

Carnalea church looks to future with new extension



Canon Parker, Ven John Scott, Ven Gregor McCambley, Bishop Miller and Bishop Darling.

After ten months of building, the congregation of St Gall's Church, Carnalea, came together on Sunday last 19 November to celebrate the dedication of the new extension to the church.

An extensive program of works has added a new community cafe space, church offices, facilities, choir room, extended chapel and front porch. A host of innovative technologies will make the building more efficient to heat and more comfortable for the folks within the church and community who use it.

Canon Michael Parker, Rector of St Gall's said: "It was a great stretch of the imagination to take our fifty year old building and transform it, making it fit for the twenty-first century. We love hosting a range of community events through the year but the congregation recognised that the years were taking their toll. A lot of planning by our Select Vestry and work by our architect Barry Patterson and our contractor MRPx have achieved a total transformation. It has been lovely to watch people react to the building as they come through the door for the first time and see the changes. We have been able to renew and extend our building to meet the needs of our congregation and the community that we serve."

The service on Sunday was attended by Lady Sylvia Herman MP, Mayor of Ards and North Down, Robert Adair and Gordon Dunn MLA for North Down. Directors of MRPx Ryan Lusk and Brian McGimpsey attended, along with site manager for the project Andy Collins.

Former clergy from the parish participated in the service including the very first minister in charge of the church, Bishop Edward Darling, formerly Bishop of Limerick until his retirement in 2000. He read the Gospel reading as part of the service of Holy Communion. Also attending were the Ven Gregor McCamley and the Ven John Scott who had been the Rectors of St Gall's through the 1970's and the 1980's respectively. Bishop Harold Miller celebrated Holy Communion and also preached the sermon which focused upon the parable of the talents in Matthew's Gospel, chapter 25.

Following the service the congregation began a twenty four hour prayer vigil through into Monday. The Rector said: "After all of the excitement of the building and the dedication service we knew that it was important to hallow the building. To recognise in our prayers that we have been very blessed with all that has been achieved and committing ourselves to seeking God's will and his purpose for what we are doing here as a parish. We model our vigil prayers on the ancient Bangor Abbey traditions from the time of St Columbanus and St Gall. That ancient model of prayer would have seen the abbey community praying all through the day and night."

The Rector continued: "The church is to be open during the coming days. We would like to extend an invitation to anyone who is passing to pop in and see all that has been done. Pray with us and pray for us as we step into the next chapter in our church story."

Senior Lurgan priest resigns after 'historical complaint' probe

The Irish News reports that : A Catholic priest has resigned from senior roles in the Dromore diocese following a child safeguarding investigation into a "historical complaint", the Bishop of Dromore has said.

Monsignor Aidan Hamill has stepped down as parish priest of St Peter's and St Paul's, Lurgan, and as vicar general in the Diocese of Dromore.

The retired priest will "take on other duties in the diocese appropriate to a restricted ministry and his skills", Bishop John McAreavey said.

It follows an investigation into a complaint made in 2014 against Monsignor Hamill, who is aged in his seventies.

A Dromore diocese spokesman said the complaint was "upheld", but they were unable to give further details.

Bishop John McAreavey said Monsignor Hamill "cooperated fully" with the investigation and voluntarily stepped down from active ministry when the probe began.

In a statement read out on Sunday in St Peter's and St Paul's, the bishop said: "Arising from the findings of those investigations, Monsignor Hamill has resigned as the parish priest of St Peter's and St Paul's, Lurgan, and as vicar general in the Diocese of Dromore.

"As a retired priest, Monsignor Hamill will take on other duties in the diocese appropriate to a restricted ministry and his skills."

'Restricted ministry' can include not being permitted to work with minors or lead church Masses.

Bishop John McAreavey said the diocese followed the Catholic church's national child-safeguarding procedures and the statutory authorities were informed.

"The church has a duty of care to protect young people and vulnerable adults and will always respond with both compassion and rigour when any allegation is made," he added.

"Again I ask those who feel that they may have been abused in a church context to make contact with the designated person within the diocese.

"When this matter first arose, I asked that you keep in your prayers all concerned. I ask you again to continue to do so." More at -

<https://www.irishnews.com/news/2017/11/22/news/lurgan-priest-monsignor-hamill-resigns-after-historical-complaint-probe-1193484/?utm>

Inter-church blessings of new Farm Relief Services offices in Roscrea

Over 200 people attended the official opening of FRS Network's new offices in Co. Tipperary last Friday, November 17.

Located in Derryvale, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary, the new offices have been joined to the original office block by a corridor – making the entire building one overall unit for FRS (Farm Relief Services) Network's 40 members of staff.



Over 200 people attended the official opening of FRS Network's new offices in Co. Tipperary last Friday

Representatives from all the national farming organisations, various officials in the agricultural sector and local business people all attended the opening ceremony in support of the staff at FRS.

Described as a “new state-of-the-art modern building”, it is hoped the new offices will allow the network to develop further in the future. As part of the project, the original offices were refurbished and a new carpark was added. As well as this, the existing store was expanded. Overall, the project was deemed as “delivering a very impressive office building to the outskirts of Roscrea town”.

At the opening ceremony, the CEO of FRS, Peter Byrne, delivered a brief history of the FRS and the building.

Commenting on the opening, he said: “We are very proud of the entire building, which we see as **an investment in the future** of FRS and all its connected companies.

“Our objective was to have a building we could afford, that would be functional, be future proofed in so far as possible and portray a positive image of the FRS organisation – of which we are all very proud. I hope you will agree that we have succeeded,” he said.

Clergy people from the Roscrea area, including: Fr. Pat Treacy, from the Catholic Church; Adrian Hewson and Jane Galbraith, from the Church of Ireland; and Shannon De Laoreal, from the Methodist church, blessed the building before the official cutting of the ribbon.

Purpose-built Anglican church opens in London for first time in 40 years

The first purpose-built Anglican parish church in [London](#) for 40 years formally opened on Tuesday



Bishop Rob Wickham prepares to dedicate London's first purpose-built church in 40 years: the new St Francis at the Engine Room.

on the site of a former factory and in the middle of a new regeneration scheme consisting of hundreds of homes.

St Francis at the Engine Room in [Tottenham](#) Hale cost more than £3m, funded by the diocese of London, the developers of Hale Village and donations. As well as a worship space, there is a community centre, 36-place nursery, workshop space and cafe.

It is the first of 100 new churches and worshipping spaces planned in London by 2020. The number of people attending Church of England churches in the capital has grown significantly over the past 25 years, although nationally congregations have declined.

A red ribbon at the entrance to the church was cut by the local Labour MP, David Lammy, and Rob Wickham, bishop of Edmonton. Children from Holy Trinity primary school played Amazing Grace on steel drums.

In the opening ceremony, Lammy said: “Someone at No 10 [Downing St] once said: ‘[We don’t do God](#).’ I’ve always been very clear that here in Tottenham we do do God.” The opening of the church was a “very, very special moment” for a community that had faced difficult times, he added.

He told the press: “There has been a lot of strife here in this community.” The idea of a new church originated during the [riots of 2011](#), which started after police shot dead a Tottenham man, Mark Duggan.

“Strong faith is a tradition in Tottenham, and for many people faith supports them through tough times. But this is not just about turning up on a Sunday – the church also fights for social justice,

speaks truth to power and supports communities.”

Andrew Williams, priest missionary at St Francis, said: “This is not a church with community facilities attached. This is a community centre first, and one of the things we will do is church. There’s a subtle difference.”

The congregation was diverse and mostly young, he added. The church had operated from temporary premises for the past four years while building up its numbers.

A striking triptych was specially commissioned from the Buddhist artist Graeme Mortimer Evelyn. It is now the largest contemporary altar piece in the UK.

Wickham, bishop of Edmonton, said: “As the nature of London changes, especially in areas of significant regeneration, we’re asking ourselves what are the most appropriate places for us to be in order for people and congregations to flourish.”

The London diocese had undertaken a “significant mapping exercise” across the city to establish gaps. “It’s about how we reach out, sometimes in places where there might have been a degree of retreat, or in new housing

developments, to build a sense of community at ground level.”

Rising church attendances in London bucked the national trend, he acknowledged. “But it’s not just Anglican churches that are growing, but black Pentecostal churches and other denominations. It’s partly down to immigration, and partly simply as London grows so do its congregations.

“And part of it is that we’re much more proactive. Gone are the days when we expect people to come to us. Now we have churches meeting in pubs and cafes, running night shelters, food banks and debt advice services. As the state retreats, people of faith are stepping into its place.”

St Francis is built on the site of the Lebus furniture factory, which switched production during the second world war to make engines for Mosquito bomber aircraft. The new Hale Village development consists of 1,200 homes for buying and renting.

Dublin launch of new book by Canon Cecil Hyland

A new book by Canon Cecil Hyland, published by Church of Ireland Publishing, will be launched

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in the Music Room of Christ Church Cathedral on Monday December 11 at 5.30 pm. *Journeying in Faith – A Walk with Christ* will be launched by the Bishop of Limerick, Killaloe & Ardfert, the Rt Revd Kenneth Kearon.

All are welcome to attend the launch but should confirm their attendance to hylandbooklaunch@rcbdub.org.

Cecil Hyland was ordained in 1963 and served curacies in Belfast and Dublin before returning to Belfast in 1967 as Church of Ireland Youth Officer. Six years later he was appointed Dean of Residence in TCD and subsequently served as Rector of Tullow and Rector of Howth before his retirement from the stipendiary ministry in 2005. In addition he has been the Dublin and Central Director of Ordinands, a member of the Dublin Diocesan Synod and General Synod, a member of the chapter of Christ Church cathedral, and has been involved in theological and adult education and the ministry to retired clergy.

This wide experience, together with an intangible aura that commands respect and attracts devotion, suggests that his book, described by the Revd Ted Woods as ‘an accessible introduction to the Christian faith’ will be a valuable resource for those who wish to

‘establish a connection between what is said and what is experienced’.

Irish Columban Missionary, Fr. Shay Cullen, receives the 2017 Martin Buber Award

Irish Columban missionary, Fr. Shay Cullen SSC, was in Kerkrade in the Netherlands at the weekend to receive the 2017 Martin Buber Award in recognition of his internationally acclaimed work on human rights in the Philippines since 1969. The award was presented during the annual International Festival of Dialogue – EURIADÉ.

Professor Martin Buber was a Jewish philosopher who advocated peace dialogue, mutual recognition of human rights and dignity, and a united Jewish and Arab Palestine. He became well known internationally for his “dialogical principle”. He died in 1965, and the prestigious award in his memory was initiated in 2002 with German Foreign Minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher as the inaugural recipient. Since then, recipients have included Queen Silvia of Sweden, President Klaus Johannis of Romania, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev,



**Fr. Shay Cullen and Francis Bermido,
Executive Director, Preda Foundation
displaying the Martin Buber Award**

Prince Irene of the Netherlands, and Karl-heinz Böhm, founder of the Austrian Menschen für Menschen Foundation for Ethiopia.

Accepting the award, Fr. Shay said the award recognises the work of bringing peace and reconciliation to the abused, exploited, abandoned, and jailed children of the world. “This prestigious award for our work” he said “is in the true spirit of Martin Buber’s writings and

his stand on making peace in the individual by direct contact with people to address human rights issues”.

“Martin Buber’s advocacy of peacemaking is based on compassionate listening, understanding the person, affirming each other, and engaging in dialogue directly with people who have or are suffering abuse and human rights violations. It is a philosophy to create the possibility and the chance of peace and reconciliation through full personal relationship between individuals and in society. It is a process of human interaction that brings healing and recovery, individually and in community”, he said.

Referring to his human rights work, Fr. Shay stated: “The work of freeing children from abusers, illegal imprisonment and abusive situations and bring them healing from trauma and bring them to a peaceful existence with society is what I have been doing for the past 43 years in the Philippines through the Preda Foundation with the help of dedicated co-workers.

“I am deeply honoured to be given this award but it is the resilient and courageous children who are survivors and victors who are the true

recipients. I accept it on their behalf and I congratulate the awarding committee in their wise and timely decision in choosing the resilient recovering children as the recipients of this award in my person.

“I speak for the many who struggle to overcome adversity and remain without a voice and a representative. The Martin Buber Award is a forum for them to be heard. They are here centre stage. This occasion highlights the suffering and the struggle of abused children and youth to overcome abuse and live again”.

Concluding he warned that without intervention to be heard, listened to and engaged in personal dialogue in the spirit of Martin Buber many child survivors bury the pain and grow up to survive without inner peace and a happy childhood.

“Some will be deeply affected all their lives, some will turn to vent their anger and pain on society through violence, but those who receive essential support and care through personal relationship in the community will recover and become strong and resilient members of society. Some becomes valuable advocates themselves.”

Fr. Shay has received numerous international awards that recognise his work in human rights.

His recent proposal to restrict the passports of paedophiles to curtail their travel to the sex tourism trade in the Philippines and other Asian countries has received widespread attention internationally. Deputy Maureen O'Sullivan has indicated that she is examining how this could be done legally in Ireland.

Aled Jones' family reveals allegation 'hell'

The mother-in-law of Aled Jones has defended him against a claim of inappropriate behaviour and said the allegation is putting her family through "hell".

Elaine Fossett told the MailOnline that the 46-year-old Songs of Praise presenter was "as capable of sexual harassment as Mother Teresa".

Referring to a report of inappropriate behaviour made against her son-in-law, the 74-year-old also said: "It is utterly, utterly appalling.

"It is destroying my family's life... they are going through hell and most undeservedly so."



The Walking In The Air singer said on Sunday that he was "deeply sorry" for any upset caused but strongly denied any inappropriate contact.

A spokesman said for Mr Jones, who married his wife Claire in 2001, had voluntarily agreed to stay off-air, pending an investigation by the BBC.

In a statement, they added: "Whilst he accepts that his behaviour over a decade ago was occasionally juvenile, as was that of others, he never intended to harass or distress and he strongly denies any inappropriate contact.

"He is, however, deeply sorry for any upset caused and hopes this matter is resolved soon." The spokesman said the allegation, which dates back more than a decade, did not relate to broadcast work.

Archbishop of Canterbury and Patriarch of Moscow appeal for Middle East Christians

Most Rev Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury and Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and all Russia have drawn attention to Christians in the Middle East enduring persecution.

Archbishop Justin and Patriarch Kirill wrote in a joint statement that they: "Thank God for the opportunity to meet in Moscow in order to with one voice before the entire world bear witness to our brothers and sisters who are persecuted for faith in Christ."

Referencing the Middle East and Africa, they said mass killings, destructions of churches and the forcing of Christians out of their homes were all factors contributing to devastating persecution.

During Archbishop Justin's the three-day visit to Russia, the two leaders cited Bible verses for support such as 1 Corinthians 12:26: "If one member suffers, all suffer together with it: if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it."



Archbishop Justin Welby and Patriarch Kirill at Lambeth Palace in October 2016.

Archbishop Justin and Patriarch Kirill also suggested: "We ought not to forget preventative measures against the ideology of extremism that has spread throughout the world under the influence of militants like an epidemic.

"We call upon the world's religious and political leaders to unite in their efforts to come up with an effective response to extremism."

The church leaders called for international leaders to speedily help refugees and those

facing no guarantee of security because of war through interreligious dialogue.

Archbishop Justin and Patriarch Kirill last met in 2016, Buckingham Palace for a meeting with The Queen.

Press watch: John Cushnahan: Gerry Adams never condemned the divisive terrorism of the IRA

The long goodbye has finally arrived – Gerry Adams has finally indicated his intention to relinquish the leadership of Sinn Féin.

While his political legacy will undoubtedly be assessed over the next few days and weeks, I hope it will not be treated with the same collective amnesia and rose-tinted glass perception that some political commentators and political figures accorded the legacies of Ian Paisley and Martin McGuinness.



John Cushman returned in 2008 to speak to the party he once led, at the Alliance Party annual conference. Mr Cushman was leader in the 1980s and later became a Fine Gael TD.

I do not dispute the conclusion that Gerry Adams has been a major political figure who leaves an indelible mark on modern Irish history. However, what is not so clear is the nature of the political legacy that he actually leaves – what are the political advances that he has made for northern nationalists, including for example the claim that he has brought a united Ireland

closer rather than being an unattainable pipe dream and furthermore what legacy will he leave the people of Ireland as a whole?

Gerry Adams and the IRA whom he staunchly supported claim that they came into being at the beginning of the Troubles to defend the Catholic minority from sectarian attack by loyalist extremists yet by the time they silenced their guns in 1994 the IRA had murdered more Catholics than any other party to the conflict.

The reality is that the IRA were also responsible for the deaths of over half of all the victims of the Troubles including many sectarian atrocities including ethnic cleansing in some border areas.

Despite what these figures illustrate Gerry Adams neither condemned nor apologised for the actions of those he unreservedly

supported during their three-decade long campaign of violence.

In recent times we often hear the narrative that has been orchestrated so carefully by apologists for Sinn Fein – namely the huge personal risks that Adams and McGuinness took for peace.

I do not believe that such an argument is credible. The people that really took the risks for peace down the years were those in the northern Catholic community (and indeed outside it also) who defied the IRA and whose political and moral courage often cost them their lives.

I also challenge the weekend claim made by Adams himself and his acolytes that the intertwining campaigns of Sinn Fein and the IRA have made a united Ireland an achievable dream hence their call for a border poll. In my opinion nothing could be further from the truth.

Having served in public life in the Republic of Ireland for almost two decades, I believe that a majority in the Republic of Ireland would not support Irish unity at any stage in the near future. I believe this for two reasons.

Firstly, the brutal terrorist campaign of the IRA diminished the desire for imminent Irish unity in the Republic of Ireland itself.

Secondly, in a post Brexit world, taxpayers in the Republic would not be prepared to pay higher taxes of almost €10 billion a year to absorb the north.

However, some might argue that Adams has nonetheless played a major role in bringing about an IRA ceasefire which eventually paved the way for the establishment of power -sharing institutions in Northern Ireland and better North-South and East-West relations.

On that point I am in total agreement about his recent legacy. But it must also be acknowledged that he was merely re-establishing the imaginative political experiment that had been first introduced in 1974.

Regrettably the power-sharing executive of that year was brought down by combination of increased IRA violence and the fascist loyalist UWC strike led by Ian Paisley and loyalist paramilitaries.

The IRA opposed it because they wanted to undermine the SDLP. Consequently, thousands of people needlessly died in the interim before Ian Paisley and Gerry Adams supported what had already been on offer in 1974.

Nor should it be forgotten Gerry Adams and IRA/Sinn Fein also sought to undermine the historic 1985 Anglo Irish Agreement which was seminal in

eventually bringing about the Good Friday Agreement.

But even if those historical actions are set aside, the question has to be posed to Mr Adams as he prepares to depart the political stage – what does he intend to do before he leaves it to resurrect the North's power-sharing institutions so that together we can minimise the economic and political fallout from Brexit.

All the people of this island, North and South, both unionist and nationalist have reason to be fearful about the implementation of Brexit hence the need to have a cross community, cross-border input into the negotiations.

My plea to him is: You have huge political acumen and also immense political capital and goodwill especially with northern nationalists, please use it to restore devolution and then we can all agree that

you will have left a real and lasting political legacy to all the people of this island.

- John Cushnahan is a former Alliance Party leader and Fine Gael MEP
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