



Canon David Porter has been appointed as the Archbishop of Canterbury's Chief of Staff and Strategy

Belfast man appointed Chief of Staff and strategy at Lambeth

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has announced the appointment of Canon David Porter as Chief of Staff and Strategy at Lambeth Palace. He takes over from Kay Brock, who

retires this month after four years at Lambeth Palace.

David is currently in the Lambeth Palace leadership group working as the Archbishops' Director for Reconciliation. He will start in his new role in early May.

David, originally from Belfast, comes with experience in several Christian organisations at senior staff, CEO and board level. He has long experience in public affairs and was a member of the Northern Ireland Civic Forum and Community Relations Council. Prior to joining the Lambeth Palace team in 2013 he was the Canon Director for Reconciliation Ministry at Coventry Cathedral.

Speaking about the appointment, Archbishop Justin Welby said: "This is an exciting appointment that draws together David's recent experience leading one of my priorities and his extensive background in developing strategic and effective organisations to serve Christ and the church.

"David will lead on strategy development and implementation, as well as public affairs, working closely with senior colleagues. Along with the Bishop at Lambeth, the Rt Rev Nigel Stock, he will be responsible for enabling the entire team at

Lambeth Palace to work effectively together, with colleagues at Church House, Bishopthorpe, the Anglican Communion Office and across the wider church.”

Speaking about his new role, David Porter said: “I have thoroughly enjoyed working with Archbishop Justin and colleagues at Lambeth over the last three years in what has been an immensely fulfilling role. It is an unexpected privilege to be given this new responsibility within the team at Lambeth Palace. The next few years will be exciting and challenging for the church, and all those who work at Lambeth are deeply committed to supporting the Archbishop in his ministry. I look forward to enabling them to flourish in this task.”

Porter, formerly a peace-building practitioner in Northern Ireland, is a layperson and a Baptist who called himself a “strongly convinced Anabaptist, who would be a Mennonite if I lived in America.” See News Focus today on CNI.

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Mural of St Patrick to replace paramilitary art in Loyalist South Belfast

A mural of St Patrick is to be unveiled in a loyalist area of south Belfast this week as part of a project to replace paramilitary street art.

Belfast Telegraph - Painter and sculptor Ross Wilson hopes his latest mural in the Village will help overcome misconceptions about the Patron Saint of Ireland. Ross' previous mural commissions include the Ship of Dreams image, dedicated to the Titanic and Belfast's shipbuilding legacy, as well as King Billy.

The painter has long been involved with image transformation in Belfast as part of a project to remove sectarian imagery. He said his latest design will look at "the real Patrick".

"Patrick came into a system in Ireland that didn't even have Christianity," he told The Sunday Times. "He was an outsider. Within 200 years his legacy had converted Ireland to Christianity without violence.

"A lot of communities steer away from Patrick



because he has been turned into a 'green' bishop who drinks beer.

"This is a radical project, looking at the real Patrick as opposed to the sort of Walt Disney version. It's looking at Patrick within a loyalist, working-class community."

Angela Johnston from the Greater Village Regeneration Trust said some residents took a while to convince.

"Every time I went to meet children from schools and youth clubs, they said: 'I didn't realise St Patrick's Cross was in the Union Jack', or 'I didn't realise St Patrick was part of our culture'," she said.

The artwork will be unveiled on Tate's Avenue on Thursday, while the permanent installation will be erected on a 12ft by 8ft aluminium panel, alongside another featuring local children's interpretations of the saint. A third panel will explain why the Red Hand of Ulster is a symbol of both loyalist and nationalist cultures.

Over the last 10 years the Arts Council has pumped some £6m into re-imaging paramilitary and sectarian murals in Belfast.

In 2012 the artist was involved in a Sandy Row mural that featured King William III when he won his most famous battle on the banks of the River Boyne. The £60,000 mural - which replaced a notorious depiction of a UFF gunman - is a tribute to William of Orange, who passed through the Belfast area on his way to the Boyne.

Girl Guides urge new TDs to step up action for gender equality

12,000 Irish Girl Guides (IGG) have joined with UN Women in calling for gender equality by 2030 – IGG is calling on the 158 newly-elected TDs to step up action for gender equality.



Three members of Irish Girl Guides jumping in celebration of International Women's Day outside Leinster House. Pictured from left: Aisling O'Boyle, Lauren Manning and Aoife Leamy. The girls delivered letters to each of the 158 newly-elected TDs urging them to take steps for gender equality during their term in office.

At the current rate of progress, gender equality will not be reached worldwide until 2133, according to the World Economic Forum.

This is simply not soon enough, says IGG, whose 12,000 members are joining with UN Women and the 10 million other Girl Guides and Girl Scouts worldwide calling on all countries to step up action to reach a world of gender equality by 2030.

While welcoming the record number of women elected to the 32nd Dáil, IGG would like to see all TDs commit to working towards gender equality both here and overseas.

“Today on International Women’s Day we recognise and applaud the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women worldwide,” says IGG Chief Commissioner Helen Concannon. “We congratulate, in particular, the 35 women who won seats in the recent election and thank them for being positive role models for our younger members.

“Everyone can take steps to help achieve gender parity – for example, respecting value and difference, calling for gender-balanced leadership and helping girls and women achieve their ambitions. Globally – with individuals pledging to move from talk to purposeful action and with

women and men joining forces – we can collectively help girls and women advance and develop to their fullest potential.”

Concannon says women and girls continue to suffer discrimination and violence in every part of the world: “We believe gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world.

“We believe the confidence, leadership and other essential life-skills our members are gaining from their involvement in Guiding from age 5+ will help them become the change-makers of the future. We encourage them to be the best that they can and to aim to realise their dreams while striving to make a difference to the lives of others and inspiring others to create change, participate in decision-making and pursue leadership roles.”

Dublin Methodist Residential Home celebrates 250 years of caring

This year Methodist Residential Home, Eastwell celebrates 250 years of providing an invaluable caring service for women of all denominations in Dublin.



Eastwell aims to provide a safe, secure environment where residents are encouraged to maintain and develop their independence. The residents live their lives as fully as possible through coordination of care services, emotional support and social activities. The Eastwell

Staff listen to each resident and welcome their families' inputs.

Supporting the dignity of all residents and respecting privacy are core values within "Eastwell". The residents enjoy trusting relationships with qualified staff members.

Eastwell was founded in 1766 in Whitefriar Street, Dublin, by the Rev. John Wesley "*for reduced widows and aged females*". It is one of the oldest charities in Dublin and was known as The Methodist Widows' Alms House and Aged Female Charity, commonly known as The Methodist Widows' Home.

For many years the Home was situated in Grantham Street, Dublin, but it is now at "Eastwell", Palmerston Park, Dublin. <http://eastwell.wix.com/eastwell-ladies-home>

BBC Radio 4 Sunday Worship from St Peter's, Belfast

Sunday Worship on BBC Radio 4 this Sunday, March 13, will be broadcast live from St Peter's Parish Church, Antrim Road, Belfast.

The service, which gets underway at 8.10am, will feature the Priory Singers, directed by Robert Thompson.

The BBC Radio 4 website previews the services as “an exploration of living with uncertainty as we pilgrim through Lent.”

The Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev Alan Abernethy, will consider how we can live with unanswered questions and find hope during those times of separation and alienation that are common to us all.

The service will be led by the rector of St Peter and St James, the Rev Brian Lacey. It will feature readings from Isaiah 43.16-21 and St Mark 14.32-42.

Music from the Priory Singers will include:

- Praise to the holiest in the height (Chorus Angelorum)
- Psalm 126
- Ah! Holy Jesu, how hast thou offended (Herzliebster Jesu)
- How bright those glorious spirits shine (Beatitudo)
- God so loved the world (Chilcott)
- Thou knowest Lord the secrets of our hearts (Purcell)

Children's Ministry officer appointed for Derry and Raphoe Diocese

Derry and Raphoe Diocese has appointed its first ever Diocesan Children's Ministry Officer. Kirsty Lynch will help parishes in their ministry with children, particularly by training, networking, and sharing ideas and resources. Kirsty who is a member of St Augustine's Parish in Londonderry, studied at Stranmillis University College, where she obtained a Bachelor of Education focusing on Religious Education. After graduating she worked in All Saint's Clooney Parish, in Londonderry, as Youth and Family worker, before moving to County Wicklow to take up a post as Youth Pastor at Christ Church in Bray.

During her four and a half years in Wicklow she worked with every age group, from 0–18 years. Colleagues in Bray described her as “a fantastic friend, a gifted leader and a dedicated Youth Pastor”. Kirsty moved home to Londonderry in October and prior to her appointment had been working with The Princes Trust Team Programme at Northern Regional College.

The Archdeacon of Raphoe, Ven. David Huss, says the role of Diocesan Children's Ministry



Officer is a new post for Derry and Raphoe. “Kirsty will support adult volunteers who are the backbone of our work with young people. There are around 2,000 children under the age of 12 enrolled in Sunday Schools and mid-week activities around Derry and Raphoe, led by several hundred adult volunteers. The Children’s Ministry Officer – who will be a part-time member of Diocesan Staff for three years – will bring great encouragement and support to this vital area of ministry, as we seek to help the youngest members of our churches live for Jesus.

“I have no doubt that Kirsty will bring a lot of energy and experience to the role,” Archdeacon

Huss says. "She is talented, organised and committed. Above all, she loves the Lord and she loves seeing children grow in their faith."

Kirsty says she cannot wait to get started in her new role. "I enjoy working with children and young people throughout the church and am looking forward to working with the children, leaders and clergy throughout the Diocese."

Commissioning of Dublin diocesan Mothers' Union's president

Dublin & Glendalough Mothers' Union's new diocesan president, Karen Nelson, will be commissioned at a service in Holmpatrick Church, Skerries, on Tuesday March 15 at 8.00 pm. Karen succeeds Joy Gordon, whose term of office came to an end in December. Archbishop Michael Jackson will preside at the service and Canon Cecil Hyland will preach.

MU members from all over Dublin and Glendalough attended Mothers' Union Breakfast last week in the Springfield Hotel, Leixlip. The guest speaker was Stella O'Malley who shared her insights about "Raising happy children in an anxious world" which was very well received by

the audience. It was a wonderful morning of fellowship with 75 women in attendance. Stella spoke very well and there was great audience participation in the Q&A session.

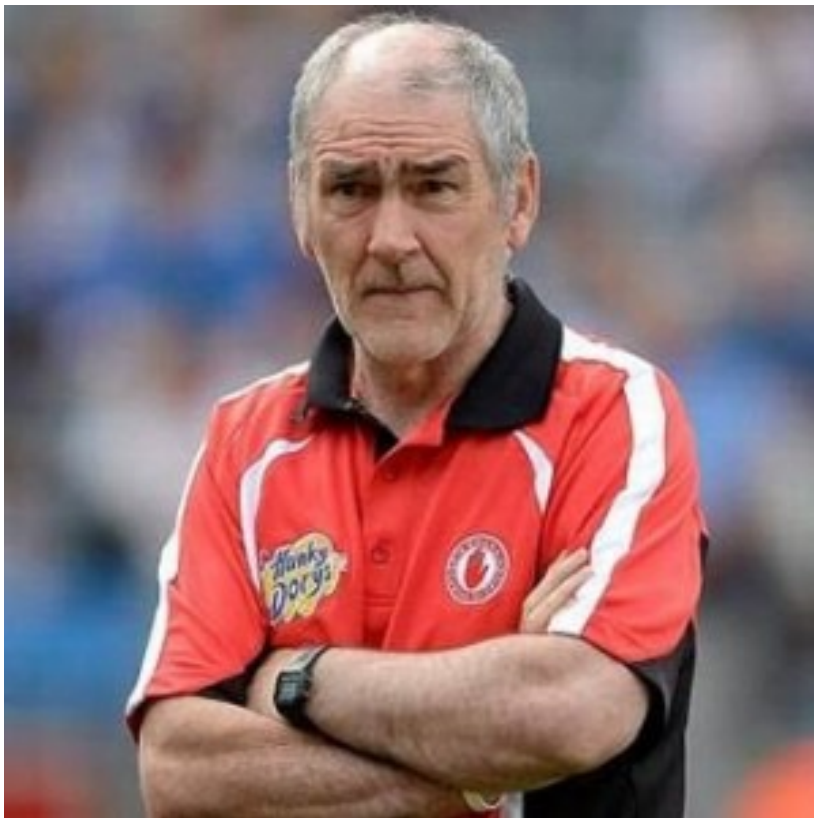
Gaelic football manager, Mickey Harte says Catholics too apologetic about their faith

Tyrone Gaelic football manager, Mickey Harte, has urged Catholics to be proud of their faith.

Speaking at the 'Building Community – Lessons from the World of Sport' conference at Mary Immaculate College in Limerick recently, the GAA football manager said Catholics tend to be too apologetic and "should not be swayed by scandals perpetrated by a very small minority of clergy".

Speaking about his own faith, Mr Harte said it helped him cope with the deaths of his daughter Michaela and his two brothers within a three-month period in 2011.

"Life wasn't easy. You could never have dealt with this on your own. You had to have faith. There had to have been something greater to get you through."



***Tyrone Gaelic football manager, Mickey Harte, asks
“Why should we not be as proud of our Catholic faith
as we are of our club colours?”***

He also paid tribute to the community spirit that exists in the GAA describing it as “incredible” in times of trouble. “For us at that time the club mobilised, the county, even the province,” he recalled.

“Everyone gave all the support they could to make sure the practicalities had to be done. They just stepped forward in a great Christian spirit of solidarity and support.”

In sport, Mr Harte said, people have to take responsibility for their own performance and ask if they were doing their best.

“This also applies to our faith and we certainly cannot shirk responsibility. We cannot blame the scandals of the Church. We can’t just take a position that because of those scandals we just don’t bother doing anything, participating in any way. We can’t just say that is the responsibility of the entire Church, because it’s not,” he said.

Speaking about faith and its link with sport Mr Harte asked, “Why should we not be as proud of our Catholic faith as we are of our club colours?”

“As Catholics we are part of the biggest team in the world and we should be proud of that. We should be able to say who I am and this is what I believe. In a game there are all sorts of little battles within it. It’s the same in life. Life gives you some challenges and with the help of God you manage it,” he said.

Mr Harte said as with sport, people practicing their faith need discipline.

“There are socialite athletes and there are dedicated athletes. The socialite athletes are the ones who are out during the weekend, who don’t turn up for training on time. You also need consistency in faith.”

Other speakers at the conference include one of the country’s best known physiotherapists Gerard Hartmann as well as other well-known sporting figures such as Limerick hurling stars Cian Lynch, Seamus Hickey and Declan Hannon and Pat O’Sullivan from Limerick FC.

The conference is one of the key diocesan events organised for the lead-in to the 8-10 April Limerick Synod.

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

Premier

Report that the Archbishop of Canterbury has visited a refugee camp in Rwanda (see above). Archbishop Justin visited Mahama camp in the Kibungo Diocese on Sunday, where almost 50,000 refugees, mostly from neighbouring Burundi, have fled. Accompanied by the Archbishop of Rwanda, Onesphore Rwaje, he toured the camp and then held a special a service for those living there.

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/World/Justin-Welby-visits-Rwandan-refugee-camp>

BBC/Mail online/ITV

Reports that the SNP has said it is to vote against the Government's plans to change Sunday trading laws in England and Wales, which would see bigger shops opening for longer. BBC notes comments by Labour leader, Jeremy Corbyn who said he supports those with a strong Christian faith who wish to have 'a different Sunday'.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-35756258>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-3483198/Government-faces-defeat-relaxation-Sunday-trading-laws.html>

<http://www.itv.com/news/2016-03-09/government-faces-defeat-in-vote-over-changes-to-sunday-trading-laws/>

Christian Today

Reports the reaction of the woman who says she was abused by Bishop George Bell, to a letter written by the former Archbishop of Canterbury Lord Carey to the bishop's niece saying he was "appalled" by the way authorities had treated his memory. The Church announced in October it had settled a civil claim with the woman who said yesterday she was angry at Lord Carey's intervention as she had originally made the allegations when he was in office, and they were ignored.

BBC

Report that Justice Goddard's Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA), will begin hearing today legal submissions about the scope of investigations into the late Labour peer Lord Janner. The Inquiry has

announced that it will investigate a range of institutions including the Anglican Church in England and Wales. The preliminary hearing for this will be held on Wednesday March 16.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-35743073>

Ex

Report that a primary school has been accused of exposing pupils to Islamic State after “twinning” itself with a school in an Iraqi refugee camp. Priddy and St Lawrence’s CofE Primary School in Somerset launched a programme to let youngsters write to their counterparts – Yazidis – and speak to them by video-link. The twinning scheme was set up with the assistance of a Sikh humanitarian charity Khalsa Aid, which works with a Yazidi camp in Iraq. Headteacher Rosie Thorner is quoted.

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/650911/Rural-school-under-fire-twinning-iraqi-refugee-camp>

Spectator

Comment article on public figures, including the Archbishop of Canterbury and politicians, offering to house refugees noting that most have not actually done so. It quotes a Lambeth palace spokesman who said the offer ‘still stands’ and they ‘hope to have an update soon’.

<http://blogs.spectator.co.uk/2016/03/its-been-six-months-nicola-sturgeon-where-are-your-refugees/>

Blogs

CofE Comms: Women inspiring women

March 10

[http://cofecomms.tumblr.com/post/140679757367/
women-inspiring-women](http://cofecomms.tumblr.com/post/140679757367/women-inspiring-women)

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