



# CNI

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# The Irish Catholic

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## Irish Catholic priest: 1916 Rising was an unjust war

A senior Irish Catholic priest has said that the 1916 Easter Rising did not meet the long-established Christian tests for a 'just war' and was closer to pagan thought than to Christianity.

Sam McBride in News Letter - Fr Seamus Murphy, a Jesuit priest and a philosophy

professor at Loyola University in Chicago. argued that the rebellion “passes none of the ‘just war’ criteria ... it had a pagan love of war and blood-sacrifice, and it attacked important political common goods”.

Fr Murphy, an expert in Catholic ethics and the circumstances in which armed force is necessary, made the comments in [an article for The Irish Catholic newspaper.](#)

The all-island religious newspaper has published a special edition examining the 1916 Rising from a range of Catholic perspectives.

Fr Murphy said that those involved in the uprising had broken a key principle necessary to establish whether any war was a morally defensible last resort – that civilians must not be targeted or knowingly endangered.

He said: “On the first day of the Rising, the Volunteers and Irish Citizen Army (ICA) members deliberately killed some civilians and unarmed Dublin Metropolitan Police constables ... there were far more civilian (260) than rebel (82) or combined military and police (142) deaths, and responsibility for their deaths lies primarily with the leaders of the Rising.”

He said that the leaders of the Rising also disregarded a central rule in the theory of just war by starting a conflict where they had no hope of success and by doing so with no mandate – such as that enjoyed by the democratically elected Irish Parliamentary Party (IPP).

“With no authority, the Rising’s leaders declared a republic, nominated themselves as its government, and shot anybody in their way.

Read more: <http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/northern-ireland-news/irish-catholic-priest-1916-rising-was-an-unjust-war-1-7130335#ixzz3v9vdgHhb>

## **Archbishops’ Christmas message on RTE**

The Christmas Message of the Primates from Armagh will be broadcast on RTE One TV at 12.30 on Christmas Day. It will also be broadcast on RTE Radio and available on the RTE Player.

Archbishop Richard Clarke and Archbishop Eamon Martin will present a joint message focusing on memories and hope for the year ahead, with special contributions this year from older people from a range of backgrounds, tying

in with this year's Age NI focus on supporting older people who may feel isolated (see [www.ageni.org](http://www.ageni.org)).

The broadcast will also include carol singing at the Shambles, Armagh, from pupils from Armagh Royal School and St Catherine's College, Armagh.

## **Flame of hope from Palestine burns in Monkstown, Connor**

A flame of hope first lit by a child in Palestine and passed to an Israeli Boy Scout at the border before travelling through various countries reached the Church of the Good Shepherd in Monkstown on Monday December 21.

The Rev Arlene Moore, Priest-in-Charge of the Church of the Good Shepherd, explained: "Tonight we received the flame from St Oliver Plunkett's RC parish as Deboragh Webb brought it to our Blue Christmas service.

"It was then used to light the candle on the Communion Table and those of the Advent wreath. Prayers were said for those who have suffered loss of any kind, especially



***The flame of hope burns in the Church of the Good Shepherd, Monkstown.***

bereavement, that they may know the light of hope in their darkness this St Thomas' Day.

“We also prayed as one for peace in our homes, peace in our own land of Northern Ireland and for

peace in the Middle East and the work of [Canon Andrew White](#) and FRRME.

“At the end of the service the congregation filed up to the front whilst singing Silent Night to light their individual candles from it and take the light of hope into the darkness of the night and the community of Monkstown, or home to wherever they came from.”

Arlene added: “My candle will burn in its lantern and be used at all services over Christmas. Feel free to bring a lantern to one of our services and take a light to your home and family this Christmas.”

## **Snow Patrol's Gary Lightbody donates Belfast gig cash to Northern Ireland charities**

Gary Lightbody was back in Belfast to play a special acoustic gig - and he proved that home is where his heart is as he donated all proceeds to Northern Ireland charities.

The Snow Patrol singer played a special solo performance in the Waterfront Hall to a captivated crowd on Tuesday night.



### ***Gary Lightbody***

Social media was ablaze as fans gushed about the show as the Bangor man took to the stage playing hits including Run, Take Back the City and the classic Chasing Cars.

He was given a warm welcome as he returned to the city after touring America.

And to top it all off he revealed that he was donating all proceeds from the show to children's charities in Northern Ireland.

One fan tweeted: "Unforgettable night. Gary Lightbody took back the city and donated all proceeds to NI charities."

"What a performance. Great banter and so lovely to hear your work stripped back."

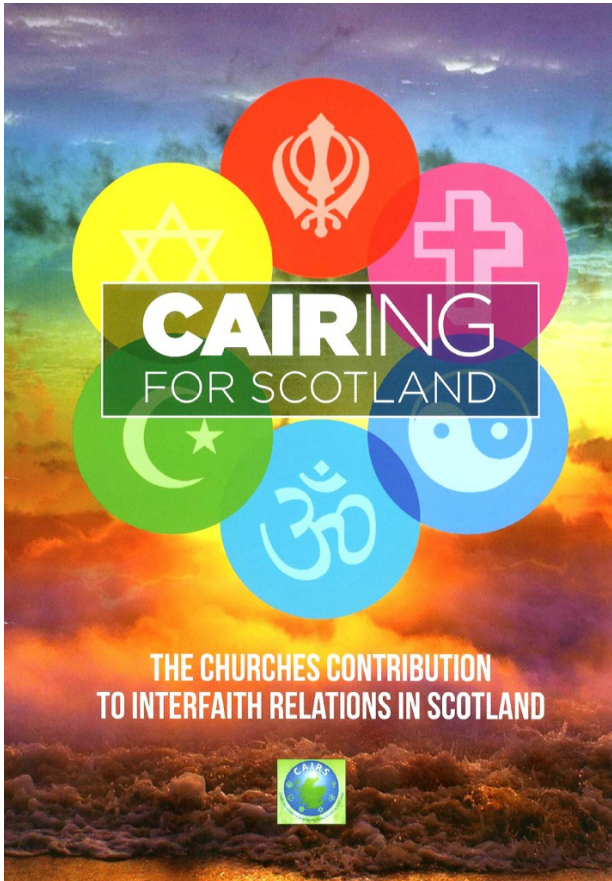
## **Booklet highlights Inter-faith relations in Scotland**

A new booklet 'CAIRing for Scotland' has recently been launched to highlight the work of interfaith relations in Scotland. Copies of the booklet have been sent to each of the seven dioceses of the Scottish Episcopal Church.

The booklet records the 14 year history of CAIRS (Churches Agency for Interfaith Relations in Scotland) and features the following: Scotland A Diverse Nation; The Churches and Interfaith: Scottish Churches and Developments in Interfaith Relations; Ecumenical Collaboration (CAIRS); The Council of Christians and Jews (CCJ); A Christian/Muslim Forum; Local Interfaith Groups; The Scottish Interfaith Council; Religious Leaders of Scotland; a conclusion followed by 3 personal testimonies (Dominic Ind – Episcopalian; Andrew Sarle – Presbyterian; Isabel Smyth – Roman Catholic).

The Rev Dominic Ind, a key contributor to the booklet says "What might touch you about the [churchnewsireland@gmail.com](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.com)





story told in CAIRing for Scotland is that it is a genuinely good news story. We hear much negativity in places such as the Middle East and often religion is perceived as a negative force whether that is in Jerusalem or much closer to home here in Scotland. This is a story of religion bringing people together, creating community

and being a force for good. The Church has played a key role and offered Good News about a man who proclaimed peace and reconciliation. We as Episcopalians may take some pride in our role, that often we have been at the forefront of developing interfaith work in Scotland. It is good news for us; good news for the Church in Scotland and indeed, good news for people of all faiths or none, who make up Scottish society.”

## **Silent Night still the UK’s favourite Christmas carol**

Silent Night is the UK’s favourite Christmas carol. It topped the Sunday Express poll, carried out with Classic FM, for the second year in a row.

### **The Top 30 Carols**

- 1 Silent Night
- 2 O Holy Night
- 3 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
- 4 In The Bleak Mid-Winter – Gustav Holst version
- 5 O Come All Ye Faithful
- 6 Once In Royal David’s City
- 7 O Little Town Of Bethlehem

- 8 Away In A Manger
- 9 In The Bleak Mid-Winter – Harold Darke  
version
- 10 God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
- 11 Ding Dong! Merrily On High
- 12 Joy To The  
World
- 13 Carol Of The Bells
- 14 O Come, O Come Emmanuel
- 15 Coventry Carol
- 16 It Came Upon A Midnight Clear
- 17 In Dulci Jubilo
- 18 The Holly And The Ivy
- 19 Gaudete
- 20 Sussex Carol
- 21 The Three Kings
- 22 See Amid The Winter's  
Snow
- 23 Gabriel's Message
- 24 Angels From The Realms Of Glory
- 25 The First Noel
- 26 Shepherd's Pipe Carol
- 27 Jesus Christ The Apple Tree
- 28 Candlelight Carol
- 29 Angel's Carol
- 30 Good King Wenceslas

[http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/628222/  
Favourite-Christmas-Carol-Silent-Night](http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/628222/Favourite-Christmas-Carol-Silent-Night)

## **Pope Francis warns Vatican: I will reform 'diseased' bureaucracy**

Pope Francis told Vatican administrators on Monday that he intended to press ahead "with firm resolve" to cleanse the Church's bureaucracy which has been rocked by scandals and charges of greed and corruption.

In traditional Christmas greetings to the Curia, the central Vatican administration, the 79-year-old pontiff said he had flu and excused himself for reading the speech seated, though he showed no signs of illness and later stood to greet the dozens of officials.

As it was last year, his speech was dominated by his intentions of ridding the Vatican's bureaucracy of spiritual "diseases" – a reference to alleged corrupt practices among top administrators – despite resistance in the Church hierarchy.

"It seems necessary to state what has been, and ever shall be, the object of sincere reflection and decisive provisions. The reform will move forward with determination, clarity and firm resolve," he said.

At the same gathering last year he issued a stinging criticism of the Curia, listing a catalogue of "diseases" in the bureaucracy including careerism, scheming and greed that had infected them with "spiritual Alzheimer's".

Returning to the theme on Monday, he said: "Some of these diseases became evident in the course of the past year, causing no small pain to the entire body and harming many souls, even with scandals."

This was an apparent reference to a current trial in the Vatican where five people, including two members of the Curia and two journalists, are charged with the theft of confidential papal documents.

The leaks were the basis of two books published last month that depicted a Vatican plagued by greed and corruption and where the pope faces stiff resistance to his reform agenda.

Francis noted cases "of resistance, difficulties and failures" by some Curia employees opposed to his reforms.

Joking that some in the Curia still needed "Curial antibiotics," he added that "diseases and even scandals cannot obscure" the good work that many of them do for the 1.2 billion-member Church.

In a separate address to non-clerical Vatican employees and their families, Francis asked "for forgiveness for the scandals there have been in the Vatican, especially recently" and asked them to pray for those who had "erred".

Shortly after his election two years ago, Francis set out to reform the Italian-dominated Curia, whose power struggles and leaks were widely held responsible for Benedict XVI's decision in 2013 to become the first pope in six centuries to resign.

Francis, the first non-European pope in 1,300 years, has refused many of the trappings of office and made plain his determination to bring the Church hierarchy closer to the poor.

But while he has renounced the spacious papal apartments in the Apostolic Palace, some officials have faced criticism, including former Secretary of State Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone over the restoration of a luxurious retirement apartment.

Bertone, an Italian who was widely blamed for the Curia woes under Pope Benedict, offered at the weekend to repay 150,000 euros (\$162,990) to a Church-affiliated children's hospital that helped pay for the costly renovations.

## **News links to reports on faith, politics and education**

**People in commerce, politics and academe need to speak up in defence of academic standards in Northern Ireland schools, a former leading headmaster says - News Letter**

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/we-must-speak-up-to-defend-academic-standards-says-former-headmaster-1-7130551>

**Wonders in stained glass - News Letter**

Her Angel of Resurrection: 'Why seek ye the living among the dead' is in St Ninnidh's Church of Ireland, Innishmacsaint and Innocence Walking in the ...

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/roamer-wonders-in-stained-glass-1-7129326>

### **Exp/Mail/Tel**

Digital Cinema Media (DCM) has refused to show an advert for the Christmas Starts With Christ campaign at Odeon, Vue and Cineworld multiplexes – because it is “too religious”. It shows a nativity scene. Spokesmsn from [ChurchAds.net](http://www.ChurchAds.net), and CofE are quoted. DCM recently banned a CofE advert featuring the Lord’s Prayer, due to be screened before the new Star Wars film.

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/628991/Fury-another-Christmas-advert-banned-cinemas-featuring-Nativity-scene>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3370991/No-room-clNNema-Anger-advertising-chiefs-ban-advert-showing-Nativity-scene-Mary-Joseph-baby-Jesus.html>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/12064735/No-room-at-the-cinema-for-the-baby-Jesus.html>

### **BBC/Times/Exp/Mail**

A special service has been held at Glasgow Cathedral to mark the first anniversary of the bin lorry crash in the city centre. Church leaders led prayers and reflections at the ecumenical service attended by 700 people including First Minister Nicola Sturgeon. A candle was lit for each of the



six people who died after the vehicle careered out of control with its driver unconscious at the wheel.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-35152590>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/scotland/article4648440.ece>

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/628979/>

[Glasgow-remember-victims-bin-lorry-tragedy](#)

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3370635/Candles-lit-victims-Glasgow-bin-lorry-crash-anniversary.html?](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3370635/Candles-lit-victims-Glasgow-bin-lorry-crash-anniversary.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

[ITO=1490&ns\\_mchannel=rss&ns\\_campaign=1490](#)

## **Time Out**

Behind the scenes at Christmas – St Paul's Cathedral

<http://www.timeout.com/london/blog/behind-the-scenes-at-christmas-st-pauls-cathedral-122215>

## **Mail/Guard**

Bell ringers at a St Mary's in Bramshott, Hampshire have ended a two-and-a-half year 'strike' after a compromise was reached over service times. The bells fell silent in June 2013 when the church changed its service start time from 11.15am to 9.15am. The bell ringers feared

that the earlier time would have meant local residents would have been disturbed. Now the church has announced that an agreement with a new start time of 9.30am and it is holding a special service on January 3.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-3370913/Village-bells-sound-ringers-went-strike-two-half-years.html>

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/dec/22/bellringers-end-two-and-a-half-year-strike>

## **Comment**

**Christianity Today:** Bishop of Manchester – Why foodbank appeals are the new normal.

<http://www.christiantoday.com/article/bishop.of.manchester.why.foodbank.appeals.are.the.new.normal/74397.htm>

**Times:** Linda Woodhead – “Relationships are the new religion at Christmas Time”

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/thunderer/article4648128.ece>

**Spectator:** What happened to real Christmases?

<http://www.spectator.co.uk/2015/12/whatever-happened-to-real-christmases/>

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