



### Image of the day

## Scots Minister 'The Tartan Pimpernel' is honoured in Paris



## Decade of centenaries memorial space for prayer and remembrance in St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork

**On Tuesday, 8th June, the eve of the Feast of Saint Columba, the Bishop of Cork, Dr Paul Colton, dedicated a space in St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork which has been set aside for the remainder of the Decade of Centenaries (2012–2023), as a place for prayer and remembrance.**

As church buildings have been closed for much of the last 18 months, this opening has only become possible now.

Bishop Paul Colton said that he and the Dean of Cork, the Very Reverend Nigel Dunne, had given 'a lot of prayerful thought' to this as part of the Cork, Cloyne and Ross

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## Diocesan Centenaries Commemoration and Reconciliation Project.

In the centenary period of the First World War, a constantly changing visual display of people from Cork, and with connections to contemporary Cork on all sides of that War, featured in the prayer space: Irish, British, German, Canadian, Japanese, American and many other nationalities too. As someone commented then ‘It is mesmerising; I cannot extract myself from the human faces and the stories told.’

‘This current period in the Decade – the Centenary of the War of Independence and, upcoming, of the Civil War – is very complex, raw even, for many people.’ said Bishop Colton.

Bishop Colton said: ‘We have seen how challenging and complex these commemorations are in some of the controversies that have already arisen. Understandably, many have very strong feelings. Yet, we must not lose sight either that at the heart of this we are commemorating the birth of our independence and our nationhood in Ireland.

‘In this dedicated space we have created a place where, we hope, in the context of the Decade of Centenaries, people can come to pray. Prayer is at the heart of what the Church does, and in their personal prayers here – thanksgiving, remembrance, sorrow, joy, for our country, for our place in the world today – it is between individuals and God who they remember and what they pray for.

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‘In that sense it is a neutral space, but it is also a place that by its existence affirms the significance for all of us of these centenaries, as well as our place as a nation in today’s world.



‘At the heart of the space is a votive candle stand, especially commissioned and manufactured in Sweden, where candles can be lit. It is constructed in the shape of a globe, a reminder of Ireland’s place in the world today – with a large candle at the centre, a reminder of Christ, the light of the world.

Dean Nigel Dunne added: ‘Just as this space became a focus for memory and praying for peace when focussed on World War I, with all its complexities in relation to this country’s experience of it, this new installation is designed to help people to reflect prayerfully on the period of historic centenaries relating to our own national history with all its own complexities.

‘This period of what I like to call our “wounded history” not only left behind some sad divisions but it also shaped the post–modern nation state that we have become. I hope all who come here will focus on praying for the healing of

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memories, for those who help to unravel some of the intricately interwoven stories of our past, for the gifts of true healing and reconciliation, and for all who shape the life of our state in the present.'

## **Rotary's 'Tears of Gold' art exhibition at Enniskillen Cathedral**

Enniskillen Rotary Club is hosting an exhibition by artist and peace activist Hannah Rose Thomas to mark the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations and Rotary International's supporting role in its formation.

The theme of the exhibition – which is entitled 'Tears of Gold' – is peace building and conflict prevention. It will be held in Enniskillen Cathedral with the support of Rotary Ireland and will run from June 19th to 26th.

Hannah Rose Thomas's work draws on her previous experience organising projects for Syrian refugees in Jordan; Yezidi women in northern Iraq; Rohingya children in refugee camps on the Myanmar border and the survivors of Boko Haram and Fulani violence in Northern Nigeria.

Hannah, who is a UNESCO scholar and is currently studying for a PhD at Glasgow University will also host a series of art workshops for the families of Syrian refugees living in Enniskillen.

While Hannah's portraits have been shown in the Houses of Parliament, European Parliament and Westminster Abbey, this will be the first time they will be on display in Ireland.

Three of her paintings of the Yezidi women were chosen by HRH The Prince of Wales for his exhibition 'Prince and Patron' in Buckingham Palace in 2018.

The exhibition will be open to members of the public from 2.30pm to 5.00pm daily with additional times at the weekend. While admission is free, all donations to help refugee initiatives are most welcome.

What? Art exhibition entitled 'Tears of Gold'

Where? Enniskillen Cathedral

When? Monday, 21st June, to Friday, 25th June, from 2.30pm to 5.00pm daily. In addition, it will be open Sunday (20th) 2.30 to 5.00pm, Friday (25th) from 6.30 to 8.30pm and Saturday (26th) 10am to 12 midday.

Who? The exhibition by Hannah Rose Thomas will be hosted by Enniskillen with the support of Rotary Ireland.

## **Churches invited to mark World Refugee Day**

**The Conference of European Churches (CEC) and the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME) are inviting churches to commemorate the lives of thousands of migrants and refugees who have lost their lives in the Mediterranean, seeking safety on their way to Europe.**

CEC and CCME are encouraging churches to hold online commemoration services, prayers or vigils around World



Refugee Day on Sunday June 20, in line with the Covid-19 measures.

CCME has published resource materials

on its website, which can be used for worship or intercessions during a service.

In a recent joint letter, CEC General Secretary Dr Jørgen Skov Sørensen and CCME General Secretary Dr Torsten Moritz stated: “In this period of Ascension and Pentecost, filled with hope and light for all humankind, we are deeply saddened and disturbed by the suffering, hopelessness and death, which continues for thousands of our human brothers and sisters on the outer borders of the European Union.

“As churches and Christians, our divine calling is to be witnesses and servants of the resurrection and a new life in justice and peace for all, regardless of ethnicity, nationality or religion. Let us jointly remember the documented, as well as the undocumented persons, who have died at our European borders, seeking safety from violence, war or economic desperation. Let us share our sorrow in prayer.”

The invitation affirms a call from CEC’s 2013 General Assembly in Budapest, inviting churches ‘to commemorate  
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those who have died on their journey to find a dignified life in Europe through an annual day of prayer.'

The International Organisation for Migration's Missing Migrants project records deaths and disappearances of migrants, including refugees and asylum seekers, who have gone missing along migration routes worldwide, including in the Mediterranean where 813 people are thought to have died since January of this year.

This information includes the estimated number of missing persons and survivors from individual sinkings, migrants' countries of origin, and last known locations.

More information, which may help to inform intercessory prayer and those seeking to minister to migrants, is available at <https://missingmigrants.iom.int>

## **Pope Francis appoints Bishop of Ferns**

**Pope Francis has appointed Co. Clare priest Fr Ger Nash (62) as the new bishop of the Diocese of Ferns, taking the reins from Bishop Denis Brennan.**

After yesterday morning's announcement, Bishop-elect Nash said he looked forward to walking with the people and parish communities throughout the diocese of Ferns "as we respond to that call to synodality", in the Cathedral of Saint Aidan, Enniscorthy, Co Wexford.



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Archbishop Eamon Martin has congratulated Father Ger Nash of the Diocese of Killaloe on his appointment by Pope Francis as Bishop of Ferns. Archbishop Eamon also expressed his gratitude to Bishop Denis Brennan whose resignation as Bishop of Ferns was accepted by Pope Francis today.

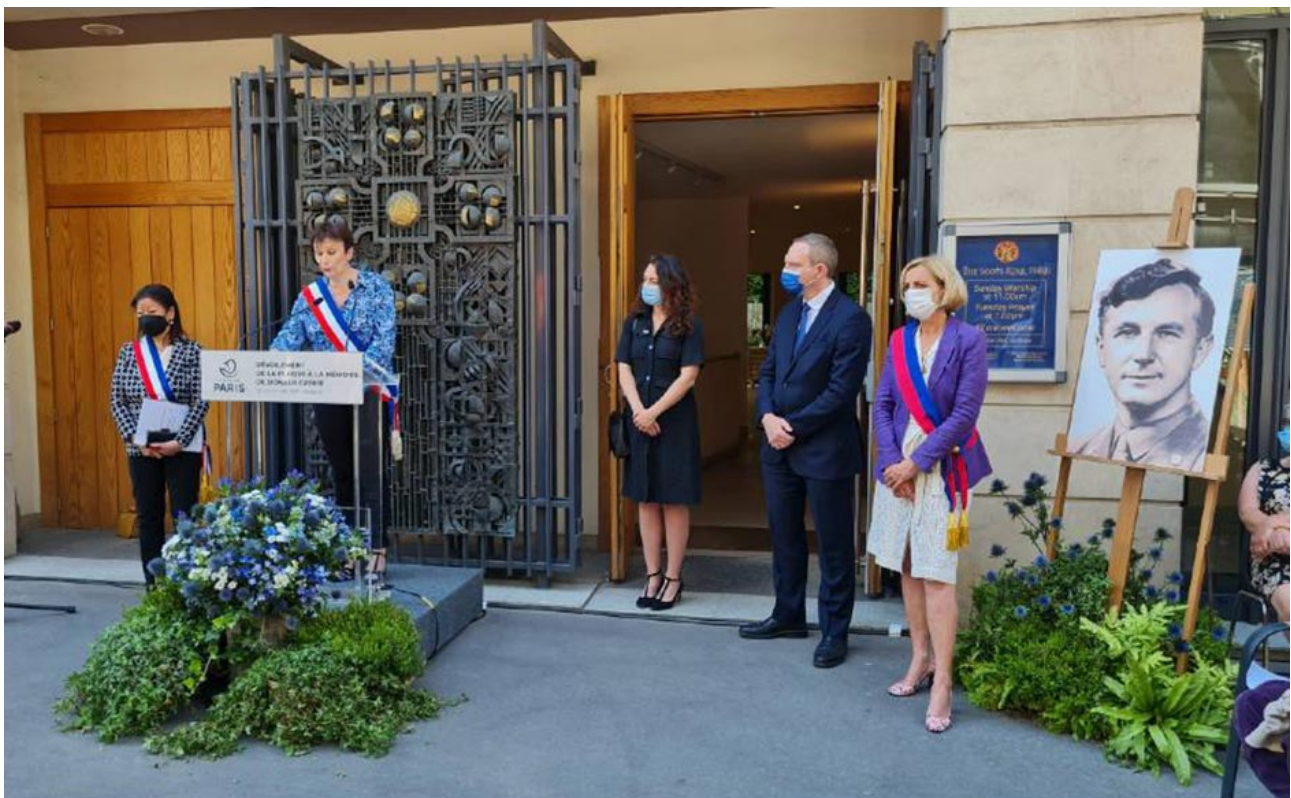
Archbishop Eamon said, “I want to offer my prayerful congratulations and good wishes to Father Ger Nash, whom Pope Francis has appointed as the new Bishop of Ferns. I am sure that Bishop-elect Nash’s gifts and experience in pastoral planning, Catholic education and youth ministry, as well as his insights into diocesan planning and administration, will greatly serve his new ministry and enhance our discussions at the table of the Irish Bishop’s Conference. As President of the Conference I look forward to welcoming Bishop-elect Nash together with my brother bishops, especially at this time of renewal for the Church in Ireland as we prepare to embark on a Synodal journey over the next five years.

“This is also a very special day for the Diocese of Ferns. I wish to thank and pay tribute to Bishop Denis Brennan on his well-deserved retirement. Since 2006, Bishop Denis has made a generous contribution to the work of the Bishops’ Conference. Always guided by values of the Gospel, Bishop Denis’ sharp insights and wisdom have benefited greatly the work of our Conference. As a relative newcomer to the Bishops’ Conference, I was particularly impressed by his contributions during our last ad limina visit when we travelled as bishops to Rome to meet with Pope Francis. He has generously helped to develop our thinking and practice in the critical areas of communications, child

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safeguarding, priesthood and vocations, emigrants, migrants and prisoners overseas. He persevered in promoting the establishment of a National Vocations Outreach for the Church in Ireland. I pray God's blessings on Bishop Denis and wish him good health as bishop emeritus."

## 'Tartan Pimpernel' war hero minister honoured in Paris



Rev Dr Donald Caskie is honoured at the church he was called to in 1935 - two years after Adolf Hitler rose to power.

**A Church of Scotland minister nicknamed the Tartan Pimpernel who helped orchestrate the safe return of around 2,000 men from occupied France during the Second World War has been honoured in Paris.**

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Rev Dr Donald Caskie has been commemorated on a marble plaque erected on the exterior wall of the Scots Kirk where he was the minister 81 years ago.

Around 100 people attended the unveiling ceremony on La Rue Bayard yesterday including local church members and representatives from Mairie de Paris (Paris City Hall) and the Scottish Government.

Bagpiper Francis Sykes greeted guests with renditions of Auld Lang Syne, Flower of Scotland, Highland Cathedral, Scotland the Brave and The Skye Boat Song.

Local school pupils read aloud in English and French extracts from Dr Caskie's book, *The Tartan Pimpernel*, which tells how he fearlessly worked with the French Resistance to help trapped or imprisoned airmen, seamen and soldiers escape Nazi-occupied France.

The plaque was unveiled by Jeanne d'Hauteserre and Laurence Patrice of Mairie de Paris.

The commemoration project was led by Derek Bonin-Bree, an elder at the Scots Kirk, with the support of other office bearers and minister Rev Jan Steyn who said the war hero's faith "spurred him on to oppose injustice, intolerance and tyranny".

They were supported by the Scottish Government's office in Paris in their mission to persuade Paris City Hall to allow the installation of a commemorative plaque.

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Lord Wallace, Moderator of the General Assembly, was unable to attend the ceremony due to COVID-19 travel restrictions but said that it is a fitting tribute to an “inspirational, distinguished and courageous” man.

Dr Caskie was the minister at the Scots Kirk when the Germans invaded France in 1940 and frequently denounced the Nazis from the pulpit which meant he had more to fear than many after the invasion.

He was repeatedly urged to return home and after the Dunkirk evacuation he locked the church on the 9th of June of that year and joined the mass exodus of Paris, heading south.

The crofter’s son from the inner Hebridean island of Islay, said to have had the Celtic gift of second sight, endured weeks of hardship to get to Bayonne but in the end rejected the chance of safe passage on the last ship bound for the UK on the grounds that his place should be given to a wounded man instead.

He walked to a village called Cambo les Bains where he met friends from Paris purely by chance and they all drove to the port city of Marseille - leaving just hours before the Germans arrived.

Dr Caskie believed that God had commanded him to stay in France and help stranded British subjects and he was warned that he must only engage with civilians and would be arrested if he assisted servicemen.

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He ran a Seaman's Mission but was living a double life and secretly helped airmen, seamen and soldiers, under the noses of the Vichy Police, escape the country across mountains into Spain or by sea in a submarine or ship.

Dr Caskie, a Gaelic speaker whose codename was Monsieur Le Canard – Donald Duck – was eventually recruited by British Intelligence officers and was told that his mission was the last link of a chain of safe houses that they had set up, which stretched from Dunkirk to Marseille.

His main Resistance contact was General Sir Albert-Marie Guerisse, codenamed Pat O'Leary who is named on the 58cm x 35cm pink/beige coloured plaque.

There is a ring attached to the wall underneath it for flowers which are placed there every August by the Mairie de Paris in honour of resistance fighters around the date when the city was liberated after three years of occupation.

One of the soldiers Dr Caskie helped was Captain Derek Lang who was captured at St Valery-en-Caux in Normandy along with 10,000 soldiers from the 51st Highland Division, mostly Scots, 81 years ago this weekend.

He managed to escape the Germans and fled to Marseille where he recalled meeting a “courageous and fearless” Church of Scotland minister.

“Evil in war produces heroes and Donald Caskie is one of these,” wrote the army officer in the forward to the Tartan Pimpernel – a book he said moved him to tears.

## People and places

### Methodist President Designate 2022-23

The Reverend David Nixon (below left) has been appointed President Designate 2022-23 by the 2021 MCI Conference. Mr Tom Wilson (below right) is Lay Leader Designate 2022-24.



"People matter, different people matter and all people matter regardless of age, name, colour, nationality, social status, immigration status, religious allegiance and sexual orientation....all people are all equally important to God"  
Rev Dr Sahr Yambasu - President MCI

### Lord Mayor of Cork's annual courtesy visit to the Bishop of Cork and Mrs Susan Colton

The Lord Mayor of Cork, Councillor Joe Kavanagh, together with the Lady Mayoress, Mrs Stephanie Kavanagh, made the Lord Mayor of Cork's customary courtesy call to the



Bishop of Cork, Dr Paul Colton and Mrs Susan Colton on Wednesday 9th June. Councillor Joe Kavanagh is the twenty–third Lord Mayor of Cork to visit Bishop Colton and Mrs Colton, a visit which comes just days before his tenure as Lord Mayor ends.

Pictured are the Right Reverend Dr Paul Colton, his wife Susan Colton, Lord Mayor Cllr Joe Kavanagh, Lady Mayoress Stephanie Kavanagh, and Ann Doherty, CEO of Cork City Council, during the courtesy visit of the Lord Mayor of Cork to Bishop Paul and Mrs Susan Colton, at The Palace, Bishop Street, Cork. Picture: Jim Coughlan.

Ordinarily, the Lord Mayor’s courtesy call happens early in the term in office, but everything this year has been greatly changed by the coronavirus pandemic. Accompanying the Lord Mayor also was the CEO of Cork City Council, Ann Doherty. Among the matters discussed was the effective work throughout the pandemic of the Cork City Covid–19

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Community Response Forum, chaired by Ann Doherty, and on which Bishop Colton serves.



## **Kilbroney Camps are back. Book now!**

Down & Dromore diocese has announced that their Kilbroney Adventure Camps will be taking place again this summer with Junior, Middle and Senior Camps scheduled for August.

It's the intention to run the camps as normally as possible and so they will involve the usual mix of outdoor activities, games, worship, teaching and campfires – all within the relevant guidelines. The Kilbroney Centre has made some exciting changes over the past year to develop new outdoor areas, refurbish the accommodation and extend the Games Room for larger meetings.

Diocesan Youth Development Officer Tim Burns said, “After the disappointment of having to cancel last year we're really excited about doing the camps again and bringing young people together. We'll be working closely with Jan and the



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team at the Kilbroney Centre to make sure that all the COVID guidelines are followed for the safety of everyone at the camp – both young people and leaders. Kilbroney has hosted several schools throughout May and June and they are experienced in working safely with groups within the regulations.”

The situation of course can change and we will adapt the camps in response to this. If we have to cancel due to changes in COVID guidelines then campers will be offered a full refund.

Here’s what you need to know...

Kilbroney Adventure Camps are for any young person who would like to try new things, make friends, learn about God and have a bit of an adventure! They can come with a group from their church or by themselves as we have plenty of leaders on site. We’ll assign them a friendly leader as soon as they arrive.

Dates

JUNIOR CAMP - Sunday 1 August – Thursday 5 August 2021. (For those going in to Yr. 8, 9 & 10)

MIDDLE CAMP - Friday 6 August – Tuesday 10 August 2021. (For those going in to Yr. 10, 11 & 12)

SENIOR CAMP - Wednesday 11 August – Sunday 15 August 2021. For those going in to Yr. 12, 13 & 14)

Cost - £165 per person. (A deposit of £65 is required to secure a place). There is a 15% discount off the total cost

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for 2 or more siblings attending the camps. A small bursary is also available for any who may need help with the cost of camp.

To book visit:

[kilbroneyadventurecamps2021.eventbritestudio.com](http://kilbroneyadventurecamps2021.eventbritestudio.com)



## **Vacancy for General Manager, Willowfield Parish Community Association**

Willowfield Parish Community Association is seeking to employ a General Manager. The General Manager reports to the WPCA Board and the role involves supporting the Board in bearing responsibility for the day-to-day running and management of the organisation.

The successful candidate will be responsible for the daily management and securing the necessary funding to ensure WPCA projects can continue to run to the benefit of our community and local residents. They will also be the point of contact for all enquiries via phone, email and, under normal circumstances, in person at the office in the Micah Centre.

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Closing date for applications: Wednesday 30 June 2021 at 4.00 pm

For more information and details on how to apply, please download the Job Description from the following link:  
[www.willowfieldchurch.co.uk/about/jobs](http://www.willowfieldchurch.co.uk/about/jobs)

## **Books, Broadcasts, Resources and Webinars**

### **Church Beyond the Walls' service broadcast on RTÉ this Sunday**

The service broadcast on RTÉ this Sunday, 13th June, will be taken by the Church of Ireland Council for Mission and its Association of Mission Societies, with the theme of 'Church Beyond the Walls'. The programme will be broadcast at 11.10am on RTÉ One television and 11.00am on RTÉ Radio 1 Extra/LW 252, and will be available after broadcast on the RTÉ Player.

It will be led by the Revd Adam Pullen, Rector of Stranorlar, in the Diocese of Derry and Raphoe, and the preacher will be the Revd Karen Salmon, Curate of Willowfield, in the Diocese of Down and Dromore. The service will be introduced by Bishop Andrew Forster with prayers led by Jenny Smyth (CMS Ireland) and Emma Lynch (Tearfund Ireland).

The Bible will be read by Julia McKinley (National Bible Society of Ireland), Derek Neilson (from the Diocese of Glendalough), and the Revd Stephen McElhinney (South

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American Mission Society). Music will be provided by Helen Shepherd with singers David and Anna Shepherd.

### **Lambeth Conference - God's Church for God's World'**

'Addressing key concerns such as the COVID-19 pandemic; politics & power, people & poverty, peace & gender justice & climate change.' Professor Joseph Galgalo shares his hopes for Bishops' Conversations about 'God's Church for God's World'. Watch Part 3: <https://vimeo.com/556919374>



### **Webinar on running face-to-face GB Company nights**

Girls' Brigade NI - "In anticipation and support of the restart of our GB Company nights we would like to offer you the opportunity to attend a Q & A webinar on the practicalities of running face-to-face GB Company nights again." Two dates are available. Book your place via <http://gbni.co.uk/leaders>

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## **Virtual tour of beautiful Christ Church Waterford Cathedral**

Check out website:

<https://waterfordinternationalorganfestival.ie/about/>

## **PCI Digital Despatches - from Romania**

Watch the latest update from Csaba and Ilona Veres, PCI global mission workers in Romania partnering with the Hungarian Reformed Church in Transylvania.

Download this and other videos from

[www.presbyterianireland.org/digitaldispatches](http://www.presbyterianireland.org/digitaldispatches)

## **Opinion - EU intransigence threatens the Good Friday agreement - Lord Trimble**

**It is wrong to assert that imposition of the Northern Ireland protocol protects the Good Friday agreement (GFA) and President Biden must resist attempts by EU countries to make him believe that it does, David Trimble writes in The Times.**

As the GFA's co-negotiator, with John Hume, I understand better than anyone the central principles which enabled it to be sold to a sceptical and reluctant unionist population. I can tell the president, the protocol does not defend the GFA.

Negotiating the GFA was difficult and dangerous to myself and my family. I persevered because I believed it was necessary to bring peace. I supported the GFA because there were guarantees to the unionist population that the Union was safe as long as the majority wanted to stay in the

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UK and that any change in the status of Northern Ireland would take place only with the consent of its people. Furthermore that any contentious issues in government had to acquire cross-community consent in the Northern Ireland Assembly.

The problem is that the protocol subverts the GFA by undermining these guarantees, and it is doing real harm to the economy. Worse, there is now significant trade diversion from Britain to the Irish Republic.

The EU mantra that it is protecting the GFA is also stirring up unionist anger and the result is seen in rising tensions on the streets. If the EU cared at all about the careful balance built in to the GFA, then it would show flexibility in seeking a joint solution. Instead, it seems bent on a process that treats Northern Ireland as a political football.

Meanwhile, I have been working to seek a manageable alternative. A couple of years ago I had a meeting with Michel Barnier in which mutual enforcement of trade rules by the UK and the EU was discussed. This plan, if the EU engaged, would ensure the UK single market and the EU single market were protected and 90 per cent of businesses which don't sell outside Northern Ireland would have no more need to engage in costly and disruptive checks. After all, there are now more checks than on all the trade that comes through the EU's entire eastern frontier, a known smuggling route, or even Rotterdam, the EU's main entrance for goods from the rest of the world.

I was honoured to lead Northern Ireland out of one of the darkest periods of its history. Personal and political

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sacrifices were worth it to win support for peace. However, now I fear for stability and peace if the protocol is imposed as the EU seeks. I appeal to those who are clamouring for its imposition either out of ignorance, vengeance for Brexit or economic advantage to understand the dangerous consequences of their demands.

Lord Trimble, first minister of Northern Ireland 1998-2002, won the Nobel peace prize in 1998”

Courtesy The Times, June 10 2021,



## **Pointers for prayer**

Lord, you have taught us  
that all our doings without love are nothing worth:  
Send your Holy Spirit  
and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love,  
the true bond of peace and of all virtues,  
without which whoever lives is counted dead before you.  
Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake.

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Your hand is upon your people, O God,  
to guide and protect them through the ages.  
Keep in your service  
those you have called and anointed,  
that the powers of this world may not overwhelm us,  
but that, secure in your love,  
we may carry out your will  
in the face of all adversity. Amen.

O God our ruler and shepherd,  
you anointed Jesus  
as the king and servant of your people.  
Make us attentive to your word,  
that we may accept your reign over us  
and serve you alone. Amen.

Friends in Christ,  
God invites us to hold the needs of our sisters and brothers  
as dear to us as our own needs.  
Loving our neighbours as ourselves,  
we offer our thanksgivings and our petitions  
on behalf of the church and the world.

...

*Intercessions*

....

Hear our prayers, God of power,  
and through the ministry of your Son  
free us from the grip of the tomb,  
that we may desire you as the fullness of life  
and proclaim your saving deeds to all the world. Amen.  
As you heard the prayer of Isaac and Rebekah, O God,  
and guided them in the way of your love,  
so listen now to those who call upon you.



...

*Intercessions*

....

Move us to praise your gracious will,  
for in Christ Jesus you have saved us from the deeds of  
death

and opened for us the hidden ways of your love.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord God, friend of those in need,  
your Son Jesus has untied our burdens  
and healed our spirits.

We lift up the prayers of our hearts for those still burdened,  
those seeking healing,  
those in need within the church and the world.

*...Intercessions....*

Hear our prayers  
that we may love you with our whole being  
and willingly share the concerns of our neighbours. Amen.

Creator God,  
you call us to love and serve you  
with body, mind, and spirit  
through loving your creation  
and our sisters and brothers.  
Open our hearts in compassion  
and receive these petitions  
on behalf of the needs of the church and the world.

## Speaking to the Soul

**“And now, O Lord, hear their threats, and give us, your servants, great boldness in preaching your word. Stretch out your hand with healing power; may miraculous signs and wonders be done through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”**

Acts 4:29-30 NLT

Having been ordered to keep quiet by the Jewish council, Peter and John returned to their Christian friends to update them. Their response was to pray, and what a beautiful prayer it is. You would have understood if they had asked God to sort out their opponents, but they didn't. They simply asked God for more boldness so that they could continue their ministry and they prayed for yet more miraculous signs and wonders. The pressure of the authorities wasn't going to silence them for a moment.

I have had the privilege of meeting with a number of Christians who have suffered greatly for their faith. During the communist era I remember speaking with a Romanian Christian leader who had been repeatedly threatened by the secret police. We knew that we were being followed throughout our visit and so went to a secret location to hear his story away from prying eyes and ears. In Pakistan I recall meeting a man who had been rejected by his family and thrown out of his village when he became a Christian. He had been threatened with death if he returned. I have so much respect for those who have had to exhibit real courage and boldness to maintain their Christian witness.

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Such threats are not typical of our society, but it still requires considerable boldness to speak up for Jesus when people are instinctively suspicious and even nervous of those who have strong religious convictions. We have probably all felt the temptation to say nothing just in case our Christian beliefs are misunderstood or misinterpreted. We need to pray for godly boldness so that we speak up for the Lord, whatever the reaction.

## QUESTION

Do you consider that you need more boldness to speak about your faith?

## PRAYER

Loving God, help me to share the Good News with grace and boldness. Amen

