



A group of folk dancers awaits the Pope's arrival at the military airport in Kraków

Pope Francis: 'The world is at war, but it is not a war of religions'

The world is at war, but it is not a war of religions, Pope Francis has said as he traveled to Poland on his first visit to Central and Eastern Europe in the shadow of the slaying of a priest in France.

The killing of an 85-year-old priest in a Normandy church on Tuesday added to security fears surrounding Francis's five-day visit for the World Youth Day celebrations, which were already high due to a string of violent attacks in France and Germany. Polish officials say they have deployed tens of thousands of security officials to cover the event.

Francis spoke to reporters on the papal plane en route from Rome to Poland. Asked about the slaying of the priest, Francis replied: "It's war, we don't have to be afraid to say this."

After greeting reporters on his papal plane he returned to the topic to clarify that when he speaks of war, he is speaking of "a war of interests, for money, resources. ... I am not speaking of a war of religions. Religions don't want war. The others want war."

Upon arrival at Kraków airport a pensive Francis was greeted by Poland's President Andrzej Duda, First Lady Agata Kornhauser-Duda and other state officials, and hundreds of faithful who had waited for hours to see him.

The Polish army band played the anthems of the Vatican and of Poland.

“Let’s live WYD in Kraków together!” the Pontiff tweeted before departing from Rome for Krakow, southern Poland, on Wednesday afternoon.

Just hours before Francis’s arrival, groups of cheerful young pilgrims were seen in the streets of Kraków.

Relics of St Mary Magdalene came to the church from France, for the duration of World Youth Day, and were displayed in a case by the altar.

“Their presence helps us concentrate on our prayers and brings us closer to God,” said Nounella Blanchement, 22, from the French Caribbean island of Guadeloupe.

She was one of the volunteers helping with security and logistics at the packed St Casimir Church, where a Mass was being celebrated in French for pilgrims from France, Belgium and other countries.

The sense of expectation was apparent in sunny Kraków on Wednesday with papal white-and-

yellow flags and images of Francis and John Paul II decorating the streets. Stages were put up at many locations for concerts and other activities that are being held by and for the pilgrims in Krakow.

There was a heavy presence of police and other security forces across the city, as crowds were increasing everywhere.

“I have never seen so many people in Krakow, it’s difficult to move around even though offices have closed [for the event] and many people have left the city,” said Anna Gazda, 43, owner of a souvenir shop. Meanwhile, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, sent a message of condolence to Archbishop Dominique Lebrun of Rouen, Catholic News Service reports. The cardinal said Pope Francis was “particularly upset that this act of violence took place in a church during Mass, the liturgical act that implores God’s peace for the world.”

Archbishop of Canterbury’s new advisor for reconciliation

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has announced the appointment of Sarah Snyder as churchnewsireland@gmail.com



Sarah Snyder is the Archbishop of Canterbury's new advisor for reconciliation.

his new advisor for reconciliation. She takes over from Canon David Porter who moved into his new role as chief of staff and strategy to the Archbishop at the beginning of May.

Sarah will take up the role in September. She will be part of the senior team at Lambeth Palace while also being based at Coventry Cathedral, where Archbishop Justin's reconciliation ministry has been established since its inception. Her role will have a particular emphasis on supporting the Church in contexts of violent conflict or post-

conflict and helping the Church to be an agent of reconciliation and conflict-transformation.

A theologian who specialises in Jewish-Christian-Muslim relations, Sarah brings wide-ranging international experience of peace-building and dialogue. She has worked for many years to promote faith-based reconciliation, most recently as director of partnerships with Religions for Peace International, an organisation affiliated to the United Nations. Sarah has also directed the Cambridge International Summer Schools for faith leaders from conflict zones. A trained mediator, she has experience both of working with communities and with senior religious leaders.

Archbishop Eamon Martin's message of solidarity to French church

Archbishop Eamon Martin has written to Archbishop Dominique Lebrun, the Archbishop of Rouen, France, to express his shock, to offer condolences and to express the prayerful solidarity of the Church in Ireland following the horrific incident in the church of Saint-Etienne-du-

Rouvray and the violent death of Father Jacques Hamel earlier today.

Archbishop Eamon expressed his closeness in prayer to all those affected by today's incident adding that it is profoundly disturbing that people gathered in a church for worship and prayer should be targeted in this way.

Archbishop Eamon said he was deeply moved by Archbishop Lebrun's own words earlier today when he said that the "only weapons that we can take up" as Catholics "are prayer and fraternity among peoples" and his call for people "not to give up in the face of violence but to become apostles of the civilisation of love". Archbishop Eamon has assured Archbishop Lebrun of his prayers for the repose of the soul of Father Jacques, for those injured in the attack, and for the community of Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray.

Archbishop Neary to lead the 2016 Reek Sunday national pilgrimage

This Sunday, 31 July, Archbishop Michael Neary, Archbishop of Tuam, will lead the 2016 national Reek Sunday pilgrimage on Ireland's holy mountain Croagh Patrick in Co Mayo. He

will be joined this year by Archbishop Charles J Brown, Apostolic Nuncio to Ireland, who will preach this year's Croagh Patrick homily. This year's Reek Sunday pilgrimage takes place in the context of the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

The annual Croagh Patrick pilgrimage has been carried out uninterrupted for over 1,500 years. Croagh Patrick has over 100,000 visitors annually, with up to 20,000 making the pilgrimage each Reek Sunday in July. Everyone is welcome.

On Sunday, on the summit, the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) will be available from 7.30am until 2.00pm. The first Mass will be celebrated at 8.00am and every half hour thereafter until the final Mass at 2.00pm.

Saturday 30 July

6.30pm: Archbishop Michael Neary will celebrate the Vigil Mass in Saint Mary's Church, Westport, Co Mayo. Archbishop Charles J Brown will concelebrate and preach the homily.

Reek Sunday 31 July

7.00am: Archbishop Neary and Archbishop Brown will begin the pilgrimage ascent from the car park at the mountain base in Murrisk.

9.30am: Archbishop Brown will celebrate Mass on the Summit

10.00am: Father Fintan Monahan will celebrate Mass in the Irish language on the summit

10.30am: Archbishop Michael Neary will celebrate Mass on the summit.

UK government funds security at places of worship

The U.K. government have announced a £2.4 million (\$3.1 million) fund to help secure places of worship in England and Wales.

Churches, mosques and temples have been invited to bid for grants if they can show that they are at risk of attack from religious hate crimes. Synagogues are excluded from the program because the government has provided a separate grant to the Community Security Trust, a charity that provides protection services to Britain's Jewish communities.

The scheme was launched June 26 by Britain's senior home affairs minister, Amber Rudd, as she outlined a Hate Crime Action Plan. This will include a study into how the different police

forces in the country understand and respond to hate crimes; and a commitment from the government to “give young people and teachers the tools they need to tackle hatred and prejudice, including through a new program to equip teachers to facilitate conversations around international events and the impact they have on communities here in the UK.”

The action plan was launched following a rise in racist incidents since the UK voted to withdraw from the European Union. This has led in particular to an increase in anti-Muslim and anti-Semitic incidents.

Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby has frequently spoken out against the rise in racist incidents since the EU referendum. Earlier this month, at the Church of England’s General Synod in York, he said: “It is perfectly clear that the result and the referendum campaign had “exposed deep divisions in our society, of which we were aware already” and he called on the Church to “respond with a fresh effort in integration.”

“The result [of the referendum] has released a latent racism and xenophobia in all sectors, and challenges the prevailing consensus of tolerance

and acceptance, thus threatening other areas of welcome liberalization,” he said.

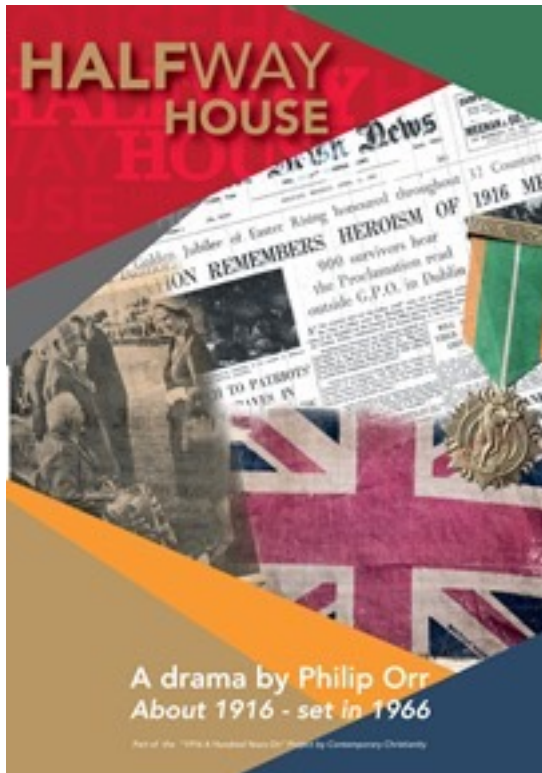
Speaking at the launch of the Hate Crime Action Plan, Rudd said that “Those who practice hatred send out a message that it’s okay to abuse and attack others because of their nationality, ethnicity or religious background; that it’s okay to disregard our shared values and promote the intolerance that causes enormous harm to communities and individuals.

“Well, I have a very clear message for them. We will not stand for it. Hatred has no place whatsoever in a 21st century Great Britain that works for everyone.

“We are Great Britain because we are united by values such as democracy, free speech, mutual respect and opportunity for all. We are the sum of all our parts – a proud, diverse society. Hatred does not get a seat at the table, and we will do everything we can to stamp it out.”

News briefs

+++ A drama about 1916 set in 1966 - *Halfway House* is a drama by Philip Orr about 1916, set in 1966 which looks back carefully into our shared



yet divided past. Performed by Antoinette Morelli as Valerie and Louise Parker as Bronagh. On Friday 12 August at 7.30 pm at Willowfield Parish Church, Belfast. It's early in the year 1966 and two women meet by chance in a snow-bound pub in the Sperrin Mountains. They discover that each has a personal connection to the wartime events of fifty years ago in Ireland and abroad. But what is that connection? Admission -£5 on the door or in advance from

www.contemporarychristianity.net Produced by
churchnewsireland@gmail.com

Contemporary Christianity as part of their “1916 A Hundred Years On” Project.

+++ Eco Congregation Ireland’s July 2016

newsletter - features several initiatives by Church of Ireland parishes seeking to celebrate the gift of God’s creation, recognise the interdependence of all creation, and care for it in their life and mission and through members’ personal lifestyles. As part of the *Shine a Light on Climate Justice* initiative, a specially commissioned climate justice candle is visiting parishes and congregations around Ireland to help them incorporate this theme into their services and activities. It has recently visited Church of Ireland parish churches in Rathmichael, Kilternan, Delgany, Greystones and Bray (Christ Church). Westport Eco Congregation, an ecumenical group including Holy Trinity parish church, organised a tree walk in June. The newsletter also highlights tips for saving energy in church buildings and at home, a Green Christian prayer guide, and Creation Time resources which take the theme of ‘Followers of Jesus, Caring for Creation’. Creation Time is an annual opportunity for churches to focus on the environment and this year takes place between 1st September and 4th October.

+++ Clergy couple in Care for the Family's podcast

The Rev Jonny Campbell-Smyth, curate at St Patrick's, Jordanstown, and his wife Alison talk about the challenges working away from home poses for couples in a podcast produced by Care for the Family. Care for the Family's *Marriage Challenge* is a fun and informative monthly podcast designed to help any couple strengthen their relationship. Each month it features a guest couple tackling a different topic, sharing when and how they got it wrong and what has helped them to change. The introduction to the podcast featuring Jonny and Alison stated: "For many couples working away from home is part of the normal routine. Our guests, Jonny and Alison, reflect with honesty on how spending so much time apart impacted their marriage. They offer insight into their experience and share the practical steps they took to help them stay emotionally strong, and make the most of the time they got to spend together." You can listen to the podcast on either of the following links.

<https://www.facebook.com/careforthefamily/videos/1168330823219239/>

<http://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/family-life/marriage-support/the-marriage-challenge>

+++ Cork Holiday Club - Carrigaline Union and Templebreedy Group of Parishes in the Diocese of Cork, held a joint Holiday Club for the fifth successive year last week in St Mary's National School Carrigaline. Forty children and 20 teen helpers (plus 'Adult' leaders!) exhausted themselves learning all about the story of Joseph, his many coloured coat, his many brothers and his many adventures - all presented within a 'Cops & Robbers' theme!

+++ Bishop of Sodor and Man - Robert Paterson, the Bishop of Sodor and Man, has announced that he will retire on 11 November 2016.

+++ Rabbi in residence - The Bishop of Western Massachusetts in the US-based Episcopal Church has appointed a Rabbi in Residence for the diocese's Christ Church Cathedral. From 1 September, Rabbi Mark Dov Shapiro will take adult education classes and will also "preach periodically in the Sunday liturgy."

**News links to reports
on faith,
politics and education**

Mixed response to proposals to reduce religion teaching hours

Irish Times

Catholic primary schools in Northern **Ireland** also allocate around 2½ hours per week to **religious** education and those schools regularly outperform ...

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/education/mixed-response-to-proposals-to-reduce-religion-teaching-hours-1.2735198>

Why is there no intellectual tradition in Irish Christianity?

Irish Times

Church of Ireland Bishop of Cloyne from 1734 to 1767 Berkeley, while mainly remembered as a philosopher, had also a keen interest in religion

<http://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/why-is-there-no-intellectual-tradition-in-irish-christianity-1.2734047>

Tel/Star/Exp/Mail/Mirror/ITV

Reports that in the wake of Tuesday's murder of an 85 year old priest in Normandy, the Archbishop of Canterbury tweeted, "Evil attacks the weakest, denies truth and love, is defeated through Jesus Christ. Pray for France, for victims, for their communities." Articles also note that UK churches have been urged to tighten security. Despite there being no specific intelligence relating to attacks against the Christian community in the UK, the National Police Chiefs' Council is urging Christian places of worship to be alert but not alarmed.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/07/27/british-churches-on-terror-alert-after-isil-murder-of-priest-in/>

<http://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/latest-news/533120/British-churches-terror-alert-Islamic-State-jihadis-murder-priest-Normandy-ISIS>
<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/693660/British-churches-terror-alert-priest-murder-Islamic-State-jihadis-Normandy-ISIS>
http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3709718/British-churches-terror-alert-UK-police-issue-dramatic-warning-Christian-places-worship-following-ISIS-murder-elderly-priest-France-morning-mass.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490
<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/isis-warn-london-next-attacked-8500399#ICID=nsm>
<http://www.itv.com/news/update/2016-07-26/archbishop-of-canterbury-tweets-pray-for-france/>

Guard

Interview with a CofE priest who has filed a complaint under the Clergy Discipline Measure that senior church leaders failed to act on disclosures about his alleged abuse. Article notes the priest has also taken out a further complaint against a retired bishop for failing to take action at the time of the abuse in the 1980s.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jul/26/senior-anglican-clergy-accused-of-failing-to-act-on-allegations>

Mail

Further coverage of the Goddard Inquiry into institutional child abuse noting that first year costs are approaching £18m and that it is receiving '80 to 100 new allegations a week' and that '20 to 25' of these were being referred to the police. At yesterday's preliminary hearing Justice Goddard announced that the Inquiry's investigation into claims of abuse by the Labour peer Lord Janner would be

postponed by at least six months. It is one of 13 cases being looked at; the Anglican Church in England and Wales has a preliminary hearing today.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3709822/Child-sex-abuse-inquiry-DECADE-s-racked-costs-18m-s-feared-probe-Chilcot.html>

Northern Echo

Ongoing coverage of the trial at Durham Crown Court of retired CofE priest Granville Gibson 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. The 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.

Even Stand

Reports that American artist Bill Viola has completed the second of two major works for St Paul's Cathedral, London - a large-scale video installation showing Jesus in the arms of the Virgin Mary. The film, *Mary*, will be installed in the cathedral's North Quire aisle on September 8 to coincide with the Feast of Mary. They are the first moving-image artworks to ever be placed in a British cathedral on a long-term basis.

<http://www.standard.co.uk/goingout/arts/mary-carries-the-body-of-jesus-in-new-st-pauls-video-installation-by-bill-viola-a3304901.html>

Comment

Spectator: Being a priest is a dangerous job, writes Ed West.

<http://blogs.spectator.co.uk/2016/07/priest-become-dangerous-job/>

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