



MEDIA REVIEW - May 5



Former Taoiseach Bertie Ahern, one of the key architects of the peace process, has said that if Pope Francis does not visit the North during his Irish visit in August it will be a missed opportunity to help peace and reconciliation.

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Protestant church leaders urge Pope to visit NI

BBC News

In a statement to BBC **News** NI, Archbishop Richard Clarke said: "While a visit to Northern **Ireland** is clearly a matter for the Pope himself to decide upon, I am happy to reiterate that I would welcome it - both as an encouragement to members of the Catholic **Church** and for its potential in promoting peace ...

Belfast Telegraph

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/protestant-church-leaders-say-pope-visit-could-help-build-bridges-in-northern-ireland-36873571.html>

A Papal visit to Northern Ireland could help promote peace and reconciliation, Protestant church leaders have said. In a letter to Pope Francis the church leaders said that the Pope would be welcomed if he chooses to come north during his planned visit to the Republic in August. The contents of the letter were revealed in the latest edition of The Irish Catholic newspaper. It was sent last December by Church of Ireland Primate Archbishop Richard Clarke, Presbyterian Moderator Dr Noble McNeely, Methodist President Dr Laurence Graham, and the President of the Irish Council of Churches Bishop John McDowell. "The potential that a visit to Northern Ireland could have in promoting peace and reconciliation throughout the island cannot be underestimated," it read.

Protestant church leaders urge Pope Francis to come north

The Irish News

Former Fianna Fáil leader Bertie Ahern voiced hope that the Pope Francis would cross the border. "From what I've heard the programme isn't yet completed, so it'd be certainly be nice," he said. There was no comment from the Catholic **Church in Ireland** though it is understood that **news** of the Protestant ...

Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Rt Rev Ken Good, on the Referendum on the Eighth Amendment

Donegal Now

We must be compassionate in responding to those for whom pregnancy is unwelcome or traumatic, and must seek to offer a

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positive alternative to abortion. "The Archbishops of the **Church of Ireland** have stated that "unrestricted access to abortion in the first twelve weeks of pregnancy, or indeed at any ...

[Lords force another Brexit defeat on the Government, after Northern Ireland fears](#)

Church Times

"It would be shameful and dishonourable if this House were to do anything that made that [violence in Northern Ireland] more likely. It would be a stain on our history." Lord Eames, the former **Church of Ireland** Primate, spoke of the importance of the border in every part of life in Northern Ireland. He said: ...

[Will NI's peace walls come down by 2023 to meet 10-year target?](#)

BBC News

This month marks the half-way point in a 10-year plan to bring down all of Northern **Ireland's** peace walls, but only a few have been removed so far. The barriers were erected to separate mainly unionist and mainly nationalist areas, to prevent attacks on residents living along the interfaces.

[Choral Festival gets underway in Navan](#)

Meath Chronicle

The 39th Navan Choral and Instrumental Festival takes place at various venues around Navan, including the Newgrange Hotel, St Mary's **Church of Ireland**, St Mary's Church, Simonstown GAA Centre and Columbanus Hall. This year entries for the various competitions have increased again.

[Community and businesses rally round to provide new defibrillator in Fahan](#)

Donegal Now

"Fahan Presbyterian Church; St Mura's **Church of Ireland**, Fahan; and St Mura's Parish Church, Fahan also made donations. Everyone involved should be proud that we now have a much-needed defibrillator in Fahan." Photo shows Patrick Lynch and Martina Bradley at the defibrillator at Bradley's filling ...

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Catholic Ireland is Dead and Gone

The American Conservative

As in those places, legal tradition in the Republic of **Ireland** has been profoundly shaped by the country's dominant **religion**. The Irish Constitution, adopted in 1937, is an emphatically Christian political document. Its preamble begins not with a gesture towards “we the people,” like its American and Indian ...

Garda called in over images of gay sex act on Irish church altar

Belfast Telegraph

According to Catholic Church law: "A church is desecrated by actions that are gravely injurious in themselves and a cause of scandal to the faithful." The concerning images will be investigated during a year when the Catholic **Church in Ireland** is facing challenges, including the upcoming abortion ...

Christians across the world join together to pray “Thy Kingdom Come”

Anglicannews

The Church of Pakistan printed 2,000 copies of Thy Kingdom Come resources for its churches and people. A number of “beacon events” – regional worship services – will take place across the world in places including the UK, the US, Canada, Australia, Bermuda. The **Church of Ireland** will be hosting ...

Rio Tinto faces up to Church of England shareholders' resolution on coal-lobby

Anglicannews

A resolution co-filed by the **Church of England** Pensions Board challenging Rio Tinto's continuing support for pro-coal lobby groups has failed at the company's AGM. But the resolution attracted the support of 18.3 per cent of Rio Tinto's shareholders, including Aegon and Legal & General, in what the C ...

Green Church Awards focus on well-being

Church Times

THIS week the Church Times launches its Green Health Awards. In partnership with the Guild of Health and St Raphael, and the Conservation Foundation, and with the backing of the **Church of**

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England, we want to highlight churches that are using their gardens and churchyards to promote well-being.

Why the Royal Family Used to Forbid Marriage After Divorce

History

Ironically, the roots of that position—and the **Church of England** itself—lie in the inability of Henry VIII to annul his marriage with the blessing of the Catholic Church. In the 1530s ... Then, in 1996, Prince Charles, who is first in line to the throne, divorced Diana, creating a **media** firestorm. Though Diana ...

Church rejects memorial plan for victims of IRA Poppy Day bombing

Belfast Telegraph

The Catholic Church has rejected plans to build a memorial to victims of the IRA's Poppy Day bombing in Northern Ireland on its land. The sheer size and scale of the proposed construction poses "insurmountable" problems for access at the proposed site, a diocesan trust in Enniskillen in Co Fermanagh said.

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/church-rejects-memorial-plan-for-victims-of-ira-poppy-day-bombing-36873084.html>

Church rejects placing of Enniskillen Poppy Day bomb memorial

Belfast Telegraph

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/church-rejects-placing-of-enniskillen-poppy-day-bomb-memorial-36873112.html>

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn invited to speak at Queen's University

Belfast Telegraph

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/labour-leader-jeremy-corbyn-invited-to-speak-at-queens-university-36871314.html>

Review of sex education 'essential', says Catholic primate

Irish Times

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<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/review-of-sex-education-essential-says-catholic-primate-1.3483187>

<https://www.catholicbishops.ie/2018/05/03/archbishop-eamon-martin-address-catholic-schools-supporting-families-towards-a-better-education-of-children/>

Hundreds walk on Toronto’s “Via Dolorosa” in memory of van attack victims

An estimated 200 people gathered Monday, April 30 at the site of the 23 April Toronto van attack for an Anglican-organised prayer walk and vigil in memory of the victims. The walk, organised by the diocese of Toronto’s York Mills deanery, began at the intersection of Yonge and Finch streets, just north of where the first victim was struck by the speeding van. Following a prayer by Kevin Robertson, area bishop of York-Scarborough, participants walked southward along part of the alleged assailant’s route, past makeshift memorials of flowers, until they reached the Anglican Church of St George on Yonge, near which another pedestrian had been killed.

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