



## Royal wedding's gospel choir signs record deal

The gospel choir [that performed at the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex](#) have signed a record deal.

The Kingdom Choir performed Stand By Me in front of a huge global audience at the royal wedding at Windsor Castle on 19th May.

The group have now signed a record deal with Sony Music UK and will release their debut album on 2nd November.

They will go into the studio later this month and the album will include their arrangement of the song that made them famous, having received more than ten million views on YouTube since the wedding.

The choir, which has also announced a headline concert at London's Union Chapel on 28th November, was founded in 1994 in London by award-winning conductor Karen Gibson.

Before performing at the royal wedding, the group's largest audience was just 200 people - but on 2nd June their version of the song was at number one on the Billboard gospel charts.

Gibson said: "The Kingdom Choir are absolutely delighted with the journey of the past few months.

"It's been a roller coaster, but we wouldn't have it any other way - first, the honour of being able to sing at the royal wedding, and then the thrill of being signed to Sony.

"It's like an un-dreamt dream - one that you wouldn't even consider, because you never thought it could happen to you. We're very grateful and very excited about what's to come in the next few months too."

Nicola Tuer, COO of Sony Music UK, added: "We are absolutely thrilled to have signed The Kingdom Choir to Sony. Along with the rest of the world, we were stunned by their incredible performance at the royal wedding, so we jumped at the chance to sign them.

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"The choir believe in love, music and power and we are excited to capture this on record for their fans across the globe."

Tickets for the show at Union Chapel go on general sale on 27th July at 9am, with pre-sale on 25th July and 26th July at 9am.

## **We failed the abused, says former archbishop of Canterbury Lord Carey**

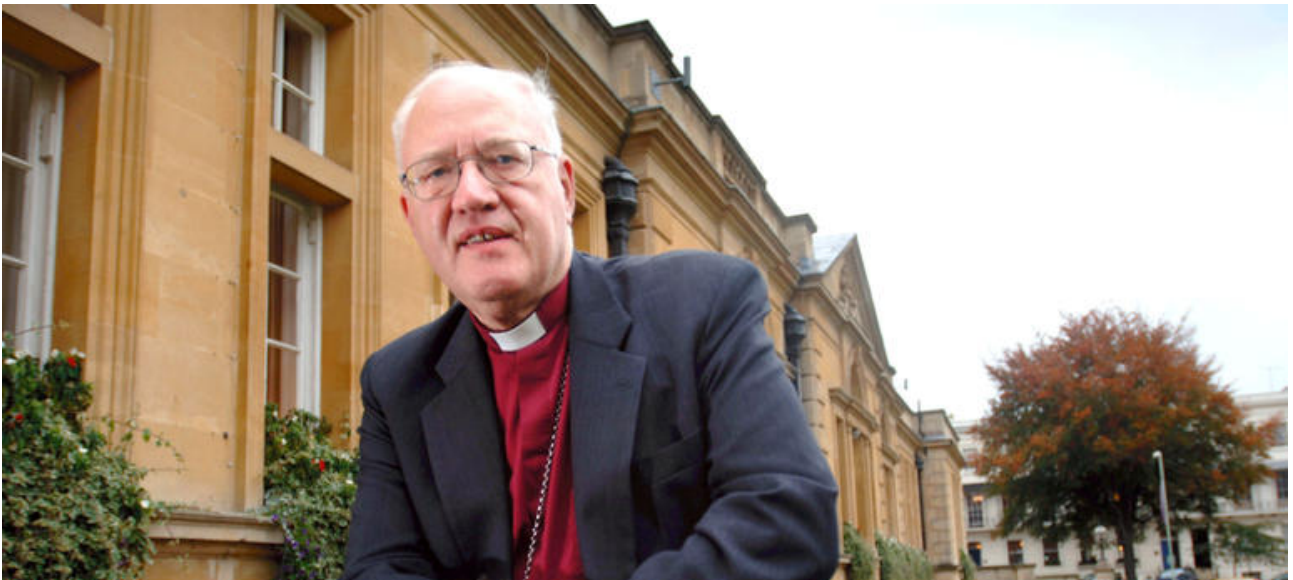
Former archbishop of Canterbury George Carey has admitted the Church of England failed victims of disgraced bishop Peter Ball.

Lord Carey directly addressed those who had been harmed at the hands of Ball, who was imprisoned in 2015 for sexually abusing 18 young men over 30 years.

Now aged 86, Ball, the former bishop of Lewes and then Gloucester, was released in February last year.

Giving evidence at the C of E's Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, Lord Carey said: "They fell into the trap of a pretty wicked person, a deluded person who used his considerable influence to shape them wrongly."

He added: "We failed the abused in a number of different ways and I want to say that if I were to do it now I think I would do it a number of different ways, with hindsight."



"We did not have safeguarding procedures in place then. One thing I could have done is to set up an action committee to delve into matters more individually as well."

Lord Carey was archbishop of Canterbury between 1991 and 2002, and oversaw the Church of England at the time of Ball's arrest in December 1992.

He told the inquiry that child protection was not an issue at the forefront of the CofE during his tenure and that the "cumbersome" institution was sometimes "behind the curve" when it came to addressing allegations of abuse.

Lord Carey added that revelations of sexual abuse around prominent figures in recent decades have made people more aware of the dangers which face young people and potential victims.

He said: "We know much more about the charismatic power of people who are close to younger people, who can influence them or shape them wrongly."



## **Ball, the former bishop of Lewes and then Gloucester**

"All of us pre-Jimmy Savile had no understanding that those people in influence and power can have a really negative and evil effect on the lives of others, and this has gone on in the church from time to time."

Asked if he had received child protection training - now known as safeguarding - the 82-year-old said he did not know it was available to anyone at the time.

"It's one of the things if maybe I was more aware of things happening in society, maybe I should have done but I was not aware."

Lord Carey resigned as honorary assistant bishop in the Diocese of Oxford after an inquiry found he delayed a "proper investigation" into Ball's crimes for two decades by failing to pass information to police.

A "perfect storm" of events including the ordination of women and the breakdown of the Prince of Wales's



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marriage to Diana, Princess of Wales at the end of 1992 into 1993 meant that revelations about Ball came at the "worst time", he said.

"There was so much going on so it was the very worst time to have something like this falling into my lap," he said.

## **Catholic LGBT group 'ignored and discriminated against' by organisers of Pope's visit**

A group which campaigns for the equal inclusion of women and LGBT people in the Catholic church says it has been discriminated against in its application to be part of the World Meeting of Families, Ronan Duffy reports on the Journal.ie

Pope Francis is travelling to Ireland for two days next month to be part of the event but the church here has already been forced to deny that same-sex couples are being excluded.

Speaking last week, [Archbishop Diarmuid Martin said](#) that same-sex issues would be discussed during a pastoral congress in Dublin's RDS held as part of the WMOF.

[In a statement today](#), however, We Are Church Ireland said it applied back in February to have a stand in the RDS, and even paid a deposit, but did not receive a written response.

The group said that it followed this up with numerous calls every fortnight and were repeatedly told that their application was received but was "on hold".

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“As no information was forthcoming, on the 25 May we sent a registered letter to Fr Tim Bartlett, Secretary General of the WMOF and copied it to Dr Diarmuid Martin, Archbishop of Dublin and president of WMOF, asking for the courtesy of a decision on our application. Both these letters were also ignored,” We Are Church spokesperson Brendan Butler said today.

To add insult to injury on the 5 June we received a circular email from the WMOF advertising the fact that stands were still available and inviting applications. Still having received no decision by the middle of July, and with the WMOF’s own deadlines having expired, we finally cancelled our deposit.

The group says WMOF acted in a “discriminatory manner” and without “the most basic courtesy” in how they handled the application.

Speaking on [RTÉ’s News at One](#), journalist and We Are Church Ireland activist Ursula Halligan said that she feels the archbishop has not kept his word.

“We’re really disappointed because we were looking forward to taking part in the World Meeting of Families and to welcoming Pope Francis to Ireland. And we took Archbishop Diarmuid Martin at his word when he said all are welcome, he was even on Marian Finucane’s show yesterday saying the very same thing, but clearly this isn’t the case,” Halligan said.

*TheJournal.ie* has asked the organisers of the World Meeting of Families for a response to the allegations made by We Are Church Ireland.

## Schools face ban on linking admissions to church attendance

Minority faith schools will not be allowed to rank children on the basis of how often they attend church services in their admission policies, under new laws due to come into force next year, the Irish Times reports.

The use of “parochial engagement” in prioritising school admissions has sparked controversy following the resignation of a [Church of Ireland](#) primary school principal last week.

Principal [Eileen Jackson](#) resigned from St Patrick’s [National School](#) in [Greystones](#), Co [Wicklow](#), on the basis that the school was making admission to State-funded education a “collateral benefit” of involvement in the parish.

The Department of Education has confirmed minority faith schools will continue to be permitted to give priority enrolment to children on the basis of religion under new admission laws.

However, a spokesman said schools will not be permitted to rank these students “on the basis of the extent to which the child or his or her family are involved in local religious activities”.

The measures are contained in the School Admissions Act, which was signed into law last week. It is due to come into force for children starting school in the 2019-2020 academic year.

The Act provides for parents to give evidence – such as a baptismal certificate – of the child’s membership of a



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minority religion. The school will be allowed to take account of this only.

## **Baptism barrier**

The new Act removes the “baptism barrier” for Catholic schools – which account for 90 per cent of primary schools – by banning religion as a factor in school entry.

Minister for Education Richard Bruton said the move was to ensure parents do not feel pressured to baptise their children to get access to local schools.

An exception was made for minority faiths schools to ensure children of that religion can still access a school of their faith.

The chairman of the board of management at St Patrick’s National School in Greystones , meanwhile, has insisted the school is “diverse and inclusive”.

Its admissions policy states that priority access is given to children who are “accustomed members” of the Church of Ireland parish of Greystones.

Admissions on this basis require the signature of the rector, who signs off whether the child is an active member of the parish.

## **No new direction**

It is understood that there are number of cases where local children baptised into the Church of Ireland were not given priority enrolment on the basis that they were not active members of the parish.

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Rev [David Mungavin](#), chairman of the school's board of management, said the school was not "going in any new direction and has no plans to do so".

In a letter to staff and parents on Monday, he stated that there "have been no changes to the ethos of the school and there are no plans for changes.

"There have been no changes to the admissions policy for the school and there are no plans for changes.

"St Patrick's National School has and will remain a diverse and inclusive school under Church of Ireland management."

He said Ms Jackson's resignation last Friday came as a surprise to him and the board.

Another source of controversy at the school involved a decision by the board of management to turn down an extra teacher the school was entitled to for the coming academic year.

Some parents claim the move was to prevent school numbers growing and potentially diluting its Church of Ireland ethos.

However, an education source said the board of management's concerns focused on whether the school had the space to cope with extra pupil numbers.

## **£210,000 approved for East Belfast Mission Turas project**

Foras na Gaeilge has announced that a grant to the value of £210,000 has been approved for East Belfast Mission to develop the Turas project over a 3 year period.

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Turas was established in 2012 to promote the Irish language among the Protestant, unionist and loyalist community in Northern Ireland and the project aims to raise awareness about the Irish language locally, at government level and at cross-border level.

East Belfast Mission have prepared a comprehensive plan which mainly focuses on developing Irish language awareness as well creating opportunities for learning and practise for learners to develop the Irish language among the unionist community in east Belfast and throughout Northern Ireland. Turas currently provides 14 Irish language classes to 200 learners as well as heritage sessions and cultural events on a weekly basis.

Foras na Gaeilge Chief Executive Officer Seán Ó Coinn said, “This project is changing the landscape of the Irish language throughout the island, particularly in the north, and shows the people of the island that Irish is not connected to a political point of view or national identity – rather that Irish belongs to this island and the people of the island.”

Turas Development Officer, Linda Ervine said, “We greatly appreciate the support of Foras na Gaeilge for Turas and we will be able to continue bringing the Irish language to new communities and potential learners as well as supporting our existing learners by providing opportunities for them to improve their language skills.”



## **T:BUC (Together: Building United Communities) and Central Good Relations Funding Programme.**

Youthlink has announced a series of workshops for faith-based groups in Northern Ireland to access funding.

Youthlink states - This workshop will provide help and support to those within churches and faith based groups to understand the process of applying for funding to support youth ministry activities through the T:BUC (Together: Building United Communities) and Central Good Relations Funding Programme.

The workshop will cover:

1. Benefits of Applying – What support could your group receive and what will the young people get out of it.
2. Eligibility – what can be funded and what cant.
3. Partnership – How to set up and maintain workable partnerships with other churches, denominations and youth groups.
4. Programme Ideas – We will explore a variety of practical programme ideas that you can use to ensure that young people get the most out of their experience.

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5. Application Process – Support for filling in the application and running your project successfully.

Workshops will be held in 5 locations, click on the links below to secure your place:

[Belfast on Wednesday 19th September 2018 – 7pm](#)

[Banbridge on Wednesday 10th October 2018 – 7pm](#)

[Comber on Wednesday 14th November 2018 – 7pm](#)

[East Belfast on Wednesday 12th December 2018 – 7pm](#)

[Lisburn on Wednesday 9th January 2019 – 7pm](#)

for more information contact Jim on 02890323217 or [jim@youthlink.org.uk](mailto:jim@youthlink.org.uk)

## **Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth hosts 200 international university presidents**

Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth, this week is hosting the 26th General Assembly of the International Federation of Catholic Universities. The Assembly, which is taking place from 23-27 July, includes over 200 university presidents, vice - presidents and international development officers to the College, as well as Cardinal Giuseppe Versaldi, Prefect of the Congregation for Catholic Education, and Archbishop Eamon Martin, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland.



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This year's Assembly is on the theme 'Catholic Universities, Working in Solidarity as Responsible Agents from the Local to the Global', and will



seek to bring Pope Francis' Encyclical Letter of 2015, *Laudato Si'* on care for our common home, into the very heart of this global network of third level institutions by addressing issues linked to the social responsibility of Catholic universities.

Speaking ahead of the Assembly, Reverend Professor Michael Mullaney, President of Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth, said, 'It is a great honour that Saint Patrick's College has been chosen to host this four day event. This is a major academic conference and will be reported on throughout the world.

'Our deliberations will seek to explain how the cause of the human person is truly served if knowledge is joined to conscience. This unity of knowledge and conscience is what drives Catholic universities. Our shared task is to be responsible and ethical actors in addressing the contemporary challenges to human dignity, justice, environment, climate change, migration, economy and politics to create a more humane world and protecting our shared planet.'

He continued, ‘the complexities of globalisation and the global problems of poverty, the ecological crisis and climate change, require sophisticated analysis for ethical solutions. Catholic universities must play an increasing role in the development of these solutions and in equipping graduates to take their place in the promotion of the human dignity of every person and the common good of all.’

The Assembly opened with Mass celebrated in the College Chapel (built between 1875 and 1891) of Saint Patrick’s College. Cardinal Versaldi presided at the Mass and Archbishop Eamon Martin gave the homily.

Saint Patrick’s College, Maynooth, Co Kildare, has been forming men for the priesthood since 1795, becoming a Pontifical University in 1896. The College now comprises the seminary and the Pontifical University, which offers degrees in theology, philosophy, and theology and arts.

The Trustees of the College are the Governing Body of the College. The current Trustees are the four Archbishops of Ireland together with 13 other bishops. Archbishop Eamon Martin, Archbishop of Armagh, is the chairman of the Trustees of the College. For more information see [www.maynoothcollege.ie](http://www.maynoothcollege.ie).

## **News briefs**

**+++Blackburn Cathedral Young People’s Choir to sing in Belfast Cathedral** - The Young People’s Choir of Blackburn Cathedral this weekend, singing at services on Friday

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evening and on Sunday. The choir will also give a concert and an organ recital.

The Choir, directed by Shaun Turnbull, will sing Choral Evensong at 5.30pm on Friday 27th and at 3.30pm on Sunday 29th, and Eucharist at 11am on Sunday 29th. They will also give a concert at 1.30pm on Saturday 28th, and Shaun presents an organ recital on Sunday at 3pm before Evensong.

The choir was established more than 40 years ago, initially for choristers whose voices had changed. Some years later, young ladies were admitted for the first time. Until around 1998 the choir sang Choral Matins each Sunday morning. The service since then has been a 'Parish Eucharist' which contrasts well in allowing a greater breadth of choral and congregational music and styles alongside the main Cathedral Eucharist sung later by the Boys and Men of the Cathedral Choir.

The Young People's Choir has toured internationally and throughout the UK. More recently, the choir travelled to Manchester to sing on the BBC Radio 4 Daily Service as well as contributing to broadcasting from Blackburn including Songs of Praise for BBC Television and Sunday Worship for BBC Radio. A recent further development of the Young People's Choir's schedule and repertoire is a monthly Choral Evensong. The Young People's Choir mini-tour to Belfast has come about thanks to the generosity of the Blackburn Cathedral Choirs' Association.

**+++Backlash at artists singing for Pope** - Singers Daniel O'Donnell and Nathan Carter have been embroiled in

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backlashes over plans to perform for Pope Francis at Croke Park.

Fellow country singer James Kilbane questioned Daniel's inclusion in the star-studded concert given that he supported a 'Yes' vote in the Republic's 2015 gay marriage referendum.

And singing priest Fr Ray Kelly is outraged that Carter will perform an REM song the cleric sang on Britain's Got Talent. More at -

<http://www.irishnews.com/news/republicofirelandnews/2018/07/24/news/daniel-o-donnell-and-nathan-carter-face-backlash-over-pope-francis-gig-1389717/?param=ds441rif44T>

**+++Spark Garvagh ready to ignite** - Registration is now open for Spark Garvagh 2018, which will run this year





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from Monday 30th July to Friday 3rd August. The hugely popular cross-community initiative is now in its sixth year. It's based at St Paul's Church of Ireland and brings young people from across the community together to build new friendships and help local communities in Garvagh and nearby Glenullin. The project is aimed at teenagers in the 12 to 18 age group. Its popularity means that this year's intake is being capped at 40, so early registration is advisable. SPARK (Servants Pursuing a Radical Kingdom) is part-funded by the Church of Ireland Priorities Fund. The Rector of the Parish of Errigal and Desertoghill, Rev Canon Paul Whittaker, says, "This is our way of sharing in Derry and Raphoe's mission, 'Transforming Community - Radiating Christ'." For registration or for further information, contact Canon Whittaker on 07770 691560.

### **+++Belfast based Church Army Officer commissioned -**

Stephen Whitten from the Diocese of Connor's North Belfast Centre of Mission, Connect Base, was commissioned at the Church Army's Wilson Carlile Centre in Sheffield along with two other new Evangelists, Hannah Seal (Llandaff Centre of Mission), and Josh Smith (St Asaph Centre of Mission). The service was led by the Bishop of Woolwich, the Rt Rev Karowei Dorgu, and Church Army Chief Executive Mark Russell.

Stephen told those at the service that he had planned to be a tree surgeon but God called him to be an evangelist, and now he has countless stories of talking to people from all walks of life – ex-drug addicts, young people struggling in school, those at a job's club – about God's love. Connect Base is located in the Spectrum Centre on Belfast's Shankill Road.



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