



Pope's visit to Ireland sees high demand in ticket registration

A mixture of high demand and people getting protest tickets means thousands have registered to see the Pope in August.

The Pope chose the Republic of Ireland as the location for the tri-annual event World Meeting of Families between 21st-26th August.

June 27 2018

It's a gathering for families which aims to celebrate, pray and reflect upon the importance of marriage and the family as the cornerstone of life, society and the Church.

The team running the event say they have had an unprecedented amount of interest.

At 5am on Monday morning, they released 500,000 tickets for the closing mass in Phoenix Park in Dublin and by 5pm the same day 285,000 were gone.

Tickets for Pope Francis' visit to Knock Shrine, a Roman Catholic pilgrimage site, were fully booked in less than five hours.

#WMOF2018

World Meeting of Families 2018

WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES

6 days in August 2018

- **37,000 registrations for RDS Pastoral Congress**
- **45,000 booked for Knock**
- **285,000 booked for Closing Mass in Phoenix Park**
- **Over 6,000 volunteers signed up**
- **10,000 international attendees**

www.worldmeeting2018.ie

#WMOF2018 #Family #Volunteer #JoinUs

June 27 2018

4,000 people on facebook though have said they are 'interested' in an event called 'Say no to the Pope', with 1,100 people clicking 'going'.

The group have said they are peacefully protesting the Pope's visit and are registering for free tickets but will not turn up.

One user posted: "Keep up the good work everyone! This isn't about depriving people of faith their right to worship.

"This is a peaceful protest against a truly corrupt organisation which has caused incalculable harm to a great many people and which continues to do so; which has permitted child abuse and which obstructs and perverts the course of justice on a massive scale in order to cover it up."

The user also cites misogyny, homophobia and hypocrisy as reasons to reject the event and institution and concludes: "And we are saying NO MORE."

Other people have criticised the actions of the protesters on the event page, saying it is cruel to deprive people who have been waiting their whole lives to see a Pope.

"I would like to know who gives you people the right to deny all these thousands of people because of opinions you hold on the church and the Clergy," a Facebook user commented.

Brenda Drumm, the media and communications manager for the World Meeting of Families told Premier: "We've allowed people to register to book groups or to register as a family."

Groups of twelve and eight can be obtained in one go, depending on the event.

Drumm added: "We are confident that the robust system we have in place will check and validate all bookings received and any invalid bookings will be removed at a later stage."



New details of Prince Louis' christening revealed

Kensington Palace has confirmed the timings for the christening of Prince Louis.

The youngest member of the royal family was born on 23rd April and will be christened in a service led by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Rt Rev Justin Welby, at the Chapel Royal, St James's Palace, on 9th July.

A statement from the palace said the service is due to take place from 4pm and last around 40 minutes with further details announced on the day.

June 27 2018

Louis, a younger brother to Prince George and Princess Charlotte, is fifth in line to the throne and a great-grandchild of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.

George was also christened in the Chapel Royal, but Charlotte was baptised at the Church of St Mary Magdalene in Sandringham.

Louis was born in the private Lindo Wing of St Mary's Hospital in Paddington, London, on St George's Day, weighing 8lb 7oz.

The baby prince, who will be 11 weeks old at the time of the christening, will be welcomed into the Christian faith dressed in the same frilly, cream gown used for George and Charlotte.

The robe is a replica of the intricate lace and satin dress made for Queen Victoria's eldest daughter in 1841.

Prince Louis' godparents will be expected to be announced on the morning of the christening, with William and Kate again likely to choose mostly close friends for the role.

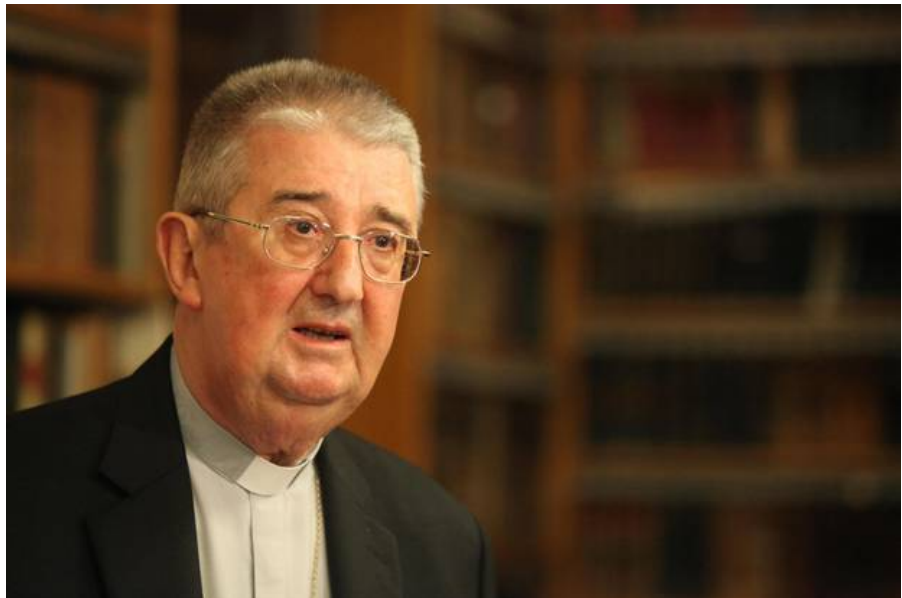
Archbishop launches astonishing attack on Josepha Madigan after culture minister led prayers when priest was a no-show

The Archbishop of Dublin Diarmuid Martin has launched an astonishing attack on Culture Minister Josepha Madigan, accusing her of being “deeply disrespectful” to her

June 27 2018

Archbishop of Dublin Diarmuid Martin

parishioners, The
Irish
Independent
reports.



Ms Madigan stepped up to lead her local congregation in prayer on Saturday evening after no priest showed up to say Mass at south Dublin church.

The incident sparked a debate about the place of women in the Catholic Church and the need for more involvement from lay people.

Ms Madigan, who led Fine Gael's campaign to repeal the Eighth Amendment, had told Independent.ie it was "sad reflection of the times we live" that there are so few priests.

She later said that she hoped to raise the place of women in the Church with Pope Francis when he visited Ireland in August.

However, Archbishop Martin has this evening issued a stern rebuke, claiming the Minister has upset people in her Mount Merrion parish.

He accused her of trying "to push a particular agenda".

"Comments by Minister Josepha Madigan yesterday arising from a situation that arose in the Parish of Mount Merrion at



Culture Minister Josepha Madigan

the weekend have caused parishioners in Mount Merrion and further afield considerable distress.

“Many have contacted my offices to express their hurt and upset at the Minister’s comments, as reported in the media,” Mr Martin said.

He added that there are “no shortage of priests” in the Archdiocese, explaining that the situation on Saturday evening arose “due to a misunderstanding”.

“It is in no way correct to say that the Minister ‘said Mass’. It is regrettable that that Minister Madigan used this occasion to push a particular agenda.

“Her expressed view that a mix up in a Dublin parish on one particular Saturday evening should lead to the Universal

June 27 2018

Church changing core teachings is bizarre,” Dr Martin’s statement said.

He suggest she might “consider listening to the voices of those people who disagree with her public comments”.

And he added that she should “consider the hurt she has caused to parishioners who deem her actions deeply disrespectful

Church of Ireland bishop defends attendance at Gafcon

A [Church of Ireland](#) bishop who attended the meeting in [Jerusalem](#) last week of the conservative Global Anglican Future Conference (Gafcon) has described the experience for him as “nourishing and enriching”, Patsy McGarry writes in the Irish Times

Bishop of Down and [Dromore](#) Harold [Miller](#) said, at the event, he “saw a spirit of forgiveness, love and blessing of others, alongside a determination to stand firm in what they believe. This for me was one of the most powerful experiences of the week”.

[Bishop Miller](#) and [Bishop Ferran Glenfield](#) of [Kilmore](#), [Elphin](#) and [Ardagh](#) diocese attended the meeting with other senior clergy from the Church of Ireland and members of [Gafcon](#) Ireland which was set up last April.

Gafcon came into being after the election in the US Episcopal Church (Anglican) of the openly gay [Gene](#)

June 27 2018

[Robinson](#) as Bishop of [New Hampshire](#) in 2003. It describes itself as “a global family of authentic Anglicans standing together to retain and restore the Bible to the heart of the Anglican Communion”.

In a statement at the end of its Jerusalem meeting last Friday, it urged Archbishop of [Canterbury Justin Welby](#) not to invite bishops to the next Lambeth Conference in 2020 who endorsed sexual practices deemed in contradiction of scripture. It urged Gafcon members to boycott the Conference if this did not happen.

The attendance of Bishops Miller and [Glenfield](#) as well as other senior Church clergy and laity has been condemned by other Church of Ireland clergy as an absolute disgrace”, “schismatic”, and as illustrating “how utterly out of touch some senior clergy” were with church membership.

In a reflection on last week’s Jerusalem meeting, posted on his diocesan website on Monday, Bishop Miller said that during it he “never once heard anyone speak harshly, in anger, aggressively, or in a demeaning way of any other person”.

It was, he said, “the largest gathering of Anglicans for over 50 years, since the 1962 Toronto Anglican Congress, and probably one of the largest worldwide Anglican gatherings of all time”.

He said “there are dominant voices”, the first of which was “Africa” and “especially the very large and strong Anglican churches in Nigeria” while “the other dominant voices are the diocese of Sydney”.

Gafcon, he said, “is perceived as a very important resource and fellowship by individuals and churches who have stood for conservative Christian teaching and values in parts of the world where provinces have changed their doctrine and ethics. This has been largely, but not uniquely, in terms of marriage.

“Where doctrine and practice have changed, those who have not been able to go along with the new ‘teaching’ have often found themselves isolated, and no longer felt able to stay in the churches concerned.”

It has meant “loss of buildings, removal of ministerial orders, court cases, loss of income, and more. In many cases, there has been the need for these people to find a way of continuing to be Anglican, as they are committed Anglicans in theology, worship, church order and living, and many have been so for their entire lives,” he said.

Dismay at bid by hierarchy to 'censor' Presbyterian ministers

A former Presbyterian cleric has claimed that the Church has been "scoring own **goals**" by trying to silence debate on same-sex issues and its relationship with the Church of Scotland, Alf McCreary writes in the Belfast Telegraph

Rick Hill was speaking after clerk of the General Assembly Rev Trevor Gribben issued a letter to all Presbyterian ministers last week warning against bringing the Church "into disrepute" by speaking in **public** in a way that may

Rev Trevor Gribben



cause "scandal injurious to the purity or peace of the Church".

Mr Hill, who is non-executive deputy chair of the Independent Press Standards Organisation, said: "If a team in the World Cup had scored as many own goals as the Presbyterian

Church has in the last few weeks, there would doubtless have been a change of players and manager."

On BBC Radio Ulster's Sunday Sequence programme yesterday, Rev Gribben denied that ministers were being censored.

He said: "People are free to debate in public - it is the nature of that discourse that is important."

However, his letter to Presbyterian clerics was seen by many inside and outside the Church as an attempt to limit frank public comment on recent controversial decisions taken at the **General** Assembly earlier this month.

June 27 2018

Delegates decided by a **large** majority to significantly loosen the ties with the Church of Scotland because of its more liberal views on same-sex issues.

They voted to reaffirm the Church's policy not to allow people in same-sex relationships to be full members, or to baptise their children.

And they stopped future moderatorial exchanges between Belfast and Edinburgh in protest at the Church of Scotland's more liberal attitude towards homosexuality.

Mr Hill said: "The Presbyterian Church has always been deeply conservative, but in the past has tolerated considerable diversity of views among ministers, elders and members.

"The recent letter seems to indicate that those days are over. The letter allows debate within certain contexts, but it still places **severe** constraints on free speech. I am dismayed. I am a dissenter and there are many like me."

Alan Meban, a former elder and a member of a Belfast Presbyterian congregation, noted that during the General Assembly, the Moderator Dr Charles McMullen struggled to get people to come forward to speak in favour of cutting ties with the Church of Scotland and the restrictions on communion and baptism concerning same-sex couples and their children.

He said: "Yet people with those little-voiced opinions voted in the greatest numbers. That feels like an abuse of power unbecoming a denomination that values its democracy.

"Surely the Church is bringing itself into disrepute without the help of members and elders?" Alliance Party leader



Lord Alderdice, who resigned from the Church over its new stance

Naomi Long said: "After the initial controversy, many individual Presbyterians and congregations were engaged in serious reflection.

"Instead of encouraging that discussion to take place in a calm, measured way and seeking to heal the divisions, the issuing of

this warning feels like an attempt to shut down this debate.

"I think that the letter was a poorly-timed and ill-considered attempt to silence dissenting voices. This is a bizarre approach from a denomination synonymous with dissent."

Former Ulster Unionist leader Mike Nesbitt said: "The clerk's letter did not define what comment would bring the Church into disrepute, but it seems to suggest that 'the purity or peace of the Church' should be given a higher priority than individual conscience. That will be difficult for some members of a church founded by dissenters from establishment forces."

June 27 2018

Lord Alderdice, who resigned from the Church over its new stance, said: "It is disappointing that the clerk has written a letter to all Presbyterian ministers advising that dissent should not be public but largely confined to General Assembly debates.

"If the wider community is to understand the arguments they need to be open, and the Church should not fear its ministers and elders engaging in public debate."

News briefs

+++Presbyterian policy on public comment on current issues

The Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church has written to all ministers giving guidance on the recent controversy around the Assembly's decision to exclude from baptism the children of same-sex couples. Rev Trevor Gribben's letter concludes with this paragraph, which cautions ministers and elders about the kind of public commentary they should avoid: "Ministers and elders of the Church should ensure that by their public comments they do not bring the church and its agencies into disrepute. Ministers and elders should also ensure that their public statements do not amount to contumacy or equate to an open declaration of their intention to take actions that would lead to defiance of or disobedience to the courts of the Church."

+++Presbyterian ordination in Cork

Richie Cronin will be ordained and installed in Trinity Presbyterian Cork on Saturday next at 3pm as minister of

June 27 2018

Trinity & Aghada Presbyterian Churches; a generational change. May the Lord God bless Richie, Erika and the family as they adjust to a new life in Cork.

+++Institutions in Trim - Canon Alastair Graham who has been installed as a Canon of St Patrick's cathedral, Trim. Alastair is rector of Mullingar Union, where he has served since 2009. As well as being Warden of Lay-readers in Meath & Kildare, he is also responsible for co-ordinating trained for Ordained Local Ministry in the dioceses. He is married to Olive and they have a number of grown-up children. Also installed into the chapter was Dean Tim Wright, who was recently instituted into the Kildare and Newbridge Union of parishes, as well as being installed as Dean of St Bridgid's cathedral, Kildare. Tim is married to Karen and they also have a number of grown-up children. The service took place in St Patrick's cathedral in Trim, on the evening of 24th June. The service was led by Dean Paul Bogle, with Bishop Pat Storey. The preacher was Canon Lynda Peilow. A reception was held after the service.

+++ United Service with Habitat for Humanity in St. Finbarr's Church, Carrickmacross, Sunday 1st July at 10.30am followed by refreshments and an information session for those interested going on the mission trip.

+++Lunchtime Concert by Choir of Corpus Christi College, Oxford in St Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen, Saturday 7th July – 1.00pm. The choir, under the direction of Organ Scholars, Matthew Murphy and Theodore Hill, will sing a wide range of choral favourites, spanning several centuries and composers. Entry is free but there will be a

June 27 2018

chance to make donations. The choir will sing Mass in St. Michael's Church at 6.00pm on the same day.

+++ JUNE 24, 1990 - Women-ordained Anglican priests

For the first time in the history of Europe, two women deacons were ordained priests of the Anglican Church. The historic ceremonies were conducted by the Bishop of Connor and took place in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast. The women were Kathleen Young, a 50-year old physiotherapist of Carrickfergus, county Antrim, and Irene Templeton, 49, from Belfast. The ordinations followed a two-thirds majority decision by the general synod of the Church of Ireland to give women equal opportunity with men. The Bishop said afterwards that the ordinations heralded a new era for the Church.

+++22 June 2018: C of E's 2010 abuse inquiry declared 'flawed' and 'failed'

The BBC [reports on](#) an inquiry into a past inquiry: a review in 2018 of the actions and findings of the 'Past Cases Review' in 2010 has found that the Review did not present an accurate picture of the abuse being investigated, calling that Review 'botched' and 'flawed'. Protecting the interests of the church was found to have been given a higher priority than uncovering the truth. Abuse survivors have in the past accused the Church of a 'wholly inadequate' response, and this review has found that they were right. The Guardian [assures us](#) that although the PCR's negative aspects were downplayed by the review board, there was 'no evidence of a planned and deliberate attempt to conceal information'. The full text of the 2018 review, referred to as 'The Singleton Report', is [here](#) on the Church of England website.

+++21 June 2018: US Episcopal Church hosts vigil to protest immigration policies

The Anglican Communion News Service (London) [reports](#) the US Episcopal Church is holding a vigil in Washington DC to protest against immigration policies which have seen children separated from their parents.

+++19 June 2018: GAFCON participants lay claim to Anglican orthodoxy

The Church Times, [reporting on](#) the third [GAFCON](#) meeting [held recently](#) in Jerusalem, notes that those who attended the meeting have laid claim to being the keepers and standard-bearers of Anglican dogma. The Anglican Communion News Service filed [this initial report](#) on the meeting. As is GAFCON's custom, they issued a [communiqué](#) at the end of their meeting.

+++18 June 2018: Major financial boost for 2020 Lambeth Conference

The Anglican Communion News Service [reports](#) that the organisers of the 2020 Lambeth Conference have received a major boost with the announcement that Allchurches Trust have made a £750,000 grant to help fund attendance by bishops from developing countries.



June 27 2018

June 27 2018