



Methodist President Designate the Rev Bill Mullally (left) is pictured with Deborah Doherty, Head of Church and Community at Christian Aid Ireland, and Andrew Coleman, Cork representative for Christian Aid, before a special service in St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork to celebrate Christian Aid's seventieth anniversary on Sunday last.

Easter Day services to be held in Christ Church Cathedral

Easter Day services in Dublin's C of I cathedral will now go ahead according to a statement issued by the C of I Archbishop of Dublin, the Archdeacons of Dublin and Glendalough, and the Acting Dean of Christ Church.

“Following recent consultation between Government officials, An Garda Síochána, the Archdeacons of Dublin and Glendalough, the Precentor of Christ Church Cathedral and representatives of St Patrick’s Cathedral, we are pleased to report that Christ Church Cathedral will open for worship on Easter Day. The Eucharist will be celebrated at a said service in the cathedral at 10.00am. Clergy, staff and congregation will be facilitated in such a way as to allow them through the outer security cordon and park in a designated area near the cathedral. A shuttle bus will bring them from there to the cathedral where they will gain access through the West Door.

“In addition, at mid–day, the cathedral will use the special bilingual liturgy provided by the Liturgical Advisory Committee of the Church of Ireland on behalf of the Historical Centenaries Working Group to commemorate the 1916 Rising. During



this service, as the parade is passing the cathedral, the congregation will pray for the country and its leaders and remember those who died during the Rising.

“The cathedral will then close for a short period and re–open its doors when the parade finishes and the crowds disperse, allowing pilgrims and tourists to visit.

“We in the Church of Ireland are very happy with the outcome of the negotiations with Government and An Garda Síochána to ensure that worshippers have the option to attend Christ

Church Cathedral and St Patrick's Cathedral for Easter celebrations. The Archbishop and senior clergy continue to feel that it is not practical to have every Church of Ireland church in the city open on Easter Day given that the majority of the parishioners do not live in the vicinity of these churches. The expectation remains that there will be a very large volume of people to watch the parade. Consequently the decision of the affected clergy to provide alternative places to worship remains as previously stated."

The statement is signed by :

The Most Reverend Dr Michael Jackson,
Archbishop of Dublin

The Venerable David Pierpoint Archdeacon of
Dublin

The Venerable Ricky Rountree Archdeacon of
Glendalough

Precentor Neil NcEndoo, Acting Dean of Christ
Church Cathedral

Easter Sunday services to go ahead at Christ Church Cathedral

Irish Times

Last month it was announced such services were being cancelled at Christ Church and other city centre **Church of Ireland** parishes due to traffic ...

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/easter-sunday-services-to-go-ahead-at-christ-church-cathedral-1.2559151>

Never mind the cordon: Christ Church reverses decision to close on Easter Sunday thejournal.ie

However, in a statement last night, **Church of Ireland** Archbishop of Dublin Dr Michael Jackson said Christ Church would open as normal for 10am ...

<http://www.thejournal.ie/christchurch-cathedral-1916-service-2641065-Mar2016/>

Church leaders condemn Belfast bomb

Presbyterian Moderator, Rt. Rev. Dr. Ian McNie, has condemned yesterday's bomb attack on a prison officer in East Belfast.

He said, "I saw first hand the invaluable work that prison officers undertake on our behalf on a visit to Maghaberry in November. This attack is a throwback to a past that should never be repeated, as violence, then as now, has no place in our society.

"My thoughts and prayers are with his family and the local community, and I pray for his full recovery."

The President of the Methodist Church in Ireland, the Rev. Brian Anderson who grew up in the area where this murderous attack took place has said

"Once again, this action is a reminder that the men of violence are still active in our Society. Knowing that in reality such people do not give any heed to the condemnation of their actions, I would nevertheless utterly condemn this savage action and offer my sympathy to the Prison Officer, his family and all his colleagues.

"I hope that this tragedy will galvanise the total community revulsion against those who have carried out this dastardly act."

The Rt Revd Harold Miller, Bishop of Down and Dromore, and Chair of the Col NI Community Relations Working Group, stated, "The attack this morning on a Prison Officer through the detonation of an explosive device under his van in East Belfast is a deplorable act on an individual who is serving the community and an attack on everyone in society. I join with others in condemning this terrible act and I also wish the victim well in his recovery – he and his family are in our prayers."

Archdeacon David McClay, Rector of Willowfield Parish, Belfast, said, “Local people on the Woodstock Road are appalled by the attack this morning on a Prison Officer. He and his family are in our prayers, as are all those who are impacted by this criminal and detestable act. I join with others across our community in condemning it.”

See also - Irish News: Prison officer attack: police fear dissidents intend marking Easter Rising with killings

<http://www.irishnews.com/news/northernirelandnews/2016/03/04/news/prison-officer-injured-in-bomb-attack-439438/?>

[mc_cid=5e3718b705&mc_eid=23f2f80c40](http://www.irishnews.com/news/northernirelandnews/2016/03/04/news/prison-officer-injured-in-bomb-attack-439438/?mc_cid=5e3718b705&mc_eid=23f2f80c40)

Dean of Connor and canons installed

The Very Rev Sam Wright was installed as Dean of Connor at a service in Lisburn Cathedral on Thursday March 3.

Two new Canons were also installed in the Chapter of St Saviour, Connor, while several existing Canons were installed in new positions within the Chapter.



There was large turn-out for the 8pm service, and the preacher was the Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev Alan Abernethy.

The new Dean has been rector of Christ Church Cathedral, Lisburn, for 17 years. He previously served a Precentor in the Chapter of St Saviour. The Rev Canon George Irwin, (St Mark's, Ballymacash), formerly Chapter Treasurer, was installed as Chancellor, and the Rev Canon John Budd (Derriaghy), former Prebendary of Rasharkin, was installed as Treasurer. The former Prebendary of Connor, the Rev Canon George Graham (Dunluce), who was unable to attend the service, is the new Precentor.

The two new Canons are the Rev Canon Peter Galbraith (Broomhedge) who was installed as Prebendary of Connor and the Rev Canon Chris Easton (Armoy, Loughguile and Drumtallagh) who was installed as Prebendary of Rasharkin.

In his address, the Bishop of Connor spoke about the need for Christians to go out into towns and cities with the light and hope of Christ. He referred to the initiative taken by Lisburn Cathedral parishioners through the [Big Church Serve](#) which will run for a third successive year this March.

More at -

<http://connor.anglican.org/2016/03/04/an-amazing-moment-in-my-life-dean-sam-wright/>

Former C of I lay worker pleads guilty to indecent assault

Sunday World - A former lay worker with the Church of Ireland accused of sexually abusing 10 boys between 1977 and 1990 has pleaded guilty to indecently assaulting one male.

Patrick O'Brien (76), with a Dublin address, pleaded guilty at Dublin Circuit Criminal

Court to indecently assaulting a male in a boat which was moored in a Midlands town on a date between April 1, 1984 and September 30, 1984.

Anne Rowland BL, prosecuting said that the State required O'Brien to plead to further charges before he was ultimately sentenced but were accepting this plea to allow the case to proceed.

She asked that the case be adjourned to meet a second case against O'Brien for which a book of evidence had just been served.

<https://www.sundayworld.com/news/courts/former-church-of-ireland-lay-worker-pleads-guilty-to-indecent-assault>

Stainer's Crucifixion on Good Friday in St Paul's Glenageary

The joint choirs of St Paul's Glenageary, Holy Trinity Killiney, St Matthias' Ballybrack and Dalkey Parish are putting on a performance of John Stainer's Crucifixion on Good Friday, March 25. The performance will take place in St Paul's Parish Church beginning at 8 pm and will feature Andrew Irwin (tenor), Padraic Rowan (bass) and

Matthew Breen (organ. The conductor will be Nathan Barrett.

Rival campaigns gear up to win over Christians in EU referendum battle

Two rival campaigns have been established to persuade Christians how to vote in the EU referendum, writes Tim Wyatt in *Church Times*.

Christians for Britain has been set up by Canon Giles Fraser, Priest-in-Charge of St Mary's, Newington, in south London, a former canon at St Paul's Cathedral and *Church Times* columnist, and Adrian Hilton, who runs the blog Archbishop Cranmer, to urge a "Leave" vote on 23 June.

Shortly after it came into being, the Very Revd Michael Sadgrove, who retired as Dean of Durham last year, established a group, Christians for the EU, to urge a vote to "Remain".

Both organisations are, at present, little more than websites and social-media accounts, but they intend to hold public meetings and debates in the build-up to the referendum in June.



Mr Sadgrove said that he was glad that Canon Fraser and Mr Hilton were articulating a Christian argument to vote to leave, and was keen to make the opposite case.

“I think there is a need for more than one Christian voice, because we are as divided as the rest of the population. It’s a way of getting Christians talking to one another about what is going to be the most significant vote we will cast in a generation.”

Mr Hilton said that plans were already in place for a debate between the two campaigns, which would probably take place in Westminster nearer the date of the referendum.

“It would be all in good Christian love and wholesome disagreement,” he said, “as clearly there is a need for Christians to be informed.” Christians for Britain have already been asked to speak at churches and hustings.

More at -

<https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2016/4-march/news/uk/rival-campaigns-gear-up-to-win-over-christians-in-eu-referendum-battle>

Mother Teresa nuns massacred by militants in Yemen

Four Missionaries of Charity have been shot dead in Yemen during an attack by gunmen on a Church-run retirement home.

The women religious, members of the congregation founded by Mother Teresa, were among 16 killed in an attack on a home for the elderly in the capital city Aden.

According to [reports](#), two of the nuns were Rwandan and the others were Kenyan and Indian.

It is not yet clear who is behind the attack but the country is currently in the midst of civil war.

Islamist State and al-Qaida supporters have recently conducted a number of attacks in the south of Yemen.

One nun who survived the attack and was rescued by locals told the Associated Press that she hid inside a refrigerator in a store room after hearing a Yemeni guard shouting “run, run”.

Another survivor said among the 16 slaughtered there were also six Ethiopians, one Yemeni cook, and several Yemeni guards.

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

Ashers cake legal bill over £100K - News Letter

The Christian Institute has estimated that well over £100,000 in legal costs have now been racked up in the saga over Ashers’ ‘gay cake’ – an order which originally cost £36.50.

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/ashers-case-a-36-50-cake-has-spawned-bills-totalling-100k-plus-1-7250750>

87pc of people in favour of making abortion more widely available - poll - Irish Independent

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/health/87pc-of-people-in-favour-of-making-abortion-more-widely-available-poll-34511166.html>

55% want next government to widen abortion access - poll - Irish Times

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/majority-want-politicians-to-be-proactive-on-abortion-issue-poll-1.2559874>

Cardinal insists he was 'kept in dark' about child abuse - Irish Times

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/world/cardinal-insists-he-was-kept-in-dark-about-child-abuse-1.2558437>

Cardinal George Pell attacked by priest who has known him for 30 years - Daily Mail

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3475660/Cardinal-George-Pell-attacked-priest-known-30-years.html>

Guard

Reports that the Commons home affairs committee say that too many local authorities are unwilling to take part in the voluntary dispersal scheme for asylum seekers and ministers should bring pressure to bear on them to volunteer and provide suitable accommodation. The committee also says that the arrival of Syrian refugees and others means that as many as 50,000 asylum seekers will need to be housed by 2017 and the government should reconsider offers from individuals

including the Archbishop of Canterbury and others to house refugees.

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/mar/04/commons-committee-calls-for-asylum-seekers-to-be-housed-in-tory-shires>

Christian Today

Reports a new blog, [ViaMedia.News](#) which aims to bridge divides on issues including same-sex marriage. Edited by General Synod member, Jayne Ozanne, it will publish weekly articles from senior Church figures. Launching the site, David Walker, Bishop of Manchester, writes on "rediscovering 'good disagreement'".

York Press/Yorkshire Post

Reports that the Archbishop of York has praised the valuable work done by foster carers during a visit to East Riding of Yorkshire County Hall in Beverley (see above). Archbishop Sentamu met the council's fostering team and spoke to both carers and young people who have been in foster care. The Archbishop was in Beverley as part of his six-month Pilgrimage of Prayer, Witness and Blessing across the Diocese of York.

http://www.yorkpress.co.uk/news/14319795.Archbishop_visits_East_Yorkshire_foster_care_team/?ref=rss
<http://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/analysis/dr-john-sentamu-the-archbishop-of-the-people-and-his-spiritual-journey-1-7770946>

Stroud News

Reports that the Bishop of Gloucester, Rachel Treweek, will make her maiden speech in the House of Lords on Monday, March 7. Bishop Rachel will make speak in a

debate on women's empowerment and representation in the UK, to highlight International Women's Day on Tuesday, March 8.

http://www.stroudnewsandjournal.co.uk/news/14318457.Bishop_of_Gloucester_Rachel_Treweek_to_deliver_her_maiden_speech_in_House_of_Lords/?ref=rss

Mail online

Tom Bower writes a critique of education policy while Tony Blair was Prime Minister, arguing his policy of encouraging growing numbers of faith schools resulted in increased racial segregation in some schools over the period.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3475851/Bottom-class-Blair-pledged-education-education-education-10-years-Labour-billions-spent-Britain-s-schools-actually-worse.html>

Tel/Christian Today/Ind/Exp

Reports that a British man was removed from an easyJet plane by armed officers after a passenger saw a message on his phone about 'prayer' and reported him as a security threat. Laolu Opebiyi, a Christian, born in Nigeria and now living in London, was questioned by police after a fellow passenger saw a conversation on his phone, and misread the title of a WhatsApp group 'Isi men' as 'Isis men'. 'Isi' is a short version of the Bible proverb: "Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another".

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/12182922/British-man-forced-off-easyJet-plane-after-passenger-saw-message-about-prayer-on-his-phone.html>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/british-man-kicked-off-easyjet-flight-over-prayer-message-on-phone-a6909711.html>

http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/649571/Christian-kicked-off-easyJet-flight-Whatsapp-prayer-group-ISI?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+daily-express-news-showbiz+%28Daily+Express+%3A%3A+News+%2F+Showbiz+Feed%29

Guard

Archaeologists are to launch a search on Holy Island in Northumberland for the monastery where one of the most beautiful books in western Europe, the Lindisfarne Gospels, was made. The money for the excavation has been raised through a crowdfunding project, Dig Ventures, founded by three archaeologists to fill the gap left by the sharp decline in funding of research archaeology.

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2016/mar/04/archaeologists-crowdfunded-search-lindisfarne-monastery-excavation>

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