



**Pope's ecumenism gives hope to
Christians of all denominations C of I
bishop tells Roman Catholic bishop and
clergy**

August 11 2018

The C of I bishop of Limerick (right) has written to his neighbouring Roman Catholic Bishop to extend best wishes to the bishop, priests and parishioners on the forthcoming visit of Pope Francis to Ireland.



Bishop Kenneth Kieran stated, “This is an important time for all in your diocese as you prepare for this visit. In a remarkably short time Pope Francis has exercised a ministry and leadership on a world scale which few would have thought possible.

“We rejoice in his ecumenical commitment on a wider front, and note his warm personal friendship with the Archbishop of Canterbury, Most Revd Justin Welby. All of this brings great hope to Christians of all denominations, in a complex and unsettled world.

August 11 2018

“The context of his visit, the World Meeting of Families, is an interest we all share. Families are at the heart of church and community in Ireland, and we welcome that emphasis at this time.”

Bishop Kieran in a letter to his own clergy stated, “As you all know, our Roman Catholic neighbours here in this diocese and throughout Ireland are preparing to welcome Pope Francis to this island in the context of the World Meeting of Families. This is an important event, not only for the Roman Catholic Church but for all Christians in Ireland, as we welcome someone who is exercising remarkable Christian leadership on a global scale. I have written to my fellow Roman Catholic bishops, and I enclose a copy of that letter. Given the very warm and cordial relationship we share with our Catholic parishes and neighbours, might I suggest the following:

“That you pray in church for Pope Francis and other global Christian leaders at this time.

“That you pray in church for the World Meeting of Families and for family life (some suggested prayers are included).

“That where appropriate you send a message, possibly a letter or a visit, to your local Catholic parishes, assuring them of your prayers and good wishes at this time.

“These are only suggestions, and other opportunities and ideas may occur to you.”

August 11 2018

He concluded, "This is an important time of celebration for our Roman Catholic neighbours and we should assure them that we share in their joy and celebrations."

Athlone event to highlight links with France 1000 years ago

Monks from Cluny in France had an Irish Priory in Athlone (c1100). See the commemorative plaque at St Peter's School in Excise Street. This was the only Priory in Ireland of this prestigious Order which was noted in Europe for reforming and unifying the Church and strengthening the papacy. The Abbey of Cluny claimed to have the biggest church in Christendom until St Peter's in Rome was built many centuries later.

Turlough, King of Connacht, wished to make Athlone the Capital of Ireland. He asked the monks for some of their land to build the first Athlone Castle and bridge across the Shannon. In recompense he gave them land outside the town in Roscommon which to this day is known as Monksland.

This event is organized by Monksland Town Team who will also talk of plans to develop a multi-functional community centre in Monksland.

The venue is Athlone Springs Hotel, Monksland, on Tuesday August 21 at 8.00pm. Entrance free. Organised by Monksland Town Team. Further information: 087 212 8842

Church in Wales highlights poor upbringing of Welsh children during Eisteddfod event

Church volunteers are stepping in to provide food and support for struggling families as cuts to public spending impact on child poverty, the Church in Wales said this week during an event at *The Eisteddfod*, the annual cultural festival.

The audience at the event heard stories of children struggling to keep up with school homework because their families couldn't afford a computer or internet access, going hungry in holidays and parents not being able to afford school uniforms. They also heard that funding cuts were threatening Church-run family centres in some of the most deprived areas of the country.

Top Catholic schools 'prioritised reputations of monks over child safety', says damning report

Children as young as seven at Ampleforth and 11 at Downside were subjected to appalling sexual abuse, the latest report from the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse has said, the Catholic Herald reports.

The inquiry found that the two leading British Benedictine schools "prioritised the monks and their own reputations



over the protection of children” amid a “culture of acceptance of abusive behaviour”.

“For decades Ampleforth and Downside tried to avoid giving any information about child sexual abuse to police and social services,” inquiry chair Professor Alexis Jay said.

“Instead, monks in both institutions were very often secretive, evasive and suspicious of anyone outside the English Benedictine Congregation.

“Safeguarding children was less important than the reputation of the Church and the wellbeing of the abusive monks.

“Even after new procedures were introduced in 2001, when monks gave the appearance of co-operation and trust, their

approach could be summarised as a ‘tell them nothing’ attitude.”

The report added that the scale of abuse at the two schools over the past 40 years is likely to be “considerably” higher than the number of convictions suggests.

Ten individuals, mainly monks, have been convicted or cautioned in relation to sexual activity or pornography offences involving a “large number of children”. Another alleged offender at Ampleforth abused at least 11 children between eight and 12 over a “sustained period of time,” but died before police could investigate.

The allegations encompass a “wide spectrum of physical abuse, much of which had sadistic and sexual overtones”.

“Many perpetrators did not hide their sexual interests from the children,” the report found. “The blatant openness of these activities demonstrates there was a culture of acceptance of abusive behaviour.”

The Nolan Report in 2001 recommended that all sexual abuse allegations within the Church should be passed on to the police, however Ampleforth and Downside allegedly felt this was “neither obligatory nor desirable”.

The report said: “For much of the time under consideration by the inquiry, the overriding concern in both Ampleforth and Downside was to avoid contact with the local authority or the police at all costs, regardless of the seriousness of the alleged abuse or actual knowledge of its occurrence.

August 11 2018

“Rather than refer a suspected perpetrator to the police, in several instances the abbots in both places would confine the individual to the abbey or transfer him and the known risk to a parish or other locations.”

The report concluded that there must now be a strict separation between the governance of the abbeys and schools in order to implement the required safeguarding changes.

Fr Christopher Jamison, Abbot President of the English Benedictine Congregation, said: “I welcome the publication of IICSA’s report into Ampleforth and Downside and I will continue to work with the Inquiry as it progresses its vital work.

“Once again I apologise unequivocally to all those who were abused by any person connected with our abbeys and schools. The report highlights how flawed many of our past responses have been.

“We continue to work conscientiously to ensure our communities are safe environments for young people both now and in the future.”

Ampleforth College said in a statement: “We remain completely focused on the safety and wellbeing of those entrusted to our care and our commitment to implement meaningful change.

“We are in the process of developing our first ever Safeguarding Charter with Emma Moody of Womble, Bond

August 11 2018

and Dickinson, a nationally renowned specialist in charity law, education and expert in safeguarding.

“It is our goal that this charter is shared with other organisations and becomes recognised as best practice for safeguarding in education.

“We would also like to once again offer our heartfelt apology to anyone who suffered abuse while in the care of our schools, parishes or other ministries.”



August 11 2018

August 11 2018

August 11 2018

August 11 2018