

**Single education board  
for Northern Ireland -  
after waste of £16  
million process**

**Pope mourns  
three missionary  
sisters murdered  
in Burundi**

**Pope Francis mourned the deaths of three Xaverian Missionary Sisters of Mary, who were murdered in two separate attacks in their residence in Burundi.**

Sister Lucia Pulici, 75, and Sister Olga Raschiatti, 82, were found dead on September 7 in their mission residence in the capital of Bujumbura. Sister Bernadetta Boggian, 79, who had found the bodies, was killed the next night.



*Italian nun Olga Raschiatti pictured among children*

According to the Washington Times, Sisters Raschiatti and Pulici were stabbed to death, while Agence France-Presse reported that Sister Boggian was beaten and beheaded.

In telegrams sent to Archbishop Evariste Ngoyagoye of Bujumbura and Sister Ines Frizza superior general of the Xaverian Missionary Sister of Mary, the

Pope expressed his sadness concerning the “tragic deaths” of these “faithful and devout nuns”.

The messages, sent on behalf of the Pope by Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, said the Pope hoped that “the blood they have shed may become the seed of hope to build true fraternity between peoples.”

Xaverian Missionary Father Mario Pulcini, superior of the Xaverian Missionaries in Burundi, told MISNA, the missionary news service, that he had gone to the mission house on September 7 after he and Sister Boggian had been unable to reach Sisters Pulici and Raschietti by telephone all of that day.

“I was in front of the main door with the idea of forcing it open when it opened and I saw Bernadetta there very upset. She had found a side service entrance open and, once she entered, found the lifeless bodies of Sisters Olga and Lucia,” he said.

They alerted government, military, judicial and religious authorities, the priest said, and an investigation was begun.

Despite the murders, the sisters decided to spend the night in their home. However, they phoned Father Pulcini during the night of September 8, afraid that “the aggressor was in the home”. When the priest arrived, he found Sister Boggian had been killed, too.

There was no word yet on possible suspects or motives of the killings.

The three missionary sisters had been working in Burundi, helping the poor and the sick, the past seven years, Vatican Radio reported. Sister Boggian had been a superior of the congregation for many years.

On September 8, the mission house was “full of people who have come to mourn the nuns and express their solidarity,” Vatican Radio reported.

See also -

<http://www.independent.ie/world-news/europe/three-nuns-raped-and-killed-during-armed-robbery-in-convent-30573567.html>

## Charting A Future With Confidence in Cork, Cloyne and Ross

The Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, the Right Reverend Dr Paul Colton, has initiated a strategic review of ministry and priorities in the Diocese, which he has called *Charting A Future with Confidence*. This plan has been adopted by the Diocesan Council, and in recent weeks parishes and clergy have been electing their participants in the process.



# Charting a Future with Confidence



Bishop Colton says that this consultation and review are timely and that they tie in naturally with a number of things happening more widely in the Church of Ireland about patterns of ministry, discussions concerning episcopal ministry, as well as debate within the Representative Church Body and the House of Bishops. In addition, the Archbishop of Armagh has tabled his vision towards the year 2034 for the Church of Ireland. Bishop Colton said:

As well as these wider impulses, the continuing and rapid changes in Irish society – ideological, demographic and economic – are prompting all institutions, not just churches, to take stock and to identify what is of foremost importance for them. This is what I hope we can do in this part of the Church of Ireland.

The elected Council of *Charting A Future with Confidence* will meet for the first time at Bandon Grammar School on Tuesday, 23rd September at 7.30 p.m.

A residential conference which will be held on 21st and 22nd November in Charleville, Co. Cork will be opened and addressed by the Most Reverend Dr Richard Clarke, Archbishop of Armagh.

## **St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast To Introduce Daily Choral Service**

**For the first time in the history of Belfast, Choral Evensong or Sung Compline will be sung in the city every night with the exception of Saturday.**



St Anne's Cathedral's weekly Choral Services recommenced after the summer break on 8 September with Sung Compline at 5.30pm on Monday and Choral Evensong at the same time on Wednesday.

On 18 September, Thursday Choral Evensong will be introduced, continuing every Thursday thereafter. On Culture Night, Friday 19 September, the 5.30pm service will also be sung, continuing on Fridays throughout the school term. And after Christmas St Anne's will also offer a Sung Compline on a Tuesday.

The Dean of Belfast, the Very Rev John Mann, said: *'This is the first time ever, as far as I am aware, that any church in Belfast has had a Choral Evening Service every day with the exception of Saturday, which I don't think we will be able to manage. All of the Cathedral choirs will be taking part with different sections singing on different nights. The clergy will have more singing to do too!'*

David Stephens, Master of the Choristers, said: *'The tradition of daily sung services is an ancient tradition that is best preserved in UK cathedrals, and draws tourists from all over the world to hear beautiful music sung as part of moving liturgy in stunning buildings.'*

*'St Anne's is aiming, for the first time, to have sung services on most days of the week to preserve this ancient tradition and to help the people of Belfast and visitors to the city experience something inspiring during their visit. I'm glad that over the next few months we'll add more sung services to our weekly schedule, and look forward to the building coming alive at the end of each working day.'*

Services on Monday evenings will always be Sung Compline, which is the last Monastic Office of the day, and will last around 15 minutes. Every other

evening the service will be Choral Evensong and will last a little over half an hour.

All sung weekday services begin in St Anne's at 5.30pm and everyone is very welcome to join in and listen to the music, prayers, hymns and chants in the beautiful setting of Belfast Cathedral.



## **Methodists' Mission Ireland Day**

**An enthusiastic crowd of Irish Methodists met in Edenderry Methodist Church on Saturday 7th September to take part in the third of what has come to be known as Mission Ireland Days...**

...when we, as representatives of the Methodist Church in Ireland, come together for a time of worship, meditation, discussion and prayer to see

what God is saying to us, especially for mission and outreach. In the morning, after the obligatory tea and coffee and catching up, the guest speaker was the Rev David Montgomery from Knock Presbyterian Church.

David spoke on three scripture passages illustrating our need to examine old wells that had become clogged and could be opened up again or the necessity of digging new wells; of the need to forget false dreams of returning to the way things were in the times of previous generations; and of being prepared to serve God as we are. I

It was a challenging morning and after a time of prayer, reflection, meditation (and lunch!) we returned to the same themes, and, with the Rev Alan Lorimer acting as facilitator, explored how the morning events had spoken to us individually. There were many perceptive and heartfelt responses and I believe we did indeed hear God speaking to us. A fuller report will follow in the Methodist Newsletter.

## Jordanstown's Holiday Bible Club



**St. Patrick's Jordanstown held their first holiday bible club this summer. Rev. Jonny Campbell-Smith enlisted the help of a team of volunteers from New Wine in Sligo, who had all been involved in the Kid's Programme there during the summer.**

The idea was that the team would train up the St. Patrick's volunteers "on the job" by gradually handing over more and more of the programme to the local volunteers as the week progressed.

Each morning, the whole team met together for a bible reflection led by Rev. Jonny, followed by prayer in groups as everyone handed over the day to God's hands and asked for His help and guidance throughout.

Over 60 children came to the club each day and took part in a high energy, exciting programme which included a time together with praise, testimonies, messy games and challenges, memory verses, talks and prayer and time in groups taking part in games, crafts and bible based activities.

The children were given the opportunity to respond to God by praying, talking, listening and doing. The club had a significant impact on the children with many of them responding to God's call and wanting to follow Him.

The team of volunteers from St. Patrick's were willing to step out of their comfort zone and try things they hadn't done before such as leading activities from the front and guiding the children as they prayed in groups. There was a mix of ages amongst the volunteers from retired people to teenagers, working together and being like the family of God we all want our churches to be!

More Connor holiday club news at -

<http://www.rippleconnor.org.uk/jordanstowns-holiday-bible-club/>

## Single education board for Northern Ireland - after waste of £16 million process



*John O'Dowd admitted earlier this year that he had failed to convince unionists about his plans for a single education authority*

**The minister for education has welcomed agreement from the executive to go ahead with a single education board instead of the current five.**

It marks the end to plans for the Education and Skills Authority (ESA) that was favoured by John O'Dowd.

The body was first proposed in 2007 but missed a series of deadlines.

The aim was to create an all-embracing body with greater powers than the current five boards in Northern Ireland.

ESA's interim body has cost almost £16m over the last seven years, but its creation was not supported by the DUP.

DUP chairperson of the education committee Mervyn Storey said he was content that the controlled sector, which mostly educates

Protestant pupils, would have strong representation on the new single board.

Plans to include the exams body CCEA and the Catholic council, the CCMS, have been scrapped.

Voluntary grammar schools, had objected to some proposals, will not be involved in the new board.

When it became apparent there would not be political agreement on ESA, the minister for education said he had no option but to settle for a less radical solution.

Read more:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-29134864>

## **Cardinal Nichols welcomes Royal baby news**

**Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster, said on Tuesday that he was “delighted” at the announcement that the Duchess of Cambridge is pregnant again.**

The news of Catherine’s second pregnancy was released in advance of her canceling a public engagement at Oxford University with Prince William.

Catherine suffers from Hyperemesis gravidarum, extremely severe morning sickness in the early weeks of pregnancy, which can cause dehydration, weight loss and a build up of toxins in the blood and urine. During her first pregnancy with Prince George, Catherine was admitted to King Edward VII hospital. This time she is being treated at Kensington Palace by the surgeon gynaecologist to the Queen.

Cardinal Nichols said: “I am delighted at the happy news that the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge are expecting a second child. Our prayers are with the family, and indeed all families awaiting the birth of a child.”

Speaking yesterday, Prince William said: “(Catherine’s) feeling OK, it’s been a tricky few days... we’re immensely thrilled, it’s great news.”



## **Church of England recruits journalist of "Insight, Experience and Commitment" as part of new team**

**Martha Linden has joined the Church of England Communications team at Church House, Westminster bringing 16 years of experience working as a national journalist.**



Martha joins the team from the Press Association where she has covered religion and social affairs for more than decade. Previously Martha worked in television and as a Westminster lobby journalist.

During her 16 years working at the Press Association Martha organised the agency's coverage of Pope Benedict XVI's visit to England in 2010 and was the only journalist to interview Lord Rowan Williams of Oystermouth when he announced he was stepping down as Archbishop of Canterbury.

Welcoming Martha to the team the Rev. Arun Arora, Director of Communications, said:

"We are thrilled to have attracted someone of Martha's calibre to a newly created senior role in the communications team. Martha brings a wealth of insight, experience and commitment to the role both as a national journalist and a practising Christian.

"Martha is the latest addition to a new team that brings together print, digital and broadcast experience combined with publishing, training and national projects. Martha's skills and experience will be invaluable in growing the Church's confidence to proclaim the Kingdom of God at work in our country."

Martha takes up the post of Senior Media Officer focusing on the CofE's work on parliamentary and public affairs, assisting those involved with work across a broad range of issues including banking reform, foodbanks, prisons, medical ethics, international affairs and domestic policy. She will also be working on media for the Church Urban Fund, a Church of England charity dedicated to tackling poverty.

Speaking just after taking up her role Martha said: "I feel very privileged indeed to have this job. Having covered Church of England news for many years I am acutely aware of the critical role the Church plays in society, its dedicated service and the way that service is often offered in unsung ways. I'm excited by the opportunity to tell the stories of transformation brought about by the Church of England through its members, ministers and supporters throughout the country."

## Press Review

### BBC

Further report that Canon Jeremy Pemberton is taking both the acting Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham and the Archbishop of York to an employment tribunal because he was refused a licence to work as a hospital chaplain.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-29128746>

### Times/Exp/ BBC/Ind/Tel

Reports on a court case where a south London vicar is on trial accused of presiding over 494 sham marriages in 15 months. The Rev Nathan Ntege, 54, is accused of conducting the Anglican ceremonies at the church of St Jude with St Aidan in Thornton Heath, south London. The court was told suspicion arose when the church went from processing six weddings a year to six a day. The Rev Ntege denies 14 charges.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/crime/article4201667.ece>

[http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/508895/parish-vicar-conveyor-belt-sham-marriages?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+daily-express-uk-news+%28Daily+Express+%3A%3A+UK+Feed%29](http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/508895/parish-vicar-conveyor-belt-sham-marriages?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+daily-express-uk-news+%28Daily+Express+%3A%3A+UK+Feed%29)

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-29128587>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/500-bogus-couples-married-by-same-vicar-court-hears-9722099.html>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/11084645/Vicar-accused-of-running-sham-marriage-conveyor-belt.html>

### Mail/Sun/Guard/FT

Reports that Wonga's new UK boss yesterday admitted the company needs 'to evolve' to restore its reputation as Tara Kneafsey, formerly an insurer with RSA, moves to be managing director of its UK consumer loans division.

They state she will be tasked with 're-presenting Wonga to the public'. The group, which has been criticised for its astronomic interest rates, is still searching for a chief executive. It states the company has faced a barrage of criticism, and the Church of England has called its practices 'morally wrong'. Wonga also faced a £2.4million fine after the Financial Conduct Authority found it guilty of sending out legal letters from imaginary law firms to overdue borrowers.

<http://www.thisismoney.co.uk/money/news/article-2749983/New-Wonga-boss-urges-evolution-restore-reputation.html#ixzz3Csw5t9Oe>

<http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/money/5897341/Sun-City-Righting-Wonga-New-boss-to-abolish-bad-lending-at-loan-firm.html>

<http://www.theguardian.com/business/2014/sep/09/wonga-hires-insurance-firm-executive-tara-kneafsey-rsa>

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/01e4600a-378d-11e4-bd0a-00144feabdc0.html?>

[siteedition=uk#axzz3Ct3LaZhy](#)

### **Tel/Guard**

Reports that for the first time since the Reformation split the church, a Vatican XI is crossing the English Channel on their self-styled 'Tour of Light', playing four warm-up matches in Aldershot, Brighton, at Ascot House and at Windsor Castle, followed by the showpiece Twenty20 game against an Anglican XI at Canterbury. That match takes place at the St Lawrence Ground with the towers of the ancient Cathedral, once central to the Catholic Church, visible from the St Lawrence Gate. They state the Tour of Light is part evangelical operation, part fundraiser, for the anti-trafficking charity the Global Freedom Network, and part hand of friendship to the Church of England. <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/sport/cricket/11085778/Vatican-and-Church-of-England-go-into-bat-together-for-charity.html>  
<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/sep/09/vatican-st-peters-cricket-team-england-tour-pope-francis>

### **Mail**

Report that the Muslim Council in France, home to Europe's largest Islamic minority, has denounced the persecution of Middle East Christians and said mosques across the country would pray for them this week. In a joint statement with a Christian group, the Council (CFCM) said "barbarians are perpetrating crimes against humanity" in the region "exploiting Islam as their banner". Several French Muslim groups have already condemned the harsh tactics of Islamic State, the radical movement that has declared a caliphate in Syria and Iraq, but this was the first time they got together with Christians to support the victims. The Vatican and Christian leaders in Western countries have called on Muslims to speak out against Islamic State. <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/reuters/article-2749400/French-Muslims-support-Mideast-Christians-against-Islamic-State.html#ixzz3Ct5B8700>

### **Guard/Mail**

Reports that Indiana and Wisconsin separately asked the US Supreme Court on Tuesday to decide whether gay marriage should be legal in all 50 states. Both states' Attorneys General asked the high court to reverse a ruling last week by the Seventh Circuit US Court of Appeals, which declared both states' bans against same-sex marriage unconstitutional. Officials from the states say their cases offer a perfect opportunity to settle the national debate once and for all. <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/sep/09/wisconsin-gay-marriage-ruling-supreme-court>  
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/ap/article-2749773/Same-sex-marriage-heading-Supreme-Court-vote.html>

### **BBC**

Report that a car ended up on a church wall when a woman accidentally hit the accelerator and crashed while parking her vehicle. It states she was trying to straighten her car while parking at St Francis Church in Ipswich when she "shot forward" into a stationary vehicle. The woman seriously injured her leg and foot and was taken to hospital after the accident on Tuesday. <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-suffolk-29136456>

### **Blogs**

**God and Politics:** "Some came in their pyjamas" - practically demonstrating God's love to Iraq's refugees

<http://godandpoliticsuk.org/2014/09/09/some-came-in-their-pyjamas-practically-demonstrating-gods-love-to-iraqs-refugees/>

**Opinionated Vicar:** 28% of the illness, 13% of the funding, the scandal of mental health 'provision'

<http://davidkeen.blogspot.co.uk/2014/09/28-of-illness-13-of-funding-scandal-of.html>