



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Church of Ireland cleric denies Christ was God



The Bishop of Meath (2nd L.) and Dean Furlong (far R.)

The Church of Ireland Dean of Clonmacnoise and Rector of Trim, “Very Rev” Andrew Furlong has had his authority to act as “a priest” withdrawn for three months because of his unconventional views on Christianity. In his “unconventional” view, Christ is not God manifest in the flesh. He is quoted as saying: “I don't believe God took human form, of which Christmas is the main festival.” It leads on from such a premise that the core of the Bible's message is a lie and the thesis of Chris-

tianity a fraud and a deceit. A statement from the Bishop of Meath and Kildare, “Most Rev” Richard Clarke, said he had withdrawn the Dean's episcopal authority for ministry “in order to facilitate a period of quiet during which the Dean may reflect on his statements.”

However, the Dean reiterated his views and said that he would not be changing his mind. In a lengthy statement outlining his position, Dean Furlong said: “With the deepest respect for others and their beliefs, to my mind, Jesus, and John the Baptist also, were mistaken and misguided ‘end-time’ prophets; Jesus was neither a mediator nor a saviour, neither super-human nor divine. There is a sense in which the time has come to leave Jesus to his place in history and to move on; while at the same time I want to say that there is a need to re-discover his place in the totality of the Christian community as we understand it now.”

Thirty years a heretic!

Dean Furlong said that he had held his views for 30 years, during which time he has had to deal with the question of his integrity as a priest, but even now having gone public on his lack of belief in Jesus as Saviour, he continued to wonder whether there might not be a place in the church for people such as himself. He noted that there were many with his views among the clergy and laity of the Church of England and who were accommodated within that Church. This was “part of the history of the Church reform”.

Reflecting on the words in John's gospel that “God so loved the world he gave his only Son,” he felt they “encapsulated both what I believe and don't believe.” “I believe God is a God of infinite love and that human beings are of sacred and ultimate worth, but I don't believe Jesus is his son or that he is divine or saviour.” “So I share two things with Jesus Christ; I believe in his God and, like him, I do not believe in the incarnation of his God,” he said. He continues to live at the rectory in Trim and to draw his usual salary from the Church of Ireland, and will do so at least until his position within the church is reviewed on March 4th. Dean Furlong's position will then be reviewed by the Bishop, when he must have changed his views or face severance.



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

The effrontery, the blasphemy, the deceitfulness of all ecumenists and modernists are personified in Dean Andrew Furlong. For thirty years, he says he has not believed that Christ is God. To have maintained this position for thirty years in the Church of Ireland has meant that he has repeatedly sworn false oaths of allegiance to the Word of God. According to the Book of Common Prayer, Ordering of Priests, the candidate for the Church of Ireland ministry must accept the teaching of the Bible on the person of Christ: that He is God the Son incarnate in human flesh yet without sin. He swears that he will teach only that which proved by the Holy Scriptures. He further swears to oppose and drive away all erroneous and strange doctrines contrary to God's Word. Dean Furlong has done the very opposite to what he swore to do. He promotes the errors he has sworn to banish. While I am not familiar with the exact procedures that take place whenever a person is promoted within the ranks of the Church of Ireland, I think it fairly likely that each promotion entailed a service of installation which required a repeating of the substance of the vows made at the beginning of his ministry. It certainly is the case that a bishop and an archbishop are required to repeat those vows, for it is so stated in the Book of Common prayer. How many times did not Dean Furlong repeat those phrases from the Order for Morning Prayer, in which Jesus Christ, Whom he now denies is God and Lord and Saviour and the second person of the Trinity, is called the Lord, the Son of God and the Saviour of sinners? How often did he repeat the formula: "Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost"?

What of the words of the hymn, Te Deum Laudamus?

THOU art the King of glory: O Christ. Thou art the everlasting Son: of the Father. When thou tookest upon thee to deliver man: thou didst not abhor the Virgin's womb. When thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death: thou didst open the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Thou sittest at the right hand of God: in the glory of the Father. We believe that thou shalt come: to be our Judge. We therefore pray thee, help thy servants: whom thou hast redeemed with thy precious blood. Make them to be numbered with thy Saints: in glory everlasting.

What of the Apostle's Creed?

I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried, He descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead, He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty, From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, The holy Catholick Church, The Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body; And the life everlasting. Amen.

These solemn statements, which are scripturally based, fell from his lips, Lord's Day by Lord's Day, for thirty years, not as words of praise and faith but as a litany of falsehood and mockery, performed in order to obtain a salary. Such is the state to which apostasy has reduced the mainline churches!

An appeal to true believers

To those members of the Church of Ireland, and indeed of the Presbyterian and Methodist churches, for the same charade may be found within these ecumenical havens as well, to all who truly are the Lord's and washed in His blood, I pose this question: "How can you be



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

party to such a blasphemous mockery of the One Who gave His life's blood to save you?" If you truly love Christ, then follow Him outside such a camp of falsehood and empty ritualism to where His Word is preached and His person is honoured and His glory upheld. *Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach*, Hebrews 13:13. I am sure that Christ is watching the ranks of the Church of Ireland with interest at this time.