



**Cardinal Brady to resign?  
C of I wants views on  
sexuality  
Moderator's concern for  
Sudan  
US women bishops for Welsh  
event**

## **Pope likely to accept Cardinal Brady's letter of resignation**

**Pope Francis is expected to accept the resignation of Cardinal [Sean Brady](#) as Primate of All Ireland in the coming months, a report in today's Irish Independent states.**

The cardinal wrote to the Vatican several weeks ago indicating that he is prepared to step down, the [Irish Independent](#) has learned.

Dr Brady, who turns 75 on Saturday, does not automatically abdicate the role as he can only retire with the permission of Pope Francis.

But sources say that the Vatican feels under pressure to accept his resignation immediately following calls by two Irish survivors of clerical abuse, who met the Pope on July 7, for him to stand aside.

A spokesperson for the Catholic Communications Office confirmed: "When Pope Francis accepts the retirement, Coadjutor Archbishop Eamon Martin will become Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland."

Under Canon Law a diocesan bishop is required to offer his resignation after his 75th birthday but in many cases the Pope decides to allow them continue in the position.

It had seemed likely that Cardinal Brady would be kept on as Primate for sometime after his 75th birthday in order to give his younger successor time to make the transition.

Archbishop Martin (52) was consecrated coadjutor Archbishop of Armagh in April 2013.

The decision by Dr Brady, who became Primate in 1996, to submit his notice to the Pope almost a month ahead of his birthday is seen as surprising in religious circles.

Following their ground-breaking papal meeting Marie Kane and Mark Vincent Healy both demanded publicly that Dr Brady must be forced to leave his position.

Marie Kane outlined her reasons in a personal letter which she handed to the pontiff at the end of their private meeting in July.

Ms Kane and Mr Healy are highly critical of Dr Brady's role in a 1975 secret canonical trial which came to light in 2010.

- See more at: <http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/news/pope-likely-to-accept-cardinal-bradys-letter-of-resignation-30506910.html#sthash.v6OCIEUV.dpuf>

## **Cardinal Seán Brady calls for prayers for peace in Iraq**

**Cardinal Seán Brady, President of the Irish Episcopal Conference, has asked parishes to pray for peace in Iraq especially on 15 August, the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.**

“The horrifying reports of the human suffering of the people of Northern Iraq are heart-rending. The violence and bloodshed being carried out against people because of their religion is truly shocking. Christian communities are being targeted in a particular way, as people are forced to flee from their homes because of the violence that has caused immense harm.

Following the calls for peace by Pope Francis, I ask all Catholic parishes in a particular way on this coming Friday, 15 August, the Feast of the Assumption, to offer special prayers for the people of Iraq and for peace in the wider Middle East. The Feast of the Assumption reminds us of the dignity of the human person. In 1950, five years after the end of the Second World War, the dogma of the Assumption was proclaimed, something which underlined the sanctity of the person, body and soul. I ask that people offer their Friday penances in radical solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Iraq.

It is important that concrete humanitarian steps are taken in order to respond to the desperate situation of the Iraqi Christians and to protect the religious

freedom of all minorities. The solidarity that we can offer those people is even more important in these days.

I pray that Our Lady, Queen of Peace, may intercede for the suffering people of Iraq at this time.”

## **Mothers' Union praying for Iraqi Christians**

**Mothers' Union has responded to the call for prayer against the persecution of Christians in Iraq.**

MU has approximately 3,250 members in Iraq and many attend St George's Anglican Church in Baghdad.

Revd Canon Dr Andrew White is the Chaplain of St George's and he has suggested three specific prayers:

1. Pray for the protection of us and all Christians here.
2. Pray for our provision that we may be able to help all in need at this desperate time.
3. Pray for our perseverance that we and our people will not give up the spiritual fight before us.

## **Judge walks out of Egypt mass trial**

**A judge in Egypt has walked out of a mass trial of hundreds of prisoners that includes an Irish teenager who was a juvenile when arrested.**

Ibrahim Halawa, an Irish citizen, has been held in a series of adult prisons in the capital without charge or trial since his arrest last August at the age of 17, in the turmoil that followed the ouster of former President Mohammed Morsi. (<http://www.ekklesia.co.uk/node/20723>)

The Egyptian authorities have refused to accept proof that Mr Halawa was legally a juvenile at the time of his arrest, and have insisted on trying him as an adult. The charges against him remain unclear.

The hearing of over 480 adult prisoners began in a makeshift court at the notorious Tora prison complex yesterday (12 August). Mr Halawa's family was denied entry, despite having been granted permission to attend.

After the names of some of the prisoners on trial were read out, the judge is reported to have announced he would no longer preside over the trial, and left the court, says the legal charity Reprieve.

Maya Foa, head of the death penalty team at Reprieve, which is assisting Mr Halawa, said: "Today's events show this 'trial' for the farce it really is. We're now likely to see further chaos and even more delays, but Ibrahim's illegal detention has already gone on too long. The Irish government and the European Union need to take urgent action to secure his immediate release, while calling for a fair trial for the hundreds of people arrested alongside him."

## **Belfast actor in Game of Thrones was active parishioner**

**Game Of Thrones actor JJ Murphy saw theatre as a labour of love, his funeral Mass has been told.**



***The funeral of veteran actor JJ Murphy took place at St Brigid's Church in Belfast***

News Letter - The 86-year-old was cast to portray Ser Denys Mallister, the oldest

member of the Night's Watch military order, and began filming scenes in the HBO series last week. He died on Friday at his home.

Friends and family attended the service at St Brigid's Catholic church in his native city of Belfast. Fr Edward O'Donnell said he offered a helping hand and had real concern for others.

The priest said: "JJ knew from his earliest days in the old Group Theatre what his path in life was to be and so all he did in the theatre was a labour of love – that doesn't mean that it was without its difficulties and frustrations."

The thespian's film credits include Cal (1984), Angela's Ashes (1999) and Mickybo and Me (2004). He has a character role in the forthcoming film, Dracula Untold and, just days before his death, filmed his first scenes for Game of Thrones, also shot in Northern Ireland.

JJ Murphy is perhaps more familiar to Northern Ireland audiences through his wide range of stage work, including Sam Cree's *Don't Tell the Wife* (1967) at the Belfast Arts Theatre, Martin Lynch's Lyric Theatre production of *Dockers* (1981), and Tinderbox Theatre Company's production of *Convictions* (2000), a site-specific work at Crumlin Road Courthouse, Belfast.

He trained with the Ulster Group Theatre and worked for many years at the Lyric Theatre in Belfast, where he helped mentor a younger generation of local actors including Ciaran Hinds and Liam Neeson.

Fr O'Donnell said he was a fixture at his parish and his sudden death came as a surprise.

"Last Friday morning JJ wasn't feeling so well so he lay down on his bed, closed his eyes and didn't waken."

He said the actor had continued to play an active part in the life of the congregation.

"His sudden death, therefore, comes as a great shock to us all and even more so for the love of his life, Mary.

"She and JJ would have celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary in September."

He had a son, Joe, daughter Jane and granddaughter Sarah-Jane.

Northern Ireland's Arts Council has said his concern for his fellow actors was well-known and described him as a spirited and redoubtable advocate for improving the pay, conditions and career opportunities of actors in the country.

## **C of I Committee On Human Sexuality invites Contributors To Its Discussions**

**The C of I General Synod Select Committee currently examining same-sex issues confronting the Church is inviting members of the Church of Ireland to bring to its attention live issues that they feel should be considered by the Church.**

The Select Committee will use the insights gained from the experiences shared by members of the Church through this process to help develop the content for discussion by the wider Church. The process offers the opportunity to speak directly to members of the Select Committee. The

committee welcomes insights on any relevant aspect of this subject, but particularly hopes to elicit insights into the experience of being a gay person in the Church of Ireland.

The Select Committee is inviting people to participate in a 'listening meeting', either as an individual or in groups. These meetings can be arranged during the day or evenings by mutual agreement in neutral venues. It is hoped to have these meetings between now (August) and the end of October. The submissions will contribute to a section of a reference document to be produced by the Select Committee.

While the content of meetings will be noted for subsequent consideration by the Select Committee, this content can be delivered conversationally, or in written submissions. It is intended that the participants will remain anonymous in terms of committee reporting, unless this is specifically waived by the individual or group concerned. Each meeting will be hosted by two or three members of the Select Committee.

If you would like to meet with members of the Select Committee or to send a submission, please express your interest in confidence through the following e-mail address: [selectcommittee@synod.ireland.anglican.org](mailto:selectcommittee@synod.ireland.anglican.org)

## **Wales: US female bishops to attend conference as church law changes**

**Two women bishops from the United States will take part in a conference in Cardiff next month as legislation allowing women to be ordained as bishops in Wales comes into effect.**

The Rt Revd Geralyn Wolf, former Bishop of Rhode Island, will be the keynote speaker at the Crossing The Threshold conference on September 4. She will also become the first women Anglican bishop to preside at Llandaff Cathedral when she takes part in the conference service. The Rt Revd Gayle Harris, the Suffragen Bishop of Massachusetts, will also attend.

The conference marks the opening of the rank of bishops to women following legislation passed by the Church in Wales which comes into effect on September 12 – exactly one year after the historic vote. The delay was built in to allow the Welsh bishops time to prepare a Code of Practice to accompany the new law.

In addition to the US bishops, speakers include other senior theologians, including Rev'd Dr Jenny Hurd, chair of the Wales' Synod Methodist and Canon Joanna Penberthy.

Crossing The Threshold will be held at St Michael's College, Cardiff. One of the organisers is the Revd Jan Gould, priest-in-charge of Glan Ely benefice in Cardiff. She says, "This conference is about how we 'cross the threshold' to a transformed leadership with the Church in Wales.

"Anglican women bishops in the USA have a huge amount to share and this is a unique opportunity to engage with their experience and to see together what that might mean for the future of the Church in Wales. People will have the chance to share their hopes, fears and expectations in small groups as the Church in Wales responds to this great change."

The Archbishop of Wales, Dr Barry Morgan, will also attend the conference. He says, "At this momentous time - when the Church in Wales is just weeks away from legislation coming into effect to allow women to be ordained as bishops - I am delighted to support this conference and to welcome in particular Bishop Geralyn Wolf to share her experience and ministry with us."

Crossing The Threshold conference takes place at St Michael's College, Cardiff, on September 4. The day will close with a service at Llandaff Cathedral at 7.45pm, at which Bishop Geralyn will preside and Canon Mary Stallard, chaplain of St Joseph's Anglican and Catholic School, will preach. All are welcome.

### **Welsh first for US bishop**

Bishop Gayle Harris will become the first Anglican woman bishop to preside and preach at a Welsh cathedral when she visits St Asaph next month.

Bishop Gayle, who is Suffragen Bishop of Massachusetts, will lead a service at St Asaph Cathedral on her way to take part in the Crossing The Threshold conference in Cardiff.

The service will take place on August 31 at 11am and is open to all.

Bishop Gayle was invited to the Cathedral by the Bishop of St Asaph, Dr Gregory Cameron, who will also attend the conference in Cardiff.

He says, "Women bishops have been a reality in the Anglican Communion, if not in Wales, for some time now. It is good to be able to welcome Bishop Gayle into our midst to lead our worship in this time of transition."

## **Presbyterian Moderator launches special appeal for South Sudan**



**An appeal for South Sudan has been launched by Presbyterian Moderator Dr Michael Barry who said: “The UN**

**Security Council has identified the food crisis there as ‘the worst in the world’.”**

While expressing his concern about the ongoing turmoil in the Middle East, the Moderator has written to all ministers explaining why action is also urgently needed in South Sudan:

“While it has not been so well covered in the media, a humanitarian crisis on an even greater scale is currently unfolding in South Sudan. The UN Security Council has identified the food crisis there as “the worst in the world” with four million people in need of emergency food aid, water and medical treatment. Right now, the world’s youngest nation is on the brink of the worst famine the world has seen in over thirty years.

“This affects more than one million members of our partner church, the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan, whose Moderator, Rt. Rev. Peter GaiLual, addressed our General Assembly so movingly in June. Aid agencies are adamant that the time for the international community to act is now!

“Given the scale of this particular need, today I am launching a special Moderator-supported Appeal for South Sudan, and would take the opportunity to urge you to respond generously and without delay, just as you have on many previous occasions.

“In anticipation of your generosity we are immediately releasing £50,000 to be distributed to Christian Aid, Tearfund, and the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan’s Relief and Development Agency (PRDA). Despite working in a very



challenging environment, these agencies will ensure that your contributions are used wisely in the provision of immediate relief of those suffering the most in South Sudan.

“I would encourage you to continue to pray and to give generously that we may play our part in saving lives and restoring hope to the many caught up in this catastrophic situation.”

Congregations are asked to contribute over the next few Sundays under the Gift Aid Scheme with funds then sent in to Assembly Buildings. Donations can also be made directly on the Presbyterian website [www.presbyterianireland.org/giving/donate](http://www.presbyterianireland.org/giving/donate).

Those wishing to respond to the crises in Iraq and Gaza are encouraged to give directly to Christian Aid and Tearfund who are running appeals focused on the Middle East region via their websites [www.christianaid.ie](http://www.christianaid.ie) and [www.tearfund.org](http://www.tearfund.org).

Information on the Sudan Crisis - See:

<http://www.presbyterianireland.org/News/Article/August-2014/Presbyterian-Moderator-launches-special-appeal-for?feed=cfd8e3f5-88c6-46c8-9f48-6f31a698b9b7>

## Press Review

### **BBC/Tel//Mail**

Reports on the Iraq situation, BBC states that the government is steadily increasing its commitment to the humanitarian mission in northern Iraq, but still resisting pressure to join in US air strikes. Also mentions calls from church figures for the UK to do more to deal with the crisis. The Rev Rose Hudson-Wilkin, chaplain to Commons Speaker John Bercow, told Channel 4 News the world had to respond to the crisis, adding that "maybe we need to go to the extent of military action". Cardinal Vincent Nichols, leader of the Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales, told ITV News that "two air drops in four days is maybe not the best we could be doing and I'd like to see that increased". Telegraph says one of Britain's most respected commanders Col Tim Collins has compared the massacres in Iraq with genocides carried out by Joseph Stalin and Pol Pot, accusing the Government of failing in its "moral obligation" to intervene.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-28758370>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/iraq/11029914/UK-troops-must-help-the-Kurds-says-Iraq-War-hero-Colonel-Tim-Collins.html>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-2723428/Military-experts-call-UK-action.html>

### **Guard**

Report that the [Vatican](http://www.vatican.va) has called on Muslim leaders to denounce unambiguously the

persecution of Christians and Yazidis in [Iraq](#) - and hinted that it is considering breaking off dialogue with Islamic representatives if they fail to do so. In a statement on Tuesday, the department in charge of inter-religious dialogue said: "The dramatic situation of the Christians, the Yazidis, and other minority religious and ethnic communities in Iraq demands that religious leaders, and above all Muslim religious leaders, people engaged in inter-religious dialogue and all people of good will take a clear and courageous stance. All must be unanimous in their unambiguous condemnation of these crimes and denounce the invoking of [religion](#) to justify them."

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/aug/12/vatican-calls-muslim-leaders-condemn-christian-persecution-iraq>

### **Times/BBC**

Reports that South Africa's former president Thabo Mbeki has called for a boycott of Israeli goods to make its government "pay a price for the position that it is taking" in Gaza. Desmond Tutu said that those who did business with Israel "fund the perpetuation of a profoundly unjust status quo." He said: "Those who withdraw their business are saying Israelis and Palestinians are equally entitled to dignity and peace. Gaza is going to test who believes in the worth of human beings."

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/world/africa/article4174204.ece>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-28755081>

### **Tel/Guard**

Reports that the Christian Institute has claimed teachers could be restricted from teaching traditional Christian values in independent schools because of new rules designed to combat Islamic extremism. Guardian states the religious charity is threatening the government with a judicial review of its plans being introduced in the wake of the Trojan horse plot in Birmingham. The group argues that "completely ambiguous language" in the new guidelines could be used to clamp down on schools teaching anything deemed politically incorrect on issues such as marriage.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/11026964/Trojan-Horse-new-rules-could-curtailed-teaching-of-Christianity-warns-Christian-group.html>

<http://www.theguardian.com/education/2014/aug/12/christian-charity-judicial-review-trojan-horse>

### **Guard**

Report that the Catholic church has joined calls for a national redress scheme for victims of child sexual abuse, with mandatory participation by the institutions concerned. In its submission to the royal commission into institutional responses to child sexual abuse, the church also altered its previous position by proposing a cap on financial compensation. It states the Truth Justice and Healing Council, which represents the Catholic church in dealings with the royal commission, said the legally binding deeds of release, which many victims of abuse signed in order to get redress under the church's Towards Healing program, should remain in place to prevent civil litigation against the church.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/aug/13/catholic-church-backs-national-redress-scheme-child-sexual-abuse-victims>

### **BBC**

Report that Pope Francis, as leader of the world's 1.2 billion Catholics, is turning his attention to Asia as he begins the first of three - and perhaps four - long-distance trips to encourage his flock in the continent that presents the Catholic Church with its greatest missionary challenge in the 21st century. Although only 3% of the world's Catholics live in the planet's most populous continent, more have been baptised in Asia this year than in

Europe, according to Vatican statistics. Pope Francis is spending five days in South Korea, where the number of Catholics has risen from 2% to an astonishing 11% of the population in a country where Buddhism is still strong and most young people profess no religion at all. It states Korean Catholics tend to be well educated and form a significant part of their country's political elite.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-28755656>

### **Express**

Further report on interview with the Revd Richard Coles dubbed "the atheist's favourite priest" who hosts Radio 4's Saturday Live, with more than 2.1 million listeners.

<http://www.express.co.uk/life-style/life/498491/Reverend-Richard-Coles-autobiography>

### **Mail**

Report that a grieving woman has been ordered by a church to remove the headstone from her partner's grave - because it has kisses on it. It states Janet Corless spent £2,000 on a tribute with an inscription containing two small kisses on the headstone and one on the base, for her father's headstone. Father George Corrie at St Mary's said: 'We extend our deepest sympathies to Ms Corless at this difficult time and will be working closely with the stonemason to make sure her partner's headstone is erected correctly as soon as possible.' A spokesman for the Diocese of Salford, which includes Bamber Bridge, was unavailable for comment.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2722870/Grieving-woman-ordered-remove-headstone-partner-s-grave-two-kisses-it.html#ixzz3AFUd3Rwu>

### **BBC**

Report that a thief who stole more than £37,000 from collection boxes at three separate churches has been jailed.

Stefan Bodnarczuk, 55, from Coventry, has sentenced to 20 months in prison by Northampton Crown Court.

He admitted three counts of theft from churches in Fotheringhay, Lincoln and the west Yorkshire Dales.

In total, £37,740 will be confiscated from him - all of which will be given as compensation to the three Church of England dioceses from which he stole.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-northamptonshire-28753970>

### **Church Buildings News...**

#### **BBC**

Report that restorers and local historians have been taking a closer look at hidden murals which were discovered in Nottingham. In 2009, the [biblical paintings, by war artist Evelyn Gibbs](#), were discovered behind a false ceiling at St Martin's Church, in Bilborough. The church has secured more than £700,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund to restore the murals and fund a range of activities over the next three years.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-nottinghamshire-28759793>

#### **BBC**

Report that a previously unknown sculpture by England's "finest-ever" woodcarver has been discovered hidden "in plain sight" in a Bristol church. The marble monument by Grinling Gibbons has hung on the wall of St Mary's, Henbury, since it was completed 330 years ago. It has been identified after research by The Kings Weston Action Group. The famous sculptor also worked extensively on Hampton Court Palace, St Paul's Cathedral and Blenheim Palace.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-bristol-28752928>

### **BBC**

Report on a fundraising campaign which has been started to pay for £30,000 of repairs to a crumbling 12th Century church. Grade I listed St Andrew's Church in Shifnal, Shropshire, is in danger of losing its stained glass windows and the red sandstone is deteriorating. It states the Revd Chris Thorpe praised the "whole community for rallying around".

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-shropshire-28758097>

### **BBC**

Report on new JustPark scheme which connects drivers looking for a space with homeowners and others looking to make a bit of cash - it is the latest example of what's been called the "sharing" economy. Includes interview with founder of JustPark, Dorothea Hackman, who is a church warden at St Pancras Church, and editor of Tech City News Alex Wood.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-28763952>

### **Blogs**

#### **Huff Post**

**Paul Vale** writes that Air Strikes in Iraq have strong public support in both the US and UK  
[http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2014/08/12/air-strikes-against-islamic-state-in-iraq-boasts-strong-support-in-uk-and-us\\_n\\_5673421.html?utm\\_hp\\_ref=uk&ir=UK](http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2014/08/12/air-strikes-against-islamic-state-in-iraq-boasts-strong-support-in-uk-and-us_n_5673421.html?utm_hp_ref=uk&ir=UK)

**Lucy Maddox:** The Psychology of coping with War  
[http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/lucy-maddox/the-psychology-of-coping-with-war\\_b\\_5667688.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/lucy-maddox/the-psychology-of-coping-with-war_b_5667688.html)