

June 1, 2019



---

## Belfast focus on spirituality of Fr Gerry Reynolds



This Sunday, June 2 at 7.00 pm in Fitzroy Presbyterian Church, Rev Steve Stockman will be in conversation with Gladys Ganiel about her book on the late Fr Gerry Reynolds.

**June 1, 2019**

Steve comments, "On Sunday night I will be asking Gladys about Fr Gerry's spirituality, who and what drove him in the direction his ministry took and his relationship with Rev Dr Ian Paisley, Rev Dr Ken Newell, Rev Sam Burch and more."

Gladys Ganiel's book on the late Fr Gerry Reynolds is selling fast. As would be expected from a respected academic, "Unity Pilgrim: the life of Gerry Reynolds CSsR" is a thoroughly searched biography.

Sadly Gladys only got a few interviews with Gerry himself before he passed away. However with access to Fr Gerry's papers and the help of family and colleagues closest to him she has shaped a book that leads you through every phase of his life, making places vivid and people come to life.

In it all, Gladys eeks out all of Fr Gerry's formative influences, right down to kairos moments of awaking and change.

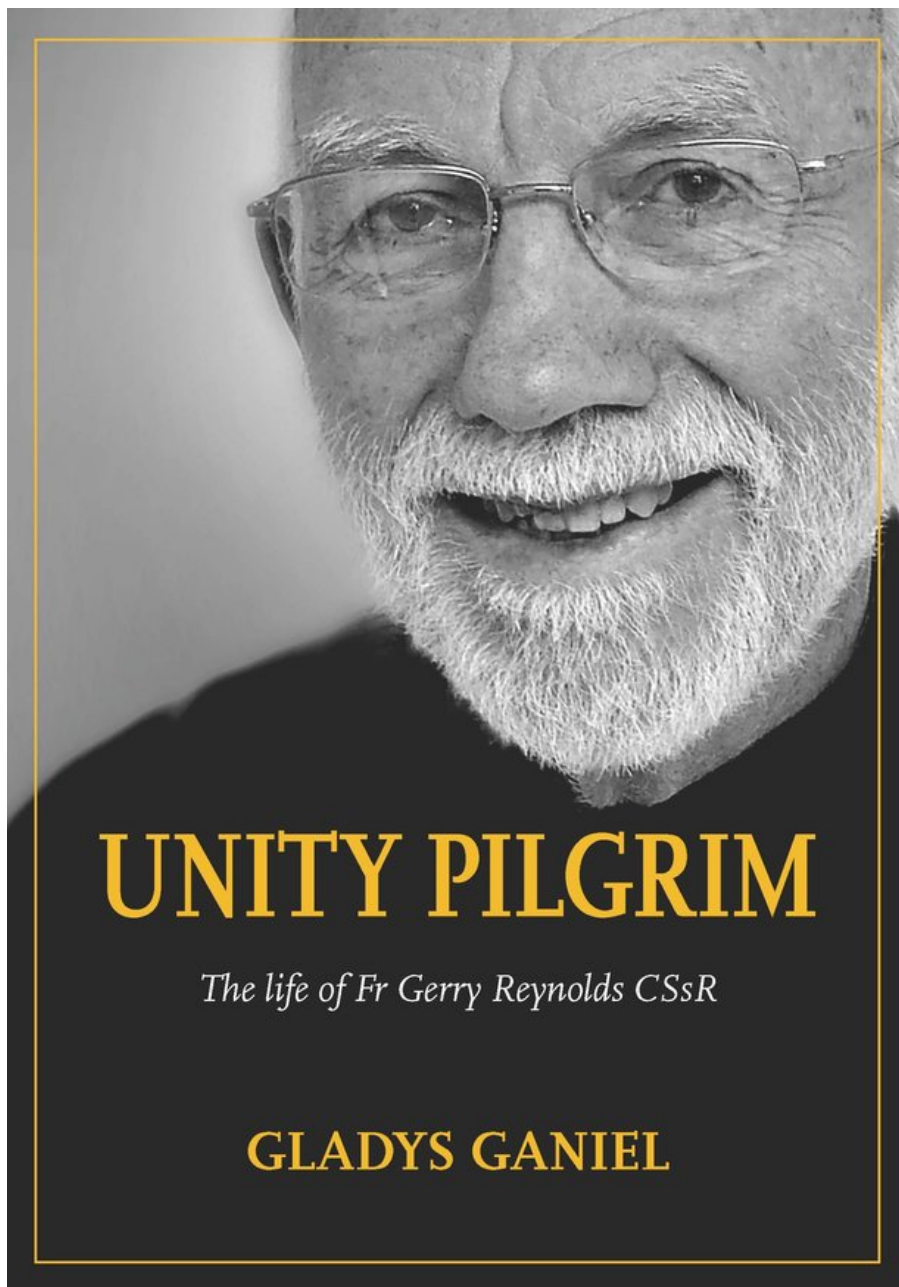
The journey leads us to Belfast, to the heart of the Troubles and to Fr Gerry doing crazy or courageous things in the name of peace and Church unity.

It is a gripping read, full of wisdom and insight on Church relations and peacemaking. FITZROY - 77 University Street BT7 1HL

## **Comment by the author**

Gladys Ganiel in a recent article commented - My new biography, [Unity Pilgrim: The Life of Fr Gerry Reynolds CSsR](#), tells the story of Fr Gerry Reynolds, a Redemptorist

June 1, 2019



priest who served more than three decades in Belfast's Clonard Monastery. His role in peacemaking is not as well-known as that of his Redemptorist colleague, [Fr Alec Reid](#), who was the pivotal broker in [the secret Hume-Adams talks](#), which are considered to be the first steps in

bringing [the IRA](#) into the peace process.

Reynolds assisted Reid behind the scenes and also developed a public ecumenical (Christian unity) ministry. This was important at a time when the [Rev Ian Paisley](#) was using a ferocious blend of religion and politics to foster division.

**"The only organisation that can do anything is the Church"**

**June 1, 2019**

[Sinn Féin's Gerry Adams](#) convinced Reid to act as a secret broker [by telling him](#) that "the only organisation that can do anything is the Church – the Church is the only organisation that has the status, the credibility, the lines of communication." Adams had grasped that Reid's position as a Redemptorist gave him a trustworthiness that opened doors to people with power. Reid and Reynolds also had built up credibility through their patient ministries among republican prisoners.

In the 1980s, politicians as well as church leaders condemned "talking with terrorists" so dialogue with paramilitaries was an enormous risk. Reynolds supported Reid, reading drafts of documents he wrote for the talks and occasionally accompanying him to secret meetings. Reynolds' diaries described how the priests were sustained during this time by prayer, like on this journey to a meeting with Adams and Hume in 1993: "Al led the morning prayer on the way and read the lessons for the office."

The priests also organised dialogues between Sinn Féin and Protestant clergy. They knew unionist politicians would not agree to talks, but they convinced their clergy friends that they could help Sinn Féin understand unionist perspectives. Reynolds said "it helped to create a human understanding between people who were ideologically in very different places."

## **Walking through the peace wall**

[Clonard Monastery](#) is located on an "interface" between the Catholic Falls district and the Protestant Shankill Road. From the top floor of Clonard, Reynolds could gaze across an imposing peace wall that divided Catholics from

June 1, 2019

Protestants. He saw it as his mission to literally walk through that wall and seek out the Protestants he believed were his Christian sisters and brothers.

Reynolds became a member of [the ecumenical Cornerstone Community](#), which maintained a house alongside the peace wall. With its leader, Methodist Rev Sam Burch, he visited more than 50 grieving families in their bereavements, on both sides of the wall. With Presbyterian Rev Ken Newell, he developed [the Clonard-Fitzroy Fellowship](#), which [won the international Pax Christi Award](#) in 1999 for its contributions to reconciliation.

Reynolds also created [the Unity Pilgrims](#), an initiative in which Catholics associated with Clonard worship with Protestant congregations on Sunday mornings. His last major project was In Joyful Hope, in which Christians of all traditions attend each other's Eucharistic celebrations. While observing Canon Law's prohibition on shared Eucharist, it expresses Reynolds' [desire](#) that one day this barrier to Christian unity will be surmounted.

Reynolds also sought to embed ecumenism in the wider Irish Catholic Church, beginning when he worked in journalism in Dublin in the 1970s. Inspired by the reforms of Vatican II, he used his position as editor of the influential Intercom priests' journal to advocate ecumenism, an enhanced role for laity and greater recognition of women's gifts to the Church. In his later years, it was his dream that there would be groups of Unity Pilgrims not only in every parish in Ireland, but across the whole world.



June 1, 2019

Read more at - <https://www.rte.ie/brainstorm/2019/0527/1051942-fr-gerry-reynolds-faith-and-the-peacemaker/>

## Bishop lays his crozier down



Bishop Ken Good lowered his crozier onto the communion table in a Raphoe school on Thursday evening and with that his 17-year ministry as leader of the Diocese of Derry and Raphoe drew to an end.

The Bishop had been presiding at an Ascension Day Service of Holy Communion which was held in a huge marquee in the grounds of the Royal and Prior Comprehensive School in Raphoe.

**June 1, 2019**

Leaders of the other main Christian churches joined serving and retired clergy, and diocesan readers from the Diocese of Derry and Raphoe at Thursday evening's service.

The preacher, Rt Rev Ken Clarke - who is Bishop Good's brother-in-law - described it as "an incredible honour" to share in a very important night for the Good family and for the Diocese of Derry and Raphoe.

## **Historic map of Tyrone estate features in unique C of I exhibition**

The C of I's RCB Library's exhibition *A Visual Window to an Ecclesiastical World* is now open to the public and will run until the end of the summer. Admission is free, and members of the Church of Ireland and others are encouraged to visit to view this unique and extraordinary collection in the purpose-built Architecture Gallery of the Irish Architectural Archive – the IAA – (Tuesday to Friday, 10am-5pm) until Friday, 30th August.

The exhibition showcasing a selection of the Church of Ireland's historical architectural drawings was launched in May, by the Archbishop of Armagh, the Most Revd Dr Richard Clarke, at a special reception in the Irish Architectural Archive, 45 Merrion Square, Dublin.

Curated by Dr Michael O'Neill FSA, and involving the collaboration of the RCB Library with the IAA, the exhibition draws on his extensive research into the Church's architectural history, which has included the digitization of almost 9,000 individual drawings to safeguard them for

June 1, 2019

future generations. All of the originals are safely housed in the Library, but to reduce their wear and tear and showcase them to a wider audience, the entire collection was systematically digitized and catalogued in the Library, and freely available to view online at <https://archdrawing.ireland.anglican.org>

*A Visual Window to an Ecclesiastical World* showcases a selection of the originals, which are arranged chronologically and thematically, guiding viewers through a representative selection of the overall collection and literally open a window to the past, telling the story of who designed these buildings – why and when they were built (or rebuilt). There is an excellent representation of virtually every diocese of the Church and of churches and glebe houses throughout Ireland, north and south.

### *The 'Earl's Gift' Demesne*

One of the items on display is the recently repaired and conserved early 19th-century map of the 'Earl's Gift' Demesne showing lands near the town of Donemana, Co. Tyrone, in the parish of Donaghedy and diocese of Derry. These lands were colourfully surveyed for the Revd Charles Douglas by Robert Craig in 1830.

The Hon Revd Charles Douglas (1791-1867) was the second son of the 14th Earl of Morton. Ordained in the Church of England, he came to Ireland as rector of Donaghedy in 1825 and continued to serve there until retirement in 1857. Clearly of significant independent means, Douglas was able to commission this survey map of the lands where he had laid out a house and planned



June 1, 2019

demesne on the former 'Earls Gift Castle' estate, which had been associated in the 17th century with Sir John Drummond who laid out the original 'Earls Gift Castle' and town of Donemana. But for this survey map which provides visual evidence of the castle, associated farmyard parish church, church lands and outlying areas, the association of over 95 acres of these lands with one Church of Ireland cleric might have remained unknown.

The map was recently transferred to the Library's custody from the diocesan registry in Derry and Raphoe in the context of a large consignment of diocesan papers. It had suffered the ravages of time, and was in need of urgent repair. Thanks to the expert intervention of Liz D'Arcy, at the Paperworks Studio for Paper Conservation, and availability of the Library's Conservation Fund which allows for urgent repair of specific items, this beautiful work of art by surveyor Robert Craig has been brought back to life.

## Today in Christian history

**June 1, 165 (traditional date):** Justin, an early Christian apologist, is beheaded with his disciples for their faith. "If we are punished for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, we hope to be saved," he said just before his death. Christians soon named him Justin Martyr.

**June 1, 1843:** Isabella Baumfree, having received a vision of God telling her to "travel up an' down the land showin' the people their sins an' bein' a sign unto them," leaves New York and changes her name to Sojourner Truth. She

June 1, 2019

became one of the most famous abolitionists and women's rights lecturers in American history

## News briefs

**+++BBC Radio Ulster's Morning Service -** on Sunday, 2nd June, will be broadcast from Rossorry Parish Church, Co. Fermanagh, at 10.15am. The service will be led by the Revd Canon Dr Ian W Ellis, Rector of Rossorry (Clogher diocese), and the service will be available shortly after broadcast at [www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0005n4b](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0005n4b)

**+++ DRY run in Stranorlar -** An advance party from DRY (Derry and Raphoe Youth) has been out and about in Stranorlar preparing the ground for July's diocesan youth outreach programme, 'On The Move'. Board chairman, Rev Peter Ferguson, and Derg Curate, Rev Naomi Quinn, were accompanied on their 'DRY run' by Rev Adam Pullen, the Rector of the Stranorlar Group of Parishes which is hosting this year's visit.

Scores of teenagers will descend on the town from the 3rd to the 7th of July, camping (indoors, of course!) in a local church hall. Their time together will be supervised by diocesan youth leaders and volunteers, and the young people will have time for fellowship and bible teaching. During the day, the young people will be out and about in the community - painting fences, working in gardens, cooking meals or lifting litter. This year, Tidy Towns Stranorlar will help out with some of the tasks.

The DRY chairman says 'On the Move' is a great opportunity to show how we can actually live out our

**June 1, 2019**

Christian faith in a local area. "God is with us as doors, good will and partnerships are opening for us," Rev Ferguson says. "Forms and information for parents, young people and leaders are available for all clergy. The deadline for forms and deposits is June 15th."



**At the service of Institution in Templepatrick on May 30 are, from left: The Rev Canon Derek Kerr, Rural Dean; Archdeacon Paul Dundas, Bishop's Commisary; the Ven Dr Stephen McBride, Archdeacon of Connor; the Rev Canon William Taggart, Registrar; the Rev Jeremy Mould, new rector of Templepatrick and Donegore, and the Rev Canon Tom Keightley, preacher.**

**+++Connor institution** - There was a large congregation at St Patrick's Parish Church, Templepatrick, for the institution of the Rev Jeremy Mould as rector of the United Parish of Templepatrick and Donegore on Thursday May 30. The Rev [churchnewsireland@gmail.org](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.org)

**June 1, 2019**

Canon Tom Keightley was the preacher. Jeremy, formerly curate of Belvoir Parish, Belfast, in the Diocese of Down and Dromore, was instituted rector by Bishop's Commissary, the Ven Paul Dundas, Archdeacon of Dalriada.

**+++CMS Ireland's Mission Teams** - will be commissioned at Antrim Parish on Sunday 16th June at 6:30 pm. This year CMSI is sending 3 Teams and 2 STEPers to work alongside our Partners in Africa and Nepal. CMSI invite you to an evening of praise, celebration and prayer. They would love to see you there! Lesley Burton and Rev Heather Cooke are undertaking their STEP placement in Nepal this summer. Pray for God's protection and enabling as they head out early July.

**+++ PCI South Africa team** - Twelve young adults from PCI will be working with Sports Academy (7-22 June) to share the gospel among children from townships. Pray for God's strength during the trip; that children's lives will be transformed by the gospel; and that team members will be motivated for mission in their everyday lives.

**+++ Armagh institution** - Revd Pete Smith will be instituted as Rector of Loughgall and Grange Parishes (Armagh diocese) on Fri 7th June 2019 at 7.30pm in Loughgall Parish Church.

**+++Summer issue of SEARCH** - on the Ministry Colloquium will be out next week. It's chock full of challenge and has, as Bishop Michael Burrows put it, "laid a few hatchable eggs". Hopefully they will start hatching in the autumn issue. Readers are warmly invited to contribute

June 1, 2019

ideas or stories contributing to this hatching, after reading the summer issue: What is the Spirit saying to the Church?

**+++ Non-Subscribing church news** - For any of our readers who like to keep abreast of events within the General Assembly of Unitarian and free Christian churches. See

<https://www.unitarian.org.uk/content/uni-news-210th-issue-10th-may-2019>

**+++ Priest takes diocese of London to employment tribunal over age of retirement** - A 70 year-old priest, the Revd Paul Williamson, is taking the diocese of London to an employment tribunal, after it ruled that he must retire. Fr Paul Williamson has served at St George's, Hanworth, for 40 years, and as Priest-in-Charge since 1992

**+++Food for thought** - "...whenever we are intentional about seeing the inherent sacredness of the places in which we find ourselves, deliberate in calling to mind those who have come before us and will follow after, and recognize God's enduring presence to us, we bear witness to the importance of going on pilgrimage — whether it is Jerusalem, Gettysburg or somewhere else altogether." Brendan McManus, SJ

**AN INVITATION**  
**to get Twitter leads from CNI**  
**Just a click on the Twitter logo on**  
**the CNI home page**



June 1, 2019

**+ Please share CNI with your friends**  
**[www.churchnewsireland.org](http://www.churchnewsireland.org)**

