



Archbishop Diarmuid Martin and Archbishop Michael Jackson during the Mass in St Francis Xavier Church, Dublin

Beatification of John Sullivan highlights need for reconciliation and God's grace in Ireland, C of I archbishop

The Servant of God, John Sullivan SJ, was beatified in Dublin on Saturday morning, at a ceremony in the Jesuit Church in Gardiner's

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Street, where his remains lie. The ceremony was presided over by Cardinal Angelo Amato, Papal Legate and Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

Blessed John was a member of the Church of Ireland for the first half of his life. In a unique gesture, the formal request for beatification, pronounced by Archbishop Diarmuid Martin of Dublin, was made not only on behalf of the (RC) Archdiocese of Dublin, but 'together with our brothers and sisters in the Church of Ireland Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough'.

Archbishop Michael Jackson took part of the ceremony as, in an unprecedented move, the formal request for beatification was made by an Anglican as well a Catholic Archbishop. Archbishop Jackson stood alongside Archbishop Martin as he made the request and was also presented with a copy of the Apostolic Letter of Pope Francis proclaiming Fr John to be Blessed John.

It was also the first beatification to take place in Ireland.

The church was filled for the service and among those in attendance were many from the Church

of Ireland including clergy from Dublin & Glendalough.

Archbishop Jackson gave a brief reflection during the Mass He said, “Today is a day of celebration, of joy and of gladness. We mark with the Jesuit Order in Ireland and worldwide along with the Christian Church everywhere the



Clergy at the Beatification of Fr John Sullivan SJ

beatification in the Roman Catholic tradition of John Sullivan SJ. We do so mindful of the unending need for reconciliation in Ireland and expectant of the abundant grace of God.

“Today is a day of fruitfulness and discernment, the harvest of faith and action, of mercy and justice, of pastoral care and teaching commitment in a human life lived for others in obedience and service of God and neighbour, young and old, rich and poor.

“Today John Sullivan has a special place in the hearts of all of us who are members of the Church of Ireland and of all of us who have an association with Portora Royal School and Clongowes Wood College.”

Press coverage

Irish priest on road to sainthood after Dublin ceremony

[RTE.ie](http://www.rte.ie)

Today's ceremony consisted of a mass during which the formal request for beatification was made together by the **Church** of Ireland and the Catholic ...

<https://www.rte.ie/news/ireland/2017/0513/874841-beatification/>

[Crowds flock for first beatification ceremony on Irish soil](#) - Irish Times

[Fr John Sullivan to be beatified in first ever ceremony to take place in Ireland](#) - Irish Independent

[Fr John Sullivan to be beatified in Dublin ceremony today](#) - Irish Times



Nigerian Archbishop appointed papal nuncio to Ireland

Pope Francis has appointed Archbishop Jude Thaddeus Okolo (60) to the role of apostolic nuncio to Ireland, the first African priest to ever hold the diplomatic role in Ireland.

The news was welcomed by Archbishop of Armagh Eamon Martin, “I warmly welcome the appointment by his Holiness Pope Francis of Archbishop Jude Thaddeus Okolo as Apostolic Nuncio to Ireland, and I wish him many blessings in his new role”.

The position of Apostolic Nuncio is the papacy’s diplomatic representative in Ireland.

“Archbishop Okolo’s rich experience in the diplomatic service of the Holy See means that he brings many gifts to bear on his new mission in Ireland” Archbishop Martin said.

Archbishop Okolo will take up the role during the summer, and replaces the outgoing apostolic nuncio to Ireland Charles Brown, who finished his term in March and will now move to Albania to take up a new diplomatic post.

Jude Thaddeus Okolo is from Kano in Nigeria, where he entered the priesthood in 1983.

Presbyterian presence at Balmoral 2017

For the third year running the Presbyterian Church in Ireland had a presence at this year’s Balmoral Show, which ran from May 10 - May 13

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Dromore Presbytery - one of Church’s 19 local regional bodies, which includes the show grounds – took a stand to demonstrate its support for farming families and those involved in the rural economy.

Visiting the 149th Royal Ulster Agricultural Society’s event to support the initiative,



Presbyterian Moderator Rt. Rev. Dr. Frank Sellar at Balmoral Show

Presbyterian Moderator Rt. Rev. Dr. Frank Sellar, said that he had met many farming and rural families across Ireland during his year in office. He also recalled very fond memories of his grandparents' farm in Rathkenny, County Antrim.

“Among many great memories I have as a child are the days spent on my grandparents' farm, in particular the hay bales and making secret

passages and slithery slides. Then there were the squealing pigs we took to market and occasionally getting a ride on the trailer.

“Jesus often used farming and elements of everyday rural life in His many parables to demonstrate different aspects of God’s Kingdom. In attending this year’s show, Dromore Presbytery has not only shown its support for rural communities, but brought an opportunity to demonstrate God’s love to those who visit the show,” Dr. Sellar said.

Rev. Kenny Hanna of Second Dromara Presbyterian Church, one of the stand’s organisers said, “The Presbytery’s presence at Balmoral demonstrates that the Presbyterian Church in Ireland cares passionately about the life of the local community and wanted to show its support for all farming families and everyone involved in the rural economy. We took a stand again at Northern Ireland’s premier Agri-Food event.

“We have been delighted by the very warm response we have received over the last three years, as we welcomed folk from all arts and parts and backgrounds. The stand was often thronged with people, from babies in push-chairs to pensioners and all ages in between.

The friendly buzz of conversation, a seat to rest weary legs, a refreshing cup of tea, face-painting for the children, all came together in a most enjoyable experience,” he said.

“With the Show taking on an extra day this year, we hoped to continue to be good ambassadors for Jesus, by pointing people to our Saviour, in word and action.”

The local Methodist district also had a stand at the show which was visited by Prince Edward, the Duke of Wessex and Mrs Teresa May, the British Prime Minister.

Archbishop Clarke renewing Far Eastern mission link

This week the Archbishop of Armagh will visit Hong Kong and Macau where he will give preach at All Saints cathedral, give a public lecture at Ming Hua Theological College and address the diocesan clergy at St John’s cathedral.

Dublin University Far Eastern Mission is continuing to develop links with the

Anglican Province of Hong Kong and with Ming Hua Theological College.

Church of Ireland Theological Institute student Emma Carson has spent three weeks in Hong Kong studying at Ming Hua and taking placements in St John's cathedral and at St Philip's parish. Walter Lau from Ming Hua has been in Dublin since January studying at CITI and will take placements in Christ Church and St Patrick's cathedrals in Dublin and Enniskillen cathedral before returning to Hong Kong.

St John's Church, Kilkenny celebrates 200th anniversary

The Priory Church of St. John the Evangelist (St. John's Church), John Street, Kilkenny celebrated its 200th anniversary on Friday past.

Extensive renovations and redecorating have been completed recently for the worship service and celebration to commemorate this anniversary.

The Right Rev Michael Burrows, the Church of Ireland Bishop of Cashel Ferns and Ossory, presided.

St. John's is a thriving Church of Ireland parish church in the heart of the city.

St. John's Church has played a significant role in the history of Kilkenny. In 1211, Earl Marshall, the Norman lord who built Kilkenny Castle, gave an endowment to the Canons Regular of St. Augustine and land "beyond the bridge of Kilkenny to the East and adjoining the same bridge" (referring to what is known today as John's Bridge).

On December 27, 1220, the feast of St John, Mass was celebrated for the first time on the high altar of the new abbey.

The church was adapted in 1817 from the Lady Chapel of the more extensive Priory whose medieval ruins dating to 1220 are still there. Renovations included substantial improvements to the famous coloured-glass windows on the south side through which sunshine streams and enlivens the interior in a unique and vibrant way. This is reflective of the church's longstanding title as "The Lantern Church of Ireland" because

of the magnificence of its window formation and lighting interior. - Kilkenny People

New Book by C of I Primate

In his new book, *Shouldering the Lamb: reflections on an icon*, Most Rev. Dr Richard Clarke, the Archbishop of Armagh presents eleven meditations, viewing the image of the ancient figure of the shepherd carrying a lamb across his shoulders. He reflects on how any carrying of another in the loving service of God and humankind is an echo, in some respect at least, of the God who is love. His reflections show that the emotions experienced throughout the caring journey, can never be undertaken from a safe distance and will involve occasions when the care-giver must accept being carried, without succumbing to a sense of being, in any way, a burden.

‘These reflections are not just for the ordained, but will speak to the needs of anyone whose life includes an element of identifying with the fear and pain of others’ said Bernard Treacy OP, editor at Dominican Publications.

‘Prepare yourself to be taken on an unexpected journey!’ said Archbishop Eamon Martin.

‘Archbishop Richard brings a unique combination of pastoral and literary insights to these reflections, drawn from his studies, meditation, and life experience.’

Shouldering the lamb has been published by Dominican Publications at €12/£10.60.

Waterford's ecumenical Gospel Choir Sing For Sound

Waterford's ecumenical Trinity Gospel Choir will present Sing For Sound on Saturday, 20 May 2017 at 7.30pm.

It will be a night of wonderful music and song from some of Waterford's best musical talent. Acts will include Trinity Gospel Choir, Dominic McGorian, Madgri Gallery, WIT Children's Choir and Lumina. The MC on the night will be Kieran McGeary. Tickets: €10.

For more ticket information contact Georgi on 086 171 2994 or email georgimcgeary@gmail.com

Proceeds in aid of a new sound system for Christ Church Cathedral.

Trinity Gospel Choir was formed to celebrate the twinning of Waterford city's magnificent Cathedrals and is a multi-faith, multi-ethnic choir representing the connection between the faiths that praise in unison in Waterford today.

The choir sings on the 3rd Sunday each month in Christ Church Cathedral at 10 o'clock and at Most Holy Trinity Cathedral Waterford at 12 o'clock. It would welcome new members from all faiths to come along and join in its rehearsal and is especially looking to expand its bass section. For more information, call Colette McInerney, Musical Director, on 086 843 8129.

Archbishop of Canterbury concludes visit to the Holy Land

The Archbishop of Canterbury has completed a 10-day official visit to the Holy Land.

Archbishop Justin Welby and Mrs Caroline Welby travelled to the Holy Land at the invitation of the Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem, Archbishop Suheil Dawani.

The Archbishop made the long visit, from 2–11 May, to spend time with Anglicans in Jordan, the



Archbishop Justin, Caroline Welby and Archbishop Suheil at the Tent of Nations project in Bethlehem, Monday 8 May 2017.

Occupied Palestinian Territories and Israel – to encourage them, to pray with them, and to learn from them.

He also met with other religious leaders, both Christian and other faiths, Christian, both to speak with them and learn from them, and to encourage working together.

During the visit the Archbishop also met with political leaders, urging them to preserve human dignity, prevent human suffering and strive for peace above all else.

Throughout the trip, the Archbishop was accompanied by Archbishop Suheil, and spent time in prayer and worship with the community of St George's Anglican Cathedral in Jerusalem. He also saw some of the vital ministry of the Cathedral and the wider Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem in the region, particularly in healthcare, education and pursuing reconciliation.

Today in Christian History, May 14

May 14, 1572: Gregory XIII, who reformed the Julian calendar into the calendar used today and celebrated the killing of French Huguenots (Protestants) with a Te Deum (a Latin hymn), is named pope.

May 14, 1607: Robert Hunt holds the first Anglican service in the New World Day after the Virginia Company lands in Jamestown.

May 14, 1759: Anglican evangelical John Berridge preaches his first outdoor sermon. Outdoor preaching became a prominent feature of his ministry, as it did for George Whitefield, John Wesley, and the early Methodist movement as a whole

Today in Christian History, May 15

May 15, 1265: Poet and politician Dante Alighieri, author of "The Divine Comedy," is born in Florence, Italy. Dante finished the epic poem just before his death, and it was quickly recognized as brilliant. His epitaph begins: "Dante the theologian, skilled in every branch of knowledge that philosophy may cherish in her illustrious bosom".

May 15, 1525: Radical reformer Thomas Munzer and his followers are killed in the Battle of Frankenhausen. Though many of his beliefs were rejected by later, nonviolent Anabaptists, his emphasis on suffering discipleship, his rejection of infant baptism, and his call for judgment of the church became key teachings in the movement.

May 15, 1886: American poet Emily Dickinson, author of many poems on death, eternity, God, and the afterlife, dies. Only 7 of her 1,775 poems were published at the time.

May 15, 1948: Father Edward Flanagan, founder of the U.S. Home for Homeless Boys (later called Boys Town) in Omaha, Nebraska, dies. "There is no such thing as a bad boy," Flanagan believed.

May 15, 1984: American evangelical Francis A. Schaeffer dies in Rochester, Minnesota. Many of his books, which include *The God Who is There* (1968) and *How Should We Then Live* (1976), argue that moral relativity is responsible for social ills.