



Clongowes and Enniskillen Royal schools unite to honour the Blessed John Sullivan



The main participants in the Service of Choral Evensong in Thanksgiving for the Life and Work of the Blessed John Sullivan SJ in St. Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen on Sunday afternoon. Included are (front row from left); Karen Clyde, People's Churchwarden; the Bishop of Clogher, the Right Revd John McDowell; the Church of Ireland Archbishop of Dublin, the Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson; the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Dublin, the Most Revd Dr Diarmuid Martin; the Lord Lieutenant for Fermanagh, Viscount Brookeborough; Sandra Richmond, Rector's Churchwarden, and Verger Andy McCabe. Also included are the Dean of Clogher, the Very Revd Kenneth Hall,

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who conducted the service, and clergy representing the Church of Ireland, Roman Catholic Church and Jesuit Order who took part in the service.

A large congregation of people from across Ireland joined Archbishops from the Church of Ireland and Roman Catholic churches and the Bishop of Clogher on Sunday to mark the life and work of the Blessed John Sullivan SJ in St Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen.

The Service of Choral Evensong in Thanksgiving for the Life and Work of the Blessed John Sullivan, an Old Portoran, was attended by the Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson, Archbishop of Dublin, an Old Portoran; the Most Revd Dr Diarmuid Martin, Archbishop of Dublin; the Bishop of Clogher, the Right Revd John McDowell; the Revd Fr Tom Clayton, former Provincial of the Jesuit Order in Ireland; the Right Revd Monsignor Joseph McGuinness, Diocesan Administrator, Diocese of Clogher; the Right Revd Monsignor Peter O'Reilly, parish priest of St Michael's Church, Enniskillen; and the Dean of Clogher, the Very Revd Kenneth Hall, who conducted the service.

The Lord Lieutenant, Viscount Brookeborough, also attended. The music and praise reflected the setting and included hymns "Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven," and "Abide with Me" written by Henry Francis Lyte, who attended Portora in the early 1800s. Leading the singing was St Macartin's Cathedral Choir, led by Director of Music and Organist Glenn Moore, Assistant Director of Music Jayne Hazlett, Assistant Organist Matthew Murphy and cantor David Robertson.

The Choir of Enniskillen Royal Grammar School, conducted by Director of Music Ann Bloomfield, and the **Clongowes Wood College SJ Schola**, led by Director of Liturgy Cyril Murphy, sang anthems.

The readings were by Miss Elizabeth Armstrong, Principal of Enniskillen Royal Grammar School and the Revd Fr Michael Sheil SJ, Rector of Clongowes Wood College.

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The Church of Ireland Archbishop of Dublin, the Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson, a former Chairman of the Board of Governors and former pupil of Portora Royal School, in his sermon, referred to Portora's motto; "omnes honorate; honour everyone."

He said that as Ireland developed and as Portora expanded both its intake of pupils and its remit of influence, the origin of the school was never forgotten.

"The recognition and the acceptance of such history has not impeded the evolving and the enriching contributions that Portora has made to history, local and universal, through the centuries. This proved to be invaluable during the days that cannot be forgotten, because what was done cannot be undone, that is during the days of The Troubles.

"During this sustained period of recent history, while emotions ran high; and while the local character of community life, relationships and neighbourliness in the fullness of time came home to help more than it did to hinder; this invitation to give honour to everyone was fiercely tested yet sustained in and out of school. The capacity of Enniskillen and of County Fermanagh generally to live through the Troubles and to live through the iconic and tragic events of the Enniskillen Bomb and their devastating aftermath bears witness to the wider applicability of such a motto to a range of situations – and right across this county. Honour counters horror; violence is not victorious; God is not mocked," he told the congregation.

Referring to John Sullivan's early years at Portora Royal School, Archbishop Jackson said: "The Portora of John Sullivan was in many ways familiar family territory. His father was a Portoran, as was his brother. Classics were in his day, so to speak, the chemistry of our day. With a classical education you could do virtually anything, you could undertake most careers. John Sullivan went from Portora to read Classics in Trinity College, Dublin, and then to read for the Bar. His father was the Lord Chief Justice of Ireland and there were all the signs that John Sullivan has the skills and the talents to be successful in this area of life.

"His life took a different turn and has given us the glorious and unique opportunity to be here – and here together – today. He

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moved from high end to humility; from profile to pastoral concerns; from self to God and God's people. We come to a church building that would probably have been known to John Sullivan as somewhere to which the school would come for Sunday Services.

"I's worship is something to which he never really refers yet his knowledge of both the Church of Ireland and the Roman Catholic traditions stood to him and stands to us today through the example of lived holiness in the everyday things of life for which he has become renowned. It is this combination of what once seemed impossible, and that now seems in so many parts of the world to be natural, humane and organic – by which I mean friendship across fractured traditions, respect across embedded sectarianisms – that makes both the Portoran family, as the Portoran presence at the Service of Beatification in The Jesuit Church in Gardiner Street, Dublin, showed, and the Jesuit family, as their presence here today shows, equally grateful for John Sullivan.

"His openness to 'the two traditions' is something that is of the spirit of the two schools with which he will ever be associated: Portora Royal School and Clongowes Wood College. 'Aeterna non caduca: eternal not falling' is the Clongowes motto. It too points us to a noble ideal and a positive aspiration for self-understanding and for service of others. It is very important for us all to keep our eyes on higher ideals and not to let our expectations falter and fall. The honouring of others marches with the raising of aspirations to create engaged citizenship and to advance the public good. We live in a world where love no longer is a public good. We must look to principled youth," he stated.

Archbishop Jackson praised the contribution which Clongowes Wood College has made to events in Fermanagh, sharing a link with Portora.

"For all of this Enniskillen and its generations of young people remain grateful to the school where John Sullivan lived for the greater part of the second half of his life – Clongowes Wood College. The other thing that Clongowes has given to us in

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Enniskillen is The Joyce–Beckett literary link and The Joyce–Beckett Literary Award.

“It is to young people that we who find ourselves inside those institutions should look, as well as looking to those of mature and radical experience. We need a blended economy of commitment and vision to build a just society. In all humility, we need to start all over again with comprehension and compassion meeting realism and response. These deliberate actions will bring us back to words and activities of which we have long tired: compromise and reconciliation but which we have to re–learn – that is if we even want to try, North, South, East and West, to do what a predecessor of mine referred to as: Learning to agree to disagree agreeably,” he concluded.

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, in a reflection, described the service as a “unique” occasion and thanked the Bishop of Clogher, the Right Revd John McDowell, for his invitation and the congregation at St Macartin’s Cathedral for their welcome.

Archbishop Martin said: “John Sullivan did not become holy when he became a Catholic and he didn’t become holy when he became a Jesuit. His roots go back to his early childhood, to his days in Portora when he had a great reflection in the Scriptures.

“He is a fruit of both traditions and there is a way he lived that enabled him to rise above those traditions,” he said.

He described how John Sullivan offered his services to the sick in particular.

“He had this extraordinary care for the sick and one of the things he had was he had time for the sick, he spent time with them, he listened to them and prayed with them and helped them to face the challenges of life and death,” he told the congregation.

He said holiness was the call of Christians but that John Sullivan was a model of holiness.

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“A holy person must be a person who has the care of Jesus for the sick, the troubled and those weighing with heavy burdens.”
He concluded: “We pray for all of us that John Sullivan can rise above the narrowness of our lives.”

The prayers were led by Brigadier John Graham, President of the Old Portoran Union; the Revd Canon Desmond Kingston, former Chaplain of Portora Royal School; Hector Lloyd, great, great grand nephew of John Sullivan and the Revd Fr Tom Clayton, former Provincial of the Irish Jesuit Province.

Lisburn church service to honour First Responders and Emergency Services

A service to recognise the vital contribution of Lisburn’s First Responders and Emergency Services will take place on Sunday April 22 at 6.30pm at Christ Church Parish Church.

Members of the public are invited to attend the service which has been jointly organised by Christ Church Parish and Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council.

The Mayor, Councillor Tim Morrow, said that it was a privilege to be involved with Christ Church to honour the city’s First Responders and Emergency Services which have saved countless lives and helped so many more in their hour of need.

“The people of Lisburn & Castlereagh owe a huge debt to those men and women, involved in saving lives in the city, be it within the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service, the PSNI, the accident & emergency services at our local hospitals, or the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service,” the Mayor said.

“On behalf of all our residents, I would like to thank them for their unfaltering service and dedication often during traumatic and upsetting times.”

In recognition of Northern Ireland’s recently established First Responder, the Offering during the service will be donated to the Air Ambulance NI Charity.



Organisers of the service at Christ Church, Lisburn to recognise the city's First Responders and Emergency Services. From left: Emma Young, A&E Department, Lagan Valley Hospital; Inspector Nigel Rowland, PSNI; the Mayor, Cllr Tim Morrow; The Venerable Paul Dundas, Christ Church; Yvonne Craig, Northern Ireland Ambulance Service and Grace Williams, Air Ambulance Northern Ireland.

Archdeacon of Dalriada, The Ven Paul Dundas, Rector of Christ Church, Lisburn, first approached the Council with the idea to formally recognise and give thanks to the work of the Emergency Services and the Council were delighted to support him.

“As a parish we are delighted to be part of this celebration of the service that the emergency services provide in our council area,” Archdeacon Dundas said. “This public act of worship will allow an opportunity for them to be represented and to hear some of their work when they are required by the public.

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“Thanksgiving and service are key themes to this special service and we look forward to the support of present and former members of the Emergency Services as well as members of the public,” the Archdeacon added.

Churchman honoured by Habitat for Humanity



Alan Brown receiving his award from Seamus McKeague, Creagh Concrete Products Ltd and Habitat Board Chair together with Claire Hanna, All Party Group International Development.

Belvoir parishioner and vestry member, Alan Brown, was recently awarded Habitat for Humanity NI's *Building for Faith Award*.

Each year the charity, which is dedicated to the global vision that everyone has the right to safe and decent shelter, recognises the outstanding contribution of some of their volunteers with volunteer awards.



Alan is pictured above onsite in Bacau România

Alan's citation reads: "Alan Brown's commitment to put his faith into action by partnering with Habitat took him first to Poland in 2003. His passion to see others grow from their

experience makes him a valued leader who has inspired hundreds of volunteers who have journeyed with him to work alongside families on Habitat programmes in Africa, Asia and Latin America. This will be the 4th year that Alan has led Youth Build teams, helping young people to understand how Habitat's work transforms lives. It is a privilege to acknowledge all that Alan has contributed through this award."

Prayer and practical aid for farming community

The escalating fodder crisis and its devastating impact on farmers and their livestock has affected many throughout Ireland.

The persistent cold and wet weather has made farming conditions exceptionally difficult. Last year's cold and wet summer meant poor grass growth and the very late start to spring this year has seen many run out of fodder to feed their cattle. The recent snow and heavy rainfall have only served to exacerbate an already bad situation.

Recognising the serious hardship faced by many farmers as a result of the fodder crisis, Protestant Aid has announced a special grant for farmers affected. The organisation has set up a specific "Fodder Crisis Response Grant Scheme" to address the additional spend many farmers are having to make on fodder due to recent

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poor weather conditions. Forms for the grant scheme will be available from clergy or directly from Protestant Aid by contacting info@protestantaid.org.

Archbishop Michael Jackson has urged people to pray for those experiencing hardship and has written a prayer:

A Prayer for the Farming Community

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the Good Shepherd of the sheep,
we pray for those who give their lives to the care of animals
and whose livelihood depends on the well-being of creatures in their care.
At a time of crisis in the farming community,
we remember the loss of life and the hardship brought about by the fodder crisis.
We pray that in the providence of God the sun will shine,
the grass will grow and God's creatures will be fed.
We give thanks for the sense of local community support,
the willingness to offer practical help
and the attentiveness of neighbour to neighbour.
This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Funerals held as 157 victims of the Genocide in Rwanda buried in Ruhango memorial

The recently discovered bodies of 157 victims of the Rwandan Genocide have been laid to rest in a former Anglican Church, alongside the bodies of 36,700 victims already buried there.

On 15 April 1994, more than 25,000 people seeking refuge and sanctuary at the Ruhango Episcopal Anglican Church were slaughtered. The church is now a memorial for the victims.

The scenes at Ruhango were repeated at other churches across Rwanda. While several of them have been turned into memorials;



The slaughter at Ruhango Anglican church was not unique in the Rwandan Genocide. A number have been turned into memorials; as in this one at Nyamata.

Ruhango is the only Anglican church that has become a memorial site.

This week, thousands of mourners gathered at the site to pay their respects to the 157 victims as their bodies were laid to rest in the mass grave.

“It was always a challenge that our people could not get a decent burial,” Gerald Mudahemuka, whose parents and relatives were killed in the church, said in [an interview with *The New Times* newspaper](#).

“We have been searching for them. Now that we found them, we pray that they rest in peace and we will continue to push so we get the remains of other relatives as well.”

One of the few people to survive the slaughter was Claudine Uwizeyimana, who was a teenager when the church was attacked.
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Speaking at the service, she said: “on 14 April, Interahamwe militia attacked us but people resisted,” *The New Times* reported.

“The next day they came equipped, at around 10 am they came, there was initially some resistance but the killers were ready and well-armed. They shot people from outside the church before breaking the doors and windows and entered, many were killed, including my brother.”

The Rwandan government says it will continue to support survivors of the genocide and help to locate further bodies.

