



Anglican leaders express sadness and solidarity after Notre Dame cathedral blaze in Paris

April 18, 2019

A serious fire which caused devastating damage to the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris has drawn expressions of solidarity from Anglican leaders. The Roman Catholic cathedral is seen by many French people as their country's mother church. In its 850-year history it has witnessed much of the dramatic moments of Parisian history. An automatic fire alarm sounded at 4.20 pm GMT on Monday evening (15 April) and security staff cleared the cathedral. But there was no visible sign of fire. The alarm sounded again just over 20 minutes later, at 6.43 pm, by which time the cathedral's security staff could see the fire.

The blaze rapidly took hold of the cathedral as live television pictures of the operation to extinguish the fire were broadcast around the world. Viewers around the world watched as Notre Dame's famous spire – an iconic part of the Parisian skyline – collapsed into the burning roof.

Firefighters have been praised for their bravery in protecting the core of the building and saving priceless historic artworks. An investigation into the cause of the blaze has begun, but prosecutors are working on the premise that the fire was started accidentally.

The French President, Emmanuel Macron, has vowed to rebuild the cathedral within five years; but experts have said that it could take between 10 to 15 years to complete the work.

The Vice President of the French Heritage Foundation (Fondation du Patrimoine), Bertrand de Feydeau, said that there are no trees in France large enough to rebuild the cathedral's large wooden frame. He said that the roof was

April 18, 2019

constructed from 300 – 400 year old Beachwood beams more than 850 years ago. “There are no longer trees of that size in France,” he told CNN.

The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby responded to the fire as it was blazing on Monday Night.

In a Tweet, he said: “Tonight we pray for the firefighters tackling the tragic #NotreDame fire - and for everyone in France and beyond who watches and weeps for this beautiful, sacred place where millions have met with Jesus Christ. Nous sommes avec vous. [We are with you]”.

The Archbishop of York, whose own cathedral, York Minster, was severely damaged in a fire in 1984, said that prayers were said at the chapel in his official residence, Bishopthorpe, on Tuesday morning.

“Our thoughts are with all those working tirelessly in Paris to save & salvage what they can”, he said.

Both archbishops have asked all cathedrals and churches across England to toll a bell for seven minutes at 7 pm BST tomorrow (Thursday) “as a mark of solidarity following the devastating fire at Notre Dame Cathedral.” The initiative was proposed by Britain’s Ambassador to France, Edward Llewellyn. “It is hoped that many will take part”, the archbishops said.

The newly-consecrated Bishop in Charge of the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe, Bishop Mark Edington, joined the Presiding Bishop of the US-based Episcopal Church, Michael Curry, and the Dean of

April 18, 2019



Holy Trinity Cathedral in Paris, Lucinda Laird, in a joint statement. “The Episcopal Church throughout Europe, with its seat in the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in Paris, expresses its sympathy to the people of Paris and to all who sense the immense loss of this priceless and historic house of worship”, they said.

“We extend to Archbishop Aupetit and to all his people our sincere condolences and our readiness to offer any hospitality that would be of help to the community and congregation of Notre Dame in this most holy season of the faith we share. And we send our prayers in this week that ends in what we know to be the sure and certain promise of resurrection for the future life and restoration of this monument of Christian faith.”

April 18, 2019

The Archdeacon of France, in the Church of England's Diocese in Europe, Meurig Williams, said he was "absolutely devastated by the scenes of destruction at Notre Dame de Paris".

"The Anglican community in France join their prayers with the Diocese of Paris and their Archbishop, Mgr Michel Aupetit, with Mgr Patrick Chauvet, the Recteur de Notre Dame, and all for whom Notre Dame is their spiritual home", he said. "During this Holy Week, we accompany our Catholic brothers and sisters, as we confront the destruction of crucifixion, confident that it leads to resurrection and new life. May Notre Dame rise once more to witness to the risen Christ."

Responses from Ireland

Last night the bells of Saint Patrick's Cathedral Armagh tolled at 6:50pm before the Chrism Mass. The French Bishops' Conference had announced that all cathedral bells in France would too yesterday at 6:50pm, the time at which the Notre Dame cathedral fire began.

Archbishop Eamon Martin, Archbishop of Armagh, said the bells of Saint Patrick's Cathedral Armagh would ring out in solidarity with Archbishop Michel Aupetit, Archbishop of Paris, and the people and Priests of Paris as they come to terms with the destruction of the Cathedral of Notre Dame.

In a statement issued in English and French the C of I Archbishop of Dublin, MOst Rev Dr Michael Jackson said -

April 18, 2019

“People in the United Dioceses of Dublin & Glendalough were devastated to witness the fire that ripped through the upper stories of Notre Dame de Paris and that was visible to the whole world with flames and smoke billowing into the skyline.

“The medieval cathedral is synonymous with Paris and beloved of Parisians. It attracts millions of tourists and pilgrims annually and inspires them through its graceful architectural lines and its countless works of art that are built into its spiritual fabric. The aesthetic and the spiritual combine in ways that enable the human soul to transcend the everyday and to sense something of the presence and power of God.

“Our thoughts and prayers are with all associated with the daily life of the cathedral as they will have been in the early stages of Holy Week liturgy and worship. While the cathedral’s destruction looks to all like desolation, we hope that a full restoration will be possible. Notre Dame has withstood many vicissitudes throughout its history. We are confident it has the energy to rise again.”

Funding boost for Mount Merrion Music Academy

Mount Merrion Church in East Belfast is delighted to have received funding for their social arts initiative ‘Mount Merrion Music Academy’ from international businessman and entrepreneur Michael Watt.

April 18, 2019

The Music Academy is a not-for-profit project offering accessible, affordable, high-quality music tuition and education to the local community. The aim is that every individual would have the opportunity to learn an instrument and develop in creative and artistic ability, without financial, social or educational restrictions



As well as offering discounted and free music lessons, the project loans out musical instruments for free, hosts community recitals and performances and trains young people to teach and mentor others.

The Music Academy relies on outsourced funding from generous businesses, individuals and organisations.

Aaron Boyce, Music Academy Director (pictured above with a pupil), said: “We’re so excited to begin this next step in our work among the local community and are incredibly grateful to Michael for choosing to partner with us. We’ve

April 18, 2019

already been so blessed to see 40 pupils from the local area come through our doors weekly and develop as musicians, and we are beyond excited to see what happens in the coming months.”

Music Academy pupil Amy said: “The Music Academy has benefitted me in so many ways – it has helped me grow in confidence within myself, and has helped me become more expressive and musically educated. This is an opportunity I may not have had, but thanks to the lessons being so affordable, I’ve been able to learn piano which has been one of my dreams for years. I love the Music Academy!”

Funder, Michael Watt

Originally from New Zealand, Michael is one of the pioneers of international rights to televised sporting events and the entertainment industry. He has dedicated much of his life to philanthropic endeavours around the globe and since the late 90s he has supported a wide range of charitable organisations and ventures across the Middle East, Africa, Central and South America, the Indian sub-continent and Australasia. Trustee of Ronnie Scott’s Charitable Foundation and co-owner of the world-famous Ronnie Scott’s Jazz Club, Michael Watt is also involved with a number of charitable organisations in the UK and is delighted to support Mount Merrion Music Academy, who provide music tuition for young people in Belfast.

Franciscans to leave Waterford

The Franciscans are to leave Waterford city after almost 800 years. Dwindling numbers, increasing age and illness

April 18, 2019

have taken their toll, stated Fr Aidan McGrath, OFM, Provincial Minister, Franciscan Province.



Franciscan Friary Waterford

He said it was “with deep regret” that the Franciscans decided that “from the beginning of May 2019, there will no longer be a resident Franciscan presence in Waterford. Given the fact that one of the most illustrious members of the Order, Fr Luke Wadding OFM, was a native of Waterford, this decision was not taken lightly or with any disregard for history.”

He explained that like many other religious institutes the Franciscan Province of Ireland has had to face the reality of withdrawing from many locations across Ireland in the last two decades.

April 18, 2019

“This is something that is always decided with heavy hearts yet with a deep sense of gratitude to the people among whom the friars have lived and ministered,” he said.

The local Bishop, Alphonsus Cullinan, Diocese of Waterford and Lismore, spoke on behalf of the the diocese, stating: “It was with great sadness that I learned about the decision of the Franciscan Order to leave the Friary in Lady Lane, Waterford. I can appreciate their huge difficulty in arriving at that painful decision. The contribution of the sons of St Francis for almost 800 years since the mid 13th century is almost incalculable.”

He expressed thanks and gratitude on behalf of the people of the diocese for all the Franciscans achieved, especially through prayer and care of the sick through the hospital chaplaincy. He asked for prayers for an increase in vocations to the Franciscan Order in Ireland and thanked the friars for offering the friary to a religious order that has been looking for a place to start a Foundation in the diocese.

On the popular website ‘Waterford in Your Pocket’, the people of the city also expressed sadness at the friars’ departure.

“Sad but a sign of the times,” stated one.

Another said: “Sad but without vocations what can be done?”

Someone else posted a picture of the Blessing of the Animals by a Franciscan brother in 1989.

April 18, 2019

Another said: “The Franciscans have done so much that has gone unnoticed for years. Waterford will be a poorer place without them.”

“I love this church and have been lucky enough to be there for the Easter Morning Service only a few years ago,” stated another.

Many friars have lived in the present Friary and ministered to the people in the confessional, from the pulpit, at the altar, and in the Friary. In recent years they have also been chaplains for the industrial estate and Waterford University Hospital, as well as chaplains and teachers in the Regional Technical College (now Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT)). The Franciscans are also associated with the nationwide housing association Respond, which was founded by Fr Pat Cogan OFM, a member of the Waterford fraternity.

“All have happy memories of living and working in the city,” Fr McGrath said. For as long as they are able, the friars in Clonmel will take charge of the Franciscan Church at Lady Lane and will maintain the sacred ministry there. The Friary itself is expected to become the residence of a community of sisters.

175th Anniversary Celebratory Concert for St Michael's, Limerick

2019 marks the 175th anniversary of the opening of Saint Michael's Church, Pery Square. Situated in the heart of

churchnewsireland@gmail.org

April 18, 2019

Limerick's Georgian quarter, Saint Michael's opens its doors every Sunday for worship at 10am. Over many years it has also been a centre of social events and has hosted concerts, Culture Night events, Open House and the Limerick Pipe Organ Festival. It is also home to a number of social clubs and groups.

Saint Michael's was designed by the Pain brothers: unique features of the church include the beautiful ceiling, the oldest functioning pipe organ in Limerick (built by Telford and Telford c.

1845), and a fine collection of stained-glass windows.

As a highlight of the celebrations we are having a celebratory concert featuring international opera singers Majella Cullagh (Cork) and

175 Anniversary
St Michael's Church
Pery Square, Limerick

Majella Cullagh
soprano
Owen Gilhooly
tenor
Aside *Choir for All*
Irina Dernova
piano
presented by
Lorcan Murray
Friday 10th of May 8pm
Tickets 15 euro
available at St Mary's Cathedral
call 061-310-293
email cathedral@limerick.anglican.org

LIMERICK CITY PARISH

LIMERICK arts OFFICE

Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Luimnigh
Limerick City & County Council

April 18, 2019

Owen Gilhooly (Limerick) with Aoide Choir at 8pm on Friday 10th May 2019. Soprano Majella Cullagh is a bel canto specialist: her career has brought her to many prestigious opera stages of England, Europe, USA and New Zealand. Tenor Owen Gilhooly performs extensively in Ireland, England and in Europe, and is a sought-after voice/singing teacher of the Vocal Faculty of Royal Irish Academy of Music. It is a great privilege for us to have these renowned artists.

The award-winning choir, Aoide, is directed by Owen Gilhooly. Aoide – Choir for All is a community choir based in Castletroy, Limerick. Over the years they have performed for a large number of fundraising events, including Limerick's Children's Grief Project, Limerick Suicide Watch, Barretstown, Marfan Syndrome, Joseph Monaghan cerebral palsy treatment, CMRF Crumlin, Limerick Lyons Club, and many more.

This concert is being generously supported by Limerick City and County Council and Limerick Arts Office, together with much appreciated sponsorship from local businesses.

Tickets and more information available from Saint Mary's Cathedral, Bridge Street, Limerick. Email: cathedral@limerick.anglican.org / Tel: 061 310293

Care and growth at Donegal's The Mustard Seed

The Archdeacon of Raphoe, David Huss, is Rector of Donegal, Killymard, Lough Eske and Laghey. Here, he



The ribbon-cutting at the opening of the Mustard Sees with (left to right) Fr William Peoples, Archdeacon David Huss, Bishop Ken Good, Fr Francis McLoone and the Rev Stephen Richmond.

shares his thoughts on the development of The Mustard Seed, a community centre for Christian care and outreach run by the Church of Ireland parish in Donegal Town.

What is your vision for the Mustard Seed?

The Mustard Seed is a place for community building and Christian outreach, a way to take the gospel out of the church building and into the community. It consists of a tea room, prayer space, office and small bookshop. The tea room has no pressure and no prices: you can stay as long

April 18, 2019

as you like and pay whatever you want. It is open to everyone.

Where does the inspiration for the centre come from?

Back in 2016, Derry and Raphoe had a 'Year of Opportunity' where we focused, among other things, on mission. As we planned for that year, it turned out that several of us had been having similar thoughts about having a 'shopfront' in town, a place where we could welcome and serve the whole community. The name 'The Mustard Seed' comes from Jesus' parable in Matthew 13 where the kingdom of heaven is compared to a tiny seed which grows and grows.

How did the idea grow over time?

We got together a team who were committed to the project, prayed, and found a suitable building to use. The next step was to bring the whole church family on board by sharing the vision. In those early days, we had no funding except what the Lord led people to give – it was an exciting time of living by faith! Later, we were blessed with a grant from the Church of Ireland Priorities Fund. The Mustard Seed was launched in 2017 and later that year we appointed a parish outreach worker who works alongside the administrator and assistant in delivering the project. There is a great team of volunteers who run the tea room day-to-day.

How has it encouraged parishioners and how has it served others?

April 18, 2019

One of the unexpected blessings has been how the team of volunteers (who come from a variety of different churches) have benefitted from helping out at the Mustard Seed. In some cases, it has given them a whole new purpose and direction in life. It has also been good for our parishes to see how we can serve and bless the community. The Church of Ireland is a small minority in this part of the world and we benefit from the practical and financial help of the wider community. The Mustard Seed has enabled us to give something back, as well as allowing us to make contact with far more people and to share our faith through things like the Alpha Course.

What are some of the particular needs and challenges in Donegal?

As with any rural area, there is a lot of loneliness and isolation. The Mustard Seed enables people to meet together and find common interests and fellowship. It also provides a base for groups like Gamblers Anonymous who do great work. Above all, there is the spiritual need to have a relationship with Jesus. The Mustard Seed enables us in a gentle way to serve this need. There is no pressure – many enjoy simply coming and drinking tea. But for those who wish to delve deeper and maybe join one of our groups or courses, that opportunity is there.

How have you found serving in the area?

Donegal is a brilliant place in which to live and to serve. There is such openness and friendliness across the whole community, and people are very warm. It is a joy to sit down at our regular Friday prayer times with people from all

churchnewsireland@gmail.org

April 18, 2019

churches and backgrounds, seeking the Lord's blessing upon our community.

What would you say to other parishes considering a similar form of outreach?

Every parish is different and will need to take its own path. But we have definitely found that when you begin to be more outward looking and to take the gospel outside the church building, exciting things happen. There will be some bumps in the road, some indifference and even some opposition – but keep going, stick to the vision you have been given, and above all keep on loving one another and the Lord! And pray, pray, pray.

Easter message, Bishop of Down and Dromore

Rt Reverend Harold Miller writes -

At about the age of 12, I remember being taken by my mother to a Three Hours Service in the local parish church. This happened every year on Good Friday, between 12noon and 3pm, the 'sixth' and the 'ninth' hour, designating the time Jesus hung on the cross. She knew I wouldn't manage three hours. Most people didn't. They generally stayed for half an hour or so, and then went on about their business.

The service was sombre, the church was bare and devoid of colour, and the preaching was on the seven words of Jesus from the cross.

April 18, 2019

But what I remember most was walking home. Life was, in the style of an Ulster Protestant Good Friday, going on just as normal. People were chatting, shopping, working, laughing. I felt as people do after a funeral. The question in my mind was this: 'How can everything go on as normal when Jesus is dying on the cross?' When I asked the rector, he responded: 'That is just like the first Good Friday. Everybody was going about their business just as normal.'



Many years later, I went to the Holy Land for the first time, and walked along the Via Dolorosa (the way of sorrows), and saw the route Jesus took, as he carried the cross. I always imagined it to be a place of quiet, meditation – a road apart. But it is the very opposite. The 'stations of the cross' are found along one of the busiest trading places in Jerusalem. Noise, colour, smells of produce, buying and selling!

Most people were so occupied with the ordinary things of this life on the first Good Friday that they didn't see the eternal realities which were being accomplished before their

April 18, 2019

very eyes. Jesus may as well have been just another of those criminals blocking the way and holding them back from their shopping.

This Good Friday it will be the same, here in Northern Ireland. For some, there may not even be an awareness that it is Good Friday. You wouldn't know from the TV schedules. You might just pick it up on the radio, or see an odd Christian group or two carrying a cross through the streets. Even believers will not always take time to remember. That verse from Lamentations associated with Christ on the cross still resonates: 'Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Behold and see if there is any sorrow like unto my sorrow.'

All of this means that Christians cannot depend on the world outside to sanctify the most precious of days. The truths of Easter are most powerfully celebrated in a way which is dissonant, and challenging. We can't blame secularisation or commercialism if we who believe choose not to give time and priority to walking the way of the cross during this week. And it is only in the intentional walking of that way that we will be prepared for the joyful declaration of Easter Day (when the shops are shut!): 'Christ is risen: The Lord is risen indeed. Hallelujah!'

News briefs

+++ Good Friday at St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork - The principal liturgical celebration of Good Friday (19th April) in St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork, this year will be held at 12noon which will include the singing of the Passion Gospel according to Saint John by Peter Stobart, Director of Music.

April 18, 2019

At 8.00pm the Cathedral Choir will perform the oratorio *The Crucifixion* by John Stainer, with soloists Owen Gilhooly (tenor), Ben Jacob (bass) and Phoebe Chow (organ) under the baton of Mr Stobart.

The 'congregation/audience' will join in singing the hymns during the performance. It is hoped that this will provide a more accessible means of observing Good Friday to a wider audience in the city.

This being a 'liturgical performance', there is no admission charge. Donations are welcome via a retiring collection on the night.



+++Belfast En suite Student Accommodation available for the 2019/20 academic year - Koinonia Fellowship House is situated off the Malone Road close to the 'Queens Quarter' within short walking distance to Queen's University Belfast campuses, Botanic Gardens and the thriving Stranmillis Road with a variety of shops and eateries all in the area. Click [here](#) to apply

April 18, 2019

Today in Christian history

April 18, 1161: Theobald, Archbishop of Canterbury, dies. He repeatedly quarreled with his superiors about church appointments and other political questions, but he the influential French abbot Bernard of Clairvaux supported him. Theobald helped strengthen the English church and build the career of Thomas Becket, whom he recommended as chancellor to England's newly crowned King Henry.

April 18, 1587: English Protestant historian John Foxe, author of Actes and Monuments of Matters Happenning to the Church (the shorter version is now known as Foxe's Book of Martyrs), dies at age 71.

April 18, 1874: Having died nearly a year earlier (May 1, 1873) in what is now northern Zambia, missionary-explorer David Livingstone (whose remains had been brought, as his tombstone reads, "by faithful hands over land and sea") is interred in London's Westminster Abbey.

**AN INVITATION
to become a
FACEBOOK FRIEND
of CNI**

April 18, 2019

**and get headlines of the CNI daily
news magazine...**

...Just a click at

<https://www.facebook.com/Church-News-Ireland-261305103892998/timeline/>

**+ Please share CNI with your friends
www.churchnewsireland.org**

