



Diplomacy: the Northern Ireland First Minister and DUP leader, Arlene Foster, with the British ambassador to Ireland, Dominick Chilcott, at a Church of Ireland evening of presentations and discussion to mark the centenary of the 1916 Rising, at Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, on Wednesday. The Taoiseach, Enda Kenny (out of picture), sat next to Mrs Foster during the debate -

Church Times report in this issue of CNI

Cathedral's 'Come and Sing' Stainer's Crucifixion will aid Gaza hospital

Christ Church Cathedral is issuing an invitation to parish choirs throughout Dublin and Glendalough to 'Come and Sing' *The Crucifixion* by John Stainer with the Cathedral Choir during Holy Week. While parish choirs can enjoy the experience of singing in the magnificent cathedral on Monday March 21, they will also be raising funds for the solar panel project in Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza.

All parish choirs are invited to 'Come and Sing' and individuals who sing may also join. They are asked to register their interest in advance and music will be provided to them to enable them to practice. There will be a rehearsal involving the choirs at 5.30 pm on Monday March 21 prior to the performance which will begin at 8.00 pm.

"We will be setting the scene for Holy Week with by singing this wonderful piece," explains Christ Church's Residential Priest Vicar, the Revd Garth Bunting. "As we're beginning our Holy Week journey on Monday night we will be remembering the people of Gaza who are living in a difficult situation. We want people to come

Christ Church Cathedral Choir
CONDUCTOR Ian Keatley
ORGANIST David Bremner

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL DUBLIN

'Come-and-Sing'
performance
in aid of
Al Ahli Hospital
in Gaza

THE CRUCIFIXION
BY JOHN STAINER

Monday 21 March 2016 at 8pm
Christ Church Cathedral Dublin
5.30pm rehearsal for participating singers
Singers participation fee €15 (registration details below)
Audience Tickets €20 from christchurchcathedral.ie

Christ Church Cathedral's Music Diocesan Outreach Project is supporting Revd Garth Bunting to raise €10,000 in aid of Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza. To register as a participating singer please contact Ian Keatley, Organist and Director of Music: ian@christchurch.ie / 01 677 8099

and sing but we also want people to come and support the performance.”

Garth hopes that the performance will raise €10,000 towards installing solar panels at Al Ahli Hospital. The cathedral board is supporting the venture with a donation from their charitable giving. All the money raised on the night can go to the solar panel project.

The cathedral's Music Department organised a very successful Come and Sing event last year in which parish choirs joined the Cathedral Choir to sing Choral Evensong. Musical Director, Ian Keatley, was planning to organise another similar event. At the same time the Revd Garth Bunting had committed to raising €10,000 towards the solar panel project and it was felt that they could work together.

During Advent 2014 the people of the Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough raised €115,000 for Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza. The hospital is run by the Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem with which Dublin and Glendalough has a partnership link. The hospital faces huge problems with its electricity supply on a daily basis, as does the rest of Gaza. The intermittent supply means they have power for four hours a day and those hours are not regular. As a result they use expensive generators. The installation of solar panels will greatly improve life for medical staff and patients.

Participants can register by contacting Ian Keatley on ian@christchurch.ie or 01-6778099. There is a participation fee of €15 which will go towards the fundraising efforts. Audience tickets are already on sale at a cost of €20 and are available from www.christchurchcathedral.ie.

Rugby church before tomorrow's Ulster game

Mount Merrion Church stands in the shadow of the Kingspan Stadium where Ulster will play Scarlets tomorrow Sunday 21 February.

A spokesperson commented, "We realise that many fans might find it difficult to get to their own churches before travelling to the match so we have decided to put on 'Rugby Church'.

"We will have a rugby themed service starting at 11.00 am which will include video testimonies from some of the Ulster players. Then at 12 noon we will be serving a free chicken curry.

"So whether you go to church regularly or not, why not give this a try (no pun intended!). You'll be more than welcome! "

Mount Merrion Parish Church. 126 Mount Merrion Ave, Castlereagh, Belfast, Co. Antrim BT6 0FS

Comedy Night at the Dock Cafe

A perfect chance to start the week with coffee and craic in the Dock Café. There'll be admission

at the door on the night – but this being The Dock, it will be an Honesty Box ticket desk!

Tomorrow - Sunday 21 February at 7.00 pm

Andy Kind won Anything for Laughs in 2005 and recently hurdled over the 1000-gig barrier. Other stuff happened in between. Described by The Scotsman as ‘Terrific’, Andy’s stand-up style can best be described as ‘the joyful rant of a post-30 chaos vacuum’, and he has been featured on BBC1, ITV, Channel 4 in the UK.

Not long after supporting Tim Vine, Andy’s first book ‘Stand Up and Deliver’ was published by Lion Hudson. The sequel, ‘The Gig Delusion’ was released by Wilmot Books last year. Andy is now working on his third book (his second with Lion Hudson) and recently hosted successful residences at New Wine 2013 and Spring Harvest 2014. Soon after, Andy toured a series of churches in South Africa alongside Mark Palmer.

Further info at -

<http://www.downanddromore.org/events/2016/02/Comedy-Night-at-the-Dock-Caf#.Vsb38xhXwdU>

Irish government makes U-turn on Easter closures of Dublin churches, Church Times

After seven Anglican churches, including the diocesan cathedral in Dublin city centre, complained that they would be unable to provide worship on Easter Day because of the Irish government's commemoration of the Easter Rising, the State authorities performed a U-turn on Tuesday. It was their "earnest wish", they said, to facilitate Church of Ireland worship on the most important festival in the Christian calendar, despite restrictions, writes Greg Ryan in this week's Church Times, the leading international Anglican weekly newspaper.

A traffic ban from 6 a.m. will prevent most worshippers from getting to their churches, and the Garda authorities have asked that the gates of Christ Church Cathedral be kept locked for the entire day.

Diocesan authorities had complained that they had not been invited to provide any input into the decisions, nor were they consulted by the State agencies about the intended restrictions.

A government statement has now offered further consultations “that will provide reassurance to the Church of Ireland that it will be possible to facilitate access by parishioners to its Easter ceremonies.

“Naturally, given the expected scale of events and of attendance by the general public on Easter Sunday, it will be necessary to put some exceptional public-safety arrangements in place.”

Clergy from the affected churches are making alternative arrangements to join other congregations outside the city-centre cordon, but at least one priest from each of the affected churches will remain on site to read the Office on Easter Day, to ensure continuity of witness.

On Monday, the diocese issued a statement outlining the problems that the commemoration ceremonies would pose.

More at -

<https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2016/19-february/news/world/irish-government-makes-u-turn-on-easter-closures-of-dublin-churches>

February 20

Love for Life benefits from Lisburn Cathedral's Valentine's night dinner



More than 150 people of all ages came attended a dinner and social evening in Lisburn Cathedral on Valentine's Night in support of Love for Life's EVERY campaign.

This was [launched in Connor Diocese](#) in January by Love for Life, whose Chief Executive Judith Cairns attended the event, and also spoke at that morning's services.

On the evening, a four course meal was punctuated with challenges as entertainment. These included the vicar being challenged to kiss EVERY adult woman on the cheek within three minutes, the parish's South Sudan team ([more info](#)) having to answer EVERY one of the questions posed about Yei Diocese; worship leader Grace having to sing EVERY element of the periodic table, and parishioner Tom Stevenson having to make EVERYbody laugh!

Love for Life delivers engaging school and youth programmes to over 30,000 young people each year and works towards the vision of communities in which young people have a healthy respect for themselves, relationships and sex.

The organisation is now offering their most popular programme to EVERY school free of charge. The Rev Simon Genoe, vicar at Lisburn Cathedral, said: "It was our pleasure to share in this event to highlight and support this valuable work".

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

Trump is not Christian, suggests Pope Francis

Irish Independent

<http://www.independent.ie/world-news/americas/trump-is-not-christian-suggests-pope-francis-34467226.html>

Pope says contraception okay for Zika virus

Belfast Telegraph

http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/breakingnews/breakingnews_world/pope-says-contraception-okay-for-zika-virus-34466825.html

NI First Minister, C of I 1926 Talks challenge simple republican interpretation

News Letter

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/arlene-foster-easter-rising-talk-a-serious-historical-reflection-1-7222478>

C of I welcomes discussion on Easter Day access to Dublin churches

News Letter

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/church-welcomes-talks-over-1916-event-closures-1-7222194>

Bishops will not tell Catholics who to vote for, Archbishop says

Irish Times

churchnewsireland@gmail.com

Speaking about education, they said the “real inequality” in **Irish** schools was not **religious** but economic, with poorer communities not adequately ...

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/bishops-will-not-tell-catholics-who-to-vote-for-archbishop-says-1.2539546>

Bishops say health crisis die to ‘fundamental failure of politics’

Irish Times

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<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/bishops-will-not-tell-catholics-who-to-vote-for-archbishop-says-1.2539546>

Times/Mirror/Even Stand/Mail online

Reports on case of Timothy Storey, who was convicted at Woolwich Crown Court of three charges of rape and one of sexual assault. Mr Storey was removed from ordination training at Wycliffe Hall after complaints in 2009 but managed to return to the church within a year. Includes comment from Diocese of London. Storey will be sentenced in April.

http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/crime/article4694176.ece?acs_cjd=true

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/trainee-church-england-vicar-guilty-7399170#ICID=nsm>

<http://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/trainee-vicar-raped-two-teens-after-grooming-them-at-church-and-summer-camps-a3183976.html>

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3453021/Oxford-educated-pastor-preached-abstinence-raped-two-teenage-churchgoers-grooming-hundreds-children-Facebook.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490

BBC

Reports that the Chapter of Chichester Cathedral is considering changing a memorial to Bishop George Bell. In October the Bishop of Chichester issued a formal apology following the settlement of a legal civil claim regarding sexual abuse against Bishop Bell, who was Bishop of Chichester from 1929 until his death on 3rd October 1958.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-sussex-35606721>

Ind

Further coverage of the Renewal and Reform debate at General Synod. The article highlights comments made about predicted church attendance statistics.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/church-of-england-slowly-dying-as-congregation-set-to-halve-over-30-years-a6881641.html>

BBC/Times/Mail/Tel/Exp/Guard

Reports that Pope Francis has questioned US republican presidential candidate Donald Trump's Christianity. Speaking to journalists a return flight from Mexico to Rome, the Pontiff said: "A person who thinks only about building walls, wherever they may be, and not of building bridges, is not Christian. The Republican presidential candidate has responded to the Pope's comments. Mr

Trump has praised Pope Francis, as he campaigns in South Carolina, after initially criticising the Pontiff.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-35607538>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/world/americas/article4694044.ece>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/election-us-2016-35610126>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3454051/He-s-got-awfully-big-wall-Vatican-tell-Trump-t-resist-poking-fun-Pope-plays-overblown-spat-Francis-suggests-Mexican-government-blame.html>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/us-politics/12164273/Pope-Franciss-comments-on-Donald-Trumps-Christianity-spark-jokes-on-Twitter.html>

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/645499/Donald-Trump-Pope-Francis-religion-row-Republican-Pontiff-Vatican-City-walled-Twitter>

<http://www.theguardian.com/us-news/live/2016/feb/18/trump-gets-in-fight-with-the-pope>

Comment

Christian Today

Aнды Walton says Christians must get used to being offended as without free speech democracy crumbles.

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