

## Evening Post May 30

### Archbishop of Armagh calls for prayer for Coptic Christians in Egypt

Today The Most Revd Dr Richard Clarke, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, called for Christians in Ireland to hold Coptic Christian people in their prayers in the wake of further massacres in Egypt reported recently.

The Archbishop said, 'While we are rightly appalled by callous attacks on citizens close to home at this time, I am acutely conscious that we must also condemn the atrocious killing and wounding of dozens of Coptic Christians in Egypt while travelling towards a monastery in recent days. We remember those who bear the name of Christ there in our hearts and prayers. We should think of them as Christian martyrs.

'It is tragic that Coptic Christians in Egypt have increasingly become targets, with four brutal massacres since last December, including

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attacks on churches on Palm Sunday – which both the Archbishop of Dublin and I commented on at that time. In speaking out against these horrors, we also pray for those families who have been bereaved and for those who have been injured – for their recovery and wellbeing, and for those who are attending to their medical needs and welfare – praying in the name of the Prince of Peace, Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.’

## **International conference this weekend to prepare for World Meeting of Families**

The Archbishop of Dublin, Diarmuid Martin, will this week host a three-day international conference on the family in Dublin’s Helix as part of the ongoing preparation for the World Meeting of Families in 2018.

Cardinal Kevin Farrell, Prefect of the Vatican’s Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life, will attend the conference and deliver its keynote address on ‘Marriage Preparation and Support’. Delegates will explore the challenges facing marriage – a vital aspect of the Church’s mission in light of Pope Francis’ 2016 Apostolic Exhortation; *Amoris Laetitia: The Joy of Love*.

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The conference will include representatives of up to fifty Bishops' Conferences from around the world who are working in the area of marriage preparation and support. Conference speakers include Archbishop Diarmuid Martin; Bishop Denis Nulty, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin and President of Accord Catholic Marriage Care Service; and, a delegation from the Conference of Bishops of England and Wales.

## **C of I response to Forum on Religion in Primary Schools**

The Church of Ireland's General Synod Board of Education in a statement issued today said it is "grateful for the opportunity to participate in today's Forum on the Role of Religion in Primary School Admissions hosted by the Minister for Education and Skills.

"Having heard the range of views expressed by all those who participated, the Board hopes that the Minister will now fill the information gaps identified by the Forum. The Board also hopes that the Minister will bring forward a set of proposals to assuage the concerns held by minority faiths involved in the provision of education on the effects new measures may have on their faith communities."

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Representatives of the General Synod Board of Education attended the forum in Dublin yesterday (May 29). It was organised by the Department of Education and Skills as part of a broader consultation process. A range of views was expressed at the forum.

## **Anglicans and Roman Catholics agree international statement on ecclesiology**

Anglicans and Roman Catholics should see in each other “a community in which the Holy Spirit is alive and active,” the latest communiqué from the official ecumenical dialogue between the Anglican Communion and the Roman Catholic Church says.

Members of the third-phase of the Anglican – Roman Catholic International Commission (Arcic) met in the central German city of Erfurt early this month for their seventh meeting. They chose to meet in the city to mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation – it is here that Martin Luther was ordained and lived as a monk.

During their meeting, the members of Arcic agreed the text of a new statement looking at Anglican and Roman Catholic ecclesiology. *Walking Together on the Way: Learning to be*

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*Church – Local, Regional, Universal*, to be known as *The Erfurt Document*, will be published next year.

## **Down and Dromore institutions**

The month of June will see three Services of Institution in the Diocese of Down and Dromore. The first of these is on Thursday, June 22 when the Revd Paul McAdam will be instituted at Holy trinity, Aghalee.

On Tuesday, June 27 the Revd Geoffrey Haugh will be installed at St Matthias, Knocknamuckley.

Twenty-four hours later – Wednesday, June 28 – and just a few miles from Knocknamuckley, the Revd Mark Harvey will be instituted as rector of Christ the Redeemer (Shankill Parish, Lurgan). The Services of Institution will start at 8pm.

## **Move to Scotland**

Rev Janice Aiton currently Rector of the Dunboyne and Rathmolyon Group of Parishes is leaving to take up an appointment as the Rector of St John's Episcopal Church in Dumfries, Scotland. Bishop Pat Storey of Meath & Kildare said, "We are grateful for the work and

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commitment that Janice has brought to her ministry here over the past 13 years. We wish her well as she begins a new chapter of ministry in her native Scotland. She will be missed."

## **Annual St Peregrine Mass in Derry**

Annual St Peregrine Mass & Anointing of the Sick will be held in St Columb's Church, 32 Chapel Road, Waterside on Thursday, 1st June at 7.30pm. St Peregrine's Oil will be blessed and distributed at this Mass. Tea afterwards in Parish Hall. All welcome.

## **Head of international Anglican mission agency USPG to step down**

The international Anglican mission agency USPG has announced that its chief executive, Janette O'Neil, is to retire at the end of August. Mrs O'Neil has been at the helm of the organisation for the past six years. USPG's trustees have now begun a search for "an effective leader with strong links to the Anglican Communion" to succeed her.

"I should very much like to pay tribute to Janette for the way in which she has inspired such a vigorous development of the programmatic life

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of USPG,” the chair of the organisation’s trustees, Canon Chris Chivers, said. “She has made a lasting difference in the life of so many people by the way in which she has built on the strength of our global partnerships. We all wish her a happy retirement.”

## **Pope and Trudeau talk about reconciliation with Canada’s indigenous people**

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said he asked Pope Francis to help Canadians "move forward on a real reconciliation" with the country's indigenous people "by issuing an apology" on behalf of the Catholic Church for its role in harming their communities.

The prime minister spoke to a handful of reporters in Rome's Villa Borghese Park May 29 after having had a 36-minute private meeting with Pope Francis at the Vatican.

"He reminded me that his entire life has been dedicated to supporting marginalized people in the world, fighting for them," the prime minister said, adding the pope said that "he looked forward to working with me and with the

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Canadian bishops to figure out a path forward together."

The 2015 report of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which focused on past treatment of the indigenous communities and concrete steps for a future of greater inclusion, included a recommendation that the pope come to Canada to apologize on behalf of the Catholic Church for its participation in the residential schools for indigenous children.

## **Catholic leaders find US federal budget fails the moral test**

President Donald Trump's proposed fiscal year 2018 budget sent shivers through social service, education and environmental communities, prompting church leaders and advocates to question the administration's commitment to people in need.

The leaders repeated in interviews with Catholic News Service that a budget is a moral document that reflects the nation's priorities and that they found that the spending plan revealed May 23 backs away from the country's historical support for children, the elderly and the poor, and protecting the environment.



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Their concern focuses on the deep cuts -- totaling \$52 billion in fiscal year 2018 and \$3.6 trillion over the next decade -- in international aid, senior services, health care, hunger prevention, job training, air and water protection, and climate change research. The cuts essentially are paying for a corresponding \$52 billion boost in military spending.

"We say there's a human component here. It's not just about defense. It's not just about deficits," said Bishop Frank J. Dewane, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development.

"Too often we think the budget is a number. It's not. Right behind those numbers are human beings and they look like you and they look like me," he told CNS.

## **Sir Cliff Richard wins latest round of legal battle**

Sir Cliff Richard has won the latest round of a High Court battle with the BBC after a judge ruled the corporation must disclose more information about a source.

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Mr Justice Mann has ordered BBC bosses to give more detail concerning an individual who informed them the Christian entertainer was being investigated over a sex assault allegation.

The corporation had opposed the move, however the judge ruled a "proper answer" must be given over whether the source was someone within the Metropolitan Police's Operation Yewtree inquiry which investigated sex abuse claims.

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