



Minister for Agriculture, Simon Coveney, with Munster rugby star and farmer, John Hayes, at the Embrace FARM ecumenical service at Abbeyleix Co Laois.

Service recalls those killed in farm accidents

Families of those who died in farm accidents in Ireland gathered for a special ecumenical remembrance service at the Most Holy Rosary Church in Abbeyleix, Co Laois on Sunday.

Over 700 people, including rugby stars Sean O'Brien and John Hayes, attended the service, which was led by Bishop Denis Nulty of Kildare & Leighlin and Archdeacon Wayne Carney.

It was organised by Embrace FARM, which was founded by Co Laois farmer Brian Rohan, whose father Liam died in an accident on the family farm in 2012. The group acts as a support network for families affected by farm deaths.

The Minister for Agriculture Simon Coveney and his counterpart from the Northern Assembly Michelle O'Neill were among those who attended Sunday's service.

They jointly presented a wreath as a mark of respect to the 30 people who died last year in farming accidents, an 87% increase on 2013. So far this year, seven people have died in farm accidents.

Brigidine Sister Eileen Deegan gave a talk, as she wove from scratch a St Brigid's Cross, on the sense of devastation, loss but also support for those affected by farm accidents.

Over 100 names submitted by those bereaved by farming accidents over the years were read out.

Diane Banville, a mother of two from Co Wexford whose husband Kevin Banville died in an accident on St Patrick's Day last year, read a heart rending reflection on the irreplaceable loss of loved ones.

Candles representing each of the four provinces were presented by Barclay Bell, Vice President of the Ulster Farmers' Union; rugby legend and farmer John Hayes; farm accident survivor Peter Gohery and Nicky Brennan, former GAA President.

Among the large congregation was the Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade Charles Flanagan, the Taoiseach's Aide de Camp Comdt Ciaran Carey and MEP Mairead McGuinness.

Speaking after the service, Brian Rohan of Embrace FARM said, "Today was an opportunity for people who have suffered terribly as a result of farm accidents to come together in solidarity and support."

"There was an awful lot of collective pain in the Church but in coming together like this we just

hope that it can help with the healing process, which is an ongoing one.”

Limavady's singing priests

When Rev. Jason Kernohan moved to Limavady five years ago as Curate Assistant in the Parish of Drumachose, he never thought he'd grow so fond of the Roe Valley town.

Derry Journal - The music-loving Church of Ireland minister, who once fronted his own band, has been appointed rector of Eglantine Parish, near Lisburn. He is looking forward to the move, but said he is just as sad to be leaving Limavady.

“I had never been in Limavady before, and I really didn't know too much about Limavady,” says Rev. Jason. “Canon Sam McVeigh appointed me as Curate and it has been a wonderful five years. I suppose people have this idea of Limavady as a small, quiet country town but, behind the scenes, there is a lot happening. The five years have been very happy years, but there have also been difficult times, a lot of tragedy in the town. There has also been a lot of happy times, and very many joyous occasions.”

One of the first people Rev. Jason was introduced to was Fr. Eddie Gallagher at Christ



Rev. Jason Kernohan

The King. The pair struck a friendship through their love of music.

“Fr Eddie was one of the first clergy I met. He loves music and singing at mass, or indeed at any available opportunity really, so on Christmas Eve 2010 I was invited over to sing at Christmas Eve mass at Christ The King. Fr Eddie and I sang a duet. I couldn’t believe the reception we both received and, so, every year I’ve been invited back to Christ the King to sing,” said Rev. Jason.

“Eddie and I did concerts at Christ Church and guest teas, and we always thought we would

love to record a CD, but of course it was a matter of finances. We got a grant through PEACE 111, and we recorded the CD and raised £10,000 for both parishes.

“It brought people together, and everyone really enjoyed it, and, of course, Eddie always wanted to sing in his home city so he got the chance to sing in the Millennium Forum. He’s a real Derry man and he very much enjoyed that, and we still keep in contact.”

Rev. Jason said the Churches’ Forum in Limavady was really important to him.

“The first major event we had, and it hadn’t been done before, was the very public event; the Good Friday event. People had said to me, ‘are you sure you want to do this?’, and I said ‘yes’, and we did it and it was amazing,” said Rev. Jason. “Working with other churches and the Churches’ Forum has been very important to me. Limavady has had a difficult past, but I know when I came here I wasn’t afraid of letting people know that I felt it was important to work together, and I think we did that successfully. I think people’s mindsets have changed and I was very fortunate to have Fr. Eddie Gallagher as a wonderful friend.”

Rev. Jason jokes when he arrived in Limavady his belongings fitted into a transit van, but moving to his new parish will require a 40-foot lorry for his belongings, reflective of just how at home he was in Limavady.

“I’ll really miss the people of Limavady. It’s such a sociable parish and people are so friendly and they’ll always be in my thoughts and prayers. I’ve made so many good friends I have to come back to visit, and I hope they will come and visit me,” said Rev. Jason, adding: “Canon Sam McVeigh and his wife Joan have been wonderful, absolutely fantastic. They are two people I will really miss. I am an only child, and I’m not married, and they became like a second set of parents to me and I will really miss them both.”

American Themed Organ Recital for Independence Day

St Patrick’s Cathedral, Dublin, is having an American themed organ recital on the 4th of July. Music will include; The Simpsons, Star Wars, Raiders of the Lost Ark and Stars & Stripes forever. The recital starts at 6.15 pm. Admission free and all are welcome.

“Bring one person to faith this year,” Methodist President urges

The newly elected President of the Methodist Conference for England and Wales has urged the Church to 'take God seriously' and put evangelism back on the agenda.

In his inaugural address at the Conference in Southport, the Revd Steve Wild challenged each Methodist church in Britain to aim to bring just one person to faith in the coming year, saying: "Let's take God seriously. I want to help us in the task of evangelism, to put mission on the agenda and give our churches an aim to win a person for Christ."

"We cannot sit back in complacency," he added. "We have a massive Kingdom of God task. I'm wanting this year to challenge each church to bring one person to faith - to make one new member this next year, let's make bringing people to faith the main point, we don't do it alone. The unconditional love of Jesus is our motivation."

He told those gathered at the Conference that John Wesley only had ten guineas to his name when he died. Wesley's will directed that four of these guineas should pay four unemployed men to carry his coffin and the remainder be distributed among his poorest preachers.

"What else did he leave behind?" Steve asked. "Changed lives hundreds of them, Christian communities dotted all over this country and in other parts of the world, fellowships seeking to take God seriously. Oh that we may all draw to the foot of the cross and experience this powerful love and make this our legacy one of transformed lives and communities!"

Indian missionary priests sent to rejuvenate 'tired' faith in Scotland

Three missionary priests from India are being sent to Scotland to evangelise what they see as "mission territory", according to the Bishop of Galloway.

Bishop William Nolan told faithful in a letter last week that the priests were not coming to "plug gaps or to maintain the current system", for

instance, by increasing the “variety of Mass times or to help us avoid travelling a few miles further in order to attend Mass”.

The bishop said: “They are a missionary order and they are coming because they see Scotland as mission territory. They see a country where the faith is tired and the Faithful lack the enthusiastic joy of the first Christians – an enthusiasm and joy that we see in the Church in many Third World countries, where the faith is young and alive.

“They come because they want to bring God to a country where so many live without God and not know him.”

He added: “There is no doubt that for Catholics in Galloway diocese and throughout Scotland our enthusiasm for passing on the faith, particularly to those outside the Church, has been dented, because we have been disheartened by the scandals and criticism and negativity of recent years.”

Meanwhile, the Bishop of Dunkeld told the [Scottish Catholic Observer](#) this week that Sisters

from Kerala, India, had been invited to run a care home in Dundee.

Bishop Stephen Robson said a home run by the Little Sisters of the Poor but had been on the brink of closure due to a “shortage of vocations” to their order. He added: “we’ve also got sisters from Nigeria running the pastoral centre.”

He said he expected more of this type of arrangement in the future. “There needs to be the realisation, with humility, that Scotland is now a mission country,” he said.

In prison, on the rails, fighting fit...CofE celebrates #newrevs

Around 1000 men and women - #newrevs - will be ordained into the Church of England this summer to minister in communities across the country and to mark the occasion the CofE has published new video and audio faith stories.

The #newrevs come from a wide range of backgrounds and include a former professional wrestler and a steam engine driver. One prison chaplain in Southwark will be ordained in prison,

in what's believed to be the first service of its kind.

Craig Henderson will be ordained a deacon in the Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales and will be working in Barnsley. He was in the army for six years and then trained as a professional wrestler. He talks about his time at a vocations day for people exploring ordination: "I thought 'why would God call me?' then there was a video explaining that Jesus calls people who are flawed, he doesn't call the perfect. I went away from the day thinking I need to have a bit more faith in myself and in what God's calling me to do. The moment when it all happened was like a light bulb going on. I'd had these feelings for a while and not really known what to do with them and suddenly everything starts to slot into place like a jigsaw."

Watch an interview with Craig:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ILBamilyGfg>

Dianne Gamble from York worked at the National Railway Museum for 18 years and qualified 18 months ago as an engine driver. She says: "I've always been able to see the links between steam locomotives and the spirituality of God. You see

power that can move something big and that mystery of God that is with us all the time and the capacity of God to move us in life and make a difference."

Watch an interview with Dianne:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=54a2daHYE10>

Denis Hartley will be ordained a priest in HMP Thameside where he works. He says it was the obvious choice to have the service there: "I don't think it would have happened without the input of the prisoners. They are a great bunch to be with. They can be very challenging, but it's very rewarding. I think there's that element of being where God wants you to be and doing what God wants you to do and I don't think that would have happened outside."

Listen to an interview with Denis here:

<https://soundcloud.com/the-church-of-england/denislangeditmp3>

Following the success of last year's #newrevs hashtag those being ordained (ordinands) their friends, family, congregations and clergy are being encouraged to take to twitter again to celebrate the ordinations.

As part of the ordination service, the new priests and deacons are addressed by a Bishop of the diocese in which they will serve who will say: "They are to proclaim the gospel in word and deed, as agents of God's purposes of love. They are to serve the community in which they are set, bringing to the Church the needs and hopes of all the people. They are to work with their fellow members in searching out the poor and weak, the sick and lonely and those who are oppressed and powerless, reaching into the forgotten corners of the world, that the love of God may be made visible."

GAFCON criticism of Scotland, USA, and England

A news report of the recent meeting in Northern Ireland: [GAFCON: A moment and a movement](#) says that former Sydney archbishop Peter Jensen, GAFCON general secretary, spoke about recent developments in Scotland and the USA:

...“In the last few days, two Anglican Provinces have spoken words of choice. In Scotland, the General Synod of the Episcopal Church has

chosen to omit the definition of marriage as between a man and a woman from its canons, thus signalling an acceptance of so-called gay marriage. It is a choice to rewrite the Bible and so the Christian faith. In Ireland, the House of Bishops, following the referendum, has endorsed once more the teaching of the Bible that marriage is between a man and a woman for life. The contrast is stark.” he said.

“Of course there are those who argue that the two positions can be held in tension in a denomination with mutual respect, recognising that sincere people will differ over the interpretation of the Bible. But let me offer a very serious warning: the cost of taking such a position is unacceptably high. It is to say that the Biblical testimony is so unclear that it can be read in several ways, whereas in fact the Biblical position is crystal clear. When the testimony of the bible is rendered so murky, the authority of the Bible is fatally compromised.

The middle position is a vote for an unacceptable compromise...”

The [June Pastoral Letter](#) from the GAFCON Chairman, Archbishop Eliud Wabukala, Primate

of Kenya, includes comment on an event in the Church of England:

In contrast, there are too many examples in the Church of weakness in the face of the subtle challenges of cultural and financial pressure. In Africa we are still too dependent in our thinking on outside agencies. This makes us vulnerable to relationships designed to buy influence and damages the integrity of our witness, while in the more economically developed world there is too often a fear of being out of step with secular culture. In this context I cannot avoid mentioning a very disturbing event in England. On Saturday 20th June, a Canon of York Minster blessed a 'Gay Pride' march of homosexual activists from the Minster steps, causing a senior clergyman in the Diocese of York to say "York Minster's leading the way in the Gay Pride march is symbolic of what the Church of England's leadership is doing generally on this issue – leading people away from the clear teaching of the Bible and the Gospel."

Episcopalians Against Gun Violence march in Salt Lake City

In Salt Lake City [Episcopalians Against Gun Violence](#) gathered before Sunday Eucharist at General Convention to witness against the culture of violence in the United States. Led by [Bishops Against Gun Violence](#), 60 bishops and many others attending #GC78 marched through the streets of the city. Most Rev David Chillingworth of the Scottish Episcopal Church took part.

[The Living Church](#) has the story
About 1,500 people lined up behind 79 bishops for an early Sunday-morning march along the streets of Salt Lake City in a rally against gun violence in the streets of Salt Lake City.

In speeches, prayers, and hymns, the [Claiming Common Ground Against Gun Violence](#) rally denounced a rash of gunshot deaths in the United States. Gunshot survivors, including Utah Bishop Scott Hayashi and mall-shooting victim Carolyn Tuft, shared their stories.

“I’m here to protect you from this horrible life,” said Carolyn Tuft, who lost her daughter in the 2007 Trolley Square Mall massacre and nearly died herself. She said pellets lodged in her kidney, spine, lung, and tissues have left her constantly battling lead poisoning, pain, and

nausea. “I’m always hearing people say: ‘If I would have had a gun, I would have stopped him,’” Tuft said. “I’m telling you right now: If I would have been armed with a gun, there’s nothing I could have done to change anything. The outcome would have been exactly the same. There was no time to react.”

From the [Deseret News](#) today:

A prayerful procession led by some 60 Episcopalian bishops traveled through downtown Salt Lake City on Sunday morning calling for an end to the “unholy trinity” of poverty, racism and gun violence.

Hundreds of people, many of them taking part in the [Episcopal Church](#)’s 78th General Convention, walked from the Salt Palace Convention Center to Pioneer Park, joining in song and prayer. Utahns from anti-gun violence groups and civil rights organizations also took part.

“We are here because that unholy trinity threatens the life of us all,” said the Rt. Rev. Michael Curry, presiding bishop-elect of the Episcopal Church. “But we are really here because there is another trinity. There is another trinity that is not an unholy trinity. There is

another trinity that is a holy trinity. It is a life-giving trinity.”

[The Deseret News](#) reported before the event: Bishop Beckwith said Claiming Common Ground is an example of the Episcopal Church’s long-held practice of wading into difficult social issues.

“We’re making a witness and we intend to offer that up in prayer, hope, solidarity and peace,” he said.

The bottom line is gun safety.

“What we’re doing is, we’re raising up an issue a lot of people agree on but are sometimes inhibited to say or to witness to their convictions because a very small minority is vocal in saying ‘Oh, we can’t do this.’ We can do this and we can identify all of these areas where we have common agreement,” Bishop Beckwith said.

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