

## Archbishop Justin Welby 'heartbroken' by Christian gun attack as death toll rises

The Archbishop of Canterbury says he is "heartbroken". At least 28 people died when militants wearing masks opened fire on a bus in Egypt taking Coptic Christians to a monastery.

The attack, which happened approximately 140 miles south of Cairo, also left 22 others injured. Children were among the bus passengers.

Most Rev Justin Welby said: "I am heartbroken by the news of another awful attack on men, women and children, murdered because of their faith in Jesus Christ.

"In this time of deep sorrow and pain, we commit to prayer those who have died, those who have been injured and those who have lost loved ones.

"We pray that all might know the presence of God in this dark time and draw closer to the Great Redeemer, who is Jesus Christ."

Bishop Angaelos, the General Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Church in the UK, told Premier's News Hour:

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"It was said enough seeing what happened in Manchester [in the concert attack on Monday] - a targeted on children and young people.

"This was very similar; it was a bus filled with family members who were travelling on a pilgrimage to a monastery in Minya."

The group was travelling from Beni Suef province to the remote monastery of St Samuel the Confessor in Maghagha.

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While no group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack - the fourth targeting Christians since December 2016 - it bore the hallmarks of Islamic State.

Fr Rafic Greiche, a spokesman for the Egyptian Catholic church, told a local television station: "The growing number of these terror attacks is not at all reassuring."

***President Abdel-Fattah el-Sisis has been struggling to contain an insurgency by Islamic militants. Egyptian forces struck at militant groups over the weekend***

Two suicide bomb attacks at churches in Alexandria and Tanta left 45 people dead on Palm Sunday this year.

A suicide bombing at a chapel next to St Mark's Coptic Orthodox Cathedral in Cairo on 11th December 2016 killed 29 people.

In recent years, northern stretches of the Sinai have borne the brunt, however, attacks have increasingly targeted the Egyptian mainland in recent months. Ten per cent of people in Egypt are Christians.

**The Revd Hannah Bucke the Director of Online Learning at Wesley House, Cambridge**



**New Director of Online Learning at Wesley House, Cambridge**

The recently rededicated Methodist College, Wesley House Cambridge, has taken a step into the digital age in appointing the Revd Hannah Bucke as Director of Online Learning, to help develop accessible resources and flexible patterns of study for online learning.

Using online learning, people will be able to study wherever and whenever they choose, through a variety

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of non-accredited ovirtual courses available from September 2017.

Including:

- Courses for both individual and group study.
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- Material from leading scholars.
- An online community sharing ideas and expertise.

Hannah, a presbyter in the Methodist Church in Great Britain, is currently stationed in the Southend and Leigh Circuit in a pioneering appointment where she is developing a new town centre ministry.

She said: "Online learning now has a significant and growing place in the academic landscape and it provides a great opportunity for Wesley House to expand its provision. We hope to engage Methodists and others, both in the UK and abroad, in a variety of courses which draw upon the expertise and resources of the College's Cambridge base."

Two courses already being planned for 2017 and 2018 are 'Walking the story' and 'Leadership as discipleship'.

'Walking the story' will be based on the book by Jane Leach, Principal of Wesley House, this course will explore pilgrimage, its role in Christian spirituality and its relevance in Christian life today. For group or individual study.

[Church News Ireland, May 29, 2017](#)

'Leadership as discipleship: a biblical view' will explore some of the models of leadership that we use and how well they serve the modern church. Examining the stories behind some of the leaders in the Bible, we ask what lessons they have to teach us. For individual study.

If you'd like to know more, or be kept in touch, please email [online@wesley.cam.ac.uk](mailto:online@wesley.cam.ac.uk)  
<http://www.wesley.cam.ac.uk/admissions/onlinelearning/>



**Church of Scotland ministers may soon be able to officiate at gay marriages**

## **Campaigners welcome Church's apology for LGBT discrimination**

Equality campaigners have welcomed an apology to gay people from the Church of Scotland for its history of discrimination.

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The apology was approved by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland alongside a report which could pave the way to allow ministers to conduct same sex marriages in future.

The assembly agreed that the church should take stock of its history of discrimination against gay people, at different levels and in different ways, and apologise “individually, corporately and seek to do better.”

The assembly also voted in favour of instructing the Legal Questions Committee to examine whether Church law may be reformed to allow ministers who wish to conduct same sex marriages to do so, without removing the legal protection available for any minister or deacon who refuse to officiate at ceremonies as a matter of conscience.

Tim Hopkins, director of Scotland LGBTI charity the Equality Network said: “We are happy the Church of Scotland has passed this motion.

“We welcome the apology and we know that LGBT people within the church will look forward to continuing the discussion.”

The decisions were taken after three hours of impassioned debate over options presented by the Theological Forum.

Some members on the traditionalist wing of the church claimed the report was "biased" and "one-sided" but their arguments failed to carry opinion.

A majority agreed that the Theological Forum should investigate theologically, the theme of reconciliation to address divisions between churches and wider society.

Presenting the report, Theological Forum convener, Very Rev Professor Iain Torrance, said he and his colleagues could see “no sufficient theological reason for the church not to authorise specific ministers to officiate at same-sex weddings”.

## **Archbishop Martin celebrates mass in Armagh in solidarity with Manchester**

On Saturday evening in Saint Patrick’s Cathedral, Armagh, Archbishop Eamon Martin, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, offer Mass in solidarity and prayer for the people of Manchester and all those affected by the Manchester arena bombing last week. Archbishop Eamon had invited people in and around the Archdiocese of Armagh to attend this special Mass.

In an interview on Faithcast, the weekly faith podcast, Archbishop Eamon gave his reaction to the bombing. He said, “Like most people, when I heard the news about Manchester, I was shocked, horrified really, that

such an awful thing could happen so close to us. I was thinking immediately about the children and the young people who were caught up in it. An attack like this, which is so violent and so brutal, just brings terror among us and I just get a sense that something like this will take a long time to heal, particularly for the families and those who were caught up in it in one way or another, maybe those who lost a loved one, someone who was injured or maybe just someone who was at the concert and got home safely but just now contemplates how awful this attack was. I really just thought there but for the grace of God go I and go all of us.”

## **C of I Archbishop and Mayor of Dublin visits Jerusalem**

As a part of the recently–instigated Dublin–Jerusalem diocesan link, the Archbishop of Dublin, Dr Michael Jackson, will travel with the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Councillor Brendan Carr, to Jerusalem at the invitation of Archbishop Suheil Dawani.

On Monday they will be in Jerusalem and Ramallah where they will visit St Andrew’s church and the Episcopal Technical and Vocational Training Centre. The day will conclude in St George’s Guest House with a session on the Dublin Diocesan ‘Come & C’ initiative.

On Tuesday they will visit Bethlehem, the Mount of Olives and the Princess Basma Centre. Following a tour of the Old City they will return to St George’s Guest House for a session on Kids4Peace.

The Archbishop is presently involved in discussions with the Lord Mayor and others around the Inter Faith Charter for Dublin.

## **St Bartholomew’s a place of beauty which reminds us of heaven, Archbishop Clarke**

The 150th anniversary of St Bartholomew’s Church, Dublin 4, was celebrated yesterday evening (Thursday May 25) with the Solemn Eucharist of the Feast of the Ascension. The service was celebrated by the Archbishop of Dublin, the Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson, and the Archbishop of Armagh, the Most Revd Dr Richard Clarke, a former curate of St Bartholomew’s, was the preacher.

The beautiful church, which is undergoing an extensive programme of renovation, was full of current and former parishioners as well as past clergy and choristers who returned for the occasion and ecumenical visitors.

The evening was made all the more special by a presentation to the longest serving member of the parish's renowned choir. Bobby Barden has been contributing to the music in St Bartholomew's for 75 years, half the life of the church itself. Director of Music, Tristan Russcher, thanked Bobby and he was presented with an RSCM certificate in honour of his dedicated service. The Rector, the Revd Andrew McCroskery, thanked him for all he had given to the life of the church. "Your singing in the choir will for ever be part of the life and fabric of this church," he stated.

***"St Bartholomew's reminds us that heaven is not a place of otherness but a place of beauty with which we can begin our relationship here on earth"***

In his sermon, the Archbishop of Armagh recalled his first visit to St Bartholomew's which took place almost exactly 50 years earlier. This was the beginning of a relationship which would continue to develop two years later when he became Curate. He said that the church was known for its beauty both in the building and in the concentrated beauty of its worship. "Nothing will ever be allowed to become mundane or ordinary," he commented.



Long serving member of the choir, Bobby Barden, is presented with his certificate.

"St Bartholomew's reminds us that heaven is not a place of otherness but a place of beauty with which we can begin our relationship here on earth," he said adding that the beauty of the place made it easy to stand and gaze up to heaven.

The Archbishop said that on Ascension Day we are reminded that the Ascension represents both a continuity and radical discontinuity of discipleship. In the season of Easter we see the Risen Christ who is

here yesterday, today and always. However the discontinuity is found in the fact that we are to remain in the world to take on the ministry of Christ and be witnesses to the ends of the earth.

Archbishop Clarke said that St Bartholomew's had stood for 150 years as a place of beauty but the church was never an end in itself.

Former Rector, Canon Walter Simpson said there was a world beyond the doors that needed to be met where it was rather than enticing people into the pews. "Yes, we come to gaze into heaven but also to be witnesses of Christ to the ends of the earth," the Archbishop concluded.

The foundation stone of St Bartholomew's Church was laid on Ascension Day in 1865. The church was consecrated on December 23 1867.

To celebrate the 150th anniversary, the book 'St Bartholomew's – A History of the Dublin Parish' by Dr Kenneth Milne is being updated and published.

It was originally published in 1963 and the expanded edition is expected to be available in December 2017. The book is available to pre-order now. Contact 01-6688522 or [admin@stbartholomews.ie](mailto:admin@stbartholomews.ie) for further information.

## **First Swedish bishop since the Reformation to be made a cardinal**

Cardinal-designate Anders Arborelius of Stockholm is Sweden's only Catholic bishop and the first native Swede to hold the post since the Protestant Reformation in the 1500s.

He was also the first Swede to be named a bishop in more than 400 years when he was named by St John Paul II to lead the country's lone diocese in 1998.

Now, Pope Francis will make him the first cardinal in Sweden's history when he is formally inducted into the College of Cardinals June 28 along with new cardinals from Mali, Spain, Laos and El Salvador.

"It's really a historical event and I think it's typical of Pope Francis that he looks to those parts of the world that are far away – other cardinals were named for the first time for Laos and for Mali – so he wants to encourage those minorities scattered all over the world and show that they are important in God's eyes and in the eyes of the Church even if they are very small realities," the cardinal-designate told Vatican Radio.

The Catholic Church in Sweden has had an important role in helping "integrate many refugees, and we know that this is a very important issue for the pope, and we

also have a very broad ecumenical dialogue with all the Christian churches,” he told the radio.

However, it still was “a real surprise that the Holy Father has chosen me,” said the 67-year-old prelate, and Catholics in Sweden are “very happy about it.”

The Pope sees having a cardinal in Sweden as a way to encourage its “very important mission” as a small minority in one of the most secular countries in Europe, he said. In surveys, less than a third of Swedes describe themselves as religious and even fewer participate regularly in church services.

However, “even in the secular society, there are certain Christian values that are very much alive – this wish to help poor people, to protect those who are in danger and to establish equal rights for everyone,” the cardinal-designate told Catholic News Service ahead of Pope Francis’ visit to Sweden in 2016. Cardinal-designate Arborelius hosted the Pope’s visit as part of an ecumenical commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation.

More than 60 per cent of Swedes are baptised members of the Lutheran Church of Sweden and just over one per cent are registered members of the Catholic Church, although Cardinal-designate Arborelius said that with the ever-increasing number of



**Pope Francis and then Bishop Anders Arborelius of Stockholm ride in a golf car in Malmo, Sweden**

immigrants in the country, the number of Catholics is probably double the official 115,000.

Born in Switzerland on September 24, 1949, to Swedish parents, he was raised in Sweden and converted to Catholicism at the age of 19.

He told CNS in 2016 that he had not been “very active” as a Lutheran, but that he always felt drawn to “the contemplative life or spirituality.”  
 “I always had this longing for a life of prayer and silent adoration.”



He said his family's contact with the Bridgettine Sisters had a deep influence on him and eventually he began taking courses in the Catholic faith.

He entered the Discalced Carmelites just two years after becoming Catholic, took vows in 1977 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1979.

He was ordained bishop of Stockholm in 1998. He was the first Swede to lead the Church there since 1522 because a long-standing shortage of native-born priests had meant that the Pope appointed bishops from other countries like Germany and the United States.

## Today in Christian History, May 29

**May 29, 1453:** Constantinople, capital of Eastern Christianity since Constantine founded it in 324, falls to the Turks under Muhammad II, ending the Byzantine Empire. Muslims rename the city Istanbul and turn its lavish cathedral, Hagia Sophia, into a mosque

**May 29, 1546:** In retaliation for the execution of Reformation preacher George Wishart, Scottish Protestants murder Cardinal David Beaton in St. Andrews. John Knox, who was not part of the assassination plot, went on to lead the Scottish Reformation.

**May 29, 1660:** England's King Charles II triumphantly enters London, marking the full restoration of the monarchy. Though he promised religious liberty, he cracked down on Dissenters (including John Bunyan) following a 1661 attempt by religious fanatics to overthrow him.

**May 29, 1874:** English essayist, poet, and writer G.K. Chesterton is born in London. The 400-pound man was occasionally absent-minded, but brilliant. He loved paradoxes, which he called "supreme assertions of truth," and used them often in his writing. Poet T.S. Eliot credited him with doing "more than any man in his time ... to maintain the existence of the [Christian] minority in the modern world." Chesterton converted from Anglicanism to Roman Catholicism in 1922.

**May 29, 1967:** Pope Paul VI names 27 new cardinals, including then-archbishop of Krakow, Poland, Karol Wojtyla, later to be Pope John Paul II.

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