



Pope Francis with Bishop Munib Younan, President of the Lutheran World Federation, at the Malmo Arena in Malmo, Sweden, October 31, 2016.

500 Years After Reformation, Catholics And Lutherans 'No Longer Strangers'

Catholic and Lutheran leaders signed a joint declaration to mark the 500th year of the Protestant Reformation on Monday.

Pope Francis travelled to Lund in Sweden for an ecumenical prayer service and urged Christians on both sides of the divide to "move beyond" past controversies and towards unity. The event marked the start of 12 months commemorating the publication of Martin Luther's 95 Theses that heralded the foundation of Protestantism.

The Pope said what united Protestants and Catholics was greater than what divided them and they had a "new opportunity to accept a common path".

The declaration was signed by Francis, as leader of the world's 1.2 billion Catholics, and Munib Younan, president of the Lutheran World Federation. It read: "Through dialogue and shared witness we are no longer strangers. Rather, we have learned that what unites us is greater than what divides us.

"While we are profoundly thankful for the spiritual and theological gifts received through the Reformation, we also confess and lament before Christ that Lutherans and Catholics have wounded the visible unity of the Church. Theological differences were accompanied by prejudice and conflicts, and religion was instrumentalised for political ends."

Francis was careful not to offer any further suggestions that inter-communion was on the agenda. The Catholic Church has insisted that while the anniversary can be marked through prayer and commitments to working together for the poor, sharing the Eucharist will only be possible when full unity has been reached.

But Rev Martin Junge, general secretary of the Lutheran World Federation, expressed a hope that a shared communion could be held sooner. "Jesus Christ calls us to be ambassadors of reconciliation," he said urging Christians to build "bridges so that we can draw closer to each other, houses where we can meet together and tables – yes, tables – where we can share the bread and the wine, the presence of Jesus Christ who has never left us and who calls us to abide in him so the world may believe".

The joint statement acknowledged: "Many members of our communities yearn to receive the Eucharist at one table as the concrete expression of full unity." It vowed "the goal of our ecumenical endeavours" was a shared communion.

The service in Lund Cathedral on Monday afternoon also marked 50 years of cooperation between the two Churches in an effort to overcome divisions of the past.

Francis prayed that the Holy Spirit would "help us to rejoice in the gifts that have come to the Church through the Reformation, prepare us to repent for the dividing walls that we, and our forebears, have built, and equip us for common witness and service in the world".

In his homily he said both Churches had "undertaken a common journey of reconciliation. Now, in the context of the commemoration of the Reformation of 1517, we have a new opportunity to accept a common path, one that has taken shape over the past 50 years in the ecumenical dialogue between the Lutheran World Federation and the Catholic Church."

Dublin lectures recall Patron Saint and mark 800th diocesan anniversary

A series of free lunchtime lectures marking the 800th anniversary of the union of the two dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough in 1216 will take place in Christ Church Cathedral from November 14 to 18. The lectures will be delivered during the Octave of St Laurence O'Toole, patron saint of Dublin, and will examine the union of the dioceses of Dublin & Glendalough.

The lunchtime lectures, which will take place at 1.30pm, begin on St Laurence O'Toole's day Monday November 14, with 'A Hiberno-Norse perspective' on the diocesan union. This will be given by Professor Seán Duffy of the School of Histories and Humanities at Trinity College Dublin. Seán is a Fellow of TCD, a director of the Centre for Irish-Scottish and Comparative Studies, and chairman of the Friends of Medieval Dublin since 1998.

On Wednesday November 16, Dr Michael O'Neill will speak on the cathedrals of Dublin in 1216.

Michael did his Ph.D. on the architecture of St Patrick's cathedral and has been involved for many years in Christ Church's Library and Archives committee, as part of which he has curated both an exhibition of the cathedral's medieval stone in the north transept, and an exhibition of George Edmund Street's restoration of the cathedral, which can still be viewed in the crypt.

Complementing the talk on the cathedrals of Dublin, Professor Rachel Moss of the Department of the History of Art and Architecture in TCD will give a paired art historical lecture on Thursday November 17 focussing on the churches of Glendalough around 1216. Rachel recently edited and mostly wrote the first volume on medieval Ireland in the *Art and Architecture of Ireland* series published by the Royal Irish Academy and Yale University Press. She is also the principal investigator in the Monastic Ireland, Landscape and Settlement project.

The concluding lecture, on Friday November 18, balances Professor Duffy's opening lecture with 'An Anglo-Norman perspective' on the diocesan union, and will be given by Canon Professor Adrian Empey, a medieval historian and former

precentor of Christ Church (2001–8). Adrian taught medieval history at Central Washington State University (1968–1972), and then joined the priesthood. He later lectured in ecclesiastical history while holding the position of the principal of the Church of Ireland Theological College, attached to Trinity College, from 2001 to his retirement in 2008. He has published widely on themes relating to Anglo–Norman settlement.

The illustration used here, is a 3D scan of the Glendalough's market cross undertaken by the Discovery Programme. A number of features of the cross suggest that it may have been copied from an 11th–century cross of Ottonian influence, and the most logical candidate is the miraculous cross of Christ Church, reputed to be speak and to be immoveable in 12th–century writings, and most likely brought to Christ Church in the early 11th century along with relics and a martyrology which were collected in Cologne where the first two bishops of Dublin were trained as Benedictines.

Needless to say, the lectures are free and all are welcome. The series is generously supported by the Friends of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin.

Methodist leaders call on Irish government to set up a refugee agency

“A great moral stain is masking the European Union and has begun to colour Ireland as a result of the failure to care for unaccompanied children amongst the refugees of Calais” state the President, Rev Bill Mullally, and the Lay Leader of The Methodist Church in Ireland.

Their statement continues. “An opportunity to begin to remove this stain exists by rescuing 200 children from the cruelty and chaos of Calais . We would encourage An Taoiseach to respond positively and with leadership by accepting the cross-party motion to that effect now before the Oireachtas.

“This would signal a restitution of Ireland's reputation and set an example for other Members States of the EU. To date Ireland has taken in one unaccompanied child and has failed to live up to its commitment to take 4000 refugees.

“We call upon An Taoiseach to establish urgently a Migration and Refugee Agency with emergency

powers to administer the long term task of receiving and integrating migrants and refugees. The current arrangements of a range of organisations is clearly not working."

Former Man Utd and Northern Ireland star ordained



A former professional footballer from west Belfast has taken the next step on his spiritual journey after being ordained a deacon

A former Manchester United and Northern Ireland star, a member of the Dominican Order has been ordained as a deacon.

Philip Mulryne, who won [27 caps for the international side](#) , was ordained by the Archbishop of Dublin, Diarmuid Martin.

The ex-Red Devil's family and friends gathered at Saint Saviour's church for the ceremony.

The 38-year-old is a member of the Dominican Order and is expected to be ordained as a priest next year.

Former midfielder Mulryne made his debut for [Manchester United](#) in 1997 before going on to play for Norwich City and Leyton Orient.

After he hung up his boots he surprised former playing pals in 2009 when he announced he was training to become a Catholic priest.

He embarked on a two-year philosophy degree in Rome and then a four-year philosophy degree.

Former Norwich teammate Paul McVeigh said he had visited his friend in Rome and was surprised by the change.

He told the Catholic Herald: "To my amazement, and most likely to the rest of the footballing fraternity's, Phil decided to train to become a Catholic priest.

“I was still in contact with him and knew that he had turned his life around and was doing a lot of charitable work and helping the homeless on a weekly basis. Still, it was a complete shock that he felt this was his calling.

“I know for a fact that this is not something he took lightly.”

He added: “When I arrived in Rome, I was met by a very contented-looking Phil who took me back to the Irish college where he was to be based for the next four years.”

Family and friends were in attendance at Saturday’s event in Dublin’s Saint Saviour’s church.

Evangelical Anglicans Urged To 'Stand Up And Be Counted' Over Gay Blessings

A rallying cry for clergy opposed to same-sex relationships to "stand up and be counted" has been issued by the Church of England Evangelical Council (CEEC), Christian Today reports.

Guarding the deposit argues all gay relationships are a "disorder" and will "attract the eternal judgement of God". The 19-page discussion document was sent to all CofE bishops and evangelical leaders earlier in October and published last week.

The forthright statement comes as CofE bishops meet to discuss whether to offer some form of welcome or acceptance to gay couples in official liturgy.

But the document denies this compromise between full acceptance of gay marriage and the Church's current position would work. It would be a "recipe for continuing conflict" the CEEC said and insists allowing "the blessing of same-sex relationships would be a *de facto* change of Church of England doctrine".

Rt Rev Julian Henderson, Bishop of Blackburn, is president of the influential council and other bishops including Rt Rev Donald Allister, Bishop of Peterborough, and Rt Rev Tim Dakin, Bishop of Winchester, are members.

Together with all senior bishops in the CofE they will bring forward a recommendation to the ruling general synod at its next meeting in February.

"The best way forward" would be to restate the Church's position that any sex outside heterosexual marriage is sinful, the document says. "Effective sanctions" also need to be taken against clergy who go against this teaching, it argues, slamming "years of drifting" where several gay vicars have married without consequences.

The comprehensive document goes on to argue the slightest change in the CofE's stance would cause an "inevitable" split.

"There will need to be some visible 'differentiation' and division within the Church of England between those following this new teaching and those wishing to be in an 'apostolic community'."

The document analyses all various options of what a split might look like but calls on conservative Anglicans to warn bishops that any shift would have "inevitable consequences, leading to the divisions we all would not prefer".

Rt Rev Pete Broadbent, Bishop of Willesden, is a member of the CEEC. He told Christian Today: "The House of Bishops are still engaged in

conversations about the nature and shape of pastoral provision in this area. Many evangelical Anglicans would agree with the analysis and the concerns expressed in the CEEC document that any move towards further liberalisation would bring to a head the divisions in the Church of England and might well cause a split. My role – and that of my colleagues in the House is to do all that I can to prevent a split and to hold people in the Church of England – though that will not be easy, given what is at stake."

But Canon Giles Goddard, vicar of St John's Waterloo and a pro-LGBT member of synod, said it was "sad they are refusing to engage". He told Christian Today: "It feels like they are taking a position in order to discourage the reference group in the House of Bishops from making progress." He added he "certainly does not agree with the conclusion" that a split is inevitable.

"There are ways we can work together if there is a will to make it happen."

Goddard also insisted there are "very strong theological traditions that indicate same-sex relationships are blessed in the eyes of God.

"The Church needs to celebrate that."

Andrew Symes, from the conservative group Anglican Mainstream, said the Church had been shifting towards a change since the 2013 Pilling Report and said *Guarding the deposit* explained why this was "theologically very important".

He told Christian Today: "Some will be critical, asking why we should be discussing 'visible differentiation' or separation on the issue of sexuality, when evangelicals have tolerated liberal views on other matters in the hierarchy for decades.

"Others will see two of the options presented in the document – a renewed commitment to biblical orthodoxy or a negotiated separation – as impossible to achieve, leaving the more realistic prospect of the main body of the church continuing its gradual slide towards revisionism while small groups separate from it over time.

"I think the document, which doesn't see itself as the last word on the subject, is an important contribution to the debate on the future of the C of E in the context of a rapidly changing cultural context. It correctly identifies the importance of GAFCON and the Global South in holding the C of E to account for its 'apostolic faithfulness', and

will serve as a call to many wavering evangelicals to stand firm for orthodox faith in the denomination."

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

An Irishman's Diary: 'No Pope Here!' – A protest march in Armagh in 1968

Irish Times

McCaughey, in particular, helped to persuade the General Assembly that, as an all-Ireland church, they had to meet at least occasionally in Dublin.

<http://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/an-irishman-s-diary-no-pope-here-a-protest-march-in-armagh-in-1968-1.2849611>

BBC/Northern Echo

Report that a retired clergyman and former archdeacon Granville Gibson, 80, has been jailed for 12 months after being convicted earlier this year of sex abuse in the 1970s and 80s.

Following the trial at Durham Crown Court, the Bishop of Durham, Paul Butler, offered an unreserved apology to all the survivors and those affected and said a review would be conducted.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-tees-37827035>

http://www.thenorthernecho.co.uk/news/14834683.Church_apology_to_victims_of_abuse_by_senior_clergyman/?ref=rss

Guard/Premier

Further reports on the clearance of the Calais 'Jungle' including the final service held at St Michael's Orthodox Church, the makeshift church in the camp, which was packed with migrants from Eritrea, and West Africa. The Guardian reports that Queens Park Rangers (QPR) has offered to help bring refugee children stranded in France to the UK.

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/World/Calais-camp-church-holds-final-service-before-demolition>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/nov/01/qpr-gives-fleet-of-coaches-to-bring-child-refugees-from-calais>

Mirror

Further report on the fire at the country's 'oldest hotel' the Royal Clarence Hotel in Exeter situated on Cathedral Green. The articles notes praise for the 'heroic' firefighters from the Bishop of Exeter, Robert Atwell.

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/britains-oldest-hotel-demolished-after-9164657>

Guard

Report that Pope Francis and the president of the Lutheran World Federation Munib Younan have signed a joint declaration at an ecumenical prayer service stating that what unites the two traditions is greater than that which divides them. The service in Lund Cathedral in Sweden heralded the start of 12 months of events leading up to the 500th anniversary next year of Martin Luther nailing his 95 theses to a church door in Wittenberg, Germany.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/oct/31/catholics-lutherans-joint-declaration-pope-francis-christian-sweden>