

Terror attacks must not split friends of different faiths, Anzac Day event told



The Duke of Sussex with the Dean of Westminster Dr John Hall, and the Duchess of Cambridge, at the annual Anzac Day Service at Westminster Abbey

The Dean of Westminster has said the Christchurch mosques attack that brought “horror and death” to New

April 26 2019

Zealand must not drive apart friends of different religions.

Dr John Hall's comments about the terrorist shootings were made in his address at the Anzac Day Service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving at Westminster Abbey, which honoured New Zealand and Australia's war dead.

The Duke of Sussex made a surprise appearance at the event, alongside the Duchess of Cambridge, which was only announced a few hours before the congregation arrived.

Harry had always planned to attend the annual service as long as his wife's pregnancy allowed it, and his appearance suggested Meghan, who has not been seen publicly for some weeks, was not due to give birth imminently.

During his address to a congregation which included the Queen's cousin, the Duke of Gloucester, and featured many Australian and New Zealand expats, the Dean spoke about the recent "suffering" in Christchurch.

He said: "A city that when I was a boy seemed to me to epitomise the closeness between New Zealand and England.

"To the destructive earthquakes there eight years ago, ripping the heart out of the centre of the city, has now been added the violent assault on two mosques last month, causing the death of 46 men and four women, and the injury of another 50 or more people.

"This solitary act of aggression, bringing horror and death to a country at peace, must not drive apart the close



A British soldier pays his respects at the grave of a colleague near Cape Helles, where the Gallipoli landings took place

friendships and associations between those of different religious faiths.”

The Duke of Cambridge is in New Zealand on a two-day visit to meet survivors of the attack and their families, members of the emergency services, and Muslim community leaders.

He also attend a service marking Anzac Day – April 25 – which commemorates the anniversary of the start of the First World War Gallipoli landings, and is a national day of remembrance for Australia and New Zealand.

April 26 2019

The Dean gave a grim roll call of the tens of thousands of Australians and New Zealanders killed during the 1914-18 war and other groups.

He went on to say: “It is salutary to remind ourselves that only 20 years after the end of the so-called Great War the British prime minister Neville Chamberlain was in Munich, hoping to negotiate with Adolf Hitler a means of keeping the peace – it was not to be.”

The congregation listened as the last post was sounded and Turkey’s Ambassador Umit Yalcin read the famous words of modern Turkey’s founder, Kemal Ataturk, from Anzac Cove on the Gallipoli peninsula.

It begins: “Those heroes that shed their blood and lost their lives... you are now lying in the soil of a friendly country.”

Thousands of Anzac troops – Australian and New Zealand Army Corps – died in the ill-fated 1915 Gallipoli campaign.

Waves of Allied forces launched an amphibious attack on the strategically important Turkish peninsula, which was key to controlling the Dardanelles straits, the crucial route to the Black Sea and Russia.

But the plan backed by Winston Churchill, then first lord of the admiralty, was flawed and the campaign, which faced a heroic defence by the Turks, led to stalemate and withdrawal eight months later.

Its legacy is the celebration of the “Anzac spirit” – courage, endurance, initiative, discipline and mateship – shown by the Antipodean troops.

Cathedral with strong record of inclusivity is a fitting choice for Lyra's funeral

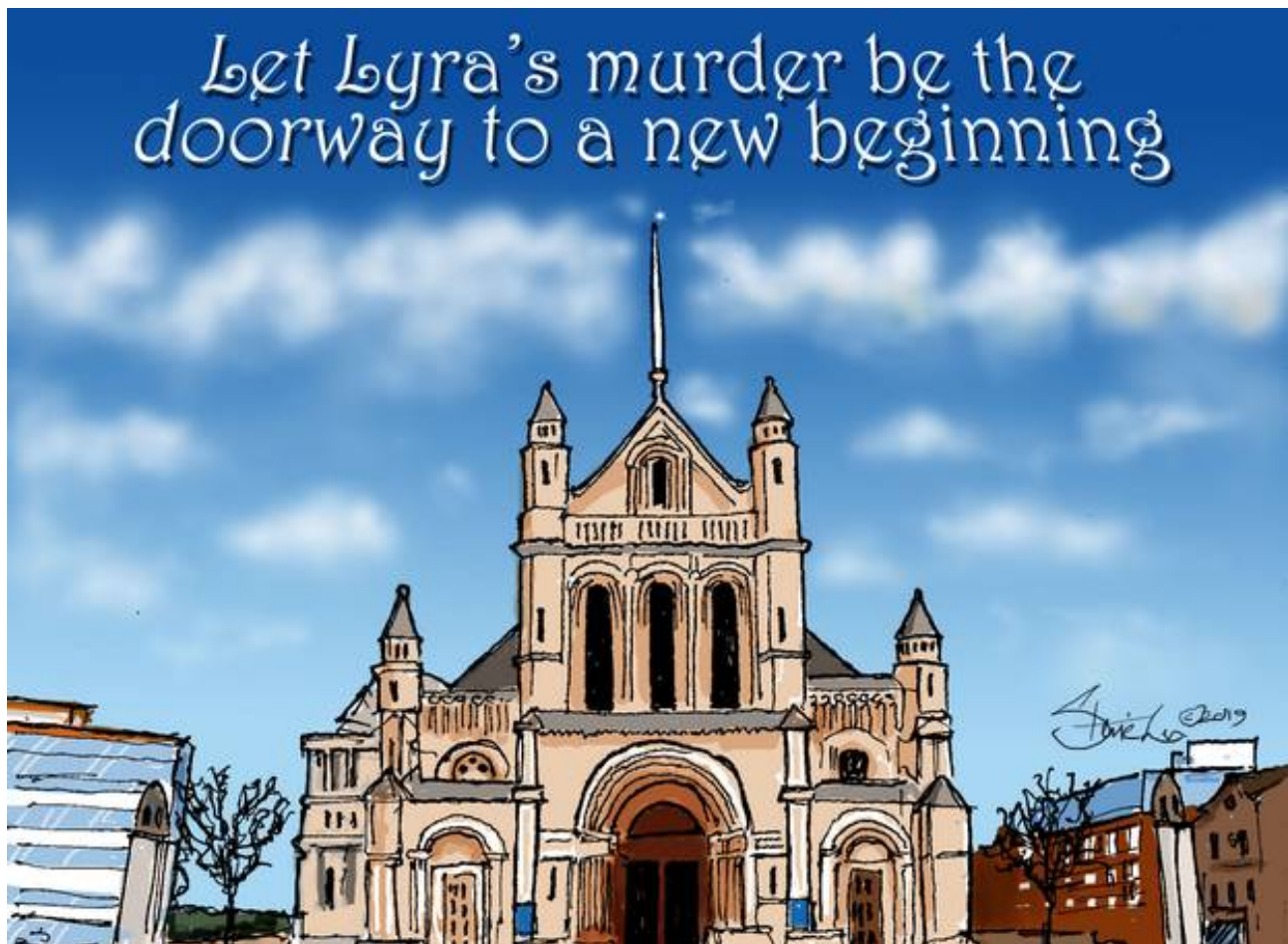
Alf McCreary, the most seasoned journalist in church news and views in Northern Ireland filed two articles this week in the Belfast Telegraph. One was written before Lyra McKee's funeral and the second after it. The first article stated -

St Anne's Cathedral, with its long history at the heart of Belfast and its proud record in recent years of inclusivity for people of all backgrounds, is a fitting choice for the funeral of Lyra McKee.

The cathedral, set on a site of the 18th century church of St Anne, has towering grandeur and the capacity to seat a very large congregation, but it also has the dignity and the intimacy to stage a fitting funeral for every occasion - from a great event of state to the passing of a former member of its own parish, or an individual who has made their own mark on society.

In the past two decades or so I have attended many such occasions on behalf of this newspaper, and I have always been impressed by the way in which the successive deans have adapted this vast building, with its gorgeous architecture and music, to suit every occasion.

One of the most impressive services recently was the cross-community commemoration of the centenary of the end of the First World War, where the main speaker was Catholic Primate Archbishop Eamon Martin. He talked movingly about his uncle, who had taken part in that awful conflagration.



Above - Steve Lee's comment in the Belfast Telegraph

As well as state and royal occasions, St Anne's has held funerals for people well-known in the worlds of entertainment and sport. During the period when the Very Reverend Houston McKelvey was dean, there was a packed congregation for the commemorative service for Derek Bell of The Chieftains. There was also a very large gathering for the funeral of Alex 'Hurricane' Higgins, when his daughter spoke movingly about the snooker star.

Despite the almost 'showbusiness' trappings of the funeral cortege, with its horse-drawn hearse and its procession through the streets of Belfast, the cathedral maintained dignity and a quiet solemnity, which was entirely fitting for the occasion.

April 26 2019

St Anne's in recent years has a proud record of ecumenism, and it was one of the first major Protestant churches to welcome Catholic clergy to its pulpit on special occasions, such as the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

It also hosted many special Days of Prayer for Our Land, organised by Brother David Jardine, who is still a canon of the cathedral.

St Anne's has forged and maintained close links with the Catholic cathedral in west Belfast, and on occasions it has reached out to people of other faiths.

On one memorable occasion Dean McKelvey hosted the Dalai Lama and his Buddhist followers, who formed such a large congregation that the doors of the packed cathedral had to be closed for health and safety.

For all these reasons, including its outreach to people of all backgrounds, and its place at the heart of our society, St Anne's Cathedral is indeed a fitting place for the funeral today of a young woman whose short life demonstrated the importance of inclusivity as well as individuality, respect and tolerance and the need for all of us to care for one another in a world of such division, brutality and pain.

Simple service mixing past with present a fitting farewell to gentle soul Lyra McKee

Many Anglican cathedrals are not known for their simple liturgy - their public worship - especially on big occasions.

However, the liturgy for Lyra McKee's funeral at St Anne's Cathedral yesterday was a model of simplicity.

April 26 2019

It was an attractive blend of the old and the new, with two ancient but still widely popular hymns interspersed with more modern pieces performed by Gareth Dunlop, Gemma Doherty and Morgan MacIntyre.

The opening praise How Great Thou Art was derived from a poem by the Swedish poet Carl Gustav Boberg.

Alf McCreary's report in the Belfast Telegraph following Lyra McKee's funeral service in Belfast Cathedral

It is technically a Gospel song with a refrain that was made popular by George Beverly Shea during the great Dr Billy Graham's religious crusades.

It was voted the UK's favourite hymn in the BBC's Songs of Praise, second only to Amazing Grace, which was included by the US magazine Christianity Today in its list of best-loved hymns of all time.

Amazing Grace was written in 1779 by former slaver John Newton, who later became a Christian and was ordained as an English cleric.

This magnificent hymn of forgiveness and redemption is reckoned by experts to be sung millions of times each year.

Amazing Grace was the closing hymn in yesterday's service, at which Father Martin Magill gave one of the most powerful speeches ever heard in St Anne's as he pointedly challenged the senior politicians present to do something to end the violence. After doing so he was given a standing ovation.

The other parts of the service were also right for the occasion, with the cathedral choir, under music director

April 26 2019

David Stevens, singing Howard Goodall's version of Psalm 23, better known to millions as the theme tune to The Vicar of Dibley.

The short readings from the Gospels of St Matthew and St John brought reassurance and hope in the midst of death, while the tribute to Lyra by Dean Stephen Forde, and also the brief prayers, conveyed a great deal in a few words with the maximum effect.

At the end A Gaelic Blessing, written by contemporary composer John Rutter and sung by the choir, was gentle and comforting in such an intense and emotional atmosphere.

The final organ voluntary, played by Jack Wilson, was an improvisation on the great 17th century hymn Now Thank We All Our God by the German Lutheran cleric Martin Rinkart.

It provided a fitting musical background as Lyra's coffin was carried on its final journey.

Christians Against Poverty warns against online imposters

Supporters of Christians Against Poverty (CAP) are being warned against scams, with bosses claiming fraudsters have been posing as the charity online recently.

Anyone receiving an email purportedly from CAP but sent from a free email service, such as Google or Outlook.com, is being urged to be suspicious.

April 26 2019

Posting on Twitter, CAP said: “Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, so the saying goes and, it turns out, there are scammers pretending to be CAP.

The advice also said: “We are Christians (with an S) Against Poverty. If it reads Christian Against Poverty - fake! There are loads of us.

“We will never unexpectedly directly pay an individual who is not a client. Sorry about that!

“We will not offer anyone direct financial payments (financial help) from our own funds.

“That’s not how we work. We give people the resources and cheer squad to help themselves.”

Anyone who has received anything suspicious is urged to contact Action Fraud, the UK’s reporting centre for fraud and cybercrime, on 0300 123 2040.

Moderator signs up for Christian Aid’s Tay Bridge walk

To launch Christian Aid Week, the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Rt Rev Susan Brown, is donning her walking boots to take part in the annual Tay Bridge Cross Challenge on Saturday 11 May.

This year, Christian Aid Week takes place between Sunday 12 May until Saturday 18 May, with fundraisers across Scotland having the choice of crossing the Forth, Tay or Erskine Bridge to help support the work of Christian Aid.

Under the banner of the ‘Bridge Cross Challenge’, people will be putting on their walking shoes, wearing red and



taking part in sponsored walks across three of the country's most iconic bridges.

The annual Tay Bridge Cross started over twenty years ago and it is now one of Dundee's longest running sponsored walks, raising thousands of pounds for Christian Aid.

Ahead of her challenge, Rt Rev Susan Brown said:

"I have fond memories of crossing the Forth Road Bridge with members of South Queensferry Parish Church more than 30 years ago and I look forward to joining people at the start of Christian Aid week this year on the Tay Bridge.

"Christian Aid helps to bridge so many gaps for the world's most vulnerable people and reminds us we are part of a global community, called to love and care for each other and to care too, for the world in which we live.

"Why not take part in a walk near you? Or consider sponsoring someone?"

April 26 2019

“Let’s keep building bridges!”

To take part in the Tay Bridge Cross, which will take place on Saturday 11 May from 2pm, please see the Christian Aid website <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/events/bridge-cross-challenge> , email Lucy Kirkland - LKirkland@christian-aid.org or call her on 0141 2416138.

Today in Christian history

April 26, 1521: After Charles V promises to take firmer measures against his doctrines, Luther leaves the Diet of Worms. A month later, his teachings are formally condemned.

April 26, 1877: Residents of Minnesota observe a state-wide day of prayer, asking deliverance from a plague of grasshoppers that had ruined thousands of acres of crops. The plague ended during that summer.

April 26, 1992: Worshipers celebrate the first Russian Orthodox Easter in Moscow in 74 years.

News briefs

+++ Down & Dromore Institution - Bishop Harold Miller has instituted Revd Capt Colin Taylor as incumbent of The Grouped Parishes of Dromara and Garvaghy. The Archdeacon of Dromore, Ven Roderic West, gave the address at the service in St John’s, Dromara.

In the five years that Colin has been in the parishes he has transferred from being the Church Army Evangelist to

April 26 2019

Ordained Ministry as the Diocesan Curate and now to the position of rector.

+++Novena at Saint Conleth's Parish Newbridge - in the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin, will be sharing stories of faith and hope during their 2019 Novena. This year's Novena takes place as the parish prepares to celebrate Saint Conleth 1500 – which will mark 1500 year's since the anniversary of the death of Saint Conleth, patron of Newbridge Parish.

The Novena, which has the theme 'St Conleth 1500: Sharing Stories of Faith and Hope', will be opened by Bishop Denis Nulty, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin, on Monday 29 April 2019.

Other speakers for the Novena include the Papal Nuncio to Ireland, Archbishop Jude Thaddeus Okolo; Local Kildare sporting legend Johnny Murtagh and broadcaster and CEO Theresa Lowe.

+++Derry Cathedral music - After a busy Easter period, the Boys and Gentlemen of the Choir enjoy a well deserved holiday this week. The Ladies Choir will sing at a service of Choral Matins at 11.00am this Low Sunday.

Then at 3.00pm, there is a special order of service for the County Londonderry Scouts Saint George's Day Service.

+++Prayer points

Nepal SD Church - Please pray for the programmes run by SDSS, including the Patient Navigator Programme and the sustainable livelihood project for people with disabilities. Pray too for the education and spiritual growth of the children supported through the rehabilitation centre.

April 26 2019

Maynooth Presbyterian Church – Rev Keith McCrory, minister.

- Pray for those attending the congregation's Alpha course as it draws to a close.
- Pray for the congregation's elder election process as they seek two new elders.
- Pray for Maynooth's new building project as they move to applying for planning permission at the end of April.

+++Food for thought - “When a man is getting better he understands more and more clearly the evil that is still left in him. When a man is getting worse he understands his own badness less and less.” CSLewis - Mere Christianity

News Links

[Martin slams Vatican officials over papal visit in candid interview](#)

The Tablet

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin of Dublin has said the **Church** in **Ireland** has to “re-find its future” and it will likely be one in which there is a lot more doubt ...

[News Briefing: from Britain and Ireland](#)

The Tablet

News Briefing: from Britain and **Ireland** ... distress and hunger around us; hurt and betrayal marking our homes, including the home of our **Church**.

[Priest calls for a 'new society' at Lyra McKee's funeral](#)

Premier

April 26 2019

Father Martin Magill, the Parish Priest at St John's Parish, Belfast, has ... The service of thanksgiving was held in the **Church of Ireland's** St Anne's ...

[Irish Times view on the funeral of Lyra McKee](#)

Irish Times

That determination was reflected, in part, by the attendance in St Anne's **Church of Ireland** Cathedral in Belfast of President Micahel D Higgins, ...

['Why in God's name' did it take McKee's murder to unite parties](#)

The Irish World Newspaper

... president Mary Lou McDonald at Lyra McKee's funeral service (Photo: Sky **News**) ... in St Anne's **Church of Ireland** Cathedral in Belfast on Wednesday when he ... to the political paralysis – a political vacuum – in Northern **Ireland**.

[Minister urges caution over calls for talks with Lyra's killers](#)

Belfast Newsletter

A **Church of Ireland** minister has urged caution after a Catholic priest said he was willing to talk with the 'New IRA' terrorists who murdered Lyra McKee ...

[Schools failing students on **religious** study opt-out, atheist group claims](#)

Irish Times

Pupils are being “forced” to study **religion** and schools are failing in their duty to allow young people opt out of the subject, Atheist **Ireland** has claimed.

April 26 2019

[End is finally in sight for a 60-year labour of love started in Kenya](#)

Dublin Gazette

At the time, Elizabeth was living there with her family, volunteering with the local **church** before she returned to **Ireland**, bringing the passion project ...

[Eight local churches and URC Synod of Yorkshire join Easter Declaration for Fossil Free Churches](#)

Independent Catholic News

... management, including the World Council of Churches, the Church of Sweden, the Anglican Church of Southern Africa and the **Church of Ireland**.

[Nicole Lizée's Spielberg Études set for world premiere at Drogheda Arts Festival](#)

Goldenplec Music News

... Festival presents the World Premiere of Nicole Lizée's Spielberg Études. Saturday 4 May 2019 at 8pm in St Peter's **Church of Ireland**, Drogheda.

[West Cork **choir** is still hitting the right notes 50 years on](#)
Echo Live

The three-part female **choir** is celebrating its golden anniversary, 50 years, with a ... taken part in, we have also travelled to other competitions and events around **Ireland** and Europe down through the years. ... Good **news** travels fast.

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April 26 2019