

**Glenstal
Abbey
officially
opens new
€6m school
building**

Right Reverend
Dom Notker
Wolf, Abbot
Primate of the
Benedictine
Confederation,
who flew in from
Rome, said he
was envious of Glenstal's pupils.



GLENSTAL Abbey School's new €6m building that successfully "marries old and new" received top marks at its official opening.

Limerick Leader - "I would have loved to have come here. It is so beautiful, so bright, the whole atmosphere – I loved it when I saw it. Congratulations on this wonderful building," said the Abbot Primate, who presided at morning Mass before doing the official opening. The academic block contains 18 classrooms, three science laboratories, study spaces and admin offices. Br Martin Browne, principal, did the official blessing on the previous Friday. A large attendance of invited guests attended Sunday's ceremony, which was held in the atrium of the new school building.

The subtle three-storey extension built against the castle – mostly glass facade – was designed by Limerick architects, Thompson’s and built by LM Keating.

Abbot of Glenstal, Fr Mark Patrick Hederman said they were able to marry the old and the new and to integrate the building seamlessly into the surrounding landscape.

“The magnificent indigenous sessile oak clinging to a rock outside these windows is testament to this delicate vision and respect for nature, as are the roots of sycamore and the spreading cherry-laurel tree, sprouting before us as we speak in this atrium,” said Abbot Hederman.

He told those assembled he attended the first school building committee meeting on Monday, March 5, 2012 at 4.30pm.

“I told them that we wanted a 280-seater academic block for our school by the beginning of September 2013. Greg Ashe [ICT manager] tells me I left the meeting at 4.31pm, a minute later!

“I knew that the committee we had in place would deliver and indeed they did. What we have here today is what St Benedict would call a ‘state of the art’ ‘instrument of good work’.

“We believe in education. We believe that real education is a miracle that happens when someone gives you the golden key, to open the door and walk out into this wonderful world, towards freedom and fulfilment. This miracle happens when there is personal contact, of the educational variety, between gifted people in a human-sized environment. Everyone of us is gifted, we just have to know how to release that gift,” said Abbot Hederman. More at -

www.limerickleader.ie/news/local-news/glenstal-abbey-officially-opens-new-6m-school-building-1-5848497

SPUD Overnight - Irish Youth Assembly

Spud Overnight will be held at the Faith Mission Centre in Ballymena April 25-26.

Nominations are sought by April 1st SPUD is the



Youth Assembly for the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and aims to connect 15-25 year olds with the real decision-making of the church, encouraging participation at both a denominational and local level.

It is an opportunity for young people from across our island to engage with issues which matter to them, which matter to PCI, and which, above all, matter to God.

<http://pciyac.org/events/spud/blue-book-overnight/>

Unveiling of portrait The Very Revd T Salmon

The Candlemas Procession was held at 5pm on the 2nd of February, in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, after which a new portrait, by Olivia Bartlett, of the late Dean, the Very Revd Tom Salmon, was unveiled.

‘A cleric of patent holiness, a scholar and a family man’ was how the former Dean of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, the Very Revd Tom Salmon, was remembered.



The Very Revd Thomas Noel Salmon who died on 20 July 2013 in his 101st year, was the Dean of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, from 1967 until his retirement in 1988.

Portraits of Herbert Kennedy and John Paterson hang in the Chapter Room while among the portraits of the archbishops of Dublin, which are hung in the

cathedral, are two who had been Deans of Christ Church – Charles Cobbe, by Francis Bindon, and Richard Chenevix Trench, by Sir Thomas Jones.

Orange Order not against learning the Irish language

The Orange Order yesterday appeared to distance itself from a veteran member who warned Protestants against learning the Irish language at a loyalist protest in north Belfast.

News Letter - Belfast County Grand Master George Chittick made the call claiming the Irish language was used by republicans for political purposes.

Yesterday, an Orange Order spokesman said they had “no formal policy or guidelines for members regarding the learning of the Irish language” and “any decision was a matter for individual conscience”.

“What is not widely known is that some Orangemen throughout the history of the Institution have actually been fluent, or familiar, in the use of the Irish language,” added the spokesman.

“Among them were a number of our Protestant forefathers who signed the Ulster Covenant over a century ago and Rev Dr Rutledge Kane, a former County Grand Master of Belfast.

“While we are opposed to the Irish language being used as a political weapon, as opposition to our parades is used by republicans in the same way, the Orange Institution remains committed to a truly shared future.

“However, this must include respect and tolerance for our British culture and heritage, as well as minority viewpoints.”

Irish language development officer in east Belfast Linda Ervine said she has spoken to people who were “angered and offended” by Mr Chittick’s remarks.

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/regional/orange-order-not-against-learning-the-irish-language-1-5851615#.Uu9wTiwx9Js.twitter>

A senior Orangeman who warned Protestants against learning Irish has been challenged to visit language classes in the loyalist heartland of east [Belfast](#).

East [Belfast](#) Mission’s Irish language development officer Linda Ervine said unionists and nationalists were “upset and offended” after Belfast county grand master George Chittick warned loyalist protesters in north Belfast not to learn the Irish language. More at -

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/northern-ireland/visit-our-irish-class-in-loyal-east-belfast-challenge-to-orange-chief-who-hit-out-at-language-29973255.html>

Catholic pupils to study other religions under radical new plan

RADICAL changes on the way in the teaching of religion in Catholic primary schools will, for the first time, see pupils studying other faiths.

Irish Independent - It will be a major departure from tradition in the 90pc of primary schools where religion classes focus exclusively on the teachings of the Catholic Church.



Fr Michael Drumm, chairperson of the Catholic

A proposed new religious education programme, being drawn up under the auspices of the Catholic bishops, allocates time for the formal study of faiths other than Christianity.

The amount of time devoted to other religions will vary depending on the age of the children, with two weeks per year set aside for fifth and sixth class pupils.

The time allocation for third and fourth class pupils will be one week per year, while it will be one-and-a-half hours per year for first and second class pupils.

The teaching of religion in primary schools is an increasing source of debate – in ever-sharper focus as Irish society has become more diverse and Ireland's educational performance on the world stage comes under regular scrutiny. More at -

<http://www.independent.ie/lifestyle/education/catholic-pupils-to-study-other-religions-under-radical-new-plan-29973466.html>

The Irish Government and the Troubles - are they inextricably inked?

UNIONISTS allege that the Irish government helped create the Provisional IRA, and then failed to do enough to combat republican violence during the Troubles. The Detail's Steven McCaffery examines Dublin's role in the conflict through the eyes of people who watched history unfold. But the outcome raises uncomfortable questions for all sides.

The Legacy - There are four groups of people: Irish military families from Dublin, border Protestants targeted by the IRA, the victims of loyalist bombs planted in the Irish Republic, and Belfast republicans who helped form the Provos. They have never met and they have little in common.

But their individual stories lead back to the murderous years of the early Troubles and raise questions around the role of successive Irish governments. At a time when Dublin's handling of the conflict is being highlighted by politicians in Northern Ireland, The Detail reports on a series of major controversies: More at -

<http://www.thedetail.tv/issues/304/legacy-of-the-past-arms-trial/the-irish-government-and-the-troubles-%E2%80%93-are-they-inextricably-linked>

Are people waiting for an economic recovery before they file for divorce?

It was reported recently in Helen Cahill's 'Measuring Ireland's Progress' that Ireland has the second-lowest divorce rate in the [European Union](#) ([Latvia](#) and [Lithuania](#) have the most divorces, [Malta](#) the least).



Irish Independent columnist Mary Kenny

Mary Kenny writes in the Irish Independent -

Some musings on the causes of our low statistics in the divorce stakes ...

1 Divorce became available from 1995. Perhaps we aren't yet into the swing of the dissolution of marriage (sometimes known as trading in an old model).

2 There is probably a hangover from church disapproval of divorce, although the Anglican Church has been historically more hostile than the RC. In 1923, Archbishop Gregg, Protestant Archbishop of [Dublin](#), gave his full approval to the Free State's prohibition on divorce, and so did the majority of readers of the 'Church of Ireland Gazette'.

3 There is also probably a bit of the canny Irish peasant in our collective consciousness, and the peasant never divides up land or property for the mere whim of seeking happiness ('The Field').

4 The economic downturn probably brought out the shrewd calculation that with the recession, divorce was an unaffordable luxury.

5 Especially considering the alarming reports of huge sums of alimony that can now be allocated even to a cheating spouse.

6 Divorce is usually instigated by women: men will put up with a bad marriage so long as there is food on the table and the odd serving of conjugality. Maybe Irish women are too instilled with guilt by their mummies to divorce.

7 Maybe some sensible Irish women agree that "A good man is hard to find" and a half-decent man may be more acceptable than none at all.

8 As in, "Better the devil you know ... "

9 Maybe some people adhere to the old Irish adage (heard by my sister on a [New Jersey](#) bus): "Ah, sure, 'tis better be fightin' than lonely."

10 Since the Irish have more children – hooray! – there may be a prevailing view that if parents can bear to stick together, maybe they should

More at -

<http://www.independent.ie/opinion/columnists/mary-kenny/are-people-waiting-for-an-economic-recovery-before-they-file-for-divorce-29962316.html>

TWEETER -

Chris Ryder - Aren't the nuns in #callthemidwife what one would reasonably expect. Nothing like the antagonistic brutes who long abused Irish children...

George Pitcher - Today at lunch: "Could your son design us a website? We don't have much money." "What are you called?" "Barristers with Yachts"