

Church leaders speak of the legacy of Nelson Mandela

A wide range of church leaders and Christian figures have spoken of the influence and legacy of Nelson Mandela, who died four days ago, aged 95.

Presbyterian Moderator Dr. Rob Craig has said, "I am saddened to hear of the death of Nelson Mandela. With his passing the world has lost one of the great statesmen of recent times.

"There is much to learn from the life of



of their individual identities.

"The prayers of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland are with his family and friends and



Nelson Mandela particularly in the way he did not repeat the mistakes of the successive governments that tried to silence him and suppress his ideals.

"Rather, he embraced all the people of South Africa allowing their views and opinions to be heard. As a leader of all the people he united them in doing the best they could for their fellow countrymen under one flag and one national anthem, strengthened and enriched by the diversity Churchnewsireland@gmail.com

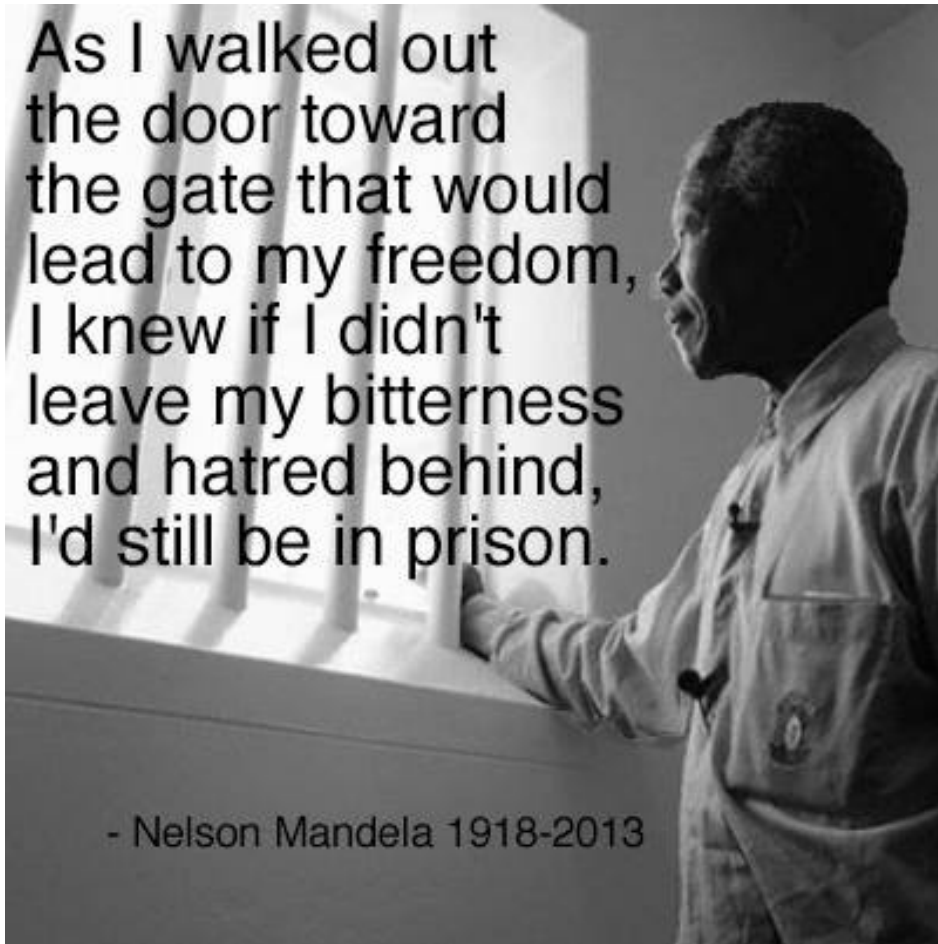
for the nation of South Africa as they mourn the loss of the man who was inspirational and instrumental in transforming their country into what it is today."

The President of the [Methodist Church](#) Rev Dr [Heather Morris](#) remarked how Mandela "with quiet dignity and robust eloquence, moved a country entrenched in spite and prejudice slowly, deftly towards a new dawn." She recalled how he had said

himself "I am not a saint, unless you think of a saint as a sinner who keeps on trying."

She concluded: "the Methodist church educated Nelson Mandela, and we mourn him. On behalf of the Methodist family in Ireland, I send our thoughts and prayers to the people of South Africa as they mourn and celebrate the father of a new nation in an ancient land who at last has completed his long walk to freedom."

his in the ANC. The amazing thing was the simplicity of the setting – it was the simplicity which belongs to the great." said the Archbishop. Archbishop Martin was an interpreter at the meeting, Madiba came over to thank him personally for this work and asked about Ireland; "It is the measure of someone great when they have time for everybody, they don't put themselves at the centre," said Archbishop Martin.



Archbishop Martin gave the opening address this morning at a two day conference in the Mater Dei Institute in Dublin – "*A common word and the future of Muslim Christian Dialogue*" In this context, he said we can all learn from Nelson Mandela – that there is only one way to bring about harmony and collaboration and that is by bringing people together and rising above the narrow and the tribal, in the negative sense.

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin of Dublin

has said Nelson Mandela was an extraordinary person and statesman.

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin was speaking as he opened a conference in Dublin on Christian- Muslim Dialogue. He met Nelson Mandela on a number of occasions, once, shortly after he was released from prison in 1990 as part of a church delegation. "He was working out of two or three rooms in a rented building. He was there with Walter Sisulu, a friend of

In his address, the Archbishop said that that Ireland, because of the fact that large scale immigration is a relatively new phenomenon, has the chance – right from the start, to learn from the mistakes of others. "Ireland faces the challenges of ensuring that people of different faiths and confessional backgrounds truly and effectively enjoy equal status in the eyes of the law but also that they feel that they belong fully and without conditions to Irish society. It is important that they know that their gifts and traditions are as fully a part of what "Ireland" means today and in the

future, as those of any other group in the population. Irish democracy must have no second class citizens.”

Bishop John McAreevey, Chair of the Council for Justice and Peace of the Irish Episcopal Conference, issued the following statement on the death of former South African President Nelson Mandela:

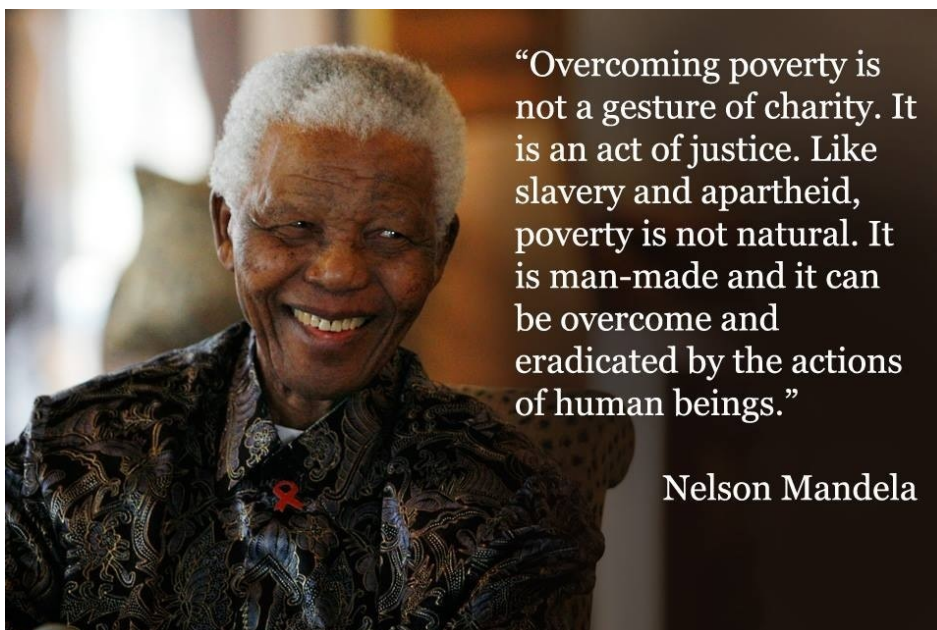
“In death, as in life, Nelson Mandela has united and inspired people across the world. The outpouring of grief and expressions of admiration that followed his passing are a testament to his extraordinary legacy. Through courageous self-sacrifice Mandela led people to freedom in the fullest sense of the word – the lasting, spiritual freedom that can only be achieved through reconciliation and forgiveness. He was a true visionary and a powerful advocate for the need to engage in the harsh realities created by conflict in a spirit of truth, justice and human rights. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Mandela family and the people of South Africa at this time of mourning. May he rest in peace, and may his example continue to challenge and inspire all of us to make a real commitment to the work of justice and peace.” Bishop John McAreevey is Bishop of Dromore.

Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu told Channel 4 News, “I have no doubt he's going to be remembered as an icon of reconciliation and forgiveness; a person of very considerable magnanimity; a person who was able to preside over a process of transformation,” Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu told Channel 4 News

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Writing for AllAfrica.com, Archbishop Tutu, said: "Nelson Mandela is mourned by South Africans, Africans and the international community today as the leader of our generation who stood head and shoulders above his contemporaries – a colossus of unimpeachable moral character and integrity, the world's most admired and revered public figure.

"Not since Kenyatta, Nkrumah, Nyerere and Senghor has Africa seen his like. Looking for comparisons beyond Africa, he will go down in history as South Africa's George Washington, a person who within a single five-year presidency became the principal icon of both liberation and reconciliation, loved by those of all political persuasions as the founder of modern, democratic South Africa."



Christian Aid chief executive Loretta Minghella described the late South African leader as a "man whose strength of vision founded a nation".

"The sufferings and injustices inflicted by apartheid could so easily have led to a reckoning in blood when majority rule was introduced," said Ms Minghella.

"The fact that South Africa's transition from pariah state to independent nation took place in relative peace was largely down to

the magnanimity and moral courage of Mr Mandela.

"His readiness to eschew revenge after 27 years in prison was an example to all. His calm and restraint showed the people, not just of South Africa but the world, that justice and tolerance can prevail over fear and oppression.

"He was that rare creature, a person of immense power who used his energies and influence for the good of all. He will be sorely missed," said the NGO's chief executive.

Christian Aid describes itself as "a consistent opponent of the apartheid system. This opposition was derived from both a Christian perspective – that every person is made in the image of God – and from a recognition that apartheid was a root cause of poverty in South Africa, Namibia and in the wider region."

In the late 1980's Christian Aid joined the Southern African Coalition, consisting of churches, trade unions, and the Anti-Apartheid Movement in the UK, which played an active part in calling for sanctions.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, said: "South Africa has lost its greatest citizen and its father. Nelson Mandela, fighting to the end, is freed to be with his God in joy and reward for his great service and sacrifice. We pray for his family, for his friends and for his country. We are challenged to show the same degree of humanity, of courage and of generosity."

"Mandela was a symbol of hope, an icon for fairness, and a beacon for reconciliation. His legacy will continue in our global village long after his body has been laid to rest," **the Archbishop of York, Dr Sentamu**, said in a 'Pause for Thought' contribution to BBC Radio 2 on 6 December 2013.

He added: "We should all follow the example that Nelson Mandela has left us. He was a true human being who stood up for lasting justice whilst suffering great personal injustice - defeating unfairness with hope."

"He will be recalled as the leader who acted to unify a nation once deliberately divided along the lines of race," said the **Rev Dr Olav Fykse Tveit, the WCC General Secretary**. He added that Mandela was a "liberator who by force of his remarkable personality raised the dignity of Africans after centuries of colonialism, oppression and discrimination."

Dr Tveit described Mandela's relationship to the WCC as a special one, recalling Mandela's visit to the WCC Geneva offices in 1990 soon after his release from prison. This is when he expressed his gratitude for the churches' support to the anti-apartheid struggle.

As South Africa's president, Mandela addressed the WCC's 8th Assembly in Harare, Zimbabwe in 1998. He praised churches' efforts against apartheid in South Africa, as well as missionaries for bringing high standards of education to Africa from which he benefited as a child.

Mandela said: "You have to have been in an apartheid prison in South Africa to appreciate the further importance of the church. They tried to isolate us completely from the outside. Our relatives could see us only once every six months. The link was religious organisations, Christians, Muslims, Hindus and members of the Jewish faith. They were the faithful who inspired us."

"The WCC's support exemplified in the most concrete way the contribution that religion made to our liberation," he added. In his concluding remarks at the assembly, Mandela paid missionaries the compliment of saying that by their faith and action they shared in the "distinction of immortality" as

“men and women whose names will live beyond the grave and down the centuries.”

Mandela's life was also described by the WCC's General Secretary as “consistent with the best teaching of his Christian educators and the ecumenical movement”. Calling him one of the most deserving Nobel peace laureates, Tveit added that Mandela's ideals inspired freedom from apartheid and transformed his country during his presidency.

“I am convinced that it is entirely accurate to say of him that his name ‘will live beyond the grave and down the centuries.’ Indeed, as is said in the Orthodox tradition of Christianity: May his memory be eternal!” Dr Tveit concluded.

Events this week

This evening in Christ Church cathedral, Dublin, new the Bishop of Meath & Kildare, the Most Revd Pat Storey, will launch *With Dignity and Grace*.

This is an account of the life of Daphne Wormald, which has been written by her daughter, Julia Turner, and published by Ross Hinds. Daphne Wormald was one of the leading figures in the movement for the ordination of women in the Church of Ireland. She was one of the first women lay readers and Chair of the Women's Ministry Group. The book is based, not just on personal memories, but on Mrs Wormald's considerable archive of letters, diaries and scrapbooks.

The Representative Church Body will meet in Church of Ireland House, Dublin, on Wednesday afternoon. In Christ Church cathedral, Dublin, the Cathedral Choir will sing ‘Carols by Candlelight’ on Wednesday and Thursday evenings at 8pm – tickets may be had from www.entertainment.ie

On Thursday, in NUI Galway the Bishop of Tuam will attend an event to celebrate the cataloguing of the Henry Library which is held on deposit from the Diocese of Tuam in the James Hardiman Library. Formerly the Tuam Diocesan Library, the collection was in St Mary's cathedral, Tuam, and more recently, St Nicholas' Collegiate church, Galway before its transfer to the University. The collection consists largely of the library of the Revd Dr Joseph Henry, and contains as well as theological and biblical material, works on literature and history and an extensive collection of travel writings from the second half of the 19th century.

On Thursday evening in Enniskillen there will be a service to mark the 90th anniversary of St Macartin's cathedral. On 12 December 1923 St Anne's parish church, Enniskillen, was consecrated as a cathedral by the then Primate, Archbishop Crozier, and dedicated to St Macartin.

Launch of ‘Ossory Clergy’

In 1933 the then Rector of Kilsaran, Canon J.B. Leslie, published *Ossory Clergy and Parishes* which he described as ‘an account of the clergy of the Church of Ireland in the Diocese of Ossory, from the earliest period, with historical notices of the several parishes, churches’.

This was Leslie's third volume of biographical succession lists of clergy – he had published volumes for Armagh in 1911 and Clogher in 1929 – and he was to continue with this work until his death in 1951. Thereafter his lists, both published and unpublished, were kept up to date by Geraldine Willis in the RCB Library but there was no further publication until 1993 when a volume for Connor appeared.

Since then there has been a steady stream of these publications, diocese by diocese, largely the work of Canon David Cro

Scout and Guide carol service in Cork cathedral

Over 400 people gathered for the Cork County Scout and Guide pre-Christmas service in Saint Fin Barre's Cathedral on Wednesday night last.

Children and young people from Scouting and Guiding organisations from all over Cork County brought along toys for distribution by St Vincent dePaul Cork (Ballinlough area and Bandon area) and the Cork Lions Club and for the Children's Ward of Cork University Hospital.

The Dean of Cork, Very Revd Nigel Dunne presided and was assisted by Fr Dave Kenneally (Scouting Ireland Chaplain). Readings and prayers were led by Cubs, Scouts, Brownies and Guides and hundreds of toys were presented at the High Altar at the end of the service.



Witness to the Word

Chester Beatty New Testament Papyri online.

The Chester Beatty Library in Dublin has always been committed to increasing

access to our collection objects through a variety of digital initiatives. In the summer of 2013 the Rights and Reproductions Office implemented and oversaw two substantial research and digitization projects focusing on Biblical Papyri.

The results of the first collaborative partnership with the [The New Testament Virtual Manuscript Room](#) (NTVMR) from the [Institute for New Testament Text Research](#) went live in June, 2013. The NTVMR is a community portal for scholarly research of New Testament Greek manuscripts which contains images and transcriptions of our important Biblical Papyri collection, including fully digitized copies of CBL BP I (P45), CBL BP II (P46) and CBL BP III (P47).

In July and August of 2013, the Library hosted a research and digitization team from the [Center for the Study of New Testament Manuscripts](#). The team was

able to digitize all but one of the CBL's biblical papyri codices (BP XVI, The Apocryphon of Jannes and Jambres the Magicians) along with a number of manuscripts and loose folios.

The Chester Beatty Library is excited to present this online exhibition, Witness to the Word, which celebrates both

the biblical papyri collection and these rewarding collaborative partnerships.

[http://www.cbl.ie/cbl_image_gallery/\(X\(1\)S\(lcxpw1ez31sb0h45rui51h55\)\)/exhibition/overview.aspx?exhibitionId=18&AspxAutoDetectCookie](http://www.cbl.ie/cbl_image_gallery/(X(1)S(lcxpw1ez31sb0h45rui51h55))/exhibition/overview.aspx?exhibitionId=18&AspxAutoDetectCookie)

Star stories

The Irish Methodist Youth and Children's Department (IMYC) under Janette McCormick and Nicky Blair have been developing the concept of STAR STORIES over the last few years.

The interactive programmes are specifically designed for use in special schools and hosted in situ, and each session lasts around an hour to an hour and a half. We have our Christmas Star Story called: FOLLOW THE STAR And other Bible Stories we've developed are: ROLLED AWAY - The Easter Story BIG CATS & DIRTY RATS - The Story of Daniel and the Lions Den SPLISH, SPLASH, SPLOSH - The Story of Noah IN THE BEGINNING - The Story of Creation

Call for halt to Philippines \$8bn debt payments after typhoon

A month after Typhoon Haiyan, Jubilee Debt Campaign (UK) and Christian Aid have joined with the Freedom from Debt Coalition (the Philippines) and Jubilee South (Asia Pacific Movement on Debt and Development) to call the debt of the Philippines to be cancelled.

Over \$20 million a day - \$8 billion a year – leaves the Philippines as debt payments to international lenders. Since Typhoon Haiyan struck on 8 November 2011, over \$550 million (£335 million) has been spent on debt payments.

Due to interest payments over the last 40 years, the Philippines has been lent \$115 billion, repaid \$132 billion, but is still said to owe \$60 billion.

The Philippines' large debt originated with the regime of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos, when western governments and institutions, such as the World Bank,

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supported the leader with loans to keep him on side during the Cold War.

Loans included to build a nuclear power plant which never generated any electricity, and was built on an earthquake fault line. After decades of paying high debts, the Philippines government still spends over 20 per cent of its revenue on foreign debt payments.

Since Typhoon Haiyan hit the archipelago, the World Bank and Asian Development Bank have both announced loans totalling \$1 billion, to 'help' with rebuilding following the devastation, but this will just further increase the Philippines debt. Estimates have started to put the costs of rebuilding following the typhoon at between \$6.5 billion and \$15 billion.

Sarah-Jayne Clifton, Director of Jubilee Debt Campaign, commented: "The Philippines urgently needs funding for relief and reconstruction efforts, as well as to adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change and support communities who live in areas that are beyond adaptation. International lenders should put life before debt and cancel the Philippines foreign debt obligations as a matter of urgency."

Joseph Stead, Senior Economic Justice Adviser at Christian Aid added: "Debts that should have been cancelled years ago are limiting the capacity of the Philippines to respond and rebuild to the typhoon. Action on this is clearly needed before any new debts are added."

"Justice for the Filipino people demands debt cancellation, especially the illegitimate debts, which are odious, onerous, illegal, violate human rights, harmful to the people, environment and climate, and bereft of institutional processes and the consent of the people. Climate justice demands reparations to enable the Philippines to develop resilience to climate change and compensation for losses and damages,"

said Ricardo Reyes, Freedom from Debt Coalition president.

Freedom from Debt Coalition, Jubilee South (Asia), Christian Aid and Jubilee Debt Campaign have launched a petition calling on lenders such as the World Bank and Asian Development Bank to cancel Philippines debt.

Following the global jubilee movement calling for debt cancellation or repudiation of developing country debts, \$130 billion of debt has been cancelled, mainly for African countries. The Philippines was excluded from the scheme because it was judged by the IMF and World Bank to be 'too rich'.

However, over 15 million people in the Philippines are malnourished and similar numbers live in extreme poverty. The numbers have changed little since Ferdinand Marcos was removed from power in 1986.

Ekklesia is a supporter of the Jubilee Debt Campaign, and works in partnership with Christian Aid.

* The petition can be signed at:
<http://jubileedebt.org.uk/actions/philippines-life-before-debt>

* A running total of payments since Typhoon Haiyan is available on the same website.

Archbishop of York's prayer marking life of Nelson Mandela

Gracious Father,
You gave up your Son
out of love for your world:
Look with mercy on Madiba Mandela;
And on all your children in South Africa.
As they reflect on Christ's Death and Resurrection,
may they know eternal peace
through the shedding of our Saviour's blood,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

John Sentamu
Archbishop of York