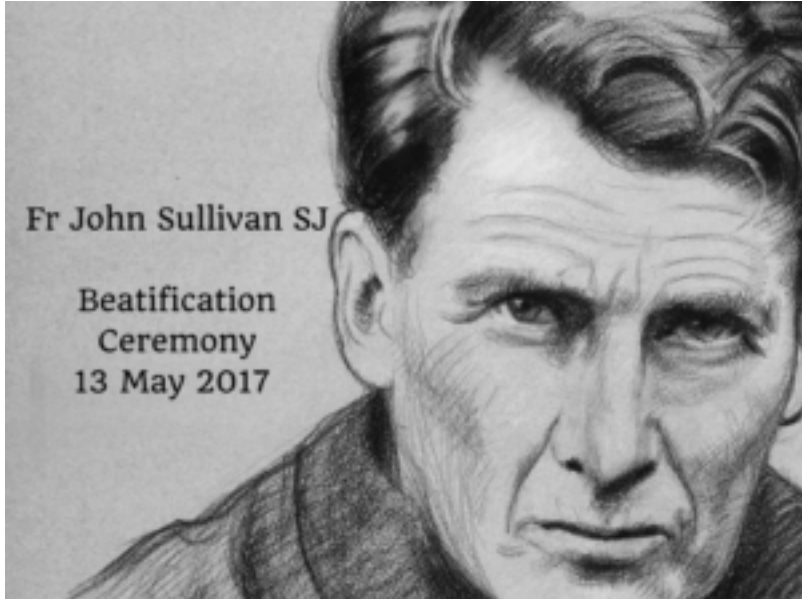




CNI



Catholic and C of I archbishops to play historic joint role in Ireland's first beatification

The beatification of Fr John Sullivan, a Jesuit famed for the power of his prayers, will take place in Dublin later this month

The first beatification ceremony to be held in Ireland will take place in Dublin on May 13.

Fr John Sullivan, a Jesuit famed for his devotion to the poor and sick and for the efficacy of his prayers, will be beatified at the Jesuit Gardiner Street church where he is buried.

In an unprecedented gesture, the formal request for beatification will be made by Anglican as well as Catholic archbishops. This is because Fr Sullivan was raised Anglican before converting to Catholicism.

During the Mass, a large portrait of Fr Sullivan will be unveiled and a relic of his hair, which was kept by his barber, Charlie Barrett, will be brought to the altar. The Ave Maria and Panis Angelicus will be sung by one of Ireland's leading sopranos, Celine Byrne.

A large number of pilgrims from all over Ireland are expected in Dublin for the ceremony on May 13. The beatification Mass will be broadcast live online and it will also be shown in two marquees set up in the garden of the Gardiner Street church as well as in the nearby Jesuit Belvedere College, a private boys' secondary school.

The principal celebrant and homilist will be Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. He will be assisted by Archbishop Diarmuid Martin of Dublin.

The miracle that paved the way for Fr Sullivan's beatification was formally recognised by the Vatican last year. A Dubliner, Delia Farnham, had made a miraculous recovery from a neck tumour in 1954 after praying for his intercession.

Among the other healings attributed to him is one of Michael Collins, nephew of his namesake Michael Collins, founder of the Irish Free State in 1922, who was paralysed as a young boy but suddenly walked after Fr Sullivan touched his leg and prayed over him.

John Sullivan was born in Dublin in 1861 to a wealthy Anglican father and Catholic mother. At the turn of the century, while working as a barrister in London, he converted to Catholicism. His reception into the Church was at Farm Street, the centre of London's Jesuit community, and he entered the Jesuit novitiate in 1900.

He worked as a teacher in County Kildare and later as a rector on the outskirts of Dublin. He is associated with a number of apparent miracles

throughout his lifetime and his reputation attracted hundreds of ill people who came to him in the hope of a cure. He was fiercely devoted to the sick, and would travel long distances to make a sick call, often on a battered bicycle.

He died on February 19, 1933, at St Vincent's Nursing Home, Dublin. His Cause was opened in 1944, 11 years after his death. It was only in 2014, however, that Pope Francis declared him Venerable and acknowledged that he had lived a life of heroic virtue. Fr Conor Harper, vice postulator of the Cause, said last year that it was remarkable that Fr Sullivan was revered by two Christian traditions. Anglican Archbishop Michael Jackson of Dublin and Glendalough said: "We rejoice in the fact that, as well as living a life that honoured God and the Jesuit order, he spent half of his life as a member of the Church of Ireland."

Antisemitism 'root of all racism' says Archbishop of Canterbury in Jerusalem

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, prayed with the Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis at



Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury, prays with Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis at the Western Wall in Jerusalem yesterday.

he Western Wall in Jerusalem yesterday, before visiting the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial museum where he praised the Jewish people and lamented centuries of hatred against them.

Welby prayed for peace at the iconic holy Jewish site and spoke out against antisemitism as 'the root of all racism' at the world-renowned and haunting museum.

Calling for reconciliation between the Christian and Jewish peoples, Welby said: 'Within European culture, the root of all racism, I think, is found in antisemitism. It goes back more than 1,000 years in Europe. Within our Christian tradition, there has been century upon century of these terrible, terrible hatreds in which one people, who at the same time have contributed more to our culture as a people than almost any other that one can identify, that one people are also hated more specifically, more violently, more determinedly, more systematically than any other people.'

The Chief Rabbi said: 'The Archbishop of Canterbury's presence here in Jerusalem and his prayers for peace and reconciliation, particularly at Yad Vashem and the Western Wall, are indicative of historic, positive developments in the Anglican Jewish relationship.'

'I would so love to send a message of hope back through the annals of history – to Clifford's Tower in York, to the medieval communities who endured the scourge of the blood libel and to those whose lives were devastated by the Crusades – to let them know that a Chief Rabbi and an Archbishop of Canterbury would one day pray alongside one another, as close friends, in the holy City of Jerusalem.'

Clifford's Tower was the site of a horrific massacre of York's Jewish population by a violent mob in 1190.

Mirvis joined Welby on the trip at the invitation of Lambeth Palace after the two leaders became close friends.

Archbishop reflects on meeting Iraqi Christians in Jordan

Archbishop Justin Welby reflects on meeting Iraqi Christians in Jordan, on the first day of his visit to Jordan, Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Archbishop Justin and Caroline Welby visited St Paul's Anglican Church in Amman, Jordan, with Archbishop Suheil Dawani, the Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem:

It is an extraordinary place - a congregation made up of Jordanians, a few Egyptians, some Syrians (though many of these have been resettled) and Iraqi refugees.

It was their stories which I found especially moving. The intense suffering of Iraqi Christians does not end when they leave Iraq. As I listened, there was this awful sense of lives torn apart.



People are divided from their children and families and have no idea what will happen. One woman has children in both Germany and the Netherlands, but has been refused entry to both so she doesn't know when or if they will ever be reunited.

Young men are vulnerable to being recruited to extremist causes because their community and networks have been stripped away.

One man told me he has no hope at all. He said he is caught between Islamic State, the government and NGOs who further discriminate against him because he is a Christian.

The Iraqi Christians I met yesterday say they feel the world has forgotten them, because the focus of the international community is now on Syria. Iraqis, they say, are at the bottom of the list when it comes to resettlement or support.

One woman told me that she can endure persecution as a Christian because the Bible teaches that that is to be expected. What she did not expect was that the worldwide church would ignore their plight.

As we left I prayed for God's protection over their community. And I prayed that we, the Western Church, would be stirred up to do something. We are human beings with our persecuted brothers and sisters. We must embrace them.

As well as supporting the communities in England that have already received migrants, we need to keep on welcoming those who are homeless.

We must also find ways of improving things in this region. We do not want a Middle East without Christians. Christians have a long history in the Middle East, they are still here, and they surely must be part of its future.

Survey reveals C of I parents' major concerns about proposed school admissions changes in Republic

A survey of 500 parents whose children attend national schools under Church of Ireland patronage has revealed major concerns about proposed school admissions changes being proposed by the Minister for Education and Skills, Richard Bruton TD.

The survey, which was conducted by the General Synod Board of Education, sought the views of parents of children who attend primary schools under Church of Ireland patronage.

The main survey results demonstrated that the vast majority of Church of Ireland parents (87%) consider that it is important for them to have access to national schools to provide education to their children within a Church of Ireland/Protestant ethos. 77% of parents expressed a fear that the abolition of a right of their local Church of Ireland school to afford priority on admissions to Church of Ireland/Protestant pupils when oversubscribed, would undermine parental choice and diversity within their local area.

The survey provided parents with an opportunity to leave their own comments and hundreds of parents took the opportunity to express their dismay at the possibility that their families could be denied access to a local school established to educate their faith community.

At least 90% of the respondents' comments were strongly in favour of maintaining the priority for children of Protestant faith in oversubscribed Church of Ireland national schools. Many expressed fear that a change in the admissions rules would have a detrimental and disproportionate effect on their schools and on minority faith communities. A selection of parental comments is included below.

Commenting on the results of the survey, Dr Ken Fennelly, Secretary to the General Synod Board of Education said that the concerns expressed by parents were real and very serious. He said that the proposals advanced by Minister Bruton were causing real concern in minority faith communities and needed to be revised.

Dr Fennelly said: "It is ironic that the sector of the community which feels the greatest threat and concern from Minister Bruton's new proposals on religion and admissions is a sector

which has offered choice, diversity and inclusivity in Irish education for many decades. The Minister has repeatedly said that he has no wish to undermine minority religious schools but our schools are asking how he can avoid this in the light of the proposals he has put forward. This survey (along with the large number of submissions made by schools as part of the consultation process), is articulating real and serious concerns among school communities around the country. The Minister needs to allay these fears in a substantive way.”

Dr Fennelly added that he hoped that the Minister would reflect on the output of the survey and the concerns which parents have expressed.

For survey responses see:

<https://www.ireland.anglican.org/news/7125/church-of-ireland-parents-seriously>

Archbishop McMahon of Liverpool : Catholic Church is ‘not anti-grammar schools’

The Archbishop of Liverpool said it was up to individual dioceses whether they opened new grammar schools

The Catholic Church is open to the idea of creating new grammar schools, the Archbishop of Liverpool has said.

In an interview with *The Guardian*, Archbishop Malcolm McMahon said the church is “not anti-grammar schools”, explaining that there are already seven Catholic grammars and the church welcomes “diversity of provision that promotes parental choice”.

The archbishop, who chairs the Catholic Education Service (CES), which oversees the church’s 2,230 schools in England and Wales, said the decision to open new grammar schools would be taken by individual diocesan authorities.

In a wide-ranging interview, Archbishop McMahon also defended the church’s policy of favouring children from Catholic families, pointing out that canon law forbids schools from turning them away in favour of non-Catholics.

Contrasting this with the Anglican position, he said: “The Church of England runs schools for the wider community. Ours are different. They are for the Catholic community.”

Defending parental choice and taxpayer funding of new Catholic free schools, the archbishop

said it was “fundamental” that parents had right to educate their children as they see fit.

Last year, the government **relaxed restrictions** preventing oversubscribed Catholic schools from selecting more than half their intake on the basis of faith. The admissions cap had effectively stopped the church opening new schools.

Moving on to the topic of sex education, the archbishop said Christian teaching is “at the centre of our schools” and that teachers would “encourage debate and present arguments” for natural methods of family planning.

When asked if any children had same-sex parents, he replied: “Why would same-sex parents want to send their children to a Catholic school?”

“But if they did, we would treat them and their children with respect.”

Enniskillen Cathedral hall to re-open after major improvements

A major project that has transformed the Cathedral Hall in Enniskillen is now complete

and the official re-opening and dedication is to take place next Wednesday evening, 10th May.

The refurbishment of the popular facility which is used by many organisations throughout the community, has been part funded by the Executive Office's Social Investment Fund.

The old Cathedral Hall which still formed the basis for this new renovation, was officially opened in 1964 which in turn replaced the Parochial Hall built in 1922.

The main hall facilities have been modified and completed to the highest standards. In addition to the main rooms which include the Hilliard Room, The Iona Room, The Enniskeen Room and The Devenish Room, there is a new stainless steel industrial scale kitchen. A major new addition is The Upper Room which has been created above the former stage area.

The new Diocesan suite of offices, which are accessed from the lower car park area, have their own separate entrance facing Hall's Lane.

An extended car park, accommodating an additional 30 cars, will be accessed only by those who are authorised to use it and will be controlled by barriers

New Payer Garden in Clonmore to open this month

The new Prayer Garden in Clonmore Co Carlow, will open to the public from May 14th.

This project is a community endeavour and has been partly funded by the Church of Ireland Priorities Fund, by Carlow County Council and by the Clonmore Development Association.

It will be opened by the Reverend Ray Simpson (whose idea it was) and Bishop Michael Burrows.

The garden has been a public park and will now have granite benches and signs with thought-provoking reflections. The area also includes a pond, river, bridge and a small waterfall.

Most Belfast shop workers oppose extended Sunday trading

The results of a survey conducted by trade union reveals 85 per cent of shop workers oppose Belfast City Council's suggestion of extended Sunday trading.

Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers (Usdaw), questioned more than 600 of its members working in retail in Northern Ireland. Almost two thirds of them said that they already come under pressure to work on Sundays.

John Hannett, Usdaw general secretary, said in a press release: "Our members in large stores remain absolutely opposed to extended Sunday trading. The number one reason for their opposition is the detrimental effect this would have on their family life.

"Many shop workers, particularly parents, tell us how important Sunday is to them and their family. Often it is the one day of the week when everyone can sit down together for a meal, with many saying they needed the time on Sunday to help their children prepare for the school week."

Belfast City Council is currently consulting on a proposal to designate Belfast as a 'holiday resort' under Northern Ireland's Article 6 of the Shops Order 1997.

Currently, shops that have more than 280 square metres of retail floor space are only allowed to open for a maximum of five hours on Sundays between 1pm and 6pm. They must close on Easter Sunday and Christmas Day, if it falls on a

Sunday. Smaller shops can open all day on a Sunday.

If the proposal to extend Sunday trading is introduced, large shops would be able to extend their Sunday trading hours on up to 18 Sundays in any calendar year between March 1 and September 30. They would still have to close on Easter Sunday and Christmas Day, if it falls on a Sunday.

On the Council's site it states: "We're not reviewing any existing laws. We're simply exploring whether or not to designate the council area as a holiday resort under existing legislation.

"We want to find out if this is likely to benefit the local economy and the tourism industry in particular."

The law states that councils may designate any area within its district as a holiday resort, which would allow extended Sunday trading times.

Today in Christian History, May 4

May 4, 1923: Sir W. Robertson Nicoll, editor of the British journal *The Expositor* (which included

articles by many leading scholars) and of a 50-volume Expositor's Bible (published 1888-1905), dies.

May 4, 1493: In the bull "Inter caetera," Pope Alexander VI sets the boundary between Spanish and Portuguese lands in the New World.

Church of Ireland General Synod, Limerick

This year's General Synod will take place in the South Court Hotel, Limerick, from Thursday 4th to Saturday 6th May. The Most Revd Dr Richard Clarke, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, introduces the 2017 [Church of Ireland General Synod](#) #coigs Video at-

<https://www.ireland.anglican.org/news/7097/a-welcome-from-the-archbishop>

See this month's events diary on CNI

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