



Sister Clare Theresa Crockett (33) from Derry died when a stairwell collapsed in the school she was working at in Playa Prieta, Ecuador, following an earthquake - See report this issue

The Somme : a Wider Set of Reflections and Experiences

The Church of Ireland Historical Centenaries Working Group is holding an evening of presentations and an opportunity for discussion to mark the centenary of the Battle of the

Somme in the Music Room of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, on Wednesday 1st June 2016 at 7.30pm.

The keynote speakers will be Dr Gavin Hughes, a Visiting Research Fellow at Trinity College, Dublin, who will speak on 'Irish Battalions and the long Battle of the Somme', and the well-known writer and historian Turtle Bunbury who will speak on 'Irish personalities who ventured onto the Somme battlefield'. The talks will be followed by an opportunity for questions and answers with the speakers, followed by refreshments, and all are welcome to attend.

The all-island aspects of the Battle of the Somme and its legacy will be explored. Dr Hughes will focus on the military exploits of the Volunteer 'Service' battalions of the 36th (Ulster) and 16th (Irish) Divisions, alongside the veteran 'Regulars' and will consider their military impact through documentary evidence and surviving archaeological traces. Dr Hughes hopes to offer thoughtful and useful conclusions regarding the painful progress of Irish units on the Somme with an active discussion on their attendant horrific casualty rates.

Turtle Bunbury's presentation will consider a wide range of individuals who either ventured

onto the battlefield or flew above it both on the 1st July and through the latter stages of the long drawn-out battle. Amongst those whose lives he will discuss will be Sir William Orpen and his experiences as an artist; Woodbine Willie as a padre to the troops; DD Sheehan, a nationalist MP at the Somme; the Irish air aces who circled high above the battlefield and the Easter Rising veterans who died at the Somme.

Admission to the event is free. It would be helpful if those wishing to attend would indicate in advance by emailing:

press@ireland.anglican.org

About the speakers:

Dr Gavin Hughes, a Visiting Research Fellow at Trinity College, Dublin, is from Magherally, outside Banbridge in County Down. Educated at the Royal Belfast Academical Institution and St David's University College, Lampeter, his research has focused on Irish battlefield archaeology and he has delivered keynote lectures to the Military Historical Society, London, on the British Army on campaign, 1854–1857 and the British Army in the 1798 United Irish Campaign. His publications include *The Hounds of Ulster – A History of the Northern Irish Regiments in the Great War* (Oxford, Peter Lang,

2012) and *Fighting Irish – the Irish Regiments in the First World War* (IAP/Merrion Press, 2015) He is also co-presenter of ‘Ireland’s Treasures Uncovered’ for BBC/RTE and ‘Heroes of the Somme’ for the BBC.

Turtle Bunbury is a best-selling author, historian, speaker and TV presenter based in Ireland. He is the founder of [Wistorical](#), which promotes Irish history globally. His book *The Glorious Madness – The Irish & World War One* was published by Gill & Macmillan in 2014 and was shortlisted for Best Irish Published Book of the Year. His latest book *Easter Dawn*, an account of the 1916 Easter Rising in Dublin, was published by Mercier on 25 September 2015.

Nun from Derry killed in Ecuador earthquake

A nun from Derry in Northern Ireland was killed in Saturday’s earthquake in Ecuador, her family has confirmed.

Sister Clare Theresa Crockett, 33, was a missionary based at a school in Playa Prieta and was teaching guitar to a group of children when the earthquake struck.



[According to the Belfast Telegraph](#), Sister Clare's family believe she had been attempting to lead the children to safety when a stair-well in the four-floor building they were in collapsed.

In a statement confirming her death, Sister Clare's family said: "On Sunday April 17, we lost our daughter, sister and aunt Sister Clare Theresa Crockett as a result of the earthquake in Ecuador. At this difficult time we would ask for privacy."

Sister Clare was a member of the Home of the Mother Order for 15 years. Speaking to the BBC, Fr Roland Cahoon, her spiritual director, described her as "a beautiful person" who "died for the Gospel".

"This is a young girl who gave her life to God and died for the Gospel. She was a joyful girl.

I've known her since she was a teenager," Fr Cahoon said.

"I'll remember the joy that she brought to her youth group and the enthusiasm she showed for her vocation to religious life. It's counter-cultural to join a religious order for a young girl and she embraced it. We'll remember her with such affection."

In a statement, the Home of the Mother order said Sister Clare had a "special gift".

"Sister Clare had spent nearly 15 years of her life in consecration to the Lord. She was a generous Sister with a special gift for reaching out to children and young people," the statement said.

"The postulants had entered the Order just a year ago and were generously preparing themselves to become Servant Sisters. And the Lord found them all prepared."

The magnitude-7.8 quake struck on Saturday evening, with the cities Manto, Guayaquil and Portoviejo badly hit. 272 people have been confirmed dead, however that figure is expected to rise. A further 2,000 people have been injured.

A state of emergency has been declared in six of Ecuador's 24 provinces with 10,000 armed

forces and 4,600 national police deployed to the affected areas.

On Sunday in St Peter's Square, [Pope Francis offered his prayers to those affected by the earthquake.](#)

See also - Irish News

http://www.irishnews.com/news/northernirelandnews/2016/04/18/news/derry-nun-killed-in-ecuador-earthquake-490181/?mc_cid=f506be7c05&mc_eid=23f2f80c40

Over 1,000 Irish advance orders for Pope's *Amoris Laetitia*

Veritas, the publisher of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference, has now in stock Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* (*The Joy of Love On Love in the Family*) in its shops. The selling price is €4.99, and £3.75 sterling. Since its launch in Rome last Friday, Veritas received advance orders for 1,064 copies.

This important document reflects on the role of marriage and the family in the life of the Catholic

Church around the world. Recent publications from Pope Francis continue to be in great demand by customers of Veritas. In 2013, Veritas published Pope Francis' first Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium (The Joy of the Gospel)*, which to date has sold over 23,000 copies. In 2015 Veritas published Pope Francis's encyclical letter on care for our common home *Laudato Si' (Praise Be To You)*, which has sold over 15,000 copies in Ireland.

An Apostolic Exhortation is a formal reflection issued by a Pope following a Synod of Bishops. Last October in Rome Archbishop Eamon Martin of Armagh and Archbishop Diarmuid Martin of Dublin attended the Fourteenth Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on the theme, 'The Vocation and Mission of the Family in the Church and Contemporary World', and this followed an Extraordinary Synod in 2014 which was themed, 'The Pastoral Challenges of the Family in the Context of Evangelisation'. Both synods involved the participation of Synod Fathers from 190 countries. At the 2015 synod Archbishop Diarmuid Martin was elected as Rapporteur of the second of four English-speaking groups and Archbishop Eamon Martin

was elected as Moderator of the third of the four English-speaking groups.

The Catholic Church in Ireland is now preparing for the 9th World Meeting of Families which will take place in Dublin in 2018. Archbishop Diarmuid Martin attended the 8th World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia last September. Held every three years, and coordinated by the Pontifical Council for the Family, the World Meeting of Families is the largest gathering of Catholic families and it celebrates family life and the Church's commitment to support families.

New inter-church resource on refugees

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) have provided a new website as part of its "Focus on refugees" programme on the current crisis.

CTBI states, "With so many initiatives going on in relation to the refugee crisis both in the UK and abroad, it is sometimes difficult to keep abreast of latest developments." [Focus on Refugees](#) is a programme of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. The initiative aims to:

- better inform faith communities and organisations about issues relating to migration, refugees and asylum in UK and Ireland and beyond in Europe and across the world;
- network together practitioners and
- encourage and educate through examples of good practice, facts and documented experiences;
- provide opportunities for practical and prayerful action;
- confront people of faith with the ongoing challenge of migration and ‘the refugee crisis’ through theological reflection.

This dedicated website will allow users to access all the information in one place. If you have ideas about what might develop the resource then get in touch with staff at CTBI. For more information visit: www.focusonrefugees.org

Presbyterian Church response to comment in media on abortion

The following statement was issued by the Presbyterian Church in Ireland -

“While it would not be appropriate for us to comment on statements by individual candidates or parties during an election campaign, the position of the Church is very clear on many of the moral issues under debate.

“For instance, the Presbyterian Church in Ireland holds a strongly pro-life position. We believe that the current law attempts to protect both the life of the mother and the unborn child.

We also recognise the great pain involved in the extremely difficult circumstances faced by women and their families facing a pregnancy crisis. Last year we called for the provision of comprehensive perinatal care services, including practical, emotional and spiritual support for women to be a top priority. In all situations and circumstances, these issues need to be handled with grace, sensitivity and compassion.

“With reference to any proposal to redefine marriage, our longstanding position is that marriage is exclusively between one man and one woman. This definition, which is held by the vast majority of countries worldwide, serves society well and is in line with historic mainstream and orthodox Christian teaching.”

See also - News Focus CNI, yesterday, and churchnewsireland@gmail.com

News Letter

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/church-strongly-affirms-its-anti-abortion-stance-in-wake-of-minister-s-views-1-7334046>

Pray for attacked church, Methodist President

Commenting on the recent arson attacks Cairnshill Church, Belfast, The Reverend Brian Anderson, President of the Methodist Church in Ireland, said, "Please pray for the Rev Louise Donald and the congregation of Cairnshill Methodist Church after the arson attack on their church halls has left significant fire and smoke damage.

"Please remember circuit Superintendent Rev Ruth Patterson and property Steward Richard Smyth.

"Pray for those who committed the crime, for the PSNI as they investigate the incident."

He added, "While initially there will be dismay and sadness at the state of the buildings, we are thankful that nobody has been hurt, everything can be fixed. I would be confident that the

congregation will be show resolve to reinstate their great premises even better than before.”

Cathedral and choral

On Thursday 21st April – **The Queen’s 90th Birthday Beacon’s Event in St. Macartin’s Cathedral, Enniskillen**, from 6.00pm. Organised by local churches together with Enniskillen Rotary Club. Complimentary light refreshments and music at The Jolly Sandwich at 6.00pm prior to a short Interdenominational Service led by the Cathedral choir in St. Macartin’s at 7.30pm. Everyone attending the service will receive a copy of ‘The Servant Queen and the King She Serves’, published by The Bible Society and uses the Queen’s own words to draw out the central role of her Christian faith and the Bible. After the service the Cathedral Bell Ringers will ring a special peal of bells in celebration as the birthday beacon is lit and the beams of light shine brightly into the night sky.

Belfast Cathedral service marking 75th anniversary of the blitz. The Belfast Blitz anniversary was marked at a commemoration service on Sunday. The Belfast Blitz was the

worst wartime raid outside of London in the UK. The service featured 1,000 burning candles to represent those who died. More than 900 people died and 1,500 were injured on the night of Tuesday April 15 1941, when Luftwaffe bombers staged the biggest of four raids on Belfast City. Another 150 people were killed in a subsequent raid on the night of May 4-5 1941. The ecumenical service of commemoration was



The 75th anniversary of the Belfast Blitz has been marked at a commemoration service at St Anne's Cathedral.

organised by St Anne's in conjunction with St Patrick's Church, Donegall Street. The service was led by the Dean, the Very Rev John Mann, and Fr Michael Sheehan, Administrator of St Patrick's. Among the guests were people with

memories and links to the Blitz and representatives of the emergency services whose predecessors risked their own lives to save lives in the city of Belfast 75 years ago.

BBC News

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-36067748>

News Letter

A Protestant family that survived the Belfast Blitz yesterday expressed gratitude for the fire teams from south of the border that helped after the German raids.

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/belfast-blitz-service-family-of-protestant-woman-who-was-rescued-from-rubble-thanks-southern-fire-teams-1-7333976>

School Choir of the Year: St Patrick's, Rathfriland, and Dalriada named top choirs

BBC News

Congratulations to **Dalriada Grammar School** after being named the top senior choir in Northern Ireland at the BBC Radio Ulster **School Choir Of The Year** final... and to **St Patrick's Primary School, Drumgreenagh, Rathfriland** on winning the BBC Radio Ulster Junior School Choir of the Year.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-36067249>

April 19

Dalriada and St Patrick's Rathfriland named BBC School Choirs of Year -

Belfast Telegraph

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/dalriada-and-st-patricks-rathfriland-named-bbc-school-choirs-of-year-34635348.html>

Musical maestro Joe McKee keeping it organic at the Ulster Hall

Irish News



***Dr Joe McKee will play the Mulholland in an Organic
Lunch concert on Friday at 1pm***



The Mulholland organ, in Belfast's Ulster Hall, was gifted to the people of the city by former Lord Mayor Andrew Mulholland in 1860s. His great great grandson, Henry Mulholland, 4th Baron Dunleath, and a member of the C of I General Synod, oversaw the restoration in the late 1970s.

When Head of Music at Royal School Armagh he was assistant organist in St Patrick's **Church of Ireland** Cathedral and during his time there he was ...

<http://www.irishnews.com/lifestyle/2016/04/18/news/musical-maestro-joe-mckee-keeping-it-organic-at-the-ulster-hall-486312/>

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<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-36067249>

Dalriada and St Patrick's Rathfriland named BBC School Choirs of Year -

Belfast Telegraph

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/dalriada-and-st-patricks-rathfriland-named-bbc-school-choirs-of-year-34635348.html>

Choral Evensong on BBC Radio 3 Tomorrow at 3.30 pm

Live from Holy Trinity Church, Stratford upon Avon, with the Chamber Choir and Orchestra of the Swan

Introit: Sing joyfully (Byrd)

Responses: Tomkins

Psalms 66, 67 (plainsong)

First Lesson: Deuteronomy 10 vv12-22

Office Hymn: The Lamb's high banquet we await (Ad cenam Agni)

Canticles: Fifth Service (Tomkins)

Second Lesson: Ephesians 5 vv.1-14

Anthem: O clap your hands (Gibbons)

Motet: O nata lux (Tallis)

Hymn: Love of the Father (Song 22)

Voluntary: Pavane and Allemande (Dowland)

Susannah Vango (Director of Music)
Benedict Wilson (Organist).

News briefs

The Rev Andrew Campbell, Curate Assistant of the Parish of Bangor Abbey, has been appointed as Incumbent of the Parish of Skerry, Rathcavan and Newtowncrommelin (**Broughshane** near Ballymena).

Andrew, who is married to Allison, was ordained as a deacon in September 2012 and served an internship in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast. He has been curate assistant of Bangor Abbey, Diocese of Down and Dromore, for almost three years.

A native of Carrickfergus, Andrew was educated at Belfast High School and read Ancient History and Byzantine Studies at Queen's University. He went on to read Theology at Union Theological College.

Prior to his ordination, Andrew worked with the Church of Ireland as student worker in the chaplaincy team in both the Jordanstown and Belfast campuses and as a youth worker in St Nicholas, Carrickfergus.

Andrew, who is working on the final stages of a PhD thesis on the ethical impact of Jesus' death, described his move to Skerry, Rathcavan and Newtowncrommelin as 'a new and exciting phase in his ministry.'

"I am both daunted and excited," he said. "It will be a different type of ministry, but I am also sad. I had a lump in my throat when the announcement went out. I have had a great time in Bangor Abbey, with a great set of people and a great rector to work with."

He said the move from curate to rector would be 'a scary thing,' and admitted that in following Dean John Bond, who retired as rector of the parish in January after almost 17 years, he would have 'big boots to fill!' But Andrew said following Dean Bond in the legacy he left was something that attracted him to the incumbency. No date has yet been set for the institution

Christian Aid invite you to an ecumenical service of worship in RTÉ TV Studios, Dublin on Sunday 1 May 2016. This service, which is in preparation for Christian Aid Week, will be recorded at the RTÉ TV Studios, Dublin. Belfast choir Jubilate! will serenade the procession, directed Mr Dave Stewart. Christian

Aid invite you to be in the audience and in turn represent the churches and supporters of Christian Aid Ireland. For further information or to inquire about joining with Christian Aid on the day, please contact Peter Byrne:
pbyrne@christian-aid.org.

The **Reverend Steve Stockman** and **Father Martin Magill** have returned to Belfast after a speaking tour in the USA on their inter-church and cross community work, and the establishment of the now annual city's **4 Corners Festival**.

Congrats to **seminarian Aidan Gallagher** from Killeen, Louisburgh, Tuam diocese, accepted for diaconate in Maynooth. Go Maire sé a nuacht.

The Valley Leisure Centre, Rathcoole, was the venue for the **Boys Brigade UK Badminton finals**. Well done to 16th Newtownabbey (Belfast City Mission Rathcoole) for hosting. A great afternoon of sport.

Killinchy Drama Club gave hilarious performances of 'Widows' Paradise' by Sam Cree. Two great nights at Comber Primary School raised £2,000 for Action Mental Health & Parish Development Fund.

If you live in the **North Belfast Constituency** area you are invited to take part in a North Belfast hustings (organised by a number of local churches) on Thursday 21st April at 7pm in Girdwood Community Hub.

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

O'Loan accuses Irish media of virulent anti-Catholic bias

Irish Times

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/nuala-o-loan-accuses-irish-media-of-virulent-anti-catholic-bias-1.2614136>

Harare24/Zimbabwe Chronicle

Reports the meeting between the Archbishop of Canterbury and President Robert Mugabe on Sunday in Harare. The Bishop of Harare, Chad Gandiya, was also present. Archbishop Justin is quoted as saying, "Affairs of the church, the past and future, and mistakes that have been made are some of the issues that we discussed with the President".

<http://harare24.com/index-id-news-zk-43206.html>

<http://www.chronicle.co.zw/president-meets-archbishop-of-canterbury/>

Times/Tel

Coverage of HM The Queen in the run up to her 90th Birthday this week. The *Times* reports that the Queen's role in providing comfort at times of tragedy will be honoured in the television programme *How I met the Queen* which will be shown on BBC 1 every morning this week. The *Telegraph* article includes a quote from the Bishop of Truro, Tim Thornton.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/how-queen-brought-comfort-in-tragic-times-3x9n8jkr0>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/04/17/queen-turned-food-taster-over-bodyguards-packed-lunches/>

Mail

Reports that the funeral service of entertainer Ronnie Corbett takes place today at the St John the Evangelist Church near his home in Shirley, Croydon, south London, before the cortege moves on to a local crematorium.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-3545114/Celebrities-attend-comedian-Ronnie-Corbetts-funeral-south-London.html#ixzz469Oy0TXK>

Sun/Exp/Mirror/Metro/Tel

Further coverage of the Newcastle vicar Revd Geoffrey Short talking about the pain of his wife leaving him for actor Robson Green.

<http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/showbiz/7082988/Cheated-rev-wishes-wife-and-Robson-Green-well.html?redirect=true>

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/661885/Vicar-wife-Robson-Green-off-stole>

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/3am/celebrity-news/heartbroken-vicar-whose-wife-ran-7775947#ICID=nsm>

<http://metro.co.uk/2016/04/17/vicar-left-questioning-his-faith-after-grantchesters-robson-green-ran-off-with-his-wife-5822421/>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/04/17/robson-green-runs-off-with-vicars-wife-as-clergyman-says-he-has/>

Comment

Times: Tim Montgomerie calls on MPs to define ISIS' "brutal crimes (against other religions) as genocide".

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/comment/mps-should-vote-to-define-isis-brutal-crimes-as-genocide-xv9smm923>

Guardian: Comment on Pope Francis in Lesbos, "he must change hearts".

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/apr/17/the-guardian-view-on-pope-francis-in-lesbos-he-must-change-hearts>

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