

Easter Day church bombings, 200+ killed by terrorists in Sri Lanka



Sri Lankan military stand guard in front of the St Anthony's Shrine, Kochchikade church after an explosion in Colombo, Sri Lanka yesterday (21 April)

April 22, 2019

The Presiding Bishop of the Anglican Church of Ceylon, Dhiloraj Canagasabey, has defiantly expressed his faith in God as terrorists attacked Churches in Sri Lanka. On Sunday afternoon, London time, the death-toll stood at 207, with hundreds more injured. "If God gives me permission to live, I shall live. If he gives me permission to die, I shall die," he told the Archbishop of Canterbury in a telephone call this morning.

Bishop Dhiloraj was just beginning the Prayer of Consecration during an Easter Eucharist service at the Cathedral of Christ the Living Saviour at Cinnamon Gardens, Colombo, when the police arrived and warned him to leave. "You must come with us, they are about to come and kill you." But the bishop refused to move until he had finished the Prayer of Consecration.

A total of eight explosions have occurred in Sri Lanka today. Three of them targeted Roman Catholic churches: St Anthony's Shrine in Kochchikade, St Sebastian's Church in Negombo and Zion Church in Batticaloa. Three more targeted hotels in Colombo: the Cinnamon Grand, the Shangri-La Hotel, and the Kingsbury. Another bomb exploded near Dehiwala Zoo in Dehiwala-Mount Lavinia. An eight explosion occurred when a suspected detonated a bomb as police raided a house in Mahawila Gardens, Dematagoda.

Officials say that seven people have been arrested. The Country has been placed on curfew.

"I am terribly shocked and deeply saddened by the barbarous acts of violence brought on innocent

April 22, 2019

worshippers at Easter Sunday services”, Bishop Dhiloraj said in a statement. “The Church of Ceylon unreservedly condemns these cowardly and cruel acts of terrorism and conveys our deep condolences to the families and friends of those who have lost their lives and have been hurt. We wish all those who have been injured full recovery. We pray for them and their families, that God’s comforting presence will continue to be with them through this tragic experience.

“We call on the government to institute quick action to investigate thoroughly these incidents and to bring the perpetrators to justice. To ensure the safety of places of religious worship and to prevent any individuals or group taking the law into their hands or provoking acts of intimidation or violence against any community or group.

“I call on all Sri Lankans to be mindful at this time and to act with patience and understanding. The motives of those twisted and warped minds that planned and executed such appalling acts could very well be to destabilise the country and to cause damage to the unity and harmony of our nation.

“I pray that these persons, whoever they may be, will be awakened to the awfulness of their crime and will be moved to repentance.”

And he concluded with a prayer of hope: “may the Peace of the Risen Christ, who on the cross prayed for forgiveness, be with you all.”

April 22, 2019

We stand in solidarity with Sri Lanka, Archbishop Jackson of Dublin



The Most Rev Dr Michael Jackson who has visited the Anglican church in Sri Lanka, said - “While many of us have come to take for granted the voice of peace at Christmas and the voice of hope at Easter, we are reminded starkly and tragically today that this is not the case for Christians in many parts of the world.

“These Christians are our sisters and brothers. We stand in solidarity with them and they with us. Together we are one

April 22, 2019

family of the resurrection. In so many countries worldwide our fellow–Christians find themselves a minority that is targeted and persecuted.

“The news this morning of bomb blasts at churches and hotels in Sri Lanka comes to us at a time we have come to refer to as The Easter Weekend. There is no tomorrow, no Bank Holiday Monday, for those killed in the multiple bomb blasts in Sri Lanka. There is nothing but devastation and fear and injury for these people, these communities and for Sri Lankan society.

“Violence and murder of this sort and on this scale bring to the fore once again the need for Inter Faith understanding and compassion as Christians seek to live peaceful and fruitful lives as neighbours with their neighbours.

“We pray for all concerned and all affected by these tragedies. We implore the merciful presence of God in families and communities on the day when it is our conviction that The Risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said: Peace be with you. (St John 20.19)

Stirring hatred with lies a feature of our world, Archbishop of Canterbury

In a statement, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, said:

April 22, 2019

“Those affected by the appalling and despicable attacks on churches and hotels in Sri Lanka will be in the prayers of millions marking Easter Sunday around the world.



On this holy day, let us stand with the people of Sri Lanka in prayer, condolence and solidarity as we reject all violence, all hatred and all division.”

He referred to the atrocity in his Easter Sunday sermon at Canterbury Cathedral this morning. “Left to ourselves, we define ourselves against others. We unite ourselves by finding an enemy. We reassure ourselves with a pride that demeans others,” he said. “Such are the age-old ways of gaining and guarding power. They treat proper difference and diversity, such as we are seeing with our hard pressed and unjustly vilified political leaders, as threats. They use words like treason or naivety.”

He said that this fear led to the rulers of the time terrifying Pilate “into the unjust execution of Jesus, and then to attack the new Christian church in Jerusalem”; and that hate “paved the road for Hitler to attack the Jews of Europe.”

He continued: “Every event, such as the fire at Notre Dame, is used by someone to stir hatred with lies, last week, by

April 22, 2019

certain conspiracy groups, lies against Muslims, who have suffered so much in New Zealand.

“Pride denies our need of God and says we are sufficient to ourselves, that the will to power is indeed our vocation.

“The will to power leads to the murder of innocents in Sri Lanka, the utterly despicable destruction that, on this holiest of days, seeks to challenge the reality of the risen Christ, to say that darkness will conquer, that our choice is surrender or death.”

“Jesus chose to defy this darkness and he is risen indeed, so that death and evil know that their end is marked, promised and assured.

Yet still evil rises in these times between the resurrection and the judgement, exercising the will to power, the seeking of an enemy. Such was the prophecy of Jesus when he said to his disciples that as he suffered they would suffer, but that he has overcome.” Archbishop Justin has expressed condolences to Bishop Dhiloraj and to the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Colombo, Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith.

Permanent home in Armagh for Icon of the Holy Family

The official Icon for the World Meeting of Families 2018 is to have a permanent home in Saint Patrick’s Cathedral, Armagh.

April 22, 2019



Archbishop Eamon Martin of Armagh announced the news on Twitter saying: “The beautiful and inspiring icon of [@WMOF2018](#) is finding a home in the Cathedral of [#StPatrick](#) [#Armagh](#) Come with your family to pray.”

The Icon of the Holy Family, commissioned for the 2018 World Meeting of Families, was written by iconographer Mihai Cucu, who comes from Romania. Mihai was assisted by the Redemptoristine Sisters of the Monastery of St Alphonsus, Iona Road, Dublin. It was truly a work of their prayer and of love.

The word ‘icon’ comes from the Greek word for ‘image’. An icon has a very different intention to the countless images with which we are bombarded day in day out. An icon is not like a photograph, nor is it a portrait. It is an image which



invites us to prayer. Like the Gospels, but in a visual way, it helps communicate to us what kind of relationship God wants to have with us.

Traditionally icons use seasoned wood as their ground. Specialist Joinery Group, a company based in Co. Derry, crafted the wooden cabinet and base for the WMOF2018 Icon. This was then covered in several layers of gesso, which works like an undercoat, priming it to receive the paint well.

The type of paint used in icons is known as 'tempera', an ancient technique, in which the coloured pigments are bound together with egg yolk and water. This has very different qualities to oil or acrylic paint. The colours need to be applied with great patience, building from dark shades to light, often requiring many layers of tiny hatch-strokes laid closely on top of another.

The WMOF2018 Icon depicts an image of the Holy Family at table, sharing a meal and sharing their faith, as

April 22, 2019

suggested by the Gospel of Luke chapter 2. An obvious Gospel text reflecting God's concern for marriage is the Wedding at Cana in the second chapter of the Gospel of John. And finally, the other Gospel that came to mind was the Raising of Jairus' daughter as found in chapter 5 of Mark's Gospel.

There we see Jesus' response to a family with a sick child and how he respected that family's privacy in the midst of emotional turmoil when it came to the moment of healing.

With these three narratives, the design of this icon takes the form of a triptych which looks, from the outside, somewhat like a house with front doors. On these outside doors, the Archangels Michael (left) and Gabriel (right) are featured.

On the base of the Icon is the inscription "AMORIS LAETITIA", 'The Joy of Love', the title of Pope Francis' post-Synodal exhortation on love in the family, the source of many of the reflections during the World Meeting of Families 2018.

Biggest Indoor Easter Egg Hunt in Belfast

On the morning of Easter Tuesday, 23rd April, between 11am–3pm, Dean Stephen Forde will be seen sneaking around the Nave, side chapels and even the Baptistry looking for new places to hide Easter Eggs ... why? Because the Biggest Indoor Easter Egg Hunt in Belfast is back!

April 22, 2019

Everyone is invited to call in on Easter Tuesday so children (and grown-ups!) can explore all the Cathedral's nooks and crannies in the search for those hidden eggs.

In addition, there will be an Easter trail which you can follow through the Cathedral to discover more about our beautiful building as you find the eggs along the way, and we'll also have a variety of arts and crafts to take part in when you're finished the trail.

The Diocese of Connor Children's Officer, Jill Hamilton, and the Children's Council have provided the crafts and helping to make this event EGG-s-tra special.

Entry is just £2 per child with a prize for all successful egg hunters. Adults will be free to look around this beautiful building or relax with a cuppa while the young ones get stuck in to the serious task of egg hunting.

We look forward to seeing you on Easter Tuesday – it's going to be EGG-s-traordinarily good fun!

Treats will be provided by @destinationCQ and @cqbfelfast.

Lyra McKee remembered at Dublin Good Friday inter-church walk of witness

Speaking in Christ Church Cathedral on Good Friday at the short prayer service which marked the beginning of the inter-church walk, Archbishop Jackson said that following

April 22, 2019



The President of Ireland and Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Belfast sign the Book of Condolences at Belfast City Hall

the untimely and callous death of Lyra McKee in Derry last night, participants walked this year in faith but also in grief, not only in hope but in peace.

He said: “The tragedy that befell Lyra McKee as a person through her untimely and callous death and the tragedy that befell the city of Derry as a community last night are what we carry in our hearts as together we set out on this Good Friday Walk of Witness from Christ Church Cathedral to St Mary’s Pro-Cathedral. We have done this together for a number of years and it is part of our community of life. This year, the neighbouring and the solidarity and the

April 22, 2019

conversation are all the more important. I want you to continue this witness and this belonging one to another far beyond this evening. We walk not only in faith, but in grief. We walk not only in hope, but in peace.

“As people gathered from across the city of Dublin, the United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough and the Archdiocese of Dublin – together with individuals who gather in their own right and in their own name – we remember Lyra McKee, her partner, all members of their families and her colleagues. We remember also all the people of Derry.

“Good Friday draws us into a spiritual belonging where the empty space can be the open space; where the end can be a new beginning. We live today and tomorrow in the vacuum where God gives voice to hope in suffering and in silence, in betrayal and in violence. Countless people worldwide live in this vacuum every day of their lives. I encourage you to walk and talk with those around you when we leave this cathedral church and as we make our pilgrimage together to another cathedral church. I encourage you to be neighbour to your neighbour and to lift up the hope of justice and of peace.”

Sending the congregation out on the walk from Christ Church, Archbishop Martin added that each year on the Walk of Witness participants united as a community bearing witness to our common faith on the city streets. Events in Northern Ireland last night made the words that bring the short service to a close – “Let us proceed in peace” – even more significant, he said.

April 22, 2019

Today in Christian history

April 22, 1418: The Council of Constance ends, having finally ended the Great Western Schism. When the schism began nearly 40 years earlier, three men had reasonable claims to the papacy. The council deposed all three and elected Martin V. (Martin then turned around and rejected further councils' right to depose a pope.) Though that part of the council is regarded as a triumph, the council also hastily condemned Jan Hus, a Bohemian preacher and forerunner of Protestantism, and sentenced him to execution by burning. And since his teachings were based on those of John Wycliffe (c. 1329-1384), the council had the Bible translator's body dug up, burned, and thrown into the Swift River.

April 22, 1724: German philosopher Immanuel Kant, a pivotal figure in the history of modern philosophy and theology, is born in Königsberg, East Prussia.

April 22, 1669: Colonial religious leader Richard Mather (father of Increase, grandfather of Cotton) dies at age 63. He helped author the Bay Psalm Book and the Cambridge Platform, which served for many years as the standard doctrinal statement for New England Congregationalism.

April 22, 1864: The motto "In God We Trust," conceived during the Civil War, first appears on American coinage.

April 21, 1109: Anselm, archbishop of Canterbury and one of the most profound thinkers of the Middle Ages, dies around age 76. He attained fame for his argument that faith is the precondition of knowledge ("credo ut intelligam"), his "satisfaction theory" of the atonement ("No one but one

April 22, 2019

who is God-man can make the satisfaction by which man is saved") and for his ontological argument for God's existence.

April 21, 1142: Medieval French philosopher, teacher, and theologian Pierre Abelard dies. Though well-known for his writings on revelation and the relationship between faith and knowledge, he is probably most remembered for his love letters to Heloise, a nun.

April 21, 1855: Edward Kimball, a Sunday school teacher in Boston, leads 18-year-old shoe salesman Dwight L. Moody to Christ at the Holton Shoe Store. Moody went on to become the most successful evangelist of his day.

April 21, 1897: A.W. Tozer, devotional writer (The Pursuit of God and The Knowledge of the Holy) and influential pastor in the Missionary Alliance Church, is born.

News briefs

+++Dublin Walk of Witness - The Church of Ireland and Catholic Archbishops of Dublin led the annual Good Friday Walk of Witness through the city streets this evening (April 19). Carrying the Taizé Cross, Archbishop Michael Jackson and Archbishop Diarmuid Martin walked from Christ Church Cathedral to St Mary's Pro-Cathedral in the company of about 200 people.

+++ Limerick recital - The lunchtime recital in St Mary's cathedral, Limerick, on Wednesday will be given by Triona Walsh (soprano) and Irina Dernove (piano) and will feature works by Bellini, Donaudy and Bertstein.



+++ Good Friday drama in Glenealy - Parishioners from the Church of Ireland and Catholic parishes in Glenealy held a dramatic reenactment of the Passion from John's Gospel this evening in the village. Participants walked from Glenealy Parish Church to the neighbouring St. Joseph's Church.

+++C of I Educational grants - for the academic year 2019–2020 are available for the daughters of the Church of Ireland clergy, who are in Secondary Schools (1st–6th Year) or in Universities or other Third Level Colleges. Application forms are available at clergydaughters@gmail.com or from the CDS Secretary, Mrs Caroline Cummins, 7 The Avenue, Rathdale, Enfield, Co. Meath, and should be returned, when completed, to arrive by 30th April.

+++Clogher and Notre Dame - The Bishop of Clogher Rt Rev J McDowell was in St Macartan's cathedral, Clogher, yesterday, where the New Testament lesson was read in

April 22, 2019

French as a mark of solidarity with the people of France who grieve for Notre Dame.

+++ C of I Communications Competition - The Central Communications Board's annual Communications Competition is now open and entries are invited for online media from Church of Ireland parishes, dioceses and affiliated organisations, in the categories of parish website, diocesan website, Church of Ireland affiliated organisation website, and innovative use of social media.

Quality of presentation, strength of content and outreach potential will be the standards of excellence against which entries will be judged. The closing date is Friday, 26th April. Winners will be announced at the General Synod in the Millennium Forum, Derry/Londonderry, 16–18 May 2019.

Websites and social media platforms are important for the exchange of news and views in church communities and play a vital role within the life of the Church of Ireland. The Central Communications Board has decided to alternate between print and online media, and this year's competition will focus on online media.

Within the Church of Ireland there are good examples of how online communication is being used to build Christian community and communicate the Christian faith. This competition is an opportunity to learn what others are doing, to showcase good work and to join in.

CCB Chairman, Bishop Pat Storey, says: "Communication can be hard work but it is incredibly worthwhile in

April 22, 2019

communicating the Christian faith and building up the life of the Church of Ireland. I encourage you to send in your best work and we are looking forward to seeing how the different parts of our Church present themselves to the wider world.”

Entry forms for the competition may be obtained from Peter Cheney, Church of Ireland Press Office (by email: competition@ireland.anglican.org or phone: 028 9082 8882 from Northern Ireland; 048 9082 8882 from the Republic of Ireland).

+++Food for thought -

Judas, remember -
do not despair while dangling on that rope.
It's because you sinned I sought you;
I came to bring you hope.
Judas, let's pray and hang together,
you on your halter, I upon my hill.
Dear friend, even if you loved me never
you know I love you still.
- Peter De Rossa

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



April 22, 2019