

**The essential daily
brief on the Irish
churches**

**Sr Stan: 39
families lost
their homes in
capital last
month**

**The issue of
homelessness in
2014 is the worst
it's been in 30
years, with more
than one family a
day in the capital
losing their home
last month,
according to a
leading
campaigner.**



Sr. Stanislaus Kennedy

Irish Independent -

The shocking statistic is the result of low State-subsidised rents that remain unattractive to landlords, a lack of rent regulation and an absence in investment in the social housing building programme, the President of Focus Ireland has said.

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“The eighties were bad but I wouldn’t even compare them with today,” President of Focus Ireland Sr Stanislaus Kennedy told independent.ie.

“The condition of people out and the numbers of people out homeless are far worse.

“The main difference is now it is whole families losing their homes. As well as the number of families, it is the size of the families that are now homeless.

“The other difference is it wasn’t an economic problem in the eighties, it was a circumstantial problem. Now it is an economic issue,” she continued.

“I remember a trip to Paris when I could see families on the side of the streets in these shanty towns and I thought ‘Ireland isn’t like this’, but now it is.”

Sr Stanislaus said the ‘stop-gap response’ of B&B accommodation has become ‘a way of life’ for families as they find themselves living there with no cooking facilities for up to two years.

“Children are being reared in these surroundings and have no stability,” she said.

“We humans like to have certain stability and know what’s coming next, we like a stable environment.

“These families can’t move into rented accommodation, they can’t afford it.”

Furthermore, the lack of awareness of the issue is a result of it being ‘a hidden problem’ in society, the president of the agency for homelessness believes.

- See more at: <http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/sr-stan-39-families-lost-their-homes-in-capital-last-month-30421229.html#sthash.jomGjIHN.dpuf>

Tyrone clergyman dies in diving incident

A Presbyterian clergyman from Donemana, County Tyrone, has died after getting into difficulties while diving off the County Donegal coast.

The Rev Stewart Jones, who was in his 50s, died after being airlifted to Sligo Hospital on Saturday.



Rev Stewart Jones with his daughter Rachel on her wedding day

He had been diving near St John's Point with another man from Londonderry who was also airlifted to hospital during the rescue operation.

The second man was unhurt. Dr Jones was married and had three children.

Dr Jones, who was the Presbyterian chaplain at Altnagelvin Hospital, was a qualified diving instructor and also an instructor in emergency first response.

He was a published author and his works included *Israel in the Carter Years* and *British Policy in the Middle East*.

Ian Scott from Malin Head Coastguard said cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) had been carried out on Dr Jones.

"Sadly, despite administering CPR, from when the diver was recovered until his arrival at hospital, the man died."

The Presbyterian moderator, Rev Dr Michael Barry, said he was "saddened and shocked" to hear of the clergyman's death.

He said: "Stewart served his congregations with great enthusiasm and complete dedication.

"On behalf of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, I extend our deepest sympathies to his wife, Patricia, his three daughters, son-in-laws and grandchildren.

"I assure Patricia, the family circle and indeed the congregation of Donemana, of the prayerful support of many throughout the Presbyterian Church in the days that lie ahead."

UUP MLA for Newry and Armagh Danny Kennedy who was a contemporary of Rev Jones at school in south Armagh, said: "He was from the Bessbrook area and he was a lovely fella, a very fine fella.

"He was academically gifted and very clever.

"He was the eldest of the Jones family and there was enormous pride within the family and the local community when he went into the church as a Presbyterian minister."

Profile: Minister for Education Jan O'Sullivan

Jan O'Sullivan is a TD for the Limerick City Constituency. Born in Clonlara, Co. Clare in 1950, she was educated at Villiers Secondary School in Limerick, and subsequently at



Trinity College Dublin. Following her graduation from Trinity, she took a Higher Diploma in Education at University College Cork, after which she briefly worked as a secondary school teacher. She later emigrated to Canada, where she studied as a Montessori teacher.

University Times.ie - After returning to Ireland in the late 1970s, O'Sullivan helped run Limerick's Family Planning clinic, at a time when contraception was still illegal and highly controversial in Ireland. She entered politics in 1982, when she joined the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP), a small party founded by Limerick TD Jim Kemmy. She joined the DSP due to Kemmy's anti-nationalist stance on Northern Ireland and his strong advocacy of family planning and pro-choice abortion services. She choose to spend time at home while having her children and once they were in school, she balanced

her time between a playgroup she ran in the morning, her children in the afternoon and political work in the evenings.

From 1993 to 1994, she was Mayor of Limerick. Her religion, as a member of the Church of Ireland, twice caused controversy when she was prevented from opening a Christian Brothers Schools and from reading a lesson at a mass for Limerick's civic week. Her pro-choice views also caused controversy, with her branded one of "Kemmy's Femmies".

O'Sullivan was again unsuccessful in the June 1997 General Election, but after Kemmy's death in September of that year, she successfully won the by-election in March 1988, becoming Co. Limerick's first female TD since 1921. She has been re-elected in every General Election since.

During her first term in the Dáil, she acted as the Labour Party spokesperson on Justice and Equality, and was a member of the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Justice, Equality and Women's Rights. During her second term in the Dáil (2002-2007) she was Vice-Chair of both the Dáil Select Committee on Education and Science and the Joint Committee on Education and Science, as well as serving as her party's spokesperson on Education and Science.

More at -

http://www.universitytimes.ie/?p=27634&utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=profile-minister-for-education-jan-osullivan

Church that sells bleach as HIV 'cure' holds event in Dublin

A church that attempts to cure HIV with industrial strength bleach is holding an event in Dublin.

Pink News - The US-based Genesis II Church, which claims its MMS "miracle cure" can rid patients of HIV and AIDS – is hosting an event in Monkstown, Dublin this (past) weekend.

[According to the Irish Independent](#), the church's product has been banned in both the UK and US because it was found to be "industrial-strength bleach".

An article on the group's website claims that at least 800 people were cured of HIV by the product on a trip to Africa.

Campaigners have warned that the group's 'miracle cure' – which is advised for everything from autism to cancer – could be extremely harmful, should it gain a foothold in Ireland.

Tickets to the Dublin event cost £280/€295, with attendees learning how to make the substance, and earning the title of reverend.

More at -

<http://www.pinknews.co.uk/2014/07/12/ireland-church-that-sells-bleach-as-hiv-cure-holding-event-in-dublin/>

St Barrahanes Church Festival of Music 2014: beautiful music in a beautiful setting

Since 1980, St Barrahanes Church in the village of Castletownshend has hosted music festival which draws distinguished musicians from around the world.



Fiona and Jean Kelly

West Cork Times - This summer, each Thursday evening from 17 July to 14 August will find well respected artists from Italy, France, USA and Ireland

playing classical music in this intimate setting. St Barrahanes Church contains stained glass windows by Harry Clark of Dublin, and boasts exceptional acoustics, making it a very special musical venue. Proceeds from the concert series help contribute to the upkeep of this historic church.

The season begins at 8pm on Thursday, July 17 with a program of works by Beethoven, Debussy and Rachmaninov, performed by Christopher Marwood on cello and Alexander Bernstein on piano. Christopher Marwood is a member of the RTE Vanbrugh Quartet and teaches at Cork School of Music. Alexander Bernstein, a native of San Francisco, is currently studying at the

Royal Irish Academy of Music. He has performed with orchestras and as a solo artist throughout the US and Europe.

On 24 July the concert will feature the Ducrot family: Sabine on piano and flute, Eoin on violin and Cian on flute, with a program of music by Bach, Brahms Szymanowski and Reinecke. On 31 July pianist John O'Connor will play works by Beethoven, Schubert and Field, and the 7 August event will highlight soprano Anna Devin singing music by Grieg, Wolf, Rosini and Handel. On 14 August, Italian singer and guitarist Federico Marincola will present a program of Italian songs from 1575 to 1936 entitled 'Stories of Love, Wine and Knives.'

Tickets are available at Thornhill Electrical in Skibbereen, at The Coffee Shop in Union Hall, or by contacting Nuala Gibbons at 087 637 1531 or Jacqueline Weij at 028 33752. Check the full program of concerts at the website:

www.barrahanemusic.ie

McGraw Memorial Concert, Clonakilty

The second Joan McGrath Memorial Concert will take place on July 23rd in the Church of Ireland, Clonakilty at 7.30 pm. Organised by the Clonakilty group of Amnesty International, this follows last year's very successful inaugural concert in memory of Joan McGraw, who founded the local group over 30 years ago.

Clonakilty violinist and composer Justin Grounds has put together an eclectic programme of music from the Renaissance, Baroque and Modern eras, including new music written by himself and local composer Jo Perry, from Baltimore.

Joining Justin on the night will be soloists Jessie Kennedy (violin), Camilla Griehsel (mezzo-soprano), Elena Trivellato (soprano) and Kevin MacNally (guitar), as well as the Vespertine Quintet and Grounds' new ensemble The Early/Modern Chamber Orchestra.

Entry is free with donations taken toward the work of Amnesty International.

Methodist Church remembers 20th anniversary of Rwanda genocide

Nearly one million Rwandans were slaughtered during 100 days of genocidal killing twenty years ago. Today, representatives of the Methodist Conference meeting in Birmingham prayed for lasting peace

during a commemorative service led by the President of the Methodist Conference, the Revd Ken Howcroft.

Speaking ahead of the commemoration, Bishop Samuel, leader of the Methodist Church in Rwanda, said that a lot had happened during the past 20 years to build peace in Rwanda. "From the time when our people were killed in the genocide, we have come to a situation today where our churches and communities are made of those who once were involved in the killings and those who were their victims. The survivors of the genocide and the perpetrators released from prisons attend the same churches and live side by side in the communities. Although this poses big challenges in responding to their needs, we know that our work and mission is to help and support them to live together as God's children."

Bishop Samuel also said that the Church in Rwanda is gradually regaining its original purpose in the community. "What happened 20 years ago gives us the confidence to say that there is a light of hope for a brighter future in our country. We have seen the power of forgiveness and reconciliation, bringing former bitter enemies together, in a life transformed by the love of Jesus Christ."

The Revd John Howard, Chair of the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District, was in Rwanda in April for the country's national commemoration of the genocide. The Methodist Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District has been in partnership with Rwanda for the past nine years, working with the Peacebuilding, Healing and Reconciliation Programme (PHARP) in order to foster peace, healing and reconciliation in conflict prevention, transformation and reconstruction.

The Revd Dr Paul Nzacahayo, circuit minister in the Vale of Stour Circuit, Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District, lived in Rwanda before the genocide. In 1993, he went to the University of Edinburgh to study for a one-year Masters Degree in Theology. In April 1994, his then pregnant wife and two children joined him for a short visit just four days before the killing began. "The tragedy has impacted me in many ways," Paul said ahead of the commemoration. "Saying that it was a miracle that my wife and children arrived in the UK only four days prior to the genocide is an understatement. Even now, twenty years after the events, when I think about what could have happened to them, my stomach clinches and I am almost paralysed by the thoughts of it. Every day I wake up praying that that thought will not come in my mind."

"Since those early days of the genocide, I have been looked after by the Nicolson Square Methodist Church which is at the heart of Edinburgh, and later on by many friends in the Methodist Church in different parts of the UK where I have ministered. My family and I are very grateful for such love and care.

"I also lost hope that Rwanda would be able to carry on as a country after the genocide. I couldn't see how a community that tore itself apart could be rebuilt and re-united. Twenty years on I must pay tribute to the Rwandans who, with the support and help of others, have succeeded in doing a fantastic job of restoring peace and normality to what seemed to me like a lost cause."

One of the peacebuilding initiatives that has emerged in Bishop Samuel's church is a cow-sharing project called Inshuti Nyanshuti. The church gives a cow (a valued animal in Rwandan culture) to a genocide survivor who then passes the cow on to his or her protector during the genocide, or to a perpetrator who has pleaded guilty, accepted responsibility and asked for pardon.

"It's a small project at the moment that has been going for two years," said Bishop Samuel. "We have 24 people - 12 families. But we will continue to expand. When we offer the cows, there's a big ceremony. People in the village come to witness it and hear testimonies from both parties: survivors of the genocide, their protectors during the genocide, or perpetrators who've been released from prison."

Press Coverage

Times/Mail/Guard

Various reports on women bishops *Times* states the leader of the Church of England's house of laity warned yesterday that he would not bet an "old ha'penny" on women bishops being given the go-ahead, indicating that deep divisions remain over the issue. Mail reports looks at likely first contenders, the process of approval and Helen-Ann Hartley, who was born in Edinburgh and was the first female priest ordained in the Church of England to become a bishop in New Zealand earlier this year. The Guardian's editorial suggests "one more heave" to make women bishops within the church

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/faith/article4146501.ece>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-2690916/FIRST-WOMEN-BISHOPS-THE-CONTENDERS.html>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-2690915/THE-LONG-ROAD-TO-WOMEN-BISHOPS.html>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-2690914/WOMEN-BISHOPS-ALREADY-IN-PLACE.html#ixzz37PzeOAEh>

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jul/13/church-of-england-power-shifts-laity-liberalism>

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jul/13/church-of-england-general-synod-female-bishops-justin-welby>

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/jul/13/women-bishops-vote>

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2690506/First-woman-bishop-months-Archbishop-Canterbury-Justin-Welby-says-delay-incomprehensible-public.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490

Tel/Ind

Reports that the Archbishop of Canterbury has insisted he cannot impose women bishops on the Church of England if it is not passed in a landmark vote today, referring to his comments on *Andrew Marr show*. They state members of the Church's General Synod are finally expected to give their blessing to admitting women to the episcopate, sweeping aside centuries of practice. But, despite overwhelming support in the church as a whole, senior aides remain nervous about the result, expecting a narrow vote among members of the laity. *Independent* states Archbishop says there's a 'good chance' of women bishops gaining approval.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/10964849/Welby-cant-force-women-bishops-on-Church.html>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/archbishop-of-canterbury-says-there-is-a-good-chance-a-woman-bishop-could-be-chosen-early-next-year-9602781.html>

Mail/Express

Reports that vicars will be able to swap their cassocks for jeans, T-shirts and even shellsuits at services, weddings and funerals after the Church of England approved the radical 'makeover' last night. Rules requiring clergy to don traditional vestments were swept aside by a vote at the General Synod, the Church's 'Parliament', as part of efforts to make services more relevant to modern congregations. The Church will now draw up rules to permit clergy to wear what they deem appropriate for services, as long as they have the permission of their bishop.

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2690395/Church-gives-OK-vicars-shellsuits-Synod-approves-makeover-make-clergy-relevant-modern-congregations.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/488636/Church-gives-its-blessing-for-dress-down-Sundays>

Times

Report that members of the General Synod approved new texts for baptisms with the phrase asking parents and godparents if they will "reject the Devil" removed. It states the Bishop of Sodor and Man, the Right Rev Robert Paterson, said the common worship liturgy was often "too wordy and too complex".

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/faith/article4146811.ece>

Tel/Ind

Reports that the Archbishop of Canterbury said he expects more cases to emerge of child abuse within the [Church](#) and that he deals with the issue on a daily basis. They state Justin Welby said it was becoming "clearer and clearer" the problem had not been dealt with properly. He told BBC One's *Andrew Marr Show* the victims of childhood abuse must now be shown justice and the Church must be "absolutely transparent" about what has gone on in the past.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/10964426/More-child-abuse-cases-will-emerge-in-Church-warns-Archbishop-of-Canterbury.html>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/church-child-abuse-scandal-archbishop-of-canterbury-justin-welby-warns-of-more-revelations-9603554.html>

Tel/Eve Standard/Guard/Mail

Reports that the Archbishop of Canterbury said people should stop being so "hysterical" about the threat from Islamic radicalisation in Britain. Following comments on the Andrew Marr show yesterday they state Justin Welby, said there is a problem with young Muslim youths travelling to Syria and elsewhere to wage jihad but the numbers were "extraordinarily small". He warned against allowing a "national culture of fear" to spring up because of the actions of a tiny minority of Muslims. *Times* leader and article says the Archbishop is right to reverse his predecessor's stance on Sharia, but British Islam should not be ignored, in comments on BBC about Islamic extremism.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/10964452/Welby-lets-not-get-hysterical-about-Islamic-radicalisation.html>

<http://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/uk-is-hysterical-over-islamic-radicalisation-says-archbishop-of-canterbury-9602689.html>

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/jul/13/justin-welby-hysteria-muslim-radicalisation-syria>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-2690420/UK-HYSTERICAL-OVER-RADICALISATION.html>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/leaders/article4146589.ece>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4146266.ece>

Tel/Mail/Times/Guard/Mirror

Further reports on assisted dying state the Bishop of Buckingham, Alan Wilson, is the first current bishop in the Church of England to publicly declare his support for a change in the law. *Times* reports leading politicians warn legalising assisted dying could lead to thousands of terminally ill patients ending their lives because they feel a burden to their families.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/10964306/Desmond-Tutu-I-support-assisted-dying.html>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/10964640/Bishop-uphold-sanctity-of-life-by-allowing-assisted-dying.html>

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-2690991/How-long-doctors-agree-assisted-suicides-easily-sign-abortions.html?](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-2690991/How-long-doctors-agree-assisted-suicides-easily-sign-abortions.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

[ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-2690991/How-long-doctors-agree-assisted-suicides-easily-sign-abortions.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4146650.ece>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/article4146549.ece>

<http://www.theguardian.com/society/2014/jul/13/assisted-dying-bill-lord-falconer>

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/terminally-ill-schools-inspection-chief-3850930>

Times

Report on how Andrea Leadsom received £70,000 donation from family firm in tax haven, which mentions the Archbishop of Canterbury's comments on the BBC yesterday when he suggested that wealthy individuals and large companies who aggressively avoid paying tax are breaking Christian teaching. It quotes him saying, "There's a passage in the Epistle to the Romans that says pay your tax."

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/andrea-leadsom-received-70000-donation-from-family-firm-in-tax-haven-9603559.html>

BBC

Report that the Church of England has spent £190,000 handling a rift between the Channel Islands and the Diocese of Winchester. It states the islands were in a dispute involving the Dean of Jersey and the Bishop of Winchester about the [handling of an abuse complaint](#). The figure was revealed after the Dean of Portsmouth asked the CofE's ruling body how much the rift had cost. The money was spent on two inquiries and does not include legal fees.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-jersey-28283289>

Times/FT/Tel

Reports stating calls for Baroness Butler-Sloss to be removed as head of the inquiry into historical claims of child abuse intensified yesterday following further allegations against political figures. They state the government is considering appointing a co-chairman of the independent panel following growing concerns about the former judge's close links to the establishment. James Brokenshire, a Home Office minister, said the department was "working on" the idea of appointing a co-chairman from a panel of experts. *FT* states Home Office defends her appointment.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4146680.ece>

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/ab79e0b4-0a96-11e4-be06-00144feabdc0.html?siteedition=intl#axzz37Q4mkVWv>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/10964530/Baroness-Butler-Sloss-was-behind-controversial-paedophile-ruling.html>

FT

Report on how details of a shake-up of Britain's [payday lending](#) will be announced this week as the country's financial watchdog prepares to unveil a cap on how much operators can charge for quick credit. Mentions the Archbishop of Canterbury, among others, will be ready to pounce on the regulator if they believe it has not taken a tough enough stance.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/62b5f2c2-0817-11e4-acd8-00144feab7de.html#axzz37Q4mkVWv>

BBC/Metro/Tel/Huff Post

Reports that Pope Francis has been quoted as saying that reliable data indicates that "about 2%" of clergy in the Catholic Church are paedophiles and that abuse of children was like "leprosy" infecting the Church. They state he vowed to "confront it with the severity it demands". But a Vatican spokesman said the quotes in the Italian newspaper did not correspond to Pope Francis's exact words. *Also in other papers.*

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-28282050>

<http://metro.co.uk/2014/07/13/one-in-50-priests-is-a-pervert-says-pope-4797058/>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/the-pope/10964983/Pope-Francis-two-per-cent-of-clergy-had-paedophile-tendencies.html>

http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2014/07/13/pope-francis-2-clergy-paedophiles-vatican-priests-bishops_n_5582246.html?utm_hp_ref=uk

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2690575/Pope-Francis-admits-two-cent-Roman-Catholic-priests-paedophiles-interview-Italian-newspaper.html>