



The essential daily brief on the Irish churches

Irish President is latest to commend work of Enniskillen church leaders

THE work of Enniskillen's two main church leaders, the Very Rev. Kenneth Hall and Monsignor Peter O'Reilly, has received a warm acknowledgement from yet another head of state.

Impartial Reporter - Special guests of the Queen at a state banquet for the President of Ireland at Windsor Castle last week, Dean Hall and Monsignor O'Reilly had an opportunity to tell Michael D Higgins about their determination to continue promoting one community.



Dean Kenneth Hall and Monsignor Peter O'Reilly at Windsor Castle

“The President is very aware of what has been going on and endorses what we are doing,” said Dean Hall.

Dining at the home of Her Majesty, alongside the ministers, were representatives from community groups, organisations such as the Orange Order and even Sinn Féin's Martin McGuinness.

Speaking about the Northern Ireland themed event, Dean Hall said he was "shocked" to see two cultures which are so divided in this country "resting side by side in a non-threatening manner".

"Nobody who attended from a difficult cultural background felt threatened. There was a comfortable sharing of opinion and difference that makes us who we are; it enriches our lives. But it is living with that difference that is the challenge. That is what the Queen is doing; she is throwing out the challenge to live with difference, and accept it," said Dean Hall.

"I think the Queen has become a beacon of light; we could see Christianity shining out of her last week and when we spoke to her we again reflected on her visit to Enniskillen two years ago and the continuation of the work."

"People need to be proud of who they are, proud of their differences, be comfortable with their differences, but also to be tolerant to other differences. That's really the key to it. The challenge to us is to live together, side by side," he added.

Ever since the two ministers welcomed the Queen to the town, a visit that included her historic walk from St. Macartin's Cathedral to St. Michael's Church, they have built up a strong relationship with the monarch.

"Her Majesty's first words to us when she met us at Buckingham Palace after the visit to Enniskillen were: 'I hope you two are still working together'. It was very much like a grandmother checking up to see if you had your homework done," remarked Monsignor O'Reilly.

And being invited to another function as guest of the Queen "was a mark of recognition to the town", said the St. Michael's priest, adding: "being invited to this is more a call to continue".

"My first impression of the event last week was: look at this room of people. There were people from every art and part, from every culture and tradition, mixing together, comfortable together, friendly together. I looked and saw that and it all seemed extremely normal to me," he said.

After meeting Mr. Higgins, the ministers met the President's wife, Sabina, who commented on the painting on display at Enniskillen Castle Museums of the Queen's walk across the street, which was viewed by Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall during their visit here earlier this month.

“She said: “‘Ah yes, you have that painting in Enniskillen?’ This was extraordinary, to think she knew about it,” said Monsignor O’Reilly, who following the meet and greet accompanied the Dean to the Royal Albert Hall for a celebration (ceiliúradh) as part of the President’s state visit.

“The concert, for me, was very significant as there in the great Royal Albert Hall were people who were both British and Irish. In that hall it was okay to have both identities, though in these parts it is hard to be one or the other.”

“But unity doesn’t have to be uniformity; there are many stories in Northern Ireland and they all deserve to be heard,” he added.

The ministers’ positive encounter with the Irish President and the Queen comes just two weeks after Prince Charles appealed to both church leaders to continue their work in promoting one community.

Admiring the two ministers for their cross-community work at Windsor Castle was Father Brian D’Arcy, who was also invited to the banquet.

Father D’Arcy and Cecil Pringle, the former archdeacon, made great strides many years ago in promoting togetherness within the community, particularly between The Graan and Rossorry Parish Church.

“Let’s hope the work can spread even further. Cecil and I have spoken about how difficult it was at the beginning, but we kept at it. That has continued with Arthur (Barrett). What Kenny is saying is what we all believe; ‘that what unities us is vastly more important than what divides us’”, he said.

On being invited to the historic event last week, Father D’Arcy said: “I was very honoured to be asked and enjoyed it very much”.

The Enniskillen priest and broadcaster contributes to ‘Pause for Thought’ on the Chris Evans Breakfast Show on Radio 2 but has been off air recently due to illness. He was left “gob-smacked” when he met Her Majesty and she revealed that she misses listening to him in the mornings.

“I was being introduced to the Queen and she said to me: ‘I noticed that you haven’t been on the morning radio - we miss you a lot’. I was gob-smacked. I told her I had been off due to illness and she said ‘I hope you be back soon, I enjoy the broadcast!’” recalled Father D’Arcy.

After meeting the Queen, the priest caught up with his old friend, Mr. Higgins.

“Michael D and I go way back. We were chatting about everything and then Sabina, his wife, invited me to Áras an Uachtaráin. She said, ‘we’ll have to get you down’”.

Moments later, Prince Philip turned to the Irish President and said of Father D'Arcy: "This guy appears to be famous!"

Fraud squad has quizzed shamed judge on church property deal

Shamed judge Heather Perrin has been quizzed by the fraud squad over claims she tried to pocket cash from a church property deal.

Irish Mirror - The 62-year-old is already serving a two-and-a-half-year sentence at the Dochas Centre women's prison at Mountjoy for deception and is due to be released in July.

But the Irish Mirror can reveal the former District Court judge is the subject of yet another Garda investigation.

Fraud officers are probing if she misappropriated funds from a property deal for the Church of Ireland.

Gardai are investigating whether Perrin took €40,000 following the sale of a Dublin property and placed it in her own account.

Sources have claimed the cash was returned to the church at the same time as Perrin was charged with other offences.

The former judge was interviewed by detectives in the past number of weeks at the Dochas detention centre.

A file has been sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions who will decide if charges are to be brought against her.

A senior source said: "Heather is due to be released in July and she could see the light at the end of the tunnel – then this hit her like a hammer blow.

"She is distraught and can't believe this is happening to her.

This newspaper has learned the allegation refers to a period when Perrin acted as a solicitor for the Church of Ireland in Dublin.

The devout Protestant was heavily involved in the organisation and the Girls' Brigade – a uniformed Christian group for girls.

<http://www.irishmirror.ie/news/irish-news/fraud-squad-probe-claims-shamed-3437490>

New Diocesan Director of Ordinands Appointed



Archbishop Michael Jackson has announced that the Revd Adrienne Galligan , Rector of Crumlin and Chapelizod, is to be the Diocesan Director of Ordinands for Dublin and Glendalough Dioceses.

The Archbishop said: “Adrienne knows these dioceses well. She has taught in East Glendalough School and is herself an ordinand of Dublin and Glendalough while her predecessor, the Revd Ted Woods, was Director. Adrienne is Rural Dean of Taney and a member of the Diocesan Growth Group. She is committed to the developing vision of the diocese and to outworking of the discipleship and mission of all members of the Christian family”.

The Revd Adrienne Galligan said she felt privileged by the appointment. “I consider it an enormous privilege to be invited by Archbishop Michael to engage with those people who desire to serve God through exploring ministry matters in God’s multifaceted 21st century Church of which these dioceses are a vibrant part,” she stated.

Her appointment takes effect immediately.

New Children’s Ministry Advisor Appointed

Archbishop Michael Jackson has announced that the Revd Baden Stanley, Rector of Bray is to be the next Children’s Ministry Advisor in succession to the Revd Anne Taylor.

Commenting, the Archbishop said: “Baden has shown significant creativity in the expression of ministry from the



perspective of children in his own parish. Many of us will remember with affection Lent 2013 through the lens of Narnia when the interior of the church was imaginatively transformed and thousands of people were able to see the thought pattern of CS Lewis through fresh eyes”.

The Revd Baden Stanley said he was delighted to have been appointed. “There is nothing quite like the wonder that children seem to capture so easily from a very young age. To be appointed as Children’s Ministry Advisor by the Archbishop is a pleasure and a joy. I hope to build on the excellent work that Anne has done over the years and look forward to serving the work of the Dioceses in this way when I get back to Parish ministry in September,” he commented.

He will take up his appointment in September of this year.

Dublin Garden Festival at Christ Church Cathedral

Bringing the outside inside. A stunning flower festival with contemporary and classic arrangements designed by some of Ireland’s most talented and award-winning floral artists.

OPENING HOURS: FRIDAY 13: 9AM – 9PM; SATURDAY 14: 9AM – 9PM; SUNDAY 15: 12.30 – 7PM. For further information please visit www.dublinalgardenfestival.ie or to purchase tickets please visit www.ticketmaster.ie .

Open to All appeal - stories from the trenches

As people across the world join together to mark the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of [World War One](#), Church Army too is remembering its evangelists and volunteers who in 1914 stepped up to the challenge of sharing the gospel with those facing great adversity in the trenches and on the home front.

Whether through recreation huts and tents, hostels and rest homes, mobile



canteens and hospital visiting, thousands of men and women found hope in their darkest hour thanks to Church Army's work.

Here a young evangelist describes his work on the western front:

I am a speck of black in a huge sea of khaki. I have two soldiers to help me. I sleep on the floor. The mud is awful; I very soon had to invest in rubber trench boots to the thighs. I have to wear continually a satchel containing two gas helmets; you see the gas rolling along in a distant cloud when it's coming.

I have a kitten I found, with blood on its body and one eye shut amongst the ruins; it's growing into a big cat, shares my rations, sleeps beside me and helps me with the rats which were bigger than itself at first... the men make a great fuss of it.

I'm proud of Church Army at the front. It makes one feel proud when one hears a soldier who has come in say, 'Thank God! Another Church Army Hut'...

And judging by the men I have been amongst, there's a bit of real religion and recognition of God at the bottom of them all. When the crisis comes, the soul does turn to its Maker.

To read more stories about Church Army's work during World War One and to find out about our **Open to All** appeal, please visit www.churcharmy.org.uk/ww1

Vicar of Baghdad to receive William Wilberforce Award

The Vicar of Baghdad, Canon Andrew White, will receive this year's annual William Wilberforce Award in recognition of his outstanding service to Christianity internationally and his service to the Middle East.

The judges stated that he, like Wilberforce, had taken great risks to bring about radical change in some of the most dangerous places in the world.



Canon Andrew White not only leads one of the biggest churches in Iraq with a very large clinic and school, he also heads up major reconciliation work between the various sectarian groups in Iraq not least the Shia and Sunni. In addition to his work in Iraq he has been instrumental in also bringing various groups together in Israel and Palestine over many years. He recently hosted a remarkable meeting bringing together Iraqis, Israelis and Palestinians in Cyprus.

I am more honoured and inspired with this award than any other award I have every received,” Canon White said. “I, like William Wilberforce, also used to live and work in Clapham in South West London. Almost every day I would pass the Church he attended, Holy Trinity, Clapham Common, and pray Lord make me like Wilberforce.

“It is humbling to receive an award which honours the memory of one of the greatest statesmen ever and has been presented to such inspirational people as Cardinal Timothy Dolan last year.”

The award organisers say that Andrew White was chosen as the recipient of the award because of his “extraordinary strides in reconciliation and restoration in the face of overwhelming challenges.”

They continue: “He has built a positive relationship with the government and people of Iraq on every level, from grassroots to the business community to the military. Located in the city's Red Zone, his church serves 6,000 Iraqi citizens each week — a stunning number for a country with a 97% Muslim population.

The award will be presented at a dinner attended by over 1,000 people including many of the Generals and Ambassadors who served in Iraq, as part of the annual Wilberforce Weekend, which takes place this year between 2nd and 4th May at Chantilly, Virginia, in the United States.

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