



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Further evidence of the folly of the Orange Order in Fermanagh



Bishop Richmond and some fellow Orangemen

In our last issue of "The Burning Bush", we reported on the ecumenical nonsense spouted by Bishop Henry Richmond on the Orange Order platform at the 12th July demonstration in Maguiresbridge, Co. Fermanagh.

Another article has come to hand which further points out the incongruity in the views of the man whom the Orangemen of Co. Fermanagh chose to address them.

Strange to relate, it is an article which appeared in a newspaper with a predominantly Roman Catholic readership, "The Irish News"! Here is the substance of the article.

"The bishop who spoke at the Orange Order Twelfth demonstration in Co Fermanagh is a special advisor to a group which wants the Church to ordain and marry gay people. Bishop Henry Richmond, who addressed Orangemen in Maguiresbridge, was a "conference consultant" to the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement (LGCM) ahead of its 'Halfway to Lambeth' conference.

His pro-gay stance made him a curious choice as a platform speaker for the Orange Order.

Many Fermanagh Orangemen belong to Church of Ireland parishes in the Diocese of Clogher, whose diocesan synod has overwhelmingly endorsed the traditional mainstream Church view that sexual activity should only take place within heterosexual marriage. The LGCM said its conference "proactively will begin a process which will help set the agenda on sexuality" ahead of the next Lambeth Conference, a decennial meeting of every Anglican bishop, next due to be held in 2008.

Bishop Richmond, an honorary bishop in the Diocese of Oxford and a former bishop of Rep-ton, sat on the LGCM advisory panel alongside Gene Robinson, who in 2003 became the first openly gay Anglican bishop, and Bishop Michael Ingham, whose Canadian diocese authorised a gay 'marriage' service.

The ordination of Bishop Robinson brought to the boil a simmering dispute in the world-wide Church over what status it should give to homosexual people.

Despite attempts to heal the divisions between the Church's radical wing — who believe its teaching needs to reflect changes in society — and its mainstream members — who argue that the teaching of the Bible is paramount — the row still threatens schism.

Bishop Richmond, a Fermanagh native, has also spoken at Orange events in 2003 and 2005."

To have such a man take a leading role at a commemorating of the mercy of God to our forefathers, in 1690, betokens the sorry state of affairs within the Orange Order and Protestantism generally here in Ulster.