

Papal Nuncio attends Interfaith celebration

by Kate Donoghue

PAPAL nuncio Archbishop Charles Brown attended an Interfaith Celebration in Leixlip on Wednesday, 25th January which focused on various faiths 'Moving Forward Together'.

'Moving Forward Together' was the theme of the event and the Pope's representative in Ireland gave a speech on the topic from a Catholic viewpoint. He spoke about how his exposure to other faiths had shaped his life and widened his religious perspectives.

Representatives of the Jewish, Islamic, Buddhist, Baha'i, various Christian faiths and Humanism had equal opportunities to speak on this theme.

The event was hosted by the Leixlip Intercultural Friends Group under the auspices of the Catholic Church of Our Lady's Nativity (Leixlip) and the Church of Ireland (Lucan/Leixlip).

Secretary of the Leixlip Intercultural Friends Group, Mary Ryan said the feedback they received was excellent:

"It was a beautiful event. People found it very uplifting and said it was so positive and heartwarming."

"It was really interesting and lovely to hear all the different views."

Shaykh Dr. Umar Al-Qadri from the Al-Mustafa Islamic Centre was the speaker representing Islam. He spoke about how he has opened his mosque to welcome people in these turbulent times.

Some speakers had presented at previous years' celebrations but Dr. Melanie Brown debuted Wednesday on behalf of Orthodox Judaism.

The Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministry was represented by Pastor Eytayo Oluwalagba. The Ministry is a pentecostal denomination of Christianity which was founded in Nigeria in 1989.

Alan Eustace (Dublin) spoke about 'Moving Forward Together' from the Buddhist perspective. Richard Spicer spoke for Humanists.

The last speaker was Carrie Thorpe from the Bahá'í Faith, the belief of which is that all major

religions have the same spiritual source and come from the same god.

The celebration also incorporated music and song and finished with a reflection by Reverend Scott Peoples (Church of Ireland Lucan/Leixlip).

Afterwards, guests were invited to the parish centre for refreshments and to continue the interfaith celebrations.



All the speakers: (back, l-r) Rev Scott Peoples, Church of Ireland Lucan/Leixlip; Catholic: Archbishop Charles J Brown Papal Nuncio; Islam: Shaykh Dr. Umar Al-Qadri, Al-Mustafa Islamic Centre; Orthodox Jewish: Dr Melanie Browne, Dublin; Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministry: Pastor Eytayo Oluwalagba, Leixlip; (Front, l-r): Buddhists; Alan Eustace, Dublin; Humanists; Richard Spicer, Bray; Baha'is: Carrie Thorpe, Rathcoole and Fr John McNamara, Leixlip who welcomed and introduced the speakers and musicians. Pics: Bridie Maughan



Anne Hickey (left) and Veronica Manley.



(l-r) Carrie Thorpe chatting with Jessica Brogan and Eoghan Mulqueen.



(l-r) Jim and Alice Gallagher, Papal Nuncio Archbishop Charles J Browne and Anne and Kieran Hickey.



Margaret Boland (left) and Anne Lundy from Confey.



Three stalwarts of the senior choir in Leixlip – Tom Murray, Kieran Hickey and Enda Smith.



The good ladies who worked so hard and provided the welcoming cup of tea, sandwiches, cookies and cakes in the Parish Centre for all the attendees after the ceremony: (l-r) Brid Matthews, Helen Strange, Rachel Cahill, Mary McHugh, Bernadette Murray, Kay Coughlan and Waltraud Maxwell.



Jaleh Shahbazi enjoys a cup of tea in the Parish Centre after the event.



(l-r) Gráinne Prior, Pastor Eytayo Oluwalagba and Mary Ryan.