



Easter 2019 - Notre Dame

Revulsion at death of journalist focus of rally

The partner of murdered journalist Lyra McKee has spoken of how she has been robbed of the woman she thought she would grow old with.

Sara Canning bravely took to the stage during a rally in Creggan to address the huge crowd who had turned out to show their revulsion at the killing on Friday afternoon.

Speaking just yards from where her beloved partner was fatally wounded the previous night on Fanad Drive, Sara Canning told those gathered: “The senseless murder of Lyra McKee has left a family without a beloved daughter, a sister, an aunt and a great aunt, and has left so many friends without a confidante.

“Victims in the LGBTQIA community are left without a tireless advocate and activist, and it has left me without the love of my life, the woman I was planning to grow old with.

“We are all poorer for the loss of Lyra. Her hopes and dreams, and all of her amazing potential was snuffed out by a single barbaric act. This cannot stand.”

Sara Canning fought back tears as she concluded: “Lyra’s death must not be in vain because her life was a shining light in everyone’s else’s life and her legacy will live on in the light that she has left behind.”

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A minute's silence was then held at the end of a rally which saw Unionist and Nationalist politicians from north and south of the border sweep aside differences and come together in a show of solidarity with the family and friends of Lyra McKee and the people of Londonderry

Among those in attendance was DUP Leader Arlene Foster and MP Gregory Campbell, Sinn Fein President Mary Lou McDonald and Vice President Michelle O'Neill, SDLP Leader Colum Eastwood, Alliance Leader Naomi Long and UUP Councillor Mary Hamilton.

Each of the political representatives addressed the crowds, along with Catholic Bishop Dr Donal McKeown and Church of Ireland Bishop Dr Ken Good and Creggan community and youth sector representatives.

Derry bishop's outrage at murder of journalist

The Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Rt Rev Ken Good in a statement issued on Good Friday, spoke of his outrage at the murder in Londonderry of a journalist the previous evening. Bishop Good states -

“I am outraged at last night's murder of the 29-year-old journalist, Lyra McKee, in Derry–Londonderry. My first thoughts, today, are with her partner, her family and friends. I sympathise with them in their heart-breaking loss and

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Lyra McKee - She had secured a major book deal and was listed as one of the rising stars in Ireland's writing scene.

assure them that their pain is being felt right across our community.

“Sadly, though, Lyra’s death, while needless, was not entirely unforeseeable.

“Only last January, after the bomb attack on the city’s courthouse, I said that the perpetrators had shown a callous disregard for people’s lives. On that occasion a group of young people were lucky to escape unscathed. Sadly, the outcome that I feared then – if such reckless attacks were to continue – was realised last night, and Lyra McKee, a talented young journalist, paid the ultimate price.



“The people responsible for her murder – the individual who pulled the trigger and the leaders who sanctioned the attack – have this young woman’s blood on their hands. They claim to be liberators of the community. In reality, they are its oppressors.

“Three months ago, I suggested there were only

two possible explanations for the recklessness of the Bishop Street bombers. They either didn’t think about the potential consequences or they didn’t care. The same is true of those behind last night’s murderous attack. It beggars belief that anyone would open fire in a built-up area like Creggan, at a time when there were many people on the streets. We are fortunate that more people weren’t killed or injured.

“Today, on Good Friday, Christians remember the bleakness of Christ’s death on the cross but we look forward to the

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hope that Easter will bring. Today, this city – and our community – are numbed and horrified by what happened in our midst last night; we stand poised between bleakness and hope. The time has come to choose.

“I urge the people of this city to go forward with hope. I urge them to turn their backs on the men of violence, and to reject those who advocate bombing and shooting as solutions to our problems.

“I urge the individual and organisation behind last night’s attack to realise the futility of what they are doing and to end their violence. Their behaviour is in stark contrast to that of the police officers who did their utmost to save Lyra’s life last night.

“Lastly, I encourage the community to assist the PSNI with their investigation into this horrendous murder and to support the Police.”

Violence solves nothing Bishop Donal McKeown

“Violence solves nothing ... we believe the original Good Friday message that love is stronger than hatred”, Bishop Donal McKeown said in a statement. Bishop McKeown commented -

“This Good Friday morning there is a deep air of sadness hanging over this city. The murder of journalist Lyra McKee is causing widespread shock and revulsion. Our first

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thoughts and prayers are with Ms McKee's family and friends who are terribly grieved by her killing.

“I have every confidence that the wider community will come together at this time to make clear our conviction that violence solves nothing. Last July this city of Derry stood together against those who sought to engender conflict. I repeat my call from the Unity of Purpose rally on Fahan Street that destruction and aggression end up damaging the very communities that some people claim to be defending. You cannot claim to love your country and, at the same time, cause death and pain to the people who live here. All who live here deserve to be cherished equally.

“That spirit of coming together against violence has brought us a long way in the last twenty years. It will continue today for we believe the original Good Friday message that love is stronger than hatred.”

Journalist's murder was 'totally appalling and unjustifiable' – Moderator

The Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Rt Rev Dr Charles McMullen, has said the murder of the freelance journalist, Lyra McKee during rioting in Londonderry on Thursday night was a 'totally appalling, outrageous and unjustifiable act'.

Dr McMullen said, “The devastating news that greeted us this morning, on this particular day – Good Friday – would

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have been news of the worst kind for the family of Lyra McKee, and I offer my sincere condolences to them, and prayers for them, at this awful time. It is also not only a tragic day for the City of Londonderry, it is a tragedy for society as a whole.

“What happened last night was rooted in a past that has absolutely no place in the present, or future, as it was a totally appalling, outrageous and unjustifiable act by those who have nothing to offer anyone.

“On a pastoral visit to the PSNI in Derry on Monday of this week, I spoke of ‘society’s debt to police officers’ while praising their ‘selflessness’. Last night was yet another example of the debt we owe to them in the face of needless rioting.

“As I wrote in my Easter Message, ‘Christ reaches into the coldest, darkest tombs of human existence and brings the warmth of his loving kindness and the light of his beautiful presence. It is my prayer that all who mourn Ms McKee today, her family and colleagues who do such a vital job, will know that warmth and his never ending love and compassion.”

Maundy Thursday stress on serving and leading, Archbishop of Dublin

Maundy Thursday is a time for us to take to heart the radical nature of domestic religion and to use it and to live it and not

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to crave punching above our weight as if headlines are our right.” So said Archbishop Michael Jackson at this year’s Chrism Eucharist which took place in Christ Church Cathedral.

During the service, which was sung by a consort of the cathedral choir, those in lay and ordained ministry renewed their commitment to ministry. Oils for use in healing and baptism and the oil of the chrism were consecrated. The Archbishop also washed the feet of a number of clergy and lay people and in turn had his feet washed.

His sermon focused on foot washing. He took as his text: “Then turning to the woman, Jesus said to Simon: You see this woman? I came to your house, you provided no water for my feet but this woman has made my feet wet with her tears and wiped them with her hair.” [St Luke 7.44].

Archbishop Jackson pointed out that the incident was particularly important because it related to a situation in which hospitality was denied and withheld by Simon the Pharisee because a woman of scandal had entered his house. The woman took over the hospitality and forced matters around the priority of love and forgiveness over sinfulness and exclusion, he said.

Foot washing was a feature of church life in early times and had woven its way back into many traditions in recent years. “It has varied uses and has become normalized in our tradition on Maundy Thursday above all days. It has to do with belonging to a household of living and is extended to belonging to a household of faith while arriving as an

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outsider or an outcast: it is a grace of inclusion, an intuition of trust, a practicality of welcome,” the Archbishop stated.

Two activities happen on Maundy Thursday – foot washing in the morning and breaking bread in the evening, he observed. “Both are actions and activities where Jesus Christ did something unexpected, unprecedented, unusual – transformative yet predictable, in the middle of something entirely domestic,” he noted.

He continued: “As we ourselves today renew and refresh our sense of call to serve and to lead, we would do well to regain and restore such a sense of confidence in what is new and necessary and urgent for the faith once delivered. This is important if we want to impact for good the society and the generation in which we live. This is important if we want to care. I am not talking about big headline issues. I am talking about domestic faith, things that effectively happened in homes and houses – the house of Simon, an upper room in the house of a Christian sympathizer.”

Archbishop Justin Welby's Easter letter to churches around the world

*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice
Rejoice, again, I say, Rejoice!*

These words, the refrain of Hymn VIII of Charles Wesley's “Hymns for our Lord's Resurrection”, express the joyful cry



of the human soul at the good news of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Jesus' resurrection is a cause of joy. It is the source of ultimate joy, for in the resurrection Jesus won victory over sin and death (1 Corinthians 15. 57). The resurrection happened at a particular time and in a particular place but its significance is eternal and universal. God purposed the salvation of this fallen world and creation looked towards the day that darkness would be put to flight. God willed the salvation of this fallen world and from that day the Church has lived in the radiant brightness of our triumphant King. In the sixth century the priest and poet Venantius wrote:

"The light, the heaven, the fields and the sea duly praise the God ascending above the stars, having crushed the laws of hell. Behold, He who was crucified reigns as God over all things, and all created objects offer prayer to their Creator."

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From the first Easter Day Jesus' disciples have made known the Good News of the Resurrection. The risen Lord told Mary Magdalene not to hold on to him, but to go to tell the disciples. She did so, proclaiming, "I have seen the Lord" (John 20. 17-18).

On the mount of the Ascension Jesus addressed his friends, saying, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you" (Matthew 28. 19-20).

The disciples (followers) thus became apostles (those who are sent). The Church has stood in that apostolic tradition ever since: both as those who profess the faith of the Apostles and as those who share in their task of evangelism.

I send this letter at a difficult time in the lives of many peoples and nations. Creation suffers from the effects of human neglect and selfishness; people continue to suffer as a result of war and terror; political and economic systems creak under the twin threats of extremism and apathy. Our world is in desperate need of hope. As Christians we have a message of sure and certain hope to proclaim. On Easter Day in Churches throughout the world Christians will sing, "Christ is Risen! Christ has conquered! Now his life and glory fill you!"

Our proclamation of the hope which is ours in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ must be both confident and humble. In our complex and plural world our evangelism must not be forced on others, but as followers of Christ we

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have a duty to bear witness to our faith: to speak of hope for the world in the Resurrection of Christ, a message seasoned with gentleness and respect. Our actions of love, compassion, respect and gentleness confirm that the message we share is indeed good news.

I started this letter with a quotation from Charles Wesley (1707-88). Along with his older brother John, Wesley devoted his life to the service of the gospel – preaching the good news in season and out of season and transforming both the church and the lives of those who heard the message. In another hymn he echoed the call of Christ to Mary Magdalene which is, in turn, the call of Christ to each of us:

“Go tell the Followers of your Lord, Their Jesus is to life restored.”

May God bless you this Eastertide and may the resurrection joy that we share spread throughout the world.

*The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Justin Welby
Archbishop of Canterbury*

Today in Christian history

April 20, 1139: The Second Lateran Council, led by Pope Innocent II and attended by 1,000 church leaders, opens in Rome. The council focused on reforming the church in the wake of the East-West schism (1054) and preserving the temporal possessions of the clergy.

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April 20, 1233 (some say 1232): Pope Gregory IX appoints full-time papal inquisitors and gives the Dominican order authority to carry out the Inquisition. For their vigilant and persistent work, the order won the moniker "Domini canes" or "God's dogs."

April 20, 1441: At the Council of Florence, Pope Eugenius IV issues the bull "Etsi non dubitemus," declaring the pope to be superior to church councils.

April 20, 1494: Johann Agricola, Saxon theologian and reformer, is born. He studied under Martin Luther at Wittenberg, and the two worked closely until Agricola embraced antinomianism—an overextension of the doctrine of "justification by faith" that asserted Christians are exempt from the need to observe any moral law. A violent controversy with Luther began, and it persisted even after Agricola recanted (Luther was one of very few who refused to accept the recantation).

April 20, 1718: David Brainerd, missionary to New England's Native Americans, is born in Haddam, Connecticut. Expelled from Yale for attending a revival meeting, Brainerd attained fame after his death (at age 29, from tuberculosis) when Jonathan Edwards published his journal. The diary inspired countless other missionaries, including William Carey, who is called "the father of modern missions".

April 20, 1853: Fugitive slave Harriet Tubman, who had escaped from the eastern shore of Maryland four years earlier, makes a return trip to the South to rescue other slaves. By the time slavery was abolished, she had made

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19 such trips, liberating at least 300 fellow African Americans.

News briefs

+++ Good Friday witness in Arklow - The four main churches in Arklow gathered together yesterday morning to witness around the cross for Good Friday. In a moving symbol of unity four pieces of the cross were carried from the four churches, St Saviour's, the Church of Sts Mary and Peter, Arklow Presbyterian Church and Arklow Methodist Church. They met on the bridge over the Avoca River where the cross was assembled before a short service around the cross at the riverside. The cross was made by members of Arklow Men's Shed.



+++ Derry Maundy recipients - Two people from the Diocese of Derry and Raphoe were among the 93 women and 93 men who received purses from The Queen at the traditional Royal Maundy Service in Windsor Castle today. This year's recipients included Maisie Haslett from the

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Parish of Templemore (St Columb's Cathedral) in Londonderry and William Montgomery from the Parish of Derg and Termonamongan. The pair were nominated by the Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Rt Rev Ken Good.



+++Visitors from Nepal at Leprosy Mission - Ruth Shrestha, the counsellor at The Leprosy Mission Nepal's Anandaban Hospital and her brother Abraham visited The Leprosy Mission's Irish office this week. Ruth shared with the staff her

excitement about the amazing impact which the Heal Nepal appeal will have for her and the staff at Anandaban. Until 27th April your donation to Heal Nepal will be matched by the UK government, making a £24 donation to find and cure someone with leprosy worth £48! To find out more and donate, visit - <https://www.leprosymission.org.uk/get-involved/healnepal.aspx>

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+++Food for thought - "I would rather be what God chose to make me than the most glorious creature that I could think of; for to have been born in God's thought, and then made by God is the dearest, grandest, and most precious thing in all thinking" - CS Lewis

News Links

[Journalist shot dead in Derry during rioting in the city](#)

BBC News

Archbishop Eamon Martin, the head of the Catholic **Church** in **Ireland**, ... Michelle O'Neill said she was "shocked and saddened at the tragic **news**", ...

['Christians should lead in healing Northern Ireland'](#)

Sluggie O'Toole

Christians should take a leading role in healing Northern Ireland, says Bishop Ken Good, the **Church of Ireland** bishop for the cross-border diocese of ...

[Unitarian **Church** adds name of Lyra McKee to Troubles death roll](#)

Irish Times

... years the Unitarian **Church** in St Stephen's Green has had a Good Friday ceremony to name all those who died in the Troubles in Northern **Ireland**.

[**Church** leaders use Easter messages to promote need for healing in world of crises](#)

Belfast Telegraph

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Ahead of the celebrations, **Church** leaders issued their traditional messages. In a joint statement, **Church of Ireland** Primate Archbishop Richard Clarke and ... Methodist president Rev Billy Davison said Easter is a "good **news**" story ...

[Man in court accused of £110k theft from Co Antrim church](#)

Belfast Telegraph

A man accused of stealing £110,000 from Glenwherry Presbyterian **Church** in Co Antrim appeared at Ballymena Magistrates' Court yesterday.

[Daniel Hanson obituary](#)

The Times

He was brought up by Richard Hanson, a theologian who later became Bishop of Clogher in the **Church of Ireland**, and his wife, but the placement ...

[Belfast OAP Jim's delight over Maundy Thursday ceremony gift from the Queen](#)

Belfast Telegraph

Recipients are nominated by the five **Church of Ireland** dioceses in ... "I see it as recognition of work both of us have done in the **church**," Jim said.

[Church of Ireland rent hike blamed for top Northern Ireland restaurant's closure](#)

Belfast Telegraph

The owners of an award-winning fine dining restaurant in Northern Ireland have blamed a rent hike by their **Church of Ireland** landlord for a decision to ...

[Ulster chaplain gets on his bike for 400-mile Irish challenge](#)

churchnewsireland@gmail.org

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Belfast Newsletter

Barry, who is the **Church of Ireland** and Methodist Chaplain at Queen's University and Stranmillis College, said: "All the optimism of the first two days ..

[Priest appeals for return of Belfast altar RTE.ie](#)

A Belfast priest has made an appeal to retrieve an altar given to St Patrick's **Church** 100 years ago, but which has disappeared. The altar was part of a ...

[Churches join forces for procession through Limerick city](#)

Limerick Leader

The procession will be led by **Church of Ireland** Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All **Ireland** Richard Clarke; Bishop of the Roman Catholic ...

[The Church has to change' - Archbishop Diarmuid Martin says Mother and Baby Homes report left ... Independent.ie](#)

He reminded the congregation gathered at the Pro Cathedral in Dublin, "The Catholic **Church in Ireland** has to look constantly at the negative effects of ...

[Diarmuid Martin: 'It's hard to believe that evidence has simply vanished and that no one can ... thejournal.ie](#)

Martin added that the Catholic **Church in Ireland** had to take time to reflect ... Christ and brings freedom and good **news** into hearts that are troubled.”.

[Vigil to remember Galway man who took on the Church before setting fire to himself](#)

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Galway Daily (press release)

Tyrrell's efforts to expose institutional child abuse in **Ireland** by the Catholic ... He was ignored by the **church** hierarchy, Government and the media, ...

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