



Six Texan bishops lament “inhumane” conditions at US southern border



An immigrant family is detained by the US Customs and Border Protection officials after crossing into the United States and turning themselves in to request asylum in El Paso, Texas, as seen from Ciudad Juarez in Mexico on July 9.

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Bishops from the six dioceses of the US-based Episcopal Church in the State of Texas have issued a joint letter decrying “fear-based policy-making” on immigration.

They say that people seeking asylum should be treated “humanely”. In their letter, the bishops call for “a humane and fair system for moving asylum seekers through the system as required by law.” The bishops’ dioceses cover almost one third of the 2,000 mile US-Mexico border. “All of Texas feels the impact of anything that happens on our southern border”, they said.

“We feel it through our families, many of whom have ancient deep roots in lands south of the United States. We feel it in our economy, as Mexico is Texas’ biggest trading partner. We feel it in our culture, since Texas was part of Mexico before we were part of the United States. Most of all, we feel it in our souls, for these are our neighbours, and we love them.”

They say: “We call on our state and national leaders to reject fear-based policy-making that targets people who are simply seeking safety, and a chance to live and work in peace. The situation at the border is, by all accounts, a crisis. Refugees come in desperation; border personnel are under stress.

“We call on our leaders to trust in the goodness, generosity and strength of our nation. God has blessed us with great abundance. With it comes the ability and responsibility to bless others.”

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The letter, signed by Bishops George Sumner of Dallas; J Scott Mayer, Sam Hulseby and Rayford B High Junior of Fort Worth; J Scott Mayer of Northwest Texas; Michael Buerkel Hunn of Rio Grande; Andrew Doyle, Jeff W Fisher and Kathryn M Ryan of Texas; and David Reed and Jennifer Brooke-Davidson of West Texas, contains numerous calls on Scripture, including Matthew 18 2-6, on welcoming children in Jesus' name, and Leviticus 19 33-34, on welcoming foreigners in your land.

“This is not a call for open borders”, the bishops said. “This is not saying that immigration isn't complicated. This is a call for a humane and fair system for moving asylum seekers and refugees through the system as required by law. Seeking asylum is not illegal. Indeed, the people at our border are following the law when they present themselves to border authorities.”

Refugees in Ireland - inspiration of Martin Luther King recalled in plea for help

In Christ Church cathedral, Dublin, Canon Sonia Gyles spoke powerfully about the need for a Christian response to the international refugee crisis. Preaching on the theme of the Good Samaritan she quoted one of the great prophetic voices of the twentieth century, Dr Martin Luther King. The day before he was assassinated he reflected on why the priest and the Levite did not stop to help the traveller who had been beaten, robbed and left by the side of the road. He suggested that the first question they must have asked was, ‘If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?’

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but the Good Samaritan reversed the question, asking. 'If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?'

So what can the Church in Ireland do to help the strangers who have come to our shores? Ireland has taken in 2,500



Organ Recital Series

Every Friday Lunchtime

in August 1.10pm

Friday 2nd August, 1.10pm	Carole O'Connor & Patrice Keegan <i>Four Hands and Four Feet, a programme of Organ Duets</i>
Friday 9th August, 1.10pm	Simon Harden , of DIT Music Conservatory Music by Franck, Escaich, Reger and Mendelssohn
Friday 16th August, 1.10pm	David Grealy , of St Mary's Pro Cathedral, Dublin Music by Dupré, Bach, Reger, Franck and Cocker
Friday 23rd August, 1.10pm	David Leigh , of St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin Music by Dupré and Goode
Friday 30th August, 1.10pm	Rónán Murray , of St Joseph's Church, Glasthule Music by Bach, Bonnet, Guilmant and an Improvisation



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tinyurl.com/capbelfast * |
| 3 |  | Pray that joy, love and affirmation would be shared through this initiative |
| 4 |  | Walk on the day! We'll meet at 12.15pm in the car park of St George's Church, High Street. And bring the sunscreen |
| 5 |  | Come to the All Souls Pride Service – check the Facebook page for details |

* If the £10 is difficult, send us a quick Facebook message and we'll sort something out: we'll be delighted to have you join us.

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people under various programmes in recent years, with more to arrive this year. The United Dioceses of Dublin & Glendalough is supporting a programme called 'A Place to Call Home' which provides 'next step' accommodation and assistance for people emerging from Direct Provision. The Diocese has committed to raising €300,000 to support the Refugee Accommodation Programme being devised by the Irish Refugee Council.

Through fundraising efforts by many parishes and parish schools, and Christ Church cathedral, both awareness and funds amounting to €185,000 thus far have been raised. These monies go towards the essential renovations of properties which have been secured by the Irish Refugee Council. To date 60 people have been housed under this project, families have been reunited and children have a place to call home. As well as providing housing, this project assists people in accessing education, employment, financial advice, health services and language support. Thus has given the opportunity for individuals and families to integrate with society and bring much to the communities of which they are now a part.

More information on the 'A Place to Call Home' project and suggestions on how people may help can be found on the Dublin & Glendalough **website**.

Heritage Week Events Mark 150th Anniversary of Disestablishment of C of I

As part of the Church of Ireland's programme to mark the 150th anniversary of its Disestablishment, a walking tour

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Beautiful moment at Sunday's ordination of the Auxiliary Bishop of Armagh - Bishop Router with his parents Anthony and Nora

and a series of lunchtime lectures will take place in Dublin during Heritage Week in August.

Walking tour

The walking tour will take place on Tuesday August 20 and Thursday August 22 from 3pm to 4.30pm. Participants will meet at the labyrinth in the grounds of Christ Church Cathedral.

The tour will be led by Dr Michael O'Neill FSA (architectural historian) who will discuss the Disestablishment of the Church of Ireland 150 years ago and look at the Cathedrals

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of Christ Church and St Patrick's and adjacent parish churches and how they reflect this event.

While Disestablishment was primarily a political, social, and indeed religious event – a former established (state) Church being made a voluntary one – buildings can help flesh out this story. Cathedrals in particular were restored or rebuilt first as a bulwark against Disestablishment – St Patrick's in Dublin was extensively restored and St Fin Barre's in Cork was entirely rebuilt. Christ Church Cathedral was restored after Disestablishment as an encouragement to the newly voluntary church.

The tour will be free of charge but places are limited and booking is required. Please contact Caoimhe Leppard at caoimhe.leppard@rcbdub.org or on 00 353 (0)1 4125 608.

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Lectures

The lunchtime lecture series will run at the Irish Architectural Archive, 45 Merrion Square, Dublin, during Heritage Week this August.

The lectures will take place at 1pm on each of the following days:

Tuesday 20th August

Prof Alan Ford, Professor Emeritus at University of Nottingham: What kind of a Church is the Church of Ireland?

Wednesday 21st August Dr Michael O'Neill FSA
Architecture and Ecclesiology: The evidence from the Church of Ireland drawing collections

Thursday 22nd August The Rt Revd Michael Burrows,
Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory: Liturgical space and the re-ordering of Church of Ireland churches

Friday 23rd August Dr Niamh NicGhabhann, University of Limerick: Church of Ireland restorations and representations in 19th-century Ireland

The IAA is currently hosting A Visual Window to an Ecclesiastical World – an exhibition of the Church of Ireland's historical architectural drawings – which will be open Tuesday–Friday until 30th August. Admission is free and more information is available [here](#).

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Canadian Anglicans to continue same-sex ceremonies, even after failed vote

Though the Anglican Church in Canada last week [failed](#) to amend its canon to sanction same-sex marriages, in the wake of the narrow vote, dioceses have opted to continue with them anyway.

The amendment, first passed in 2016, required a two-thirds majority vote among lay delegates, clergy, and bishops at two triennial general synods in a row. While it met the threshold among lay and clergy (80.9% and 73.2%) during this year's synod, the bishops' vote last Friday fell just short of two-thirds (62.2%).

On Monday, Archbishop Fred Hiltz, the Primate of Canada, read a statement to the delegation saying the bishops "are not of one mind" on the issue, but that "we are walking together in a way which leaves room for individual dioceses and jurisdictions of our church to proceed with same-sex marriage," according to [Anglican Planet](#).

The initial rejection came as a blow to the majority of Canadian Anglicans, who support same-sex marriage, which has been legal in the country since 2005. But after Monday's announcement, several bishops indicated that they would be taking advantage of the "local option," which permits dioceses to follow their "contexts and convictions" on this issue, the CBC [wrote](#).

The conservative minority in the Anglican Church in Canada has raised concerns over the decision to permit same-sex ceremonies despite the failed vote.

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“In a church that affirms the ‘One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church’ I can’t make sense of what local option means in this context or in the global Church,” Bishop Joey Royal, a suffragan bishop of the Arctic, told Anglican Planet.

“This is something that has not yet been fully acknowledged despite repeated pleas from all across the Communion to not proceed with same-sex marriage. The truth is we’ve unleashed a monster and no one—not conservatives, not liberals—can predict how this will all play out in the coming years.”

It’s been 15 years since the denomination first [passed](#) a measure to “affirm the integrity and sanctity of committed adult same-sex relationships.”

Susan Bell, bishop of the diocese of Niagara, which will continue to marry same-sex couples, [told](#) the CBC the narrow vote offered a “realistic portrayal of where the Anglican Church of Canada is right now.”

The amendment would have officially declared that the church’s marriage canon applies “to all persons who are duly qualified by civil law to enter into marriage” and would use “parties to marriage” instead of gendered terminology.

Among the bishops, 23 voted in favor, 14 against, and 2 abstained—close enough to draw scrutiny over who opposed the measure. Some had suggested indigenous leaders (who make up a dozen of 43 total bishops) were more likely to vote against.

“There’s an assumption there that all Indigenous bishops, for instance, voted against the marriage canon change. That’s not true at all,” National Indigenous Anglican

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Archbishop Mark MacDonald said in the [Anglican Journal](#). “We are concerned about the implications of that kind of scapegoating, and we’re trying to deal with it as gently and serenely as possible.” (At the general synod, MacDonald was given the title of archbishop following a historic [vote](#) to establish a self-determining indigenous church within the denomination, and the church also issued an apology for mistreatment of indigenous people.)

Though the amendment didn’t pass, Anglicans opposed to same-sex marriage see little to celebrate, given how divided their church has become on the issue.

“We strive for unity and mutual understanding as Christians because all of us together have a mission to proclaim the gospel and make disciples of all people,” Cole Hartin, assistant curate at St. Luke’s in Saint John, New Brunswick, wrote for [The Living Church](#). “Our fractiousness not only consumes time and energy, but diverts us from the mission God has given to all of us.”

The issue has been a tough one for Canadian evangelicals. Last summer, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled against Trinity Western University’s planned law school for a student covenant that confined sex to traditional marriage; after a five-year legal fight, the school [dropped](#) the requirement.

Christianity Today [reported](#) on research that indicated that Canada’s Anglican churches and mainline congregations with conservative theology were growing faster than their liberal counterparts; the Anglican Church of Canada is the second most popular Protestant denomination in the country after the United Church of Canada, though both have experienced declines over the past two decades.

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“As we seek to move forward in this time of great change within the Church, we must remember that ultimately the Church is God’s,” wrote Hartin. “Our hope is not in our planning or strategies but in God who is making all things new. We must respect the way the Church is ordered, even as we groan with all creation, eagerly awaiting our adoption and the redemption of our bodies. We live in faith, looking forward in hope.”

July 23 - Today in Christian history

July 23, 1373: Saint Bridget (or Birgitta) of Sweden dies. The pious and charitable mystic and founder of the Bridgettine Order, greatly influenced the pope's decision to return to Rome.

July 23, 1583: Protestant printer John Day, who was responsible for publishing Hugh Latimer's sermons, Nicholas Ridley's "Friendly Farewell," and John Foxe's Book of Martyrs, dies.

July 23, 1742: Susannah Wesley, mother of John and Charles, dies. Born the twenty-fifth child in a clergyman's family, she became one of the most notable mothers in church history.

July 23 - News briefs

+++ Music events - On Thursday evening, at 8pm, in Calary parish church, Co. Wicklow, (Eircode A98 H766) Lynda O'Connor (violin) and Ailbhe McDonagh (cello) will perform works by Jean Baptiste Breval, Zoltan Kodaly, Maurice Ravel, Halvorsen and the world premiere of a

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composition by Ailbhe McDonagh. Tickets from John at (01) 281 8146 or email [**derekneilson@eircom.net**](mailto:derekneilson@eircom.net)

‘Summer Music in Sandford’ continues next Friday at 1.10pm in Sandford parish church, Ranelagh, where there will be a piano recital by Roy Holmes.

Last Sunday morning in Christ Church cathedral, Dublin, the Choir of St James’s church, Los Angeles, sang at the 11am Sung Eucharist while in St Patrick’s cathedral, Dublin, the 11.15am Choral Eucharist and the 3.15pm Evensong were sung by the Cathedral Singers of Ontario. Christ Church Cathedral Choir sang the Choral Eucharist at St. Thomas Church 5th Ave, New York, on Sunday morning.

+++ Short pilgrim walk in Kells - Tomorrow, Wednesday the 24th, at 7.30pm, Rev Máirt Hanley, Rector of Baltinglass and Vicar of The Community of Brendan the Navigator, will lead a short pilgrim walk from the Church of Ireland church in Kells through the Priory across to the mill and back to the C of I church. This walk of 4 to 5 km should take about 2 hours with stops for short reflections based on the history, archaeology, spirituality and geography of the place. Rev. Máirt is a former archaeologist with a love for ancient religious sites and what reading these sites might say to us in our times.

+++ Video on Marks of Mission - A two-minute **video** from the Church of Ireland Council for Mission shows how two parishes are living out the first Mark of Mission by proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom of God. As part of the Council’s Radiant Faith initiative, this is the first in a series of videos to be produced over the next few years on

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the Anglican Communion's Five Marks of Mission – Tell, Teach, Tend, Transform and Treasure. The video features interviews with the Revd Trevor Johnston (Rector of All Saints', University Street, Belfast), and the Ven Isaac Hanna, Malcolm Young and Alan Williamson (who serve at St Columba's church, Drumcliffe, Co. Sligo).

+++ Death of Canon Raymond Smith - It is with sadness that we share the news of the death of Canon Raymond Smith, former Rector of Powerscourt with Kilbride (from 1986 to 1996) and Canon of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin.

Canon Smith was ordained to the priesthood in 1955 and served curacies in Belfast and Ballymacarrett before moving to Kenya to serve as a CMS mission partner along with his wife Audrey from 1960 to 1971. He was a former general secretary of CMS and CMSI. He lived in retirement in Delgany for over 20 years.

Canon Smith died on Friday July 19 in his 89th year. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Audrey, and their children Peter, Rosalind, Nicola, Fiona and Deirdre, sons and daughters in law and grandchildren.

Funeral Service will take place in Christ Church Delgany today (Tuesday July 23) at 11am with burial afterwards in the adjoining churchyard.

+++ Food for thought - "There are certain things in Christianity that can be understood from the outside, before you have become a Christian. But there are a great many

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things that cannot be understood until after you have gone a certain distance along the Christian road" CS Lewis

July 23 News Links

[Cavan man ordained auxiliary bishop of Armagh archdiocese](#)

Irish Times

"Despite the pioneering work of many church personnel in the fields of ... The **Church of Ireland** was represented by Archbishop Richard Clarke, and ...

[Bishop Michael Router ordained as Auxiliary Bishop of Armagh](#)

Independent Catholic News

Archbishop Richard Clarke represented the **Church of Ireland** and Rev Louise Donald represented the Methodist Church. Also in attendance were ...

[MPs back to legalise same-sex marriage in Northern Ireland](#)

Palatinate

MPs back to legalise same-sex marriage in Northern Ireland ... by Baroness Nuala O'Loan and **Church of Ireland** Archbishop Lord Eames was handed ...

[Politicians feel threatened by the prospect of a civic voice, argues Robin Eames](#)

Sluggie O'Toole

... but we should pursue the ambition of creating a 'People's Assembly', argues Lord Robin Eames, the former **Church of Ireland** Archbishop of Armagh ...

[Historian says Varadkar has breached letter and spirit of the Belfast Agreement](#)

Irish Times

He says one of the great achievements of **Irish** foreign policy since ... and he is a grand-nephew of the leading **Church of Ireland** ecumenist and scholar, ...

[Private investors are walloped despite €4bn Nama surplus](#)

[Independent.ie](#)

The investors, which include a pension pot for **Church of Ireland** clergy, have seen their returns collapse even though the agency has defied early ...

[Archbishop of York reveals he looks forward to retiring as elderly clergy 'can go gaga' and be ...](#)

[Telegraph.co.uk](#)

So when the Archbishop of York, the second most senior figure in the **Church of England** who will step down in less than a year, was asked if he would ...

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Church of England bishop welcomes UK Government decision to accept recommendations of ...

Sight Magazine

A **Church of England** bishop who headed a review into the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office's support for persecuted Christians has welcomed ...

[Former Queen's chaplain suspended for backing vile Barlinnie paedo exposed by Ross Kemp](#)

Scottish Daily Record

Smith, who was a **Church of England** vicar for 40 years, then criticised Kemp's ITV show, ... Smith said: "I'm not speaking to the **Press** about anything." ...

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