



Young pilgrims walking in a thunderstorm on their way to Mass at WYD

Security high as you Catholics await Pope Francis in Poland

Buses of Polish security forces are moving into Krakow as thousands of young people gather ahead of the arrival of Pope Francis for World Youth Day.

Those gathered expressed shock at the killing in France on Tuesday of Fr Jacques Hamel, an 84-year-old priest whose throat was cut by two hostage-takers in a church.

Archbishop Georges Pontier, president of the French bishops conference, said in Krakow that the attack “shocked us, it touched us, and revolted us.”

He also called on Christians not to be discouraged by such inhumane acts.

After a string of attacks in Europe, Polish officials are trying to give reassurances that the nation’s security forces are prepared for the massive event, which the Pope will attend from Wednesday to Sunday.

ISIS claim responsibility for killing French priest during Mass

A priest has been killed in an Islamist attack on a church near Rouen in northern

France. The Paris prosecutor's office says one person has been detained in the investigation into an attack on a church that left a priest dead and was claimed by ISIS.

Archbishop Dominique Lebrun of Rouen released a statement in which he confirmed that Fr Jacques Hamel, 84, died in the attack on the church in Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray by two armed men. They entered the building during Mass, taking the priest and a number of other people, including two nuns, hostage.

ISIS have reportedly claimed the attack was carried out by two "soldiers" from the group, while French President Francois Hollande called it a "vile terrorist attack" and said it's another sign that France is at war with ISIS, which has claimed a string of attacks on France.

"I cry out to God with all men of good will. I would invite non-believers to join in the

cry,” Archbishop Lebrun, who is returning to France from World Youth Day in Krakow, said in his statement.

“The Catholic Church cannot take weapons other than those of prayer and brotherhood among men. I leave here hundreds of young people who are the future of humanity, the true ones. I ask them not to give in to the violence and become apostles of the civilization of love.” According to reports, the priest died after his throat was cut. Another person inside the church was seriously injured.

Pope Francis has condemned the attack in the strongest terms.

Archbishop Michael Jackson of Dublin has offered prayers for the people of France in the wake of the murder of a Catholic priest while saying Mass in Normandy yesterday morning (Tuesday July 26):

“Once again today our thoughts and our prayers turn to France where another act of terror has shaken the nation and the world beyond.

An atrocity which has seen a priest murdered while saying Mass and hostages taken in the church in the small town of Saint-Étienne du Rouvray in the suburbs of Rouen in Normandy has brought the violence and hatred to a place of worship, to a Christian church.

Our prayers again are for the President and people of France and those affected by this latest attack as they seek a way forward which respects the ideals of French society along with freedom for all to worship in safety.

We also pray for all those in authority who seek to find a way to stem the terror and for those, at every level, who deal with the human sadness and the societal aftermath of these attacks. We pray at this time for an end to all violence but also for the nurturing of the seeds of love among all of God's people, no matter what their faith and beliefs. We must continue to reach out to our brothers and sisters of all World Faiths to work in solidarity against the spread of fear and terror. Inter Faith understanding and respect are now as urgent as ever they were, and in fact increasingly more urgent.”

Archbishop Jackson is Chairperson of NIFCON. the Network for Inter Faith Concerns of the

Anglican Communion, and a member of Dublin City Inter Faith Forum.

Archbishop of York and four bishops accused of misconduct on historic rape claims

The Archbishop of York and four bishops have been accused of misconduct by a Church of England priest who claims they failed to act on allegations that he was repeatedly raped by another vicar in 1984, when he was 16.

The Guardian reported that the anonymous priest filed the written and verbal complaints under the CofE's clergy disciplinary measure (CDM) against John Sentamu, the Archbishop of York; Peter Burrows, the bishop of Doncaster; Steven Croft, a former bishop of Sheffield, and now bishop of Oxford; Martyn Snow, the bishop of Leicester; and Glyn Webster, the bishop of Beverley.

All five have contested the complaints on the grounds that they were made after a one-year time limit for complaints that is required by the church.

The priest, known only as 'Michael', has filed a misconduct complaint against the alleged rapist, who is currently the subject of a police investigation into Michael's claims.

The alleged rapist, who continued to work as a CofE priest for at least a decade after the alleged offences, is now retired, though he is still licensed to officiate as a priest. Spokespersons for Sentamu and the four bishops said they could not comment on a matter that was the subject of a police investigation and an internal church process.

Michael has also made a further complaint against Belfast-born Roy Williamson, a former bishop of Bradford, for failing to take action to bring the alleged perpetrator to justice at the time of the abuse. A West Yorkshire police spokesperson confirmed to the Guardian that the force was investigating a report of a historical serious sexual offence and that a 69-year-old man had been interviewed.

Cathedral and choral

Roman Catholic Priest to be Ecumenical Canon in Belfast - St Anne's

Cathedral, Belfast, has appointed the Very Revd Edward O'Donnell, Parish Priest of St Brigid's, Belfast, as an Ecumenical Canon.



The Dean of Belfast (left) with Revd. Edward O'Donnell

This is the first time in the history of St Anne's that a Roman Catholic Priest will serve on the Cathedral Chapter.

Fr O'Donnell will join Methodist Minister the Revd Ruth E Patterson, and Presbyterian Minister, the Revd Dr Ruth

Patterson, to complete the Cathedral's complement of three Ecumenical Canons.

Fr O'Donnell said he was surprised to learn from the Dean of Belfast, the Very Revd John Mann, that the Cathedral Chapter had elected him as an Ecumenical Canon, adding that he was 'very pleased and happy to accept.'

"While this is a personal privilege for me, the honour is shared with all those who work quietly but persistently to improve and strengthen inter-church relationships," Fr O'Donnell said.

"I recognise that for St Anne's Cathedral community, and for the Catholic community of Belfast, that this is a significant step, perhaps even historic, but more so, I recognise the generosity of the Dean and Chapter in inviting me, as a representative of the Roman Catholic Church, to be an Ecumenical Canon.

“I look forward very much to working with them and making a contribution to the Christian life of our City. Our common faith in Jesus Christ commits us to strive for reconciliation and unity – that unity, wonderfully described by the great Lutheran theologian, Oscar Cullmann, as ‘unity in reconciled diversity.’”

Dean Mann said: “I am delighted that Father Eddie O’Donnell has accepted nomination as an Ecumenical Canon of the Cathedral. He is a priest for whom I have great admiration and his presence in St Anne’s will be source of strengthening the already important ecumenical bonds that we have. Our unity in Christ is important to us both.”

Fr O’Donnell is a native of Magherafelt. He studied in St Malachy’s College, Belfast, and St Kieran’s College, Kilkenny. In June 1976 he was ordained priest for the Diocese of Down and Connor, and

recently celebrated his 40th anniversary as a priest.

After ordination he was appointed Chaplain to Belfast City Hospital, then, while curate in the Parish of Drumbo, he was the first Catholic chaplain in Hydebank Young Offender's Centre. In 1982 he was appointed Bishop's Secretary by Bishop Cahal Daly, a post he held for eight years.

After a short curacy in Antrim town, Fr O'Donnell was appointed Parish Priest of Newtownards and Comber and in 2002 he was transferred to be Parish Priest in St. Anne's, Finaghy.

In 2010 Bishop Noel Treanor appointed him as Parish Priest of St Brigid's, Belfast, an appointment he continues to hold. He serves on a number of Diocesan Committees and is a member of the Board of Directors of Restoration Ministries.

Fr O'Donnell will be installed as an Ecumenical Canon of St Anne's Cathedral on Sunday September 25 at 3.30 pm.

+++ Dean's Vicar at Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin - The Revd Abigail Sines has been appointed. Abigail is currently Curate of the Christ Church Cathedral Group of Parishes. She takes up her new post on August 1 and will be installed on Sunday September 11 during Evensong in the cathedral. She succeeds the Revd Garth Bunting who was appointed Rector of Drumcondra and North Strand earlier in the summer.

Abigail was ordained a Deacon in 2014 and priested the following year for curacy in the Christ Church Cathedral Group. She hails from Hampton, Virginia, in the United States. In university she studied international relations and Chinese, with hopes of a career as a diplomat in the US Foreign Service. After graduation she spent a year in China teaching English before undertaking postgraduate studies at the University of Hawai'i, continuing her academic interest in China and eventually taking up a position at the East-West Centre, the Honolulu-

based organisation that had sponsored her studies.

While there she launched a leadership development programme for young women professionals from around the region and assisted in programmes bringing together mid-career journalists from the region to talk about issues of the day.

After six years Abigail felt the call to study theology and in 2008 began studies at Belfast Bible College and completed an MTh there in 2010. She then began her studies at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute in 2012. Following her ordination to the diaconate, she served as Intern Deacon at St Paul's, Glenageary.

+++ Songs of Praise at Clonmacnoise. -

Sunday 31st of July. at 4.pm. A lead role will be taken in this annual service by the Meath and Kildare Youth Group, The Conmacnoise Warriors. Bring your hymn books please.

+++ RSCM Come and Sing on Saturday

September 17 in Cork- Peter Stobart will lead a service of Choral Evensong (at 5pm) in St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork. It is a great opportunity,

for choirs and individuals singers alike, to join together in this act of worship. RSCM says - We would love to see many of the choirs from the surrounding areas and the event is open to all parish musicians, choral societies and individual singers alike. Come along and enjoy a great afternoon of singing. The rehearsal starts at 2pm and music will be provided. There is no need to prepare anything in advance. Tea and coffee will be provided! Please contact secretary@rscmireland.com to confirm your attendance.

News briefs

+++ Rector appointed to St Paul's Parish, Lisburn - The Rev Arthur Young, rector of Kill o' the Grange Parish, Diocese of Dublin, has been appointed incumbent of St Paul's Parish, Lisburn. Arthur, 51, was born in Bangor, Co Down. After leaving school he was an apprentice cabinet maker for three years before working in management in the DIY trade. He studied at Belfast Bible College, completing a Degree through Liverpool University, and later moved to England where he was a youth worker with churches in both Leeds and London.

In 1999 he began studying for ordination at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute and was ordained in 2001. He was curate assistant in Donaghadee for three years, before being appointed rector of All Saints', Tullylish, Diocese of Down and Dromore, where he remained for nine years until his appointment to Kill o' the Grange in 2013.

“God has opened the door to me to move back north and I feel that the time is right,” Arthur said. “Kill o' the Grange is a vibrant parish and a lot has happened in the last couple of years. God has really blessed me in my ministry here. My heart is for the people and for sharing the good news of Jesus with them, and for pastoring and caring. That is what I am doing here and what I will continue to do when I move to St Paul's.”

No date has yet been set for the institution.

+++ Translator of the first modern Irish

Catholic Bible - The funeral has taken place of the renowned academic, author, poet and publisher, Mgr Pádraig Ó Fiannachta, who passed away after a short illness. A native Ballymore in Co Kerry, Mgr Ó Fiannachta, who was in his late 80s, had been a Professor of Irish in NUI Maynooth and was a famed linguist. He

was also the founder of the third level institute in Dingle, An Díseart. A past pupil of St Finian's NS in Baile an Ghoilín, west of Dingle, Mgr Ó Fiannachta went on study theology and Celtic Studies in Maynooth. Ordained in 1953, he served in Wrexham Parish in Wales before his appointment of Professor of Old Irish and Welsh at Maynooth. He translated and edited the first modern Irish Catholic Bible – a year before the English version was completed in the early 1970s.

+++ Holiday Bible club in Ahoghill - St Colmanell's, Ahoghill, ran a very successful Holiday Bible Club on the theme 'Finding Jesus' – based on the movie 'Finding Dory.' A great week of Bible teaching, stories, games, crafts, singing and encouragement was led by a group of 20 plus parishioners from Ahoghill and Portglenone.

+++ Clogher Thanksgiving Service and Dedication - of the new roof in Drummully Church at 7.00pm Sunday 31st July – . Preacher: Bishop John McDowell.

+++ Ordinations to the priesthood - Three men were ordained to the priesthood in Ireland this weekend, two for the diocesan priesthood and one for the Pallottine order. In St Macartan's Cathedral in Monaghan, Bishop Liam Mac Daid ordained Fr Kevin Malcolmson and Fr Stephen Duffy for ministry in Clogher diocese. Separately, Bishop Brendan Kelly of Achonry ordained Fr Brendan McCarrick SAC at the new priest's home parish of Mullinabreena. Fr Brendan's first assignment will be in Detroit, Michigan, in the US. In his homily, Bishop Kelly told Fr Brendan and the assembled congregation of family and friends that we are living in a world that doesn't always understand the value of obedience. "We follow Jesus, whose path was one of 'humbling himself and becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross'."

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

Guard

Report on the Truth Project of the Goddard Inquiry into child sexual abuse which will give survivors a chance to share their testimony.

Article notes that so far more than 2,000 people

have contacted the inquiry to say they have suffered abuse, and 600 have consented to take part. The inquiry is also due to hold preliminary hearings this week in seven of the 13 investigations that are being carried out including into the Anglican Church in England and Wales. <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2016/jul/25/goddard-inquiry-truth-project-to-hear-first-testimony-on-child-sexual-abuse>

BBC/Newcastle Even Chronicle/Northern Echo Reports that retired CofE priest Granville Gibson has gone on trial accused of the sex abuse of two men and a boy in the late 70s and early 80s. He has pleaded not guilty to eight counts of indecent assault and one of serious sexual assault. Durham Crown Court was told the alleged offences were carried out while he was the vicar of St Clare's church in Newton Aycliffe, County Durham. The 80-year-old, from Darlington, later went on to become Archdeacon of Auckland in Durham diocese. Articles focus on critical comments made in court on the handling of case at the time by the Church. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-36886055>
<http://www.chroniclelive.co.uk/news/north-east-news/former-county-durham-archdeacon-stand-11659330>

BBC/Christian Today

Reports that Robert Springett, the Archdeacon of Cheltenham has been appointed as the Bishop of Tewkesbury (see above). He said he was "deeply honoured" and will be ordained and consecrated as a bishop by the Archbishop of Canterbury on 30 November. Robert succeeds Martyn Snow who became the Bishop of Leicester earlier this year.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-gloucestershire-36883789>

Exp

Further report that incidents of abuse in UK churches, mosques, and Sikh temples rose by 20 per cent in the past year. A Freedom of Information Request revealed that 725 crimes were reported in the past year with 368 of them relating to children. Justin Humphreys, Head of Safeguarding at the Churches Child Protection Advisory Service is quoted.

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/692881/Five-sex-offences-reported-weekly-mosques-temple-churches>

BBC

Reports that a 300,000 brick Lego model of Durham Cathedral has been completed, three

years after work on it began. The creation stands 5ft 6in (1.7m) high, is 12ft 6in (3.84m) long and 5ft (1.53m) wide. It was built following donations by visitors, who paid £1 for each brick. The model raised funds for a new £10.9m permanent exhibition of cathedral artefacts called *Open Treasure*, which is expected to attract 120,000 people a year.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-tyne-36868397>

Comment

Times

Do a privileged few get away with it? Comment on the Financial Services Authority led by Sir Hector Sants, described as an adviser to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/do-a-privileged-few-get-away-with-it-klx9c2fql>

Obituary

Telegraph: Thomas Sutherland, Scottish academic and Dean of Agriculture at the American University of Beirut, held captive for six years in Lebanon with other Western hostages, the journalist Terry Anderson, the BBC reporter

John McCarthy and the Archbishop of
Canterbury's peace envoy Terry Waite.
[http://www.telegraph.co.uk/obituaries/
2016/07/25/thomas-sutherland-beirut-hostage--
obituary/](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/obituaries/2016/07/25/thomas-sutherland-beirut-hostage--obituary/)

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