

# NEWS

## FROM BRITAIN AND IRELAND

### Every Catholic home to get copy of special papal Missal

A 480-PAGE Missal for the Pope's visit to Britain, available for every Catholic household in the country, has been released, writes Christopher Lamb. It includes readings and hymns for all the papal liturgies and a series of articles on the Church in Britain and the Catholic faith.

Published by Magnificat, one million copies of the Missal have been distributed to let Catholics follow the papal ceremonies. The Eucharistic Prayer for all of the Masses will be in Latin. At both the Westminster Cathedral and Bellahouston Park, Glasgow Masses, the "Our Father" will be sung in Latin. The Creed will be sung in Latin at the Cathedral and the beatification of Cardinal Newman.

At Bellahouston Park, the Pope will enter to the hymns "Amazing Grace" and "All People That on Earth Do Dwell" while the Gospel acclamation will be in Gaelic. At Evening Prayer in Westminster Abbey, on 17 September, the Pope will pray at the Grave of the Unknown Warrior, and he and the Archbishop of Canterbury will exchange a sign of peace.

The following day, the Hyde Park prayer vigil will start with dancers, followed by a procession of young people from the parishes of England, Scotland and Wales. The Pope will arrive to Vivaldi's *Laudamus Te*, Mendelssohn's "Lift Thine Eyes" and pieces from Handel's *Messiah*.

The beatification of Cardinal Newman the next day will start with his famous hymn "Praise to the Holiest". Fr Richard Duffield, provost of the Birmingham Oratory, will read a short biography of Newman, a portrait of him will be unveiled and his relics placed beside the altar. The Mass will then proceed as normal.

## Church's share of papal trip costs climbs to £10m

Christopher Lamb  
Sam Adams

THE SHARE OF the costs for Pope Benedict's visit to Britain falling on the Church could rise to more than £10 million, it emerged this week. So far, £6m has been raised towards its share of the costs, which cover the pastoral side of the state visit and were originally set at £7m.

Places at the major pastoral events in England – the prayer vigil at Hyde Park and the Newman beatification – are still available, despite the beatification venue being moved from Coventry Airport to a smaller site that had more resonance with Newman. Cofton Park is near to where Newman is buried in Rednal, on the outskirts of Birmingham.

In a press conference with foreign media this week, Archbishop of Westminster Vincent Nichols, as head of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, said that the Church had already raised £6m but that its final share of costs would be between "£9m and £10m".

Some have suggested, however, that the final bill for the Church

could eventually rise to more than £10m, with some church sources saying that it already stands at £10.5m. This has been denied by a bishops' conference spokesman. Church sources also explained that the costs for the beatification of Cardinal Newman at Cofton Park, Birmingham, have been the biggest financial burden.

Earlier this year, the Government said that its share of the costs, covering the diplomatic side of the state visit, had risen from £8m to £12m. The latest rise on the Church's side brings the total cost to more than £20m.

While the Church still has a deficit of some £4m, insiders consider it a success that they have been able to raise £6m in a relatively short period of time. The debt from Pope John Paul II's visit took many years to pay off.

Lord Patten, who is coordinating the visit for the Government, said this week that the costs of the 1982 visit, borne entirely by the Church as it was a pastoral rather than state event, were £7m – £20m at today's prices. This time, the Government and the Church are splitting the costs, so the Church's bill should be

considerably less than in 1982. To help find the funds, the Church is asking those attending to make a donation – £10 for the Hyde Park prayer vigil and £25 for the Newman beatification.

Archbishop Nichols said that he was expecting "large crowds" throughout the visit. However, last month *The Tablet* reported that many dioceses had not been able to find people to take up the number of places allocated to them for the major papal events. The spokesman explained that demand for tickets to the events is strong and places are being re-allocated to those dioceses where such demand is highest.

It is understood that schools in dioceses close to London and groups not part of parish structures are being asked if they wish to take up places at the Hyde Park prayer vigil. One reason given for the lack of take-up was that dioceses were asked to give numbers attending during August, when many people were on holiday.

Bishop Vincent Malone, of the Archdiocese of Liverpool, said few people had asked for tickets because coaches were not available for the Hyde Park vigil.

## Poll finds Church must try harder to sell visit

Elena Curti

WITH LESS than two weeks to go before Pope Benedict XVI arrives in Britain, the Catholic Church still has to "sell" the papal visit to the general public.

An exclusive poll for *The Tablet* reveals that the first-ever state visit by a pope still has not registered with the British people though it is supported by three-quarters of Catholics.

The survey conducted by Ipsos MORI has found that two out of three people neither support nor oppose the visit even though the Pope is instantly recognisable to

the British public and his role as head of the Catholic Church is well understood.

The findings suggest that the Catholic Church in Britain has so far failed to excite public interest in the visit. This is despite strong evidence in the survey that the British people value their Christian heritage and believe that religion is a force for good.

Just over one in 10 of those polled oppose the visit and one in 20 strongly oppose it. Nearly three-quarters of Catholics declared their support for the visit of the Pope, with two out of three saying they will follow it closely.

However, the poll's findings bear out the theory that the Church has been thus far unable to convince Catholics to attend the three major gatherings in Scotland and England.

Only 6 per cent say they will definitely attend and fewer than a quarter say they are likely to attend.

The poll was held between 20 and 26 August and was based on face-to-face interviews with 996 British people over the age of 15. Of these, 117 were Catholics reflecting their proportion of the general population.

(See Elena Curti, page 6.)

## Irish Travellers seeking Benedict's blessing face disappointment

Sam Adams

A GROUP of Irish Travellers who moved to Birmingham in the hope of being blessed by Pope Benedict during his visit to the city later this month have been told it is "highly unlikely" they will get to see him.

Canon Pat Browne, who is coordinating the beatification of Cardinal John Henry Newman, which will be led by the Pope on 19 September, explained during a visit to the Travellers at their illegal campsite at Sarehole Mill, close to Cofton Park, where the Pope will beatify Newman, that there were no more tickets for the Birmingham Diocese.

The Travellers, who arrived last Tuesday, had told a local councillor that they had no idea they needed to pay for one of the £25 passes for the beatification ceremony. Last month, French bishops explicitly – and the Vatican implicitly – criticised French President Nicolas Sarkozy's plan to expel hundreds of Gypsies from the country (*see Church in the World, page 36*).

Fr Browne said "every effort" would be made to accommodate the 40 or so Travellers, who said they moved to the city from County Donegal with the sole purpose of seeing Pope Benedict. The 16 families were served with a notice of eviction by the police after setting up camp at the site.

Councillors have met the police and church leaders to discuss plans for alternative authorised sites to accommodate an estimated influx of as many as 3,000 Travellers to Birmingham during the papal visit. Their presence has led to opposition from many local residents, with one national newspaper suggesting that they would throw the beatification itself into disarray by trying to "gatecrash" the event.

Ticket applications for the Mass originally had to be made through parish priests, but Fr Browne indicated that Birmingham Diocese would give special consideration for the Travellers' request in the event that any more became available. "We extended the deadline for applying for tickets to last weekend (22 August) after we were given 5,000 more. If more passes become available for whatever reason, for example if people drop out, then we will try to accommodate the Travellers if that is possible. However, at present that looks highly unlikely."

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## IN BRIEF

### BBC reveals coverage of papal visit

The Pope's arrival in Edinburgh and his meeting with the Queen will be covered on television by BBC1 and presented by Huw Edwards. BBC2 will film the Mass in Bellahouston Park, Glasgow, Evening Prayer in Westminster Abbey, the Mass in Westminster Cathedral and the beatification of Cardinal Newman in Birmingham. Expert commentary at the ceremonies will be provided by Mgr Mark Langham, Mgr Roderick Strange and Newman biographer Dr Joyce Sugg.

### Bishops defend male ordination

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has defended the Church's teaching on not ordaining women to the priesthood. The conference released a statement by Fr Stephen Wang, Dean of Studies at Allen Hall, saying Jesus' humanity is not "gender neutral" and therefore "we expect a man to stand 'in the person of Christ' as a priest, to represent Jesus".

### Brady plans to accompany Pope

Cardinal Seán Brady said he plans to accompany the Pope during his visit to Britain. The Primate of All Ireland, who earlier this year faced calls to resign over his handling of clerical sex abuse, told an Irish newspaper: "I plan to accompany Pope Benedict in Edinburgh, Glasgow, London and Birmingham."

### Manchester 'must sell churches'

The Bishop of Manchester has said 10 per cent of the buildings in his diocese are a drain on resources. Bishop Nigel McCulloch said the Church of England diocese needed to "grasp the nettle" of having too many churches.

# Archbishop attacks Irish Church's 'un-intellectuals'

Christopher Lamb

THE ARCHBISHOP of Dublin has criticised the level of theological expertise in the Irish Church, including the "un-intellectual vein" in the country's religious culture. Archbishop Diarmuid Martin added that even after years of catechesis, some young people are still "theologically illiterate".

"For a traditionally Catholic country, Ireland does not have a proportionate level of theological research," he said at a conference organised by Communion and Liberation in the Italian resort of Rimini. "Catechesis in schools, despite the goodwill of teachers, is not producing young Catholics who are prepared to take part in the Christian community. Sometimes after 15 years of catechesis young people are still theologically illiterate."

The archbishop's speech, "The Ireland of Newman – Ireland Today", reflected on Cardinal John Henry Newman's failed attempt to create a Catholic university in Dublin. Newman's idea was for a university that would encourage free intellectual thought. "After the failure of the Catholic University in Ireland project, Catholicism did not find its proper place in Irish culture," he said. "This is due to an un-intellectual vein in Irish religious culture, often situated within a tight clericalist framework."

The archbishop lamented the lack of places in Ireland "reflecting on the relationship between faith and life" and that there was "no serious Catholic press at the level of Catholic papers in France and Italy". He added: "There are very few who would call themselves Catholic writers."

## Bishop questions Claudy cover-up claim

Padraig Coyle

In Belfast

A RETIRED BISHOP in Northern Ireland has challenged assumptions that a Catholic priest was involved in an IRA bombing.

Bishop Edward Daly was responding to last week's coverage of the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland report into whether the late Fr James Chesney was directly linked to the 1972 Claudy bombing which killed nine people. "The once sacrosanct presumption of innocence has been dispensed with and replaced with the presumption of guilt," said Dr Daly, who knew Fr Chesney and questioned him about the allegations.

"I am not at all convinced that Fr Chesney

was involved in the Claudy bombings. I may be mistaken, but I do not think so."

The retired Bishop of Derry said his own association with high-profile miscarriage-of-justice campaigns has made him a "constructive" sceptic. "I have seen convictions based on signed admissions and forensic evidence completely overturned years later," he said. "Fr Chesney was never arrested, questioned, charged or convicted. He cannot answer for himself. He has been dead 30 years."

The bishop is critical of what he says is the modern media's lack of enquiry, compared with the reportage of the 1970s, into the findings of the Claudy report, which suggest that Fr Chesney was a leading figure in the IRA.

(See *Edward Daly*, page 4.)

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# Green light for £5m abuse claim against Jesuits

Strand News Service

THE JESUITS have lost an appeal against a High Court ruling that gave a former lawyer the right to sue them for £5 million over sexual abuse he claims he suffered at one of their schools.

Patrick Raggett, 52, says he was subjected to years of “insidious” abuse by a teacher at the Jesuit-run Preston Catholic College, in Lancashire, during the 1970s. He claimed that, while he was naked, Fr Michael Spencer, who died in 2000, measured him “to chart his growth”, filmed him performing exercises, photographed him and touched him inap-

propriately. Mr Raggett said the abuse at the school, which closed in 1978, contributed to years of underachievement at work and a failed marriage, which culminated in a mental breakdown.

The Jesuits denied liability, arguing that Mr Raggett had brought the case outside the three-year time limit for such compensation claims. But Mrs Justice Swift ruled in May last year that the case could go ahead after accepting Mr Raggett’s evidence that the abuse had taken place. The Jesuits appealed against this ruling but it was upheld by the Court of Appeal last week.

Mr Raggett said outside court: “I am very pleased with the outcome and I remain resolute and confident that in the end justice will be achieved.”

At the Court of Appeal, the governors argued that faded memories – and the death of several potentially key witnesses, including Fr Spencer – meant they could not get a fair hearing and Mr Raggett’s claim should be blocked. In a statement, the British Jesuits noted the judgment and said they were “discussing its implications” with their lawyers.

## Churchman condemns ‘anti-Catholic’ Britain

A CHURCH OFFICIAL has claimed that Britain is more anti-Catholic than those countries where Catholics are openly persecuted, *writes Sam Adams*.

The director of pastoral affairs in Westminster Diocese, Edmund Adamus, made the claim in an interview with the Zenit news agency ahead of the Pope’s visit. He said that Britain had “one of the most anti-Catholic landscapes culturally speaking than even those places where Catholics suffer open persecution”.

Mr Adamus’ remark was criticised by Aid to the Church in Need (ACN), which supports persecuted Christians in countries such as Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, whose spokesman said: “It would be invidious to make a direct comparison between the anti-Catholic climate experienced in the UK as opposed to that

found in other parts of the world. The nature and intensity of the antipathy have more to divide them than draw them together. Suffice to say, however, both in their respective ways are very regrettable and deserve to be combated as appropriate.”

In his Zenit interview, Mr Adamus also described the UK as being the “epicentre of the culture of death” in its attitude towards contraception and abortion. He alleged that over the past 50 years British governments had been among “the most permissively anti-life and progressively anti-family and marriage” in the world.

However, he also stressed that England had a “unique Christian heritage” and referred to its ancient title of “the Dowry of Mary”, given due to devotion to the Virgin Mary.

## Cleric criticises demonising paedophiles

SOCIETY’S DEMONISATION of paedophiles means children are at a greater risk of suffering abuse, according to a leading Christian cleric, *writes Margaret Hebblethwaite*.

John Bell, a hymn writer and member of the Iona Community, said the stigmatisation was “so horrendous” that those dealing with feelings of sexual attraction towards children felt unable to seek help, thus putting children at risk. Mr Bell, a minister in the Church of Scotland, explained that he had spoken to people in this situation, many of whom have never abused a child but have struggled successfully to dominate sexual urges that they know are dangerous.

Speaking at the Greenbelt Christian festival last week, Mr Bell said he had asked four professionals what they would do if someone sought their help in controlling unwelcome feelings of sexual attraction towards children, which up to this moment they had never exercised. A psychotherapist and a doctor both replied: “I don’t know.” A social worker and a school head both replied that they would report the person to the police.

Mr Bell, who tours the world speaking to Christian communities, added that one of the contributory causes of child abuse was a “male culture of power” that led to a misuse of authority by men, often within their own families.

## FROM THE ARCHIVE

50 YEARS AGO

For the first time in the history of the Edinburgh International Festival, two all-Catholic musical contributions have been recognised by the authorities as worthy of a place in the official syllabus of events. The first concerned the Pontifical High Mass, celebrated in St Mary’s Cathedral to mark the opening of the Festival, at which a large and distinguished congregation of artists and visitors from all over the world heard the first performance in Scotland of Britten’s *Missa Brevis* in D for boys’ voices and organ. This striking and original work, dedicated to George Malcolm and the boys of Westminster Cathedral, succeeds in being, at the one time, completely unconventional by accepted standards of church music, and yet wholly devout. At the Offertory, the Choir gave a convincing account of the astonishing 19-part motet, “O Jesu”, by the pre-Reformation Scottish polyphonist, Robert Carver. Well able to bear comparison with the mighty 40-part motet of Tallis, Carver’s masterpiece is scored for three sopranos, two altos, two tenors, nine baritones and three basses, and is a profoundly moving conception. The two works, which received considerable critical appraisal, are to be repeated at the 11.30 a.m. High Mass on each Sunday of the Festival.

*The Tablet*, 3 September 1960

100 YEARS AGO

After restraining himself for nearly two years, the German Emperor has had another characteristic outbreak. Speaking at Königsberg, the Emperor spoke what may well be his inmost thoughts ... “And here once more my grandfather placed by his own right the Crown of the Kings of Prussia upon his head, once again laying stress upon the fact that it was conferred upon him by the grace of God alone, and not by Parliaments, meetings of the people, or popular decisions, and that he considered himself the chosen instrument of Heaven, and as such performed his duties as Regent and as ruler ... Considering myself as an instrument of the Lord, without heeding the views and opinions of the day, I go my way, which is devoted solely and alone to the prosperity and peaceful development of our Fatherland. But in this work I need the cooperation of each one in the country, and to this cooperation I trust I may have summoned you now. With the hope that these sentiments may ever prevail in East Prussia, and that your help may be accorded to me in my efforts, I empty my glass. Long live the province of East Prussia: Hurrah! Hurrah! Hurrah!”

*The Tablet*, 3 September 1910