



*President Michael D Higgins recalled the 11 million victims at the Holocaust Memorial Day Commemoration in the Mansion House, Dublin.*

## **Holocaust victims must not be let ‘die twice’, says President**

Michael D Higgins, at memorial service, says world has duty to remember those who died

Irish Times - The world has a duty not to allow those killed in the Holocaust to “die twice” by forgetting them, President [Michael D Higgins](#) has said.

Speaking at the annual Holocaust Memorial Day Commemoration in Dublin, Mr Higgins said it was vital to remember and draw lessons from the horrors carried out by the Nazis as our direct human ties to the Holocaust began to fade.

“For some, the burden of that past is too heavy, too painful to remember. However, forgetting the past . . . can in itself be a harmful and damaging act,” he said. Through remembering we could “gain release from past wrongs and acquire also the resolution to anticipate revivals of hate and exclusion”.

Citing French philosopher Paul Ricoeur, who said that to be forgotten was to die twice, Mr Higgins said there was a duty to preserve the memory of those who died “so shockingly and so tragically” and to commit to drawing lessons.

He paid tribute to the three Holocaust survivors – [Suzi Diamond](#), [Jan Kaminski](#) and [Tomi Reichental](#) – who attended the commemoration which featured candle lighting and readings for millions killed by Nazis and collaborators.

Ms Fitzgerald read the words of [Simone Veil](#), a Holocaust survivor and founder of the Mémorial de la Shoah in Paris, who noted it was the

survivors who first acknowledged their responsibility for passing on knowledge of the Holocaust. “The Shoah should never be diminished, denied, used for other ends or trivialised,” she said.

Mr Flanagan said the ceremony honoured the memory of the 11 million men, women and children who were “systematically and brutally murdered” in the Holocaust.

“Those who lost their lives included six million Jews and five million more people murdered because of their nationality, ethnic origin, disability, sexual orientation, political affiliations or religious beliefs,” he said.

[Maurice Cohen](#), chairman of the [Jewish Representative Council of Ireland](#), recalled the Évian conference of July 1938 to consider the position of Jewish refugees. Of the 32 countries represented, including Ireland, none was willing to take in more refugees.

Among those who took part in the ceremony were Chief Justice [Susan Denham](#), Minister for Justice [Frances Fitzgerald](#), Minister for Foreign Affairs [Charlie Flanagan](#), Lord Mayor of Dublin Christy Burke and the Israeli ambassador to

[Ireland](#), [Boaz Modai](#). Former president Mary McAleese also attended the ceremony, organised by the Holocaust Education Trust Ireland in association with the [Department of Justice and Equality](#) and [Dublin City Council](#).

The President said that while remembering the “very horrific” events, we must also remember there was light. “There is good to be found in the world, and there are good people who will stand against hatred, destruction and intolerance and will carry the torch of truth and light with them,” he said.

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/holocaust-victims-must-not-be-let-die-twice-says-president-1.2079189>

## **Dublin to Join 70 Cities in Hosting Q Commons**

### **– Participants to Consider How to Advance Good in the City**

On Friday February 27, Dublin will link with 70 cities around the world and 10,000 people in hosting Q Commons. The event will take place in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, from 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm and it is being hosted by a partnership between Dublin and Glendalough Young Adults



The poster for Q Commons Dublin features a night view of the city with a large white 'Q' logo and the text 'COMMONS' and 'Dublin'. It lists three global talks: Malcolm Gladwell's 'Legitimacy', Soledad O'Brien's 'Ethnic Division', and Mark Burnett's 'Virtue in Entertainment'. It also lists three local talks curated for Dublin at Christ Church Cathedral. The event is on Thursday evening, February 27, 2015, from 7:00pm to 9:00pm.

**Q**  
**COMMONS**  
February 27, 2015  
7:00pm–9:00pm  
**Dublin**

Join us Thursday evening, February 27, as we gather to learn and consider how to advance good in our city.

**THREE GLOBAL TALKS**

	<b>MALCOLM GLADWELL</b> New York Times Bestselling Author	<b>LEGITIMACY</b>
	<b>SOLEDAD O'BRIEN</b> Broadcast Journalist	<b>ETHNIC DIVISION</b>
	<b>MARK BURNETT</b> Television Producer	<b>VIRTUE IN ENTERTAINMENT</b>

**WITH THREE LOCAL TALKS CURATED FOR DUBLIN**

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL  
Christchurch Place | Dublin, Ireland 8

Q Commons brings the Q global event experience to your community

Join with 10,000 participants across 75+ cities to enjoy an evening of vision, learning and engagement on the cultural issues and topics that matter most.

Learn more and register at [QCommons.com/Dublin](http://QCommons.com/Dublin)

Ministry, Rubicon, the Young Adults Leadership Programme and Innovista among others.

Q Commons involves people in cities all over the world gathering to learn and consider how to advance good in their local communities. It takes place twice a year – in Spring and Autumn. This 2–minute video will give you a glimpse of what it is all about. Q Commons Dublin Promo Video

QCommons is an offshoot of the very successful Q organisation. Inspired by a statement from Chuck Colson (Christian leader and previously special counsel to President Nixon), Q is an organisation that came out of American Gabe Lyons' vision to see Christians, especially

leaders, recover a vision for their historic responsibility to renew and restore cultures.

Q helps people explore topics that fall into four broad themes: culture, future, church, and gospel with the aim of equipping innovators, social entrepreneurs, entertainers, artists, church-shapers, futurists, scientists, educators, historians, environmentalists, and everyday people to do extraordinary things. It's motto is 'Stay Curious. Think Well. Advance Good'.

Q is the inspiration behind the Rubicon conferences organised by Greg Fromholz and the Revd Rob Jones of Holy Trinity, Rathmines.

Three video interviews will be shown world wide during Q Commons. The speakers will be New York Times best selling author Malcolm Gladwell who will address the subject of legitimacy, award winning journalist Soledad O'Brien who speak about race in America and renowned television producer Mark Burnett (The Voice, The Apprentice and more) who will look at virtue in entertainment. There will be two Irish contributors who have yet to be confirmed.

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For further information and to book tickets for Q Commons Dublin see [www.QCommons.com/Dublin](http://www.QCommons.com/Dublin). The site also contains full information on all the speakers on the night. Tickets cost €20 each and there will only be space for 120 participants.



*David Charleton, team leader and founder of Hope Builders with Ken McGrath and George Webb from Knocknamuckley.*

## **Down Fields of Life team working in Uganda**

Another Fields of Life Hope Builders team has left for Uganda with 3 clergy from Down & [churchnewsireland@gmail.com](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.com)

Dromore and some of their parishioners on board.

The rector of Knocknamuckley, Revd Kilkpatrick, Revd Ken McGrath, rector of Kilkeel and Revd Rab Mollan (NSM) are in the party of 38 drawn from South Down, Aghalee, Belfast and the Ards Peninsula.

Rab will act as team doctor whilst Alan and Ken will dip into education, building and pastoral roles. Diocesan Lay Reader and Kilkeel parishioner, David Charleton, is the team leader and founder of Hope Builders and is pictured L–R with Ken McGrath and George Webb from Knocknamuckley. Their destination is Nakansongola, a few hours north of Kampala and the site of a flourishing primary and secondary school complex built by Hope Builders under the auspices of Fields of Life. This is Hope Builders fourth and probably last trip to Bethel Royal School and whilst there they will erect an ‘A’ Level block and a dormitory.

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## **C of I representatives to inter-church bodies**

The Standing Committee of the General Synod of The Church of Ireland has agreed to the appointment of the following to attend the AGM of the Irish Council of Churches which will take place next in Sydenham, Belfast on the 26th of March 2015:

Archbishop Michael Jackson; Bishop Harold Miller; Bishop John McDowell; Bishop Patrick Rooke; Bishop Kenneth Kearon; the Very Revd John Mann; Canon Daniel Nuzum; Canon David Crooks; Canon Ian Ellis; Canon Timothy Kinahan; the Revd Asa Bjork Olafsdottir; the Revd Niall Sloane; Dr Kenneth Milne; Mrs Roberta McKelvey; Mrs Ruth Handy; Mr Sam Harper; Mr Philip McKinley; Ms Uta Raab and two students from the Theological Institute. Canon Robert Jones and Ms Cate Turner as reserves.

The retirement of Bishop Trevor Williams left a vacancy on the ICC Executive. Standing Committee appointed Bishop Kenneth Kearon to fill the position.

Ms Maxine Judge was appointed to fill a vacancy on the ICC European Affairs Committee.

Archdeacon Andrew Orr; the Revd Patrick Burke; Archdeacon Leslie Stevenson and Mr Sam Harper, were appointed to represent the Church of Ireland at the Irish Inter Church Meeting which is to be held on the 27th of November 2014.

## **Profile - Church of England ordains first female bishop, a saxophone-playing football fan**



The Church of England's Manchester United-supporting, saxophone-playing first female

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bishop is an ordinary woman facing an extraordinary job.

Straits Times - The Reverend Libby Lane, 48, will have to work within an organisation still deeply divided on whether she, or anyone of her gender, should be a bishop at all. She will go from being a regular parish priest to taking on one of the trickiest jobs in the Church of England since King Henry VIII founded it in 1534.

Rev Lane formally becomes a bishop on Monday during a ceremony in the Gothic splendour of York Minster in northern England.

Friends say her humour and common sense will stand her in good stead, faced with the pressure of being the Church of England's first female bishop since it was founded by King Henry VIII in 1534. "She's a non-anxious presence, she's a calming feature of life, she's got a very lively sense of humour and her lack of self-importance means she will cope with being the first woman bishop brilliantly," Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby said last month.

See more at: <http://www.straitstimes.com/news/world/europe/story/church-england-ordain-first->

female-bishop-saxophone-playing-football-fan-201#sthash.Br72ishy.dpuf

## **Interview with C of E Bishop Libby Lane**

A new Church of England film with the Revd Libby Lane was released ahead of her consecration yesterday - Monday. Libby is the first female bishop in the Church of England. Recorded on the day her appointment was announced, it has behind the scenes footage and a previously unseen interview with Libby as she reflects on her faith journey, and looks ahead to her new challenge.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G2Z5p5vptwQ>

## **The Guardian view on Libby Lane's consecration as bishop of Stockport: a hands-on approach**

The consecration of the first female bishop is a time to rejoice, but the Church of England is still divided over this essential reform

The consecration at York Minster on Monday of the [Rev Libby Lane](#) as the new bishop of Stockport shows that the Church of England has

got at least one foot in the 21st century; the consecration next week of the Rev Philip North as bishop of Burnley shows that it still has a rump in the fifth.

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/jan/25/guardian-view-libby-lane-consecration-bishop-stockport>

## **Holy Cross Church in Kenmare holds time capsule ceremony**

Hundreds of parishioners gathered at Holy Cross Church in Kenmare for a final ritual to mark the more than 150 years since the church was consecrated on 14th September 1864.

West Cork Times -Following a service in the church officiated by Diocese of Kerry Bishop Ray Browne , a steel capsule containing more than 1,000 letters and cards, photos, CDs, videos and news clippings was lowered into the ground next to the church.

The spot is marked by a stone plaque which reads: "Holy Cross Church 150th Anniversary Capsule. To be opened ion 2064 on the 200th anniversary of the Church."

The time capsule is filled with items that will represent to the people of Kenmare Parish 50 years from now the story of the parish's history and the ways in which its 150th anniversary was celebrated in 2014.

The program noted: "In this time capsule we have written our deepest convictions and blessings to those who will follow us, including letters to the future with our hopes, dreams and aspirations for dear and loved ones."

The ceremony was marked by the ringing of church bells, prayers, liturgical music, readings from Scripture, the release of balloons, and closing music by The Rev'd. Michael Cavanagh, Rector of the nearby St. Patrick's Church of Ireland.

To watch RTE's coverage of the event :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YrE1Gylccxw&feature=youtu.be>

<http://westcorktimes.com/home/archives/29808>

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## Death of popular minister - gifted preacher and Ulster rugby player



***Canon Alfie O'Connor***

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Popular clergyman Canon Alfred Stanley O'Connor, who lived and served in Fermanagh for many years, passed away peacefully at his Stewartstown home on Monday, January 12, 2015, aged 94.

Impartial Reporter - A gifted preacher during many years as an ordained minister in the Church of Ireland, he had been an enthusiastic and successful pedigree cattle breeder exhibiting prize Herefords and ponies at shows.

He had also been a gifted sportsman and played rugby for Malone and Ulster, as well as turning out for the Ireland rugby team for a season (as a substitute).

Alfie, as he was best known was born in Ventry, Co. Kerry, the sixth of seven children; the last of his generation of O'Connors, he grew up on a mixed farm with dairy, beef, sheep and horses.

He attended National School in Ventry, followed by Kilkenny College, where he became a Prefect and played hockey for Leinster Schools, before going to Mountjoy College, from where he won a scholarship in Irish, enabling him to study at Trinity College, Dublin. Excelling as a scholar and a sportsman at Trinity, he was awarded a



Double Pink in rugby and field athletics, and was also made a Knight of the Campanile.

He was ordained as a curate for the Church of Ireland and from 1943 to 1946, he served his first curacy in St. Michael's Parish Church, Shankill Road, Belfast; he played rugby for Malone and Ulster with the great Jack Kyle.

His next curacy was spent in Cavan Parish, 1946 to 1949, after which was appointed Rector of St. John's Parish, Florencecourt, moving within the same Diocese of Kilmore. It was his first contact with the people of Fermanagh and although he stayed just five years, he returned later. It was during the O'Connors incumbency in Florencecourt that their only child, Susan, was born.

From 1954 to 1962, he served as Rector at St. Cronin's, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary, and then from 1962 to 1965 at Christ Church Bessbrook, Co. Armagh. His final parish was St. Anne's Drumglass, where he spent 20 years as Rector (1965 to 1985).

Alfie decided to retire from full time ministry at the age of 65; he came to reside at Brookeborough and he made a profound contribution to the

Clogher Diocese, where he conducted services in vacant parishes.

Alfie continued his farming and show exhibiting during the week, while on Sundays he and Eileen (formerly Ebbitt) would set out to take the main service of the day in some part of the Diocese.

In his 11 years living in Fermanagh, Alfie covered 13 vacant parishes throughout the Clogher Diocese. Wherever they went Alfie and Eileen always received a warm welcome.

From his time spent in Dungannon, Alfie kept show ponies and his tack room at his bungalow at Brookeborough had been a treasure chest of saddlery, rosettes and photographs of past champions.

Alfie bred and exhibited show champions at the highest level at Dublin and Balmoral as well as country shows.

He joined Fermanagh Farming Society and he was elected Chairman of its Horse Show Committee.

Alfie built up a highly successful pedigree Hereford herd and he achieved a lot of recognition, winning Championships at many shows.

He served as President of the Hereford Association.

He kept ponies and he showed the Young Stock in hand at Balmoral Show, winning six times, which could well be a record.

In 1996, he left Fermanagh - where he had found a place in the hearts of many people - and he went to live in retirement at Stewartstown. His interests included watching a lot of sport on television and he was a great Manchester United supporter.

<http://www.impartialreporter.com/news/roundup/articles/2015/01/24/407702-death-of-popular-minister-who-was-a-gifted-preacher-and-played-rugby-for-ulster/>

## I wish marriage annulment process could be free of charge, says Pope Francis



***Francis walks past members of the Roman Rota at the start of the Vatican's judicial year***

Pope Francis has said he wished that all annulment processes could be free of charge.

In an address to the Roman Rota, the Vatican tribunal primarily responsible for hearing requests for marriage annulments, he said: “The sacraments are free. The sacraments give us grace. And a matrimonial process pertains to the sacrament of matrimony. How I wish that all processes were free.”

In an address inaugurating the Roman Rota’s judicial year, Pope Francis also said that, because contemporary culture portrays marriage as a “mere form of emotional gratification”, people often marry without a true understanding of the sacrament, meaning many such marriages might actually be invalid.

“The judge, in pondering the validity of the consent expressed, must take into account the context of values and of faith – or their presence or absence – in which the intent to marry was formed. In fact, ignorance of the contents of the faith could lead to what the code [of canon law] calls an error conditioning the will.

“This eventuality is not to be considered rare as in the past, precisely because worldly thinking often prevails over the magisterium of the Church,” the Pope said.

## **Pope urges new cardinals not to let nomination go to their heads**

Pope Francis has urged the 20 new cardinals he will create next month not to overdo their celebrations.

Writing to the new cardinals he will create in February, he said they should graciously accept that their friends, family and faithful will want to celebrate, but they also should ensure that the celebrations are not exaggerated.

“As good Christians, they will celebrate because Christians rejoice and know how to celebrate,” the Pope wrote. “Accept it with humility. Only do so in a way that in these celebrations there does not creep in a spirit of worldliness that intoxicates more than grappa on an empty stomach, disorienting and separating one from the Cross of Christ.”

The letter, signed by the Pope on January 4, the day he announced the names of the new cardinals, was published in L'Osservatore Romano, the Vatican newspaper.

Pope Francis had written a similar letter, also requesting restrained celebrations, when he created new cardinals in 2014.

Pope Francis also told the 20 cardinals he will create on February 14 that their new role in the Church is a call to greater service, helping, supporting and being particularly close to the Pope for the good of the Church.

“It will do your heart good to repeat in prayer the expression Jesus himself suggested to his disciples to help them remain humble: ‘We are worthless slaves,’” the Pope said, quoting Luke 17:10.

“Maintaining humility in service is not easy when people consider becoming a cardinal a prize, the culmination of a career” or a sign of power, he said.

Cardinals must make a commitment to ensuring they do not fall prey to such ideas, but rather

remember that they are called to give greater witness to Christ, “to the point of shedding blood if necessary”.

Pope Francis closed his letter saying he would see them on February 14.

“Prepare with prayer and some penitence,” he said. “Be at peace and be happy. And, please, I ask you not to forget to pray for me.”

## **Wales appoints first Director of Ministry and Discipleship**

An officer responsible for lay training, mission and coaching has been appointed to the new Diocesan post of Director of Ministry and Discipleship.

Canon Richard Lowndes, whose current brief also includes being the Diocesan Advocate for the Church in Wales Review, takes up his new post with immediate effect.

In his new role, Canon Richard will head up key diocesan areas of activity in ministry, vocation, discipleship, mission and lay training – he will

also be joining the senior staff team of the Diocese.

The appointment comes three years after Canon Richard returned to Wales to help with lay training, coaching parishioners and supporting the clergy – having spent the previous eight years as senior manager in spiritual care, bereavement care and voluntary services at the University Hospital Southampton.

Canon Richard, who is looking forward to his new role, said, “We have a considerable challenge ahead of us as a Church. We have all the recommendations from the Church in Wales Review to consider whilst also honouring the culture and heritage of this diocese.

“The aim is to equip the clergy and the lay people, as we set up ministry areas, with the right skills so that we have a church that is dynamic and able to flourish in this new era for the Church in Wales.

“We need to bring the lay people to the fore, we need to recognise and value the ministry that lay people can exercise, whilst not losing the core function of the clergy and our Anglican identity.”



## Media digest

### **BBC**

Report that Revd Anne Morris at St Oswalds in Knuzden (Blackburn Diocese) held a 10-minute silence in protest over the upcoming installation of the Bishop of Burnley, Philip North. She replaced her sermon with the silent protest over the changes made to the ceremony, which she believes are because of his opposition to female bishops. The Archbishop of York Dr John Sentamu said the arrangements were made "for prayer, not politics". The Bishop of Blackburn, Julian Henderson, is also quoted.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-lancashire-30973904>

### **BBC**

Report that the Dean of Rochester Cathedral, Mark Beach has resigned from his post after separating from his wife. The Bishop of Rochester, James Langstaff said the Dean would leave the cathedral in Kent immediately, to take up a role outside ordained ministry, as director of London charity the Blackfriars Settlement and asked the Cathedral Community to pray for Mark and his family. The Rev Canon Philip Hesketh is to become acting dean.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-kent-30974112>

## **BBC**

Report stating the Jersey synod has passed a motion regretting the actions of the Bishop of Winchester in declining to release Dame Heather Steel's report looking into how an abuse allegation was handled. It claims synod members said the report should be made public in the name of Christian reconciliation, so the episode could be put to rest and the church could move forward. The Channel Islands currently relates to the Diocese of Canterbury, instead of Winchester, as part of an interim oversight arrangement.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-jersey-30972876>

## **Times**

Columnist Matt Ridley writes about conservation and issue of bats in churches, saying they should be moved and money spent on other more important conservation issues.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/columnists/article4334370.ece>

## **Tel**

Report that some of the music composed and performed in concentration camps like Auschwitz and Sachsenhausen is to be performed in

memory of the millions killed by the Nazis, during a service at Westminster Abbey. The service will mark the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz by Soviet troops, as part of the Holocaust Memorial Day commemorations. As part of the ceremony, on Sunday, February 1, the former poet laureate, Sir Andrew Motion, will also read a poem written by him for the occasion in memory of those who lost their lives in the camps.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11367391/Westminster-Abbey-to-honour-music-of-the-Nazi-camps.html>

## **BBC**

Report that a Bath church project hopes 80 Pakistan school massacre survivors will receive help. It states over the past year, the Church has given aid and counselling to victims of the [2013 suicide bombing of All Saints Church](#), which is near the school. Qamar Rafiq from the Help and Hope project will spend three months in Pakistan to oversee the provision of medicine and counselling to survivors. The project was set up by the Revd Alan Bain of St Philip and St James churches in Bath.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-somerset-30877421>

## **Mail**

Report on the sale of Anglican churches for possible development into housing. It lists some of the churches up for sale and reports that the Church of England has too many churches for the number of worshippers, since attendances have fallen. It lists the prices of some of the churches which are for sale and states the approximate average price of churches for sale is £150,000, which is what is being asked for limestone St Anthony church in Cowley, Devon.

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/swapping-prophets-profits-anglican-church-5041179>

## **BBC**

Report that St Andrew's Church in Ramsbottom, Greater Manchester, which partly "exploded" when it was hit by lightning, has re-opened. It states one of the building's tower pinnacle broke up when it was struck in July 2013 and smashed through the roof. Reverend Andy Lindop, who led a service of rededication, said it had been a "major restoration job".

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-manchester-30973007>