



**Lord and Lady Brookeborough with Irene Boyd, from Colebrook Parish, preparing for the flower festival in Colebrooke House. See report this issue**

## **Cardinal Nichols: 'Our commitment to unborn children remains unchanged'**

The leader of Catholics in England and Wales has reaffirmed his commitment to the pro-life campaign following a historic referendum in Ireland on abortion.

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Cardinal Nichols released a statement supporting the Archbishops of Armagh and Dublin, and their statements regarding changes to the Republic of Ireland's constitution as a result of the public vote.

The president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales said: "Our commitment to mothers and their unborn children remains unchanged. We must do all we can to ensure that the deliberate taking of an unborn human life is not an option that anyone would choose.

"The denial of life to another human being, a brother or sister, is an wrong that harms our fragile humanity. We work and pray for the day when this truth is widely accepted and laws permitting abortion are seen for what they are.



"Our pro-life convictions have to be consistently expressed in action, in support of women who are trapped in difficult and painful circumstances and in support of the children they are carrying.

"May God bless Ireland and its generous hearted people. May that love, in every family, be a protection for the unborn, whatever the law may now permit."

Sixty-six per cent of voters in the Republic of Ireland on Friday backed the repeal of an amendment to the constitution, which outlaws abortion in all but exceptional circumstances.



## Don't bully us over abortion in Northern Ireland says MP Ian Paisley

Northern Ireland "should not be bullied into accepting abortion on demand", a Christian politician has said, amid fresh calls for laws concerning terminations in the region to be relaxed.

Ian Paisley spoke after scores of MPs - including Government ministers - signalled their support for liberalising legislation, following **an historic referendum in Ireland on the issue.**

The Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) representative for North Antrim also said: "The settled will of the people has been to afford protections to the unborn life and protect the life of the mother."

Sixty-six-per-cent of voters in the Republic of Ireland on Friday backed the repeal of an amendment to the constitution which outlaws abortion in all but exceptional circumstances.

While she congratulated the Irish people on their decision, the Prime Minister found herself under renewed pressure to ensure abortion laws in Northern Ireland were more in keeping with legislation governing the rest of the UK.

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Labour MP Stella Creasy said more than 140 parliamentarians had expressed support for a legislative intervention by Westminster, given the absence of a devolved government at Stormont since January last year.

The minister for women and equalities Penny Mordaunt said the Irish abortion vote represented a "historic and great day for Ireland" and a "hopeful one for Northern Ireland". She added: "That hope must be met."

But the Prime Minister's fragile administration relies on support from ten DUP MPs who strongly oppose reform.

Currently, abortion is illegal in Northern Ireland unless to life or mental well-being of the mother is at risk.

## **Catholic doctors must speak up for the right to life, Pope Francis says**

Catholic doctors should speak up for the right to life, Pope Francis has urged.

Speaking to a group of physicians on Monday, the Pope **called on them** to resist ideologies that trample on the dignity of human life.

"The Church is for life, and her concern is that nothing may be against life in the reality of a concrete existence, however weak or defenceless it may be, even if not developed or advanced," the Pope said.

He acknowledged that doctors may face "difficulties and hardships" when they stay true to Church teaching, however they must not forget that they should "affirm the centrality of the patient as a person and his dignity with his inalienable rights, primarily the right to life."

"The tendency to debase the sick man as a machine to be repaired, without respect for moral principles, and to exploit the weakest by discarding what does not correspond to the ideology of efficiency and profit must be resisted," the Pope added.

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In an address to a delegation of the World Federation of the Catholic Medical Associations, Pope Francis told them it was “not acceptable for your role to be reduced to that of a simple executor of the will of the patient or the needs of the health system in which you work.”



Instead, they should resist the “technocratic cultural paradigm” that had taken hold of the profession by working with doctors from other faiths who also share the Catholic belief in the dignity of human life.

“Be ministers, not only of care, but also of fraternal charity, transmitting to those you approach, along with the contribution of your knowledge, your wealth of humanity and evangelical compassion,” he said.

## **GAFCON head says breakaway provinces are Anglican too**

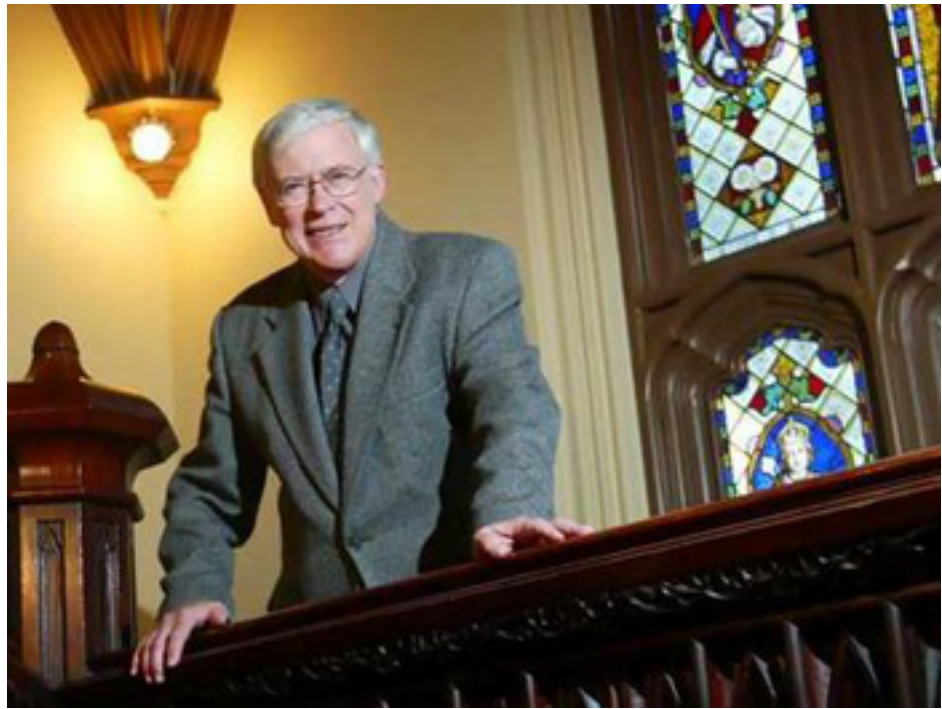
Continuing tensions in the Anglican Communion over the status of breakaway provinces have been highlighted by the general secretary of the conservative GAFCON group.

As well as the Anglican Church of North America (ACNA) which left the US Episcopal Church over its perceived liberalism, a rival Anglican province has been [set up in Brazil](#). According to GAFCON, it is the 41st province in the Communion.

However, the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) has refused to recognise either breakaway body. In the Church Times of May 18 ACC general secretary Bishop Josiah Idowu-Fearon claimed

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GAFCON had been inaccurate in its description. 'To be part of the Anglican Communion requires being in communion with the see of Canterbury, which this Church is not,' he said.



**Dr Peter**

**Jensen has claimed breakaway Anglican provinces are part of the Anglican Communion.**

GAFCON general secretary Archbishop Peter Jensen has said in a statement: 'Here lies the difference between mere institutionalism and spiritual reality. The basic reason why there is a division amongst the Anglicans of Brazil is because the Episcopal Church of Brazil has departed from the teaching of Scripture, and hence from Anglican teaching, concerning sex and marriage... It is a matter of the fundamentals of the faith, of what makes a true church, of the authority of God's word.'

He sharply criticised the Church of England's leadership, saying: 'Communion with the see of Canterbury used to be a welcome, useful and easily understood way of describing the Anglican Communion. But with leadership comes responsibility. So far, the recent Archbishops of Canterbury have not used the power of their office either to discipline those who have created disorder and threatened the basis of our faith, or to reach out the right hand of fellowship to those who have stood firm.'

Jensen claimed the Anglican Church in Brazil was 'of course' an authentic part of the Anglican Communion and was inviting Canterbury to 'recognise spiritual reality, and to use its influence to

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help align the old instrument of the Anglican Communion with the spiritual reality and new growth of the Communion'.

## **Day of art and culture in St Patrick's deanery, Dublin**

This Saturday, 2 June 2018, a gathering of eight academics will take place in the deanery of St Patrick's cathedral in Dublin to consider 'Art and culture in medieval and early modern Ireland'. This follows the success of previous cathedral colloquia on the late seventeenth-century travel writer, Thomas Dineley (or Dingley) at Christ Church in October 2014 and on 'Patronage and the arts in early modern Ireland' at St Patrick's in November 2016. Talks will be given in the elegant setting of Swift's eighteenth-century deanery. Admission is free and all are welcome.

The programme consists of four pairings of speakers, the first dealing with clothing given by Dr Sparky Booker, lecturer in Irish medieval history at Queen's University, Belfast, and Dr Bríd McGrath, lecturer in palaeography in Trinity College Dublin, who will address medieval and early modern attire in Ireland, respectively.

The second pairing will look at intellectual networks and travel writing in the seventeenth century. Dr Mark Empey, lecturer in early modern British and Irish history at the National University of Ireland, Galway, will explore the historical researches of Sir James Ware, while independent scholar, Dr Amy Harris, will study the 1680-1 journal of Thomas Dingley.

Following lunch, the first panel is a veritable Ormond(e)fest with independent scholar, Dr Jane Fenlon addressing the lives of the ninth and tenth earls, James Butler (1496-1546) and Thomas Butler (c.1531-1614), while Dr Naomi McAreevy, assistant professor in the School of English, Drama & Film at University College Dublin, will talk about the female networks of the wife of their first ducal successor. She was Lady Elizabeth Butler née Preston (1615-84), first duchess of Ormonde.

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The final panel brings the religious and historical culture of late sixteenth-century Pale into focus. Dr Caoimhe Whelan, IRC Postdoctoral Fellow at the Department of History at Trinity College Dublin will discuss the reliability of the St Lawrence family's book of Howth as a historical source, while Professor Thomas Herron of the Department of English in East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina, will conclude proceedings, contrasting the woodcuts of John Derricke with the work of Nuremberg artist, Albrecht Dürer, and the publications of the English historian and martyrologist, John Foxe.

## **Spectacular flower festival at Brookeboroughs' home will aid cancer charity and Colebrooke church**

One of the most spectacular flower festivals in Clogher Diocese will take place at Colebrooke House near Brookeborough, home of Viscount and Viscountess Brookeborough, on the weekend of Saturday and Sunday, 16 and 17 June.

Country House Flowers will incorporate a flower festival in Colebrooke House while the historic gardens will also be open including the sunken garden established since 1920 and the walled garden which is in full production. Alongside this, St Ronan's Parish Church, Colebrooke, part of the Aghalurcher Group of Parishes, nearby will also be open for visitors and teas and refreshments will be served in the church hall. The church marked its 250th anniversary in 2013.

There will be performances from the Valley Voices, Fivemiletown, throughout the weekend.

Proceeds from the event will be in aid of Cancer Connect NI and the Colebrooke Group of Parishes.

The floral arrangements will be prepared by local arranger Timothy Elliott in conjunction with Lady Brookeborough and a team of more than 75 volunteers will be helping with car parking and directing



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people through Colebrooke House and gardens as well as the teas and church visits.

Colebrooke House, part of which dates from the 17th Century, is regarded as one of the finest Georgian houses in Northern Ireland and was home to Field Marshal Viscount Alanbrooke and Sir Basil Brooke, former Prime Minister of Northern Ireland and grandfather of the current Lord Brookeborough.

The flower festival runs between 10am and 8pm each day on 16 and 17 June.

## **Christ Church Cathedral celebrates Patron on Trinity Sunday**

The Friends of Christ Church Cathedral joined the cathedral community and many visitors on Trinity Sunday (May 27) for the cathedral's Patronal Service. The service was celebrated by the Dean, the Very Revd Dermot Dunne and the preacher was Canon David Gillespie, Vicar of St Ann's, Dawson Street.

Following the service the Friends gathered in the cathedral's Crypt for their annual lunch, coordinated by Lesley Rue, followed by their AGM.

In his sermon, Canon David Gillespie, focused on the Trinity, a concept which was difficult to understand – God is one, yet he is three, he said. He suggested that we should never be afraid to rest in the mystery of God but added that we are not a culture that is at ease with mystery.

“We are surrounded by technology through which we can know almost everything,” he commented. “But we forget that in contemplating God we are out of our depth and we can only fumble in the dark,” he said adding that we could not have known him at all if he had not come to us through the person of Jesus Christ.



### **Some of the Friends of Christ Church Cathedral at their lunch in the Crypt.**

He said that God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit coexisted in love and grace and in community. We were invited to be part of that community, he explained pointing out that at the beginning of our lives we were baptised into the life of the Trinity.

“Our baptism commits us to live in community with each other but, more importantly, we live with God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and we live with those who seek a new life and a new way to be. Such a community embraces all. It embraces the yeses and the noes. It is diverse and it is united. It is united in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,” he concluded.

### **Dean of Down becomes Rector of Lamp**

Dean Henry Hull was instituted as rector of Lecale Area Mission Partnership (LAMP) at the beginning of the service of confirmation in Down Cathedral on Sunday 27 May.

Dean Hull had been leading the partnership since its inception in 2015 but has become rector as required by the Constitution of the Church of Ireland.

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The LAMP mission grouping comprises 14 churches drawn from three parish groups – Lecale, Down and Bright, Ballee, Killough and Rathmullan – and currently ministers to over 500 households.

Resources are continually under review to better reach and serve this beautiful and largely rural part of the diocese which fans out from Downpatrick to Seaforde and out along the coast to Ardglass and Tyrella.

Henry leads a team that includes two other full-time clergy – Revd Scott McDonald (Down) and Revd Adrian Dorrian (Bright, and Director of Children’s and Youth Ministry) plus several retired colleagues.

## **Sea of Hands at Australia’s Newcastle cathedral promotes reconciliation**



The Australian social care charity Samaritans is staging an art exhibition at Christ Church Cathedral in Newcastle to promote Reconciliation Week. The Sea of Hands exhibition features 400  
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colourful hands to symbolise the charity's commitment to reconciliation and to acknowledge that much work still needs to be done. National Reconciliation Week runs from 27 May to 3 June and is designed to provide an opportunity for "all Australians to learn more about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and histories, to share that knowledge and help us grow as a nation," according to its organisers, Reconciliation Australia.

The Sea of Hands exhibition is "an act of recognition – of identities, cultures and history," Samaritans' acting chief executive Brad Webb [told the Newcastle Herald newspaper](#). "I hope that the Sea of Hands inspires our community this week to reach out, listen, and learn from the wisdom of the oldest living culture on Earth."

The Bishop of Newcastle, Peter Stuart, is the president of the Samaritans Foundation. In a Facebook post he said: "It is vital that we listen deeply to the story of the aboriginal nations in the areas we serve. We will grow together as partners: hand in hand. This work is of particular importance for Anglicans. Our story is entwined with the story of the Crown and colonisers. We have much to learn and reflect on."

