



Retirement of Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin

Yesterday in an e-mail to members of the Cathedral Community, the Very Reverend Victor Stacey, stated that he had notified the Cathedral Board of his intention to retire following four years as Dean of St Patrick's, the National Cathedral of the Church of Ireland.

Since his installation in 2012, he has provided leadership for the Cathedral, overseeing the restoration of the Lady Chapel and the historic transfer of the Saint Patrick's Cathedral Grammar school to the Free School Scheme, among other significant developments.

Dean Stacey who is 72 years of age was made deacon in 1972 for the parish of Derriaghy, Connor. He subsequently served as curate assistant in Knock before appointment as rector of St. Martin's, Ballymacarret, Belfast. He was rector of Santry and Glasnevin and then of Christ Church, Dun Laoghaire.

Prominent Presbyterian minister steps aside in bid to be MLA

A well known Presbyterian minister is to stand aside from her church ministry in order to stand as an Ulster Unionist Assembly candidate, it has emerged, Sam McBride writes in the News Letter.

The Rev Lesley Carroll, the minister of Fortwilliam and Macrory Presbyterian Church in North Belfast, will be the UUP candidate in the



***Rev Lesley Carroll Minister of Fortwilliam
Presbyterian Church.***

constituency, UUP leader Mike Nesbitt announced yesterday morning.

The Rev Carroll is a frequent contributor to BBC news programmes and was a member of the Eames-Bradley group which in 2009 sparked controversy when it suggested paying £12,000 to all the families of victims of violence, including terrorists.

Mr Nesbitt praised the Rev Carroll as someone who possessed “a rare combination of

compassion, intelligence, and knowledge based on research and experience”.

A spokesman for the Presbyterian Church in Ireland said: “In discussions with the Clerk of the General Assembly, the office bearers of the Presbytery of North Belfast and Rev Dr Lesley Carroll prior to today’s announcement, it was agreed by all concerned that in line with previous practice, it would be appropriate for Dr Carroll to step back from ministerial duties from the announcement of her candidature until after the election to the Northern Ireland Assembly on 5 May.

“The Presbytery of North Belfast has appointed former Presbyterian Moderator, the Very Rev Dr John Dunlop CBE, to undertake all ministerial duties in Fortwilliam and Macrory Presbyterian Church in the meantime.”

In a statement, the Rev Carroll said: “I’m looking forward to the next couple of months. It’s a new challenge, but I’ll use all my past experience of working on the ground to get out and about and speak to as many people as possible before 5 May.

“I have a real passion for North Belfast and its people. I want to make a difference, and after conversations with Mike Nesbitt and much

thought, that's why I'll be standing as an Ulster Unionist Party candidate in North Belfast in the forthcoming Assembly elections.

"I've lived and worked here for over 30 years. It's my home and I care about all its people. There is so much good going on, but sometimes that story isn't told.

"I have a vision for a community in which people collaborate to achieve the best possible North Belfast for all its communities. I have worked alongside people in some of the most difficult circumstances of their lives and from these experiences I've developed a compassionate understanding of people's needs.

"I am committed to social justice in education, community development, health and wellbeing, capacity building and addressing the needs of real people and their too often challenging circumstances."

The Rev Carroll added: "If North Belfast is to become as multi-cultural, lively, diverse and welcoming as we want it to be then provision needs to be made for the needs of everyone and for accessible services.

Also -

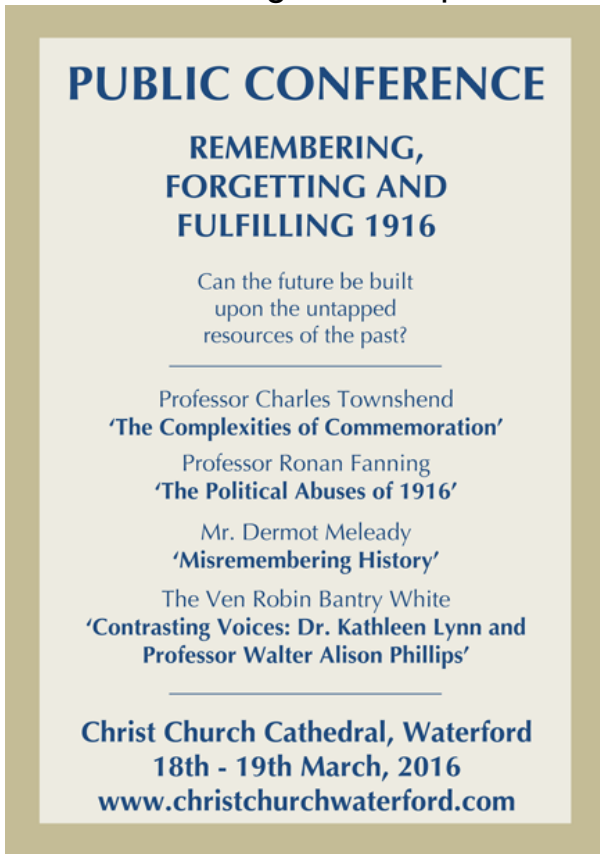
<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/rev-dr-lesley-carroll-why-ive-decided-to-join-race-for-stormont-by-standing-for-uup-in-may-elections-34506879.html>

1916: Waterford conference on Remembering, Forgetting and Fulfilling

A public Conference will be held 18–19 March 2016 in Christ Church Cathedral, Waterford on the theme of “Remembering, Forgetting and Fulfilling 1916: Can the future be built upon the untapped resources of the past?”

This public conference has been planned by the Dean of Waterford, the Very Revd Maria Jansson, to bring together not just scholars and people enquiring about the founding events of the Irish State but also the general thinking public interested in the manner in which we remember the events of the past, commemorate them but also ‘misremember’ or abuse them for political purposes. Over 2,000 books are in the public domain on the subject, so this conference will question the ways in which we ‘do’ and use history. A panel of speakers of international and

national standing will take part.



PUBLIC CONFERENCE

**REMEMBERING,
FORGETTING AND
FULFILLING 1916**

Can the future be built
upon the untapped
resources of the past?

Professor Charles Townshend
'The Complexities of Commemoration'

Professor Ronan Fanning
'The Political Abuses of 1916'

Mr. Dermot Meleady
'Misremembering History'

The Ven Robin Bantry White
**'Contrasting Voices: Dr. Kathleen Lynn and
Professor Walter Alison Phillips'**

**Christ Church Cathedral, Waterford
18th - 19th March, 2016
www.christchurchwaterford.com**

The keynote speaker will be Professor Charles Townshend, Emeritus Professor of International History at Keele University, whose most recent book *The Republic: the Fight for Irish Independence* (2013) was awarded the Christopher Ewart–Biggs Memorial Prize, 2015.

He will speak on March 18th on 'The Complexities of Commemoration'.

The following day, Professor Ronan Fanning, Emeritus Professor of History at UCD, whose two recent publications *Fatal Path: British Government and Irish Revolution 1910–22* (Faber and Faber 2013) and *Eamon de Valera: a Will to Power* (Faber and Faber 2015) have won widespread acclaim will speak on 'The Political Abuses of 1916'.

Dermot Meleady who wrote the hugely significant two volume biography on John Redmond will argue that the rebels of 1916 'Misremembered History' for political purposes.

Robin Bantry White, the retired Archdeacon of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, will give a lecture on 'Contrasting voices: Dr. Kathleen Lynn and Professor Walter Alison Philipps', two Protestants, one an ardent supporter of Sinn Fein, the other utterly opposed to Home Rule. The conference will close with the response of Bishop Michael Burrows, Bishop of Waterford to the above presentations. He will also preach in the cathedral on Easter Day to mark the centenary of 1916.

There will be ample opportunity for participants to engage with the speakers in open fora and it is hoped that the event will generate much reflection and discussion.

Register on line at

www.christchurchwaterford.com/events/conference-1916

Email: events.christchurchwaterford@gmail.com

Tel: +353 51 858958

Cost for full conference: €80 (which included light lunch Saturday for those who pre-register)

Concession €30 for retired people or on receipt of Student or Social Welfare Card

Gaudium Chamber Choir's 'Songs for Penitence and Reflection' in Raphoe Cathedral

After the success of their popular 'The King of Love' concert in Trinity Presbyterian Church last November, Gaudium Chamber Choir, under the direction of Daniel Braddell, are presenting 'O for the Wings of a Dove – Songs for Penitence and Reflection', in St. Eunan's Cathedral, Raphoe, on Friday 18th March.

A sequence of music for organ and for choir, this event juxtaposes music for the Passiontide period with arrangements of traditional songs in both English and Irish. Included are the famous 'O for the Wings of a Dove' from Mendelssohn's 'Hear My Prayer', and beautiful arrangements of 'She Moved Through the Fair' and 'An Londubh is an Chéirsach'.

It begins at 8pm on Friday, 18th March, by kind invitation of the Dean of Raphoe, the Very Reverend Arthur Barrett. Admission is free, with a retiring collection to cover costs and for the Cathedral Fabric Fund.

Catholic schools should be 'courageous' – Primate

Archbishop Eamon Martin has urged Catholic schools to be "courageous" in trialling new ways of celebrating First Communion and Confirmation ceremonies.

Noting that "any attempt to get a national decision" on how best to celebrate First Communion and Confirmation ceremonies would fail, the Archbishop of Armagh insisted "the best examples of parish, home, school, linking



Archbishop Eamon Martin

catechesis are done at local level and then they spread up”.

“I think we just have to be open and creative to parishes who do wish to do something different and allow that to happen,” he said.

Archbishop Eamon made his remarks after delivering a key note address at the Annual General Meeting of the Catholic Primary School’s Management Association (CPSMA). In his address, the archbishop warned that it was “easy” for schools to “pay lip service to Catholic ethos and to simply put on a good show when necessary”.

However, what is much more important, according to the archbishop, is to be “an intentional Catholic school”.

“This is one which says, loudly and clearly, this is who we are,” Archbishop Eamon insisted.

“We are Catholic schools inspired by Christ. We know what that means for us, we celebrate our distinctiveness, we deliberately nurture and develop our Catholic ethos in the whole school community and we can name and demonstrate the experiences, the Gospel values, the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and behaviours which we want to pervade everything we do.

“An intentional Catholic school is one where the works of mercy permeate the totality of experience in the school community to confront the material, cultural, relationships and spiritual poverty that is so prevalent in the world,” he said.

Archbishop Welby recommissions President of Mothers' Union

The Archbishop of Canterbury said he “praises God” for the Mothers’ Union during a service at Lambeth Palace this week to recommission



The worldwide President of the Mothers' Union, Lynne Tembey, is recommissioned by the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby during a service at Lambeth Palace

Lynne Tembey as worldwide president of the global Anglican women's organisation.

The service was attended by the Very Revd Nigel Godfrey, Dean of Peel Cathedral; Mothers' Union chief executive Bev Jullien; the Mothers' Union board of trustees; and Lambeth Palace and Anglican Communion Office staff.

Lynne Tembey was reappointed to be the worldwide president of the Mothers' Union from

2016 to 2018, having first been appointed three years ago.

During the service Archbishop Justin Welby said: “The Mothers’ Union in so many places is an organisation that listens to the voices of weeping. Whether it’s in Burundi, the Congo or South Sudan; whether it’s in homes in cities where when the local football team loses there is a 50 percent increase in domestic violence; whether it is in the loneliness of weeping by people who are not suffering physically but are spiritually empty and lost; it is the Mothers’ Union that exists in the vision of Mary Sumner to speak of those things that God has provided that bring hope, help and a future.

Central to this vision, he said, is “an extraordinary movement to support the family.”

“There has never been a time when the family was not a place that needed the light of Christ shining within it to become what God has called it to be. And you hold that treasure in your hands, and as we go to the reaffirmation that is part of the vision.”

He added: “But there is also such a need for global women’s groups. And you are among the most embedded, the most effective, the most widespread. There are few that can rival you – if any.”

Reflecting on United Nations research showing that no major civil conflict since 1945 has ended without the involvement of women’s groups, the Archbishop said the Mothers’ Union holds in its hands two aspects of “the most extraordinary treasure that God has brought together.”

“You are one of the greatest of women’s groups in the world, and you have the treasure of the gospel of reconciliation. What more could be needed to be transforming of the world in which we live?

“So . Nine-tenths of your work is hidden in the parishes and the dioceses, in the hills and the villages – doing the work of bringing hope and strengthening families, of supporting churches, of transforming communities.

“I pray that God will go on blessing you, and that your vision of the God who rises above all the fears, all the problems we face... will end with a vision of hope and confidence not in the Mother’s

Union and this great heritage, not even in this wonderful vision, but in the God who underpins and secures it all.”

Internet could trigger religious ‘revolution’ as big as birth of Christianity : Lord Sacks

The internet will transform civilisation as much as the invention of writing or the printing press – even ushering in new types of religion in the world, the former Chief Rabbi, Lord Sacks, has suggested.

But so far religious extremists and terrorists have been quicker to realise the potential of the “revolution” we are living through – leaving moderate voices far behind, he warned.

The prediction came as he was announced as this year’s winner of the £1.1 million [Templeton Prize](#), the [world’s biggest annual award, for his work promoting religious understanding](#).

He [follows in the footsteps of the Dalai Lama](#), Mother Theresa and [Archbishop Desmond Tutu as the latest recipient of the prize](#), which



recognises efforts to promote “life’s spiritual dimension”.

Speaking in London he pledged to use the money, from a fund set up by the philanthropist Sir John Templeton more than 40 years ago, to expand his efforts to spread a message of tolerance and forgiveness.

He insisted that, far from religion being in inevitable decline amid scientific progress and social change, most of the world is rapidly being “de-secularised” – something he said “nobody expected”.

Technology, he argued, will itself help transform people’s beliefs in a way that only a handful of breakthroughs in the past – from the

development of the first hieroglyphics to the introduction of the printing press – have done.

Churches in Wales launch joint election films

Candidates for the Welsh Election are grilled on two key issues affecting Wales in two films launched yesterday (March 3) by a network of churches.

Representatives from the four main parties currently represented in the National Assembly and standing for election on May 5 are asked how they would respond to homelessness in urban areas and poverty in rural areas in the films by Cytûn – the Churches Together in Wales organisation.

They are quizzed by a vicar who fears her rural neighbourhood in Ceredigion is ‘closing down’ and a Salvation Army housing support worker who struggles to find shelter for homeless people in Cardiff.

The bilingual films, launched at the National Assembly for Wales on March 3, are part of a package of online resources put together by Cytûn to help churches engage with the

elections and encourage people in their communities to take part. The dedicated website also includes guidance and advice for organising hustings, a register for events they are organising and briefing papers on key policy areas.

In the films, produced by the Salvation Army's video production unit, the Revd Canon Eileen Davies, farmer and rural life adviser for St Davids Diocese, based in Ceredigion, and Laura Major, a support worker at the Salvation Army's Ty Gobaith Lifehouse Centre for homeless people in Cardiff, are followed as they describe the issues they face in their day-to-day work.

Eileen is filmed engaging with farmers at the Carmarthen livestock market and touring her parishes near Lampeter. She explains how the fall in milk and lamb prices, TB and delay of the Basic Payment Scheme have impacted on farmers, while the lack of broadband, poor public transport and the closure of schools, post offices and shops have helped drive young people out of rural communities. She also describes a counselling and advice service to support farmers set up by local churches last year, called Tir Dewi.

The films, which can be downloaded, at www.cytun.org.uk/elections2016 were launched at the Media Briefing Room at the Senedd at an event sponsored by Lesley Griffiths AM, Mark Isherwood AM and William Powell AM.

Gethin Rhys, Cytûn's National Assembly Policy Officer, says, "Churches have a long tradition of encouraging democratic engagement by their members and by the wider parish. This is the first time we have made election films and we hope they will act as a discussion starter in groups or even in worship. We are very grateful to Eileen and Laura for raising two very real and important issues for Wales and giving each party a chance to say how they would address them."

The Archbishop of Wales, Dr Barry Morgan, says, "I hope this film inspires people to think hard about the issues raised and consider carefully the responses of the four parties so that they can make an informed decision on how to vote on May 5. Our right to vote is not something we should take for granted. It was a hard-won right, and one which millions of people in the world still don't enjoy. By voting and being active in politics we exercise our power to change society – that is quite a responsibility for all of us."

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

Ashers bakery appeal - Belfast Telegraph

Northern Ireland's Attorney General gets green light for involvement in 'gay cake'

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/ashers-bakery-appeal-northern-irelands-attorney-general-gets-green-light-for-involvement-in-gay-cake-case-34508543.html>

Abortion: Midwives college writes to NI health minister over working group delay - BBC News

The Royal College of Midwives (RCM) writes to the health minister with concerns over a delay in establishing a working group on the issue of abortions in cases of fatal foetal abnormality.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-35712633>

Lichfield Mercury

Report that the Rt Revd Dr Michael Ipgrave has been named as the new Bishop of Lichfield. Bishop Michael, the current Bishop of Woolwich in the Diocese of Southwark, will be the ninety-ninth Bishop of Lichfield, in a line going back to St Chad in the seventh century.

<http://www.lichfieldmercury.co.uk/99th-Bishop-Lichfield-named-Lichfield-mother/story-28843814-detail/story.html>

Tel/Times/Premier/BBC

Reports that the former Chief Rabbi, Lord Sacks, has said that the internet will transform civilisation as much as the invention of writing or the printing press. The prediction came as he was announced as this year's winner of the £1.1 million Templeton Prize, for which he was nominated by the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Carey. "We are trying to work out how we can speak to this You Tube short-attention-span generation which nonetheless have hearts of gold and are waiting for a positive altruistic message," he said. *Premier* reports that Archbishop Justin congratulated Lord Sacks, saying in a Tweet: "your religious and ethical leadership is more vital than ever."

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/12181281/Internet-could-trigger-religious-revolution-as-big-as-birth-of-Christianity-Lord-Sacks.html>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/technology/article4704209.ece>

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Welby-congratulates-former-British-Chief-Rabbi-on-award>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-35694507>

Guard

Gallery of pictures produced by photographer Jim Grover who shadowed CofE priest Kit Gunasekera for a year as he works with his diverse congregation in south east London. The pictures are part of an exhibition at the Oxo Tower Wharf in London.

<http://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/gallery/2016/mar/02/photographer-jim-grover-london-priest-in-pictures>

Business Insider UK

Highlights a new high resolution virtual tour of St Paul's Cathedral created by the Google Cultural Institute. The

tour includes close ups of the art inside the building including the ceiling in the Quire.

<http://uk.businessinsider.com/st-pauls-cathedral-free-tour-online-2016-3>

Times/Exp/Tel

Reviews of the first programme of the second series of ITVs *Grantchester* which features a crime-fighting vicar Sidney Chambers. The series is written James Runcie, the son of the former Archbishop of Canterbury, adapted from his *Grantchester Mysteries*.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/arts/tv-radio/reviews/article4703902.ece>

<http://www.express.co.uk/showbiz/tv-radio/649245/Cleric-comes-cropper-Grantchester-Inside-Buckingham-Palace>

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