

## New Bishop of Ossory



**Monsignor Dermot Farrell is a former president of St Patrick's College in Maynooth**

His Holiness Pope Francis yesterday appointed Monsignor Dermot Pius Farrell, Parish Priest of Dunboyne & Kilbride in the Diocese of Meath, as the new Bishop of Ossory.

Archbishop Eamon Martin in a statement welcomed the appointment. He said, "I warmly welcome the appointment today by Pope

Francis of Monsignor Dermot Farrell as Bishop of Ossory. Today marks a significant new step in his vocational journey and he will be encouraged by the prayerful support of his family, friends and faithful, especially in the diocese of Ossory and in his home diocese of Meath.

“Bishop-elect Farrell has already shown great commitment to his priestly calling in a variety of pastoral settings. He has developed gifts and skills which, with the help of God’s grace, will enrich his service to the people, priests and religious in his new diocese. His theological expertise as well as his wide experience of administration, pastoral ministry and seminary Formation will also benefit our discussions at the episcopal conference as we consider how to best serve the present and future needs of the Church in Ireland.

“I look forward to working with him and wish him wisdom and every blessing.”.

Dermot Farrell was born on 22 November 1954 in Castletown-Geoghegan Parish, County Westmeath in the Diocese of Meath. He was baptised Dermot Pius a few days later in the Cathedral of Christ the King, Mullingar.

He studied at Maynooth and has degrees in science and theology. Ordained priest for Diocese of Meath in June 1980. He completed Doctorate Studies at Gregorian University, Rome in 1988. (Title of thesis: *The Dogmatic Foundations of Bernard Haring's Thought on Christian Morality*). He was Director of Formation in Irish College, Rome from 1987 - 89. He was President of Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth 1996 - 2007.

The Diocese of Ossory consists of County Kilkenny and portions of counties Laois and Offaly. The Catholic population of Ossory is 84,729. There are 42 parishes in the diocese and 89 churches. There are 58 priests active in the diocese and 15 others. The patron saint of the Diocese of Ossory is Saint Kieran. The retired bishops of Ossory are Bishop Laurence Forristal (September 2007) and Bishop Seamus Freeman SAC (due to ill health, July 2016).

## **Omagh church 'safeguarding' row silences children's choir**

THE former director of a children's choir in a Co Tyrone parish has hit out at the handling of a



dispute over 'safeguarding' which led to her position being terminated, The Irish News reports.

Natasha Eccles founded the Sacred Heart Church junior choir in Omagh at Christmas 2015, with around a dozen children aged between eight and 12 performing regularly at Saturday evening Mass.

However, the choir has not been allowed to perform since October and Ms Eccles claimed she has still not received details about the reason for the suspension.

The 37-year-old primary school teacher from Omagh said the first she heard from parish priest Fr Eugene Hasson about the matter was a letter

dated St Stephen's Day – informing her that she had been sacked from her voluntary role.

"I miss junior choir terribly and I feel extremely sad for our children who aren't getting that chance to contribute to Mass, and there's anger at how this is being dealt with," she said.

She added: "It's the fact that we have waited nearly 80 days and the first communication I have had with the parish priest was a letter to say I was sacked. It's just very disappointing."

Ms Eccles said that following a choir performance at Mass on October 14, she was approached by a safeguarding representative for Drumragh Parish.

She said he wanted to meet to complete safeguarding audit documentation, but also told her that a "complaint had been made about me and the other safeguarding representative wanted to discuss that complaint".

"I was quite shocked. I said I need to know the detail of that complaint so that I can respond appropriately. I knew I hadn't actually done anything, but I wanted to know what the complaint is," she said.



"He said during the course of that conversation that he had no option but to suspend junior choir with immediate effect.

"I was absolutely gutted, because that little choir just means the world to me."

Ms Eccles said some parents were "quite frustrated" and contacted the parish about the suspension.

She added: "From that date we have tried to get information from the parish but they were refusing. They wouldn't answer calls. They wouldn't answer emails."

Ms Eccles said she also approached both the Derry diocese and the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland.

She said a national board representative had suggested arranging a meeting to "clear the logjam", and that she had been awaiting further details.

But Ms Eccles said she then received a letter during Christmas week from Fr Hasson, in which he claimed she had failed to meet local safeguarding representatives for an audit update.

The letter read: "Upon the recommendations of the parish safeguarding committee I must terminate your directorship of the junior choir with immediate effect.

"I thank you for everything you have done in the past."

The letter also asked Ms Eccles to remove a junior choir Facebook page, which has in recent weeks posted details of the dispute.

Rejecting the letter's claims, Ms Eccles said: "It said I had refused to meet with the safeguarding

representatives but that is untrue because they had never given me a date to meet them."

She added: "I don't feel comfortable in going to that church any more because of the way I have been treated by them. I went to another parish over Christmas."

Drumragh parish declined to comment when contacted yesterday.

The National Board for Safeguarding Children was also unavailable for comment.

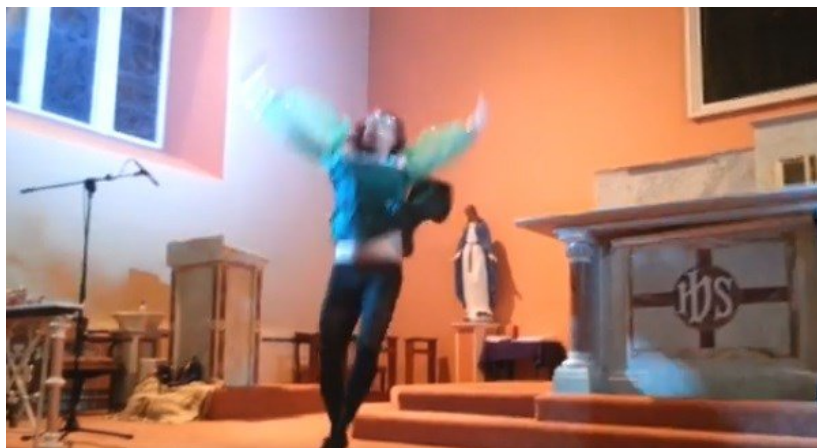
## **This Waterford church fundraiser from 2014 is going viral for all the right reasons**

In this day and age, it seems you can't go to/take part in any event without it being documented on social media in some way.

Turns out, it's not just 2017 - this video of a Waterford church performance has emerged from 2014 and we have got a feeling some participants thought they'd have gotten away with it.

First, think Riverdance then think ... Mrs Brown's Boys ... and mass.





According to Ruthie Ragget, who filmed the clip, the performance was the finale of a fundraiser to raise money to put a new roof on the church of St. Mollerans, CarrickBeg, Co. Waterford.

The group in the video is made up of local men and women who fundraise regularly for local and national charities and organisations such as Carrick-on-Suir River Rescue, Niall Mellon, Cystic Fibrosis, St. Mollerans hurling club.

The group are still going strong and currently in the early stages of planning their next event which will be in aid of the homeless.

Further photos and videos of the group can be found on the ['Carrick Relief' Facebook page](#)

Report courtesy Breaking News

## **British Teilhard Association dissolves due to lack of members**

A British association dedicated to Jesuit thinker Teilhard de Chardin dissolved on New Year's Eve due to falling membership.

The association announced the decision on Twitter on Monday, but added that its website would continue as a newly constituted 'British Teilhard Network'.

The move comes just weeks after the Pontifical Council for Culture asked Pope Francis to remove the decades-old official warning against Teilhard's works.

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin wrote a series of best-selling theological works in the first half of the 20th Century in which he drew on his studies as a palaeontologist in an attempt to reconcile the faith with evolution.

He became famous for his theory of an "Omega Point", mankind's ultimate destination. He saw all of human development in terms of evolution, an upward movement towards a final goal, of which the Incarnation was a decisive moment.



## **Paleontologist Pierre Teilhard de Chardin examines a skull he found in China**

Although many found his works helpful in reconciling their faith with new scientific discoveries, the Congregation of the Holy Office condemned them, writing that they “abound in such ambiguities and indeed even serious errors, as to offend Catholic doctrine”.

Pope Pius XII condemned Teilhard’s work as a “cesspool of error”, and the Vatican placed an official “monitum”, or warning, against it.

However, last year the Pontifical Council for Culture voted unanimously to ask Pope Francis to remove the warning, saying “albeit some of

his writings might be open to constructive criticism, his prophetic vision has been and is inspiring theologians and scientists.”

## **CMS appoints Lima mission partner as new Latin America development manager**

A Lima-based mission partner of the Church Mission Society has been appointed as the agency’s first Latin American mission development manager. Paul Tester has been working alongside young people and the Anglican Church in the region various ministry roles since 2007. He will succeed Bishop Henry Scriven, who led CMS’ work in Latin America for the past nine years; and will be the first leader of CMS’ Latin American work to be based in the region itself.

In a statement, CMS said that following Bishop Henry’s retirement, they had “taken the opportunity to reshape its approach in view of the way mission has changed over recent years. Consequently, the new role of mission development manager for Latin America reflects the facilitating and complementary nature of mission in the 21st century, where mission



organisations like CMS work predominantly with local partners who are already based in the region.”

Commenting on his appointment, Tester said: “First and foremost my intention will be to discern God’s direction rather than follow our own intuition as we seek to develop mission growth in Latin America, through both the traditional models of sending missionaries from the UK to Latin America but also enabling, advocating for, and inspiring mission within and from Latin America.”

Looking forward, Paul expressed his excitement for the potential of this new role to change the

future of Latin America, developing a mission movement that is “Latino” in nature, bearing in mind the geographical size of the region and the need for life-changing discipleship within and beyond the church.

Paul Tester “will enable CMS to grow its mission work in and from Latin America in collaboration with the Anglican Church of South America, and other strategic partners in region,” CMS’ director of international mission, Paul Thaxter, said. “It is a privilege to be part of the dynamic growth that is sweeping through the church in Latin America.”

Originally from High Wycombe, in Buckinghamshire, England, Paul went to university in Durham before working in the construction industry. He and his wife Sarah have three children.

CMS was formed in 1799 and is one of the world’s oldest mission agencies. Its vision is to see people “set free to play their part in the mission of God, bringing challenge, change, hope and freedom to the world, so that people and places are renewed with the love of Christ, pioneering leaders can forge new paths of transformation, people on the margins flourish and the healing of creation begins.” It works

across Europe, Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America.

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