

**CNI**  
**CHURCH**  
**NEWS**  
**IRELAND**

**Archbishop Clark - forbearance post Haas plea**  
**Dublin music programme for 2014**  
**CBE for former MU President**  
**Archbishop Martin suited to Vatican job**  
**Python's Life of Brian was gift to the church**  
**Good vicar key to falling congregations -**  
**Archbishop Welby**



## **Richard Haass and Pope Francis up for peace prize**

**Richard Haass and Pope Francis are among five nominees in line to receive the 2013 Tipperary International Peace Award.**

Belfast Telegraph - The winner will be announced in the coming days and the award presented in Tipperary later this year.

Dr Haass, who worked over Christmas to broker agreement on unresolved issues in the peace process, has previously been awarded the [US State Department's](#) Distinguished Service Award for his work in the province.

Pope Francis has been nominated for his humility, concern for the poor and commitment to dialogue as a way to build bridges between people of all backgrounds, beliefs and faiths, the Tipperary Peace Convention said.

Other nominees include the International Peace Bureau, which is dedicated to the vision of a world without war, Sister Mary Tarcisa Lokot for her work in helping to rebuild Northern [Uganda](#) and co-founder of the Taekwondo [Peace Corps](#), Dr Lee Kyu Hyung.

Previous winners include [Nelson Mandela](#), former Soviet President [Mikhail Gorbachev](#) and late Senator Gordon Wilson from Enniskillen, along with former US President [Bill Clinton](#) and President [Mary McAleese](#)..

Last year's winner was 16-year-old Pakistani schoolgirl Malala Yousafzai who was attacked by [Taliban](#) gunmen after she campaigned for girls to go to school without fear.

## Archbishop of Armagh asks for forbearance on Haass proposals



**The Most Revd Dr Richard Clarke, Archbishop of Armagh, said in a statement issued after the Northern Ireland parties failed to agree at talks chaired by Dr Richard Haas, ‘Although deeply disappointed, as so many must be, that full agreement between the five political parties of Northern Ireland on the Haass proposals has not been reached at this juncture, we still hope for**

**future rapprochement.**

“We are truly grateful to the huge efforts put in by Dr Richard Haass, Professor Meghan O’Sullivan and their team. We continue to pray that their careful groundwork will indeed come to valuable fruition in the future.

“One of the most powerful biblical concepts that we can reflect on today is the word “forbearance”. It is not the same as patience, although it is clearly associated with it. Forbearance essentially means *not demanding everything we believe we could legitimately or even reasonably demand of another person*; it is a “holding back” of ourselves in a spirit of generosity. It describes God’s dealings with humankind and it is what God therefore demands of us in our dealings with one another. A spirit of forbearance within us all is assuredly a prerequisite to a good and wholesome future in 2014 for Northern Ireland.

“Dr Haass used an interesting phrase some days ago when he said that the time had come “to fish or cut bait”. The origins of this phrase in the nineteenth century suggested a third option – “to fish, cut bait, or leave the boat”. Further time cutting bait may be necessary for our political leaders but none must metaphorically leave the boat.

“And so may God bless us all in this coming year. The people of Northern Ireland deserve a renewed and strenuous collaborative effort for an authentic peace from all those involved in its political processes.’

## Bishop beats Olympic athlete in race

**On 30 December, Tearfund challenged Olympic Silver Medalist Peter Chambers and Bishop Harold Miller to climb 45 metres to the top of the**

## Victoria Square Dome, while carrying 20 litres of water.

This is only a fraction of the height and distance which Ugandan teenagers have to climb to get water every day, water that their families' survival depends on. Both had been invited to launch a campaign that will bring clean water to more than 20 000 people in Africa.

Peter raced up the stairs to the top of the 45 metre high dome, carrying 20 litres of water. Bishop Harold also had 20 litres of water but he took the lift arriving at the top a few seconds ahead of the Olympic rower. When challenged he said, "We all need a lift in life at some point and for girls such



as Doreen and Jouvlett life is often unfair, but we can all make a real difference to the mountains they face by supporting this campaign which will bring clean water to thousands of families across Africa."

Peter Chambers said "That's right, it costs just £7 to help provide clean water for one person. Visit the Tearfund website [www.tearfund.org](http://www.tearfund.org) and be part of a miracle."

Christian Relief and Development agency Tearfund was launching its "One Big Mountain" campaign which aims to bring clean water to more than 20 000 people across Africa. The campaign got off to a flying start with a donation of



£150,000 from the Henderson Group. Between September and Christmas they donated 5p from the sale of every 2 litres of milk in SPAR, EUROSPAR, VIVO and VIVOXTRA stores across Northern Ireland. This will transform the lives of thousands of families in Uganda.

Tim Magowan Northern Ireland Director of Tearfund said; “This project will impact the lives of real individuals, families and whole communities. Take for example Beatrice, who I met recently in Uganda. Her daughters would have to travel by foot up to 4 hours a day to collect clean water. Since receiving a domestic water tank, her children now have the time to attend school and avoid the long and vulnerable journey to collect water each day. Through training, Beatrice has learnt how to install water tanks for others which has helped her earn money and increase her ability to feed her family”.

Previously Coleraine Olympians Peter and Richard Chambers had travelled to Uganda with Tearfund where they joined Doreen (aged 13) and Jouvillet (aged 11) on their daily 2 hour long trips to fetch water for their families. You can watch an inspirational video of their experiences here. [www.tearfund.org/mountain](http://www.tearfund.org/mountain)



*Peata carol service in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin*

## **Church Music Dublin Living Worship 2014**

**The popular Living Worship course for musicians, worship leaders (clergy and lay ministers), choir members and all with an interest in the music of worship will again be held in 2014. Practical skills are not required to take part.**

The course will begin on January 18 when Mark Duley will speak on the subject of ‘reimagining a tradition’. This session will focus new choral and congregational initiatives at Galway’s Collegiate Church of St Nicholas. Mark will initially focus on the new Schola Cantorum and will offer suggestions to enhance congregational singing in the liturgy. There will be plenty of scope for

learning and singing new material. Mark Duley is organist and choirmaster at St Nicholas' Church.

On January 25 Peter Barley will focus on 'successfully introducing new repertoire'. Peter will give practical tips on teaching new material to the congregation using the supplement to the Church Hymnal as a basis. This session will involve singing new material, receiving guidance on how to teach it and advice on where it fits within our worship. Peter is organist at St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick.

The final session will take place on February 1 when Aidan Greene will address the subject of 'gospel music within liturgy, an Irish perspective'. Aidan is the former musical director of Gardiner Street Gospel Choir. He will discuss the role of Gospel music in the liturgy and, in particular, in an Irish context. Aidan's work as a second level music teacher will inform his presentation of music that is accessible to all ages. There will be an opportunity to learn new repertoire and have a good sing.

All sessions take place in the Mageough Hall, Cowper Road, Rathmines. For details please see [www.churchmusicdublin.org/training](http://www.churchmusicdublin.org/training) or email: [honsec@churchmusicdublin.org](mailto:honsec@churchmusicdublin.org).



## Archbishop Martin 'perfect' for Vatican role

**Marie Collins, the prominent voice of abuse survivors in Ireland, has tipped Dublin's Archbishop Martin for a role in the newly-announced safeguarding commission to advise Pope Francis.**

Speaking to The Irish Catholic, Mrs Collins, said Archbishop Martin would be an ideal choice for the commission, given his role

at the coal-face in dealing with abuse issues in Dublin.

“He has been praised around the world for his work at diocesan level in putting safeguarding guidelines into place,” Mrs Collins pointed out. Of equal importance to anyone set to deal with Pope Francis on abuse and its implications, Mrs Collins added, “Archbishop Martin has dealt directly with survivors of abuse”.

Having met and worked with prelates in seeking recourse for survivors of clerical sexual abuse, Mrs Collins also named Bishop Charles Scicluna as a figure capable of bringing invaluable skills to the commission. Malta-based Bishop Scicluna, a former Promoter of Justice with the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, became synonymous with the Vatican’s crackdown on abuser priests under Pope Benedict XVI.

“Msgr Scicluna is very, very strong on accountability for bishops and following safeguarding guidelines,” Mrs Collins said.

The special commission to advise Pope Francis on safeguarding was announced on December 5 by Cardinal Sean O’Malley of Boston, a member of the Pope’s Council of Cardinals tasked with leading reform within the Church. Speaking to the press on that date, Cardinal O’Malley said the





safeguarding commission would be made up of priests, men and women religious, and laypeople. The cardinal stressed that “all those who are experts in the work of safeguarding children and all those who have been taking care of children” would be considered for the commission.

Mrs Collins questioned the apparent exclusion of members of survivors groups from that list.

“The commission will also be working on pastoral outreach and healing,” she said. “Not to involve survivors at that level would be a mistake.”

## **GB NEWS**



### **CBE for MU president in Honours list**

*A former Worldwide President of the Mothers' Union (MU), Rosemary Kempzell, has been appointed a Commander of the British Empire in the*

*New Year Honours list, for services to family life in the UK and abroad. A member for more than 35 years, she led the worldwide MU from 2006-2012*

### **Python's Life of Brian 'extraordinary tribute to Jesus'**

**Monty Python's Life of Brian 'extraordinary tribute to Jesus', says theologian decorated by Pope Francis**

Telegraph - The Life of Brian is more historically accurate in parts than some films about Jesus, says first non-Roman Catholic to receive the Papal award dubbed the theological 'Nobel Prize'.

It was once denounced as blasphemous and an insult to Christians, but one of Britain's most respected theologians insists that Monty Python's *Life of Brian*, is in fact a "remarkable tribute to the life of Jesus".

The Rev Prof Richard Burridge, Dean of King's College London, and a member of the Church of England's General Synod, said that those who called for the satire to be banned after its release in 1979 were "embarrassingly" ill-informed and missed a major opportunity to promote the Christian message.

Prof Burridge, whom Pope Francis recently presented with the Vatican's top theological award, the first non-Roman Catholic to receive it, said that the film's depiction of faction-ridden messianic movements in First Century Judea was probably a more accurate portrayal of the historical context than many Hollywood films about Jesus.

He was speaking as Michael Palin devoted a slot on BBC Radio 4's Today Programme, which he was invited to guest edit, to reliving the controversy over the film.

Palin and John Cleese were publicly castigated by the then Bishop of Southwark, the Rt Rev Mervyn Stockwood, and the Catholic journalist Malcolm Muggeridge in a high profile televised confrontation over the film. The bishop remarked that they would receive their "30 pieces of silver" for it.

## **A good vicar key to tackling failing congregation numbers**



**The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev Justin Welby, has issued a challenge to his priests to turn the tide of falling numbers of church-goers and make their congregations grow.**

Telegraph - He said



an initiative to engage with new worshippers by holding services in non-traditional venues like pubs and clubs had already swollen the church's ranks by the equivalent of two dioceses.

"The reality is that where you have a good vicar, you will find growing churches," he told BBC Radio 4's Today programme.

The Archbishop said he was "extremely hopeful" about the future of the Church of England, and said many local congregations were increasing in numbers.

However, he admitted: "We are falling in numbers and there is a change in the attitude to the Christian faith generally across the country. That is unquestionable. We need to be quite realistic about that."

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/10544036/Archbishop-of-Canterbury-a-good-vicar-is-key-to-tackling-falling-congregation-numbers.html>

## **Prayer for Today**

**God of justice,  
your word is light and truth.  
Let your face shine on us to restore us,  
that we may walk in your way,  
seeking justice and doing good. Amen.**