



## **Ireland's Immigrant Council research reveals Islamophobia**

New research has found evidence of Islamophobia in Dublin including verbal and physical attacks on Muslims and buildings such as mosques.

At the launch of the research, Brian Killoran, Chief Executive of the Immigrant Council of Ireland said, "Combating hate crimes and discrimination in terms of access to employment, schools and services is highlighted

across the findings and addressing these must be the priority.”

“However change must go beyond legislation and include awareness programmes, training and greater understanding.”

The research was conducted by Dr James Carr of the University of Limerick and cites examples of attacks on two mosques and private properties which involved graffiti and bricks thrown through windows.

One participant in this research, Maryam spoke of returning with her family to their home only to find it had been ransacked and painted with graffiti which implied that a Muslim family was not welcome in that area.

Attacks on people range from verbal abuse to being spat at, right up to being beaten.

For example some Muslim men in Cork were beaten with sticks by a group of men who had travelled specially to attack them. In Limerick, a Muslim man had beer bottles thrown at him and he was verbally abused.

Women are twice as likely to experience anti-Muslim hostility when compared to Muslim men.

They are very visible when they wear a headscarf, hijab or niqab.

A Saudi Arabian postgraduate student in Trinity College was verbally and physically abused by a man while on public transport.

A publicised case was when a woman refused treatment from a consultant in hospital who was a Muslim woman wearing a headscarf. The Irish patient insisted on being treated by a non-Muslim doctor.

Even Muslim children are the target of abuse. A 10 year old Muslim girl was “pushed, shoved and hit” by a group of young people at a playground.

Another issue which the research highlights is that people associate Muslims and Islam with terrorism and the so called ‘War on terror’, and this makes it more difficult for Muslims living in Ireland.

The report looks in particular at the places where people experience discrimination, for example in education, on public transport and using other public services, in accessing employment and in shops and restaurants.

“The recommendations are wide-ranging and will require change in almost every area of official policy not just for lawmakers, but for schools, employers, the Gardaí and many others including civil society organisations such as the Immigrant Council,” said Brian Killoran.

In education, the subject of Catholic Church patronage and school enrolment policies comes up.

Those surveyed are concerned with getting children and teenagers into their school of choice either for academic reasons or to join their friends from primary school or from their neighbourhood.

The report states that this is more of an issue with secondary schools than with primary.

It also states that the Catholic patronage “makes it difficult for teachers of other faiths or no religion” to work in this sector.

It claims that there is some failure on the part of staff to address anti-Muslim racism in the classroom. There are also issues around the lack of policy on whether female students can wear the hijab if they choose to do so.

In his foreword to the report, Brian Killoran states that the report also offers hope as many Muslim people refer to Ireland as “home” and it is home to 65,00 Muslim men women and children.

“Muslim communities are a part of Irish society and make an enormous contribution,” he concluded.

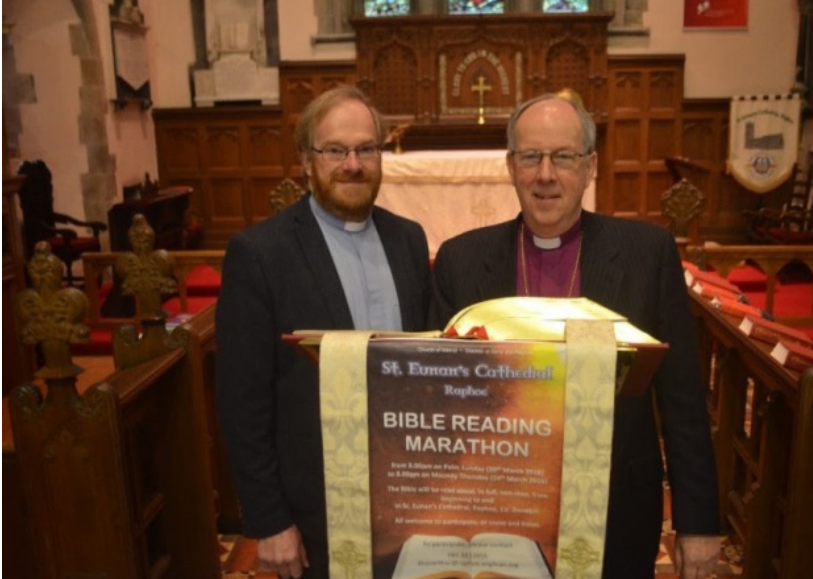
“We all must work together to ensure that Ireland remains a place of welcome and a home for all members of our society.”

## **Readers sought for Raphoe Bible Reading Marathon**

The parishioners of St Eunan’s Church of Ireland Cathedral in Raphoe are inviting members of the public to join them during Holy Week for a four-day and four-night, round-the-clock Bible Reading Marathon.

Londonderry Sentinel - The event is being organised as part of the Parish’s contribution to the Derry and Raphoe diocesan Year of Opportunity 2016.

The Bible will be read aloud, in full, non-stop, from beginning to end, in the historic setting of



***The Dean of Raphoe, the Very Rev Arthur Barrett, with the Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Ken Good, in St Eunan's Cathedral, Raphoe.***

St Eunan's Church of Ireland Cathedral in Raphoe.

The Dean of Raphoe, the Very Rev Arthur Barrett, said it was an event for the whole community and an opportunity for everyone to join together in reading God's Word.

"The Bible Reading Marathon will be a significant event during the Diocesan Year of Opportunity 2016," he said.

“Our desire is to encourage and welcome as many people as possible from across the whole community to share in our unity of God’s Word.

“People will be more than welcome to come and read the Bible, at any time of the day or night, or just to listen to the Bible being read, and to enjoy the atmosphere of our ancient cathedral church.”

Everyone is invited to come and read from the bible in 30-minute sessions between 8pm on Palm Sunday, March 20, and 8pm on Maundy Thursday, March 24.

“You may wish to read for longer, or to read on more than one occasion. There are 192 half-hour sections to choose from. You might like to choose a time that suits you, or a favourite bible passage. We can advise you on what day and at what time it is due to be read.

“This is an open invitation to anyone who would like to come,” the Dean said.

To take part in the Bible Reading Marathon and book your time, contact Dean Barrett, preferably by emailing [bible.raphoe@gmail.com](mailto:bible.raphoe@gmail.com) or by texting 0858833856.

The Derry and Raphoe Diocese has designated 2016 a Year of Opportunity, during which parishes will be focusing on mission, generosity and children.

## **Divine Healing Ministries' Youth Service "100 Days of Prayer for 100 Years"**

A special service aimed at young people is taking place on Monday 29th February at 8pm in Belfast Cathedral under the auspices of Interdenominational Divine Healing Ministries.

Our speaker will be John Kee, founder and director of "Summer Madness" Christian youth festival. Music ministry will be led by a team from The Hub (Church of Ireland/Methodist chaplaincy at Queen's University).

Fergus McMorrow, DHM Youth Officer said, "John's theme will be, "100 Days of Prayer for 100 Years", connecting to the two major anniversaries occurring this year and how the Churches and young people are praying into these events. This promises to be an inspiring and interactive service and whilst it is primarily geared towards younger people, it will be suitable for all age groups.



“Personal prayer for healing and anointing with oil will be offered at this service. For more information, telephone: [02890 311532](tel:02890311532)”

## **Derry Youth 2000 weekend retreat in Omagh**

Youth 2000 invites all young adults between ages of 16-35 to a Catholic weekend retreat taking place from 18th to 20th of March in Christian Brothers Grammar School in Omagh, Co. Tyrone. This will be an exciting weekend attracting over 150 young people from all over the country.

What to expect? Good craic!, Excellent Speakers, Inspiring talks and workshops, prayer, great music, group activities, Youth Masses, Adoration, a Healing Service, games, lots of time to chill out and meet new people. For more details see [www.youth2000.ie](http://www.youth2000.ie) or Tel: 07598876399

The weekend is being organised by young people for young people. Parental consent is essential for all those under 18. All meals are provided for and accommodation is on site! Don't let money be an obstacle; just bring any

donation and a sleeping bag. Newcomers very welcome!




**A Service of Thanksgiving  
to celebrate 70 Years of Christian Aid**

will be held in Saint Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork  
on Sunday, 28th February, 2016  
at 3.30 p.m.

when the preacher will be  
**The Right Reverend Dr Rowan Williams,  
Chairman of the Board of Christian Aid and  
Former Archbishop of Canterbury**

All welcome ~ subject to available seats



## **Urban Pilgrimage for Derry youth**

URBAN PILGRIMAGE (16-25 age group) leaving from St Eugene's Cathedral on Saturday, 5th March at 12.45 pm. This is an opportunity to go on Pilgrimage without leaving the City, visiting the five Churches in Derry, praying together at each station and reflecting on the Year of Mercy. The final stop on the Pilgrimage will be through the Holy Door at St Eugene's Cathedral.

Bring comfortable walking shoes, water and a packed lunch. Students aged below 16 and 17 please contact Maura by email [maura.garrihy@derrydiocese.org](mailto:maura.garrihy@derrydiocese.org) or phone 02871264087 for consent forms.

## **Prayer caravan used by Faith Mission burnt to ground**

A caravan used by missionaries for prayer meetings has been destroyed in an arson attack.

Belfast Telegraph - All that survived was a sign with a piece of scripture written on it.

Evangelists Robert Little and Ronnie Killops had been using the caravan for the past few months

for small prayer meetings during a mission along the border between Fermanagh and Monaghan.

They had been in Dernawilt, Co Fermanagh before Christmas, but had moved to Newtownbutler, just a few miles away, in recent months.

They had left the caravan and a portable mission hall at Dernawilt near the border until they needed it for their next mission.

On Sunday afternoon, police told them that the caravan had been set alight in the early hours.

All that remained was the sign, which read: "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Mr Little said: "The caravan has been completely destroyed and it's amazing that this piece of scripture survived. It had been leaning up against the caravan, but miraculously it survived.

"The verse is significant, as that gift of God is on offer to all but especially to the people who did this. It says that they can turn their back on sin and still have that gift of salvation."

The group said they had had a very positive response in Dernawilt during their mission there

before Christmas and they are now struggling to understand why they were targeted.

Mr Little added: "We were very annoyed and hurt that this had happened. The nature of the Faith Mission is that we reach into quite rural areas. We want to reach both sections of the community and we're interdenominational. We want to share the Gospel with everyone.

"We had a wonderful reception in that area and people took our literature and listened to us on their doorsteps, so we were very shocked to discover that the caravan had been attacked."

More at -

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/prayer-caravan-used-by-missionaries-burnt-to-ground-34480417.html>

## **News links to reports on faith, politics and education**

### **Son's tribute to 'incredible man of God'**

#### **David Somerville**

Belfast Telegraph

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/sons-tribute-to-incredible-man-of-god-david-somerville-34475982.html>

## **Church of Scotland first to only support UK string in EU**

Ecumenical News

But an ensuing **newspaper** column written by him was widely interpreted as ... The main churches, including the **Church of England**, are expected to ...

<http://www.ecumenicalnews.com/article/church-of-scotland-first-to-openly-support-uk-staying-in-european-union/38622.htm>

### **BBC/Tel/Guar/Mail/Times**

Reports that the Archbishop of Canterbury has appointed Dame Moira Gibb as the chair of the independent review into the Church's handling of the Peter Ball case. The former Bishop of Lewes and Gloucester was jailed last year for sex offences. The review will consider what information was available to the CofE, who had it and when (*full terms of reference are in the release above*). Separately the *Times* and *Mail* report on documents drawn up by a private detective working for Ball's legal team in 1993.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-sussex-35643928>

[ITO=1490&ns mchannel=rss&ns campaign=1490](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/12170893/)

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/12170893/Inquiry-to-examine-how-much-Church-of-England-knew-about-sex-abuser-bishop.html>

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/feb/23/church-appoints-panel-examine-role-peter-ball-abuse-case>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/crime/article4697727.ece>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3461260/Charles-paedophile-bishop-cover-Church-lasting-23-years-Scandal-deepens-claims-religious-leaders-knew-clergymen-sexual-abuser-young-men.html?>

### Christian Today

Reports an article written by Dr Joe Boot, Wilberforce Director at Christian Concern criticising the Archbishop of Canterbury's recent address to General Synod on human sexuality concluding the "conversation on these terms is already over". In a letter to the *Telegraph* at the weekend, Archbishop Sentamu restated that the CofE is in an ongoing process of "shared conversations" to discuss different perspectives on acceptance of homosexuality and "help forge better understanding between different groups over the issue of sexuality".

### **The Grocer**

Reports that the Keep Sunday Special campaign is urging retailers to attend a lobby of Parliament on Monday in a bid to persuade MPs to vote against changes to trading legislation. The changes the government is proposing would allow stores with more than 3,000 sq ft to stay open more than the current six hours. The CofE also opposes the proposed legislation.

[http://www.thegrocer.co.uk/stores/service-and-availability/keep-sunday-special-lines-up-mass-lobby-of-parliament/532143.article?utm\\_source=RSS\\_Feed&utm\\_medium=RSS&utm\\_campaign=rss](http://www.thegrocer.co.uk/stores/service-and-availability/keep-sunday-special-lines-up-mass-lobby-of-parliament/532143.article?utm_source=RSS_Feed&utm_medium=RSS&utm_campaign=rss)

### **Guard (Tues)**

Article focussing on the work of the 900 hospital chaplains in the UK, a number that has decreased by

20% in the last five years. Brendan McCarthy, the Church of England's adviser on medical ethics is quoted. <http://www.theguardian.com/society/2016/feb/22/spirit-of-healthcare-the-nhs-chaplains-religion>

### Christian Today

Further coverage of the blog written by Head of BBC Ethics and Religion which addresses criticism a *Songs of Praise* programme broadcast from the refugee camp in Calais received because it was making 'a political statement'. Aaqil Ahmed, said viewers who criticised the programme failed to understand that 'compassion' is a core Christian value.

### **Times/Mail**

Reports analysis conducted by the Sutton Trust of the continuing dominance of those educated in private schools going on to hold elite jobs in society. The research shows the situation is little changed since the 1980s. The article notes that half of "senior Anglican bishops", including the Archbishop of Canterbury, attended private schools; 36 per cent went to grammar schools and only 13 per cent were educated at comprehensives.

[http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/education/article4697952.ece?acs\\_cjd=true](http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/education/article4697952.ece?acs_cjd=true)

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3461257/How-private-school-pupils-dominate-UK-arts-scene-Eddie-Redmayne-Kate-Winslet-67-British-Oscar-winners-privately-educated.html>

### **Tel**

Reports that a Gloucester tailor Julie Mortimer has produce a feminine variation of the traditional Bishop's



purple suit. Ms Mortimer has restyled a jacket owned by the Bishop of Gloucester, Rachel Treweek to give it a more feminine line. Bishop Rachel wore the jacket to last week's dinner for Anglican bishops at the Mansion House and is quoted in the article.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/12170218/Gloucester-woman-bishop-has-tailor-design-special-feminine-suits.html>

### **Ind**

Reports research by Dr Ed Kessler, the founding director of the Woolf Institute of interfaith relations, which concludes that the Quran is not more violent than the Bible or Torah. Dr Kessler says that all three of the Abrahamic religions share similar violent stories and must be read through the lens of modern interpretation.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/politics/quran-does-not-cause-violence-terrorism-and-is-no-more-extreme-than-the-bible-expert-says-a6891606.html>

### **Tel**

An article on the meaning of Easter and when it falls. The article notes that the Archbishop of Canterbury has said that Anglican leaders would join discussions with the other Christian churches about the possibility of fixing the date of the festival.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/12170383/When-is-Easter-2016-What-are-the-dates-for-Good-Friday-Easter-Sunday-and-Easter-Monday.html>