

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Tributes and times

Image for today - Tributes and times

Tributes to Pope Francis -

Most Rev Dr Michael Jackson, C of I Archbishop of Dublin

The Director of the Anglican Centre in Rome

The Methodist Church in Ireland

The Moderator of the Presbyterian Church

Right Reverend Dr. Ian Ellis, C of I Bishop of Clogher

Arrangements -

Pope Francis - Requiem Mass in St Patrick's Cathedral,
Armagh. In Rome

Education -

Cambridge House Ballymena tastes the Big Apple

BHS Abaana Uganda Day 10

Clergy and ministry -

Appointment of Incumbent of Leighlin and Dunleckney

Group and Dean of Leighlin

Perspective -

Pope's Urbi et Orbi message calls for world peace

In the media -

Belfast priest tells how Pope 'composed apology to the
victims of abuse'

Heritage -

The Langdon Down Centre

Speaking to the soul -

Short reading and a prayer daily on this site

Tributes to Pope Francis

Most Rev Dr Michael Jackson, C of I Archbishop of Dublin

I wish to express sympathy with all members of the Roman Catholic tradition in Ireland and worldwide on the death of Pope Francis who has led the Roman Catholic church since 2013 with courage and compassion, with insight and inspiration.

We stand in prayer with the archbishops of the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland, with their priests and their people.

I thank him for everything that he has done for worldwide Christianity and for his engagement with people of all World Faiths.

He has stepped into areas of life where the churches need to be and has developed new pathways of dialogue and friendship through his infectious godly humanity. He has stood with people on the margins of society and emphasised humanity's need to care for Creation.

He studied for three months at the **Jesuit House in Milltown, Dublin**, where he endeared himself to the community by his modesty. In a real and tangible way he has a special place in our hearts by virtue of that experience.



I met him twice, once at the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation in Lund and Malmö Sweden and secondly at the World Meeting of Families held here in Dublin where I had the opportunity and privilege to give to him a simple cross made from wood from the Church of Ireland church yard in Laragh at Glendalough. I did so in response to my own question 'What do you give to somebody who sits atop worldwide Christianity?' The answer is: 'a simple wooden cross'.

Recognizing the many gifts and talents of Pope Francis, I feel that I speak with and for all members of the Church of Ireland in appreciating what he has done for ecumenical



relations, not least in his moving forward the development of synodality as an interactive way of understanding the life of the Church and its people, giving them their voice. This opens a different chapter of engagement with our brothers and sisters in the Roman Catholic tradition for members of the Church of Ireland.

My sympathy also goes to members of the Jesuit Order among whom Pope Francis' intellectual, spiritual and pastoral acumen was formed in his native Argentina.

“Consider how great is the love which the Father has bestowed on us in calling us his children!” – The First Letter of John 3:1.+Michael Dublin & Glendalough

The Director of the Anglican Centre in Rome

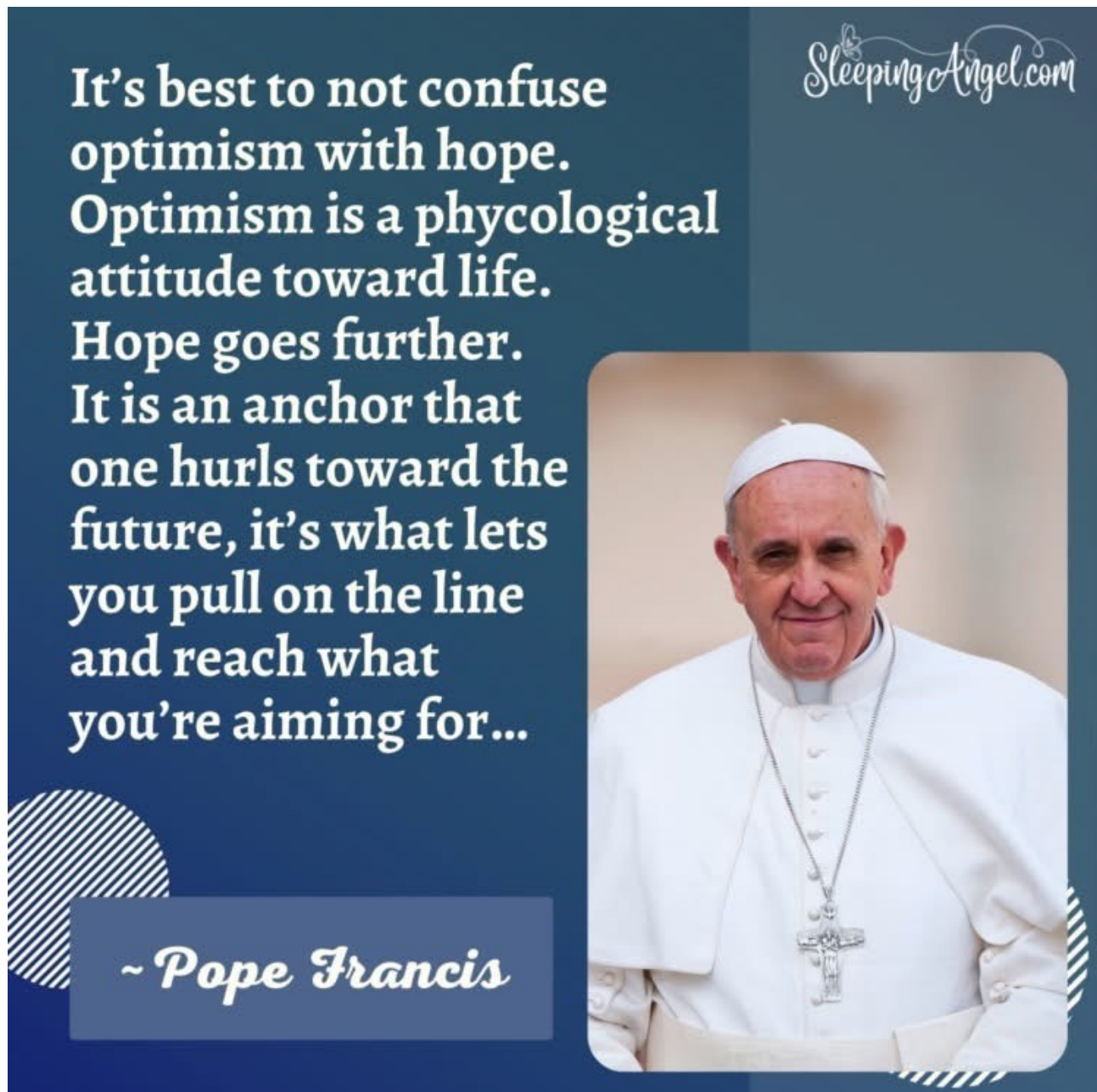
The Rt Revd Anthony Ball, Director of the Anglican Centre in Rome and the Archbishop of Canterbury's Representative to the Holy See, has issued the following statement:

With millions around the world, I mourn the death of His Holiness Pope Francis and give thanks for his extraordinary ministry. His tireless efforts to work to promote the flourishing of the most marginalised, to reach out to those who feel forgotten and to advocate for the proper stewardship of God's creation are amongst the charisms that have led him to be held in such affection. The Anglican Centre in Rome and those we represent have particular cause to be grateful for his generosity of spirit and commitment to fostering greater unity and collaboration. It is poignant that Pope Francis' last public act should have been one of blessing, "urbi et orbi".

In this Easter Week, with our confidence in the Resurrection renewed, we offer condolences to all those who are grieving at this time, particularly our sisters and brothers in the Roman Catholic Church.

The Methodist Church in Ireland

The President and Lay Leader of the Methodist Church in Ireland have extended the "sympathies and prayers of the Irish Methodist people" upon learning of the death of Pope Francis -



Rev Dr John Alderdice, President and Mrs Elaine Barnett, Lay Leader, said -

As a Church we are grateful for Pope Francis's faith and for his leadership of the Roman Catholic Church. We give thanks and appreciation for his ecumenical spirit and openness to other leaders in the global Christian Church.

We commend his advocacy for social justice, his desire to prioritise care for the poor and the most vulnerable in

society as well as his call for all people to embrace their role as ‘stewards of creation’.

We extend our deepest sympathies and prayers of the Irish Methodist people to our brothers and sisters in the Roman Catholic community and to all those who mourn. May the late Pope’s legacy of faith continue to inspire generations to come.

The Moderator of the Presbyterian Church

The Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI), Right Reverend Dr Richard Murray, has written privately to Archbishop Eamon Martin, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, on the death of Pope Francis.

Speaking about the death of Pope Francis, the Clerk of the General Assembly and PCI’s General Secretary, Rev Dr Trevor Gribben, said, “In offering the condolences of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland to Archbishop Eamon, we want to acknowledge the grief felt by many people on the island of Ireland who will be greatly saddened at this particular time, especially our Roman Catholic friends and neighbours, who mourn the death of Pope Francis, who died today.”

Right Reverend Dr. Ian Ellis, C of I Bishop of Clogher

To Bishop Larry Duffy and to all clergy and parishioners of the Roman Catholic diocese on the death of Pope Francis.

Pope Francis served the Church with joyful devotion and possessed a natural authority born of his deep commitment to God and to serving all God's people. His profound respect for every person, regardless of their place on life's journey, powerfully witnessed to the fullness of God's grace given through His Son.

His brotherly affection extended to Christians of all traditions and to all humanity. This was not merely sentiment but was demonstrated through practical action, particularly in addressing what he recognised as the defining issue of our time, the care of God's creation.

The Church of Ireland Diocese of Clogher stands with you in prayer during this time of loss. We give thanks for Pope Francis's ministry and for his witness to Christ's love for all people.

In the bond of peace and fellowship that we share in Christ.

Arrangements

Pope Francis - Requiem Mass in St Patrick's Cathedral

Archbishop Eamon Martin will celebrate a Requiem Mass for our late Holy Father, Pope Francis RIP, in St Patrick's



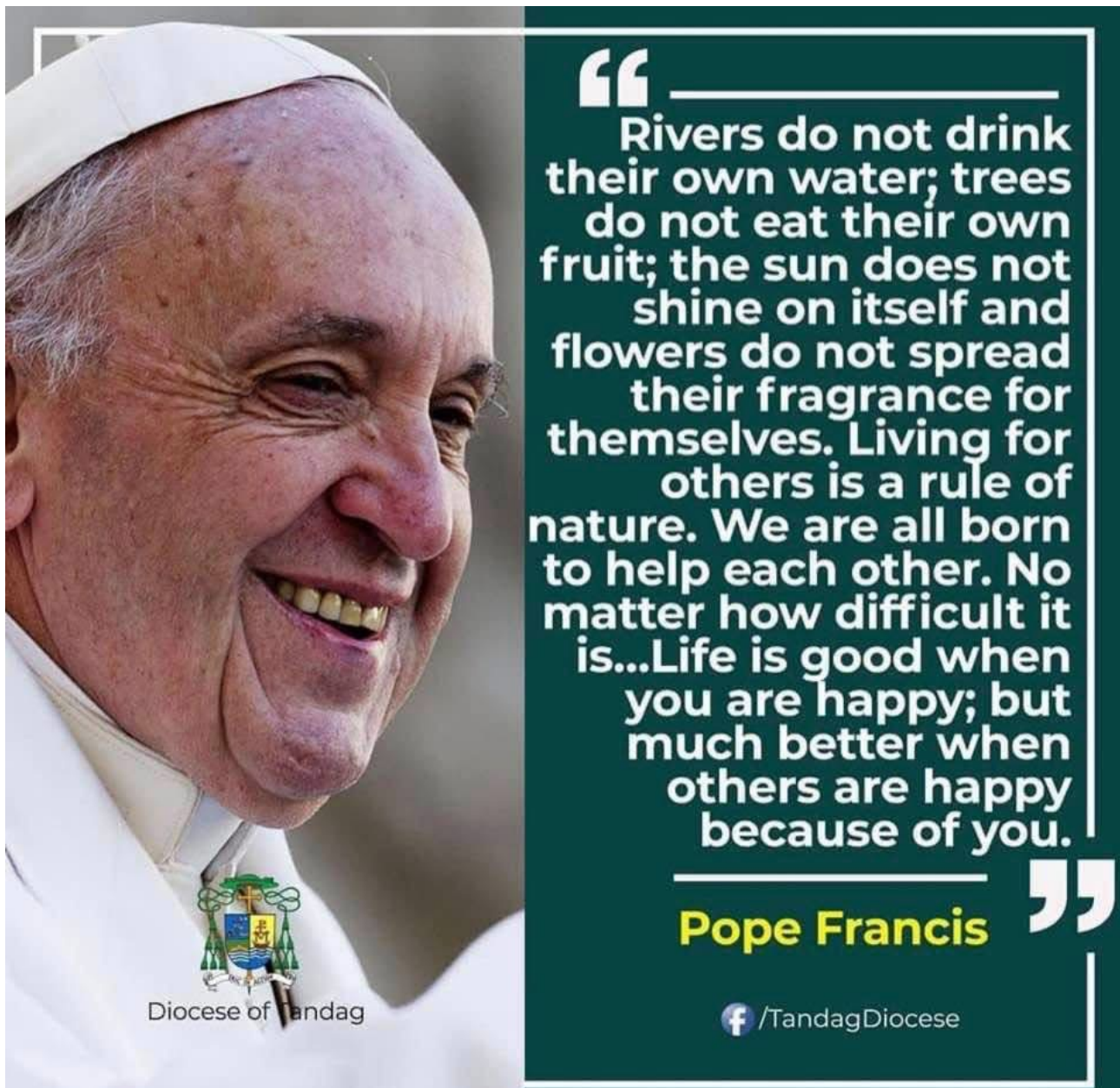
Cathedral, Armagh on Thursday evening at 7pm. All are welcome to attend.



A book of condolences has been opened in St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh - as we mourn the passing of the Holy

April 23, 2025

Father, Francis RIP. Please do call in to offer a prayer for the late Pope and sign the book.



In Rome

The body of the late Pope Francis will be transferred to St. Peter's Basilica on Wednesday at 9:00 AM to lie in state until his funeral on Saturday morning at 10:00 AM.

[April 23, 2025](#)

The Holy See Press Office announced that Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re, Dean of the College of Cardinals, will preside at the funeral Mass, which will be concelebrated by Patriarchs, Cardinals, Archbishops, Bishops, and priests from across the globe.

The Eucharistic celebration will conclude with the Ultima commendatio and the Valedictio, marking the beginning of the Novemdiales, or nine days of mourning and Masses for the repose of Pope Francis' soul.

The late Pope's body will then be taken into St. Peter's Basilica and then to the Basilica of St. Mary Major for entombment.

Earlier, on Wednesday, the coffin containing the Pope's body will be carried from the chapel of the Casa Santa Marta to St. Peter's Basilica.

Cardinal Kevin Farrell, Camerlengo of the Holy Roman Church, will preside over the rite of translation on April 23, which will begin at 9:00 AM with a moment of prayer.

The procession will pass through Santa Marta Square and the Square of the Roman Protomartyrs, according to the Holy See Press Office.

The procession will then exit through the Arch of the Bells into St. Peter's Square and enter the Vatican Basilica through the central door.

At the Altar of the Confession, the Cardinal Camerlengo will preside over the Liturgy of the Word, at the conclusion of

April 23, 2025

which the visits to the body of the Roman Pontiff will commence.

Education



Cambridge House Ballymena tastes the Big Apple

55 Cambridge House pupils and 6 staff are having the best time in New York City.

Saturday was spent exploring the city before a Broadway show. Sunday included a trip to the 9/11 memorial, a sail around the Statue of Liberty and a visit to Alexander

April 23, 2025

Hamilton's grave
(well we did allow
the drama teacher
to organise it!)

They also climbed
the Empire State
Building. (There is
no truth that Mr Kirk
was chased by King
Kong). Finally we
are all shopped out
after a trip to
Macy's.

The students have
been a credit to the
school and we are
looking forward to
coming home with
heavier luggage
today (Wednesday morning).



BHS Abaana Uganda Day 10

Catching up with Belfast High School group - For our last morning we had another early start and began the day with our final debrief led by Auntie Sue.

We shared our highlights and thanked all of our Uganda helpers who have been looking after us during our stay.

April 23, 2025



We then set off for craft shopping at a market in Kampala where we bought lots of souvenirs for our friends and families and practiced our bargaining skills (some were better than others!).

We then took our Ugandan helpers out for lunch at Cafe Java where we got delicious food. We then travelled back to the Abaana guesthouse to do some final packing, playing African cards and some Irish dancing before saying our very sad goodbyes to Uganda - for now!
Jenna and Emily

Clergy and ministry

Appointment of Incumbent of Leighlin and Dunleckney Group and Dean of Leighlin



The Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory, the Rt Revd Adrian Wilkinson is delighted to announce the appointment of the Revd Canon Máirt Hanley as incumbent of the new Leighlin and Dunleckney Group of Parishes and Dean of Leighlin.

In accepting the appointment Canon Hanley states ‘I am deeply touched by the invitation to become the next incumbent of Dunleckney and Leighlin Group and Dean of Leighlin. Míle buíochas agus tá. Whilst I am acutely aware of the challenge that this position will bring, I look forward to working with this new group of parishes to see what we might do for the diocese and the kingdom.’

Describing his approach to ministry Máirt writes, ‘My spiritual journey began when I was a child in England, being raised Roman Catholic, and attending the Abbey of Worth. The Benedictine worldview has had a massive influence on me and the gracious welcome of the monks, their rhythm of life and their connection with both themes of place and

pilgrimage, has set me on my way in life. After moving home to Ireland I found the Church of Ireland to be more in tune with my personal theology and having studied Archaeology and Philosophy in U.C.C I applied for ministry in the church. After ordination I served in a number of parishes in various capacities. Through this time, I have engaged a lot with the ideas of retreat and pilgrimage and tried to bring out the relevance of historic Christianity for addressing our present-day challenges.

I enjoy nature, walking, kayaking, and the culinary arts. Along with this I play a bit of music and am in a jazz band.'

Bishop Wilkinson adds, "I am delighted that Canon Hanley has accepted this appointment. In addition to being incumbent of this new parochial group, I am happy to also appoint Máirt as Dean of Leighlin. He has served in Baltinglass Group of Parishes since 2015 and so is well known in the Diocese. He is a caring and diligent priest, who has an interest in authentic Celtic spirituality, history and pilgrimage. All of this will be important as he ministers in a setting rich in these traditions. I know his new parishioners will value his ministry and friendship."

Perspective

Pope's Urbi et Orbi message calls for world peace

Recalling Pope Francis' most recent Urbi et Orbi when more than 5,000 pilgrims gathered for the Easter Vigil in St Peter's Basilica and outside in the Square.

Christ is
risen,
alleluia!

Dear
brothers
and
sisters,
Happy
Easter!

Today at
last, the
singing of
the
“alleluia”
is heard
once
more in
the
Church,
passing
from

mouth to mouth, from heart to heart, and this makes the
people of God throughout the world shed tears of joy.

From the empty tomb in Jerusalem, we hear unexpected
good news: Jesus, who was crucified, “is not here, he has
risen” (Lk 24:5). Jesus is not in the tomb, he is alive!

Love has triumphed over hatred, light over darkness and
truth over falsehood. Forgiveness has triumphed over
revenge. Evil has not disappeared from history; it will remain



SEVEN WORD PRAYER TAUGHT
TO POPE FRANCIS BY HIS GRANDMOTHER

until the end, but it no longer has the upper hand; it no longer has power over those who accept the grace of this day.

Sisters and brothers, especially those of you experiencing pain and sorrow, your silent cry has been heard and your tears have been counted; not one of them has been lost! In the passion and death of Jesus, God has taken upon himself all the evil in this world and in his infinite mercy has defeated it. He has uprooted the diabolical pride that poisons the human heart and wreaks violence and corruption on every side. The Lamb of God is victorious! That is why, today, we can joyfully cry out: “Christ, my hope, has risen!” (*Easter Sequence*).

The resurrection of Jesus is indeed the basis of our hope. For in the light of this event, hope is no longer an illusion. Thanks to Christ — crucified and risen from the dead — hope does not disappoint! *Spes non confundit!* (cf. *Rom* 5:5). That hope is not an evasion, but a challenge; it does not delude, but empowers us.

All those who put their hope in God place their feeble hands in his strong and mighty hand; they let themselves be raised up and set out on a journey. Together with the risen Jesus, they become pilgrims of hope, witnesses of the victory of love and of the disarmed power of Life.

Christ is risen! These words capture the whole meaning of our existence, for we were not made for death but for life. Easter is the celebration of life! God created us for life and wants the human family to rise again! In his eyes, every life is precious! The life of a child in the mother’s womb, as well

as the lives of the elderly and the sick, who in more and more countries are looked upon as people to be discarded.

What a great thirst for death, for killing, we witness each day in the many conflicts raging in different parts of our world! How much violence we see, often even within families, directed at women and children! How much contempt is stirred up at times towards the vulnerable, the marginalized, and migrants!

On this day, I would like all of us to hope anew and to revive our trust in others, including those who are different than ourselves, or who come from distant lands, bringing unfamiliar customs, ways of life and ideas! For all of us are children of God!

I would like us to renew our hope that peace is possible! From the Holy Sepulchre, the Church of the Resurrection, where this year Easter is being celebrated by Catholics and Orthodox on the same day, may the light of peace radiate throughout the Holy Land and the entire world. I express my closeness to the sufferings of Christians in Palestine and Israel, and to all the Israeli people and the Palestinian people. The growing climate of anti-Semitism throughout the world is worrisome. Yet at the same time, I think of the people of Gaza, and its Christian community in particular, where the terrible conflict continues to cause death and destruction and to create a dramatic and deplorable humanitarian situation. I appeal to the warring parties: call a ceasefire, release the hostages and come to the aid of a starving people that aspires to a future of peace!

Let us pray for the Christian communities in Lebanon and in Syria, presently experiencing a delicate transition in its

history. They aspire to stability and to participation in the life of their respective nations. I urge the whole Church to keep the Christians of the beloved Middle East in its thoughts and prayers.

I also think in particular of the people of Yemen, who are experiencing one of the world's most serious and prolonged humanitarian crises because of war, and I invite all to find solutions through a constructive dialogue.

May the risen Christ grant Ukraine, devastated by war, his Easter gift of peace, and encourage all parties involved to pursue efforts aimed at achieving a just and lasting peace.

On this festive day, let us remember the South Caucasus and pray that a final peace agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan will soon be signed and implemented, and lead to long-awaited reconciliation in the region.

May the light of Easter inspire efforts to promote harmony in the western Balkans and sustain political leaders in their efforts to allay tensions and crises, and, together with their partner countries in the region, to reject dangerous and destabilizing actions.

May the risen Christ, our hope, grant peace and consolation to the African peoples who are victims of violence and conflict, especially in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in Sudan and South Sudan. May he sustain those suffering from the tensions in the Sahel, the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes region, as well as those Christians who in many places are not able freely to profess their faith.

There can be no peace without freedom of religion, freedom of thought, freedom of expression and respect for the views of others.

Nor is peace possible without true disarmament! The requirement that every people provide for its own defence must not turn into a race to rearmament. The light of Easter impels us to break down the barriers that create division and are fraught with grave political and economic consequences. It impels us to care for one another, to increase our mutual solidarity, and to work for the integral development of each human person.

During this time, let us not fail to assist the people of Myanmar, plagued by long years of armed conflict, who, with courage and patience, are dealing with the aftermath of the devastating earthquake in Sagaing, which caused the death of thousands and great suffering for the many survivors, including orphans and the elderly. We pray for the victims and their loved ones, and we heartily thank all the generous volunteers carrying out the relief operations. The announcement of a ceasefire by various actors in the country is a sign of hope for the whole of Myanmar.

I appeal to all those in positions of political responsibility in our world not to yield to the logic of fear which only leads to isolation from others, but rather to use the resources available to help the needy, to fight hunger and to encourage initiatives that promote development. These are the “weapons” of peace: weapons that build the future, instead of sowing seeds of death!

May the principle of humanity never fail to be the hallmark of our daily actions. In the face of the cruelty of conflicts that

April 23, 2025

involve defenceless civilians and attack schools, hospitals and humanitarian workers, we cannot allow ourselves to forget that it is not targets that are struck, but persons, each possessed of a soul and human dignity.

In this Jubilee year, may Easter also be a fitting occasion for the liberation of prisoners of war and political prisoners!

Dear brothers and sisters,

In the Lord's Paschal Mystery, death and life contended in a stupendous struggle, but the Lord now lives forever (cf. *Easter Sequence*). He fills us with the certainty that we too are called to share in the life that knows no end, when the clash of arms and the rumble of death will be heard no more. Let us entrust ourselves to him, for he alone can make all things new (cf. *Rev. 21:5*)!

Happy Easter to everyone!

Watch the Vigil on the Vatican Media Youtube channel:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=J191MZ9s9oc

In the media

Belfast priest tells how Pope 'composed apology to the victims of abuse'

A priest who helped organise Pope Francis's visit to Ireland in 2018 has recalled watching the pontiff compose his personal apology to victims of abuse in

the Catholic Church, David Young reports in the Belfast Telegraph.

Fr Tim Bartlett said he did not know what the pope was writing after he asked for some paper while on board a flight to Knock Shrine, in the west of Ireland.

The Belfast-based cleric said hours later the pontiff produced the same piece of paper as he addressed tens of thousands of people at an open-air Mass in Dublin's Phoenix Park and read out his plea for forgiveness.

During the Mass, Francis vowed to pursue justice for victims of church abuse in Ireland as he sought forgiveness for the country's dark litany of clerical crimes.

The pope laid bare the many forms of abuse and mistreatment meted out to children and vulnerable adults in past decades, and also acknowledged that members of the church's hierarchy had sought to cover up the sins of colleagues and failed to show compassion for the victims.

Fr Bartlett, who played a central role in co-ordinating the pontiff's visit to the island in 2018, to attend the World Meeting of Families, said observing Francis pen the apology was his most vivid memory of the trip.

“The night before Pope Francis had had a long meeting with survivors of abuse, of clergy abuse and institutions run by the church,” Fr Bartlett said.

“He had many things after that meeting that he had to do, but on the Sunday morning on the plane, once we were in

the air, he turned around and he beckoned, and he asked for a piece of paper and I sent him up a piece of paper, and we noticed him writing on the paper at the front of the plane, and he folded up the piece of paper and put it into his pocket.

“We had no idea what it was about until later that afternoon when we were back in Dublin and we're starting the Mass, this huge Mass in Phoenix Park, and he takes that piece of paper out of his pocket at the beginning of the Mass and he reads it, and it was an apology in his own words and straight from his heart, having met the survivors the night before, for all of the abuse that had taken place in the church and to all survivors.

“I think that apology will go down in history as one of the most profound, eloquent and personal apologies issued by any church leader, and certainly a pope, to survivors of church abuse. And he wrote that the morning after he had met the survivors.”

Heritage

The Langdon Down Centre

Down syndrome was named after John Langdon Down, a British doctor who, in 1866, was the first to classify this condition. Langdon Down began his career as the chief physician at the Earlswood institution, which cared for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



Although he had no prior experience in caring for people with such disabilities, Langdon Down showed a profound interest and empathy for them. At a time when many ignored their value and

humanity, he recognized their dignity and was outraged by the inhumane treatment they received. Physical punishment, poor hygiene, and high mortality rates were common in institutions of that era.

Determined to change this reality, Dr. Langdon Down implemented transformative measures. He hired new staff, demanded proper care and strict hygiene, banned physical punishment, and introduced activities such as crafts and hobbies for the patients. Moreover, he photographed his patients with care and sensitivity, portraying them in elegant attire and favorable poses. These images, part of a collection of over 200 photos, supported his clinical descriptions of Down syndrome, detailing physical characteristics and other relevant medical observations.

April 23, 2025

In 1868, Langdon Down took an even greater step by acquiring a mansion to house people with Down syndrome. He did not treat it as a mere institution but as a space that met the highest standards of comfort and hygiene.

Residents received private education and learned activities such as horse riding, gardening, crafting, and other creative practices. To further enrich their lives, the doctor built a small theater attached to the mansion, promoting artistic and social development among the residents.

This mansion, named Normansfield, still stands today in the United Kingdom. It is now known as The Langdon Down Centre and houses the Normansfield Theatre, preserving the legacy of care and respect initiated by John Langdon Down.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

The publication of Church News Ireland is overseen by Very Rev Dr Houston McKelvey OBE, QVRM, TD. He may be contacted at houstonmckelvey@mac.com

April 23, 2025

Church News Ireland

www.churchnewsireland.org

**Link in Monday through Saturday from
early morning**

Please recommend to your friends