

**The essential daily
brief on the Irish
churches**

**St Patrick's -
Cork style**

**The Annual
Festival Choral
Eucharist and
Civic Service at
St Fin Barre's
Cathedral gives
everyone an
early start to the
celebrations
each St Patrick's
Day in Cork.**



The Bishop of Cork, the Right Reverend Dr Paul Colton, accompanies the Lord Mayor of Cork, Councillor Catherine Clancy as they, followed by the members of Cork City Council, leave St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork on St Patrick's Day. (Photo: David Barry)

Since the 1960s the Lord Mayor and City Council, together with local politicians, city officials, representatives of An Garda Síochána, the Naval Service, the Defence Forces, as well as representatives of the local business community, charities and voluntary groups have made the Service their first engagement of St Patrick's Day in Cork.

Stewarding and a Guard of Honour are traditionally provided by the 2nd Cork (St Fin Barre's) Scouts.

See below - 2nd Cork (St Fin Barre's) Scouts and Leaders with the Bishop and the Lord Mayor at The Bishop's Palace after the St Patrick's Day Service. (Photo: David Barry).



Afterwards the Bishop and Mrs Colton hosted a reception, as they do each year, for more than 150 invited guests at The Bishop's Palace.

Street Pastors busy in Belfast over St Patrick's Day

Street Pastors have reported on their work on St Patrick's Day 2014 in the 'Holyland' area of Belfast

2,065 bottles and glasses removed from the streets! 19 Volunteers - from Ireland, England, Brazil, France, & New Zealand 6 teams ... on the streets from 2pm to 11pm

With streets names such as 'Palestine Street, Cairo Street, Jerusalem Street, Carmel Street' it's not surprising this part of Belfast is called 'The Holyland'. It is home to about 10,000 students, longer term residents plus Roma and Romanians. On St Patrick's Day 4 years ago there was significant tension and riots and so every year since, there has been a lot of planning to helping St Patrick's Day (or actually the entire weekend) pass off as peacefully as possible.

A spokesperson said, "Belfast Street Pastors actually launched on the streets 3 years ago on St Patrick's Day and our involvement has been appreciated

by the authorities, students, universities and residents. We have been involved in the joint planning sessions with other agencies.

“This year on St Patrick’s Day we were joined by some Newtownabbey Street Pastors with whom we do joint training and were able to have 6 teams serving. We were based at City Church which is right in the middle of the area and is used as a base for the Police and Council workers as well. The church had activities as well and also people praying throughout the day and night.

“The Police, Council, University Staff, Student Union Officials, Landlords, had all tried hard to warn students to leave the area, or behave, but many came back for the celebrations, including people who are not students. Drinking is not allowed on the streets, so parties happen in the tiny front ‘gardens’ or even on the top of the bay windows!

“Most of the celebrations are good natured, but sometimes it can get out of hand. Our strategy is to quickly point out that we are NOT police or council and we then get an amazing reaction – ‘why are you doing this when you’re not paid for it?’ We get alongside the students, take an interest in them and their studies, ask if they’ve been having a good night, and then they sometimes ask us if their music is too loud! One of the teams may have prevented a rape and we calmed some anti-social incidents. We had some good conversations with people who have given up on church, but not necessarily on God.

“It was a privilege to serve Belfast in this way on a special day.”

See also -

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/northern-ireland/drun-teen-yobs-bring-st-patricks-day-mayhem-to-belfast-city-centre-30100855.html>

On Twitter

Trinity Orchestra at CCCD

Really looking forward to hearing Tchaik violin concerto on Wednesday evening in @cccdub. Tickets €12.5/5/3/5 from tickets.trinityorchestra.com

St Fin Barre’s Cathedral

Interesting piece by Christopher Howse in last Saturday's Telegraph (UK) following the columnist's visit to the Cathedral [telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/)

Discovery Gospel Choir



Thank you so, so much to all who helped make Saturday's sell-out show in Christ Church Cathedral Dublin so memorable [fb.me/2kcWNsvtt](https://www.facebook.com/2kcWNsvtt)

Launch of 'Handy to Have' Leaflet

Pictured are Scott Hayes of Ecclesiastical Insurance, who have supported the venture; the Revd Isaac Delamere, chairperson of the Social Action Committee, Archbishop Michael Jackson, and committee members, Nigel Warburton, David Whyte and Mildred Beresford.

The Dublin and Glendalough Diocesan Committee for Social Action has launched a new 'Handy to Have' leaflet. The leaflet has been distributed to parishes throughout the dioceses and contains contact details for a wide range of support groups and helplines which are handy to have.

The leaflet provides contact information for those looking for help on issues such as abuse, addiction and matters affecting children, the elderly and people with disabilities.

There are also contact details for organisations providing counselling and support, homelessness and financial advice and help for immigrants.

The leaflets can be obtained in parishes and any parishes requiring additional copies can obtain them from the diocesan office. It will also be available to view and download from the Dublin and Glendalough Diocesan Website at www.dublin.anglican.org/socialaction.

Award for East Belfast Mission

The mission's refurb project has been awarded the Most Excellent ARC (Approved Recycling Centre) at the National 25th Annual Furniture Re-use Network this week.



It was awarded for its offering of enterprising services through a high quality operation.

Service in Central Africa concludes

Robin and Helen Quinn served for ten years in Ekwendeni, with the

Livingstonia Synod of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP), the PCI partner church in Malawi. They returned to Ireland in late December 2013 and are due to retire at the end of March 2014.

The CCAP in Malawi has three autonomous Synods: Blantyre, Livingstonia and Nkhoma. With the CCAP's rapid growth and the critical need for ministers, all three synods run their own programmes of Evangelism, Christian Training, and Theological Education. Three *Lay Training Centres* (LTC) at Chilema, Chongoni and Ekwendeni provide short courses for elders, deacons, youth leaders and Sunday School teachers.

Robin was Vice-Principal of the *Livingstonia Theological College* (LTC), where [Matt Williams](#) is one of the teaching staff.

Helen was involved in leading Small Business Management training for ladies, and in the course of her work visits ladies groups in their congregations.

Helen also helped run the Synod's Women's Empowerment Programme. Those trained in turn share their new knowledge and skills in their own Presbyteries and congregations. The Milala Presbytery, for example, has organised seminars on Christian Beginnings, Christian Beliefs and Christian Behaviour, and many women are now better equipped at handling their personal finances.

Robin was ordained into the Presbyterian Ministry in 1981 and, following an assistantship in Craigy Hill, Larne, he and Helen served in Malawi until 1991,

under what was then the Overseas Board. After returning home, Robin took up pastoral ministry in Christ Church, Dundonald, where he and Helen served until 2004 when they again responded to the call to serve in the land they both love so much.

Changing Attitude Ireland meets C of I General Synod Committee on Sexuality

The Church of Ireland 'Select Committee on Sexuality' has met with a delegation from the Church's pro-gay group Changing Attitude Ireland (CAI). The meeting took place on Tuesday 18th March at the Emmaus Centre in Swords, County Dublin.

Changing Attitude Ireland states in a press release - The Select Committee on Sexuality was established by the Church of Ireland General Synod last year, following the previous year's conservative motion on marriage. (This motion was consequent on strong criticism in certain dioceses of the entry into a civil partnership of a serving clergyman, the Very Revd Tom Gordon). The Committee is composed of 16 persons and has been meeting regularly since last September, charged to "enable the listening, dialogue and learning process on all aspects concerning human sexuality in the context of Christian belief to continue".

Changing Attitude Ireland (CAI) welcomed the opportunity to inform the Committee about the experiences of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) Christians and to advise it on how the Church of Ireland can engage with LGBT members. However, CAI has criticised the Committee for its failure to have a single self-identifying gay or lesbian member on the Committee.

One of the three person CAI delegation, Ms Pam Tilson, told the Committee that *"If this was a Committee on gender it would be unacceptable for it to have no female member, so it is no less acceptable that the Church's Committee on Sexuality has no gay or lesbian member on it"*. Pam added that *"the Church should also reflect on why the gay, lesbian and bisexual members of the 600+ member General Synod from which the Committee is drawn are fearful of coming out as gay in the church environment"*. Pam is church warden and an out lesbian at St. George's parish church, Belfast where she is affirmed. However, Pam advised the Committee that *"some gay Christian individuals and couples undergo terrible ordeals from other Christians because of their sexuality"* and she called on the Church of Ireland *"to confront the problem of homophobia in the Church"*.

The Committee was told by Canon Mark Gardner, rector of St Catherine's, Dublin about the discrimination against openly gay Church of Ireland ordinands and clergy. Canon Ginnie Kennerley added that *"To require any one, as a condition of fulfilling their God-given ministry, to deny and suppress an important aspect of their lives, is to court mental and spiritual breakdown for that person and censure for the Church which thus oppresses them"*.

SEE ALSO -

www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/church-of-ireland-committee-on-sexuality-had-no-gay-members-1.1729864?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter

Going to church: purgatory in the pews can be a blessing

Any great work of art can appear hateful if the context in which one first encounters it is unlucky

Jane Shilling writing in The Daily Telegraph says a word for the Bible - It would be fair to say that I was not, when young, a great fan of the Bible – in fact I detested it with some vigour. The reason – as it usually is for energetic childhood loathings, whether of food, relations or religion – was over-exposure: every Sunday from infancy my parents took me to Holy Communion. There was no Sunday school nonsense about the kiddies departing early in the proceedings to a side room with custard creams and pictures of the Prodigal Son to be coloured in with wax crayons, either.

Our rector, a gaunt and brilliant Anglo-Catholic, took the view that there was no such thing as starting too young. So from an early age, Sunday mornings meant sitting silently on a hard oak pew, listening to Old Testament readings about interminable begattery, followed by gobbets from St Paul's nagging epistles, in an agony of ennui whose like I have subsequently experienced only at my son's school prizegivings.

It was tremendously character-forming, in the sense that it has left me with a terror of boredom and a mind well (if reluctantly) stocked with the thunderous cadences of the King James Bible. At grammar school some years later, I went through a vaguely similar experience when studying Macbeth and King Lear. We were conscientiously, rather than inspiringly, taught, and it wasn't until I studied the plays at university that they shed their dismal connotations of dog-eared editions dutifully thumbed in stuffy classrooms on somnolent Friday afternoons.

More at -

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/10703126/Going-to-church-purgatory-in-the-pews-can-be-a-blessing.html>