

Princess Anne attends Cardinal Cormac's memorial Mass



Cardinal Nichols greets Princess Anne outside Westminster Cathedral

Princess Anne was among several members of the Royal family who attended a memorial Mass for Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor this week.

During the Mass at Westminster Cathedral Cardinal Vincent Nichols hailed his predecessor's "gift for friendship" as well as the "wondrous simplicity and humility" he showed in his last days.

He also recalled Cardinal Cormac's warm encounters with the Queen, Prince Philip and the Queen Mother.

A moment that brought the cardinal "particular pride and delight", he said, was preaching to the Queen and Prince Philip at Sandringham, their Norfolk estate.

"Perhaps that joy was matched by his memory of a sing-a-long with the Queen Mother who told him that he was simply too young to know one of her favourite songs," Cardinal Nichols said.

Another source of delight, he said, was having lunch with the Queen and Philip at Archbishop's House.

"With typical personal sensitivity, and a little fun, he sat Sister Clement next to Her Majesty so that they could have a good chat together about horses," he said.

In his homily, the cardinal said that “two great loves” filled Cardinal Cormac’s heart: “a love of life, expressed especially through family and friends, and love of his Catholic faith, expressed in his enduring love for the Church.”

These two loves gave him a “strong foundation” for his life’s work and meant that a “sense of joy and fun were never far from hand”.

“It was with these great gifts,” the cardinal added, “that he approached the most important step of his and every life: that of dying well.

“In his last days, he showed a wondrous simplicity and humility, serene in the sense that his life’s work was done and that was time to go home, to his Heavenly Father who, he trusted wholeheartedly, would embrace him in mercy and forgiveness,” Cardinal Nichols said.

Cardinal Nichols thanked Princess Anne and other members of the Royal family for their presence at the Mass. Others who attended were the Duke and Duchess of Kent and Princess Michael of Kent.

Galway to host Romanian Orthodox youth congress

More than 100 delegates from across Ireland and Britain will gather in St Nicholas' Collegiate Church this weekend, for the Romanian Orthodox church's annual Youth Congress of Nepsis, which this year takes place in Galway.

The congress, which takes place tomorrow, Saturday, and Sunday, aims to empower young people to live and better understand their Orthodox faith, while engaging in intercultural dialogue. The theme is 'The Icon or the Sacred Image. A Compared Theology'. The Orthodox faith regards an icon as a projection of God, and a person should aim to become an icon of God in society. The talks will cover themes such as the origins of icons, methods of creating icons, and how to understand them.

The main speaker at the congress will be Fr Ioan Emil Jurcan, from the Faculty of Theology in Alba Iulia, Romania. Bishop Ignatie, Assistant Bishop for Spain and Portugal and Metropolitan Iosif's representative for UK and Ireland, is also a guest.

The Romanian Orthodox community in the west of Ireland has for some years now been worshipping in St Nicholas', sharing it with the Church of Ireland congregation. The conference will be in Romanian, but translation facilities can be provided. Report courtesy the Galway Advertiser.

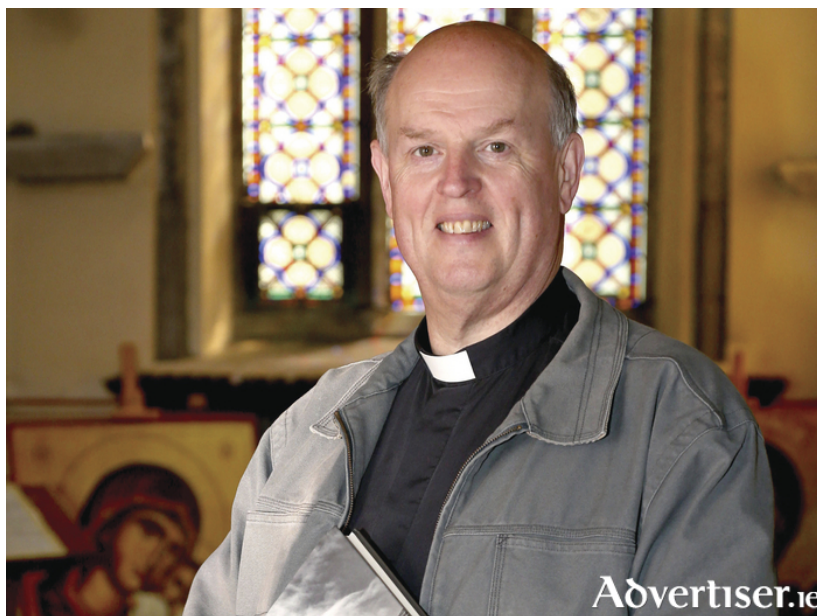
'This is Galway's church, not just our church' - Gary Hastings C of I rector

Charlie McBride of the Galway Advertiser recently met Rev Gary Hastings, rector of St Nicholas' Collegiate Church. He writes:

For the past eight years the rector of Galway's much-loved St Nicholas's Collegiate Church has been Reverend Gary Hastings, an amiable Belfastman who is esteemed in Irish traditional music circles as a flute player.

I met him for a cordial chat which ranged over such subjects as Irish music, the history of the Lambeg drum, Croagh Patrick, the value of pilgrimage, and the diversity of people and faiths welcomed by St Nicholas's.

Reverend Hastings was born in east Belfast in 1956 and was reared in the staunchly Protestant



Raven's Hill area. "I grew up in a big extended family; there were great aunts and grandparents and cousins all living nearby so on Christmas Day you could have 30 people eating their dinner in the house," he recalls. "I was about 11 when the Troubles started; up to that it had been a grand place to live but with the Troubles there was a drastic change. I remember all the pubs in our road being burnt out within the space a week or two, and when you're a child that is weird because you don't know what's going on

or why it's happening so you can't understand it."

Music was not a big part of Gary's upbringing and only became serious when he went to university in Coleraine; "That was when I first got to meet and know Roman Catholics," he admits. "Belfast was very segregated and where I lived you'd never come across a Catholic. When I went to Coleraine I did, and discovered they were just like the rest of us, which sounds like a daft thing to say, but up North that's a big thing to find out when you were brought up in the kind of Belfast I was reared in. I went to university to do physics but discovered drink and cigarettes and girls and traditional music all around the same time so the physics didn't really stand a chance. I started learning music then, the flute and the whistle."

Hastings cites Boys Of The Lough flute player Cathal McConnell as a key mentor in those years. He also cut his teeth as a member of Shaskeen, with whom he performed in Galway in the mid-seventies, his first time visiting the city. Having flunked physics he then returned to Coleraine University to do a degree in Irish studies 'as gaeilge', taking a one-year intensive Irish language course beforehand. I ask if his

family were taken aback by his immersion in Irish music and language.

“The music was just music as far as they were concerned,” he replies. “I was expecting some appalled reactions to me learning Irish but there wasn’t, strangely. My granny didn’t even know that the Irish language existed and the rest of the family thought me studying it was daft in the same way they would have if I was going to learn Urdu. Their reaction was ‘Where’s the money in that?’ but they didn’t react against it. At that time Irish wasn’t politicised, nor was the music, whereas by the later 1970s that had happened so then it would have been a much less healthy pursuit for someone from my end of Belfast to take up.”

Gary’s university researches provided the groundwork for his first book, *With Fife and Drum*, published in 2003 by Blackstaff, which explores the traditions of those instruments in Irish music.

“People tend to think there is Irish ‘green’ music and ‘orange’ Protestant music,” he observes. “In the 1800s there was only one kind of music in the whole country for most people, which was traditional Irish music, and both Protestants and Catholics listened to it. Cultural polarisation only

started in the late 1800s; nationalism starts up the whole cultural thing with the founding of the GAA, Gaelic League, etc. That was when culture becomes polarised and Protestants pull away from it, but lots of Protestants were still dancing to traditional music in Orange halls whereas the Catholics in the North had stopped doing it completely. If you go back to the 1960s, traditional music – in the south as well, had died, yet there were still people in Orange halls dancing lancers and sets. Then as the Troubles happened the polarisation got worse and the attitudes emerged that ‘Catholics do this and Protestants do that and never the twain shall meet’."

The book also delves into the history of the iconic Lambeg drum; "The Lambeg drum started out as a relatively small military drum then gradually got bigger and bigger. The reason was that you'd have competitions where two drummers would face off against each other and they could be playing for five or six hours until one man finally gave up – crazy, macho, testosterone stuff!

"In that situation a bigger drum drowned out a smaller. The only thing stopping the drums getting even bigger was that goats only grow to a certain size and once you want to put

goatskins on a drum you are stuck. Lambeg drums can produce 120 decibels which is the sound level of a light aircraft engine or a



pneumatic drill, but they are still musical instruments – if you get a good drummer playing along with a fife there is a lovely swing to it.”

Lambegs were also adopted by Ancient Order of Hibernians bands; “Each side borrowed stuff from the other,” Hastings notes. “The Hibernians were a green mirror image of the Orange Order; they were drumming the same stuff. I learned a lot of tunes from Willie Nicholl and the man he learned from, Jock Lecky, taught both Orange and Hibernian drummers and fifers, and he taught them exactly the same tunes with just a

couple of exceptions. He would teach the Hibernians 'Kelly the Boy of Killane' and he'd teach the Orange boys 'The Boyne Water' but all the rest of the tunes were in common."

Hastings ministered for some years in Mayo and his second book was *Going Up the Holy Mountain* (Columba Press, 2015) which reflected on the spiritual importance of Croagh Patrick and the idea of pilgrimage.

"The Reek pilgrimage happens every year and is big but there are also people going up it throughout the year," he observes. "They are going up on bicycles, or for sponsored walks, or for charity, all of which means people are starting to forget Croagh Patrick is a holy mountain and what it means and why it is special. I thought 'I should do something about that' so that's where the impetus for the book came from. Rather than just being about the Reek it is about spirituality and pilgrimage. It is about how to pray and how to live your life in a spiritual way and the book is hung on the Reek as an idea.

"Pilgrimage is more of a Catholic than a Protestant thing but spirituality is getting new light shone on it so people are starting to think about it. There are spiritual things happening outside churchy stuff and that is something the

churches will have to waken up to, that religion happens outside the churches now and pilgrimage is a useful spiritual concept no matter what religion you belong to. Most religions have pilgrimage as part of them anyway and it is a good thing to do; it is a tool you can use and it helps you spiritually.”

It was in 2009 that Rev Hastings became rector at St Nicholas’s, the church where he was ordained in 1993. Not only does the church serve the Church of Ireland community but it also hosts services for the eastern Orthodox faiths and Pentecostal Africans.

“The congregation here is eclectic; we have people here from all over the world,” Hastings declares. “Most are Irish but we also have Swedes, Germans, Australians, Americans, Africans, Chinese, you name it! There are lots of people who are attached to this church but who don’t come every Sunday but this is still their place. Then there are quite a few people who use the church yet they don’t come to the services and wouldn’t say they are C of I – and that is fair enough. A lot of people from Galway use this place to pray in. You see them in here lighting candles or they come in to say some prayers – this is Galway’s church it isn’t just our

church. People use this church and they are part of its community albeit not in an official way.”

St Nicholas’s is certainly a church where one can be sure of a warm welcome and Rev Gary Hastings is the affable embodiment of its congenial spirit.

Links to music and reading at -

<http://www.advertiser.ie/galway/article/95624/this-is-galways-church-not-just-our-church>

Church leaders convey sympathy on death of former Taoiseach Liam Cosgrave

The Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson, Archbishop of Dublin said - Members of the Church of Ireland community wish to express sadness and sympathy to the family and friends of former Taoiseach Liam Cosgrave.

Mr Cosgrave combined courage and courtesy with political patience. He will be remembered for his dedication and service to the Irish people and his contribution structurally to a solid understanding of reconciliation right across Ireland.

We who are privileged to live peacefully today remain grateful for his tenacity and leadership.

Archbishop Eamon Martin of Armagh said - As with many people across the country, I was saddened last evening to hear of the death of the former Taoiseach Mr Liam Cosgrave.

Following in the political footsteps of his beloved father, Liam Cosgrave was admired by people the length and breadth of Ireland as a wise, modest and kind man of great integrity. During uncertain times in our history Liam Cosgrave did not shirk from making important and challenging decisions which demanded decisive political, economic and moral leadership.

A man of strong faith, Liam Cosgrave placed great value on the primacy of conscience in his political career and in his private life. One of the high points of his life was his attendance at the 1975 canonisation in Rome of the martyred Saint Oliver Plunkett during which he read one of the readings at the Mass.

At this sad time for Mr Cosgrave's family, friends and colleagues in politics, I pray for all those who mourn him and for the happy repose of his soul.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dilís.

Confusion still surrounds future of St Joseph's Hospital

The Chair of the Save our St Joseph's Hospital Campaign says there is still considerable confusion about the future of the facility.

Fr John Joe Duffy says there's been much talk about plans and consultation, but very little evidence of movement on the ground.

At the weekend, Church of Ireland Rector Reverend Adam Pullen met with HSE officials to discuss the future of the Church of Ireland facility at St Joseph's.

In the plans published initially, the chapel has been removed, but Rev Pullen has been promised a space will be provided and they will be consulted.

He also says they've been guaranteed that a historic window in the current chapel will be retained and used in the new space.

Rev Adam Pullen spoke on the Ten to One Show - link to broadcast at:

<http://www.highlandradio.com/2017/10/04/confusion-still-surrounds-future-of-st-josephs-hospital/>

Walkout climbdown as Anglican primates hold together

Conservative Anglicans have climbed down from threats to walk out if their demands for harsher sanctions on the Scottish Church were not met.

Tensions were building as leaders from around the worldwide Anglican Communion met this week in Canterbury after traditionalists demanded tougher penalties on the Scottish Episcopal Church for allowing gay marriage.

In a briefing for journalists on Tuesday, Rev Andrew Gross from the Anglican Church in North America, who acts as a spokesman for the conservative grouping GAFCON, said the leaders would not be satisfied unless the punishment was more stringent.

'The GAFCON primates are not sure they can remain in the room if there is not repentance,' he said. He warned Anglicans from Scotland, the US, who also permit gay marriage, and Canada, who are moving in that direction, 'must repent'



and if they did not 'the Anglican Communion will no longer be able to gather together'.

He said: 'Only repentance can lead to a seat at the table.'

But a different message came from the primates themselves who seemed happy with the watered down 'consequences' which did not meet Gross' demands, despite the Primus of the Scottish Church, Mark Strange, [remaining unrepentant](#).

The Archbishop of Kenya Jackson Ole Sapit, who is a key member of the GAFCON primates' council, told Christian Today the level of sanctions 'was fine for me'.

'Yes I think I am satisfied because still the doctrine of marriage in the Anglican Communion remains that it is between one woman and one man for life,' he said in an interview with Christian Today.

'That hasn't changed and that makes us happy.'

The Archbishop of South East Asia Moon Hing, who is GAFCON's treasurer, said he was 'very happy and very glad' to be present.

'Even though when we quarrel, we have conflicts, God has never given up on us; and every time we come back to him, he is always there,' he told the [Anglican Communion news service](#). 'And he is ready every moment for us to come back and say "let's walk together again with one another, with our neighbours and with him."'

The Archbishop of Canterbury said the decision to just impose the 'consequences' and nothing more stringent was unanimously approved and no vote was required.

The largely secretive meeting is taking place inside Canterbury Cathedral's grounds but Christian Today understands no concerns were raised about the levels of the sanctions by any

primates and there have been no threats to leave prematurely in protest.

But a statement from GAFCON on Thursday seemed to contradict this and said the 'persistent assertions that the Primates of the Anglican Communion are "walking together", do not reflect the reality'.

The statement said GAFCON primates were 'concerned' about divisions and insisted: 'The Primates are not walking together. At best, they say, "they are walking at a distance". At worst, they are walking in different directions.'

The meeting continues until today, Friday, and the primates have been discussing religious persecution, climate change and the refugee crisis as well as divisions over sexuality.

Abuse inquiry to probe potential C of E 'secrecy'

The Church of England will be scrutinised to establish whether a "culture of secrecy" existed, allowing perpetrators of sexual abuse to go unchallenged in their crimes.

The announcement was made by the public inquiry into child sexual abuse, during a

preliminary hearing on Wednesday about the strand of the investigation which concerns the C of E. Numerous individuals and institutions are included in the investigation.

Counsel to the inquiry, Fiona Scolding QC said: "Culture is important because it shapes everything about the way that things are done within the organisation and it is both deeply embedded within an organisation and often difficult to change."



The IICSA [is being chaired by Professor Alexis Jay - above.](#)

The Church of England strand of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) is due to get underway in March next year. It will examine how leaders handled allegations of exploitation by clergy.



Fiona Scolding QC continued: "This will involve examining how far was there or is there a culture of secrecy within the church."

"How far the church's approach to sex and sexuality contributed or contributes to difficulties with cultural change. How far does the hierarchical nature of the church create a power imbalance which could inhibit the reporting of abuse."

Speaking during a meeting held at the new IICSA headquarters in central London, Fiona Scolding QC said the inquiry would cover current church practises and any planned future reforms, in addition to past events.

Disgraced former Bishop of Gloucester Peter Ball will also feature as a specific case study. More than 184,000 pages of evidence have been received by the inquiry. Some 22,000 have been deemed duplicates while 35,000 were found to be irrelevant.

Vatican youth summit to hear ‘doubts and criticisms’ of the Church

Pope Francis wants to hear firsthand from young people about their “doubts and criticisms” in the run-up to a big meeting of bishops on how the Catholic Church can better minister to young people today.

The Vatican said Wednesday it would host a summit of young people from around the world on March 19-24 as a preparatory meeting to the synod of bishops later in the year. As well as young Catholics, other Christians and young atheists have been invited to the event.

The aim is to let the church hierarchy “hear young people’s voices and feelings about their faith, their doubts and criticisms.” The meeting’s conclusions are set to be sent to the bishops.

Already, the Vatican has sought input from young people via online questionnaires to inform the synod.

As well as young Catholics, other Christians and young atheists have been invited to the event

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