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## Christmas Eve collection raised £7,500 for Belfast Central Mission



**Belfast Central Mission volunteers raised £7,500 in just one day.**

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The annual BCM Christmas Eve street collection raised a grand total of £7,526.35 for the life changing work of Belfast Central Mission's projects across Northern Ireland. This significant amount represents an increase of 27% on the 2017 total and was raised by 70 volunteer bucket shakers across south and east Belfast, including staff, supporters and stakeholders.

Providing vital funds for the ongoing delivery of services for all facets of local communities from Belfast to Dungannon, the Christmas Eve collection has been taking place for more than one hundred years.

Celebrating its 130 anniversary in 2019, BCM manages and operates a wide range of social care projects and community services throughout Northern Ireland. These include housing support for both young and old, the 'Leading Independent Day Nursery in the UK', and a residential care home in east Belfast with a new £5 million facility being built outside Millisle, Co. Down.

Nicky Conway, Chief Executive of BCM, said: "We rely on the generosity of the public both at Christmas and throughout the year, and on the support of our dedicated team of volunteers.

"On behalf of all involved across our projects, I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to those who support the work of BCM and a huge congratulations to our Christmas Eve collectors for raising such a fantastic amount of money."

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## Armagh memorial to honour county's fallen nears completion

An ambitious project to honour more than 300 members of the security forces who were killed in Co Armagh, or who came from the county but murdered elsewhere, is nearing completion, the News Letter reports.

Funded entirely by public donations, the 90ft long memorial wall in the grounds of Armagh city's St Mark's Church will be fitted with a number of marble tablets listing the names of 346 men and women who died as a direct result of terrorist activity.

All members of the police, regular Army, Ulster Defence Regiment and NI Prison Service who made the supreme sacrifice between the creation of Northern Ireland in 1921 and 2001 will be honoured.

The organisation behind the lasting monument – the County Armagh Phoenix Group (CAPG) – said around one third of all police officers murdered during the Troubles, and almost a quarter of all military casualties, were in Co Armagh.

CAPG is appealing for assistance in identifying relatives of all those whose names will appear on the wall. The official unveiling is on track to take place in June this year.

A spokesman for the group said they had been “humbled by the generosity” of those who made donations towards the cost, and said some fundraising events will be held

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## **Work is continuing on the Co Armagh memorial wall in the grounds of St Mark's Church in Armagh city**

periodically to cover the cost of maintaining the memorial wall.

“The memorial will assure the families of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for peace that their loved ones have not, and will not, be forgotten – and that includes those widows and families on mainland UK who might not have any other commemorative memorial,” the group said when launching the project in 2016.

“The wall at St Mark’s will be somewhere that people can come to remember and reflect.”

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The CAPG can be contacted at 3 Mallview Terrace, Armagh, BT61 9AN, by telephoning 028 3752 7802, or on email at [capg@btinternet.com](mailto:capg@btinternet.com)

Anyone wishing to support the project can do so through the CAPG website at [www.armaghmemorial.org](http://www.armaghmemorial.org) or by email: [appeal@armaghmemorial.org](mailto:appeal@armaghmemorial.org)

## **Death of former Dean of Connor**

The Very Reverend Frederick John Rusk passed away peacefully at his home surrounded by his family on February 8. He was 91 years of age.

Dean Rusk spent his entire ordained ministry in the Diocese of Connor. He was a Canon of the Chapter of St Saviour's, Connor, before his appointment as Dean of Connor. He retired into Down and Dromore in 1998.

Dean Rusk was ordained in 1953 and served curacies in Ballymoney and St Nicholas, Belfast. He was incumbent of Broomhedge (1959–65); St Simon and St Philip, Belfast (1965–78); Ballymena (1978–88) and St Nicholas, Belfast (1988–98).

Bishop Harold Miller said, "I had the privilege of being with Fred on the night before he died. He was wonderfully cared for by his wife and family, and the room in which he died was filled with the assurance of faith. We thank God for his life and ministry."

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The funeral service will be in Shankill Parish Church Lurgan tomorrow Tuesday 12 February at 12.30 pm followed by committal in Broomhedge Parish Churchyard.

## **Unique installation of NZ bishop outside his earthquake damaged cathedral**

The new bishop of Christchurch in New Zealand, Dr Peter Carrell, was consecrated and installed on Saturday as efforts to reconstruct the earthquake damaged cathedral are finally underway.

Dr Carrell was consecrated at the Christchurch Boys High School Auditorium; ahead of an installation service in the Cathedral Square, outside the cathedral. The cathedral was all-but destroyed in the June 2011 earthquake. Years of dispute and legal wrangling over its future came to an end in September 2017 when the diocese agreed to rebuild the cathedral, with funding support from national and local government.

“Christchurch began with a special relationship to Anglicanism, with our founding forebears bringing their faith-based approach to life with them when building the city”, the Dean of Christchurch, Lawrence Kimberley, said. “This unique event will be a joyful combination of different aspects of Anglicanism. Its inclusiveness demonstrates love for friends and neighbours including welcoming those who are hard to love. It extends to work colleagues, visitors from far and near, and our tūrangawaewae, the places we are connected to and belong.”

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**Christ Church Cathedral in May 2011 after a steel frame had been erected to protect the still intact rose window. The frame was removed last month as efforts begin to prepare the building for reinstatement.**

Bishop-elect Peter Carrell described his new role as “a privilege and an honour”, adding: “I am grateful for all the support, prayer and aroha I have been receiving and that no doubt will continue. I am excited and yearn for the Diocese to move forward and thrive.”

Work on the cathedral’s re-instatement is gathering place. Last month, giant cranes removed the steel frame which has supported the west end of the cathedral and its large rose window for most of this decade. Stonemasons have removed what was left of the window and have begun gathering and recoding historic glass and carvings from the rubble. Workers have recovered large pieces of the rose

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**The Bishop of Christchurch, the Ven Dr Peter Carrell, with his wife Teresa.**

window about the size of car engines, along with smaller pieces the size of a can of beans, [the \*Stuff\* news website reports](#).

The work taking place now will enable further explorations to take place so that an effective plan for its reinstatement can be drawn up. The restoration, once it gets underway, is expected to last 10 years. Government sources estimate the cost at \$105 million NZD (approximately £54.7 million GBP), although the exact cost is not yet known.

It will be partly funded by the \$42 million insurance payout received by the diocese's property trustees, a \$10m Christchurch City Council grant, a \$10m Crown cash

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contribution, and a \$15m Government loan that will not have to be paid back if certain conditions are met.

The cathedral congregation have been meeting in a transitional “cardboard” cathedral a short distance from the historic site.

## **News briefs**

### **+++Cobh and Glanmire concerts aid Cork Simon**

**Community** - On Sunday 3rd February, the Church of Ireland Cobh and Glanmire Union of Parishes, County Cork, presented a cheque for €500 to Vivienne O’Mahony of the Cork Simon Community.

The money was raised at a recent concert which was held in St Mary and All Saints’, Church, Glanmire, as a part of the parish’s Winter Concert Series.

The concert featured the Carrigtwohill Gospel Choir and the choir from St Joseph’s Roman Catholic Church, Riverstown (Glanmire). The parish has an excellent relationship with both groups and this was a wonderful opportunity to further strengthen these links.

The concert series also features young talent drawn from the local Cork ETB School of Music in Glanmire and Ballincollig. They are an opportunity for the young performers to make their concert debuts in a relaxed and appreciative atmosphere.

The final concert in this series will be held on Friday 1st March at 8pm in St Mary and All Saints’, Glanmire, where a

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**The Rector of Cobh and Glanmire Union of Parishes, The Revd Paul Arbuthnot, together with representatives of the parish and wider community, presents a cheque to Vivienne O'Mahony of the Cork Simon Community.**

retiring collection will be held in aid of the Glanmire branch of St Vincent de Paul.

**+++Methodist Church Overflow weekend** - The President of the Methodist Church visited the event and commented later, "Really blessed this morning as I called with young people and worship leaders during Overflow weekend. Overflow provides a great opportunity for our youth to celebrate what God has done in their lives and equip them in their Christian walk. Thanks to everyone for such a lovely warm welcome."

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**+++BBC's Your place and mine at Larne Parish - St Cedma's Parish Church, Larne, will feature on BBC Radio Ulster on Saturday February 16, when 'Your Place and Mine' visits parish historian Patricia Beattie. (Please note the date has changed from February 9 to February 16).**



**Patricia Beattie, left, gives radio presenter Anne-Marie McAleese, a tour of St Cedma's, Larne.**

Patricia has produced a DVD detailing the history of the church, the second oldest in Connor Diocese, and this is on sale to raise funds for the building of the new church hall.

On Saturday January 19, 'Your Place and Mine' presenter Anne-Marie MacAleese visited St Cedma's to record a walk around the site she took with Patricia.

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**130 young people gathered at the Presbyterian Church's Youth Assembly Event on Saturday. A day to listen to the voices of young people & learn together. Theme is "One Body, Many Parts".**

This will be added to sound bites taken from Patricia's video of the church. Listen to the results by tuning into 'Your Place and Mine' on BBC Radio Ulster at 8am on Saturday 16th.

The limited edition video of St Cedma's can still be purchased from the church office and from Patricia at £10, with all proceeds going towards the new church hall building fund.

**+Donegal Parish Church re-dedication -** The first day of March will be a special one for parishioners in the Donegal

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Group of Parishes as they gather to re-dedicate the beautiful Donegal Parish Church. Over the last three years or so the church has survived a Christmas Day lightning strike and undergone extensive renovation work. Happily, that work has now come to fruition and the time has arrived to give thanks. The parishioners, and their Rector, invite you to share in their joy at their Service of Thanksgiving and Re-dedication, at 8.00pm on Friday March 1st.

**+++Dublin & Glendalough Mothers' Union Breakfast Meeting** - in the Springfield Hotel in Leixlip on Saturday February 16 from 9.30 am to 11.30 am.

The meeting will be addressed by David Hegarty on the subject of 'Mind Body Phenomena in Health and Wellness'. He will examine the idea of being well and healthy which is often a frame of mind. "It's a skill and you can learn the skill," David says.

For 55 years, David Hegarty, author, speaker, presenter, has been teaching people how to be fit , healthy and well. To achieve this, you don't have to be a fitness fanatic just possess an open mind and the will to apply yourself will always get you where you want to go, he says.

Tickets for the event cost €8 and are available from the diocesan treasurer, Jean Denner, at [treasurermudg@gmail.com](mailto:treasurermudg@gmail.com) or by post from 19 Ferrycarrig Park, Coolock, Dublin 17. Cheques should be made payable to Mothers' Union Dublin & Glendalough.

**+++Thought for reflection** - I have come to realize that the greatest trap in our life is not success, popularity, or power, but self-rejection. {These} can indeed present a great

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temptation, but their seductive quality often comes from the way they are part of the much larger temptation to self-rejection. Henri Nouwen

## **February 11 in Christian history**

**February 11, 1790:** The Society of Friends (Quakers) presents a petition to US Congress calling for the abolition of slavery.

**February 11, 1858:** Bernadette Soubirous, a 14-year-old peasant from Lourdes, France, experiences her first vision of the Virgin Mary. By July she had 18 similar visions.

**February 11, 1929:** The Lateran Treaty is signed by Mussolini and the Holy See, recognizing Vatican City as a sovereign state. At a mere 109 acres, it became the smallest nation in the world.

## **News links**

### **Lay people to perform funeral duties as priest numbers decline**

<https://www.independent.ie/irish-news/lay-people-to-perform-funeral-duties-as-priest-numbers-decline-37798258.html>

### **Sinn Fein MPs did not register trip at Venezuelan government expense**

<https://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/sinn-fein-mps-did-not-register-trip-at-venezuelan-government-expense-1-8802874>

### **No quality assessment carried out controversial St Patrick's Day parade**

The Irish News

The city is home to Catholic and **Church of Ireland** cathedrals both named after St Patrick. It has now emerged that the council did not equality screen ...

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## **Choir helps stroke survivors in Northern Ireland**

BBC News

A new project is using music and song to help stroke survivors with communication difficulties. 'Singing for Stroke' is led by volunteers, including local ..

## **Support for House of Bishops' trans rites guidance**

Lord Williams among signatories of Letter to Church Times

<https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2019/8-february/news/uk/support-for-house-of-bishops-trans-rites-guidance>

## **UK's enquiry into worldwide persecution of Christians welcomed by Catholic primate**

<https://www.catholicireland.net/uks-enquiry-worldwide-persecution-christians-welcomed-catholic-primate/>

## **Pakistani officials refused to allow Catholics to travel to World Youth Day**

<https://www.catholicireland.net/pakistani-officials-refuse-allow-catholics-travel-world-youth-day/>

## **Why ministers shouldn't walk away from social media**

<https://baptistnews.com/article/why-ministers-shouldnt-walk-away-from-social-media/>

## **Our Churches Are Either Sacramental or Charismatic**

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2019/february-web-only/andrew-wilson-spirit-sacrament-eucharismatic-worship.html>

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