



New PM told a no deal Brexit will hit the poorest hardest



New Prime Minister Boris Johnson waves to the crowd in front of Number 10 Downing Street

The Church of Scotland has urged new Prime Minister Boris Johnson not to drag the UK out of the European Union without a comprehensive deal.

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Rev Dr Richard Frazer

Rev Dr Richard Frazer, convener of the Church and Society Council, said failing to reach agreement on an orderly Brexit was “unacceptable” and will “hit those held back by poverty very hard indeed”.

The minister of Greyfriars Kirk in Edinburgh has signed an [open letter](#) to Mr Johnson along with the leaders of seven other Christian denominations.

They said they have been “compelled” to write to the new Prime Minister because the impact of a no-deal Brexit is at best highly uncertain and at worst deeply worrying.

Dr Frazer said: “It has been said that a nation’s greatness can be measured by how it treats its most disadvantaged members, and as Christians we take seriously the words of

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Jesus when he says ‘whatever you do for the least of these you do for me’.

“As a society we must work to create an environment in which the poorest and most marginalised among us are able to thrive and flourish.

“But for too many people this is not the case and, as our letter highlights, the evidence suggests that leaving the EU without a deal will make things significantly worse.

“If we wish to avoid damage to our shared wellbeing, if we want to protect peace in Northern Ireland, if we wish to safeguard the rights of EU citizens resident within the UK, and if we wish to maintain a positive relationship with our closest neighbours, on whom we depend for so much of our common good, then we cannot countenance leaving the European Union without a deal in place.

“Indeed, we do not believe that a decision which increases the suffering of those who already suffer, which imperils peace, and which makes those who have made the UK their home feel unwelcome, can ever sit comfortably with a God who welcomes the stranger, who is the Prince of Peace, and who has a priority for the poorest and most marginalised.”

PM urged by Irish Presbyterian moderator to work for restoration of Stormont

The Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Right Reverend Dr William Henry, has congratulated Boris Johnson as he prepares to become the UK’s new prime minister on Wednesday.

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Rev Dr William Henry has urged Boris Johnson to encourage local parties to 'go the extra mile' to restore devolution

In a letter to the newly appointed Conservative Party leader, Dr Henry urged him to take “a keen and personal interest” in the inter-party talks to restore devolution and to “actively encourage those involved to go the extra mile”.

Saying that there is “significant expectation on the new PM”, Dr Henry wrote: “The call to leadership, especially political and national leadership, comes with heavy responsibilities and significant expectation – not least at this particular time. While your primary focus will be, of course, the ongoing process of leaving the European Union, I hope that you will also take a keen and personal interest in the talks to restore

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devolution to Northern Ireland – actively encouraging those involved to go the extra mile.

“The absence of devolved government continues to affect the lives of many of the most vulnerable and marginalised people in our society. Courageous and compassionate leadership is required to both consolidate, and build upon, the progress already made during the inter-party talks.”

Dr Henry added: “When you spoke yesterday following your confirmation as Conservative Party leader, many will have appreciated your commitment to ‘unite this country and take it forward’. This, I believe, is especially important in these uncertain days.”

The moderator concluded his correspondence by telling Mr Johnson that Christians are called to pray for those in authority, adding that he will have the prayers of many people within the church.

Archbishop - Church of Ireland has put its survival over public engagement

Archbishop [Richard Clarke](#) Church of Ireland Primate of All Ireland writes -

This week marks 150 years since the “disestablishment” of the [Church of Ireland](#) received royal assent from [Queen Victoria](#), having passed through the necessary legislative processes in the Westminster parliament.

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Disestablishment meant that the Church of [Ireland](#) was now made wholly independent of the Church of [England](#). It was no longer the official state church (whereby church and state law were coterminous) and would receive no further public funding. Essentially it was left entirely to its own devices by the British state and by the Church of England, the latter with which it had been organically united since the Act of Union of 1800.

Disestablishment would not take final effect for a further 18 months (in order that the church could set about restructuring itself), but effectively the deed was done on July 26th, 1869.

Although the editor of the proceedings of a church convention, summoned in 1870 to construct the reorganisation of the Church of Ireland, wrote brightly that the church was now “free to shape her own future course”, very few of its members relished this unsought freedom.

There was a widespread uncertainty as to whether the church could possibly survive financially, and also a fully reasonable concern that it might fragment into different doctrinal and ecclesiastical factions.

For much of the following decade, the Church of Ireland sought to resolve these issues and underpin its future survival.

Lay members showed considerable financial generosity in contributing to the central funds of the church. This generosity was matched by many of the clergy who chose to allow a “commutation” of the totality of the income it was calculated they would individually be entitled to receive over

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the remainder of their ministry to be transferred into the central coffers of the church, as seed capital.

There was hence a genuine conviction that the disestablished Church of Ireland retained a God-given mission to proclaim the Gospel in its own particular comprehension of that message.

Definitive liturgy

Although there was indeed good reason to believe that the church might quickly dissolve into competing sects, its newly created General Synod – representing laity, clergy and bishops – worked carefully if sometimes fractiously over the course of eight years. It coalesced around a determination that the definitive liturgy of the church would remain largely unchanged; this unquestionably had a major unifying effect on the mindset of the newly disestablished church.

In addition, the church had already resolved at its 1870 convention that it would conscientiously seek to maintain full communion with the Church of England.

This did not imply that the Church of Ireland was in any way subservient to the Church of England (or that its autonomy was not absolute), but it did demonstrate that the Church of Ireland did not wish to find its place outside a fledgling Anglican Communion of Churches.

We may also idly speculate that if disestablishment had not happened when it did, could the Church of Ireland have survived intact when its disestablishment would become unconditionally imperative with partition 50 years later?

Although the immediate aftermath of disestablishment was indeed troublous for the church, it did regroup effectively. It

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may reasonably be suggested that it achieved this by placing a high priority, even subliminally, on its internal unity. In many respects, this has not greatly changed over the past 150 years – for better, for worse.

There have always been tensions within the Church of Ireland – some doctrinal and ecclesiological, some concerning ethos, and some relating to social and ethical behavioural principles.

Sociopolitical realities

Nor can it be doubted that the diverging cultures and sociopolitical realities of [Northern Ireland](#) and the Republic of Ireland (as it now is) over the century since partition have exacerbated some of the already existing pressures on the continuing cohesiveness of the church. However, for the most part, the Church of Ireland has always sought to find a consensus and to “stick together”.

A tragic corollary has been that the Church of Ireland has also kept itself away from the metaphorical public square too readily and, in this regard, has had a conspicuously sparse engagement with political life, particularly in the Republic.

Rather than this being – as it might appear to be – simple timidity in the face of possible extinction, it is more probably derived from the aftermath of disestablishment, when the cohesion of the church became its greatest requirement. It then learned that it could have no worthwhile mission for Christ if it ever forfeited its essential interconnectedness.

The disestablished church has not, however, been entirely introspective nor have opportunities for ecclesiastical

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innovation been wholly renounced. The Church of Ireland has been at the very forefront of Anglican liturgical development. It provided legislation to permit (in particular circumstances) the marriage of divorced people in a church setting.

On the whole it has provided an authentic *via media* in ecumenical relationships and has been heavily engaged in international ecumenical commissions over many decades. And Ireland was the first of the Anglican churches in [Europe](#) to ordain women to the priesthood and to the episcopate.

Today we may reasonably celebrate 150 years of disestablishment, but only if we are now ready to show the same faith, courage and generosity our forebears epitomised in 1869 as we seek to shape our future course.

First published in The Irish Times. Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Archbishop Neary to lead annual Croagh Patrick Pilgrimage

The annual Reek Sunday Pilgrimage will take place this weekend on Ireland's holy mountain, Croagh Patrick, Murrisk, Co Mayo, in the Archdiocese of Tuam at 6.30am on Reek Sunday, 28 July 2019

Archbishop Michael Neary, Archbishop of Tuam; Bishop Fintan Monahan, Bishop of Killaloe, priests and pilgrims from across Ireland will be present. The bishops' ascent will start at 7.00am on Sunday morning.

Mass times

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On the evening before, Saturday (27 July) at 6.30pm, Archbishop Neary will celebrate Mass in Saint Mary's Church, Westport, to mark the official beginning of this year's pilgrimage.

During Reek Sunday, Mass will be celebrated every hour on the summit, beginning at 8.00am, with the final Mass commencing at 2.00pm. Father Stephen Farragher will celebrate Mass as Gaeilge at 10.00am. Archbishop Neary will celebrate Mass at 11.00am. Bishop Fintan Monahan will celebrate Mass at 12.00 noon.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Pilgrims may also avail of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) at the summit from 7.30am to 2.00pm.

The Pilgrims' Prayer Card is available in Teach Na Míosa and the Murrisk Community Café as well as in the 'Patricks Path' section on westportparish.ie.

Croagh Patrick is a physically demanding pilgrimage. Intending pilgrims should make themselves aware in advance of health and safety information about the mountain. Pilgrims should also heed the instructions of stewards, the mountain rescue teams, Order of Malta, and Gardaí. While it is a custom for some to make the climb barefoot, pilgrims should come prepared for changeable weather conditions, and are advised to bring suitable warm/waterproof clothing, good footwear, walking stick/staff and water, and to be mindful of the safety of themselves and others. See mountaineering.ie and [http://](http://churchnewsireland@gmail.org)

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www.mayomountainrescue.ie/news/132-press-release-reek-sunday-28th-july-2019 and information from Mayo Mountain Rescue on Reek Sunday.

Croagh Patrick (2,510ft/765m), Ireland's holy mountain, dominates the landscape of southwest Mayo both spiritually and physically. The pilgrimage is associated with Saint Patrick who, in 441, spent forty days and nights fasting on the summit, following the example of Christ and Moses. The name 'Reek Sunday' comes from Patrick's ability to Christianise many pagan customs including the festival of Lughnasa, which previously had heralded the start of the harvest festival honouring the ancient pagan god Lugh, whose name is encompassed in the Irish word for August: Lughnasa. This festival's tradition became absorbed into the new Christian beliefs and locally become known as Domhnach na Cruaiche (Reek Sunday).

The Croagh Patrick pilgrimage has been undertaken for over 1500 years.

July 25 - Today in Christian history

July 25, 325: The Council of Nicea closes. The first ecumenical council, convened by Constantine, it rejected the Arians (who denied the full divinity of Christ) as heretics.

July 25, 1593: King Henry IV of France, raised a Protestant, converts to Catholicism. Long considered a political move, the conversion is now thought to have been sincere, partially because of the king's statement that "religion is not changed as easily as a shirt." His conversion did not end his

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sympathy for Protestants, however, and in 1598 he promulgated the Edict of Nantes, giving Protestants freedom of worship and permitting them to garrison certain towns for security.

July 25, 1918: Walter Rauschenbusch, Baptist pastor and theologian of the Social Gospel, dies. His books, including Christianity and the Social Crisis and The Social Principles of Jesus, influenced many—among them Martin Luther King, Jr., who observed that "Rauschenbusch gave to American Protestantism a sense of social responsibility that it should never lose.

July 25 News Links

[Boris Johnson: Northern Ireland reaction to the new prime minister](#)

BBC News

With Brexit looming, many are wondering how Mr Johnson will approach the negotiating table and what that will mean for Northern **Ireland**. Here's how ...

[Church of Scotland warns Boris Johnson over impact of no deal Brexit](#) - The Scotsman
[Johnson's appointment sparks polarised reaction in Northern Ireland](#) - Times & Star

[Boris Johnson: Northern Ireland divided over new prime minister](#)

The Times

The head of the Presbyterian **Church in Ireland** has urged Mr Johnson to take a "keen and personal interest" in the ongoing political talks to restore ...

[May's legacy defined by her failed Brexit bid](#)

The Straits Times

The daughter of a **Church of England** vicar, Mrs May was born on Oct 1, 1956, in Eastbourne - a seaside town in southern England where her father ...

['Tremendous excitement' in parish of British Open winner Shane Lowry](#)

Crux: Covering all things Catholic

CLARA, **Ireland** - After Massgoers' prayers for golfer Shane Lowry were answered, there was "tremendous excitement" in his rural **parish**, said Father ...

[Kiltyclogher and Cashel come together for a shared future](#)

Leitrim Observer

Kilcoo Methodist Church erected in 1890 in Cashel was used by the **Church of Ireland** congregation when they were cut from their place of worship in ...

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[Irish nun honored for lengthy teaching career in Pakistan](#)

Vatican News

By Devin Watkins. Sixty-five years spent teaching, most of them dedicated to Muslim, Christian, Parsi, and Hindu children in Pakistan. Sr Berchmans ...

[Congregation of Bon Secours expands vocation efforts worldwide](#)

Religion News Service

"This is an exciting opportunity for the Sisters of Bon Secours to reach out around the globe to women who are considering **religious** life and want to ...

[Two pairs of corncrakes recorded on Rathlin for first time in 30 years](#)

The Irish News

The secretive bird's call was once a familiar sound across **Ireland**. ... RSPB Rathlin Island Warden Liam McFaul said the male bird at **Church** Bay has ...

[For sale: Former Tyrone school that had poteen still and resident donkey](#)

Belfast Telegraph

"I know the house was originally a **Church of Ireland** school in 1836 that had 70 pupils on the register, but I can't imagine how they all fitted in.

[Church of England creates risk-focused strategy role](#)

[IPE.com](#)

The **Church of England's** investment arm has appointed James Barty to the newly created position of director of investment strategy. He was previously ...

[Priest ignored church bequest and gave money to local school](#)

The Times

A church disciplinary tribunal said that the Rev Canon Cameron Butland ... the Grasmere **Church of England** School Trust, of which he was a trustee.

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www.churchnewsireland.org