



Catholic Church is invited to celebrate the Orange Order

Moderator travels to Kenya for overseas visit

The last time a Presbyterian Moderator visited Kenya during their year in office was Very Rev. Dr. David Clarke back in 2006. The 2014 visit will incorporate Dr. Barry meeting PCI missionaries serving in Kenya as well as building



relationships with our partner, the Presbyterian Church of East Africa (PCEA).

The PW President, Anna Morison, and PW Communications and Development Officer, Charlotte Stevenson, will accompany the Moderator on their 19 day trip to Kenya. Each year the Moderator goes on an overseas trip as part of his term in office, and the same applies to the PW Presidential year. As the 2014-15 PW overseas project focuses on Tuum Girls' Secondary School in the Samburu North District of Northern Kenya, it was decided to plan a joint Moderatorial/PW trip.

PCI Missionaries Thomas and Naomi Leremore will be the main liaison for the party when based in Nairobi. The delegation will also visit Gary and Mary Reid at their church planting project, PCEA Acacia Grove Mission, working with the Masai in southwest Kenya. They will also stay with Stephen and Angelina Cowan serving on the Samburu Awareness and Action Programme based in Tuum.

The PW Mission Fund hopes to purchase a bus for Tuum Girl's Secondary School. This will facilitate the transport of the girls and teachers over rough

terrain to and from their homes, long distances away, and also for various school activities. It is also hoped that this will encourage more girls to attend the school.

Visits to projects of the PCEA Woman's Guild are also being arranged. The Guild's main objective is to bring together women and girls for Christian fellowship, worship and service and has a current membership of about 62,000.

The Moderator will also meet students for the ministry and share in Chaplain's training at the Presbyterian University in Kikuyu. He will be the guest of honour at a Theological Education by Extension graduation ceremony at Langata Women's Prison.

Speaking ahead of the visit, Dr. Barry said, "The Moderator of PCEA attended our General Assembly back in June and invited me to visit him. I am looking forward to meeting Rev. David Gathanju again, at their headquarter offices in Nairobi and also in his own home where he will kindly host us for a meal.

"In this year of our Church seeking to be a people of service and outreach, we hope that, by meeting our mission personnel serving faithfully far from home, we can be an encouragement to the three PCI families and bring back stories to help us connect better with our brothers and sisters in Kenya.

"Having never been to Africa before, this visit will certainly be an adventure and a challenge for us all as we adjust to a different culture, climate and landscape. We would value prayers for safety as we fly out to Kenya and also travel internally by road and on small aircraft to visit our various mission personnel. Pray that God would bless us on our trip as we bring greetings from the Presbyterian Church in Ireland to those whom we meet with and come into contact."

Dr. Barry will also be accompanied by his wife Esther and daughter Debbie and they will travel from 31st October until 18th November.

You can follow the Moderator on his travels via his Twitter account [@pcimoderator](https://twitter.com/pcimoderator)

Catholic Church is invited to celebrate the Orange Order

The Orange Order in Scotland has offered an unprecedented invitation to the Catholic Church to attend an event celebrating its heritage and culture.

The organisation, whose existence is based on the military victory by the Protestant King William Of Orange over forces led by the Catholic King James II more than 300 years ago, is planning a full day's programme in Glasgow next June.



“Orangefest” has been billed as an “opportunity to gain an understanding of the cultural heritage and modus operandi of the Orange Lodge as a whole” and is scheduled for George Square.

The organisation is to extend an invitation to the Catholic Church, as well as the leaders of other faiths and all politicians in the city.

Although the ex-Grand Master of the Orange Lodge Ian Wilson and Archbishop Emeritus of Glasgow Mario Conti had a good relationship and met on several occasions, it was only at formal events organised by other agencies.

The Catholic Church said it had not yet received an invitation and would consider the proposal once that had happened.

Eddie Hyde, Grand Master of the County Grand Orange Lodge Of Glasgow, said: “We are part of the community and want to be seen as such. We are trying within the organisation to do what we can to be positive and are aware people only know us through marching.

“Of course we would be disappointed if our invitations were not accepted and this was not seen as a positive step. This is an attempt to break down some divides.”

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/catholic-church-is-invited-to-celebrate-the-orange-order.25672646>

Omagh man ‘deeply moved’ after meeting Pope Francis

Ulster Herald - Omagh man Michael Kelly has described how a meeting with Pope Francis at the Vatican left him “deeply moved”.

Mr Kelly, a native of Strathroy, is editor of Dublin-based newspaper ‘The Irish Catholic’ and greeted the Pontiff at the Vatican last Wednesday (October 15).

Mr Kelly said he felt “honoured and privileged to meet Pope Francis” describing it as “a deeply moving experience for me and one which I will treasure”.

“I told the Holy Father that I would love him to come to Ireland, to which he simply smiled.



Omagh man Michael Kelly said he was “deeply moved” after meeting Pope Francis at the Vatican last week.

I told him that the people of Ireland were praying for him and I asked him to pray for the renewal of the Church in Ireland, and especially for reconciliation and transformation in Northern Ireland.

‘Let us pray together,’ the Holy Father said before presenting me with a pair of rosary beads which are – obviously – very special to me.

“He assured me that he would pray for my family which means a lot,” Mr Kelly said.

Mr Kelly (35) added, “I told the Pope that I was the editor of The Irish Catholic newspaper and thanked him for his wonderful service for the Church and told him it was helping to bring fresh heart to the Catholics of Ireland. With characteristic humility, the Pope immediately turned the table and thanked me for what he described as my ‘ministry to the beloved people of Ireland’.”

“As a journalist, it is easy to be jaded and cynical since one is all too often exposed to the grittier aspects of the Church and the world.

Pope Francis is leading the Church to a deeper understanding of our Faith,” Mr Kelly said.

- See more at: <http://ulsterherald.com/2014/10/26/omagh-man-deeply-moved-after-meeting-pope-francis/#sthash.7zEbqtWs.dpuf>



Archbishop of Canterbury: Abuse has been 'rampant' in British institutions

The abuse of children and vulnerable adults has been "rampant" in British institutions, and the "church's failure to face the misconduct of those in its service is inexcusable," the Archbishop of Canterbury has said.

[In a private letter](#) to the mother of three boys who were sexually abused by the headmaster of a Church of England school, Archbishop Welby apologised for

their traumatic experiences.

"I read your story with the same sense of sadness and dismay that I have felt on far too many other, similar accounts. The betrayal of Christ in such behaviour is complete; the church's failure to face the misdeeds of those in its service is inexcusable," he wrote to Marilyn Hawes.

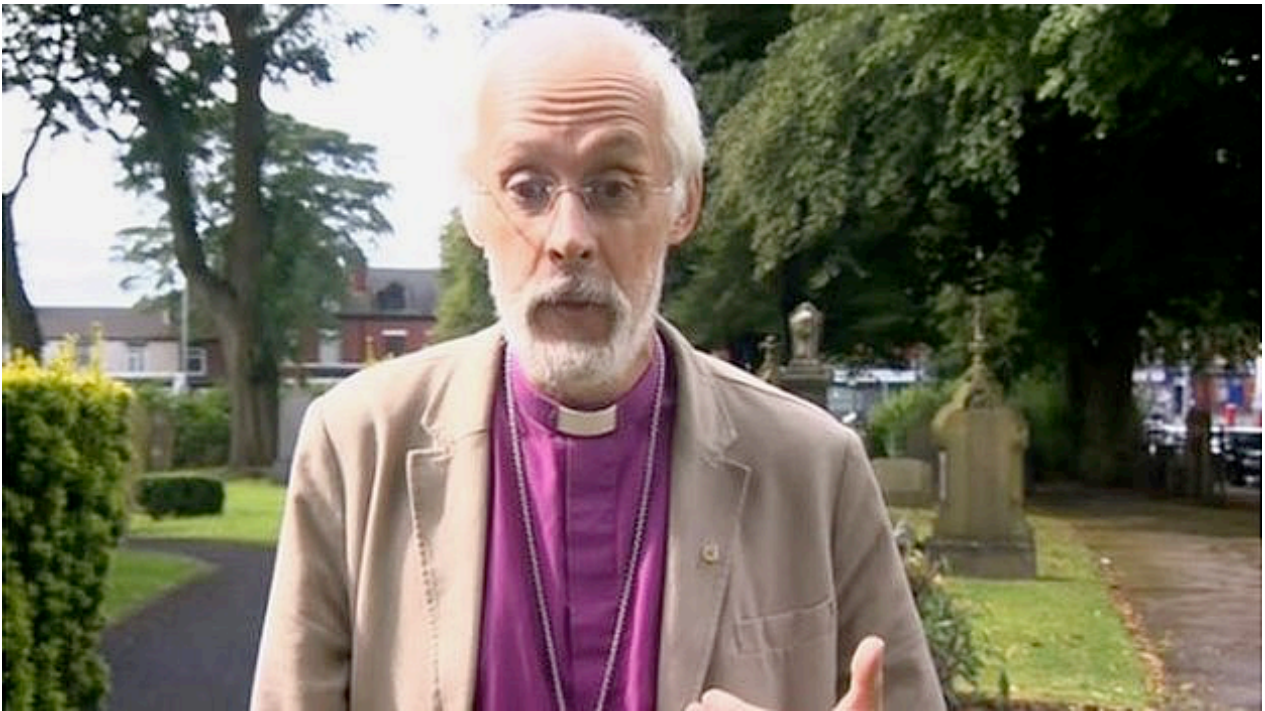
"I can only apologise for what happened then, and for what has happened now, most sincerely and with deep sorrow."

Welby added that abuse has been rife "in a huge number of institutions and localities...[but] that is not in any way mitigation or excuse for the church."

"It is also clear that there is a very significant legacy of unacknowledged cases in the Church of England," he said, noting that "all necessary steps" are being taken to address the issue.

Welby has repeatedly apologised to victims of sexual abuse at the hands of Anglican clergy, and pushed for a public inquiry into the church's failure to prevent it and respond effectively.

[Last year, he branded the issue "absolutely agonising"](#), and said a "complete change of culture and behaviour" in the Church is needed.



The Right Reverend David Walker said thoughts of the victims' ordeal "make his blood run cold"

"We cannot in 20 years be finding ourselves having this same debate and saying 'Well we didn't quite understand then'," he said during a meeting of the General Synod in York in June.

"There has to be a complete change of culture and behaviour and in addition there is a profound theological point. We are not doing all this, we are not seeking to say how devastatingly, appallingly, atrociously sorry we are for the great failures there have been for our own sakes, for our own flourishing, for the protection of the Church.

"We are doing it because we are called to live in the justice of God and we will each answer to Him in our failings in this. Accountability is one we must take with the utmost seriousness."

The Bishop of Manchester, Right Rev David Walker, [issued a statement](#) over the weekend praising victims of sexual abuse for their bravery in coming forward.

His statement came in response to a report into allegations against the now-deceased [former Dean of Manchester, Robert Waddington](#), who sexually and emotionally abused young boys in his care.

"My heart goes out to those whose lives have been irreparably damaged by what Robert Waddington did to them. When I read of the ongoing effects of

his abuse, decades after it took place, it makes my blood run cold," Bishop Walker said.

He thanked Archbishop of York John Sentamu for the inquiry into Waddington's behaviour and the Church's complicity, but also praised those who bravely gave evidence against him.

"I want to say thank you to those who Robert Waddington abused, and who came forward," he said.

"Thank you, because every time a survivor of abuse speaks out it makes it just a little easier for the next person to speak. Thank you for the courage you have found."

Limerick Cathedral lunchtime concert - Peter Barley

The next lunchtime concert in St Mary's, Limerick, is on Wednesday 5th November at 1.15pm - Peter Barley (organ). Free admission, with retiring collection in aid of Ard Scoil Mhuire Music Academy (the local secondary school).

Music by Mendelssohn, Eric Sweeney, Elgar.

Peter Barley grew up in Oxford, in a musical family. Going to church from an early age introduced him to the organ. He would sit in the choir with his father, behind the organ stool, from which position he had a bird's eye view of the console and the organist.

Church music became more serious when, at the age of eight he became a chorister at New College Oxford. He commenced learning the organ at about the age of eleven, having lessons with Geoffrey Webber, who was then organ scholar at New College. He reckons that he was about sixteen when he decided that he was going to be an organist. Both the sound of the organ, and also the music played on it attracted him — he mentioned Bach and Handel as appealing very early.

He was organ scholar at King's College Cambridge for the three years of his music degree, during which time he played for the famous choir every day. The following two years were spent at the Royal Academy of Music, and during this time he built up his career in London. He studied the organ with Christopher Tolley, Nicholas Danby, Nicolas Kynaston and Peter Hurford.

Prior to Limerick he was director of music at St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin.



Cow assists with fundraiser for church restoration

News Letter - A cowpat challenge has been arranged in aid of St. Lawrence's Church restoration fund, Co Tyrone.

On Saturday 13th December 2014, Bodearg Ileen will be let loose in a

field at Fintona. This field will be divided into 1,000 squares, which are available to buy at £10 each. When the call of nature comes, Ileen will deposit a pat. If you are the lucky owner of that square, you will win Bodearg Ileen, a nineteen month old Pedigree Limousin heifer, who boasts much sought after pedigree genetics, in the form of legendary Limousin bulls, Sympa and Nenuphar. Alternatively, there is the option to take a cash prize of £1,500. Anyone wishing to purchase tickets, please contact Seamus Cullinan on 07736374102.

Pictured are breeder and donor of Ileen, Seamus Cullinan, handing over the prize heifer to Fr Jim Moore, Parish Priest of Fintona, and Tom Gavin of St Lawrence's Church fund raising committee.

Strabane Christmas Tree Festival

28 November 2014 10:00 - 30 November 2014 18:00 . Nine Carols Christmas Tree Festival. Friday 28th: 10am - 7pm | Opening service: 8pm. Saturday 29th: 10am - 8pm. Sunday 30th: 2pm - 5.30pm | Closing service: 6pm. Camus Juxta Mourne, Christ Church. 23-47 Bowling Green, Strabane, Strabane BT82

BBC Radio3 RSCM Choral Evensong from Gloucester Cathedral

This Wednesday at 3.30 pm, The Royal School of Church Music Millennium Youth Choir, recorded in Gloucester Cathedral
Introit: Holy is the true light (Harris)
Responses: Kerensa Briggs
Psalms 148, 150 (Stanford)

First lesson: Isaiah 65.17-25
Canticles: Gloucester Service (Owain Park)
Second lesson: Hebrews 11.32-12.2
Anthems: We love the place, O God (Sumsion)
Justorum animae (Stanford)
Hymn: For all the saints (Sine nomine)
Organ Voluntary: Festivo (Ronald Corp)
David Ogden (Director of Music)
Daniel Moulton (Organist).

Christian Aid delivers emergency food and hygiene kits in Ebola hotspots

Christian Aid is delivering emergency food and hygiene kits this week to some of the most vulnerable families under quarantine in two of Sierra Leone's Ebola 'hotspots' in order to prevent families from starving.

Pregnant women, single mothers, people living with HIV, the elderly and young children are among the 2,100 quarantined residents being targeted in the eastern Kailahun district and in the rural Freetown suburb of Waterloo.

The kits contain enough food to give a family a balanced diet for two weeks, including oil, tinned fish, rice, onions and powdered milk. They also include essential hygiene materials such as soap, female sanitary items, chlorine, disinfectant, latex gloves and infra-red thermometers. With the national death rate now exceeding 1,000 and the infection rate rising sharply, Christian Aid is working with local health teams to identify the 'at-risk' households in quarantined areas.

Jeanne Kamara, Christian Aid's Sierra Leone country manager, said: "With the recent surge of cases in Sierra Leone's hotspot areas, the demand for hospital beds still far outstrips supply. The welcome escalation of international assistance will take time to translate into trained medical personnel and treatment centres. Until then, effective medical treatment is no longer an option for most people. More and more homes are being quarantined for 21 days and many are not receiving enough food to sustain them.

"These emergency kits contain some basic necessities that are essential if quarantine measures are going to be humane and effective. We are giving priority to female-headed households and homes with vulnerable residents in some of the worst-affected areas.

Jeanne Kamara, who is based in Freetown, continued: “We estimate that around a million people nationwide are either in isolated districts or quarantined homes, but sadly, a significant number are going hungry. There have been some notable failures in the coordination of the quarantine process, which has meant food aid has not always reached those who need it the most. The outbreak has hindered people’s ability to earn a living, so tensions are rising as they become increasingly desperate.

“The issue of food security is becoming a very real concern – for some, an even greater concern than the risk of catching the virus. This was demonstrated by a recent stampede during food distribution in the outskirts of Freetown. It’s an unbearable situation for people who live hand-to-mouth, are facing rising food prices and are struggling to sustain already fragile livelihoods.

“The packs we are distributing this week will only feed a family for a fortnight. We desperately need to scale up our response. That’s why Christian Aid needs funds in order to reach more vulnerable households.”

Since the outbreak began, Christian Aid partners have trained hundreds of local volunteers to reach 1.2 million people in Sierra Leone with life-saving advice on Ebola preventative measures. Community health teams have been given vital hygiene supplies, including 200,000 pairs of disposable gloves and over 360kg of powdered chlorine.

To donate to Christian Aid’s Ebola response visit www.christianaid.ie/ebolacrisis

After a terrible 2013, Christians in Egypt 'feel much safer' under President Sisi

Christian Today - 2013 was a dark year for Egypt's Christians with multiple attacks on churches, and the months following the ousting of Mohamed Morsi only escalated the persecution against them.

Supporters of Morsi and Muslim Brotherhood lashed out at Christians in revenge for their supposed complicity in his removal from power.

Molotov cocktails were thrown at churches and graffiti was sprayed on their walls. Some of the attacks on Christians were fatal and at one point, churches started cancelling services.

But fast forward a year and the arrival of a new president, Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, and things are looking much better for Christians in Egypt, says Greek-Catholic priest Rafik Greiche.

Speaking to Aid to the Church in Need, he said the security situation is getting better and there is greater stability in the country.

Fr Greiche said the abduction of Christian girls by jihadists is still happening and there are still tensions in some villages but the situation has "nevertheless improved considerably".

"The mood has improved considerably," he said. "Christians feel a lot safer. They are going to church without feeling threatened as they did under President Morsi ... The problems that exist are only one tenth of those that we Christians experienced under Morsi."

Fr Greiche's impression of President Sisi is also positive so far. Meetings have been held between the president and bishops from the Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant Churches, and the government is working with them to prepare a new law on the construction of churches.

More at -

<http://www.christiantoday.com/article/after.a.terrible.2013.christians.in.egypt.feel.much.safer.under.president.sisi/42030.htm>