



CNI



Trócaire welcomes landmark climate deal in Paris

Trócaire warns that deal is a road map for urgent action as opposed to a definitive solution to protect people from the impacts of climate change.

The climate deal agreed by 195 countries at the UN talks in Paris on Saturday has been broadly welcomed as a historic breakthrough in the battle to stem climate change.

However, Irish development agency Trócaire has cautioned that the deal should be regarded as a road map for urgent action as opposed to a definitive solution to protect people from the worst impacts of climate change.

The four key elements of the deal are:

1 – A long-term goal to limit the increase in global average temperatures or global warming to “well below 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels” as this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change.

2 – National pledges to cut greenhouse gas emissions in the 2020s

3 – A plan to make countries pledge deeper emissions cuts in the future, improving their plans every five years.

4 – Rich nations to provide funding to poorer ones of up to \$100bn a year until 2025, and more thereafter, to help with the costs of going green,

and the costs of coping with the effects of climate change.

Welcoming the fact that political leaders from 195 countries have for the first time agreed a climate deal, Trócaire said that the eventual success of the Paris Agreement will be determined by future action to build on its foundation.

“The agreement represents a welcome milestone in uniting the world against climate change,” the agency said in a statement on Saturday.

However, according to Trócaire the deal contains significant weaknesses and must be built upon through urgent action from all sectors to protect the most vulnerable.

The absence of human rights at the heart of the agreement highlights the fact that the global political system is still not putting the needs of the world’s poorest people at the heart of its actions, Trócaire criticised.

Speaking from the UN Climate Summit in Paris, Trócaire’s Head of Policy, Lorna Gold said, “The fact that the whole world has agreed to united action on climate change for the first time is hugely significant. The Paris Agreement marks a

key shift from whether collective action is necessary, to what type of action is necessary and how it must be delivered.”

“This deal leaves us a long way from preventing the worst impacts of climate change for the most vulnerable but does increase political momentum on the issue. The deal is far from perfect, but it has the potential to set governments on a determined path.”

She said the deal was the result of the growing public demand for governments all over the world to take action on climate change.

“Governments knew they couldn’t return home without an agreement. This Summit has highlighted the fact that politicians are lagging behind people on the desire for climate action and they need to catch-up,” she suggested.

“No stroke of a pen can solve this urgent and growing crisis. This deal can set the right conditions and clear the path for even greater effort by everyone over the coming years. Public pressure must continue from all sides and everyone. Each of us has the opportunity to get on board and make positive changes.”

Commenting on terms of the agreement, Lorna Gold said that there are positive starting points, including a focus on providing financial support to developing countries impacted by climate change.

The couple who saved a Belfast church from destruction

A north Belfast church has been rescued from demolition by a new Pentecostal congregation in Dublin

Belfast Telegraph - It is set to be transformed into a new house of worship with two front doors to welcome people from both sides of the community on the peace line where it stands.

Belfast City Council's planning committee was due to discuss an application to raze Macrory Memorial Presbyterian Church on Duncairn Gardens, and build apartments on the site. It is understood the application will now be withdrawn.

The Belfast Telegraph can reveal the building, founded in 1896, was snapped up last week by



The church in Duncairn Gardens, which is to be taken over by the Abundant Grace Christian Assembly

the Abundant Grace Christian Assembly. Pastor Sharon Perry and husband Pastor Paul Perry, both originally from Newtownabbey, are the driving forces behind the church, which was set up in 2006.

Pastor Sharon said they had 24 church members who live in Northern Ireland, including 14 who travel to Dublin to attend services, and felt the time was right to set up their second church in Belfast.

"We have people who travel from Northern Ireland to come to church every Sunday, and we go up and do a midweek service every Wednesday," she said. "We have a cross-island community.

"We were looking for premises several years ago and we saw the church, but it wasn't the time for us back then. Earlier this year we felt it was time. The Lord was telling us to plant in Northern Ireland.

"We found the property again and saw it was still up for lease. We didn't want to lease it, so we spoke to the owners and on December 4 the sale completed."

While the location of Macrory Memorial, straddling a notorious peace line, may have put others off, Pastor Sharon said they see it as an opportunity to promote harmony.

"We think it is very significant because we are a non-denominational church open to everyone," she added.

"This church, as we refurbish, will have two front doors. We will have the door onto Duncairn Gardens for Tigers Bay residents to come in, but

we will also have a door on Hillman Street for those from the New Lodge.

"It is a cross-community church and we are excited to be on that peaceline and bring an overdue reconciliation."

Pastor Sharon said the church would open next Easter.

"It will be the celebration of the centenary of the Rising in Ireland, so we want to see other things rising as well," she added.

"We think it is a good time to see a new rising taking place."

Christmas Tree Festival Upper Kilwarlin, Lisburn

You are warmly invited to celebrate the Christmas story at a Christmas Tree Festival in the beautiful St John's Parish Church, Upper Kilwarlin.

The church will be open daily from Thursday 17–Saturday 19 December from 2–9.00 pm. Tea, coffee and festive treats will be on offer.

Programme:

- Opening Service with our favourite carols: 16 December at 8.00 pm
- Meadowbridge Primary School Choir: 17 December at 2.00 pm
- Sepon String Quartet: 17 December at 7.00 pm
- Carols through the evening with St John's Sunday School and Senior Choir: 18 December
- Closing service: 19 December at 8.00 pm
- Upper and Lower Kilwarlin Joint Carol Service in St James' Parish Church: 20 December at 11.00 am.

Donations are welcome and proceeds will be split between St John's and Maridi Diocese, South Sudan.

Sunday schools and bell ringing groups could face 'radicalisation' inspections

Ofsted inspectors could be sent into Sunday schools, church youth groups, Scout troops and even bell ringing circles to search for signs of children being "radicalised" under new counter-



extremism plans, church leaders and voluntary groups fear.

Telegraph - The proposals, backed by David Cameron, could lead to thousands of “out-of-school education settings” having to be formally registered for the first time and facing inspections to judge whether they are promoting so-called “British values”.

Christian groups said the proposals, outlined in a consultation paper published quietly by the Department for Education two weeks ago, could unwittingly turn Ofsted into a “state regulator of religion”.

In a letter to Nicky Morgan, the Education Secretary, seen by the Telegraph, the Christian institute argues that unless steps are taken to limit the plans, they would represent an “unprecedented attack on freedom of religion in our country”.

The Evangelical Alliance, an umbrella group representing around two million practising Christians in the UK, said it risked the “wholesale nationalisation of youth work and the indirect state regulation of private religious practice”.

More at -

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/12046557/Sunday-schools-and-bell-ringing-groups-could-face-radicalisation-inspections.html>

Salisbury canon banned from preaching in Winchester over his gay marriage

A clergyman from Salisbury has been banned from taking services in Winchester because he married his gay partner last year.

Salisbury Journal - Canon Jeremy Davies, who served as Canon Precentor at Salisbury

Cathedral for more than 25 years, has been told he cannot preach in the Winchester Diocese because he married opera singer Simon McEnery.

Winchester Cathedral had recently asked Canon Davies to take a number of services in the future, which he will now not be allowed to carry out.

The Diocese of Winchester objected to the fact that a year ago, Canon Davies married his partner of nearly thirty years.

More at -

http://www.salisburyjournal.co.uk/news/14141091.Salisbury_canon_banned_from_preaching_in_Winchester_over_gay_marriage/?ref=erec

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3357419/Church-England-clergyman-BANNED-conducting-services-married-gay-partner-25-years.html>

Vatican rejects 'institutional mission work' directed at Jews

The Vatican has told Catholics that they should not seek to convert Jews and stressed that the two faiths have a "unique" relationship.



It is seen as a new Vatican attempt to distance itself from centuries of Christian-Jewish tension and prejudice.

The [document](#) released on Thursday is not a doctrinal text, but a "stimulus for the future", the Vatican says.

It builds on the "Nostra aetate" (In Our Time) document which, 50 years ago, redefined Vatican ties with Judaism.

Nostra aetate rejected the concept of collective Jewish guilt for the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

The new document is called "The Gifts and Calling of God are Irrevocable" and was written by the Vatican's Commission for Religious Relations with Jews.

It says "the Catholic Church neither conducts nor supports any specific institutional mission work directed towards Jews".

Judaism, it points out, "is not to be considered simply as another religion; the Jews are instead our elder brothers".

It says that, in the presence of Jews, Catholics should express their faith "in a humble and sensitive manner, acknowledging that Jews are bearers of God's Word, and particularly in view of the great tragedy of the Shoah [Holocaust]".

Turning to the vexed question of salvation, the document says: "that the Jews are participants in God's salvation is theologically unquestionable, but how that can be possible without confessing Christ explicitly, is and remains an unfathomable divine mystery".

Jews and Catholics should jointly combat all forms of anti-Semitism, the document says,

condemning the Nazi slaughter of Jews in World War Two.

"History teaches us where even the slightest perceptible forms of anti-Semitism can lead: the human tragedy of the Shoah in which two-thirds of European Jewry were annihilated."

It made no direct reference to the medieval Inquisition, when the Catholic Church persecuted Jews and forced them to convert to Christianity.

Cardinal Kurt Koch and Fr Norbert Hofmann of the Vatican Commission presented the document on Thursday, and were joined by two Jewish representatives - Rabbi David Rosen and Dr Ed Kessler.

Media digest

Weekend Profile: Pro-life campaigner Bernie Smyth - The Irish News

<http://www.irishnews.com/lifestyle/2015/12/12/news/weekend-profile-pro-life-campaigner-bernie-smyth-350318/>

Mail on Sun

Preview of article by Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby writing in this week's *Big*

Issue about our welcome to Syrian refugees. He describes the many questions on the issue as valid and vital but adds: “They also point to a deeper and perhaps more urgent question, however: as a country, do we have the emotional and spiritual capacity to welcome those who need our help in the months and years ahead? I pray that we do have that capacity – the same capacity we've had for centuries when people have turned to us in crisis.”

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3357864/Welby-s-right-ask-UK-room-pray-help-refugees-need.html#ixzz3uBsEH9yL>

Tel/Sun/Mail/Mirror/Premier

Range of reports that a Church of England clergyman has been refused Permission to Officiate in Winchester Diocese because he has married his same-sex partner. Jeremy Davies who had served as Canon Precentor at Salisbury Cathedral for more than two decades applied for permission earlier this year. A spokesman for the diocese said: “Due to the Church of England’s position on same sex marriage, as set out in the House of Bishops’ Pastoral Guidance, Canon Jeremy Davies has been informed that his application has been unsuccessful.”

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/12047468/Church-of-England-clergyman-banned-over-same-sex-marriage.html>
<http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/6800175/Church-of-England-clergyman-banned-from-carrying-out-services-for-marrying-gay-partner.html>
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3357419/Church-England-clergyman-BANNED-conducting-services-married-gay-partner-25-years.html>
<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/church-england-clergyman-banned-taking-6998528>
<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Church-of-England-priest-banned-after-marrying-male-partne>

Mail on Sun

Report that the Equality and Human Rights Commission has urged DCM (Digital Cinema Media) to reverse their decision on banning the CofE's Lord's Prayer advert from being shown in cinemas before the Stars War film. A Church spokesman said the Commission had vindicated its stance and had made clear that DCM's 'blanket ban' on religious advertising was not consistent with the law. DCM said it had yet to hear from the Commission but remained confident in its decision.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3357829/Film-ban-Lord-s-Prayer-attack-Britain-s-free-speech.html#ixzz3uBuYBSYI>

Editorial (*scroll down*)

churchnewsireland@gmail.com

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-3357754/MAIL-SUNDAY-COMMENT-Healing-wounds-Guantanamo.html>

Mail on Sun

Report that when London vicar Cris Rogers and his Star Wars-mad children learned the Church of England Lord's Prayer advert had been banned by cinemas, they made their own spoof version, reciting the Lord's Prayer as Star Wars characters – and posted it on YouTube. But Sony took it down due to copyright. YouTube later reinstated after an appeal saying copyright does not apply to using the music in a parody.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3357861/Vicar-Star-Wars-mad-children-make-hilarious-spoof-Church-England-Lord-s-Prayer-advert-Sony-ban-copyright-infringement.html#ixzz3uBtKYmE5>

Mail on Sun

Peter Hitchens writes on last week's report from the Commission on Religion and Belief in Public Life criticising both the BBC coverage and make-up of the panel.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-3357881/PETER-HITCHENS-Goodbye-Christianity-hello-multicultural-wasteland.html>