



Dublin born Bible speaks editor dies

Theologian and church leader Alec Motyer has died at the age of 91.

Born in Dublin, he moved to England where he was ordained in the Church of England in 1947. He continued in parish ministry until 1989.

In his career he authored many books but was perhaps best known for his work as series editor

of Bible Speaks Today (BST) - one of the most widely used Bible commentaries.

Speaking last year about finishing the series, which began in 1968, he told Premier it was "a great relief" to have completed it.

"I'm happy to say we're ending on a remarkably high note. The last four volumes [Ralph Davis on Daniel, Chris Wright, Jeremiah and Lamentations and David Firth, Joshua] have been right at the top of the tree," he said.

Tributes from all around the world are being written on social media.

Jewish graves damaged by mob in Belfast cemetery

Police are treating a mob attack on Jewish grave stones in west Belfast as a "particularly sickening" hate crime, the News Letter reports.

The PSNI said the graves were damaged by a group of young people in the City Cemetery yesterday afternoon. Officers attended the area shortly after 3pm and discovered that 13 headstones in the Jewish section of the cemetery had been damaged.



A member of the public inspects his fathers grave after hearing of attack. Photograph by Stephen Hamilton

Local policing commander Chief Inspector Norman Haslett said: “This is a particularly sickening incident, which we are treating as a hate crime. To disturb the sanctity of a cemetery in this way is completely unacceptable and I can assure the public that we will conduct a robust investigation in a bid to bring those responsible before the courts.

“I have already liaised with local representatives and I will continue to do so regarding this and

other issues relating to anti-social behaviour in the vicinity of the cemetery.”

North Belfast DUP MLA William Humphrey said eight youths were backed by a much larger crowd. “I’m disgusted and appalled to hear that Jewish headstones have been damaged at the City Cemetery,” he said. “I understand that council staff reported that eight youths, supported by a larger crowd, caused the damage, using hammers and blocks.

[CNI -](#)

Speaking during Mass at St Peter’s Cathedral in [West Belfast](#) , Bishop Noel Treanor said we must all do more than merely condemn such racist attacks.

The Down and Connor Bishop also addressed the broader issue of tolerance in a country where ethnic and religious diversity is greater than ever before. He spoke out in the wake of the [graves being wrecked in the City Cemetery](#) on Friday.

Bishop Treanor told Mass goes the close relationship between the Jewish and Christian faiths “invites the entire Christian community in our city and indeed in Northern Ireland to reflect

on the destruction in recent days of headstones marking the graves of Jewish deceased in the City Cemetery”.

He added: “These actions have been condemned by many and rightly so. These shameful acts are a blemish on our society. Condemnation of such actions, necessary as it is, does not suffice.

“As citizens and as a society we cannot take solace in condemnation alone, nor indeed merely in appropriate penalisation for such crimes.

“Our society is no longer a binary society, made up of broadly nationalist and unionist traditions, nor of Christians who are Catholic, Anglican and Protestant, as well as persons of other religious faiths and none.

"Just as the presence of Copts from Egypt and persons of the Orthodox Churches have enriched our Christian and ecclesial mosaic, so too our city and our society have been enriched by the presence of many peoples of diverse nationalities and cultures who live and work here and contribute greatly to the fabric of our society and to the services that care for all of us.

“What a tragedy and blemish then that the long-present, beloved and treasured Jewish families of our community should suffer yet again such actions of disrespect, violence to the memory of their beloved dead and the regrettable outworking of a latent xenophobia that stalks the minds of some.”

The Bishop went to outline how racism and xenophobia is a reality we must all address.

He added: “For only yesterday a young mother, native of another land, and now an admirable fellow-citizen of this city and land, told me of how a young child of four had muttered racist and xenophobic sentiments to her child of similar age in a public playground. Others who have come to live and work among us have told me of incidents in supermarkets where shoppers speaking a language other than English were treated with disdain and disrespect by fellow-shoppers who are natives here.

“I do not suggest these attitudes are widespread, but we all need to be vigilant lest we succumb to, harbour, or induce hatred of other races, colour or religious belief. Failure to address such attitudes to others is not worthy of a Christian culture and people.

“Racism and xenophobia are issues of our times. As Christians and citizens of a society that is inspired by Christian insight and human rights values, a determined commitment by each one of us as citizen, employer, worker, and above all as parent, teacher, preacher, politician, poet, musician, journalist or creative artist is urgently required to scope our deepest attitude to difference and diversity and to ensure that it is positive, appreciative and respectful of diversity.

“As a society, as neighbourhoods and communities, we must honestly consider if we harbour attitudes that are negative to those whom we too easily classify as ‘foreigner’, rather than see them as sisters and brothers in Christ and in humanity.

Limerick’s Mary Immaculate College unveils plans for new library

The country’s largest Catholic college this week unveiled plans for a 21st century library and learning resource centre designed to accommodate the college’s increasing student numbers, which are set to reach 5,000 by 2020.

Costed at close to €21 million, the 5,000 metre square building at Mary Immaculate College (MIC) in Limerick City will be situated in the heart of the campus replacing the existing out-dated library.

The current library was built in 1976 for a student population at that time of 750 students.

According to the College President, Fr Michael A. Hayes, “The intervening years have seen a five-fold increase in MIC’s student numbers with huge changes in the ways in which students learn.”

“These factors, coupled with very significant advances in building standards and regulations, means the current library is no longer fit-for-purpose.”

The new build will deliver a future-proofed library/ learning resource centre, centrally located within the MIC campus, and addressing the recently constructed Tara building as well as the protected foundation building and residence block.

The positioning of the building relative to Tara and the existing Quadrangle, will allow the demolition of the old Library building to enable

the formation of a new Quadrangle and outdoor civic space.

The provision of appropriate landscaping and the gentle terracing of the approach to the new library will enliven this space, while the south-facing orientation of the building and the provision of shelter in the form of the overhanging upper floors of the library building will make this an attractive outdoor space for meeting, learning and relaxing all year round.

Internally, the building will feature a range of learning settings from silent study areas to lively group work rooms.

It will have over 550 study places, and will accommodate over 170,000 volumes.

The library/learning resource centre will also contain a 288 seat lecture theatre, media editing suites, a media studio, seminar rooms, staff offices and all the ancillary spaces necessary for a higher education library.

A planning application has recently been lodged with Limerick City and County Council.

Following planning and funding approval the new building should be operational in late 2018.

As a result of the recent incorporation of St Patrick's College Thurles MIC is now a multi-campus institution offering nine undergraduate degree programmes in Education and the Liberal Arts as well as a wide range of Continuing Professional Development offerings for teachers and numerous postgraduate opportunities to Masters and PhD level.

Justin Welby: 'I am constantly consumed with horror' at the way the Church has treated gay people

Justin Welby has opened up about how his own failings make him angry and said that he spends "a lot of time feeling a fraud" in a personal and at times emotional interview at the Greenbelt Christian festival in Northamptonshire.

Speaking to the 'vicar of Gogglebox', television star Kate Bottley in front of hundreds of festival-goers, the Archbishop of Canterbury said that wherever he went he found people who could do his job "infinitely better" than he could.

And in surprisingly frank comments about same-sex relationships, Welby said that he “can’t see the road ahead” for the Church.

Before the banter-filled question and answer session, Welby was introduced by Christian Today’s Andy Walton who said: “One of [our guests] is the most high profile Christian in the country... and the other is the Archbishop of Canterbury”.

The Archbishop joked that “the fact that I’m Archbishop of Canterbury is one of the things that makes me seriously doubt the infallibility of God.”

US survey of teens’ perceptions of the Bible

The American Bible Society hired the Barna Group, a conservative research & polling organization, to examine “teens’ perceptions of the Bible, the role they believe it should play in American public life and their level of personal engagement with it.” The published research is the *2016 Teen State of the Bible*.

“This study included 1,013 surveys conducted among a representative, random sample of teens ages 13 to 17 within all 50 states. The survey was conducted 6 MAY through 23 MAY 2016. The sampling error for a sample of this size is plus or minus 3 percentage points at the 95-percent confidence level.”

These are the Top 10 Findings from the *2016 Teen State of the Bible*.

1. Reading the Bible in Public Is Seen as Encouraging
2. A Majority of Teens Own a Bible and Read it Regularly
3. A Majority of Teens Read the Bible for More Than 15 minutes Each Sitting
4. Growing Closer to God is the Key Motivator for Bible Reading
5. Teens Still Prefer to use a Hard Copy Bible in a Digital Age
6. The Bible Is Considered Sacred Literature
7. The Bible Is a Source of Hope and Guidance
8. The Bible Is Considered the Literal or Inspired Word of God
9. The Bible Should Have More Influence on Society
10. The Bible Influences Political Decisions

Go to the Barna Group article, [Top 10 Findings on Teens and the Bible](#), for more detailed explanations of the top ten findings.

Cathedral and choral

+++ Cathedral choirs from around east Africa

- descended on Kigali, Rwanda, last week for a celebration of Christian music and to enhance “regional peace, integration and cooperation.” Kigali’s St. Etienne Cathedral was host to 10 cathedral choirs for the One Song festival, which took place in the cathedral and the nearby Petit Stadium. The first East Africa Cathedrals Choral Festival (EACCF) – to give it its formal name – was held in Nairobi in August 2009.

+++ **Yesterday’s services** - in **Christ Church cathedral, Dublin**, were sung by the Past Choristers, while in **St Patrick’s cathedral** the Close Chorale sang the services. In **St Patrick’s cathedral, Armagh**, as part of the Charles Wood Festival and Summer School, the Charles Wood Singers sang at the Eucharist and at the Festal Evensong. In **St John’s church, Sandymount**, there was a recital of music from World War I and

the 1916 Rising featuring organist, Eoin Ward, and piper, Fionn O hAlmhain.

+++ Commissioning of Dublin Diocesan Lay

Readers - The Commissioning of the Diocesan Lay Readers and a Parish Reader will take place on Saturday 3rd September at 3:30 p.m. in Christ Church Cathedral. The Diocesan Readers to be Commissioned are: Mark Acheson (Clontarf), Fionnula Drury (Taney), Margaret Healion (Zion), Myra Moody (Donoughmore & Donard with Dunlavin), Lisa O'Brien Corry (Blessington and Manor Kilbride with Ballymore Eustace and Hollywood), Bert-Jan van Embden (Kill o'the Grange). The Parish Reader to be Commissioned is: Carol Barry (Kilternan).

News briefs

+++ C of I institutions - In **St Mary's church, Carlow**, yesterday (Sunday) evening the Bishop of Cashel, Ferns & Ossory will institute the Revd David White as Rector of Carlow, Urglin & Staplestown in succession to the Revd Olivia Williams who has retired from the stipendiary ministry. Mr White was ordained in 2012 and since 2013 has been curate in Bandon.

On Thursday evening in **St Peter's church, Drogheda**, the Archbishop of Armagh, Dr Richard Clarke, will institute the Revd Iain Jamieson as rector of the Drogheda and Ardee and Kilsaran unions of parishes in Co. Louth. Mr Jamieson was ordained in 2011 and has been curate in Ballymena, Co. Antrim, since 2012. He succeeds the Revd Michael Graham who has retired from the stipendiary ministry.

In **Fintona, Co. Tyrone**, on Friday evening the Bishop of Clogher, the Rt Revd John McDowell, will institute the Revd John Woods to the incumbency of Donacavey and Barr. Mr Woods was ordained in 2012 and since 2013 he has been bishop's curate in the Kildallon and Swanlinbar group of parishes in Co. Cavan. Mr Woods will join his wife, the Revd Stephanie Woods, in the Diocese of Clogher. Mrs Woods is Rector of Lisbellaw.

+++ Nuns murdered in USA - Two nuns have been found dead in their home in Mississippi on Thursday, authorities have said. The nuns have been identified as Sister Paula Merrill and Sister Margaret Held who worked as nurse practitioners at a hospital near their home in Durant, near the city of Jackson. Dr Elias Abboud, who worked

with the sisters for years and helped build the Lexington Medical Clinic, said he's not sure what will happen to the facility in light of their deaths. "I think the community is going to be different after this. You need somebody with that passion to love the people and work in the underserved area," Abboud said. "For somebody to come and do this horrible act, we are all shocked," he added. Authorities did not release a cause of death, but the Reverend Greg Plata said police told him the nuns were stabbed. Their bodies were taken to a state crime lab for autopsies. "They were two of the sweetest, most gentle women you can imagine. Their vocation was helping the poor," said Plata, who oversees a 35-member Catholic church the sisters attended.

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BBC News

The Catholic daily La Croix also declares that "responding to hatred with hatred would mean that evil has triumphed", while the left-of-**centre** Liberation maintains that "the war that Islamic State is waging against us is not a war against France, it is ...

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