News

Jewish envoy says Limerick pogrom is 'over-portrayed'

Donal O'Regan

THE Limerick pogrom is seen as a dark chapter in Limerick's history, but the new Israeli ambassador to Ireland says it has been over-portrayed.

In 1904, a Redemptorist priest, Fr John Creagh, delivered a fiery sermon castigating Jews for their rejection of Christ, taking over the local economy and selling shoddy goods at inflated prices to be paid for in instalments

He urged Catholics not to deal with Jews and it has been reported that 80 Jews were driven from their homes

The new Israeli ambassador, Boaz Modai, speaking at the Jewish cemetery in Castletroy said: "I think it is a bit over-portrayed, meaning that, usually if you look up the word pogrom it is used in relation to slaughter and being killed. This is what happened in many other places in Europe, but this is not what happened here. There was a kind of a boycott against Jewish merchandise for a while, but that's not a pogrom. That's something that is, unfortunately, a bad mark for the history of this city, but I so that's why I started with don't think it is something Limerick," said Mr Modai. anyone should pay more attention to than it

position six weeks ago and reason for his trip. said he wanted his first visit outside of Dublin to year, Mr Modai's predebe Limerick.

read and heard about Lim- his predecessor that he ity, as well as to promote was completely inaccuerick. It has to do with the couldn't omit it from his tourism and trade between rate. Chamber of Commerce visit. and University of Limerick



The Israeli ambassador, Boaz Modai, during a visit to the Jewish graveyard in Castletroy with Gabrielle Wallace, Dr James Ring, Colm de Barra, Stuart Clein and Ger Imbusch

The Jewish cemetery, maintained by Limerick Mr Modai took up his Civic Trust, was another that being exports from that."

Around this time last cessor, Zion Evrony, vis-"I did this deliberately. I ited the cemetery and told

going on a delegation to Trust on the upkeep of the ter. "There is a lot in com-Israel. I had this interest, cemetery and said it was a mon between our two peogreat experience to see it. ples and out two societies.

links between Ireland and one to another much more

Ireland. Limerick that his goal was Limerick for 54 years, told Israel's image and its real-term "Limerick pogrom"

our two countries".

- one of the professors is plimented Limerick Civic n't have summed it up bet-Mr Modai said trade I think we can contribute 400m, with 80 per cent of I'll do my best to help with

"If you look up pogrom The keen historian com- Mr Modai said he could- up in the Oxford Dictio-

killings. I spent months researching it and there was not an injury other stone at a rabbi. That was which was restored and is Israel were worth almost than it seems at first, and it. There was nobody hurt.

"There was a boycott of the Jewish dealers. This is Jewish man Stuart how Fr Creagh came into Mr Evrony had said in Clein, who has lived in it. Todds and all these shops were doing no busi-"to bridge the gap between the ambassador that the ness because the Jewish people would buy from Todds - why should they

when they wouldn't give them credit," said Mr

He said the Chamber of Commerce went on a deputation to the Redemptorists and met Fr Creagh.

"He had been brought up as a young priest in northern France, where they were very antisemitic. He was brought up to hear that Jews were this and that, so he ranted and raved and said there should be a boycott," said Mr Clein, who, while originally from Cork, had an aunt living in Limerick and another two aunts attended Laurel Hill in

"I would say at the end of the century at the supposed pogrom there were 200 to 300 Jewish people living in Limerick. To my knowledge, only three families left Limerick because of the pogrom, that's all," he said.

Dr James Ring, manager of Limerick Civic Trust, said it was an honour to have Mr Modai at the cemetery.

"He was very supportive about the work we do. He spoke to everyone in attendance, and despite his tight schedule, chatted at length to everyone," said

Mr Ring said the late Denis Leonard initiated the clean-up of the cemetery in 1989 when "vou couldn't really see the tombstones because it was

Since being landscaped and restored, Limerick peddlers were selling all Civic Trust, and, in particthe goods so much per ular, Ger Imbusch, have week or per month. So no continued to maintain the graveyard to its current high standard.

Limerick schools receive €1m

SCHOOLS across the buy high-tech equipment.

The Department of Education has announced that the funds will be shared between 144 schools, as to high-tech classrooms. part of a governmental strategy to make technol- under the Delivering with €21,870.

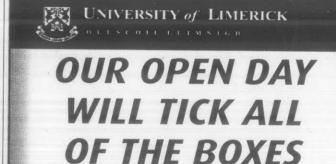
learning process.

Primary county are to benefit from throughout the county will more than €1m in grants to each get a block grant of €1,700 and a payment of €35.70 per capita, which will enable schools to purchase equipment leading

> Meanwhile, schools

ogy an integral part of the Equality of Opportunity in Ireland (DEIS) banner will each get a higher basic grant of €2 550

> **Educational institutions** across Limerick benefitting from this scheme include Scoil Ide in Corbally, €29,510; Scoil Neasain in Mungret, €27,261, and Monaleen National School,



The University of Limerick Open Day for Parents & Students in the Kemmy Business School Building

Saturday, November 13th 10.30am to 2.30pm

Is your son or daughter sitting the Leaving Cert next year?

Find out the information you need to know to help them make their choices.

Come to our Parents and Students Open day and find out about:

- Careers

Courses

- College Costs - The CAO process

Get all the answers to your questions at the University of Limerick Open Day.

UL, a great place to learn!

www.ul.ie