



Giving Tree for Belfast City Mission and St Vincent de Paul

The Giving Tree started yesterday and will run to 12 December at Marks and Spencer, Donegall Place, Belfast.

This will be the sixteenth year that the Belfast Central Mission (BCM) partners with the Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVP) to allow shoppers to

donate a toy or gift to a local child. Why don't you stop by and say hi to the volunteers when you're doing your Christmas shopping

The Giving Tree, a cross-community initiative run by BCM and the SVP. It gives members of the public an opportunity to donate a toy or gift to local children with the gifts being divided equally between SVP and BCM. Shoppers choose a tag from the Giving Tree, which asks them to buy a gift for a boy or girl and gives the age of the recipient.

M&S store Manager, Colin McGreevy, paid tribute to both charities and to the generous M&S shoppers. Mr McGreevy said:

“Marks and Spencer is delighted to continue our support for The Giving Tree partnership along with Belfast Central Mission and the Society of St Vincent de Paul. This is such a worthwhile project, which encompasses the true meaning of Christmas – helping others and reaching out to those who are struggling in these often-difficult times. We know our customers are especially generous at this time of year and keen to offer support to those who need a little extra help at Christmas.”

Pauline Brown, Regional Manager of SVP, commented: *"Each year more and more families approach us for support, especially over the festive period when budgets are stretched to capacity. It is becoming increasingly difficult for many families to heat their homes, clothe their children and put food on the table – add the stress of finding money for gifts and the situation soon becomes overwhelming."*

Rev Richard Johnston, BCM Superintendent, said: *"As a charity, BCM has been supporting people across Northern Ireland for more than 125 years and will continue to do so, particularly those most vulnerable in society. The support from Marks and Spencer for the Giving Tree has been invaluable and the members of the public have been so generous over the years."*

If you want to take part just pop into Marks & Spencer, Donegall Place, any day until 12 December and find the Giving Tree on the second floor.

If you would like to find out more, contact Julie at BCM, 028 9024 1917 or jharvey@belfastcentralmission.org.

Presbyterian church to give thorough consideration to High Court ruling on abortion

Commenting on yesterday's (30th November) ruling by the Belfast High Court on Northern Ireland's abortion law, the Very Rev. Dr. Norman Hamilton, Convener of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland's Council for Church in Society, said: "First and foremost we recognise the great pain involved in the extremely difficult circumstances faced by women and their families. Accordingly, these issues need to be handled with grace, sensitivity and compassion.

"The Presbyterian Church has previously stated its belief that the current law attempts to strike a careful balance between protecting the life of the mother and the unborn child. A key issue that remains, irrespective of today's ruling, is the provision of comprehensive care in every part of Northern Ireland for every woman facing a pregnancy crisis.

"If we truly want Northern Ireland to be a place that affirms life, wellbeing and human dignity, then providing excellent perinatal care services,

including practical, emotional and spiritual support, must be a top priority.

“Before commenting further we would want to give the High Court’s lengthy judgment thorough consideration.”

Northern Ireland peacemaker priest Father Gerry Reynolds dies aged 82

Father Gerry Reynolds, who was hailed for playing a key role in the Northern Ireland peace process, has died.

Belfast Telegraph - Fr Gerry Reynolds, a Redemptorist priest based at Clonard Monastery in west Belfast, died in the city's Royal Victoria Hospital on Monday morning after a short illness. He was 82.

The cleric was well known for his cross-community work and efforts to tackle sectarianism. Originally from Co Limerick, Fr Reynolds worked at Clonard for more than 30 years, arriving when the Troubles were still raging.

The monastery was the focus of secret negotiations between Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams and SDLP leader John Hume that provided an impetus for the start of the peace process in the early 1990s.

The discussions were initiated by the late Fr Alec Reid, a close friend of Fr Reynolds.

Rector of Clonard Monastery, Fr Noel Kehoe, led the tributes.

"Fr Gerry past away in the care of the Royal Victoria hospital at 6.50am this morning, 30th November 2015 after a short illness," he said.

"He will be greatly missed by his Redemptorist confreres and colleagues, his family, friends, and the many people whose lives he touched through his Ecumenical, Peace and Reconciliation Ministries."

Gerry Adams hailed the priest as a "champion of the peace process".

"Along with Fr Reid and Fr Des Wilson he was central to efforts to develop a peace process years before it eventually took root and he believed totally in the primacy of dialogue," he said.

"Fr Reynolds was part of the Clonard Church Ministry, a special peace-making ministry within the Redemptorist Order."

The Sinn Fein TD added: "Fr Reynolds embraced the importance of dialogue with other churches. He was a leader in ecumenical outreach and was instrumental in helping to facilitate discussions between members of the Protestant churches and Irish republicans.

"I want to extend to his family, and to colleagues in the Redemptorist Order, and to his many friends my sincerest condolences."

SDLP Assembly member Alex Attwood said he had lost a "great friend".

"Gerry Reynolds was a holy man who touched the lives of countless numbers," said the west Belfast representative.

"He brought people together. Across our community, our churches and our conflict he worked quietly and relentlessly forging new relationships so that old differences could be resolved.

"He was forever working to make peace. His special work with Fr Alec Reid was one example

of this. His life was defined by such work, seeking out the opportunity for good to prevail.

"He was devoted to the monastery, the people of Clonard and all of West Belfast. He brought Christian witness into private lives and public spaces.

"My family have also lost a great friend. Gerry was at our wedding, baptised our daughter Nora and concelebrated my mother's funeral mass in May.

"At birth, during life and at death Fr Gerry Reynolds was part of the lives of many, many people. He was deeply loved."

Ulster Unionist Party leader Mike Nesbitt paid his respects.

He said: "I knew him from my days in journalism when he was a vocal and visible member of the faith community pushing politicians to stretch themselves for peace.

"Alongside the late Father Alec Reid and others he was instrumental in the quiet diplomacy that was one of the foundation stones that led to the Belfast Agreement in 1998."

Artwork in Belfast Church Commemorates WW1 Sinking



A stunning piece of wall art commemorating the sinking of the HMS Hawke in World War One was laid up in St Simon's Church, Donegall Road, at a service on Sunday November 29.

The artwork, a net decorated with 524 handmade satin poppies, has decorated a gable wall at Barrington Gardens since it was unveiled on Remembrance Sunday.

Five sailors from the Donegall Road area went down with the Hawke. Of the 524 souls on board, 49 were from Northern Ireland.

The South Belfast men were Able Seaman Hugh Crawford of Matilda Drive; Able Seaman John Dawson of 356 Donegall Road; Stoker 1st Class John Mills of Coolderry Street, Donegall Road; Chief Petty Officer Charles Molloy of Clementine Street and Stoker 1st Class Archer Thompson of Teutonic Street.

The wreck of HMS Hawke lies 400 feet below the North Sea, 190 miles east of Aberdeen. The Hawke was struck by a torpedo and sunk in eight minutes. A Royal Navy training ship, 75 16-year-old sailors were among the dead.

The commemorative artwork, supported by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive through the Greater Village Regeneration Trust (GVRT), was hand sewn by members of the local community, including parishioners of St Simon's and St Philip's.

It uses a net and rope framework, created by local Sea Cadets, and 524 satin poppies – one for each victim of the sinking – which together form a unique memorial to the lost seamen.



Pictured at the laying up of the artwork in St Simon's are, from left: Cadet 1st Class Stephanie Emes, Officer Cadet Zac Lloyd Humphreys, Petty Officer (SCC) Brian Higgins, the Rev Raymond Moore, Lt Cdr (SCC) Leslie King, Cadet 1st Class Melissa Ramm.

The project's designer, Pete Bleakley, said: "The Donegall Road was one of WW1's biggest suppliers of fighting men and the loss of HMS Hawke hit the Donegall Road and Greater Belfast hard. It is fitting that, just over a century later, they now have a memorial dedicated to their honour, service and sacrifice."

Jennifer Hawthorne, Housing Executive Head of Cohesion, said: “This project has seen the local community take ownership of a gable wall which previously was a site of racist and sectarian graffiti.

“This unique artwork has achieved the groups’ aims of creating a poignant reminder of local people’s sacrifice during WW1. I commend the local community’s enthusiasm and wholehearted backing for this initiative.”

ngela Johnston, GVRT, said: “We wanted to do something which reflected this area’s great love for the Remembrance poppy and all that it stands for. Creating the ‘poppy wall’ gave members of the local community – many of whom have relatives with a service connection – a real hands-on involvement in the project.”

The Rev Raymond Moore, Priest-in-Charge of St Simon’s, said the artwork will be ‘laid up’ in the church permanently, but will be taken for an annual Service of Remembrance for the victims of the sinking of HMS Hawke, at Barrington Gardens.

At Sunday’s service, the poppy net was handed into the care of St Simon’s by Lt Cdr Leslie King,

a Bangor based Sea Cadets officer. Raymond formally dedicated it to the glory of God and in memory of those who died. Representatives of Sea Cadets from TS Decoy, Bangor, the GVRT and local ladies who hand-stitched the poppies were present. The ropework on the poppy net was done by Brian Higgins, TS Decoy, Bangor.

The wall at Barrington Gardens is now decorated with a mural featuring a facsimile of a photograph of HMS Hawke.

“We hope that people will want to visit the church to look at the artwork,” said Raymond. “If the church is not open, access can be arranged by contacting me directly or Mrs Angela Johnston in the GVRT Office.”

Climate rally urged - give a voice to those whose lives have been shattered by climate change

The service was organised by Christian Aid and Trócaire in partnership with St Anne's. The speaker was the Rev Canon Mike Parker. He posed the question: 'What do we do knowing what we know?'

“We are witnesses today. We gather to worship and to witness for our brothers and sisters around the world. Trocaire and Christian Aid, we give a voice to those clinging to the edges,” Canon Parker said. “We give a voice to those whose lives have been shattered by climate change. Maybe we think we don’t see it yet in our society but climate change is a constant reality. A devastating reality for the poorest of our world.”

He said climate change affected the poorest of the poor first, but it would one day come to everyone.

“We worship today inside this historic St Anne’s Cathedral. But this whole area used to be the docks. We are close to the sea in this city. We are close to the sea and the sea level is rising. Contingency planning for flooding in this city must be our new reality. We might look to our politicians, to ‘the folks on the hill’ for solutions. The ‘folks on the hill’ need to act. If they wait until the water reaches them before they pursue environmentally responsible policies Belfast will be sunk.”

Representatives of several churches took part in the service including the Dean of Belfast the Very

Rev John Mann; Church of Ireland Bishop of Down and Dromore the Rt Rev Harold Miller; Father Colin Grant from the Roman Catholic Church; the Rev Richard Kerr, Presbyterian Church, the Rev Brian Anderson of the Methodist Church, Ms Beate Hahn of the Lutheran Church and Dr Clare Amos, World Council of Churches.

The rally after the service attracted around 300 people of all ages. It featured music from *Beyond Skin* and speakers from a range different interest groups and backgrounds, who all have a reason to be concerned about the impact of climate change. They included Friends of the Earth, Eco Congregation Ireland, Butterfly Conservation NI, Oxfam, surfer Dan Lavery and farmer Frank Ellison. Canon Parker read a poem on the impact of climate change.

Each speaker brought an item for a suitcase to be delivered to Northern Ireland's environment minister Mark H Durkan MLA, who is attending the UN talks which got underway in Paris on Monday November 30.

The Rt Rev Trevor Williams, retired Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe and chair of the Board of Christian Aid Ireland, attended the service and the rally and the Rev Mike McCann, rector of

Kilroot and Templecorran, was at the rally with his wife Sarah. Mike and Sarah spent last summer on sabbatical in the Arctic, and saw at first hand the effects of climate change.

Mike said: “We have been supporters of Friends of the Earth for many years. The care of the earth is part of our Christian witness and we wanted our voices to be heard.

“We came close and personal to the difficulties people in the Arctic face in terms of climate change, and the impact the ice breaking up has on the polar bears.

“It was great to see people of all ages and persuasions at the rally. This is an issue for the whole world and something Christians and non-Christians will have to tackle together.”

Trócaire urges Taoiseach to show leadership in Paris

Trócaire has called on the Taoiseach Enda Kenny to show leadership when he addresses the opening stages of the UN Climate Summit in Paris today.

The aid and development agency said Mr Kenny needs to signal Ireland's intention to sign-up to an ambitious and legally-binding deal that would phase-out fossil fuels by mid-century.

Thousands of people took part in marches on Sunday in Dublin, Cork, Belfast and Galway to call on the Government to show international leadership on climate justice at the UN Climate Summit which gets underway today.

In Paris itself, climate activists laid out more than 20,000 pairs of shoes in the Place de la Republique to symbolise absent marchers, after demonstrations were banned following the recent terror attacks.

Among the shoes were a pair of plain black shoes sent by Pope Francis, who has strongly advocated for more concerted efforts to address the ecological damage and injustices to the world's poorest caused by climate change.

Up to 10,000 people formed a human chain through Paris along the footpaths of the route of the banned march.

Trócaire has described climate change as one of the leading drivers of poverty and hunger in the

developing world, and has said that attempts to battle hunger will prove futile until world leaders take on the responsibility of decarbonising our societies.

Ireland is the 36th highest carbon dioxide emitter in the world on a per capita basis, higher than both China and India, according to the World Bank.

In Paris, Éamonn Meehan, Executive Director of Trócaire, said on Sunday, “The fact that these talks are being held at a time when millions of people all along the eastern seaboard of Africa are experiencing chronic food shortages due to drought highlights exactly what is at stake. If millions of people experiencing hunger due to drought can’t motivate political leaders to take action, one wonders what can.”

“Climate change is not just an environmental issue, it is an issue of justice and equality.”

He warned that it was eroding people’s human rights, including the right to food.

It is estimated that 2.5 billion smallholder farmers provide 80 percent of the food consumed in southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

The vast majority of them are dependent on rain to grow their crops but climate change is altering rain patterns and extending droughts.

“We urgently need a legally-binding agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and we also need to ensure that this agreement is rooted in human rights and protecting vulnerable people’s access to land and water,” Éamonn Meehan warned.

He also called for a renewed funding effort to help countries affected by climate change to adapt.

Redemptorists launch annual Limerick City hamper appeal

The Redemptorist community in Limerick City has launched its annual poor hamper appeal.

The annual campaign, which was started over 33 years ago by the late Fr Gerry Daly, has grown year on year.

This week, the rector of Mount St Alphonsus, Fr Seamus Enright CSsR asked the public to donate food items for families in need of support over the Christmas holiday season.



Yesterday organisers of the appeal are inviting individuals and community groups in Limerick city and county to come to the Redemptorist church to submit the numbers of hampers needed for Christmas.

Speaking to the *Limerick Leader*, Fr Enright said that the appeal could not be done without the help of the St Vincent de Paul Society and the network of local volunteers.

“All the work done is voluntary, and all of the sorting and distribution of the hampers is done by volunteers. We work closely with the St Vincent de Paul Society and community groups across

the city and county, and we arrange all the food to be put together.”

Fr Enright revealed that last Christmas, more than 6,000 hampers across the city and county were donated, at a cost of more than €130,000.

He complimented primary and secondary schools in Limerick who also contribute to the food appeal.

Teresa Delaney, who has been working with the campaign in Limerick for 33 years, said that there is “huge demand” for the project, though it fluctuates every year.

“It makes them feel that someone is thinking about them out there over Christmas. And the focus is that every family in Limerick has a Christmas dinner.”

She said, “each basic hamper, which contains 12 food items, makes a huge difference to those who received one”.

In an effort to fundraise for the venture, the Redemptorist community is also encouraging groups or individuals to organise a raffle, a coffee morning or cake sale or any event of their choice.

All contributions, no matter how small, are most welcome. Donations, marked Poor Campaign, can be left into the monastery office.

Clogher Mothers' Union President honoured



L - R Mrs Geraldine Beattie and Dr Margaret Knox

The Trustee Body of the Mothers' Union in Clogher Diocese held an informal afternoon tea recently in Derryvullen South Rectory, Tamlaght, for their out-going President Dr Margaret Knox. A presentation of an Edwardian 15 ct gold bar brooch with rope and ball decoration was made to Dr Margaret, by Geraldine Beattie, ex Diocesan President. A

present of '15s' were given by Diane Whittaker who had discovered they are a favourite 'sweet thing' of Dr Margaret. Valerie Stewart was presented with flowers for offering the use of her home for the afternoon.

Pope calls Central African Christians, Muslims to unite against violence

Christians and Muslims must unite against acts which “disfigure the Face of God” by promoting peace, Pope Francis told Islamic representatives on the final day of his visit the war-torn Central African Republic (CAR).

“Those who claim to believe in God must also be men and women of peace,” the Pope said at the Nov. 30 encounter at the Mosque of Koudoukou in the CAR capital Bangui, recalling the long history of peaceful coexistence among people of different religions.

“Christians, Muslims and members of the traditional religions have lived together in peace for many years,” the pontiff said, adding: “We are



well aware that the recent events and acts of violence which have shaken your country were not grounded in properly religious motives.”

Pope Francis arrived Sunday in the CAR, the final stop of his tri-nation visit to Africa. It also marks the pontiff’s first time in an active war zone.

“Christians and Muslims are brothers and sisters. We must therefore consider ourselves and conduct ourselves as such,” he said.

“They ought, therefore, to remain united in working for an end to every act which, from whatever side, disfigures the Face of God and

whose ultimate aim is to defend particular interests by any and all means, to the detriment of the common good.”

“Together, we must say no to hatred, to revenge and to violence, particularly that violence which is perpetrated in the name of a religion or of God himself. God is peace, salam.”

The CAR became embroiled in violence in December 2012 when several bands of mainly Muslim rebel groups formed an alliance, taking the name Seleka. They left their strongholds in the north of the country and made their way south, seizing power from then-president Francois Bozize. Since then, some 6,000 people have died in the conflict, with several thousands more displaced.

Sexuality, struggle and saintliness: same-sex-love and the church

The question of whether churches should be more welcoming to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people continues to be challenging for some. The topic is often considered to be controversial as many question whether religion should adapt to society's values. But, according

to an important new book from Ekklesia, over the past century, several prominent Christians have played a major part in gaining support among churchgoers and the public for greater acceptance of same-sex partnerships.

The book, *Sexuality, struggle and saintliness: same-sex-love and the church*, by Savitri Hensman, is being published by Ekklesia in December 2015. It examines the shift in thinking on sexuality among Christians since the beginning of the twentieth century. This includes recognising the groundbreaking work of Christian theologians, church historians and a novelist. It delves beneath the surface of some of the conflicts that have arisen, offers reflections on the Bible and tradition and their relevance today. The book explores how churches can, and do, live with disagreement, suggesting a positive way forward in dealing with divisions over sexuality.

Rachel Mann, priest and poet, writes in her foreword:

"Reconciliation and remembrance are at the heart of Savitri Hensman's new book. Sexuality, Struggle and Saintliness gathers together wisdom on matters of sexuality and church polity

collected over an extensive career. At a time when debate over the Christian faith's position on LGBT people and our relationships has profound charge and is extraordinarily divisive, Hensman's approach is welcome."

The former Archbishop of Cape Town, Desmond Tutu notes:

"God's dream is that you and I and all of us will realise that we are family, that we are made for togetherness, for goodness, and for compassion. In God's family, there are no outsiders, no enemies. Black and white, rich and poor, gay and straight - all belong."

Savitri Hensman, the book's author' comments:

"Many Christian thinkers have been reflecting seriously about sexual ethics. Moving beyond the use of depersonalising language and mere assertions which fail to convince, while remaining true to what is richest in the Christian heritage, is a challenging task for the churches as a whole."

Media digest

Miracle teen Joshua thanks **church** for prayers he says cured him of cancer

Belfast Telegraph

Kim Martin, who's a civil servant and Tim, a pastor at the Elim **church**, also ... But in October, medics gave Joshua's family the **news** that they - and ...

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/miracle-teen-joshua-thanks-church-for-prayers-he-says-cured-him-of-cancer-34244600.html>

Church won't sell bleach 'cure' in Ireland but may teach how to use it

Irish Examiner

A group that advocates drinking bleach to cure illnesses, and conditions including autism will not be selling it at its **Irish** seminar next month, but may ...

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/ireland/church-wont-sell-bleach-cure-in-ireland-but-may-teach-how-to-use-it-368683.html>

Baptisms remain popular as mass attendance declines

Irish Times

All births and Catholic baptisms in the Republic of **Ireland** and Northern ... Annuario Statisticum Ecclesiae (Statistical Yearbook of the **Church**).

Baptism: badge of identity or passport to education? -

Irish Times

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/education/baptisms-remain-popular-as-mass-attendance-declines-1.2448687>

A Journey Up a Holy Mountain in **Ireland**

Wall Street Journal

Croagh Patrick is a cone-shaped mountain on the west coast of **Ireland**. Here ... and fasted for 40 days and gave birth to the Catholic **Church** in **Ireland**.

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/a-journey-up-a-holy-mountain-in-ireland-1448852612>

BBC/Guard/ITV/FT/Tel

A UN conference aiming at a new global approach to climate change opens in Paris today. The meeting, known as COP21, will see negotiators from 195 countries attempt to finalise a new treaty over the next two weeks. Political leaders from 147 countries will address the conference throughout Monday. The *Telegraph* reports that PM David Cameron will demand that wealthy countries give more foreign aid to halt climate change. The *ITV* report shows Salisbury Cathedral “turning green” in support of Climate Change.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-34960051>

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/nov/29/protesters-gather-around-the-world-for-a-strong-climate-change-deal>

<http://www.itv.com/news/meridian/update/2015-11-29/salisbury-cathedral-turns-green-for-climate-change/>

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/929d0924-968e-11e5-9228-87e603d47bdc.html#axzz3sx9h3inF>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/journalists/ben-riley-smith/12023827/David-Cameron-Wealthy-countries-should-give-more-foreign-aid-to-halt-climate-change.html>

BBC/Times

The Church of Scotland is welcoming its largest number of trainee ministers in five years, with 27 new candidates accepted for training so far this year. With further applicants due for assessment next month, it could be the largest intake for 10 years. The Kirk expects hundreds of ministers to retire in the next decade.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-34959508>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/scotland/article4627762.ece>

Tel

Photo gallery of Westminster Abbey taken by fashion photographer Gareth Cattermole.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/12023910/Behind-the-scenes-Westminster-Abbey-Kate-Middleton-Prince-William-wedding-pictures-photos.html>

Comment

Telegraph: Climate Change Conference. Charles Moore says that many developing nations will not “sacrifice their new-found prosperity on the altar of eco virtue.”

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/earth/environment/climatechange/12023819/The-end-is-nigh-for-climate-change-activists.html>

Spectator: Matthew Parris writes after the Paris attacks, “Has the Archbishop of Canterbury forsaken God?”

<http://new.spectator.co.uk/2015/11/how-the-paris-attacks-shook-my-faith-in-the-archbishop-of-canterbury/>

Independent: The dilemma for many in being asked to be a Godparent without a faith.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/comment/middle-class-problems-being-a-godparent-is-a-huge-honour-how-could-we-say-no-a6749296.html>

Guardian: We can save atheism from the new atheists like Richard Dawkins and Sam Harris writes Jeff Sparrow
<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/nov/30/we-can-save-atheism-from-the-new-atheists>

Mail on Sun

Report that Star Wars actor Carrie Fisher has condemned cinema chains for banning the CofE's Lord's Prayer advert
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3337956/Offended-Oh-life-Princess-Leia-star-Carrie-Fisher-savages-film-chiefs-banning-Lord-s-Prayer-advert.html>

Mail on Sun

Report that cinema chains are facing an investigation by the Equality Commission for Human Rights (ECHR) following a complaint, by the Church of England, on banning the Lord's Prayer ad.
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3337950/Church-calls-equality-police-cinema-ban-Lord-s-Prayer-advert.html>

PR Week (*free registration*)

Article by marketing expert and former CofE press officer Sue Primmer on 'why God – not Mog – should be top cat this Christmas'
<http://www.prweek.com/article/1374733/why-god-not-mog-christmas-top-cat>

Obsv

Report on Pope's visit to Uganda, saying Anglican and Roman Catholic 19th-century missionary martyrs were honoured, but LGBT rights activists were left disappointed as Pope Francis did not directly address the issue

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/nov/29/uganda-gays-pope-francis>

BBC

Report that 166 victims of World War Two's "worst civilian" bombing in the UK will be honoured today at a service at All Saints Church, Edge Hill, Liverpool at 16:00 GMT.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-merseyside-34938886>

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