



Archbishop welcomes Olympic sportspeople but criticises organisers

The Primate of Brazil has given a warm welcome to the athletes and visitors of the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, while criticising the games' administrators for serious mismanagement. Archbishop Francisco de Assis

da Silva said that the Olympic Games “bring together the peoples of the world through healthy competition in several individual and team sports” and provides the opportunity to “encounter, learn, and share the world’s diversity.”

“It is the first time an event of this size has taken place in Brazil,” he said. “And the whole world will be watching our country during the games.

“We know that these are not the best of days for Brazil. The political crisis caused by the coup manoeuvrings against the President of the Republic has divided the country and demonstrations have been frequent.”

He said that the “serious mismanagement” of the construction of the Olympic Village and the very tight security surrounding the games had caused “additional social concerns” arising from popular discontent and additional demonstrations on top of the pre-existing political tensions in the country.

“I ask the Brazilian Anglicans and Anglicans around the world to pray for peace to prevail; and for respect and sportsmanship in this special party of sports,” he said, adding that, in spite of the political tensions, the country should show

“respect for the athletes, visitors and all the people” involved with the Olympics.”

Archbishop da Silva said people should live “the festival of sport” while being mature enough to “carry out political criticism” of the organisers who have “made the games a means of exploitation, exclusion and wealth accumulation at the expense of the rights of ordinary people of the city of Rio de Janeiro.

Senator: Catholic Church should seriously consider permitting openly gay priests

An Irish politician is declaring the Catholic Church should seriously consider permitting openly gay priests.

The [remarks](#) from Ireland senator Jerry Buttimer come in the wake of a scandal concerning a vast homosexual network operating out of Ireland's primary seminary, St. Patrick's College, often referred to as Maynooth for its location.

According to Sen. Buttimer, current leader of the Seanad, the controversy in Maynooth has brought to the forefront the need for the Catholic



Church to consider allowing active and open homosexuals to be ordained to the priesthood, a specific step in a broader outreach to the LGBT community the senator insists must take place.

"As a person of faith, I pray and yearn that my Church and its leaders would move to be more progressive, open and transparent around the teaching on sexuality," Buttimer remarked. The senator himself, the first openly gay Fine Gael TD in Irish history, studied for five years at Maynooth prior to entering the political sphere.

The Maynooth scandal, involving an active homosexual network of clergy and seminarians as well as alleged sex abuse of seminarians by spiritual directors, has resulted in the archbishop of Dublin refusing to send priests-in-training to

the seminary until the situation is sorted out. Several seminarians have taken complaints to the Garda, or the Irish National Police.

"There seems to be an atmosphere of strange goings-on there," Dublin archbishop Diarmuid Martin told the Irish Times. "It seems like a quarrelsome place with anonymous letters being sent around. I don't think this is a good place for students."

"When I was in Maynooth there was an atmosphere of neurotic fear among seminarians who loved the Church and wanted to be holy priests," one seminarian [recalled](#). "Seminarians felt they had no support from their bishops in relation to voicing their concerns about problems with priests or formation programs in the seminary. This type of atmosphere protects and enables abusers."

Despite this, Sen. Buttimer holds the seminary in high regard for the five years he spent there in discernment. "The deans and professors I studied under were very genuine men. I still believe today that they were in the main interested in developing and educating young men to be good priests," he contended.

Buttimer, a vocal proponent of Ireland's marriage referendum legalizing same-sex "marriage" last year, noted the time spent at the seminary left "a lasting impression" on him, and it is this impact that carries him to call for change in the Church regarding homosexuality.

"The Church is nothing without its people, all of its people. Many of us pray for a Church that is inclusive, welcoming, accepting, open and transparent. We could do a lot better," he declared, adding the allowance of active homosexuals within the Church could lead to an increase in vocations.

"These are issues surrounding celibacy, sexuality, formation and how the Church treats LGBT people, but especially LGBT people of faith, members of its own church, who want to be ordained or play a pastoral role," Buttimer concluded.

These points, he asserted, are the "real issues" facing the Church.

The Catholic Church has previously declared against Buttimer's propositions, with an instruction concerning ordination of homosexuals to Holy Orders, [declaring](#) the Church "cannot

admit to the seminary or to holy orders those who practice homosexuality, present deep-seated homosexual tendencies or support the so-called 'gay culture.'"



Rev Chris Hudson on a gay pride march in Belfast with other marchers.

Most people are ahead of the churches on gay issues - Rev Chris Hudson

News Letter <http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/opinion/rev-chris-hudson-most-people-are-ahead-of-the-churches-on-gay-issues-1-7519791>

Bishop Edward Daly passionate in his struggle against violence and injustice

Mourners at the funeral of Bishop Edward Daly have heard that he was passionate in his struggle against violence and injustice from all quarters.

The requiem mass took place in Saint Eugene's Cathedral in Derry this afternoon, with President Michael D Higgins among the dignitaries in attendance.

A message of condolence was read out on behalf of Pope Francis, who said that Bishop Daly had dedicated his life to serving peace and justice.

Bishop of Derry Donal McKeon, the Derry-born Archbishop of Armagh Eamon Martin and former Primate Seán Brady were among those concelebrating the mass.

In the homily, Bishop McKeown said Bishop Daly's ministry "was marked by total dedication to the people he served".

He said "that dedication was visible in outstanding courage".

He said Dr Daly showed "physical courage on Bloody Sunday" and that "his moral courage was evident in his passionate struggle against violence and injustice from all quarters".

"It takes enormous courage to be a peacemaker and he was an apostle of mercy, whether as a curate, as a bishop or as chaplain in the Foyle Hospice."

Bishop McKeown said they were grateful for Bishop Daly and thousands of others across the community and churches who took risks and paid the price that peace might take roots in their hearts and communities.

He said a key element of Bishop Daly's peacebuilding was his growing friendship with other church leaders, noting that in his early years as bishop, Dr Daly accepted the ground-breaking invitation to attend the consecration of the young Bishop Robin Eames.

Dr Daly "knew about murder and loss. He knew the years of conflict followed upon decades of

terrible poverty and discrimination – as well as heroic generosity.

"He knew the enormous resilience of people who could face almost anything together."

He concluded the homily saying, "Edward Kevin Daly, your time of faithful service is over. You have fought the good fight, you have run the race, you have kept the faith."

Archbishop Eamon Martin paid tribute to Bishop Daly saying he was "a great priest, a caring and compassionate pastor, a man of prayer and peace, a courageous and fearless leader, a special person".

[Dr Daly died on Monday](#) after a brief illness aged 82.

A number of political and church leaders from across the island of Ireland attended the service on Thursday including Northern Ireland's Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness, former SDLP leaders John Hume and Mark Durkan, as well as Irish President Michael D Higgins. The Derry musician Phil Coulter was also present.



Parish churches support East Belfast Arts Festival

Three Church of Ireland parish churches in East Belfast are venues in the EastSideArts Festival 2016 – St Patrick’s Ballymacarrett, St Martin’s and Willowfield.

The annual festival runs from 10 – 21 August and is packed with 100 inspiring events to include: music, comedy, movies, theatre, talks, workshops, visual art, exhibitions, poetry, events for the young and old, community events and heritage tours, plus over 50 free events.

Rector of St Patrick’s Ballymacarret, Revd John Cunningham, said: “We’re delighted that our buildings are being used to serve both sides of the East Belfast community throughout the

festival. Indeed St Martins's Church (deconsecrated) has gained a new lease of life as a rehearsal and performance venue all year round."

EastSide Arts is an initiative by [EastSide Partnership](#) for the development, support and delivery of a wide range of arts activity and creativity across East Belfast.

EastSide Arts wants to promote the arts, specifically to encourage appreciation for and active participation in community based arts (music, visual arts, comedy, theatre, film and literature) and to stimulate the artistic creativity of people in the area to produce performances and exhibitions of cultural and educational value.

[Download the complete EastSide Arts Festival 2016 Programme](#)

Church of Scotland celebrated more than 4000 weddings in 2015

Getting married in the Church of Scotland remains the most popular choice for couples who want something more than a civil ceremony. More than 4,000 couples chose to be married by



Rev MaryAnn Rennie conducts the marriage of Kirsty and Michael Young

a Church of Scotland minister in a religious ceremony last year.

Rev Norman Smith, Convener of the Mission and Discipleship Council, said asking for God's blessing on a new couple is a joy and a privilege.

“When couples stand in church where generations have stood before pledging their love to one another, it is a reminder that human love endures. Standing before God is a reminder that the Christian God is a God of love who delights in people.

“The Church of Scotland has always stood with the people of Scotland and helped them take this step together. That is still the case and we would encourage anyone considering marriage to remember their local church when thinking about their very special day.”

Church of Scotland ministers do not charge for their services as celebrants, but couples may be asked to cover the expense of heating, lighting, and staffing their chosen church.

Rev MaryAnn Rennie, minister at Dunfermline Abbey said getting married in church puts the couple’s relationship at the centre of the celebration. She said:

“A wedding isn’t just about the day itself; it’s about the life that comes afterward. So getting married in church can be the beginning of a relationship that will support you throughout your life. A church wedding allows you to focus on the relationship between the couple, and their family and friends—the people who will support them as a couple.

“If you get married in a church, you then may want to share your joy by bringing your baby to be baptised and to count on your church family

as you go through more difficult experiences in life, such as losing a job, or when a family member dies. Those relationships are what count and you strengthen them when you make that first encounter through your church wedding.

“As a minister what I bring to a wedding is my faith that in God your love is eternal. God’s love is eternal and your marriage is an opportunity to find that eternal love.”

Kirsty Young, who was married in Dunfermline Abbey, said she has known she would marry there since she was a child.

“The Abbey has been part of my life, ever since I can remember,” she said. “It’s like one big family and they have supported me through good times and through bad times. My faith and my religion keep me strong.

“So I always knew I wanted to be surrounded by these people who love and support me at this brilliant time. It was very important that my church family was at my wedding and it was really nice for my husband Michael, who is not religious, to be accepted into my church family.

“They are a happy group of people and I wanted them to celebrate with me.”

Mrs Rennie will be taking part in a wedding fair later this month, where she will encourage people to look at how a church wedding celebrated with a minister or deacon could add a spiritual dimension to their relationship and life together.

The Presbytery of Dunfermline, as well as the congregation at Dunfermline Abbey, are supporting this venture, and the minister will be joined by some of her Presbytery colleagues at the fair, which takes place in the Glen Pavilion in Pittencrieff Park, Dunfermline, on Sunday 28 August from 12 noon to 4pm.

“I think we need to get out more and raise awareness about church weddings. I think many people planning their weddings think it’s far cheaper to have the wedding and the reception at one place, but often that is not the case,” she said.

In 2015, 29,691 marriages were solemnised in Scotland. More than half of that number—15,583—involved civil ceremonies, both inside and outside of a Registry office.

Security to be tightened at Lourdes for feast of the Assumption

After a series of recent terrorist attacks in France, security is being stepped up at Lourdes for the feast of the Assumption.

The prefect of the Pyrénées region, Beatrice Lagarde, says the authorities even considered cancelling the Mass and procession next Monday, which is normally attended by 25,000 people.

Instead, most entrances will be closed, and attendees will have to pass through security gates, where their bags will be checked. Several events have been adapted: the procession will start within the site, rather than in the town as usual.

There will also be 250 security staff at the site over the next two weeks, including police, paramilitary offices and a bomb disposal unit.

Roads surrounding the Lourdes site will be closed to traffic, and bins will be replaced with transparent plastic bags.

Lagarde told Europe1 radio: "The faithful have the right to access this place. On the other hand, everything is being done to make the area secure."

It comes after the murder of Fr Jacques Hamel by two Islamists in Normandy last month, as well as the attacks on Paris and Nice in which scores of people were killed.

The Assumption, the celebration of the Virgin Mary being taken up into heaven body and soul at the end of her life, is a national holiday in France. Most banks and businesses are closed, and many towns and villages hold festivals.

News briefs

+++ Mageough Sale and Coffee Morning -

There will be a Bring and Buy Sale and Coffee Morning at The Mageough, Cowper Road, Rathmines, on Saturday September 10 from 10.30am to 12.30pm. There will be a variety of stalls, home baking and raffle. All welcome!

+++ Christmas quilting underway in Larne -

It's summertime (apparently!) but for a group of nimble-fingered ladies in Larne, Christmas is never far from their thoughts. For while some people are sunning themselves on beaches and enjoying various summer activities, the Parish Piecemakers from St Cedma's are toiling over angels, stars, shepherds and other Christmas images, creatively piecing together a festive quilt display. The group, which has been meeting weekly in St Cedma's for the past 10 years or so to stitch and chat, is working on a very unique project. The results will on display in the church during Advent in an exhibition of quilts depicting the Christmas story as revealed in the nine lessons of the traditional carol service.

+++ Methodist tribute to Bishop Edward Daly

- The Rev Bill Mullally, President of the Methodist Church in Ireland, on hearing of the death of Bishop Edward Daly issued the following Statement: 'Although I never knew Bishop Daly personally, like many others here in Ireland and worldwide I knew of him through the events of Bloody Sunday. A man of peace, Bishop Daly was never hesitant in denouncing violence from where ever it came. He was also a practical ecumenist. His ministry was enriched through his

own health problems which in his latter years as chaplain to the Hospice in Derry enabled him to empathise with those he ministered to. Pope Francis speaks of bishops and priests as shepherds who need to smell of sheep – Bishop Daly was such a shepherd. In his life and ministry as priest and bishop he lived up to those words of Jesus: “Blessed are the peacemakers.”

+++ Charity Commission Workshops in Clogher - Over the past weeks five workshops have taken place to help C of I parishes register with the Charities Commission NI. Nicola Brown facilitated these workshops assisted by Ashley Brown, the Diocesan Accountant.

+++ Book Well re-opens shop - The Book Well re-opened its shop in Belfast on Friday 5th August. As you will probably know, the shop is owned by Richard Ryan who previously ran the Good Book Shop in Church House, Belfast. More information and updates are on his facebook page: www.facebook.com/thebookwell Richard serves customers on both sides of the border and can be contacted as follows: 73 Belmont Road, Belfast BT4 2AA. Tel: 07581 143596 Email: info@thebookwell.co.uk Web: www.thebookwell.co.uk

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

Peace People: Organisation born out of tragedy marks 40th anniversary

BBC News

It is 40 years since two Belfast women formed the Peace People movement, a community-led reaction to the Northern Ireland Troubles.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-37026119>

BBC/Gloucestershire Citizen

Report that retired CofE priest Grahame Humphries has been convicted of indecently assaulting a 14-year-old girl when he was a curate and was sentenced yesterday to eight months in prison, suspended for two years.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-37037848>

<http://www.gloucestershirelive.co.uk/vicar-71-who-indecently-assaulted-teenager-in-wicked-act-spared-jail/story-29606904-detail/story.html>

Mail

Report that a former church where the Queen used to worship as a child during her summer holidays is up for sale. The Grade-II listed property, formerly St John's church, in Letty Green, Hertfordshire, used to play host to the Queen Mother, Queen Elizabeth II and Princess Anne for Sunday services during summer breaks while they stayed at Hatfield House. The Victorian former place of worship is on the market for £2.5m.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3732962/Church-Queen-used-worship-child-goes-sale-2-5m.html>

GET CNI HEADLINES EACH DAY

Facebook and Twitter

Click on logo at CNI Home page

www.churchnewsireland.org

+ Please share CNI with your friends

www.churchnewsireland.org