

Church News Ireland



**Image of the day – Ceremony of Remembrance
at the Irish National War Memorial Gardens
Islandbridge, Dublin**

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Ceremony of Remembrance at the Irish National War Memorial Gardens Islandbridge, Dublin

The Band of The Royal Irish Regiment combined forces with The Army No. 1 Band, Defence Forces Ireland in the Annual Ceremony of





Remembrance and Wreath Laying in the Irish National War Memorial Gardens, Islandbridge, Dublin, on Saturday last, July 9. Chaplains to the Irish Defence Forces and the Royal British Legion, Ireland dedicated a new standard for the ROI branch of the Irish Guards' Association.

People and places

Grant of £60,000 to support new Diocesan Ministry Apprentice Scheme

Down & Dromore diocese is delighted to have been awarded a very generous grant from the Benefact Trust



**to support, FORGE, its new Diocesan Ministry
Apprentice Scheme.**

FORGE will enable young Christians to develop a strong and enduring faith through training and service in the church.

The aims of this new programme for Christians between the ages of 18–25 are to:

- Equip young Christians with skills and experience in church–based ministry

- Support young Christians to grow in faith and explore a call to Christian ministry

- Enable churches to extend the reach of their ministries

- Assist the diocese to identify and raise up a new generation of ministry leaders

The diocese will work in partnership with our churches and church plants to place apprentices in pairs to learn new skills and gain practical experience through hands–on supervised participation in ministry in host churches.

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Apprentices will be fully involved in the life and witness of their host church and are likely to be involved mainly in parish children's and youth ministries. Where available, they will have the opportunity to participate in schools', outreach and compassion ministries. They will also contribute to diocese-wide ministry programmes e.g., Saturday Night Live and our Kilbroney Camps programme.

There will be a strong focus on training in-house within the churches and by the diocese.

Andrew Bass, Grants Officer for Benefact Trust, said:

“We're delighted to be able to support the new Diocesan Ministry Apprentice Scheme, which will help to develop young Christians, giving them the confidence and leadership skills they need to explore Christian Ministry. Not only is this a great opportunity for the apprentices, but their work over the next year will help many young people across the diocese through outreach and youth ministry.”

FORGE will start with an induction in October, and include monthly training days, insight visits to Christian ministries, support to undertake accredited training in children's or youth ministry and an end of year celebration event.

This initiative supports each of the 3 priorities of Bishop David McClay's 10-year vision for the diocese: discipleship (facilitating young adults to grow in faith), leadership (raising up new leaders), and apostleship (supporting churches in their outreach).

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Applications to FORGE will open in July and close on Thursday 25 August 2022. Interviews will be held on Tuesday 30 August 2022. Apprenticeships will start on Sunday 2 October 2022.

Benefact Trust exists to make a positive difference to people's lives by funding, guiding and celebrating the work of churches and Christian charities; empowering the most vulnerable and giving people, communities and places a renewed opportunity to flourish. (benefacttrust.co.uk)

Celebration of missionary who lost 18 colleagues in Congo rebel uprising

A special celebration is to be held in Belfast to mark the life of Congo missionary Bob McAllister.

Bob began his working life as an iron turner in Belfast's shipyards until he went to the Congo in 1952.

Bob and his wife Alma, a midwife, were members of the Bethany Congregation in Agnes Street, Belfast.

Their bible studies led them to missionary work and God directed them to the Congo when they were both 28.

At one point during a communist inspired rebellion he was wounded and tragically lost 18 missionary colleagues and countless Congolese Christian friends.

In a 2014 BBC documentary which followed him back to the Congo, he recalled the deadly rebels.

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Group photo of the Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 3 - 8 July 2022.

“They said they were going to stamp out the church in Congo,” he said. “But today there are more churches in Congo than there ever were, hallelujah”.

The service will be on Saturday 23 July at 7pm at the Crescent Church, 6 University Road, Belfast BT7 1NH. The New Irish Arts orchestra and choir will provide the music.

CNI

Streetreach brings blessings to the community in Mossley



Members of Wednesday afternoon's Streetreach community outreach team in New Mossley.

Young people from Connor diocese did fantastic work in Mossley Parish and surrounding area as part of the annual Streetreach project.

Forty one young people and leaders from 13 parishes in Connor Diocese, along with adult helpers from the Church of the Holy Spirit, Mossley, took part in the four day street mission.

For some of these involved, it was straight from the camp at Summer Madness on Tuesday to Mossley Parish Hall for a

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Streetreach kick-off dinner that evening, followed by team time, games and finally bed – the team are being accommodated at Ulster University in Jordanstown.

Streetreach continued on Wednesday and Thursday and the mission finished on Friday July 8 after another full day.

Each day, the young people came together for breakfast in the parish hall, and this was followed by devotions led by visiting American interns Kayleigh and Preston Vaughn, discussions and prayers, and preparing for the afternoon activity.

After lunch the teams headed out to fulfil their activity with one group doing outreach in the community including running children's activities and picking up litter in New Mossley; another team praying for people on doorsteps and in the street; and another group running a very busy kids' club inside and outside the parish hall.

The young people came back together again for dinner in the parish hall, an evening activity and debrief before heading back to their accommodation.

On Friday afternoon, they ran a community fun event and barbecue at the parish hall before packing up and heading for home after a busy few days.

Streetreach was organised by Diocesan Youth Officer Christina Baillie, Engage Connor Youth Council and the Rev Peter Jones, rector of Mossley Parish and parish volunteers.

Pro-life' is 'pro-women', says Archbishop Martin of Armagh

The head of the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland has warned that the desperate situations of women with a crisis pregnancy, who feel isolated, neglected and alone in their distress, “do not go away no matter how widely available abortion is made”.

In his homily at Mass at St Saviour’s Dominican Priory in Dublin ahead of the “Rally for Life” march, Archbishop Eamon Martin highlighted how in Ireland “the right to personal choice has been elevated above the fundamental right to life itself”.

He told some of the thousands of pro-life campaigners from all over Ireland who descended on Dublin for the first pro-life rally since the pandemic: “Often you face setbacks, because the pro-life message is counter-cultural, and is falsely portrayed as negative, ‘anti-women’, ‘anti-choice’, or lacking in compassion.”

He noted that during the 2018 abortion referendum campaign there were many calls and promises of help for women in crisis. “Where is the compassion and accompaniment for a woman in crisis that was promised?” the Primate of All Ireland said.

He pledged to continue to seek dialogue about how a respectful and life-supporting environment can be created

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for every person in Ireland, at every stage and in every state of life.

The legislation introduced three years ago had left many questions, he noted, such as what options, other than abortion, can be offered to women during the three-day reflection period.

One of those who spoke to campaigners about the options available to women who take abortion pills was Dr Dermot Kearney, an Irish doctor who works for the NHS. The General Medical Council in Britain tried to have him suspended last year over his provision of abortion pill reversal treatment (APR).

In a talk to Family Solidarity Ireland, Dr Kearney recalled how restrictions imposed on him by the GMC were reversed in February this year allowing him to continue his work to help mothers who change their minds.

During the period of time that the service he offers with Dr Eileen Reilly was suspended, 160 women from the UK and seven from Ireland sought help to reverse their abortions. But those women could not be helped due to the GMC's measures.

Travel together in a journey of hope. Archbishop Jackson of Dublin at Eid in Croke Park.

The Muslim festival of Eid al-Adha was celebrated at Croke Park, Dublin, on Saturday morning (July 9 2022).

Archbishop Michael Jackson was in attendance and presented the following short address.

All of our Faith Traditions offer memorable phrases. One from my own tradition of Christianity is: Hope is in the things not seen ... (The Letter to the Hebrews 11.1).

This phrase points any of us and all of us, if we accept the invitation to engage, to the finding of hope in the invisible future. The future is built, likewise, out of our lived experience. Such grim reality is also part of the architecture of hope. Hope such as this stands on a foundation of values that are often understood only when they are threatened or swept aside as, for example, in time of war. The people of Ukraine, with whom we stand in solidarity today and for whom we hope, are enveloped in a time of war. And their memory is of things no longer seen – family, home, pets, land and sea like no others precisely because these things are theirs.

Hope is fed by insight and inspiration as well as by memory and history. Insight and inspiration come from our faith. Memory and history come from our lived experience and the experience of others. Our history we make together, in the past and in the present. Our inspiration we harvest from a variety of differing sources, known and unknown, held in common and garnered individually. A society is formed in hope when history and inspiration interact with one another around the values of tolerance, respect, inclusion leading to compassion, provision and diversity. Our society, like all

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others, has a long way to travel. We all need to want to travel together in this journey of hope.

In being privileged to participate today in EID, I make a plea that we pledge to make history together and that we offer to one another for sharing, sources and streams of inspiration and insight from the richness of our traditions. Our aim is to build a shared society of hope.

World news

The Presiding Bishop: ‘Remember Your Baptism’

“These are strange, difficult, and complex times,” Presiding Bishop Michael Curry said in his recorded sermon for the first day of General Convention the Episcopal Church.

The opening Eucharist at the 80th General Convention reflected that. The House of Bishops and the House of Deputies used the same readings and heard the video sermon, but because of COVID and health regulations, they worshiped in separate rooms.

Curry noted many changes since the last General Convention in Austin, Texas, in 2018, citing key events that affected society in the last four years.

“We never imagined where we are now today,” he said. “Who could have imagined a global pandemic that would

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compel us for a period of time no longer to be able to worship in our churches, our mosques, our synagogues, our houses of worship, and be compelled to worship online? Who could have imagined or anticipated that a racial reckoning would be catalyzed by the death of a George Floyd or Breonna Taylor, an Ahmaud Arbery, and so many others? Who could have imagined the revelation of the pain of Indigenous boarding schools, of Native children buried a long, long way from home here in America? Who could imagine?

“Who could imagine the continued decline of organized religion and institutional churches and synagogues and mosques? Who could have imagined that the people of Ukraine would have to defend their homeland for freedom? Who could have imagined January the 6th in an attempt to overthrow the government of the United States of America? Who could have imagined the continued murder of the children of God and gun violence at a grocery store in Buffalo, an elementary school in Uvalde, the Fourth of July parade in Highland Park, and our own Saint Stephen’s Episcopal Church in Vestavia Hills, Alabama?”

Curry shared his experiences as a child in 1963, when the schools of his hometown of Buffalo, New York, were desegregated. “At that time, crossing Main Street was going from a black community to a white community.” Curry said his Sunday school teacher assured students that “going to a new school represented the dream of a new America, the dream of a new world.”

She told them, “Remember what the Bible says — do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Remember

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where you came from. When you go to a new and strange place, remember where you came from.”

He concluded his 34-minute sermon on that theme.

“Remember your baptism. Remember this Jesus.

Remember and be re-membered as God’s new creation, God’s beloved, God’s precious child. And remember, as the late Bishop Barbara Harris told us over and over again, the God behind you is greater than any problem ahead of you.”

Foreign Anglican leaders to help elect next Archbishop

Foreign Anglican leaders will have greater powers to elect the next Archbishop of Canterbury in a landmark vote passed by the Church of England.

C of E General Synod on Saturday voted to increase the number of global representatives on the Crown Nominations Commission (CNC).

The body nominates the most esteemed member of the Anglican clergy subject to approval by the Queen and Prime Minister.

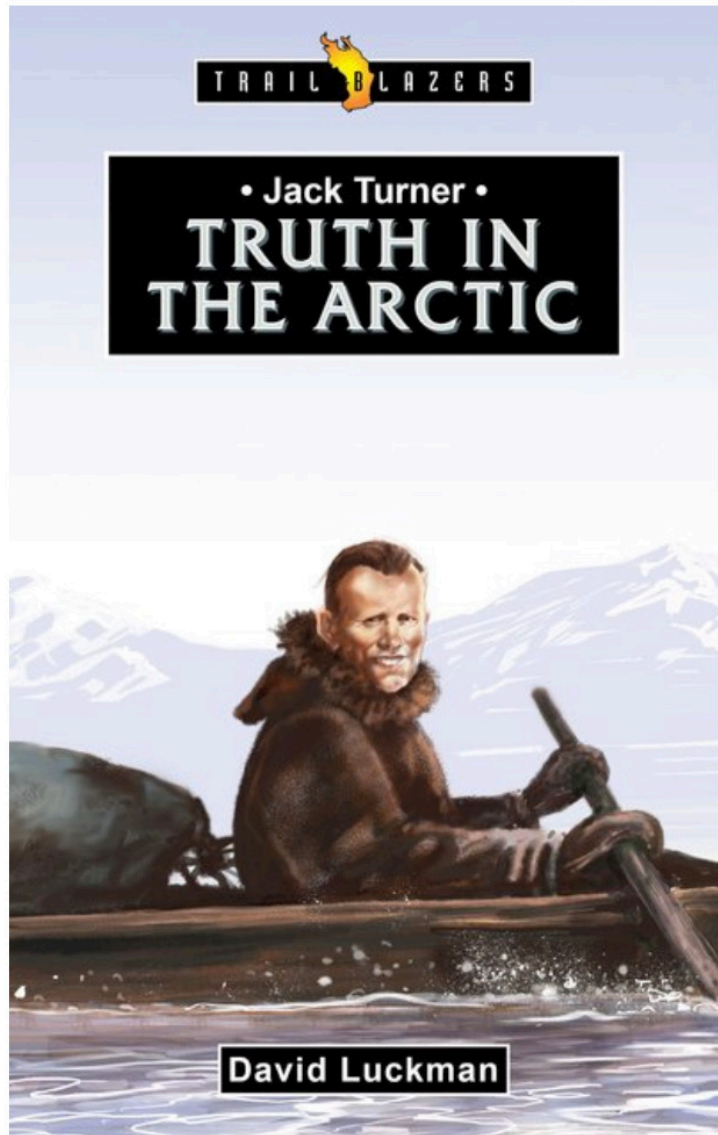
Following a vote which will be ratified on Tuesday, five overseas leaders will sit on the now 17-strong voting group, where previously just one represented more than 85 million members of the Anglican Communion across the world.

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Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

New children's author in Connor Diocese

The Rev David Luckman is on the staff of Lambeg parish and has recently published his first children's book.



Jack Turner – Truth in the Arctic is part of the Trailblazer series by Christian Focus Publications. Trailblazers are biographical books aimed at children aged 10–14 years old.

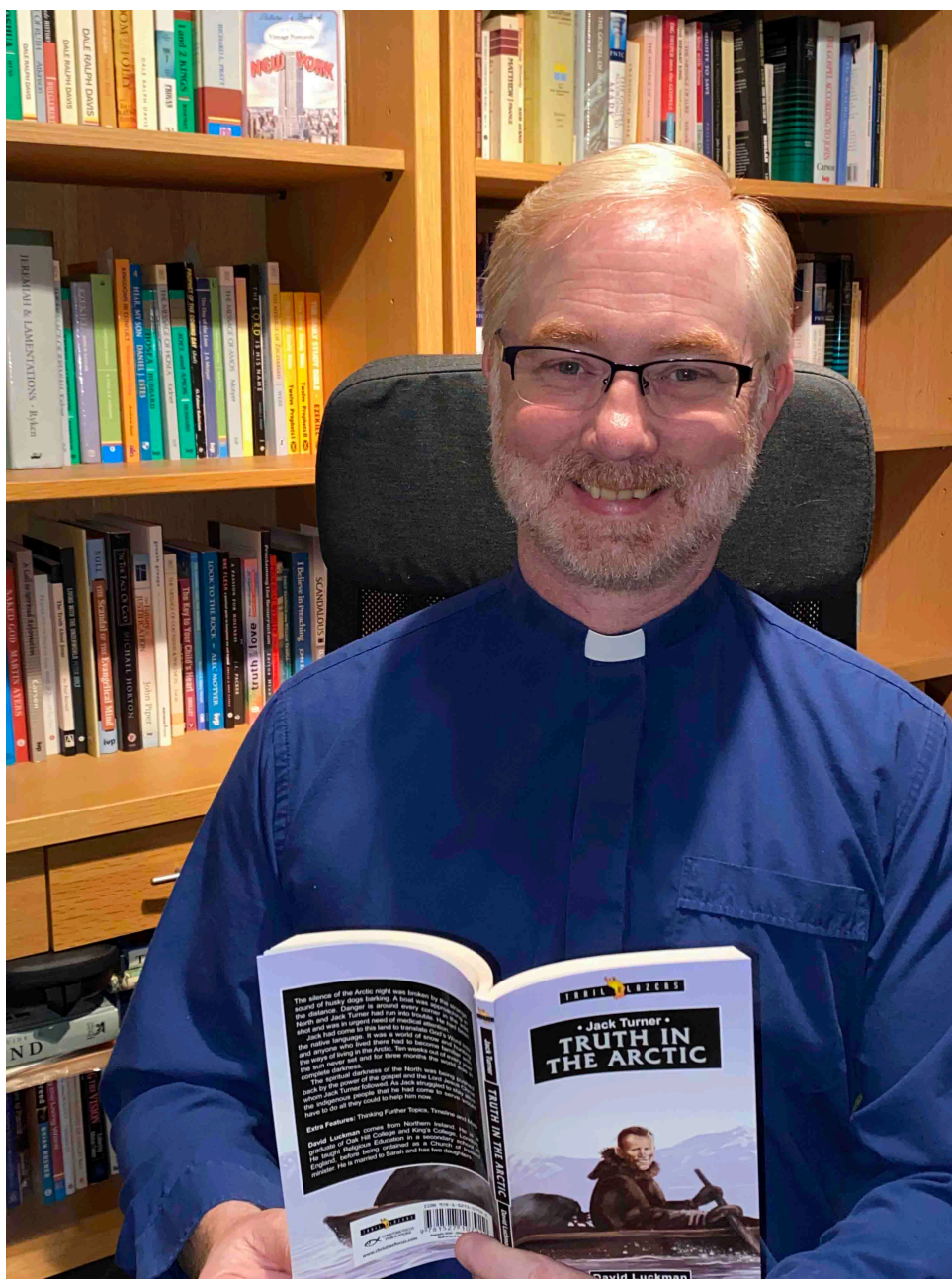
Answering some questions, David begins with what his book is about.

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“In the 1920s a journey to the Arctic was perilous. Most settlements were accessed from Britain just once a year, by boat, and travellers faced the risks of drowning, exposure, and starvation. Along came Jack Turner, a BCMS missionary to the Arctic, in 1929. His heart’s desire was to spread the gospel of Christ to the wonderful Inuit people throughout that land, no matter the personal risks he faced. He wanted to translate as much of the Bible into Inuktitut, the local language, so that they could read the Bible for themselves. He also translated parts of the Book of Common Prayer into Inuktitut so the people could be biblical, ordered, and clear-minded in their corporate worship of Almighty God. He spent many years travelling to local Inuit settlements across the land by foot or dog sledge. He travelled nearly 25,000 miles in his time there. But sadly Jack’s service was cut short by an unfortunate shooting incident.”

Why did you decide to write this book about Jack Turner?

“A number of years ago I read a book about the First Twenty-Five Years of the Bible Churchmen’s Missionary Society (BCMS) and discovered the Anglican mission to the Arctic. It’s an incredible story that’s filled with sacrifice, noble endeavour, and great accomplishments. Then I had the wonderful opportunity of travelling to Baffin Island in the Arctic back in February 2017. At the time I was Ireland Director for Crosslinks (formerly BCMS), and I was invited by the Bishop of the Arctic, David Parsons, to teach ordinands at the Arthur Turner Training School in Iqaluit. (Arthur Turner was Jack’s older brother who served in Baffin Island at the same time as Jack). My time in Iqaluit gave me first-hand experience of the wonderful people, the



challenging terrain, and the inclement climate of the Arctic. It did prove very useful when writing the book about Jack Turner's missionary service there.

“When I was invited to Bible colleges or churches in Northern Ireland, to speak about mission, I would often ask people if they had a mission interest for a particular country in the world: Africa, many hands would go up; South America, many hands would rise; Europe, again hands went up; and when I asked about the Arctic, usually no hands

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would be raised because it's not a place that people usually think of in terms of global mission. Indeed on one occasion, someone lightly said it was too cold to go there! But there are many people who live in the Arctic, scattered over a vast region, and little is said of the place, or the mission endeavours that go there today. It was because of people like Jack and Arthur Turner, laying a good foundation on which to build, that the church continues to grow to this day. That's when I realised the importance of telling this story and decided to write the book about Jack Turner."

How do you think your book is unique?

"My book is unique because it is not set in Africa, or South America, or even Europe. It is set in the Arctic, at a time when contact with the world was only once a year by ship and in the form of a letter or package. It is also unique because unlike many people in the Trailblazer series who would be well known before a book was written about them, Jack is unknown to today's global Christian family. But his story is worth knowing."

The Rev David Luckman is the church planter at Hilden Community Church in Lisburn, which is part of Lambeg parish. He is married to Sarah and has two daughters.

Jack Turner – Truth In The Arctic can be bought in your local Christian bookshop or ordered on line from Christian Focus Publications or Amazon.

David's second book in the Trailblazer Series, Thomas Cranmer – The King's Ambassador, will be released in September 2022.

Perspective

We're modernising the Order and the Twelfth, says Orange Order Grand Secretary Rev Mervyn Gibson

This year marks the first traditional Twelfth in three years after the 2020 and 2021 festivities were curtailed because of Covid, Alison Morris reports in the Belfast Telegraph.

For Orange Order Grand Secretary Rev Mervyn Gibson, it is a welcome return.

Speaking ahead of Tuesday's marches, he said there were plans to modernise the institutions and the parades to make them more attractive to a wider audience, but at a pace that reflects the history of Northern Ireland.

“When someone joins the institutions, they are joining a family,” he added.

“We talk about the Orange family. That includes the bands and supporters and the wives and husbands and children who are not in the institutions.

“That family supports our culture and our tradition. We need to extend and promote that side of things more.”

With many of the issues surrounding contentious parades resolved and huge policing operations consigned to the

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past, Rev Gibson said the day should be one of “celebration”.

“I understand that during the Troubles it was all security policing, protecting the parade and protecting the people who were protecting the parade, but thankfully we've moved on from that,” he added.

“We had about five or 10 years when Sinn Fein decided to make us the focus of their attentions.

“While the Parades Commission is still a major issue for us, things have calmed down quite a bit around that, although I would say no thanks to them.

“We now simply want to go out and enjoy the day. For too long we allowed others with a hidden agenda to destroy our day.”

For the Grand Secretary, the Twelfth has an appeal that reaches far beyond Northern Ireland. “Before Covid I met a man from Spain who had come here to watch the parades having previously been here on a cruise ship and seen them briefly. He wanted to come back and experience more,” he said.

“There's the history, the pageantry and the colour, and I think we need to work more with the tourist board about attracting people here for the Twelfth.

“There are already a lot of people who come from Scotland and some from England as well, but I think there is an opportunity to attract more people.

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“There are changes being made to the bonfires. If you look at pictures, such as the one in the shape of a teddy bear and the one built like a castle, people understand that it is not just doing a bonfire to burn flags. They want a bonfire to entertain their community.

“We get all the negativity — 'It's an old man's organisation, the future isn't good for unionism' — but the future is secure, the future is in safe hands.”

Rev Gibson believes interest in the Orange Order grew in the aftermath of the pandemic.

“The Orange were in a place where we were able to help out during Covid and our numbers increased in many areas,” he said.

With the institution coming in for criticism over members being barred from marrying Catholics or attending Catholic church services, Rev Gibson said “there are always discussions” about potential changes.

“There is a new, outward-looking institution in all facets, whether it's to do with religion or anything else,” he added.

“As the Troubles get further away, people can get more relaxed. However, there is the issue of legacy and there is the issue of the memorialising of those who murdered our members.”

Speaking to the soul

[Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site](#)

Church News Ireland

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