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Council

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need for democracy in relation to the office of Mayor of the City.

"He will be missed as a controversial figure, at a local and a national level, but people had an affection for him. He was always affable, and he was capable of great gestures of generosity."

"That spilled milk is all in the past," he said, regretting that the bishop had to suffer a painful death.

Mayor Dick Sadlier, who opened the meeting, said that the late Bishop had a distinguished academic career and had held strong views which he had never hesitated to voice—he did not skirt any issue or any matter which affected society generally.

"He had a very warm personality," he said, indicating that it was at the level of ordinary people, whose company the bishop used to enjoy, that he made his acquaintance.

After further contributions from members Cllr Prendergast rose to compare the late Bishop Newman's courage and principle against his opponents with those of the late Bishop.

from the sun, the longer the shadow grows' is an old saying, and it was Voltaire who said, I despise your views but I will give my very life to defend your right to say it.

"There were many who claimed to be 'liberals' and who were anything but liberal when it came to personal criticism."

In a clear reference to a public comment ascribed, earlier in the week, to Ald Kemmy, whom he was sitting beside in the council chamber, Cllr Prendergast said that there were those who had said that Dr Newman should have stayed at Maynooth, adding, "That is a form of damning with faint praise and I reject that. It is a subtle form of criticism. He presided over the reorganisation of Maynooth, opening it to the layman, and turning it into a university."

"He was right in what he said. Like others, I happen to have a conservative religious view, and I am not like those who behave like supermarket Christians who agree with and what they disagree with."

Bishop will be laid to rest in special chamber in cathedral

THE remains of Bishop Jeremiah Newman will be laid in a special burial chamber in one of the two side-wings of St John's Cathedral, before an altar.

The chamber was, by Tuesday morning — because of the time factor — already being excavated from under the floor of the cathedral, said Gerry Griffin, of Griffin's Undertakers.

The body of the bishop was, by Tuesday afternoon, being embalmed ready for lying in repose in the cathedral right throughout Thursday and all of Friday morning up to 12 noon, when the lid on the casket will be

closed.

Workmen had first to remove the stones which flagged the cathedral floor and get below the underlying mortar and foundations, before digging into solid earth and stone.

Once down deep enough, the chamber was lined and paved with stone, not unlike a vault, although there will be no steps leading down to the vault.

When the burial takes place, after Friday afternoon's 3pm Mass, the casket will be lowered into the chamber by ropes and set to rest above the actual floor of the vault.

A large stone will then be placed over the chamber, which will be sealed, and the cathedral floor re-laid over the chamber, with a plain carved memorial laid on top to mark Bishop Newman's final resting place.

The casket will be fashioned of American Oak, and fairly plain in design, apart from some slight ornamentation at the side and edges.

The casket will be rectangular, unlike a coffin, and will be "domed" with a semi-circular cover. On top will be a three-quarter length wooden cross with brass figure

attached, along with a brass name plate.

On the sides will be ornamental brass lifting handles, one long handle to each side.

The light brown casket will be satin lined, and will also have zinc internal lining.

"It will not be like the caskets of long ago," said a spokesman for Griffin's undertakers, "In the past, going back to the last century, there was a wooden inner casket, then one outside of that made of lead, and then finally an outer one made of wood again."

Bishop died as Rosary recited

THE last moments of Bishop Jeremiah Newman, as he lay dying on his hospital bed on Monday night, were recounted by a cousin of his, Dorothy Cantrell, who was praying at his bedside in St John's.

"There were three priests there," she recalled in a moving interview with the

Limerick Leader.

"There was a Father Frank O'Dea, who is chaplain to the hospital, as well as Willie Canon Fitzmaurice, and Eamon Canon Dillane."

Canon Fitzmaurice is the administrator of St John's Cathedral and parish, and Canon Dillane VF is PP of Glin.

It is understood that Fr David McNamee VF, who is PP of Rathkeale, was in the corridor at the time, and



DR JEREMIAH NEWMAN: 1926-1995

entered just after the Bishop had breathed his last.

Another colleague who arrived at the Bishop's bedside, a very short time after, was Monsignor Michael Lane VG, who is PP of

Patrickswell, who had been there earlier.

Continued Mrs Cantrell: "We were in the No 1 private ward, on the first floor, and were on the fifth decade of the Rosary, when he passed away silently, still in his sleep," said Mrs Cantrell.

"He had been sinking the day before, but there were times when he sank and came back up again. We were seated in chairs at his bedside."

She explained: "I had called earlier, at 5.45 pm, on my way home from work at the Peace Centre, at the University of Limerick."

"I saw Monsignor Lane had been with him, and he was asleep."

"I called again at 8.15 pm and I found myself alone with him for a while."

"I had been seated there for about 20 minutes before the priests came in, and we began the Rosary."

"It was led by Canon Dillane, and everybody took their turn at leading with a decade. We were all seated around, not kneeling. We were in about the middle of the fifth decade — it was just a feeling really — I would say we were a little

had become slower through the Rosary, but we did not know really until we checked. Canon Willie Fitzmaurice went to check. He was right beside his bed. The breathing had stopped."

The time was close to 9pm.

"The strange thing was that the Bishop's first cousin, Joseph Kiely, died on the same day at the same age — 69 — years earlier, about 10 or 11 years ago."

Mrs Cantrell's grandfather, Michael Kiely, and Dr Newman's mother, popularly known as Cass, but more correctly known as Catherine, were brother and sister. Cass later married Joseph Newman, the Bishop's father.

Mrs Cantrell continued: "It was a very peaceful death. It must have been. We were not really sure."

She added: "His illness had been dragged out. It was slow and I am sure, it must have been painful. The way he died was a lovely death. We were in the middle of prayer, quietly — he could not have wished it in any better way."

In a tribute, she said: "I personally regarded him as a genius and he loved the Church — he put the Church before everything — and his calling. He was profound in his belief and his calling and his duties. He put the Church first and foremost."

Referring to a picture of



The earliest available picture of Dr Newman with his parents, Joseph and Cass Newman.



Special Mass this weekend

A SPECIAL Mass will take place this weekend in Dromcollogher in memory of the late Dr Newman.

On the morning after Dr Newman's death, Dr Seamus Ambrose, PP, Dromcollogher/Broadford, led his congregation in prayers for the repose of the soul of the man who was not only their Bishop, but also their neighbour.

"He had many relatives and great friends here," Dr Ambrose said, "and he was in touch with the place all the time."

The parishioners had kept Jeremiah in their prayers, Dr Ambrose went on, especially since he became ill.

"While his death was not completely unexpected," he added, "there is great sadness and shock that a native son has died."

Dr Newman had taken great interest in many of the developments in the parish, Fr Ambrose went on, including the Plunkett Heritage Centre and the day care centre for the elderly now under construction.

Dr Newman also took particular interest in the extension and refurbishment of the parish church.

Interment

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Friday morning right up to 12 noon, when the lid is finally replaced on the casket.

At 3 pm sharp, the celebrated Requiem Mass will be held at the high altar, with the choir of the cathedral in attendance, and the funeral ceremonies will follow immediately afterwards.

After the blessing of the remains, the casket will be lifted and moved over to a side altar, before which the burial chamber, resembling a small room, will have been excavated.

The funeral will then proceed, with the casket lowered into the burial chamber, as final prayers are offered.

Bishop Newman is the first Bishop to be laid to rest in the cathedral since Bishop David Keane, earlier this century, and he will be laid to rest alongside the burial chamber of Bishop Keane.

Funeral on television

LIMERICK Multi-channel/Horizon television will broadcast Dr Newman's funeral live at 2.45pm this Friday. The programme will be repeated at 7pm the same night.

Disbanded

● FROM P1

spokesman would not go into the numbers affected by the decision but stated that it was thought that it would not result in any transfers of Army personnel.

According to disgruntled members of the forces, the Army Ordnance Corps, who have complete responsibility for bomb disposal and disposal of all explosive items discovered in this country, have attempted to prevent these cuts.

highly-qualified bomb disposal personnel within the Defence Forces has been totally ignored," said a member of the Defence Forces.

"The Government obviously does not realise the significance of these cuts. They are certainly risking the lives and property of innocent people and risking the future of Shannon International Airport and indeed the whole industrial area of the Shannon region."

Prendergast rose to compare the late Bishop Newman's courage and principle against his opponents with those of the late Bishop O'Dwyer, who took on General Maxwell in 1916.

"I disagree with the catch-cry that he was a conservative," he declared, "He was more to the forefront in such areas as sociology and regional planning than anyone else in this country."

But he continued: "We have a habit in this country, and one of the things I know hurt him most—he was a Doctor of Philosophy at 27 years—but what hurt him most was people who classed themselves as liberal, progressive and advocates for change, democratic rule and debate and who portrayed him as anything different.

"There were the lies in the media, where such words as 'mullah' and 'bigot' were hurled at him.

"The farther you go

like those who behave like supermarket Christians who pick and choose what they agree with and what they disagree with.

"What Jeremiah Newman did was to affirm the fundamentals, and I regret that he should attract the venom of personal views of others.

"For example, he warned against the allure of disarmament, where people were being used. I remember people who were on the disarmament protests in their crowds, and they were taking their views from Moscow, and they were supported by the media. But there was not one of them to protest outside the Soviet embassy when Chernobyl happened."

He said that he was there when the incident of the Mass took place, but Bishop Newman was not anti-Protestant—there were academic reasons for what he did.



Dorothy Cantrell, a cousin of the late Bishop Newman, in a family picture with him when he was lecturing in sociology at Maynooth, and she had paid him a social call. The picture was taken in front of the main entrance door of St Patrick's College.

Tributes paid to late Bishop by civic and Church leaders

TRIBUTES to the late Bishop Jeremiah Newman were paid, this week by both civic and clerical leaders in the city.

Principal among them were the Mayor, Cllr Dick Sadlier, and the Minister for Health, Michael Noonan TD, as well as the Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese, Bishop John Magee, and the Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe, Right Rev Edward Darling.

The Mayor said: "It is with deep regret that I have heard of the sad news of the death of the Bishop of Limerick, Most Rev Jeremiah Newman.

"Limerick will be very much the poorer and sadder for his passing. "He was a man of great intellect who was never afraid to speak his mind, however unfashionable it might appear.

"He was a decent and a caring man and a good Christian, and this was never more evident than at Confirmations where he seems to be most at his ease."

The Mayor added that it was consoling to know that the Bishop had passed away among his own people, in the presence of the priests and clergy of the diocese.

He added that he was certain that Bishop Newman had gone to his eternal reward.

Health Minister Michael Noonan, in a touching message to the people of the city from his office in Dublin, said: "It was with deep regret that I heard of the death of Bishop Newman.

"I wish to express my deepest sympathy to the clergy of the diocese and to his family and friends.

"He will be missed in particular by the many parents and children who got to know him so well, and who appreciated his gentleness and kindness to them at Confirmation time."

The Apostolic Administrator, Bishop John Magee, said: "We have lost a father, and the diocese will be in mourning at the passing of a man of great intellect.

"On the pastoral side, he has left a diocese very well run, and he has left in place a very solid administration in the diocese, having witnessed over the period of his episcopacy many changes in the city of Limerick — 50 priests were ordained during his time.

"He has spoken with the mind of the Church. The secular press might contest it, but he spoke with the mind of the Church. He had a great capacity for argumentation."

Bishop Magee defended the Church's record on social matters, and Bishop Newman's: "One has to go right back to the very beginning of the century to find that the Church spoke with a very clear mind on social matters, for example, in the encyclical of Leo XIII.

"Bishop Newman wrote about 26 books on the whole subject of sociology. He was first and foremost a great defender of the right of the individual as against the institutions of state. The rights of minorities he recognised, but pointed out

also the sociological fact that Catholics were in a majority within the State."

He pointed out that it was Bishop Newman who, as president of Maynooth, opened its doors to the laity to study there.

He added that Dr Newman had a great affection for both Bishop Darling and other Church leaders and clergy in Limerick.

"I found him a very warm-hearted man," Bishop Magee continued, "He expressed it in my case by putting his confidence in me. He showed me his various books and those which meant so much to him."

He added: "I believe his stature will grow, now that he has passed away."

The late Dr Newman's fellow religious leader of the city, Bishop Edward Darling, of Limerick and Killaloe, said to the people of Limerick: "It was with a sense of personal loss that I was told, last night, of the death of my colleague, Jeremiah Newman.

"From the very moment I arrived in Limerick, almost 10 years ago, when I had to learn the ropes of being a bishop, I always found him to be most supportive and encouraging.

"We became good friends, and I certainly appreciated his warm and gracious hospitality.

"This is not to say, for one moment, that we always saw eye-to-eye and agreed on everything. Sometimes I felt that his views on certain issues were far too rigorous; but these differences of opinion never interfered with the

close co-operation and working relationship which we both enjoyed and consequently respected.

"When we disagreed on matters of principle, we recognised our differences, had our say, and remained good friends.

"Bishop Jeremiah was personally very generous when we opened our appeal for money for the restoration of St Mary's Cathedral, and he wholeheartedly encouraged his clergy to support us.

"Kindness is a word which I would certainly use to characterise him. Sadly, his shy exterior sometimes concealed that kindness and caused him to be misunderstood and misinterpreted.

"May he rest in peace."

There were also tributes from County Limerick, former Cabinet Minister and now MEP, Gerry Collins, said: "He was a man whom I held in the highest esteem, and for whom I had a great personal regard — a very caring man and a very human person with great integrity.

"The late Bishop had a deep concern and interest in rural Ireland, and he was always conscious of the pressures for change which were brought to bear on rural society.

"Before he became Bishop of Limerick, I knew him as a personal friend of my late father.

"He always had a very special interest in the people of County Limerick, and he was always happy to meet Limerick people in any part of the world where he happened to be."

Church before everything — and his calling. He was profound in his belief and his calling and his duties. He put the Church first and foremost."

Referring to a picture of herself and Bishop Newman, when he was based at Maynooth, she said: "That was a very special occasion that I visited him and he showed me around. He would have been 35 at the very most then, I'd say about 33."

On what Mrs Cantrell best remembered of the Bishop, she said: "He was a very kind man and very generous. He believed faithfully in the Church, which was his own work — he took it very seriously."

Meetings with him, because of his location away from Limerick, were not very frequent.

"There would have been special occasions when we would have had meetings," she said. "He was a close friend as well as a cousin — and a great adviser too."

UL president pays tribute

A FURTHER tribute was paid to the late Bishop Newman by the president of the University of Limerick, Dr Edward Walsh.

He said: "Much of Bishop Newman's life was linked with education and Limerick.

"As a member of the Higher Education Authority, and subsequently of the governing Body of NIHE, Limerick, and then of the University of Limerick, he was closely associated both with the planning and the development of the University.

"As a prolific writer, scholar, distinguished academic, president of Maynooth and Bishop of Limerick, he recognised the crucial role education would play in the development of Limerick and the wider community, whose best interests he always had at heart."

Former Mayor of Limerick, Jim Kemmy, said that he knew the late Bishop Newman quite well.

"I have no bitterness for him," he said. "I crossed swords with him, but I have no animosity. I tried to get him to take a more liberal line, but was unable."

He claimed that the clergy of Limerick had been horrified, with the bishop being, as he put it, "a law unto himself".

Army Ordnance Corps, who have complete responsibility for bomb disposal and disposal of all explosive items discovered in this country, have attempted to prevent these cuts.

"All advice from the

They are certainly risking the lives and property of innocent people and risking the future of Shannon International Airport and indeed the whole industrial area of the Shannon region."

DEATHS

CULLEN—'La Crosse', Wisconsin and Killaloe, on April 6, 1995, Fred, beloved husband of Elsie, much loved father of Audrey and Brian. Dear brother of Ned. Deeply regretted by his son-in-law Bill, daughter-in-law Eleanor, grandchildren Amir, Niall, Nadia, Mark and Paul. Cremation in La Crosse on Saturday, April 8. Memorial service later in Limerick. (c)

* **NEWMAN** — April 3, 1995, peacefully, at St. John's Hospital, Most Rev. Jeremiah Newman, D.D., Bishop of Limerick, 1974-1995. Deeply regretted by his cousins, priests, Apostolic Administrator and people of the Diocese of Limerick, relatives and friends. Requiesscat in pace. Lying in repose, to-day Friday, until 12 noon in St John's Cathedral. Concelebrated Mass this Friday at 3 o'clock. Interment in Cathedral afterwards. (w/c)

Mar omós don iar-Easpag an Dr Oirmh. Jeremiah Newman,

Cathaoirleach, Bord Rialaithe Cholaiste Mhuire gan Smál, Luimneach, beidh an Coláiste dúnta ar an Aoine, 7 Aibreán, 1995.

As a mark of respect to the late

Bishop Jeremiah Newman

Chairman, Bord Rialaithe (Governing Body) of Mary Immaculate College, Limerick, the College will be closed on Friday, April 7, 1995 (c)

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