



## **Irish priest is now one of the Pope's most senior officials**

An Irish priest has been appointed to a senior position in the Vatican by Pope Francis.

Monsignor Paul Tighe, who worked as a priest in Dublin, held the position of secretary of a communications council in the Vatican for the past eight years.

This was aimed at reforming Vatican media, and was chaired by former BBC Trust chairman Chris Patten.

On Saturday morning Pope Francis approved his appointment as secretary of the Pontifical Council for Culture and titular bishop of Drivasto.

Born in 1958, Tighe was ordained in 1983 and his first appointment was as a parish chaplain and teacher in Ballyfermot.

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin described Tighe as “a person of integrity and competence, whose innovation in media relations has made a significant impact in the Church around the world”. Martin added that Tighe’s previous appointment to the social communications council ‘a sign of the personal appreciation of Pope Francis for his work’.

## **Liberal Presbyterian minister who promoted Catholic emancipation honoured**

A nineteenth century Presbyterian minister who promoted Catholic emancipation has been



***Rev Dr Henry Montgomery (1788-1865) - Minister of  
Dunmurry and Head of English at RBAI - Inst***

honoured with an Ulster History Circle blue plaque.

News Letter - Henry Montgomery was born in Killead, Co Antrim in 1788, attended Crumlin Academy, and was ordained in 1809.

The preacher, teacher and reformer had a long association with the First Presbyterian (Non-Subscribing) church in Dunmurry, and the plaque

in his honour was unveiled on the Glebe Road building on Friday past.

Rev Montgomery became English master at Belfast Academical Institution in 1817.

He would later have a Doctorate of Laws conferred upon him by Glasgow University, and was also elected Moderator of the General Synod of Ulster.

However, he had a fierce rivalry with one of the most influential Presbyterians of the time, who was also one of the great public figures of Belfast.

Henry Cooke - in modern times referred to as the 'Black Man' because of his statue outside Royal Belfast Academical Institution in College Square East - was often referred to as the "Presbyterian Pope" due to the powers he exercised over the church.

Montgomery's differences with Cooke are well-documented, and Montgomery was instrumental in the formation of the breakaway Non-Subscribing Presbyterian church.

In the years that followed, he published pamphlets and edited The Bible Christian.

Montgomery was also an outspoken advocate of Catholic emancipation, but a strong opponent of nationalist attempts to have the 1800 Act of Union between Great Britain and Ireland repealed.

At Strabane in 1827, Montgomery was reported to have “made a deep impression” with a powerful speech in favour of religious liberty.

The plaque unveiling ceremony was carried out by the Very Reverend William McMillan MBE, minister emeritus of the church.

Chris Spurr, chairman of the Ulster History Circle said: “Henry Montgomery, minister, teacher, reformer, is renowned as the champion of the non-subscribing Presbyterians and had a long association with the Glebe Road church at Dunmurry.

“The Ulster History Circle is delighted to commemorate this distinguished minister at his church, on the 150th anniversary of his death in 1865.”

Mr Spurr added: “The Circle would particularly like to thank the Ulster-Scots Agency for their financial support towards the plaque.”

## New initiative for Connor youth

A new Connor Youth Forum was launched by Connor Youth Council at its Christmas Celebration Event held in Antrim Parish Halls.

The Connor Youth Forum will give young people an opportunity to help shape youth ministry across the local church and the diocese.

The Forum is for young people who are aged 15+ and there can be one or two representatives from each parish.

The youth forum will offer young people:

- A voice in the direction of youth ministry across the Diocese
- Opportunities to develop their skills and ability in leadership
- Opportunity to develop their own faith
- A place to develop relationships with other young people across the diocese

At the Christmas Event, the Youth Council announced the names of those already signed up. They are:

Sarah Mills & Beth Taylor from Lambeg  
Robbie Watt & Ryan Woods from Muckamore  
Sara McGucken & Katie Williamson from Lisburn  
Cathedral  
Adam Steen & Ava Martin from St Patrick's,  
Coleraine  
Ciaran Hampton & Catherine Forde from the  
Church of the Resurrection

Diocesan Youth Officer Christina Baillie said: “We would love to see more young people from across the diocese engaged with this exciting project! We believe that it will be a great opportunity to connect young people to the local church and help them understand the Church of Ireland at a deeper level.”

To get involved, contact Christina on 07753312405 or [christina@connor.anglican.org](mailto:christina@connor.anglican.org).

## **Further allegations of abuse against C of I ex-church worker**

A former lay worker with the Church of Ireland accused of sexually abusing ten boys between 1977 and 1990 faces allegations by four further complainants.



***Patrick O'Brien, 76, is facing 75 counts of indecent assault at numerous locations***

RTE news - Patrick O'Brien, 76, is facing [75 counts of indecent assault](#) at numerous locations throughout the State including Kildare, Westmeath, on a boat in Loughrea in Co Galway and at St Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin.

Mr O'Brien, with an address at Knocklyon Road, Templeogue, Dublin, was previously sent forward for trial from Dublin District Court.

He had appeared earlier this month before Judge Martin Nolan at Dublin Circuit Criminal Court for arraignment.



Anne Rowland BL, prosecuting, today submitted to Judge Nolan that there were four further complainants in the case.

Judge Nolan acceded to the request of Niall Nolan BL, defending, to assign a senior counsel to the defence team and adjourned the matter for arraignment to 3 March 2016.

No plea has been entered yet on any of the charges.

Judge Cormac Dunne previously ruled that the media could identify the accused following an application by RTÉ at the District Court.

Judge Dunne said nothing must be published that would identify any of the alleged victims and noted that there was no evidence that publishing the defendant's name would link him to the complainants.

## **Mother Teresa to become saint after Pope recognises second miracle**

Pope Francis has recognised a second miracle attributed to the late Mother Teresa, clearing the



***Mother Teresa cradles an armless baby girl at her order's orphanage.***

path for the nun to be elevated to sainthood next year, the Vatican said today.

Mother Teresa, celebrated for her work with the poor in the Indian city of Kolkata, is expected to be canonised on September 4, a day already dedicated to the late nun's memory, experts say.

Archbishop of Kolkata Thomas D'Souza said the Vatican has recognised that Mother Teresa cured a Brazilian man suffering from multiple brain tumours in 2008.

Teresa, who was born to Albanian parents in what is now Skopje in Macedonia, was known across the world for her charity work. She died in 1997 at the age of 87.

Nicknamed the “Saint of the Gutters”, she dedicated her life to the poor, the sick and the dying in the slums of Kolkata, one of India’s biggest cities, founding the Missionaries of Charity order of nuns. She won a Nobel Peace Prize in 1979.

She was beatified by then pope John Paul II in a fast-tracked process in 2003, in a ceremony attended by some 300,000 pilgrims. Beatification is a first step towards sainthood.

Her missionary order in Kolkata – formerly known as Calcutta – said it was “thrilled” and grateful to Pope Francis.

In 2002, the Vatican officially recognised a miracle Mother Teresa was said to have carried out after her death, namely the 1998 healing of a Bengali tribal woman, Monika Besra, who was suffering from an abdominal tumour.

The traditional canonisation procedure requires at least two miracles.

The second miracle involved a 35-year-old Brazilian man who had not long been married when he was diagnosed with eight brain tumours in 2008, according to Vatican expert Andrea Torielli.

On 9 December, the man was wheeled into the operating room in an induced coma, but doctors were forced to delay the medical procedure by half an hour because of technical problems. While they waited, the man's wife led prayers to Mother Teresa in the hospital's chapel. When the surgeon returned to the operating room he is said to have found the patient awake, sitting up and asking "what am I doing here?"

"I have never seen a case like it," the surgeon was quoted as saying, after a CAT scan showed that the Brazilian's tumours "had suddenly and inexplicably disappeared", Torielli said in La Stampa daily.

## **Archbishop Eamon Martin welcomes Pope's recognition of Mother Teresa**

Archbishop Eamon Martin welcomes the news that Pope Francis has recognised a second

miracle attributed to Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

Archbishop Martin said “With the recognition of this second miracle the Church will soon acknowledge Blessed Teresa as one amongst the communion of saints. Blessed Teresa is much loved in Ireland and was a frequent visitor to our country. At the age of 18, Blessed Teresa came here to study English and begin her life as a nun with the Loreto Sisters of Dublin. In this Year of Mercy, I am conscious of a convent of Missionaries of Charity in Armagh and indeed Missionaries of Charity in several other Irish dioceses. This news today reminds us of the life of mercy that Blessed Mother Teresa lived as one who was ‘merciful as our heavenly Father is merciful’. “I ask the faithful to pray to Blessed Teresa, and to remember the intentions of Pope Francis in our prayers at this time,” said Archbishop Martin.

## **News links**

### **IRA bomb survivor faces stern test as Northern Ireland's first female leader**

Reuters UK ... her more liberal **Church of Ireland** background and former membership of the UUP, with

whom she split over whether to share power with Sinn Fein.

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-britain-nireland-foster-idUKKBN0U01JR20151217>

## **Arlene Foster: A pragmatic woman who can be the new face of an evolving NI - Belfast Telegraph**

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/opinion/editors-viewpoint/arlene-foster-a-pragmatic-woman-who-can-be-the-new-face-of-an-evolving-ni-34297435.html>

## **Pictures of the Week**

Irish Times

FESTIVE SPIRIT: People gather at an Irish Cancer Society candle of hope event in Christ **Church** Cathedral, Dublin, to remember all those in **Ireland** ...

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/pictures-of-the-week-1.2471261>

## **Priest cleared of allegations resumes duties - BBC News**

A senior priest who was cleared of abuse allegations more than three years ago has returned to his duties. Fr John McManus, from Portaferry, County Down, stepped aside in March 2011 during an investigation.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-35145104>

## **SF TDs silent over Adams's links to IRA tax dodger - Irish Independent**

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/politics/sf-tds-silent-over-adamss-links-to-ira-tax-dodger-34300448.html>

**Thomas 'Slab' Murphy was 'treated unfairly' by justice system - Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams - Irish Independent**

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/politics/thomas-slab-murphy-was-treated-unfairly-by-justice-system-sinn-fin-president-gerry-adams-34301347.html>

**Gerry Adams: 'Slab' Murphy is still a good republican - Journal.ie**

<http://www.thejournal.ie/gerry-adams-slab-murphy-2512210-Dec2015/>

**Catholic Church isn't a force of evil when it comes to schools debate - Irish Examiner**

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/viewpoints/columnists/victoria-white/catholic-church-isnt-a-force-of-evil-when-it-comes-to-schools-debate-371942.html>

**Sending your child to the school of choice via a baptism cert - Irish Examiner**

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/viewpoints/columnists/michael-clifford/sending-your-child-to-the-school-of-choice-via-a-baptism-cert-372387.html>

**Months after Ashers, Court 12 was filled with Christians again - Belfast Newsletter**

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/northern-ireland-news/months-after-ashers-court-12-was-filled-with-christians-again-1-7124290>

## **MP's fury as 40-pupil Irish school replaces college axed over low numbers - Belfast Telegraph**

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/mp-fury-as-40pupil-irish-school-replaces-college-axed-over-low-numbers-34299910.html>

## **Mail**

Diary item by journalist Peter Osborne in which he suggests that the Queen should step down as patron of the RSPCA. He writes that two years ago, the Archbishop of Canterbury declined an invitation to become a vice patron of the charity.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-3366586/Theresa-electrify-Europe-debate-says-Peter-Oborne.html>

## **BBC/Ind**

Reports and comment marking the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of civil partnerships. Includes a comment piece by campaigner Peter Tatchell calling for civil partnerships to be available for opposite sex couples. The Independent features Rev Richard Kirker and his partner Steve Caldwell who live in Whitechapel, London, and became civil partners in 2006.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-35136125>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/civil-partnerships-marriage-rights-have-created-an-inequality-a6779261.html>



<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/civil-partnerships-examining-their-impact-10-years-after-the-first-gay-weddings-a6779256.html>

## **Times**

Feature on Christmas TV which cites the Bishop of Leeds Nick Baines and his article for the Christmas edition of Radio Times in which he wrote about how watching television at Christmas helps bring families together

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/arts/tv-radio/article4644553.ece>

## **BBC**

Report on the start of a £4.5 million revamp of Holy Trinity Church, Hull

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-humber-35131985>

## **Ind/BBC/Tel/Express**

Various reports on the planned canonisation of Mother Teresa after Pope Francis recognised a second miracle attributed to her.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-india-35137622>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/the-pope/12057460/Mother-Teresa-to-be-made-a-saint-says-Vatican-Pope-Francis-miracles.html>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/mother-teresa-why-the-catholic-missionary-is-still-no-saint-to-her-critics-a6778906.html>

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/628032/Mother-Teresa-saint-Pope-Francis-curing-brain-infection>

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## **Sunday Express**

Article by former Archbishop of Canterbury Lord Carey urging David Cameron to consider ways in which a 'good number' of Christian Syrians can find refuge in the UK. He says the Prime Minister's pledge to bring 1,000 Syrians from the UN camps before Christmas has been met but there is no information on whether any of them include Christians or other oppressed minorities. An editorial in the newspaper calls on politicians not to 'pass by' in the face of the persecution of Christians in the Middle East

<http://www.express.co.uk/comment/expresscomment/628223/British-Government-should-help-Christian-refugees-George-Carey>

<http://www.express.co.uk/comment/expresscomment/628220/Cameron-must-act-slaughter-Christians>

## **Sun on Sunday**

Canon Andrew White, emeritus vicar of St George's Church in Baghdad, writes about the true meaning of Christmas and the work of the Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation in the Middle East, of which he is President. He says that given the worsening situation in Iraq, he fears for the long-term survival of Christianity in the Middle East.

<http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/6815024/Canon-Andrew-White-writes-Christmas-message-from-Bethlehem.html>

## **Sunday Tel**

Report which says the Telegraph understands the BBC is preparing 'significant' cuts to its religion and ethics budget. The article quotes the Bishop of Norwich, Graham James, and the Bishop of Leeds, Nick Baines, who highlight the importance of public service broadcasting in promoting greater understanding of religion. It also refers to criticism of the BBC by the Bishop of Gloucester, Rachel Treweek, for scheduling minimal new religious broadcasting over Christmas this year

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/12060153/Bishops-BBCs-cuts-to-religion-aid-extremism.html>

## **Sunday Times**

'A Life in the Day' feature with the Bishop of Stockport, Libby Lane. The interview has been published close to the first anniversary of the announcement of Bishop Libby as the Church of England's first female bishop.

[http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/Magazine/article1645579.ece?CMP=OTH-gnws-standard-2015\\_12\\_19](http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/Magazine/article1645579.ece?CMP=OTH-gnws-standard-2015_12_19)

## **Mail on Sunday**

Report which says the Queen will deliver her 'most Christian message yet' in her annual Christmas broadcast this year. The article quotes former Bishop of Rochester, Michael Nazir-Ali.

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3367410/Queen-s-Speech-overtly-Christian-monarch-s-Christmas-message-takes-particular-significance-light-year-ISIS-inspired-attacks.html?ITO=1490&ns\\_mchannel=rss&ns\\_campaign=1490](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3367410/Queen-s-Speech-overtly-Christian-monarch-s-Christmas-message-takes-particular-significance-light-year-ISIS-inspired-attacks.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

## **Mail on Sunday**

Lord Weidenfield writes about the fund he has established to help rescue Christians from Syria. In the article, he says this work has been inspired by his own experience of being helped by a Plymouth Brethren family who took him in when he came to Britain as a refugee from the Nazis.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-3367492/Christians-saved-Nazis-save-greater-evil-Powerful-eloquent-utterly-gripping-Jewish-peer-96-mission-stop-massacre-innocents.html>

## **Sunday Mirror**

Interview with Rev Eileen Tavernor, of Leintwardine, Herefordshire and her husband Francis on the third anniversary of his liver transplant

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/real-life-stories/christmas-day-miracle-vicars-prayers-7041681>

### Mail on Sunday

Report that Torbay Street Pastors are set to hand out their 10,000<sup>th</sup> pair of flip flops to revellers struggling to get home in Torquay, Devon.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3367485/Totter-home-comfort-gold-flip-flops-Pastors-prepare-hand-10-000th-pair-beach-shoes-drunk-women.html>

### New Statesman

Peter Wilby writes that in spite of his 'atheist faith' he will try to attend at least one carol service and possibly a midnight Mass in protest at the 'commercial baggage and babble' that surrounds Christmas.

<http://www.newstatesman.com/politics/uk/2015/12/we-should-all-celebrate-christian-story-whether-or-not-we-are-believers>

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