

Northern Ireland's same-sex marriage ban 'un-Christian', says church minister

Canon Charles Kenny said the UK country's laws on same-sex marriage are as unjust as the historical sectarian ban on Catholics and Protestants marrying

Northern Ireland's ban on same-sex [marriage](#) is "un-Christian", an Anglican minister has said at a [marriage equality rally in Belfast](#) attended by thousands, Independent News reports.

Canon Charles Kenny, who has been a Church of Ireland priest for nearly half a century, said the UK country's laws on same-sex marriage are just as unjust and un-Christian as the historical sectarian ban on Catholics and Protestants marrying, [The Guardian](#) has reported.

The priest, joined by Methodist and Presbyterian ministers, joined protesters in calls for gay

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marriage to be made legal in Northern Ireland on Saturday.

Addressing the crowds on the steps of Anglican cathedral St Anne's, the church minister said: "There was lots of lobbying against mixed religious marriages and nowadays we are all embarrassed about that. And I think in the future, we will also be embarrassed about this ban on same sex marriage."

He added: "I grew up in the 1950s and I know what it was like. If I had had a girlfriend who was Catholic, for some people the sky would have fallen in. Thank goodness that kind of attitude doesn't happen often now so this current ban is comparable to those old sectarian attitudes."

Gay rights activists, trade unionists and civil servants turned out for a procession to Belfast's City Hall, waving rainbow flags and banners in support of same-sex marriage.

The demonstration was led by the Lord Mayor of Belfast Nuala McAllister, Northern Ireland-born The Fall actor Bronagh Waugh and The Rainbow Project director John O'Doherty.

Northern Ireland is the only part of the UK where same-sex couples cannot get married, despite

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the Republic voting gay marriage into law two years ago.

Five separate votes have been held on the issue in Stormont, the last of which saw a narrow vote in favour of marriage equality.

The Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) has ruled out any law change however, claiming it wants to defend the “traditional” definition of marriage.

Unitarian minister, Reverend Chris Hudson from All Souls Church in South Belfast also showed his support for same-sex marriage at the protest.

Rev Hudson said some ministers were strongly in favour of equal marriage – and that the current status quo prevented him from marrying a same-sex couple.

He appealed to the DUP not to block any bid to legalise it.

“I hope the next time round that the Holy Spirit will descend upon them and we will see that it is fair, that it functions well in every other part of the UK. Why should Northern Ireland be any different?”

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Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams also attended the protest.

See also -

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2017/jul/01/northern-ireland-gay-marriage-ban-un-christian-equality>

Service of remembrance for victims of farm accidents

The annual Ecumenical Embrace Remembrance Service was held in the Church of the Most Holy Rosary in Abbeylisk on Sunday last to remember loved ones who have died or have suffered injury from accidents on the farms of Ireland, Laios Today reports.

This annual event was well attended and has taken place since 2014. The service was led by Church of Ireland Bishop Michael Burrows. Local clergy were in attendance from the Catholic Church and the Church of Ireland.

The service was also attended by Minister Michael Creed, Minister Charlie Flanagan and numerous Agri VIPs including the Presidents of the ICA, (Mary O'Toole), ICMSA, (John Comer), Macra na Feirme, (James Healy), Ulster Farmers

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Bishop Michael Burrows (Church of Ireland), John Comer (ICMSA President), Mairead McGuinness (MEP), Commandant Kieran Carey (ADC to an Taoiseach) and James Healy (Macra President).

Union (Barclay Bell) and James Speers from the Young Farmers Clubs of Ulster.

The earth ceremony

A number of families told Brian and Norma Rohan who founded Embrace Farm how they went to the scene of where the accident had occurred, where their loved one was killed, and brought a handful of earth from there to be included in the service.

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Everyone's earth was carried outside by the ICMSA President John Comer and Macra President James Healy to where a tree was planted as a symbol of uniting the loss of our loved ones in one place.

The tree will stand as a reminder that we are on a journey together and that sharing our experiences through the support of Embrace FARM will help us to cope with the burden of loss that is so much a part of all our lives.

The symbols

The mix of people who are affected by farm accidents was shown in who brought up the symbols. The Lyons family, from Offaly, who lost their five-year-old boy brought a family photo showing that farms in Ireland are a family affair.

Patsy O'Connor from Roscommon, who lost his wife Lucy, brought his hat, a familiar sight on farmers and Carol Devereux from Wexford, who lost her Dad Paddy, brought a basket of food which farmers work hard to produce.

Farm accident survivors Aengus Mannion, who has gone through over 30 operations to be able to walk again, and David Brickley, who fell through a slatted shed, also brought symbols to the altar in representation of the animals and

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machinery that are a part of every farmer's life daily.

President of Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth, appointed

The Trustees of Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth have appointed Reverend Professor Michael Mullaney as President of Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth for the next three years, with effect from 1 September 2017.

Father Mullaney, a priest of the Archdiocese of Cashel and Emly, has lectured in Canon Law at Saint Patrick's College, Thurles; Milltown Institute, Dublin; and in Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth. He was appointed Registrar of the Pontifical University, Maynooth, in 2005.

Since 2006 Father Mullaney has worked with the National Marriage Appeals Tribunal of Ireland. In 2007 he became Vice-President of Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth, and has been Acting-President since August 2016.

In welcoming the appointment, Archbishop Eamon Martin, Chairman of the Trustees, said, "I

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warmly congratulate and send my prayerful good wishes to Father Michael Mullaney on his appointment to the role of President of Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth. Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth is not only home to our national seminary, but its Pontifical University offers courses to almost one thousand students – women and men, full time and part time, resident and non-resident, seminarians and religious from

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all over the country. The Trustees are firmly committed to the College as a key contributor to the future of the Church in Ireland as it prepares both clergy and lay people to fully exercise their baptismal calling and bring their gifts to the service of God's people.

“In appointing Father Mullaney as President for a period of three years, the Trustees of the College, in consultation with the relevant Congregations of the Holy See, have agreed to revise the governance structures of the College, with particular reference to the Seminary and the Pontifical University as two interrelated but distinct entities. Plans for the further development of a vibrant pontifical university, alongside the implementation of the vision for priestly formation set out in the new universal norms *The Gift of the Priestly Vocation* published by the Congregation for the Clergy last December, have led us to reflect on the complementary but distinct roles and responsibilities of a Seminary Rector and the President of a Pontifical University. We have therefore decided to prepare for the appointment in due course of a Pro-Rector with dedicated responsibility for seminary formation at Maynooth.

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“I wish to thank Monsignor Hugh Connolly for his dedication and commitment to the staff and community of Saint Patrick’s College over twenty years, including two full terms as President and I wish him well in his new appointment as Chaplain to the Irish College, Paris. I also express appreciation and gratitude to Father Paul Prior at the end of his two full terms as Director of Formation and wish him well for his future ministry. The Trustees have appointed Father Tom Surlis, until recently President of Saint Nathy’s College in Ballaghadarreen, as Director of Formation to succeed Father Prior in September.”

Archbishop Eamon Martin concluded, “This is a time of opportunity for Saint Patrick’s College as it strengthens its outreach to lay people who wish to study Theology whilst continuing to develop its long tradition of seminary formation. I want to assure the staff and students of the College of remembrance in my prayers”.

Saint Patrick’s College Maynooth has been forming men for the priesthood since 1795. The Trustees of the College are the Governing Body of the College. The membership is defined by successive Acts of Parliament. The current

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Trustees are the four Archbishops of Ireland together with thirteen other bishops. The College comprises the seminary and the Pontifical University, which offers degrees in theology, philosophy and theology and arts.

Rosscarberry church worker at Anglican and Old Catholic event in Luxembourg

Katharine Deane, a youth worker from the Ross Union of Parishes in the United Dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, followed the example of St. Willibrord (the first Bishop of Utrecht) earlier this year by taking part in a gathering of Old Catholics and Anglicans in Echternach, Luxembourg. St. Willibrord was a missionary from Northumbria who lived in the 7th and 8th Centuries, and who became known as 'the apostle to the Frisians'.

Echternach is St. Willibrord's final resting place. It was an excellent destination for Old Catholics and Anglicans to meet and build new and long lasting ties. While there the participants were immersed in each other's cultures and beliefs. It was an opportunity to build new friendships with

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Evening Prayer at the Cathedral

other Anglicans and Old Catholics from all over Europe.

The group stayed at a youth hostel on the edge of Echternach, beside the lake, within walking distance of the town. Each day, there was the opportunity to engage in discussion about beliefs and traditions in the two churches. Each morning there was a thematic conversation or workshop, followed by activities in the afternoon.

Later each day the group made the 20 minute walk to the cathedral in Echternach where there was an evening Service. This was held in the catacombs of the cathedral near to the final resting place of St. Willibrord.

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Working together to discover and write a shared common vision, the group created a declaration known as 'The 'Willibrord Declaration 2017' which sets out aims to bring about unity between Anglicans and Old Catholics.

Cardinal Schönborn to speak at Limerick event for World Meeting of Families

Cardinal Christoph Schönborn OP, Archbishop of Vienna, will give a public lecture on Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* (*The Joy of Love*) as part of the upcoming 'Amoris: Let's Talk Family! Let's Be Family!' event in the Diocese of Limerick.

The Amoris event, hosted by the Irish Institute for Pastoral Studies in association with the Irish Institute of Catholic Studies, will take place on Thursday 13 July in Mary Immaculate College, Limerick and will see a series of presentations and workshops on *Amoris Laetitia* and preparations for the WMOF2018.

Bishop Brendan Leahy, Bishop of Limerick, will open the event with prayers and words of

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welcome at 2.00pm. Afterwards, at 2.30pm, Cardinal Schönborn will present on *Amoris Laetitia* (*The Joy of Love*), Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation on love in the family.

At 4.00pm, following the presentation, a number of workshops will be offered, including:

- an academic seminar on the theme of '*Amoris Laetitia* one year on: *status quaestionis*' led by Cardinal Schönborn;
- an introduction of the catechetical programme for WMOF2018 by Petra Conroy, Pastoral Programme Manager for

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WMOF2018, Martin Kennedy, Pastoral Programme Coordinator for WMOF2018, and Jessie Rogers, lecturer in Sacred Scripture at Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth; and

- 'Millennial Youth, Generation X and the Regeneration of the Disconnected' exploring the upcoming Synod on 'Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment' in light of WMOF2018, led by Gerard Gallagher, Pastoral Co-Ordinator with the Archdiocese of Dublin.

The day will close with a public lecture at 7.00pm from Cardinal Schönborn on the theme of 'The Parish: Family of Families'.

For more information and to book a place for the 'Amoris: Let's Talk Family! Let's Be Family!' event, visit www.limerickdiocese.org.

Cardinal Christoph Schönborn OP, Archbishop of Vienna, is a highly regarded author, teacher and theologian. He was a student of Joseph Ratzinger (Pope Benedict XVI) and with him was co-editor of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Pope Francis chose Cardinal Schönborn

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to be the main presenter of his apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* (*The Joy of Love*).

The World Meeting of Families will take place in Dublin from 21-26 August 2018. Families and others from all over the world will gather in Dublin to celebrate their lives together, to share their experiences from different parts of the world, to reflect on the different challenges they face and to grow together in faith. The theme chosen by Pope Francis for WMOF2018 is 'The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World'. For more on WMOF2018 see www.worldmeeting2018.ie.

+++ New Wine Sligo17 - provides a space and a place where churches and Christians from all over Ireland, can come together to hear God, so that local churches can be empowered and equipped to change their community and Ireland. The conference will run from 9th – 14th July at the Institute of Technology, Sligo. More information on the conference can be found at www.newwineireland.org

+++ Ballynafeigh institution - The Revd Peter Bourke will be instituted as Incumbent of the Parish of Saint Jude, Ballynafeigh on Monday 3 July 2017 at 8.00 pm. The preacher at the service will be Revd Tim Anderson. Tim is the rector of

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St Elizabeth's Dundonald where Peter has been serving as Associate Minister.

CNI