



Who's That With The Bishops?

The Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Ken Good, shared a stage with Donegal singing sensation, Daniel O'Donnell, this morning, when they both appeared as guests on Shaun Doherty's hugely popular Christmas Eve programme on Highland Radio. The programme - which also featured the Bishop of Raphoe, Philip Boyce - was broadcast live from An Grianan Theatre in Letterkenny.

It has become part of festive tradition locally for the two church leaders to appear together on the Christmas Eve programme. Bishop Good used the occasion to talk about the Diocese's 'Year of Opportunity', which began in the New Year. The year will have three main themes: mission, generosity and children.

He told the presenter: "Generosity isn't only about money. It's about time, it's about attitude." He suggested to the audience - in the theatre and at home - that they could find ways to be generous to people who were feeling lonely and isolated.

Bishop Good also paid tribute to Daniel O'Donnell, who had earlier performed a number of songs live on the programme and stayed on afterwards to pose for photographs with fans and sign autographs. The Bishop described the entertainer as a great ambassador for County Donegal.

GET CNI HEADLINES EACH DAY

Facebook and Twitter

Click on logo at CNI Home page

www.churchnewsireland.org



Contemporary views on 1916 Rising and Battle of the Somme in weekly editions of C of I Paper now on line

The ongoing project to digitise the historical issues of the *Church of Ireland Gazette* has entered a new and exciting phase, with the successful uploading and indexing of this invaluable resource for the period 1911–1923. It is re-launched as Archive of the Month for

January 2016 through the Church of Ireland website.

All the editions for the revolutionary period 1912–1922 (with an additional year either side of that) have been scanned and made fully searchable. This means that a total of 155 weekly editions may now be freely viewed and searched online by researchers all over the world, bringing to light this crucial period from a Church of Ireland perspective in general, and also making it possible to find hitherto hidden events, people and places through the pages.

Written and read by lay and clerical members of the Church of Ireland, the *Gazette* (in print since 1856) provides the longest–running public commentary on the opinions and attitudes of members of the Church of Ireland, and indeed the wider Protestant community on the island. It is thus a recognised resource for understanding the complexities and nuances of this identity, North and South. The project to make it available for research and public interest is a collaborative venture between the RCB Library (which holds the only complete hardcopy set) and the Editor and Board of the *Gazette*, and to date has been funded largely through sponsorship.

At the start of 2016, it is particularly appropriate that the Church of Ireland can now bring to light

how it viewed events such as the 1916 Rising and Battle of the Somme, and make another contribution to memory and knowledge for the Decade of Commemorations.

The *Gazette* was originally published and printed by its founder/proprietor Mr James Charles, from his premises at 61 Middle Abbey Street, Dublin. In the initial stages, it is likely that Charles took a lead role in the editorial style, format and layout of the publication, but there was no official editor as such. From 1871 onwards however, editors were formally appointed all of whom were clergy until at some point between 1906 and 1918 a layman, Ware W Wells, began to play a prominent role in the paper's editorial work. Crucially, Wells was in the *Gazette* premises in Abbey Street for the duration of events of Easter week, which gave him a bird's eye view of events unfolding in the area near the General Post Office. As the lead article of the special edition 28 April–5 May noted, he was 'probably at closer quarters with much of the fighting in the capital than any other civilian in Dublin', with 'access to special sources of information' enabling him 'to supply a lengthy and exhaustive analysis of the circumstances of the insurrection'. The edition (publication of which was suspended for a week because of the fighting) thus became an important

contemporary source about events in Easter week, and was reprinted and went to wide circulation for a general audience – well beyond the Church of Ireland community.

The *Gazette* office premises in Middle Abbey Street reportedly had a remarkable escape from the fire which devastated the Sackville Street, and it was the last building on its side of the street to be saved from the fire which ‘stopped immediately short of this office’. For all of these reports, and much more on a wide range of topics, the public is now invited to explore the *Gazette*.

The Church of Ireland Historical Centenaries Working Group wish to acknowledge the valuable contribution and support of the Commemorations Programme of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in bringing both these projects to completion. The RCB Library, which manages the project, has acknowledged the support of the Irish Government for this significant contribution to knowledge, and service provider Informa for delivering the exceptionally high-quality search engine, which is available via this link from 1st January 2016:

www.ireland.anglican.org/library/archive
churchnewsireland@gmail.com

RTÉ decision to axe Gloria ‘shame’



The director of the Palestrina Choir in Dublin’s pro-cathedral has described as a “shame” the decision by RTÉ to axe Tim Thurston’s popular Sunday morning radio programme, *Gloria*. Blánaid Murphy told *The Irish Catholic* that the programme was “much loved” and would be a “great loss” to Lyric FM.

“It was a much-loved programme that was very good for choral music. It was niche but it was followed by a lot of people. It think it’s a great shame. The whole content was really apt for a

Sunday morning and very carefully put together. It will be a great loss to be honest,” she said.

A petition on change.org calling on RTÉ to reinstate Mr Thurston’s programme had over 1,000 signatures.

In a post on the site, Conor O’Reilly, who started the petition, described as “ludicrous” the decision by RTÉ to cancel the programme.

Travel in the light in 2016, Archbishop Jackson

In a New year Message, Most Rev Dr Michael Jackson says - “If Christmas gives us a chance to grapple with darkness and light, then New Year gives us a chance to grapple with light and travelling. The Three Wise Ones travel from the East, they follow the light. They find themselves with the Christ-child in majesty, in adoration and in worship. All three of these are very healthy and very suitable responses to the rather miraculous arrival of a New Year. There is majesty in hailing a king; there is adoration in seeing the beauty in the child; there is worship in joining from afar those who are near to hand in celebration and song.

“Whether you see in the New Year at home or away, with your family and friends or on your own, the arrival of a New Year asks of us that we recognize the wonder and the glory of the cycle of nature and the return of January. Often a New Year stirs up fear and anxiety in almost every one of us. Its very newness opens a window on a world that we have not seen like this before. How could we have done so? It is, after all, a new world in a New Year. God invites us to trust God, to trust our instinct, to trust ourselves and to trust one another. Trust in what is new and the fear will begin to recede and withdraw from your heart. Try your best to go to meet it and to bid it welcome. The new will change regularly and rapidly and you will teach yourself to use your instincts for trust and its sister suspicion wisely and carefully, for the protection of yourself and for the protection of others. And you will learn that trust has another sister named justice.

“Travelling in the light and also travelling light itself are good things to do and to resolve to do from early in a New Year. They leave us ready to receive as well as ready to give. A New Year opens us up to such travelling in both directions in a way that is cold but fresh, challenging but welcoming, today for tomorrow.”

New bishop of Argyll & The Isles has Irish roots

The new bishop chosen by Pope Francis to head up the Scottish diocese of Argyll and the Isles is the son of Irish emigrants who settled in Scotland.

Mgr Brian McGee fills a position which has been vacant since April 2014 when Bishop Joseph Toal became the Bishop of Motherwell.

Mgr McGee is currently Vicar General of the Diocese of Paisley and parish priest of Holy Family parish, a disadvantaged area in Port Glasgow.

Born in Greenock in 1965 and educated at St Joseph's Primary School and Holy Cross Primary School, Greenock, St Vincent's College, Langbank, St Mary's College, Blairs, he studied for the priesthood at St Patrick's College in Thurles, Co Tipperary. He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Paisley in 1989.

His parents are originally from Donegal and Belfast.

Responding to the news of his appointment, Bishop-Elect McGee said he was "excited"



Bishop-elect Brian McGee

about his move to the diocese of Argyll and the Isles.

“It has an ancient and proud heritage whose roots stretch back almost one and a half thousand years preceding even its spiritual father, St Columba.”

In a statement he added, “Since then, the consistent witness to Christ and the contribution to the National and Universal Church have been

immense and I pray that it will continue to be so.”

The new bishop said he was also mindful of the diocese’s “rich Gaelic character” and although “not yet a Gaelic speaker” he said he would endeavour to promote its rightful use in the worship of God.

“We have entered into the Year of Mercy. I am inspired by this Jubilee’s ethos and I hope to be a bishop that has an unshakable trust in God’s mercy, unafraid to acknowledge my own need of God’s mercy and one who shows mercy to all, especially those who are most in need.”

Pope Francis wrote of our faith communities being oases of mercy. Please God, as individuals, as parishes and the diocese as a body will be a constant oasis of mercy to all.”

He admitted it was “a wrench” for him to leave the Diocese of Paisley. “This was where I wanted to minister from my youth and I have always been very happy there.”

+ Please share CNI with your friends
www.churchnewsireland.org

Singing to save Limerick church's stained glass windows

The generous families who sponsored stained [glass windows](#) in Murroe Church in the early part of the 20th century certainly got their money's worth.

Limerick Leader - But now the time has come to repair some of them so the parish is holding a fundraising concert at 8pm on Sunday, January 24 to pay for the works. Fittingly Fr Liam Lawton will be performing, ably supported by Murroe church and children choirs.

Fr Loughlin Brennan, parish priest of Murroe-Boher, said a survey was completed last August.

"Five are in needy phase one of the project. The masterpieces, each intricately reflecting a religious scene, stand metres high in the beautiful old church that dates back to 1905.

The stained [glass windows](#) followed a couple of year later with each family paying for a window. At the bottom of each one is their name and dedication.

”Some of the families have died out sadly,” said Fr Brennan. The priest who oversaw it all back then was a Canon Duan.

Read more: <http://www.limerickleader.ie/news/community/singing-to-save-church-s-stained-glass-windows-1-7141669#ixzz3wCm6535l>

Church school governor honoured

On Sunday 27th December, at a United Service in St Mary’s Church, Carrigaline, Hazel Kelleher was thanked by the Carrigaline Union of Parishes for her 19 years on the Board of Management of St Mary’s School, most of those as Chairperson. Hazel was presented with an engraved crystal glass bowl and a bouquet of flowers.

Clogher sitout

The Revd Brian Harper and the congregation of Magheracross Parish Church, Ballinamallard, presented the proceeds of the Christmas sit-out to representatives of the local Alzheimer's Society and Downs Children Support Group. The total collected was £2,800 and this was distributed to these two local groups and to the mission agency "Crosslinks" in support of Karen Salmon and her education project in Ethiopia.

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

Government may invite Prince Charles to 1916 event

Irish Times

Dublin Castle ceremony marks beginning of State programme for rising commemorations

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/government-may-invite-prince-charles-to-1916-event-1.2482315>

New Rotunda master calls for change in laws on abortion

Irish Examiner

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/ireland/new-rotunda-master-calls-for-change-in-laws-on-abortion-374293.html>

Border criminals should be tagged, says head of Louth IFA

Irish Times

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/crime-and-law/border-criminals-should-be-tagged-says-head-of-louth-ifa-1.2483660>

Five third-level colleges financially vulnerable

Irish Times

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/education/five-third-level-colleges-financially-vulnerable-1.2483807>

Analysis: Rhetoric suggests DUP and Sinn Fein plan to move closer in 2016

Belfast Newsletter

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/northern-ireland-news/analysis-rhetoric-suggests-dup-and-sinn-fein-plan-to-move-closer-in-2016-1-7141117>

Analysis: Rhetoric suggests DUP and Sinn Fein plan to move closer in 2016

Belfast Newsletter

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/northern-ireland-news/analysis-rhetoric-suggests-dup-and-sinn-fein-plan-to-move-closer-in-2016-1-7141117>

UVF murder families still want truth, 40 years on

Belfast Newsletter

Members of two families devastated by a loyalist murder squad on the same night of bloodshed have said their desire for truth has not waned four decades on.

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/northern-ireland-news/uvf-murder-families-still-want-truth-40-years-on-1-7142061>

Catholic priest condemns former anti-IRA taoiseach

Belfast Newsletter

A Catholic priest has accused a former Irish leader of being a “useless Irishman” who was prepared to “abet British oppression”.

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/northern-ireland-news/catholic-priest-condemns-former-anti-ira-taoiseach-1-7142177>

Telegraph

Interview with William Nye, Secretary General of the Church of England's General Synod who took up office in November. He says that Christianity is being subtly "silenced" within the public sector in the UK because of a civil service culture which treats speaking about faith as "not the done thing". But he added he didn't believe ministers had done it deliberately and talked of the national support, including from the Queen, of the quiet work of the Church but added that quiet did not have to mean silent. He also reflected on church growth saying he believed it could take five years to see numbers bottom out and then increase.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/12079366/The-silencing-of-Christians-in-the-public-sector.html>

Times

Report on the floods in Scotland noting the Queen's neighbour at Balmoral was forced to flee his ancient castle as it nearly teetered into the River Dee. Last night villagers packed into Glenmuick Church, Ballater, to pay tribute to organisations that have helped them during the floods, including official agencies, and other groups such as motorcycle clubs. The church's minister, the Rev David Barr, is quoted.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/scotland/article4655794.ece>

York Press

Report that Tadcaster's flood-devastated community was united yesterday when a vigil service was held at the packed parish church - just a week after the building itself came under a metre of floodwater. The vicar of Tadcaster, the Reverend Canon Sue Sheriff, is quoted [http://www.yorkpress.co.uk/news/14178522.Flooded church hosts packed vigil service/?ref=rss](http://www.yorkpress.co.uk/news/14178522.Flooded_church_hosts_packed_vigil_service/?ref=rss)

Mirror/Ind/Mail

Report that American pastor Larry Wright has told of the moment a man brandishing a machine gun walked into the North Carolina church while he was giving a sermon on senseless violence. The pastor managed to disarm the man and pray with him before police arrived on the scene in Fayetteville. Police said the man was committed to a medical centre at his request.

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/man-who-stormed-church-machine-7112518>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/pastor-stops-gunman-doing-something-terrible-in-packed-church-by-asking-can-i-help-you-a6794781.html>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3382695/Hero-pastor-calms-disarms-gunman-walked-church-holding-semi-automatic-rifle-ammo-magazine-sermon-senseless-violence.html>

Guardian

Continuing comment on education secretary Nicky Morgan's announcement that recent high court findings on humanism and the school curriculum need have "no impact" on schools' religious teachings.

January 5

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jan/03/out-of-the-mouths-of-babes-stewart-lee-nicky-morgan-religious-education>