



Tributes to Bishop Edward Daly of Derry

Bishop Donal McKeown of Derry made the following statement yesterday morning:

It is with deepest regret that I announce the death, this morning, of Bishop Edward Daly, Bishop *Emeritus* of Derry.

Bishop Daly was born in Belleek, County Fermanagh, in the Diocese of Clogher, on 5 December 1933. After primary education in Belleek, he attended second level education in Saint Columb's College, Derry. From there, he was sent, as a student for the Diocese of Derry, to prepare for priesthood in the Pontifical Irish College, Rome.

Bishop Daly was ordained on 16 March 1957, a priest of the Diocese of Derry. His first appointment was as a Curate in Castlederg, Co Tyrone. In 1962, he was appointed as a Curate in Saint Eugene's Cathedral, Derry. In 1973, he was appointed Religious Advisor to RTÉ, Dublin. In 1974, he was ordained Bishop of Derry, where he served until serious illness compelled him to retire in 1994. In retirement, despite poor health, until earlier this year Bishop Daly continued to serve as a dedicated Chaplain to the Foyle Hospice, Derry, a ministry in which he touched

the lives of so many people. He also served as Diocesan Archivist.

Bishop Daly served, without any concern for himself, throughout the traumatic years of the *Troubles*, finding his ministry shaped by the experience of witnessing violence and its effects; through this dreadful period he always strove to preach the Gospel of the peace of Christ.

Bishop Daly provided an example of priestly ministry which was exemplary, inspired by service of God and the people he encountered. His ministry was characterised by his deep love of the people of this diocese, his dedicated visitation of parishes and his constant availability to others. The bishops, priests and people of the diocese were blessed to have such a dedicated and faithful priest among them.

Archbishop Eamon Martin of Armagh said -

As the bishop who ordained me to the priesthood in 1987, I had huge admiration for Bishop Edward. I shall always be grateful for his pastoral guidance, kindness and support.

Bishop Edward was an iconic figure in the civic and Church life of Ireland, north and south.

He truly lived and proclaimed the Good News of Jesus Christ and, in doing so, became a role model for all of us.

Appointed as Bishop of Derry in 1974, he was a tireless worker for the people, priests and religious of the diocese. My first memory of Bishop Edward is when I was a thirteen year old boy, walking to the bottom of our street in Pennyburn, to greet the new bishop. He was just forty years of age and came across as warm, youthful and interested in us, his people.

Bishop Edward literally spent himself in the service of others. His episcopal motto '*pasce oves meas*' (*feed my sheep*) inspired a total pastoral giving of himself in service and love for his diocese. He was a gentle shepherd whose immense contribution to the spiritual and moral well-being of the people of Derry diocese during a troubled time shall never be forgotten. He had a sensitive heart and generous disposition; ever caring to the sick, the bereaved, and to victims on all sides of the Troubles.

As a pastor he was very attentive to prisoners, internees, their families and loved ones. He took a personal interest in those who suffered miscarriages of justice. His untiring

advocacy for the Birmingham Six, the victims of Bloody Sunday and for the families of those murdered by paramilitaries earned him respect from some, suspicion from others.

As a gifted spiritual leader and communicator, his words touched the hearts of many people, but his ministry was not confined to preaching. He walked with his people in their struggles and joys and was most at home out in the streets, parishes and communities of his diocese.

Bishop Edward will be remembered as a fearless peace-builder – as exemplified by his courage on Bloody Sunday in Derry – and as a holy and humble faith leader.

Bishop Edward's bravery was also apparent in his lived conviction that violence from any side during the Troubles was futile and could never be morally justified. He was courageous in speaking out against injustice and took many personal risks for peace and reconciliation. His personal friendship with Bishop James Mehaffey sent a quiet, yet powerful message of harmony and bridge building across the community divide.

At an Episcopal Conference level, apart from his trusted and respected contributions on Northern

Ireland matters, Bishop Edward was generous with his many gifts and talents. He served with distinction as spokesperson for the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference and in 1975 established its first Press and Information Office (now the Catholic Communications Office). He helped organise the papal visit of Pope Saint John Paul II to Ireland in 1979 and was a consistent voice on social justice and peace issues. While today many hearts are hurting in Ireland and especially throughout Derry, let us rejoice that we have been fortunate to share in some small way in the life of this contemporary Christian hero whose lexicon did not include the word "No".

It was such a pity that, due to ill health, Bishop Edward had to retire prematurely from his episcopal leadership of the Diocese of Derry. However, always a priest, he continued through his hospice ministry and gentle presence to witness to his love for the priesthood, his unfailing duty and service to the Church, and his generosity of heart. In my visits to him in recent weeks at home and in hospital he told me he was 'at peace'. May he now rest forever in the peace of Christ and may God comfort and console his family and loved ones.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dilís.

Bishop Ken Good C of I Bishop of Derry and Raphoe -

The death of Bishop Edward Daly is a great loss to his family, to the Roman Catholic Church and to the whole community. He was a man of great strength, great courage and great compassion and set an inspirational example to everyone around him.

Bishop Daly provided unwavering Christian leadership and guidance when it was desperately needed in this city and community – during the darkest days of the Troubles. His deep friendship with my predecessor, Bishop James Mehaffey, provided an impressive and influential example of Christian witness.

He served selflessly for almost 60 years in his ministry as deacon, priest and bishop. Over the last 22 years he provided much appreciated pastoral care to the terminally ill at the Foyle Hospice, an experience which gave him a further appreciation of the sanctity of human life and the importance of faith.

Bishop Daly was a good and faithful servant of the Lord and a good and faithful servant of this community. He was generous. He was great company. He was a good friend. He will be sadly missed. I extend to his family my sympathy and my prayers.”

Bishop James Mehaffey former Bishop of Derry and Raphoe -

Our paths first crossed in 1980, when I was appointed Bishop of Derry and Raphoe. Afterwards we became firm friends. We ministered to a divided community at a difficult time in its history, and sought to provide true Christian leadership. We worked closely together, at home and abroad – including on two joint visits to the United States – and the friendship which developed between us was one of the great blessings of my ministry.

What Bishop Edward and I did together was based on faith, friendship, respect and trust. He was a man of God and a man of the people, a great church leader and a remarkable friend.

I offer my deepest condolences and prayers to his family and to all those in our community who mourn his passing.

Bishop Daly's body was received into Saint Eugene's Cathedral yesterday evening, where it will remain until a funeral Mass on Thursday afternoon.

Police driver involved in crash with nuns in 'unbelievably difficult position'

The driver of an unmarked police car which collided with a car containing two elderly nuns was put in an impossible position, a coroner has said.

Belfast Telegraph reports - Sister Frances Forde and Sister Marie Duddy died when their Renault Clio was struck by a Mitsubishi Shogun on the A1 near Newry in September 2014.

At a preliminary inquest hearing in Belfast's Laganside House, coroner Joe McCrisken said the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) constable could have done little to avoid the nuns' car.

He said: "It seems to me you were placed in an unbelievably difficult position that day.

"I am not sure there's much more you could have done."

The nuns, from the Sister of Mercy Order in north Belfast, had been making their way to a retreat at the Dromantine College Retreat and Conference Centre when the incident occurred.

They both died at the scene.

Three male police officers travelling in a silver Mitsubishi Shogun were also treated in hospital for minor injuries.

Announcing his decision not to hold a full inquest, Mr McCrisken added : "I am not sure I could ever properly understand why Sisters Duddy and Forde attempted to make that manoeuvre.

"I am not sure an inquest would give us an answer."

The coroner said he had taken into account a detailed investigation and report from the Northern Ireland Police Ombudsman which sent a specialist mapping and photography team to the scene.

He also met with Assistant Chief Constable Alan Todd to discuss the PSNI's response and was "satisfied" significant measures had been put in place to limit the speed of police vehicles.

These include the placing of stickers on all vehicle dashboards and the re-drafting of a new force order, the hearing was told.

Mr McCrisken said: "It is not necessary for me to hold an inquest to answer the four statutory questions which are: who the deceased were, when and where they came to their deaths and how did they come by their death.

"Holding an inquest would be counter-therapeutic to the officers involved and to the families and friends of the two Sisters."

Among those in court for the brief hearing were Sisters Anne Brady and Paula Carron, also from the Sister of Mercy Order, who came across the crash involving their friends and colleagues.

Earlier, the Order's solicitor, Ciaran Rafferty, said they believed the matter had been "completely investigated".

More at -

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/police-driver-involved-in-crash-with-nuns-in-unbelievably-difficult-position-34947755.html>

News briefs

+++ Pilgrimage to the Holy Land - Bishop Harold Miller will officially launch the 2017 Pilgrimage to the Holy Land at a special event in St Molua's, Stormont on Saturday 3 September. Stormont's rector, Canon David Humphries, has led a pilgrimage for over 20 years and the bishop, a former pilgrim, has described his trip as, "undoubtedly one of the most wonderful experiences of my life".

Former and prospective pilgrims are invited for a Mediterranean lunch and to hear about the unique pilgrimage experience from Canon David Humphries and a representative from McCabe Pilgrimages. There will be an exhibition to view, a selection of books from The Book Well and the bishop will launch a brand new Holy Land Pilgrimage brochure. When: Saturday 3 September, 11.00 am for 11.30 am at St Molua's. Where: St Molua's Church Hall, Stormont

+++ Lisburn Institution - The institution of the Rev Arthur Young as incumbent of St Paul's Parish, Lisburn, will take place on Thursday October 20 at 8pm. Arthur is currently rector of Kill o' the Grange Parish, Diocese of Dublin, and is a native of Bangor, Co Down.

+++ World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women - will hold their 13th World Assembly concurrently with the World Methodist Conference at the Hilton Hotel in Houston, Texas, from Mon August 29 to Saturday evening, September 4, 2016. The theme for the assembly is 'CHOSEN PEOPLE, CALLED TO PROCLAIM' and is based on the Good News translation of 1 Peter 2: 9&10

+++ Methodist Women in Ireland's Fellowship Weekend - will be held in Glenada Conference Centre, Newcastle, County Down from Friday 16 - Sunday 18 September 2016.

+++ Music Coordinator vacancy - Hillsborough Parish Church wishes to appoint a Music Coordinator to enhance and help deliver (with the Praise Band) the music ministry at its informal Sunday services. The post involves serving 8 hours per week and with a payment of £5,000 per year. [Download a job description here.](#)

Further queries should be directed to Andrea Forbes in the church office. Tel: (028) 9268 8839 or email sec@hillsboroughparish.org.uk Closing date for applications: Friday 12 August at 12 noon

+++ Decline of religion in Britain ‘comes to a halt’ - It is more than 130 years since Nietzsche declared that “God is dead”, and forecasts of the demise of organised religion in the UK and elsewhere have been a regular fixture ever since. But new figures from Britain’s longest-running and most important barometer of general public opinion suggest that reports of the imminent death of Christianity at least may have been greatly exaggerated. As-yet unpublished findings from [this year’s British Social Attitudes Survey \(BSA\)](#), seen by the Sunday Telegraph, show [decades of decline in religious affiliation](#) appearing to level off. The overall proportion of Britons who described themselves as Christian actually rose one percentage point in the last year from 42 per cent to 43 per cent.

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

Trainee priests going on a dating site, there's something wrong there'

The Journal

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin today called for a new system for training priests.

<http://www.thejournal.ie/maynooth-seminary-grindr-diarmuid-martin-2914796-Aug2016/>

Grammar schools can turn children from Reliants into Ferraris

Daily Telegraph

http://digitaledition.telegraph.co.uk/editions/edition_vX4Ql_2016-08-08/data/193398/index.html?

Tel

Report that Professor Alexis Jay, who exposed the Rotherham sex abuse scandal, has emerged as the favourite to take over the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, IICSA, following the resignation last week of Justice Goddard. The paper reports that the former social worker, who currently sits on the inquiry's panel, is understood to be willing to consider taking on the role if approached by Amber Rudd, the Home Secretary. The Anglican Church in England and Wales is one of the 13 strands of investigation by IICSA.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/08/07/professor-alexis-jay-emerges-as-favourite-to-take-over-child-sex/>

Tel

Reports that figures, yet to be published, by the British Social Attitudes Survey show decades of decline in religious affiliation is levelling off. According to the *Sunday Telegraph*, the overall proportion of Britons who

described themselves as Christian rose one percentage point in the last year from 42 per cent to 43 per cent.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/08/07/decline-of-religion-in-britain-comes-to-a-halt--major-study-sugg/>

FT/Guard

Reports that FTSE 100 chief executives' pay rose by a tenth last year to an average of £5.5m, and is up one third since 2010 according to data compiled by the High Pay Centre. The *FT* cites the example earlier this year when a majority of voting shareholders rebelled against BP's chief executives pay rise with a representative from the Church of England's pension fund questioning whether the reward was "morally right" after the oil company reported a \$5.2bn loss last year. The vote was non-binding.

https://next.ft.com/content/4b6508ae-5cdb-11e6-a72a-bd4bf1198c63?FTCamp=engage/CAP/webapp/Channel_Moreover//B2B

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2016/aug/08/uks-top-bosses-earned-10-pay-rise-2015-average-salary-hit-55m>

Comment

Guardian: Editorial on the pay gap, which cites a Church of England spokesperson at one shareholder meeting calling it 'immoral'!

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/aug/07/the-guardian-view-on-high-pay-mind-the-gap>

Telegraph (*scroll down*)

Short diary item by Charles Moore on police offering statement when CofE [settled civil claim against Bishop](#)

[George Bell](#) from a survivor over allegations of sexual abuse when she was a child.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/08/07/cameron-is-guilty-over-resignation-honours-but-not-as-you-think/>

Blogs

C of E Comms:

God has opened many doors for me to be here at Rio

<http://cofecomms.tumblr.com/post/148449796952/god-has-opened-many-doors-for-me-to-be-here-at-rio>

Rt Revd Graham James: The Olympic spirit

<http://www.cathedral.org.uk/about/blog/detail/our-blog/2016/08/05/thought-for-the-day-the-olympic-spirit>

Law and Religion: Round up 7th August

<http://www.lawandreligionuk.com/2016/08/07/law-and-religion-round-up-7th-august/>

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