

## **Carlow's links with Luxembourg to be featured on RTÉ's Nationwide**



**The Most Reverend Jean-Claude Hollerich, Archbishop of Luxembourg presenting a Relic of St. Willibrord to the Most Reverend Denis Nulty, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin in the Basilica of Echternach on Monday June 5th, 2017. Photograph: Willibrordus Bauverein.**

RTÉ's Nationwide is to feature a segment in relation to Carlow on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February. The Nationwide programme will cover the journey of the relic of St. Willibrord, Patron Saint of Luxembourg as it travelled from St Laserian's Cathedral, Old Leighlin to the Cathedral of the Assumption in Carlow.

RTE's Nationwide were in Carlow on Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017 to join Bishop Denis Nulty, Bishop of Kildare & Leighlin and Bishop Michael Burrows, Bishop of Cashel, Waterford, Lismore, Ferns, Ossory and Leighlin with nearly 200 people from both Ireland and Luxembourg as they walked over 13km with the relic of St. Willibrord, from St Laserian's Cathedral, Old Leighlin to the Cathedral of the Assumption in Carlow Town along the Barrow Way. The procession made stops along the walking route at Leighlinbridge, Milford, Clogrennan (Lanigan's Lock), St. Clare's Church, Graiguecullen and St. Mary's Church. Bishop Denis Nulty and Bishop Michael Burrows led the group in reflection and prayers assisted by local clergy.



The Relic of St. Willibrord in its new permanent home, the Cathedral of the Assumption, Carlow town.  
Photo credit: Carlow County Museum.

St. Willibrord is the Patron Saint of Luxembourg and is one of the most well-known Saints in Europe. He spent 12 years in the Abbey of RathMelsigi in Carlow in the 7th century where he was trained and ordained before leading a mission to Europe in AD 690. He later became the first Bishop of Utrecht in the Netherlands. St. Willibrord died in AD 739, he is buried in Echternach, and is said to be the only saint buried in Luxembourg. His feast day is celebrated each year on November 7th.

During a joint diocesan pilgrimage in June 2017, Bishop Denis Nulty, and Bishop Michael Burrows, were joined by roughly sixty people from Co. Carlow to Echternach, Luxembourg to take part in the UNESCO World Heritage Status annual ‘hopping procession’ in honour of St. Willibrord. During a service in the Abbey of Echternach on Monday June 5th, 2017, the ‘Relic of St. Willibrord’ was presented to Bishop Denis Nulty by the Most Reverend Jean-Claude Hollerich, Archbishop of Luxembourg to celebrate the historical links between the town of Echternach in Luxembourg and Co. Carlow. Later that month, with the relic of St. Willibrord, the group began the pilgrimage from Echternach to his permanent home in the Cathedral of the Assumption in Carlow Town.

The pilgrimage of St. Willibrord will feature on the series Nationwide on RTÉ on Monday February 12<sup>th</sup> at 7.00pm, with a repeat on Saturday Morning 17<sup>th</sup> of February and will be available on the RTÉ player after its original airdate.

The ‘Relic of St. Willibrord’ is on permanent display in the Cathedral of the Assumption, Carlow town. Beside the Cathedral, Carlow County Museum, project co-ordinators are currently running a free exhibition about St. Willibrord, his time in Carlow, his mission, his present-day impact and the famous UNESCO World Heritage Status ‘hopping procession’.