



INSIDE

- Extreme abortion legislation rejected
- A message from Pastor Clive
- First An Institiúid Chríostaí employee

Trusting in God's providence

We are very pleased to announce the recruitment of our first An Institiúid Chríostaí employee, Matthew Brennan. He will lead our work in Ireland in equipping churches and Christians to speak out for biblical truth.

Such work is necessary, with LGBT activists attempting to misrepresent the law to promote gender ideology in schools,

and pro-abortion advocates campaigning for even more liberal abortion laws.

It is a blessing, though, that the Tánaiste is among those who have stressed the importance of religious freedom.

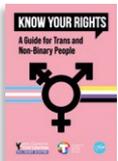
Ireland must not go the way of the UK by using the law to drag street preachers like Pastor Clive Johnston through the courts.

Govt rejects claims schools legally required to use trans pronouns

The Department of Education and Youth has dismissed controversial claims that schools must pander to gender ideology.

A new pro-trans guide from the Irish Council for Civil Liberties (ICCL) told gender-confused students that schools were required to use their "correct name and pronoun

in day-to-day interactions".



ICCL's publication, 'Know Your Rights: A Guide for Trans and Non-Binary

People', was produced in conjunction with the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission and researched and written by trans activist lobby groups the Transgender Equality Network Ireland and ShoutOut.

It misleads students by telling them that schools should allow them to take part in sports "in



accordance with your gender identity", and that teachers do not need to inform parents if they 'transition' while at school.

But the Department of Education refuted the claims, stating that no such obligations exist in law or Departmental guidance.

The Christian Institute's Director Ciarán Kelly said schools should be wary of "organisations

that present the law as they would like it to be, not as it is".

Psychotherapist Stella O'Malley said the ICCL "has no hold over school policies in Ireland" and warned that its advice "will harm kids".

DOWNLOAD:
the.ci/SPHEbooklet



Church banned from freshers' fair successfully reinstated with CI help

A church in London that was banned from a university's freshers' event has successfully defended its right to book stalls after The Christian Institute intervened.

Grace Church Greenwich had been attempting to reserve a place at Goldsmiths University's Freshers' Fair. Native, the external company responsible for the booking process, told co-pastor Andrew Sach that while religious groups working on secular initiatives would be permitted, those promoting religious teaching would not.

Good News for Everyone! (formerly



Grace Church Greenwich defended its right to book a stall thanks to the CI

GideonsUK) was also barred. The ban affected not only the Goldsmiths event, but every freshers' fair organised by Native.

Sach contacted The Christian Institute, and our Solicitor Advocate Sam Webster warned the company it was in

breach of the Equality Act 2010.

He said both Grace Church and GNFE! "have grounds for a claim under the Act", but that legal action could be avoided if the company agreed to allow all future bookings from Grace Church and other

religious groups.

As a result, Native suspended its policy of restricting bookings from religious organisations with immediate effect.

Both Grace Church and GNFE! are now in the process of booking their Freshers' Fair stalls for September.

Government Minister denounces 'abhorrent' AI-generated images



Government Minister Niamh Smyth has slammed social media platform X for allowing its AI tool 'Grok' to digitally undress women and children.

Smyth, whose ministerial responsibilities include artificial intelligence, told Six One News

that those who enable users to "create this abhorrent type of imagery" will "face the full rigours of the law".

Although she welcomed X's corrective action to prevent Grok from creating such images in countries where it is illegal,

she accused it of a "total disregard" for Ireland's pre-existing laws.

She emphasised that online images of child sexual abuse are illegal: "It is illegal to have the possession of those images, it is illegal to disseminate those images, and it's illegal to share those images."

Alan Kelly TD has tabled a Private Member's Bill to ban the creation of non-consensual AI-generated nudes. The British Government recently implemented similar laws, and plans to outlaw dedicated 'nudification' tools.



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Waiting: A message from Pastor Clive Johnston

I don't know many who like queuing! Whether it's in supermarkets, banks or listening to someone tell us: "Your call is important to us".

Like many people, I'm not patient by nature. Yet the Lord is constantly calling us to 'Wait'. In fact, it is surprising how often this is the very thing God calls us to do.

It's hard to believe that it all started on 7 July 2024! For Sheila and me, this has been a very special and different season of our lives because God has called us to wait.

So often waiting is good! It teaches us to trust, so that we see in answer to our prayers that delay is not denial, and that the Lord may have something quite different in mind. Remember that the Lord Jesus prayed to the Father: "Not my will but yours be done".

Many folks have said they are praying for an acquittal at the next hearing on 31 March. That would certainly be a real

answer to prayer! But I've been prompted more and more to simply pray that whatever the result, the name of the Lord Jesus would be glorified. This is a battle for freedom of speech and freedom of religion but it's also an opportunity to graciously witness for Jesus. It's all about Him and His Kingdom.

Thank you for your prayers. We cannot do this without the fellowship of the Lord's people, and your prayers are an encouragement to us daily. May the Lord himself bless you.

*Clive and
Sheila Johnston*



Tánaiste: 'Religious freedom matters'

The Tánaiste has expressed his support for religious liberty.

Welcoming a report on the state of religious freedom globally by Aid to the Church in Need, Simon Harris also spoke out against those seeking to marginalise people

of faith in Ireland.

Harris stated: "Religious freedom matters. It matters in our own country too".

He went on to criticise "the progressive agenda" for trying to exclude others from important national conversations.



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Pray continually

1 Thessalonians 5:17

SUNDAY

PRAY For TDs and Senators, that they would restrain evil and promote what is good.

MONDAY

PRAY That freedom of speech will be upheld in Ireland.

TUESDAY

PRAY Giving thanks that attempts to further liberalise abortion law have been rejected.

WEDNESDAY

PRAY That Christians would be at work in society to help their neighbours.

THURSDAY

PRAY That Christian teachers, parents and pupils would have the freedom to express their faith.

FRIDAY

PRAY For church leaders as they faithfully and boldly preach the Gospel.

SATURDAY

PRAY That God would bless our first employee in Ireland in his work.

Dáil Éireann shuts down extreme pro-abortion up-to-birth agenda



The Dáil has rejected a proposal to revisit radical plans for the decriminalisation of abortion up to birth.

A Bill that called for full decriminalisation of abortion up to birth for any reason lapsed after the dissolution of

the Dáil last year. It also would have removed the three-day reflection period between requesting an abortion and being granted it.

Paul Murphy TD, of People Before Profit, motioned that the controversial

Private Member's Bill be restored to the Dáil, but TDs opted against allowing the Bill any further debate by 73 to 71.

Ahead of the vote, Murphy claimed opponents were motivated by "anti-

women politics".

Pro Life Campaign's Eilís Mulroy welcomed the outcome and expressed encouragement at the many TDs "taking stock of the dramatic increase in abortions since the law changed and of the disturbing realities now emerging under the current legislation".

She added: "As a society, we should be prioritising alternatives to abortion and meaningful support for women, not policies that drive abortion numbers higher."

Church Liaison Officer appointed in big step forward for An Institiúid Chríostaí

An Institiúid Chríostaí has appointed Matthew Brennan as its first employee.

Matthew joins as Church Liaison Officer, and will seek to equip churches and Christians in Ireland to speak out for biblical truth.

The former pastor retired last year, and until recently also served on the Executive of Aontas (formerly the Association

of Irish Evangelical Churches). He is married to Barbara and they have two adult sons.

Matthew says he is "honoured" to be taking the part-time role.

"I have been a church-planter and Pastor of Clonmel Baptist Church for almost 38 years. The Lord blessed the church over those years. I am now looking forward enormously to working for the CI in Ireland."



Matthew Brennan

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Tel: 0044 191 281 5664 | Email: info@christian.ie | Web: the.ci | Published in March 2026

Registered as a company in Ireland Company No. 770683.

An application for registration as a charity in Ireland has been submitted to the Charities Regulator.