



The Burning Bush - Online article archive

Alderman John Carson has made his choice and turned turtle!

This is a follow-up to an article I circulated just an hour or so ago. (Previous article [here](#).)

He has apologised for saying that the coronavirus was sent of God as a judgment for the support given to same-sex marriage and abortion.

He didn't need to go on the 'Nolan Show' to be made a fool of. He managed that himself.

"As wax melteth before the fire" so melted the courage of this mighty man of valour!

The following report of this sad event appeared in the 'Irish News.' Mr Carson is pictured there with his party leader, Mrs Arlene Foster. In the picture he is seen very close to her but following his comments the party distanced itself from him. He, in turn, made a grovelling apology in order to crawl back into the party's 'good books'.

Like all turncoats, he will find that is just not really possible. No one likes a 'yellow belly'!

From purporting to be a faithful witness for the Lord he shows himself to be, in truth, a mere party puppet!

As a 'Dare to be a Daniel', he proved to be a very damp squib indeed.

Following his shameful 'about turn' it rightly can be said to him: ". . . . by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme," 2 Samuel 12:14.

Shame on him! Better it had been if he had kept quiet than to go back on what he said! Ecclesiastes 5:5 teaches us something about this. "Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay."

Ballymena DUP councillor John Carson apologises after blaming coronavirus pandemic on 'God's judgement' for legalising abortion and same-sex marriage

Digital Staff and Michael McHugh, Press Association. 02 April, 2020 17:34



DUP Ballymena councillor John Carson and party leader Arlene Foster

A DUP councillor has apologised for any hurt caused by a social media post he wrote apparently linking the coronavirus pandemic with the legalisation of abortion and same sex marriage in Northern Ireland.

John Carson, who represents Ballymena, Co Antrim, the former stronghold of ex-leader and Christian preacher the late Ian Paisley, has been criticised for his Facebook post.

The Rainbow Project, a Belfast-based LGBT support organisation, described it as "disgraceful but not at all surprising".

Pro-choice campaigner Naomi Connor accused Mr Carson of "fundamentalist religious rhetoric".

Peter Lynas, UK director of the Evangelical Alliance, said they were unhelpful comments and the media would "go to town" on them.

Mr Carson's party strongly opposed Westminster legislation liberalising the law surrounding terminations, but his latest comments were made in a personal capacity.



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In his original post he wrote: "I said when abortion was legalised that our nation would be judged by God because of its departure from his word and the legalisation of the murder of the unborn child as well as same-sex marriage.

"I was laughed at and mocked by some but as I said at the time, they laughed at Noah until the rain started.

"You reap what you sow and our nation is now reaping the judgment of God because of an immoral and corrupt Government.

"It is time to repent and turn again to the God of our fathers."

On Thursday, Mr Carson wrote: "Folks yesterday afternoon I put a post on Facebook which was taken by some and totally misinterpreted, anyone who knows me will know that I would not intentionally set out to cause hurt or offence to anyone and if I did then for that I humbly apologise.

"However I will never apologise for my Christian faith and will not be silenced by those that are opposed to the truth of God's word."

The DUP has distanced itself from the comments.

It is not the first a DUP councillor in Ballymena has attributed a devastating loss of life to God's wrath.

In 2005 Maurice Mills said Hurricane Katrina was God's reaction to homosexuality. In 2015 Mr Mills was awarded an MBE by Queen Elizabeth.

Earlier this week, a senior DUP member claimed Northern Ireland has introduced the most extreme abortion laws in Europe.

Westminster MPs passed provisions on terminations last year in the absence of the powersharing Assembly.

The regulations will allow terminations on request for the first 12 weeks of pregnancy and up to 24 weeks in the case of a risk of injury to the physical or mental health of the pregnant woman or girl.

Abortion will also be available in cases of severe and fatal foetal anomalies, with no gestational limit.

Campaigners have claimed many barriers still exist to terminations after 12 weeks, and they have called for greater use of telemedicine to provide pills, particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Rainbow Project, a Belfast-based LGBT support organisation, said: "It is disgraceful but not at all surprising that a DUP elected member would try to blame LGBT people and our partners in the women's movement for the coronavirus outbreak, just as they have blamed us for Hurricane Katrina and other natural disasters in the past."

The statement said the group is supporting its communities at a difficult time.

The organisation added: "We look forward to hearing from Arlene Foster a strong denunciation of this disgusting slur from her councillor John Carson."

Mr Carson is a member of the Royal British Legion and a strong supporter of veterans, according to Mid and East Antrim Borough Council's website.

He is also part of the Orange Order.

The councillor sits on policing scrutiny and military reservist organisations.

Mr Lynas said they were unhelpful comments and the media would "go to town" on them.

"The church response is one of compassion, practical needs like food banks, lament, hope and prayer."



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Ms. Connor said many people of faith supported the change in abortion law.

She said: "Mr Carson not only offends same-sex couples and those of us who have had or will need abortions, he does a disservice to people of faith.

"We are sick of fundamentalist religious rhetoric barring our rights."