



The essential daily brief on the Irish churches

Bishops Bless New Titanic Memorial Garden in Cobh

The Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, the Right Reverend Dr Paul Colton, joined the Bishop of Cloyne, the Most Reverend William Crean, in blessing the new Titanic Memorial Garden in Cobh, County Cork on Friday last.

Queenstown (as it then was) was the last port of call RMS Titanic on 11th April, 1912.

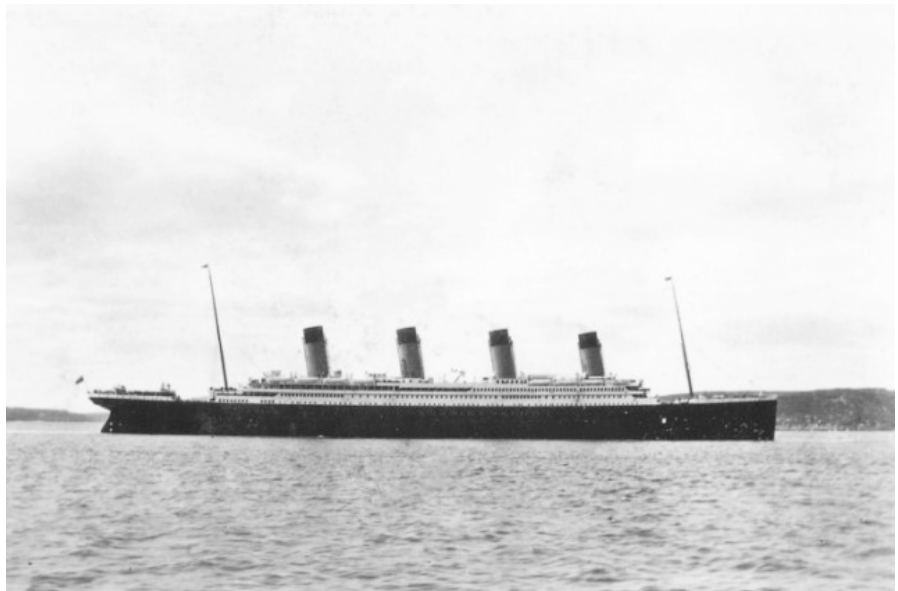
The Memorial Garden is situated at the ancient Cove Fort at the eastern end of the town of Cobh beside the Port Operations and Information Station of the Port of Cork (the Pilot Station). Before the official opening of the Memorial Garden by the Mayor of Cobh, Councillor John Mulvihill, the Bishops joined in a short Ecumenical Service of reading, prayer and reflection before also dedicating the glass memorial 'wall' at the heart of the Garden.

Bishop Colton said: It really is beautiful and poignant. Inscribed on the specially designed glass wall are the names of the 123 parishioners who embarked on RMS Titanic at Cobh. Seventy-nine of those perished in the disaster. When one faces the memorial and looks through the etching of the ship at the centre of the glass wall it creates the impression of the position of the ship at anchor at the mouth of Cork Harbour on that day in 1912.



The Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, Dr Paul Colton, chats after the dedication with Commodore Hugh Tully, Flag Officer Commanding the Irish Naval Service.

I found the occasion very moving, not least because of the music provided by a single cello and one violin, but also, as the new memorial was being blessed, in a lovely moment of thoughtful coordination, the world-famous 49-bell Carillon at St Colman's Cathedral Cobh, some 100s of metres away in the town centre, played 'Nearer my God to thee.' It is a place of solace and appropriate remembrance on that shoreline of embarkation and emigration from which the ship would have been much in sight on that day 102 years ago.



RMS Titanic arriving at Queenstown (Cobh, County Cork) on 11th April, 1912

Success for BCM's Housing Support for Young People Project

In 2013, Belfast Central Mission (BCM) Housing Support for Young People made a successful bid for funding to [ElectricAid Ireland](#) for the development of their home improvement and life skills programme.



They named the programme HOME. The programme aimed to increase young people's skills

and improve their living conditions by providing a home makeover where they could work in teams.

The programme has been a great success and has provided participants with homes they can be proud of and which will help them lead a more settled life.

BCM's Housing Support service works with young people aged 16-25 who are homeless, leaving care, or experiencing difficulties in relation to their tenancies.

Support is offered in a range of areas, including:

- managing tenancy and accommodation
- self-care and living skills
- budgeting
- education, training and employment and much more

The young people are provided with a dedicated support worker, and can avail of the service for up to two years. The projects are user led and based upon the needs of the participants.

Read the story of one of the young people who benefitted from the programme at: <http://www.irishmethodist.org/news/10-april-2014/success-bcms-home-project#sthash.2emJamjH.dpuf>

National Pastoral Conference 2014

The National Pastoral Conference (25-27 September) is offered to people who are charged with leadership, faith development, care and/or other pastoral responsibilities in dioceses, parishes, Pastoral Areas (groups of parishes), schools, religious congregations and ecclesial movements.

The Conference is being organised on behalf of the Council for Pastoral Renewal and Adult Faith Development and the aims of this three-day event are:

- to be nourished together in faith
- to share programmes and experiences and
- to enhance our understanding, motivation and skills, so that we may, in our local settings, share the Good News as people who are constantly being evangelised

Further information and the booking form is available at -

<http://www.catholicbishops.ie/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/National-Pastoral-Conference-2014.pdf>

Presbyterians to sing old hymns in new ways

Choirs and singers from every Presbyterian Church have been invited to join together to do what they like doing best – to sing – and the theme this year is to look at some of the older hymns and using them in newer ways.

“Last year I was amazed at the support we received for our first *Big Sing*,” says Rev. Karen Campbell, one of the organisers.

“It encouraged me that there is still an appetite for getting together and singing and even more for doing it to bring honour and glory to God, and so we have planned another.”

Over recent years there has been a rediscovery of the doctrinal and musical richness and heritage found in the historical hymnodies of the Christian churches. Choirs, recording artists and others are again singing some of these forgotten hymns and in them finding a fresh expression of their faith.

To catch this mood the Presbyterian Board of Mission in Ireland asked well know local musicians Esther Church and Jonathan Rea to revisit some of the great hymns in the Presbyterian tradition and write new, contemporary arrangements. These are included in a music book *Old Hymns in News Ways* which is being launched at the event.

“Our hope is that these new arrangements would enliven and enrich congregational singing where ever they are used,” adds Karen Campbell, explaining that they have deliberately tried to choose hymns with some kind of connection to Celtic Spirituality.

The hymn *St. Patrick's Breastplate*, which needs no introduction to local choirs, has been given a fresh interpretation in the hope that it will be sung more widely while the work of two other Irish hymn writers also features heavily. They are Rev. John Samuel Bewley Monsell from Londonderry who wrote *Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness* and James Montgomery who grew up in Ballymena and whose best known hymn is *Angels from the realms of Glory*.

The day falls into three practical sessions and a final worship session which is free and open to everyone whether they have been at the other sessions or

not and which begins at 3.00pm

Session one looks at medleys and how contemporary worship songs can be grafted together in a complementary way. Session two looks at recent choral arrangements and the music produced specially for the day and session three looks at a range of hymns set in newer contexts including new tunes or new musical interpretations of the original tune.

Session four is everyone's opportunity to join in a worship session using the new skills that have been explained earlier in the day and the new hymns and music that have been taught.

"This will be a practical day, full of musical participation and modeling of ideas, ranging from acoustic to band, choral to congregational and with plenty of materials to take away," adds Karen Campbell. "It's not a day designed for one particular type of music, or musician, or singer, or age group but for everyone to stand on the shoulders of our spiritual forefathers and be encouraged by the grace, richness and beauty of their hymns."

The day costs £10 including lunch with the final session being free and open to anyone to attend. More information can be found at www.presbyterianireland.org/events

Booking for the practical sessions is essential and can be completed by emailing Laura Whitcroft at whitcroft@presbyterianireland.org

Church treasurer who stole £60,000 from her church 'frittered it away

An honorary church treasurer who stole £60,000 "frittered away" the money on meals, weekends away and buying a car, a sentencing hearing's been told.

Belfast Telegraph - Londonderry Crown court heard that the theft by Lyndsey Bredin (27) has had a "disastrous effect" on the Culmore and Muff Church of Ireland Parish Church in the city.

Bredin, of Primity Crescent in Newbuildings on the outskirts of Derry, admitted 19 counts of theft that occurred between March 2010 and October 2011.

The court was told that Bredin, who wept in the dock throughout the hearing, was writing cheques on church funds and making them payable to herself.

Prosecution barrister Andrew Crawford said that Bredin had been elected honorary treasurer in 2009 and had taken up her post in 2010.

Her role was to keep accounts for the church to present to the Select Vestry and also to pay the relevant bills needed for the upkeep of the church.

The court heard that it became apparent around the end of 2010 that the role was not being fulfilled and this was initially put down to her inability to cope or personal difficulties.

Bredin then told the church she was suffering from ME and it was suggested that she should stand down, which she did in November 2011. More at - <http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/northern-ireland/culmore-and-muff-church-treasurer-who-stole-60000-from-her-church-frittered-it-away-on-a-car-weekend-breaks-and-meals-out-30178649.html>

Reflection for Holy Week and Easter by the Archbishop of Armagh

One of the most important things about Easter is that we do not separate it from Holy Week. Nor *vice versa*. Easter Day is not merely a happy ending to a hitherto sad tale, and Holy Week is not simply a tragedy of epic proportions.

It is not that there is not supreme happiness and joy on Easter Day with the resurrection of hope and of love in the person of the risen Christ, nor that the events of Holy Week do not stand on their own as a narrative of heroic self-sacrifice culminating in the torture of the Via Dolorosa and Calvary. But it is when we pray and worship through Holy Week consciously and constantly aware that this is the Incarnate Christ who is voluntarily walking towards the horrors of the Cross, that the radiance of the resurrection becomes absolute for us.



There were other 'resurrections' reported in the Scriptures – the son of the widow of Nain, and Lazarus to name only two – but Easter Day is the

celebration of *the resurrection of the crucified Lord*. 'Crucified and risen' belong together in the good news that we are called to proclaim to the world.

In the light of Holy Week and Easter, we see injustice, fear and hatred apparently victorious, but ultimately thrown into defeat by the Glory of God. You and I are called by Christ not simply to rejoice in his resurrection with all that this means for us as individuals, but to work on earth in his name for a resurrection victory over the forces of injustice, greed and fear that we see around us each day.

Holy Week Services and Events

'Quiet Peacemakers,' a unique exhibition which was recently launched in Stormont's Long Gallery will be on display in the Church of the Good Shepherd, Monkstown, during Holy Week.

The exhibition features 32 'quiet peacemakers' whose portraits were painted by local artist Susan Hughes. See [http://](http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/northern-ireland/art-exhibition-hails-peacemakers-30141969.html)

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Palm Sunday at St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork

The Priest-in-Charge of the Church of the Good Shepherd, the Rev Arlene Moore, said: "As a united covenant church which seeks to embody and work for unity and peace, we are hosting the full exhibition in COGS in Holy Week and those featured in the portraits will be offered personal invitations to come visit us and 'watch with us' for a while.

"Appropriate Scriptures and material for reflection will accompany the paintings which will effectively then also serve as interactive prayer stations and enable us to pray for the quiet peacemakers identified, the work they've pioneered, and for all who work tirelessly for peace and reconciliation in our land."

Mrs Joan Trew, a member of Church of the Good Shepherd is featured as one off the quiet peacemakers. Joan was identified because of the knitted Christmas tree and Nativity project she developed in conjunction with Fr Martin Magill (who is also portrayed) and



Palm Sunday - some of the parishioners on the way to the Church of St Mary, Carrigaline, County Cork led by Billy the donkey.

the people of St Oliver Plunkett's and Lenadoon. In keeping with this theme an Easter prayer tree and knitted Bible scenes of the Easter story made by the parish's Craft and Fellowship club will also be on display.

The exhibition will run in the church from Palm Sunday to Easter Day and outside of services/other events (see below) the church will be open to the public for quiet prayer and reflection Mon–Fri 10am–3pm. The Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev Alan Abernethy, will be calling in to see the exhibition on Wednesday morning.

In **St Macartin's cathedral, Enniskillen**, there will be a parish mission for Holy Week with the ordinands from the **Church of Ireland Theological Institute** and the Bishop of Clogher who will preach each evening.

On Wednesday the lunchtime organ recital in **St Mary's cathedral, Limerick**, will be given by Peter Barley who will perform Alan Ridout's 'The Fourteen Stations of the Cross'. This will be a special performance for Holy Week.

At 7.30pm, in **Education House, the Centre for the Study of Irish Protestantism in NUI Maynooth** will host an evening on 'Community, Ecology and Spirituality' led by the Scottish ecologist, theologian and writer, Dr Alastair McIntosh.

The **Bishop of Derry & Raphoe** will preside at Holy Week services in Castlerock on Wednesday, Meenglass on Thursday and Desertmartin on Good Friday.

In **Cork diocese** some parishes are adopting special themes as a focus for the commemorations.

In St John's,

Monkstown, the theme is *Holy Week through the Eyes of the Romans* at 7.30 p.m. on Monday

(Pilate), Tuesday (Roman

Soldier) and Wednesday (Roman Centurion). In Carrigrohane the theme is *The Nail* - monologues which express the thoughts of some of the key characters from the days before Jesus' crucifixion at 8 p.m. on Wednesday (Inniscarra), Maundy Thursday (Blarney) and Good Friday (Carrigrohane).



In St John the Baptist, Midleton on Monday at 8 p.m. there will be a concert: *Stabat Mater*. On Tuesday 15th in Cloyne Cathedral at 8 p.m. and, at the same time, on Wednesday 16th in East Ferry there will be Services of Night Prayer with Reflection. Special Taizé Services are being held on Monday and Tuesday at 8 p.m. in St Michael's, Blackrock with a special focus on images of religious art. On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings there will be special Services at 8 p.m. in Cobh (14th), Glanmire (15th) and Little Island (16th). On those same evenings at 8 p.m. the Office of Compline will be said in Rincurran, Templetrine and Ballymartle. There will be special speakers in two parishes: Bishop Richard Henderson in Douglas; and the Rev. Daphne Twynem in Clonakilty.

On Maundy Thursday the Bishop of Cork, Cloyne & Ross will preside at the Chrism Eucharist and Renewal of Ordination Vows in St Fachtna's cathedral, Rosscarbery, where the preacher will be the **Rt Revd Richard Henderson**, a former Dean of Ross and Bishop of Tuam.

Archbishop Michael Jackson will celebrate Chrism Eucharist in **Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin**, on Maundy Thursday, April 17, at 11.00 am.

St Ann's Church, Dawson Street, Dublin, will hold a three hour service on Good Friday, April 18, from 12.00 noon to 3.00 pm. Reflections will be provided by the Revd Sonia Gyles, Rector of Sandford and Milltown. All are welcome to attend and those unable to attend the full service may enter and exit during the hymns.

This year **Bishop Harold Miller** of Down & Dromore will be speaking throughout Holy Week at **Willowfield Church, Belfast**.

The parish is planning a series of special events and services, inside and outside the church, which will offer a dramatic retelling of the Passion (watch out for the guards outside the 'tomb' on Easter Saturday.)

St Mark's, Ballymacash, Lisburn (Connor Diocese) holds its annual Holy Week Discussion Forum on Tuesday April 15.

Seize the Day, a discussion forum on putting faith into practice, takes place at 8pm in the Parish Hall, and everyone is welcome.

Forum chairman is Mr Richard Reynolds, and the panel will be made up of Fearghal McKinney, MLA for South Belfast; Jonathan Craig, MLA for Lagan Valley; Helen Newell, Christian Aid Ireland; and James Martin, Principal of Laurelhill Community College.

The questions to be discussed are:

- 1/ Part of Jesus' mission was to 'preach good news to the poor.' How can we translate this message into practice in the 21st century?
- 2/ Is there a more humane alternative to 11 plus transfer tests in education?
- 3/ What are the rights and responsibilities that go with public parades and the display of flags and emblems?
- 4/ What is your vision for Northern Ireland in 2020?

Clergy appointments

The Revd Canon Bryan Kerr, currently rector of the Parish of Lisbellaw with Coolbuck in the Diocese of Clogher, has been appointed as incumbent of the Cathedral Parish of Dromore in the Diocese of Dromore.

Yesterday evening in St Patrick's cathedral, Trim, the Revd Paul Bogle, was installed as Dean of Clonmacnoise and the Revd Lynda Peilow was installed as a canon of the cathedral.

The Archbishop of Dublin presided yesterday at the blessing of the palms in All Saints church, Grangegorman where he will also commission as lay ministers David Reynolds for service in Bray and Helen Gorman for the Christ Church cathedral group of parishes

An evening of celebration in St Michael's Church, Athy, ensured a warm welcome for the new Rector of the parish. The Revd Olive Donohoe was instituted as the Rector of Athy and Kilberry by Archbishop Michael Jackson last Friday evening .

The church was full of parishioners, both from her new parish and her former parish of Stradbally, along with family, friends and well wishers. The congregation included Bishop Walton Empey, former Archbishop of Dublin and clergy from neighbouring parishes as well as representatives of both the Roman Catholic and Methodist communities in Athy. Also present was Alice

Leahy of Trust, the Dublin homelessness charity which Olive has supported for some years. Dean Philip Knowles, formerly Dean of Cashel, took part in the service.

Introducing the service, Archbishop Jackson said he was delighted to welcome Olive to the parish and to the Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough. "This is an auspicious occasion for the Church of Ireland



Archbishop Michael Jackson and The Revd Olive Donohoe

in Athy. An Institution is always a joyous occasion as a member of the clergy takes up a new responsibility which is at the heart of Church life,” he said.

The humorous, touching and inspiring sermon, which resulted in spontaneous applause at the end, was delivered by the Archdeacon of Tuam, Canon Gary Hastings. He said that the parish was getting a bargain with their new Rector. He described Olive as a “very able lady” who was kind, compassionate, wise and could get things done.

He said that institutions could be worrying events for both the new Rector and parishioners. The Rector may worry if she had made the right choice and if there could be “an unexploded parishioner” who had been harbouring a grudge for generations waiting around the corner. Although he conceded that those in Athy looked reasonable. Parishioners may worry also, wondering if she would listen to them, engage with them and get involved, but he reassured them that she would.

Canon Hastings said that many people did not know what the job of the Rector entailed and believed that they only worked on Sundays. However, he outlined a huge range of skills needed, from counselling to a basic knowledge of animal husbandry. Somewhere near the bottom of the list came Jesus, he stated but said that none of the rest of the work was possible without Jesus.

“The Church is about people. People minding each other, loving each other, praying with each other and everything else should come after that,” he stated. “Her real job is to pray – to pray for you, with you, to teach you to pray and to be beside you [at points of celebration and points of crisis]. This girl has been around a few corners and has a lot to teach you. She is on your side and that is the side of Christ.” He asked her new parishioners to remember that Olive is a human being and urged them to look after her so that she could look after them.

Fr Tim Hannon, representing the local Roman Catholic parish, spoke about the building of relationships within the community and wished Olive every blessing. Methodist Minister, the Revd Bill Olmsted, agreed with the preacher’s assessment of Olive, adding that she worked extremely hard and was a “priest, a pastor and a very good friend. Deputy Jack Wall said it was wonderful for Athy to have a new rector and wished Olive well.

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