

# St. Nicholas News

Francis Street Parish, Dublin 8. ---- 01-5157512 ---- 01-5611390



7th Sunday Ordinary Time 19 February 2023

## LAWS CRIMINALISING LGBTQ+ ARE UNJUST



Pope Francis has said that laws criminalising LGBTQ+ people are unjust and should be considered a "sin". He was backed by the head of the Anglican Communion, Justin Welby, and the top Presbyterian

minister of the Church of Scotland, Iain Greenshields, in denouncing such laws. On Sunday, February 5, the three Christian leaders discussed LGBTQ+ rights during an airborne news conference. They were returning from South Sudan, the second of two stops, after the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), of an ecumenical pilgrimage to facilitate the countries' peace process.

During the conference, the Pope was questioned about remarks he had made to the Associated Press condemning laws that criminalising LGBTQ+ people and repeated once again that such laws are "unjust". "To condemn someone like this is a sin," he told reporters on the plane. "Criminalising people with homosexual tendencies is an injustice."

He continued: "People with homosexual tendencies are children of God. God Loves them. God accompanies them," also adding that "the criminalisation of homosexuality is a problem that cannot be ignored".

South Sudan is among the 67 countries currently criminalising same-sex sexual activity between consenting adults. Even though these laws are not always enforced, they directly contribute to violence against LGBTQ+ people by creating a hostile environment where hate is acceptable. The two other Christian leaders present at the conference backed the Pope's opinion on the matter. The Archbishop of Canterbury and head of the Anglican Communion, Justin Welby, said that recently LGBTQ+ rights have been central to the agenda of the Church of England.

"I wish I had spoken as eloquently and clearly as the Pope. I entirely agree with every word he said," Welby said. He also added that he would report the Pope's words on the matter at the Church's upcoming General Synod. The Church of England has recently decided that, while they will allow blessing for same-sex unions, same-sex marriages could not be performed in its churches.

The top Presbyterian minister, Iain Greenshields, was the third leader present at the conference. As head of the Church of Scotland, where same-sex marriages can be performed in churches, he also offered his opinion, saying: "There is nowhere in my reading of the four Gospels where I see Jesus turning anyone away."

He added: "There is nowhere in the four Gospels where I see anything other than Jesus expressing love to whomever he meets... And as Christians, that is the only expression that we can possibly give to any human being, in any circumstance."

*Courtesy Gay Community News*

## Remembered in Prayer

### Saturday 6pm Mass

Christy Butler  
Mike & Ann Fekete  
Stephen Devlin (48th A)  
Rita Devlin  
(Birthday remembrance)  
Barbara & David Reck  
Sarsfield Family  
Darren, Vincent McDonagh  
Chrissie Green  
Betty Kerrigan  
Carmel Kent  
Rosemarie Lynam

### Sunday 11.30am Mass

Michael Larkin, Shay Larkin  
Frank Doyle  
Thom McGinty  
Des Connell

## Collection for Turkey & Syria

Archbishop Farrell has given approval for a diocesan collection to be taken up in support of the people of Turkey and Syria affected by the devastating earthquakes on Monday 5th February. The Turkey/Syria Collection will take place on 25/26 February, at 1st Sunday of Lent celebrations, and will replace the SHARE collection.

The collection will be channelled through Trócaire, who are working with partners in the affected area. They have the capability to ensure that any funds raised in Ireland will be managed appropriately to meet the needs of those most badly affected.

## Penny Dinners

Penny Dinners on Meath St. are delighted to announce that they are serving a warm lunch at 12:00 every Tues and Thurs (more days to come in the Spring)

## 7TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

### Penitential Rite

As we begin, let us call to mind God's goodness to us.

Your rescue us and lead us. Lord have mercy

You feed us with your compassion. Christ have mercy

You grant us the freedom to forgive. Lord have mercy

May the God of compassion, forgive us our sin and bring us to life everlasting. Amen

### Leviticus 19:1-2. 17 18

The Lord spoke to Moses; he said: 'Speak to the whole community of the sons of Israel and say to them: "Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy. 'You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of his offence; this way you will not take a sin upon yourself. You must not exact vengeance, nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people. You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord.'

### 1 Corinthians 3: 16-23

Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple. Make no mistake about it: if any one of you thinks of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then he must learn to be a fool before he really can be wise. Why? Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As scripture says: The Lord knows wise men's thoughts: he knows how useless they are: or again: God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise So there is nothing to boast about in anything human: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life and death, the present and the future, are all your servants; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

Alleluia, alleluia!

When anyone obeys what Jesus has said, God's love comes to perfection in him. Alleluia!

### Matthew 5:38-48

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked person no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer them the other as well; if a person takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with them. Give to anyone who asks, and if

anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away. 'You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons and daughters of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad people as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest people alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not? And if you save your greetings for your brothers and sisters, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.'

### Prayer of the Faithful

God our Father and Mother, your love draws the very best from us. We thank you. Lord hear us

May our respect for one another be so strong that violence, whether it be physical or psychological is simply never an option for us. Lord hear us

Help us Lord, to let go of the injustices done to us and to be instruments of healing and peace. Lord hear us

We remember all who have died and especially those who died in the earthquakes. May their families and friends receive the support they need and find peace. Lord hear us

May our Church Community be a source of compassion, empathy and forgiveness for all. Lord hear us

In silence we put aside our own needs, no matter how important and remember all who need our prayer and support.....Lord hear us



### Reflection

Forgiveness is one of the really difficult things in life. The logic of receiving hurt seems to run in the direction of never forgetting either the hurt or the hurter. When you forgive, some deeper, divine generosity takes over. When you can forgive, then you are free. When you cannot forgive, you are a prisoner of the hurt done to you. If you are really disappointed in someone and you become embittered, you become incarcerated inside that feeling. Only the grace of forgiveness can break the straight logic of hurt and embitterment. It gives you a way out, because it places the conflict on a completely different level. In a strange way, it keeps the whole conflict human. You begin to see and understand the conditions, circumstances, or weakness that made the other person act as they did.

*John O'Donohue*