



***The Most
Reverend
Michael
Jackson,
Archbishop
of Dublin***

2016 an opportunity to foster new harmony between revolution and reconciliation, C of I Archbishop of Dublin

2016 presents an opportunity to foster a new harmony between revolution and reconciliation, the Archbishop of Dublin, the Most Revd Dr

Michael Jackson said during an address to staff in Dublin City University on Monday February 22. He said that memory and commemoration of past events could be ‘futurified’, providing “scope for a future with difference as well as a different type of future”.

The Archbishop delivered his talk while launching the university’s 2016 Centenary programme. DCU aims to mark the centenary of the 1916 Rising around five core principals: remember, reflect, reconcile, re–imagine and celebrate. Archbishop Jackson’s talk was entitled ‘Reconciliation and Revolution – A Harmony Revisited’.

Archbishop Jackson based his talk around his own experience having lived in Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland and in England. He spoke of the tradition of dissent in Ireland dissent being defined as: *the holding or expressing of opinions at variance with those commonly or officially held.*

“Dissent, generously understood and applied, may yet offer us more scope and opportunity in surviving the constricting side effects of prescriptive history. My hope would be that a recognition of the advantages as well as the irritations of dissent may release us from

manufactured majoritarianism into the twin-track of perspective and proclamation of our history into the future: perspective on its context and complex origins; proclamation of its best ideals in lived civic life,” he stated.

He suggested that the Commemorations of 1916 and 2016 could be a place of critical and creative dissent. Recalling both the 1916 Rising and the Battle of the Somme he talked of their roles in forming the identities of people in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland and the perceptions that the people of each hold of the other.

Speaking of where he grew up in County Fermanagh, the Archbishop talked of the Troubles and the bombings which took place in Fermanagh and Tyrone but also highlighted development of “a working understanding of gracious accommodation of difference and of The Other” in Enniskillen.

Looking to the future, Archbishop Jackson warned of the repercussions of the abuse of memory and commemoration from within our fractured history. “History, as well as being an analysis and a narrative, is a commodity for those who wish to use it and to abuse it as such. [...] Inherited or wilful divisiveness and division

are greatly to be watched and monitored, challenged and corrected in a Year of Centenary Commemoration, if we are to avoid anointing the past and allowing it to seep its way uncriticized into the making of future policy and practice and politics,” he said.

In 2016 in the Republic of Ireland and in Northern Ireland there are opportunities for an engagement that will allow people to focus on remembering and forgetting, forgiving and ‘futurifying’, Archbishop Jackson suggested.

“I use these words – the last of which I have created to the purpose of my argument – as part of the tonality of critical dissent and, in consequence, components of a new harmony between revolution and reconciliation. Not everything can be remembered with the same intensity and to the same purpose; selective and externally enforced forgetting of experiences and events intrinsic to the identity of individuals and groups is, however, not honest nor is it honourable; forgiveness requires a combination of remembering and letting go in order to liberate the same self from the need to hate the other and therefore from actually hating the other; ‘futurifying’ is the best outcome of dissent as it provides scope for a future with difference as well as a different type of future. In this way, a

restored harmony is possible. But all of this is hard work. And all of this requires intentionality, understanding, compassion and altruism,” he stated.

Full text at -

<http://dublin.anglican.org/news/2016/02/Reconciliation-and-Revolution-Archbishop-Launches-DCUs-2016-Centenary-Programme>

Politicians should be educated about the role and character of Catholic schools , chair of management association

“We must educate our politicians as to the contribution that our Catholic schools are making to their constituencies and, above all, we must make it clear that broad sweeping statements about Catholic schools have local implications”, according to Father Tom Deenihan who spoke yesterday at the Annual General Meeting of the Catholic Primary Schools Management Association in Dublin.

Father Deenihan, who is general secretary of the CPSMA, delivered his wide-ranging address to

more than two hundred Catholic primary school management representatives drawn from around the country. Father Deenihan highlighted the imbalance in the education debate over the last five years and saying that it has presented a “critical and negative analysis of the purpose and role of Catholic education in Ireland”. He suggested that public discourse has solely focused on divesting, baptism certificates, Rule 68, inclusion, and what has been described as “Church control and more recently indoctrination”, to the detriment of valuing the contribution by thousands of people who are involved in voluntary boards of management and school staff, all of whom effectively run quality Catholic schools.

Father Deenihan added that the 23,000 people who serve on a voluntary basis on the boards of Catholic primary schools throughout the country are tired of bearing the brunt of criticism from our politicians who target such schools so regularly that one could be forgiven for thinking that there was no other issue in Irish society, be it economical, health, justice or welfare. Indeed, despite that narrative over the past few years, it was remarkable how little it featured in political

manifestos, leader debates and, anecdotally, on the doorsteps with canvassers.

Other than a brief comment on inclusion in relation to Catholic Schools Week, Father Deenihan said that he deliberately refrained from comment on these matters over the past few weeks as he did not wish to politicise CPSMA in the context of the General Election campaign. Over the next few weeks, Father Deenihan said, various parties and individuals will be having discussions on a new 'Programme for Government' in order to underpin public policy priorities over the next five years. There is no doubt that education will form a significant part of those discussions. He said that he was sure that no politician will give the figures on inclusion that he outlined or will acknowledge the contribution that Catholic schools are making to Irish society today. By all means, he added, highlight what is deficient. That does us all a service but balance and fairness demands that what is being done well is acknowledged. Which of our politicians seeking election today, Father Deenihan asked, has come out in favour of the good that Catholic schools have done over the past few years? It is time to stop making broad statements about Catholic schools. Catholic schools are the

schools in our parishes that are working hard, are sought after, appreciated and serve the community well.

According to Father Deenihan, politicians should be invited by school boards “to see at first hand the work that is being done, the dedication of the teachers, the commitment of board members, to review the results of the Department of Education’s own inspections and the inclusive and happy nature of these schools.”

Father Deenihan also highlighted the importance for prospective teachers in faith schools to hold a religious education diploma from a recognised college as “our students grow in allegiance to Christ through, amongst other things, the witness of and interaction with the teacher.”

First Alpha Course at DOCK Café

The DOCK’s first–ever Alpha Course in Belfast’s Titanic Quarter will be starting on Monday 29 February. Meeting from 6–8.00 pm in the café you’ll find food, friendship and the chance to ask any and every question you’ve ever had about Life, the Universe and Everything.



Alpha isn't a sermon or a service but conversation in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere where no question is too big or too small.

Click [here](#) if you'd like further details.

US choir's free concert in Belfast Cathedral

A 97-strong choir from Napa High School, California, USA, will be giving a free concert in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, at 8pm on Saturday March 19.



The Napa High Choir will be joined by the Belfast-based St George's Singers, a cross community choir directed by Marion Doherty.

Napa High Choirs have a reputation for excellence in local, area, state and international competitions, winning top awards for many years. This outstanding youth ensemble is directed by Travis Rogers and Karen May. The choir regularly embarks on international tours and has travelled to places including Italy, France, Spain, Costa Rica, Hawaii, Florida and New York City. They perform as a large concert choir of 95 voices, but also split into smaller ensembles for

several pieces and sing a selection of Irish folk songs and sacred pieces.

The St George's singers were founded in 1984, and while their main focus has been on baroque music, their repertoire ranges from early music by composers such as Monteverdi, Purcell and Byrd, through music of the classical and romantic eras to modern music by Britten and Bernstein.

Entry to the concert is free and all are very welcome. For further information visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/162395910807835/>
<https://napastgeorgesbelfast.splashthat.com/>

Superheroes and more at Lisburn Cathedral's Big Church Serve

Lisburn Cathedral will be running its third annual Big Church Serve from Wednesday March 23 to Saturday March 26.

Around 150 people from the Cathedral will be donning high visibility vests to demonstrate faith through community events and practical service.

In the city centre, this will include litter picking, a photo booth, a football cage and much more, and in Hillhall it will involve a pampering zone, a children's club and gardening.



Lots of activity during a previous Big Church Serve at Lisburn Cathedral.

The Cathedral is also hosting a Superhero World exhibition, which will be open daily from 12 noon until 4pm.

Vicar, the Rev Simon Genoe said: “This involves our 350-year-old Cathedral being transformed into an interactive, fun superhero exhibition.

People of all ages can visit free of charge and enjoy the crafts, exhibits and games that communicate the Easter story through the genre of Superheroes.

“There is even a stunning indoor garden as part of the exhibition where people can step out of

the madness of our busy city centre to reflect and be refreshed! If you see nothing else and think you're too grown up for Batman – don't miss this – it will be spectacular!”

On the Saturday afternoon, from 1-3pm, the Cathedral will host a Superhero party, where kids can come along dressed up as their favourite superheroes if they wish, and can even meet some very special (super) guests!

On Easter Sunday morning at 11am, there will be a special Transformers Easter service, featuring another special guest.

To raise awareness, Lisburn Cathedral is running a competition, inviting children from local primary schools to design their own superhero and these will be displayed as part of the exhibition. The Cathedral is grateful to Toytown in Smyth Patterson for sponsoring prizes.

Christians helping migrants should not try to convert them, says cardinal

Christians assisting migrants should love them “without hidden intentions” and not try to convert

them, the prefect for the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith has said.

Cardinal Gerhard Müller said that proselytism “is practically a manipulation of the conscience” and that the church’s mission is to help mankind relate to and love those escaping war and persecution.

The cardinal was speaking at an international conference at the Vatican organised to reflect on Pope Benedict XVI’s first encyclical, *Deus Caritas Est*, on charity (“God Is Love”) and the relevance of the Christian perspective of love in today’s world.

Cardinal Müller also said that the Church must assist with more than just material needs. He said: “The mission of the church is to give witness to Jesus Christ. It would be a way of despising someone if I said: ‘You only have material needs.’”

Jesus’ commandment to love one’s neighbour, he said, is a call for Christians to manifest God’s love to others, particularly through works of charity. However, in addressing the needs of migrants, Christians are called to help “without hidden intentions.”

“We must not use the charity we practice and transform it into an instrument of proselytism,” he said. “An expert Christian knows when it is time to speak about God and when it is best to keep quiet. Sometimes a silent witness is the best witness of the love of God.”

The cardinal noted that in his native Germany, where thousands of migrants from Muslim-majority countries have been received, the authentic witness of love through charity has caused migrants to inquire about the Christian faith without imposing one’s beliefs on them.

“There are among these migrants, the majority of whom are Muslim, who ask, ‘Why are Christians — and not our fellow Muslims — helping us?’ The love of neighbour is a starting point to the love of God because God, through Jesus Christ, is the cause and essence of our love toward our neighbour,” the cardinal said.

Archbishops of Canterbury and York call for wave of prayer during Pentecost for evangelisation of England

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have called for a “great wave of prayer” for the evangelisation of England. In an “unprecedented step”, Justin Welby and John Sentamu have written to every parish priest in the Church of England, inviting churches across the country to take part in the focused prayer initiative in the week leading up to Pentecost Sunday.

They say they want “to see a great wave of prayer across our land, throughout the Church of England and many other Churches” from 8 to 15 May. At the end of the week, a number of “beacon” events will be held – at St Paul’s Cathedral in London on Saturday 14 May; and at Durham, Coventry, Winchester, and Canterbury Cathedrals and St Michael le Belfrey in York, on Sunday 15 May.

These beacon events, led by renowned worship leaders and preachers, will provide space for people to “pray for the renewal of the Holy Spirit and the confidence to share their faith,” a spokesman for Lambeth Palace said.

Archbishop Justin will send a message via live video link to other beacon events taking place at the same time as the Canterbury event



“At the heart of our prayers will be words that Jesus himself taught us – ‘Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,’” the two archbishops said in their letter to clergy.

“It is impossible to overstate the life-transforming power of the Lord’s Prayer,” they say. “It is a prayer that is reassuring enough to be on the lips of the dying and yet dangerous enough to be banned in cinemas.

“It is famous enough to be spoken each day by billions in hundreds of languages and yet intimate enough to draw us ever closer into friendship with Jesus Christ....“It is simple enough to be memorised by small children and

yet profound enough to sustain a whole lifetime of prayer.

“When we pray it with sincerity and with joy, there is no imagining the new ways in which God can use us to his glory.”

The archbishops are suggesting various ways churches can engage with the week of prayer; including the holding of day-long or week-long continuous 24/7 prayer; either as parishes, teams or deaneries; saying special prayers in Sunday worship; prayer walking; or handing out a novena prayer card to every congregation member.

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

Mail/Sky/ITV

Reports on release of the [Dame Janet Smith Review](#) yesterday looking at the BBC's culture and practices during the Jimmy Savile and Stuart Hall years. It names retired CofE priest Canon Colin Semper, who worked as a producer and eventually became head of religious programmes. In the Review Dame Janet praises the honesty of the evidence Canon Semper gave her and said the failure to stop Savile's behaviour had clearly weighed heavily on his mind. But she said Canon

Semper should have reported his suspicions about Savile to his superiors at the BBC.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3463534/Jimmy-Savile-gratify-sexually-BBC-premises-opportunity-arose-long-awaited-report-finds.html>

<http://news.sky.com/story/1648771/savile-producer-regrets-not-raising-alarm>

<http://www.itv.com/news/update/2016-02-25/savile-producer-sorry-he-didnt-report-paedophile/>

Guard

Article which draws comparisons between the management culture of the BBC exposed in Dame Janet Smith's report on Jimmy Savile and other institutions including the CofE. The article refers to former Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Carey, and the case of Bishop Peter Ball, who was convicted last year of sexual abuse charges.

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/feb/25/shocked-bbc-savile-report-prepare-more-of-the-same>

Western Daily Press

Reports the consecration of the Bishop of Sherborne, Karen Gorham in Westminster Abbey this week. The Archbishop of Canterbury led the service in front of a congregation of 1000 people. Bishop Karen is the eighth female bishop in the CofE. The Bishop of Salisbury Nicholas Holtam is quoted. Bishop Karen is pictured alongside the new Bishop of Dunwich, Mike Harrison.

<http://www.westerngazette.co.uk/pictures/GALLERY-Bishop-Sherborne-consecrated-ceremony/pictures-28809405-detail/pictures.html>

Premier Christianity

In an interview, the Bishop of Bristol, Mike Hill has said the Church won't tell people which way to vote in the referendum on the UK's membership of the European Union, but would encourage them to think wisely. Bishop Mike is calling on Christians to think about the long-term when they consider whether to choose to leave or stay in the EU.

<http://www.premierchristianity.com/News/UK/Bishop-of-Bristol-the-Church-won-t-tell-people-which-way-to-vote-on-Europe>

Business & Human Rights/Financial News

Reports that the Church Commissioners are amongst investors challenging ExxonMobile's attempts to silence climate change questions. [Read full statement.](#)

<http://business-humanrights.org/zh-hant/node/133467>
<http://www.efinancialnews.com/story/2016-02-25/church-fund-takes-its-climate-fight-to-exxon?mod=rss-assetmanagement>

[Christian Today](#)/Pink News

Reports that the Archbishop of Uganda Stanley Ntagali plans to stay away from the Anglican Consultative Council meeting in Lusaka in protest at divisions over homosexuality. In a letter posted on his website, Archbishop Stanley said he was not able to attend because he was greatly burdened in praying for his country which has been going through local and national elections and in praying for the Anglican Communion which he said had been "torn at its deepest level".

<http://www.pinknews.co.uk/2016/02/25/archbishop-of-uganda-says-anglican-churches-have-betrayed-god-over-lgbt-rights/>

Comment

Guardian: Giles Fraser writes that "Brits like their politics neatly tribal. That's why the EU debate is so unsettling". Fraser cites the role of the Church in unifying the country after the English Civil War.

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/belief/2016/feb/25/brits-like-politics-neatly-tribal-thats-why-eu-debate-is-unsettling>

Christian Today

Why TV producers need to make more space for Christian faith on the small screen.

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