: it is the beauty and the strength of the *sensus fidei*, of that supernatural sense of the faith which is bestowed by the Holy Spirit so that, together, we can all enter into the heart of the Gospel and learn to follow Jesus in our life.” And then he added the most telling sentence of all: “And this should never be seen as a source of confusion and discord.” But it was.

The well-meaning campaign by Cardinal Walter Kasper, backed by most (but not all) German, Italian and Canadian bishops, to promote his own novel proposal to grant (some) remarried divorcees admission to the sacraments was the cause of that confusion and discord. The cardinal claimed that he had Francis’s backing. That campaign and the media coverage it received, particularly by more so-called “progressive” Catholics, caused acute distress to those others, who, at no little personal cost, try to remain true to the Magisterium. They feel that they are ones who are marginalised in the Church. One priest confided to me that his faith has been severely tested over the past 18 months. He was not alone.

More at -

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/commentandblogs/2014/10/24/the-media-synod-has-eclipsed-the-real-one/>

Media digest

Mail

Further report on comments from victims of abuse by the Very Reverend Robert Waddington, former Dean of Manchester. It states they have questioned why Lord Hope, the former Archbishop of York, remains as an honorary assistant bishop in the Diocese of Bradford, despite the report by Judge Sally Cahill QC which said Lord Hope failed to act

because his 'concern for the welfare of Robert Waddington seems to have been paramount'.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2805655/Jail-archbishop-covered-abuse-Victims-say-stop-paedophile-priest.html#ixzz3H2NBr0QQ>

Mail

Story on how the son of a clergyman who served in WW1, is raising funds to publish his father's heroic war story. It states after the war Capt Claud Burder returned to the church and became rector of St Mary's Church in Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, and then chaplain at nearby RAF Wyton.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2804799/Son-WW1-soldier-sells-home-publish-father-s-harrowing-memoirs-life-trenches.html#ixzz3H2SYaXyc>

Guard

Historian, Charles Freeman believes the Turin Shroud - a relic venerated as Jesus Christ's burial cloth dates from 14th century and was used as a prop, according to a report. It states research by British scholar and author Charles Freeman, to be published in the journal *History Today*, the truth is that the shroud is not only medieval, just as the radiocarbon dating suggests, but that it is likely to have been created for medieval Easter rituals - an explanation that flies in the face of what he called "intense and sometimes absurd speculation" that coalesces around it.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/oct/23/turin-shroud-jesus-christ-medieval-easter-ritual-historian-charles-freeman>

