

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Paschal Candle**

## Image of the day

### Paschal Candle

A Pascal Candle with a peacock image at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York City. Thanks to Peter Ennis

## People and places

### Easter Message from the Archbishop of Dublin

**Finding your way, keeping to the straight and narrow – these are phrases frequently used in everyday conversation as we help one another to chart our course in and through life, Archbishop Michael Jackson writes.**

Those of us who follow the route of Christianity have just come through The Season of Lent.

Travelling with Jesus Christ in both the Biblical and the contemporary wilderness has strengthened us. Our solidarity with humanity has deepened and radicalized through an enhanced understanding of temptation and of prayer, of forgiveness and of freedom. We have travelled with him in Holy Week in the city of Jerusalem. Now we find ourselves celebrating Christ Risen – a new and living way, a

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new and living hope in a world that is the same and yet utterly changed.

More and more people travel in different ways in today's world. There are refugees and displaced persons who are doing their utmost to find a way to a place of safety, fleeing from war and exploitation, from horror and certain death. There are people struggling to make ends meet in economic circumstances they had never imagined for themselves and in a time of life they had never expected. The path to justice and to peace remains tortuous right across the world. It is small steps that make progress possible.

Let us never forget that it was when the Risen Jesus called Mary by name that she knew it was The Master utterly changed yet the same. We need to be alert to sameness and to change at the very same time in creative and constructive ways at Easter as we greet the Risen Lord with the cry: Alleluia! Alleluia!

## Celebrating Easter in Ireland - a review





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**Lisburn - Good Friday inter-church procession to the centre for an open-air service.**







Top - Easter Garden exploration ready to go at St Mark's, **Dundela**. Above - **Lisbellaw** Parish Dawn Service at Coolbuck on Easter morning.





Top -

Congregation,  
choir and  
clergy Easter  
morning at  
**Eglantine.**

Right - St  
Colman's  
**Kilroot & St  
John's - 24  
people**



attended the dawn service of Holy Communion at the Old  
Church, Templecorran. **More tomorrow**

## News reports

### Dublin ceremony gives voice to Troubles victims

**The names of the nearly 3,600 people who died as a result of conflict in Northern Ireland between 1966 and 2019 were read out loud as part of a service in Dublin.**

The event at the Dublin Unitarian Church on St Stephen's Green started at midday on Good Friday and ended at approximately 3pm.

Speaking before the ceremony, the church's Minister Rev Bridget Spain said the reading of the names is worthwhile to remember those who died.

"It was such a waste of life, we don't want to go back there," she said.

"It gives those dead people a voice, just for the second it takes to read their name," she added.

Several volunteers took turns reading the alphabetical list throughout the three-hour ceremony.

Ms Spain said members of the congregation and the wider public come and go, and nobody is expected to stay for the entire ceremony.



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“25 years on (from the Good Friday Agreement), we seem to think that everything is OK.

“If our publicity here makes somebody think back to what it was like then and say: ‘We’re not going there, can we work towards something better?’

“It’s worth it.”

She said it can be very emotional reading the list of names.

The church said the commemoration is the only religious service of its kind in Ireland.

It said the shooting in February of PSNI Detective Chief Inspector John Caldwell is “a grim warning that the killings may not be over.

“These readings illustrate powerfully the terrible, random nature of death in war and civil conflict.

“All human life and death is in these mournful lists: British soldiers, IRA volunteers, loyalist paramilitaries, Ulster policemen and women, part-time UDR men, prison officers, gardai, civil rights marchers, judges, businessmen, farmers, taxi drivers, social workers, housewives, children of all ages.

“People killed walking home from the pub, while watching football on the television, while attending church; people killed on buses and trains; and walking and shopping and visiting in London and Birmingham, Dublin and Monaghan, Belfast and Derry and Banbridge and Omagh and a score of other Northern Irish towns and villages.”



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Referencing the recent raised terrorism threat level in Northern Ireland, Ms Spain wanted to spread a message of optimism on the occasion.

“I’m trying to say to people to think back to that time when everybody was so optimistic.

“Let’s think back to those good days and try and get back there and work on what was built 25 years ago.”

Opening the ceremony, Ms Spain quoted John Hume: “Difference is the essence of humanity.

“Difference is an accident of birth and therefore should never be your source of hatred.

“The answer to difference is to respect it.

“Therein lies the most fundamental principal of peace: Respect for diversity.”

Abbey Theatre artistic Director Caitriona McLaughlin was the first volunteer to read names.

Referencing the ending of *The Crucible*, she said: “The people on this list had no choice what truth or untruth they would sign their name to.

“The names we read today are associated forever with the trauma we call the Troubles but by reading these names they will not be defined by it.”

## In the media

### Joe Biden is wrong to claim credit for peace in Ireland - Con Coughlin

**The anti-British President is touring Ireland to mark the anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement. He did nothing to help make it happen**

At a moment when peace in Northern Ireland rests delicately on a knife edge, the last thing the province needs is the presence of US President Joe Biden and his deeply jaundiced view of Irish history.

Biden's forthcoming visit to Ireland has been timed to coincide with celebrations to mark the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement. The visit is taking place against a background of highly credible warnings from the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) that dissident republicans are planning to mark the occasion by carrying out terrorist attacks.

Throughout his long political career, Biden has made no secret of his visceral affection for the republican cause, an attitude he inherited from his mother, whose hatred for England was so intense that, as Biden himself once boasted, she chose to sleep on a hotel floor rather than in a bed that the late Queen had once slept on. She even committed her loathing for the English to verse. The British screenwriter of *Veep*, Georgia Pritchett, who interviewed Biden as part of her research, recalls hundreds of poems



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demanding that “God must smite the English and rain blood on our heads”.

In his own comments, Biden appears to share his mother’s sentiments. As vice president, Biden caused great offence to Northern Ireland’s Unionist community when, while attending a St Patrick’s day event, he quipped: “If you’re wearing orange you’re not welcome here.” He has been in a similarly combative mood in the run-up to next week’s visit. When asked if concerns about possible sectarian violence in the province might affect his visit, he remarked: “They can’t keep me out.”

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The President’s natural inclination to back the EU over the Northern Ireland Protocol has contributed to the collapse of Stormont

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Biden will spend three of the four days of his trip in the Republic, where he will pay homage to his ancestral roots in counties Louth and Mayo.

The President’s blinkered view of the Irish conflict is so pronounced that his administration has totally failed to grasp the constitutional implications of the Northern Ireland Protocol. Despite Rishi Sunak’s recent amendments, it still means that the province remains subject to EU diktat.

As someone who is sympathetic to the cause of a united Ireland, Biden no doubt believes this is a useful construct, even if it has succeeded in alienating Northern Ireland’s Unionist community, to the extent that the Democratic Unionist Party remains unwilling to participate in the Stormont assembly.

The power-sharing body was one of the more tangible achievements to emerge from the Good Friday Agreement. But rather than acting to ensure its survival, Biden's natural inclination to back the EU in its dispute with the British Government over post-Brexit trading arrangements for the province has contributed to Stormont's collapse.

Biden's unhelpful involvement in the conflict is another example of how the US, rather than aiding the cause of peace, has often achieved the opposite.

For much of the Troubles, funds raised in the US for the IRA helped buy the weapons used to carry out terrorist attacks. And when a peace agreement was eventually brokered, it was down to pressure from Washington that IRA terrorists were given immunity from prosecution – a concession not afforded to British veterans.

If peace prevails in Northern Ireland, it will be no thanks to the Biden administration's ill-judged contribution.

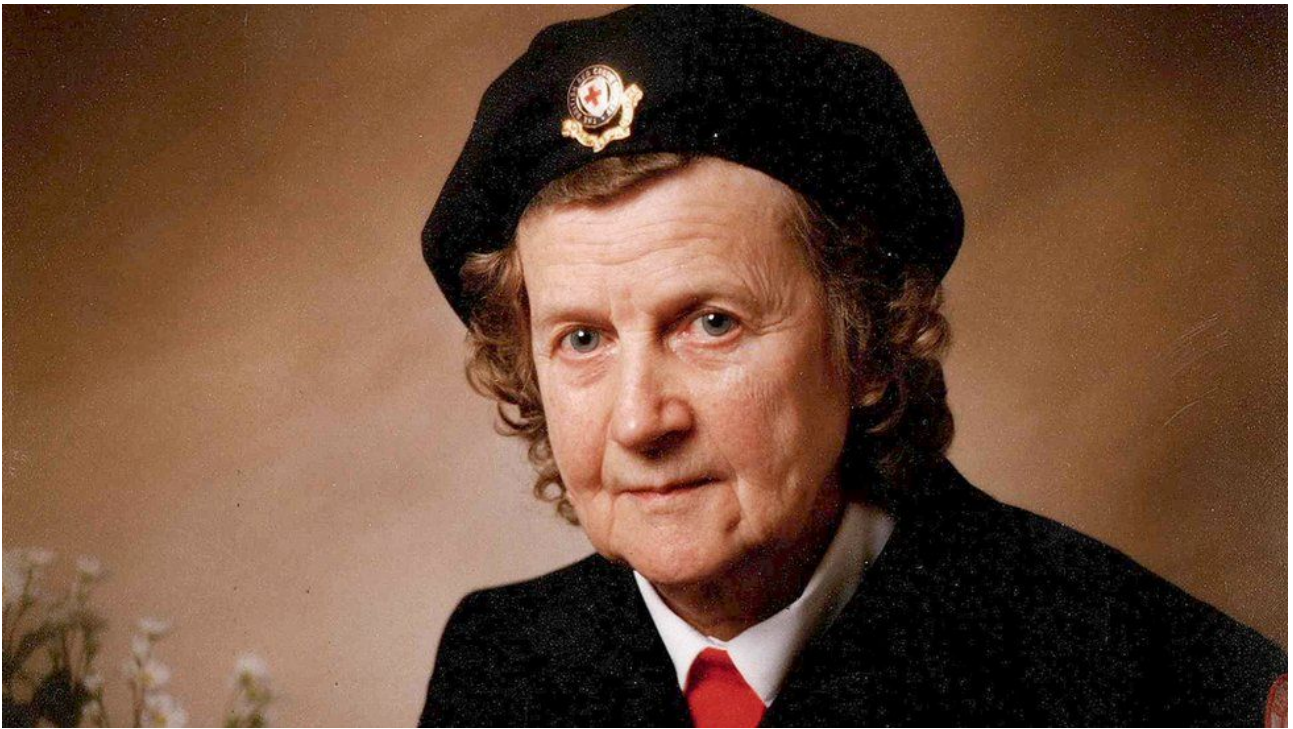
*Con Coughlin writing in the Daily Telegraph 09/04/2023*

## **Good Friday Agreement: The woman behind the first secret peace talks**

BBC NI - It's 25 years since the Good Friday Agreement was committed to paper, but the journey to peace started in the most unlikely of settings.

On 20 June 1972 - as the Troubles raged across Northern Ireland - representatives from the security service MI6 and





the IRA gathered for the first time in the dining room of a house on the outskirts of Londonderry.

Their hosts, Aileen and Col Michael McCorkell, left a chocolate cake on the table for the negotiators and then made themselves scarce.

Aileen was well known for her humanitarian work as the president of the Derry City Red Cross. Her husband Michael was a member of the territorial army and came from a well-known local family.

[<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-65157689>]

## **We won't apologise for being an all-female clergy**

This Easter will be especially significant for one of England's cathedrals.

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Leicester Cathedral will be marking the Christian festival with what it believes is England's first fully-female clergy team at the helm.

The five women - including the acting dean, Reverend Canon Karen Rooms - were appointed from 2013 onwards.

The move is the latest in a tradition of female firsts at the cathedral which, in 1974, was the first to admit girls into its choir and, in 2000, Vivienne Faull - now the Bishop of Bristol - was the first female cathedral dean.

So what is it like to be part of the cathedral's progressive history?

[<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leicestershire-65188555>]

## Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

### Easter from Kings

View the traditional celebration of Easter with music and readings recorded in the candlelit Chapel of King's College, Cambridge, with the college's world-renowned choir under director Daniel Hyde. Members of the college read from the King James Bible, and there is music from Bach, Mozart and Tchaikovsky.

[<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001kz6z>]



## **St Nicholas Parish Church, Carrickfergus**

View this excellent photographic essay on a church in the centre of the town of Carrickfergus. It was build in 1182. It was commissioned by John de Courcy an Anglo - Norman knight whose famous castle is just 200m away.

[\[https://www.belfastentries.com/places/places-to-see/st-nicholas-church-carrickfergus/\]](https://www.belfastentries.com/places/places-to-see/st-nicholas-church-carrickfergus/)

## **The Marriage Course**

The Church of Ireland Marriage Council is hosting The Marriage Course, a series of seven online sessions designed to help couples invest in their relationship and build a strong marriage. The course, which is free, gets underway on 20 April, and will run each Thursday evening from 7.30–9.30pm. There's no counselling and no group discussion involved.

Nicky and Sila Lee, authors of The Marriage Book, developed The Marriage Course for couples looking for practical support to strengthen their relationship. The course is designed to help couples build strong foundations, learn to communicate more effectively and resolve differences well. The course will be hosted by the Revd Jonny Campbell–Smyth, Rector of Ballynure & Ballyeaston, and his wife Alison. Places may be booked via Eventbrite.

[\[https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-marriage-course-tickets-541197565487\]](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-marriage-course-tickets-541197565487)

## Perspective

### The bonds we have in Christ - Archbishop of York

**Archbishop Stephen Cotterrel writes in this month's New Directions magazine, reflecting that the bonds we have in Christ, and with one another through our baptism fixes us together as the body of Christ. The article follows in full...**

We live in a culture and inherit a history where disagreement usually leads to division, division to conflict, and conflict to schism. I'm sure I will be called naive, but I dream of a better story.

On the night before Jesus died, he didn't say to his disciples that they would be known as his followers by their agreement with one another, but by their love.

The history of the church has, sadly, been a history of disagreement. And often this has led to conflict and separation. However, in the last century, and through the birth and influence of the ecumenical movement, we have seen the tide slowly beginning to turn. At the heart of this has been the recovery of baptismal identity and the recognition of a common baptism. This has allowed us to make space for one another with disagreements and not in spite of them.



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I wonder whether we need to apply the same ecumenical theology to some of our own internal disagreements as members of the Church of England and the worldwide Anglican Communion.

I long for us to share a common table, to break one bread, and to share the common cup. The Eucharist is right at the heart of my own spirituality, and my own understanding of what it means to be the Church. I find it viscerally painful to be at a Roman Catholic celebration of the Eucharist and not be able to receive Communion and I've learned to endure the same pain within the Church of England itself. We have lived now for many years with impaired communion. In my new role as Primate of the Northern Province, I recently presided from the chair at the ordination of the new Bishop of Beverley. But other bishops presided at the consecration and the Eucharist itself. With my high doctrine of church order and Eucharist, I found this difficult. If you examine it too closely, it doesn't always make a lot of theological sense. But it works pastorally. It holds us together. And provided we choose to inhabit this slightly muddled, ecclesial structure with generosity and grace, we offer the world a better story, one where disagreement no longer leads to division, but to mutual flourishing, and one which is marked by the love that Jesus asks of us as the surest sign of our discipleship. And at this service, I was particularly impressed, by the gracious generosity of the many female bishops in attendance.

Such a way of living with profound disagreement, absolutely requires two things. The first, is that we do not have separate jurisdictions. We are still the one Church of England, but providing pastoral, and, where necessary,

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sacramental space for those who are unable to conscientiously inhabit some of our more recent developments in faith and order. So, in the consecration I just referred to, although I had no part in the sacramental ministry of the service, the new bishop still pledged 'due reverence and obedience' to me in my office, as Archbishop of York and Metropolitan.

The second is baptism. Despite the ongoing pain I experience in our impaired communion, I have come to see that water is thicker than blood, and that the bonds we have in Christ, and with one another through our baptism fixes us together as the body of Christ in ways that simply do not permit us the luxury of saying, as it were the eye to the hand, I don't need you. Of course, we live in our tribes, societies, groupings and even denominations. It has ever been thus. And these things can provide many benefits. But baptism is deeper and more binding and cannot be undone. Therefore, I dream for the Church of England a better and more beautiful story where, even with the challenge of our current disagreements, we learn to inhabit a space where, although from time to time, we will be sitting at separate tables, we are still in the same room, recognising the image of the same Christ in one another, delighting in each other's well-being and flourishing and refusing to give in to the pull of human history and human culture that would drive us apart.

We think our current disagreements are about sex and gender and sexuality. I rather suspect they are also about power. And I am deeply sorry for the times I may have mis-used mine. But I am also determined to try and faithfully follow the one who, for love of fallen, muddled, and broken



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humanity laid aside his majesty, emptied himself of all but love, and showed us a better way. It is into his dying and rising that we are baptised and it is this that makes us the Church. There is so much more we long to reveal about our unity and identity in Christ. But there must never be less.

Let us then strive to inhabit one Church of England, a Church of England where there is room for conscientious disagreement, and where we welcome those with whom we disagree because they may turn out to be the unexpected angels in whom Christ will be present to us, and show us in his gentle doggedness where we have got things wrong.

Thank you, New Directions for the opportunity to briefly expand my thoughts on a throwaway line from a very short speech in Synod that water is thicker than blood. Baptism cannot be undone. Let it therefore be the cord that holds us together even when the spaces between us seem large and unbridgeable.

<https://www.forwardinfaith.com/NewDirections.php>

## Poem for today

### Happy Easter - the Corrymeela Community

God of unbounded joy,  
God of undying love:  
the women went to the tomb  
to tend to the crucified dead  
and came back the first preachers

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of resurrection.

As we come back from our tomb today,  
and begin to live again,  
may we deliver with unbridled joy  
what the world is dying to hear:  
that death is never the end;  
that love remains what is most divine;  
and that you continue to live  
in the beating heart of our humanity.  
Amen.

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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# Church News Ireland

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