

Forces bishop says politics obscures military sacrifice

BRITAIN'S MILITARY personnel have become scapegoats for unpopular government decisions, the bishop of the armed forces, Tom Burns, said this week in a strongly worded statement marking the fifth anniversary of the invasion of Iraq, *writes Thomas Norton*.

Bishop Burns said that the enterprise had been "disgraced" by the failure to discover weapons of mass destruction. But he added that it was important not to let the controversy surrounding the origins of the war obscure the remarkable job being done by the men and women of the armed forces who risked their lives for a better future for Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Their sacrifice, and the cost their families pay, can be obscured by the seemingly never-ending debate about politics, with the tragic result that sometimes these remarkable young people can be scapegoats for unpopular government decisions over which they have no control," said the bishop, going on to question Britain's commitment to its service personnel, saying the relationship at the heart of the military covenant had become "dangerously frayed".

With the forces remaining short of 5,000 people, he said that they were struggling to cope with the increasing pace of operations.

"No coroner should have to state that soldiers died because of equipment failures," he said, adding that some coroners had been unable to complete their inquests because of unforthcoming military information, thus prolonging the grieving process for families.

"Good training and goodwill are cornerstones of current military effectiveness and the mutual covenant between the people and



Tom Burns, the forces' bishop

the armed forces. To avoid disillusionment, there is still room to reinforce trust and confidence so that any credibility gap is closed more and more between perceived budget needs in Whitehall and actual combat needs in Basra or Kandahar," he concluded.

Meanwhile, Bishop Crispian Hollis, chairman of the Department of International Affairs of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, asked Catholics to remember the Christian community of Iraq in their prayers while it underwent "its own Calvary".

This had been brought home "with terrible force" by the recent abduction and killing of Archbishop Paulos Faraj Rahho of Mosul, he said.

IN BRIEF

Naval hero

Pope Benedict XVI has awarded the director of the Apostleship of the Sea a Knighthood of St Gregory in recognition of his service to the Church. Commodore Christopher York retires as director this month after seven years. The Apostleship of the Sea, which provides pastoral care to seafarers, has recruited a former commanding officer of the Australian navy as its new director. Captain Paul Quinn has also spent time in the Royal Navy where he worked on submarines, minesweepers and an aircraft carrier.

Remembering Romero

Romero Day will be celebrated today with an ecumenical service at St Martin-in-the-Fields in London's Trafalgar Square. Supporters of Archbishop Oscar Romero's cause for beatification are in good heart after Pope Benedict hailed Romero as a pastor "full of love for God" earlier this year. Oscar Romero (1917-80) was the Archbishop of San Salvador, who was murdered for speaking out on behalf of the poor and dispossessed during the country's civil war. The service today begins at midday.

Poll backs faith schooling

The majority of Irish parents want a faith-based education for their children, according to a new survey. The poll, conducted on behalf of the think tank the Iona Institute, found that about half of respondents would opt for a Catholic school, followed by 37 per cent who said that they would choose a state-run school in which all religions are taught. Only 11 per cent favoured schools where no religion is taught.

APPEALS

The Santa Maria Education Fund helping Paraguay's poor

"I love agriculture and this will help me to help my family at the same time. I have eleven brothers and sisters."

(Cristino, agricultural student at the Universidad Nacional)



Donations for "Santa Maria Education Fund" to Matthew O'Sullivan, 7 Queens Crescent, Surrey TW10 6HG.

info@santamariadefc.org
www.santamariadefc.org

UK registered charity no 1105031, founded by Faber columnist Margaret Hebblethwaite

Tablet Binders: order from The Tablet, 1 King Street Cloisters, Clifton Walk, London W6 0GY. Please enclose remittance with order £7 each (three required for one year). P&P for each: UK £1.64, Europe and ROW £2.40.

DIOCESE OF BATH AND WELLS

Social Justice and Environment Adviser

Changing Lives, Changing Churches, Changing Communities

www.bathandwells.org.uk

This full-time newly created post for a lay or ordained person is an exciting opportunity to work missionally and ecumenically across Somerset, helping the local Church to engage creatively and effectively with environmental and social justice issues and projects.

Salary: £32,000 per annum
(An ordained appointee: stipend plus house, or allowance)

Interviews will be held in Wells on Monday 19 May 2008

For information and application details please contact:
Mrs Helen Hickman, The Old Deanery, Wells BA5 2UG

Telephone: 01749 685104 Email:
cfm@bathwells.anglican.org

Closing date for applications: 25 April 2008

Classified Advertisement Rates

£15.50 per single column centimetre
(minimum size 2cms, £31.00)

Box No: £3.50.

10% Series discount with 10 insertions.

Copy deadline: first post Monday preceding publication date.

Further details please call

+44 (0) 20 8748 8484

Prices subject to 17.5% VAT



ST EDMUND'S COLLEGE

HMC, Catholic, Fully Co-educational,
Day and Boarding School for Children aged 11-18
Old Hall Green, Ware, Hertfordshire SG11 1DS

Assistant Head (Director of Studies)

(Required for September 2008 or January 2009)

The vacancy arises following the promotion of the present post holder to a headship. A teacher with clear vision as well as attention to detail is required to lead the academic life of this thriving, forward-looking school. The successful candidate will have already shown academic leadership and will have a keen interest in developing whole school approaches to learning, teaching and self-evaluation. The salary and accommodation will be commensurate with the importance that the school places on its academic life.

Whilst we are proud to be England's oldest Catholic school, we welcome applications from colleagues of all faiths who wish to be part of our special ethos.

An application pack can be obtained from Lindsay Cole
Telephone: 01920 824335 Email: lcole@stedmundscollege.org

Closing date: 16 April.
Interviews to take place week beginning 21 April.

The College is committed to safeguarding the welfare of children, therefore, all candidates will be required to undergo an Enhanced CRB check.

WHEN REPLYING to box numbers please address the letter as follows
Box No., The Tablet, 1 King Street Cloisters, Clifton Walk, London W6 0GY



CLIFTON DIOCESE

Registered Charity Number 233977

Diocesan Surveyor c. £50k

Based in Bristol, the Clifton Diocese serves the Catholic communities from the Cotswolds in the north to the Somerset levels in the south, including the towns of Bath, Bristol, Cheltenham, Gloucester, Taunton and Swindon. The property portfolio is extensive comprising 117 churches and ancillary buildings, school sites, offices and a small number of investment properties.

With the approaching retirement of the current Diocesan Surveyor we are looking to appoint a successor to oversee all aspects of diocesan property and lead a small department. The diocese is a registered charity and the Diocesan Surveyor will advise the Bishop, Trustees and parishes on all aspects of property management including major parish building projects, property maintenance and the acquisition and disposal of land.

The person appointed will have experience as a Chartered Surveyor with a buildings and an asset management bias. The post holder will have a commitment to the ethos of the Catholic Church and an understanding of how the Property Department can facilitate the pastoral mission of the Church.

For further information and an application form please contact:

Mrs Andrea Barrett,
Finance Office, Diocese of Clifton,
Alexander House,
160 Pennywell Road, Bristol BS5 0TX.
Telephone 0117 902 5591
E-mail Finance.Office@cliftondiocesecom

Closing Date: 23rd April 2008

SUBSCRIBE NOW to THE TABLET

HOW TO ORDER

Visit www.thetablet.co.uk/pages/subscribe

Call +44 (0)1858 438807

8am to 9.30pm Monday to Friday, 8am to 4pm Saturday

All subscriptions enquiries should be sent to:
TABLET SUBSCRIPTIONS, Tower House, Lathkill Street
Market Harborough LE16 9EF, UK

Please allow fourteen days for the processing of your order

MY DETAILS

Title	Surname
Address	
Post/Zip Code	Country
Telephone	
Email	

I WISH TO PAY BY CHEQUE OR CARD

Cheque enclosed payable to *The Tablet* for £ _____

(US\$, Can\$ and Aus\$ also accepted)

Please debit my Mastercard / Visa / Switch / Amex with the sum of £ _____

Card No _____

Expiry Date ____/____/____ Issue No (Switch only) or Start Date ____/____/____

Signature _____

Subscription rates for 1 year (51 issues)

United Kingdom	£97.50
Irish Republic	€154/ £110
Airmail - Europe	€154/ £110
Airmail - Worldwide	£116.50/ \$220
(inc. USA/ Canada)	
Airspeed (USA/Canada only)	US\$168



I WISH TO PAY BY DIRECT DEBIT

£87.75 yearly £23.25 quarterly



Name of account holder
Bank/ Building Society account no
Branch Sort Code
To: The Manager
Name and full postal address of Bank or Building Society

Instruction to your Bank or Building Society. Please pay The Tablet Direct Debits from the account detailed in this Instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this Instruction may remain with The Tablet and if so details will be passed electronically to my Bank/ Building Society.

Originator's Identification Number 930159

Signature _____ Date _____

Student rate of 50% to all full-time students whose applications should be accompanied by a signed statement from their Tutor/Head of Department. **3602**

The Tablet and The Tablet Publishing Co. would like to contact you with offers and opportunities. Please tick if you would prefer to receive these messages by email . Please tick if you do not wish to hear from us about other relevant offers by post by phone . Our partners sometimes have special offers we think you will find relevant. Please tick if you would prefer to receive these messages by email . Please tick if you prefer not to hear from them by post by phone .

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

PEACEFUL, private accommodation for holiday, retreat, or rest for Priests and Religious in lovely Windsor country. Cottages for 1-6 people, every convenience. Near Heathrow and Henley. Apply: St John's Convent, Kiln Green, Reading RG10 9XP. Tel: 0118 940 2964.

MALIN, CO. DONEGAL

Self-catering cottage in Inishowen Peninsula - 40 minutes from Derry City. Sleeps 4. Walking, golf and peace. Weather unpredictable.
www.inishowencottages.net
Tel: 00353 7493 70792

DISCOVER LE MARCHE

1 hr Ancona airport, holiday house, sleeps 2-6 adults + children in mountain hamlet (600 m). Views, walks, nature reserves. Assisi, Loreto, Norcia easy distance.
Tel: Mary: 00 39-0737-42302,
Email: ulimary@costasansvero
Website: www.costasansvero

ST MARTHA'S CONVENT

House of welcome and peace in the charming historic village of Rottingdean by the sea. For holidays, quiet breaks, private retreats. En suite rooms, home cooking, private chapel. 5 minutes from church. Minimum stay 2 nights.
SAE for brochure to St Martha's Convent, Rottingdean,
E. Sussex BN2 7HA Tel: 01273 302354

ALGARVE VILLA

one double bed with en suite bathroom and cot, two twin-bedded rooms shared bathroom, sitting room (sofabed), dining room, kitchen, terrace, pool, extensive garden, 50m to beach, 10 mins to well-provisioned village.
Tel 01223 812120
Email: jjt3@cantab.net

A PLACE

AT PEACE WITH ITSELF

Walk the green roads of the Burren. Write songs on a lichen covered boulder. Draw and photograph the wild light of Atlantic weather. A preserved landscape. The abundance and variety of wild flowers is remarkable. The Tower marks the meeting of wetland pasture and limestone fields. Sleeps 4-8 guests. Good heating. Catered or self-catering. The 500-year-old Gaelic Tower House, Ballyportry (the place of the harpists) 40 minutes from Shannon.
www.ballyportry.ie

VOCATIONS

SALVATORIAN Priests and Brothers, living in communities serving the Church, using our gifts and abilities to make Jesus our Saviour known. For further information about our life and work here in Britain and abroad please write to: Father Alex McAllister SDS, Vocations Director, Salvatorian Community, 11 Castle St, Thornbury, Bristol BS35 1HA

BED AND BREAKFAST

EDINBURGH: B&B

Central location, peaceful grounds B&B ensuite, rooms serviced
Website: www.gilliscentre.org.uk
Bookings tel: 0131 623 8933
or Email:
gilliscentre@staned.org.uk
Charity No. SC008664

PERSONAL

IF PARAGRAPH 2358 of the Catechism applies to you and you are also a Catholic priest, you may wish to join our confidential support and social group by writing to Box 3436.

PERSONAL



friendsfirst
A proven way to meet people of all ages who share your faith - for friendship and relationships.
"A highly supportive and personalised service"
PO Box 8377 Birmingham B17 9TE
0121 427 1286
www.friends1st.co.uk

WANTED

WANTED
Large wardrobes, bookcases, tables and chairs, desks and cabinets. House clearances undertaken. All rubbish cleared. Cash paid.
Barbican Furniture Company
Tel: 020 8677 9477

SABBATICALS

Formation Consultation Services
We provide unique, flexible and holistic sabbatical programs within a nurturing small community atmosphere. Programs are tailored specifically to each participant's needs. Program details are located on our website which also offers a helpful selection of articles on formation for free downloading.
Tel: USA (001) 508-234-6540
Email: formation@fcs-bilotta.com
www.fcs-bilotta.com

HERMITAGES

THE PORTIUNCULA
An experience of solitude in the spirit of St Francis of Assisi. Five hermitages in a fraternal setting in rural Derbyshire. For more information contact Sr Patricia, The Portiuncula, St Clare's Convent, Stretton Road, Clay Cross, Derbyshire S45 9AQ

PROPERTY TO SELL? Have you property to sell, which may be of interest to fellow readers - e.g. in the location of a school, church or religious foundation? If so, then why not advertise in our classified column? A simple advertisement yields surprising results. For more details, please contact: **The Advertisement Department, THE TABLET, 1 King Street Cloisters, Clifton Walk, London W6 0GY. Tel: 020 8748 8484**

Want to make a real difference to people living in poverty?

LONDON BASED

CAFOD's advocacy makes real change happen for people in the developing world. Now we need two dynamic leaders who are passionate about overcoming poverty and injustice to build on our strong track record and together take CAFOD's advocacy into an exciting future.

HEAD OF ADVOCACY (CAMPAIGNS)

You want to bring justice to millions of the world's poorest people - you know how to go about it and you can prove that you've already helped make change happen. Building on your track record of managing effective campaigns and using your excellent strategic planning and communications skills, you will lead, motivate and manage an energetic team that inspires thousands of people to join our campaigns.

You have excellent negotiation skills and will manage CAFOD's contribution to major international and national campaigning coalitions. Ref: AHC

HEAD OF ADVOCACY (POLICY)

You already have a background in international development policy at a senior level, showing leadership and influence. You are a politically sensitive, strategic thinker with great negotiating skills with an eye for both detail as well as the wider picture. You will lobby at the highest levels of government and business, and lead a team of dedicated policy specialists building on CAFOD's reputation for credible, evidence based advocacy. Ref: AHPPU

For both posts you will need to have excellent management skills, be committed to CAFOD's vision, mission and values and to our partnership approach and have a sympathetic understanding of the Catholic Church.

For an application pack please visit www.cafod.org.uk/jobs, email vacancies@cafod.org.uk or phone 020 7095 5601, quoting correct ref. Both close 10 April 2008.

CAFOD is an equal opportunities employer. Recruitment and selection procedures reflect our commitment to child protection.

CAFOD is the official development and relief agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales and part of the Caritas Internationalis Confederation.

CAFOD
just one world