



*Bayeux War Cemetery*

## **Cardinal on D-Day: 'Christians are committed to fostering culture of peace'**

**June 7, 2019**

On 6th June 1944, more than 150,000 Allied troops invaded the northern French coast, marking the start of France's liberation from the Nazi occupiers.

D-Day is remembered as a defining moment of World War II, and this year marks its 75th anniversary.

Two days of memorial services in the United Kingdom and in France led to the signing, by 16 Nations who fought during WWII, of a joint statement pledging to ensure the “unimaginable horror” of World War Two is not repeated.

Meanwhile hundreds of veterans have travelled to northern France to mark the occasion, where a commemorative event took place yesterday (June 6<sup>th</sup>) at Colleville-sur-Mer in Normandy, in the presence of the French and American Presidents.

Inaugurating the ceremonies in France, on Wednesday evening Canadian Cardinal Marc Ouellet, Prefect of the Congregation for Bishops, celebrated Mass in the Basilica and gave a reflection on the need to treasure and safeguard peace in an increasingly divided world.

He told Vatican Radio he was happy to be able to contribute to this important event:

Cardinal Ouellet said he is “pleased to go and bear witness to the message of peace of the Catholic Church”.

He notes that in today’s world, Pope Francis often decries the fact that a Third World War is being fought piecemeal,



## **Paratroopers perform a jump over Sannerville in north-western France prior to D-Day commemorations**

and that it is our urgent responsibility to do more to foster a culture of peace, of encounter, of dialogue.

“For me it is an opportunity to bring a deep reflection from the Catholic faith and from the commitment of the Catholic Church to dialogue” he said.

### **1st January: World Day of Peace**

The Cardinal recalled that in 1968, Pope Saint Paul VI established the World Day of Peace, which is marked annually on 1 January.

“For over 50 years, we have had a very concrete message for the education of peace”, he said, in the Catholic Church and beyond.

June 7, 2019

“It is a message offered to humanity in general,” he said.

Cardinal Ouellet said it is a message that should be taught and developed in schools and in the family because, he explained, “a culture of peace begins in one’s heart and in basic relationships: in the family, in schools, in society in general”.

He said that if we want to build a future of peace, we need to think of peace not only as an absence of war “but as a positive culture of peace, love, justice, fraternity”.

### **Homage to those who gave their lives**

“For me”, the Cardinal said, “It is an occasion to offer homage to the victims of the conflict”, and he pointed out that many Canadian soldiers also participated and died.

He said it is a moment of deep emotion for him to think of these soldiers who gave their lives, and at the same time remember that millions died in Europe.

“When we remember we also make a commitment to do everything possible to prevent such conflict,” he said.

It is also an occasion, he continued, to remember that Canada has not lived war on its own territory, and this, he said, “is a blessing not to have suffered in our own land”.

“I thank the Lord for this grace,” the Cardinal concluded, “and at the same time I feel committed to do even more to foster a culture of peace and dialogue in the world.”



June 7, 2019

## The Troubles: Presbyterian's face up to the past

On the second full day of business (5 June) at the 2019 General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland the Church's governing and decision-making body was updated on a major project that the Church has been engaged in over the past 3 years, which explores how Presbyterians responded to the Troubles from 1968 to 2000.

The aim of this significant undertaking is to tell a wider story than has been available to date, to acknowledge both what was good, but also to reflect upon the times when Presbyterians failed to be faithful peacemakers.

Working with the Senator George J. Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice at Queen's University, Belfast, members of Assembly heard that around 100 people had been interviewed as part of the project that will lead to the publication of a book, *Consider Grace*, later on this year. Resources for congregations are also in the process of being developed to supplement the book. They will be published early in 2020.

Convener of the Dealing with the Task Group, Rev Tony Davison of First Armagh Presbyterian Church, told the General Assembly that at one of the project's focus groups, an older person wondered if the past should just be ignored and that society should try to move on. "The youngest member of the group said, 'There are cracks in our wall at home. I only recently discovered those cracks were the result of a bomb in our village. And there are cracks in all

June 7, 2019

our families, churches, and towns and I need to understand why those cracks are there.””

Mr Davidson continued, “While wider society appears to want to expose the others cracks, or paper over their own cracks, in the Presbyterian Church we have sought to face up to, and bring healing, to our cracked past.”

Looking forward to the publication of *Consider Grace* by Merion Press, Mr Davidson publically thanked the author Dr Gladys Ganiel, researcher Dr Jamie Yohanis, and all who had participated and advised the Task Group. “The book is the result of a unique collaboration between our Church and Queen’s University. Ministers and their spouses, victims, members of the security forces, first responders, politicians, quiet peacemakers, along with critical friends, and some who have left the denomination have been interviewed.

“We have 100 different stories from about 100 interviewees, most of whom have chosen to remain anonymous. We have not tried to cover up the variety of views among Presbyterians about the past, some of the stories are heart breaking and tear jerking. Grown Presbyterian ministers and elders will cry. Some stories are heart-warming and grace-filled. Some stories are heart challenging and deeply disturbing,” he said.

Mr Davidson concluded by saying, “As a denomination we have listened carefully and prayerfully to the voices of people who up to now have not had an opportunity to tell their story publicly...I am very aware of so many more stories that need to be voiced, written down, and kept so that we can then move on into a better future.”

June 7, 2019

## **Addressing the legacy of Northern Ireland's past.**

The General Assembly also had an opportunity to discuss the Churches 2,800 word submission to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland's legacy public consultation *Addressing the legacy of Northern Ireland's past.*

While recognising the limitations in the proposals, in a resolution, members of Assembly acknowledged that with some modification, the proposals presented 'a potential opportunity to contribute to bringing a measure of healing to society in Northern Ireland.' In the same resolution, the General Assembly reiterated 'that any one-sided suite of measures, which fuels a culture of recrimination at the expense of reconciliation and the restoration of broken relationships, will have failed.'

The General Assembly also commended a paper on Human Rights, which seeks to establish a framework, based on biblical principles that will assist the Council for Public Affairs as it seeks to respond to rights-based issues in the public square.

The paper reflected on a Christian approach to contemporary thinking on Human Rights and makes the point, amongst many, that 'too much of [the] current public debate and discourse is focused on individualism over and against the common good; on autonomy over the legitimate needs and concerns of others; with litigation and conflict becoming early ports of call over the painstaking work of building consensus.'

June 7, 2019

## **C of S Moderator highlights new resource to help congregations support people living with dementia**

The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland has praised congregations for their “vital” work to support people living with dementia and their carers.

Rt Rev Colin Sinclair said the “cruel disease” is becoming increasingly common and activities aimed at giving people back their dignity and identity were very welcome.

Alzheimer Scotland has estimated that around 90,000 people are currently living with dementia in Scotland with the figure set to double over the next 25 years.

To mark Dementia Awareness Week (June 3-9), Mr Sinclair is highlighting a new learning resource to help congregations become more dementia friendly called [One Step at a Time](#).

### **Dignity**

The Moderator said: “One of the cruelest diseases that is becoming increasingly common is dementia.

“When people you know go into this shadowland – where they are there but they cannot reach you and you cannot reach them.



June 7, 2019



## **Musical Memories at Springburn Parish Church in Glasgow**

“Anything we can do as a Church to give people back their dignity and identity and support their carers, who are often family members, is to be encouraged and welcome” In my own church, Palmerston Place in Edinburgh, we started a Sunflower Café because we were aware there are people in the local community, as well as the congregation, who needed support.”

Many congregations run musical memories groups to help reanimate people living with dementia.

Research has shown that the memory of music is one of the last things to disappear in people living with the condition.

Springburn Parish Church in Glasgow’s Musical Memories group was one of only three projects in Scotland shortlisted  
[churchnewsireland@gmail.org](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.org)

**June 7, 2019**

for the 'Best Dementia Friendly Community Initiative' at Scotland's Dementia Awards last September.

St Margaret's Parish Church in Glenrothes was honoured with the 'Dementia Friendly Glenrothes' award from Alzheimer Scotland last autumn for their work in improving their building's accessibility and signage, as well as investing time in becoming trained as Dementia Friends.

Every Monday afternoon the congregation of East and Old Parish Church in Forfar, Angus hosts a music café that brings around 40-50 people together to sing their hearts out.

A mix of old hymns, Scottish songs and well-known tunes from musicals are sung.

Westburn Parish Church in Greenock is in the process of becoming dementia friendly with the introduction of new signage and "champions" have been given special training to help people living with the condition.

CrossReach, the operating name of the Kirk's Social Care Council, runs the [Heart for Art](#) project.

Research shows that creativity stimulates conversation, aids concentration and even improves memory retention.

Murdo McDonald of the Church and Society Council said: "Almost all of us know somebody whose life is touched by dementia and many the communities we serve are caring for and supporting those who are affected.

**June 7, 2019**

“It is vital that the churches seek to engage with the realities of dementia and it is very encouraging to see so many congregations actively doing so.

“But there is always space for more people to come on board and we are pleased to be able to point to the resource from Faith in Older people, ‘One step at a time’.

“This is an invaluable learning resource to help faith communities to build a more supportive environment for people with dementia and their families.”

## **Christian Aid joins call for accountability after killings of peaceful protesters in Sudan**

Christian Aid is one of 30 global agencies who are today demanding urgent international action to prevent further violence after the killing of peaceful Sudanese democracy protesters.

In a letter issued today, Christian Aid and other civil society organisations voice strong condemnation of the "horrific" attacks on protesters in Khartoum this week, which have claimed at least 100 lives and injured hundreds more.

Highlighting the grave consequences of inaction, the letter argues that "the international community cannot afford to wait or to stay silent". A separate letter also demanding immediate action was issued to African leaders and institutions earlier this week.

June 7, 2019



## **Sudanese men block a suburban road in Khartoum**

Below is the international statement in full:

“The attack on peaceful democracy protesters in Khartoum that began on June 3 that has reportedly seen the killing of at least 100 people and hundreds more injured demands a strong international response to immediately stop such attacks and ensure accountability for this and other violence in response to peaceful protests.

“At least three cases of rape were also reported during an attack on the sit-in. The attack occurred as protesters were sleeping; they were subsequently pursued in their homes and in hospitals. At least three hospitals were attacked, with reports of doctors assaulted. Since then, key opposition figures have reportedly been detained and beaten.



June 7, 2019

“These horrific acts clearly demonstrate the Transitional Military Council’s (TMC) lack of commitment to a peaceful transition to a civilian government and their determination to consolidate control by the harshest elements in the security services. It highlights the risk of further political polarization and of mass violent confrontation if urgent action is not taken in support of a peaceful transition to civilian rule.

“The international community cannot afford to wait or to stay silent; the consequences of chaos in Sudan for stability in neighbouring states, the wider region, and global security would be extremely serious. No support should be provided for the TMC or elections in Sudan until a transitional civilian government is in place.

“Cooperation with Sudanese authorities on migration management and other cooperation, except on lifesaving humanitarian aid, should be suspended, and violence should be condemned in the strongest terms. It should be made clear that the TMC cannot be considered a legitimate partner under these circumstances, and call for accountability for crimes committed. An immediate transition to civilian rule must be a pre-condition for international cooperation with Sudan.

“Recalling the letter civil society sent to Members and Observers of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) in January 2019, calling on it to dispatch an independent international fact-finding mission to Sudan, we urge the HRC to hold a special session on the human rights situation in Sudan.



June 7, 2019

“At this special session, the HRC should adopt a resolution requesting the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to set up a fact-finding mission to monitor, verify and report on the situation in Sudan with a view to making recommendations on preventing further human rights violations and abuses in relation to peaceful demonstrations, and ensuring accountability for these violations and abuses.

“The resolution should request members of the fact-finding mission to prepare a report to be shared with the HRC by the High Commissioner, and with the UN Security Council. The Council should further ensure that the High Commissioner publicly and regularly reports on the human rights situation in Sudan.

“The strong statements coming from governments around the world are welcome, though it is disappointing that the UN Security Council has failed to condemn the violence. The international community has a responsibility to call for an immediate stop to the violence against protesters, demand a release of all political prisoners, and do everything in its power to prevent the takeover of the government by military factions associated with the abuses and repression of the former regime. There is no time to waste.”

Signed:

ACS; Act for Sudan, Eric Cohen, Co-Founder, USA; African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies; Africa Initiative for Media and Journalists Safety; Christian Aid; CSW; Darfur Bar Association; DefendDefenders (the East and Horn of  
[churchnewsireland@gmail.org](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.org)

**June 7, 2019**

Africa Human Rights Defenders Project); Enough Project; HAKI Africa; International Refugee Rights Initiative; International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH); International Service for Human Rights (ISHR); Investors Against Genocide, Susan Morgan, Co-Founder, San Francisco, CA, USA; Journalists for Human Rights - JHR - Sudan; Justice Central for Advocacy and Legal Consultations; Martha Boshnick, Co-chair: Darfur Interfaith Network, Washington DC; Massachusetts Coalition to Save Darfur, William Rosenfeld, Director, Boston, MA, USA; MENA Rights Group; Najlaa Ahmed, Human Rights Lawyer NY Coalition for Sudan, New York, NY; STAND Canada; STAND: Le mouvement étudiant contre les génocides et la violence de masse, France; STAND: The Student-Led Movement to End Mass Atrocities, USA; Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa -SIHA; Sudan Democracy First Group; Sudan Unlimited; Sudanese Rights Group (Huqooq); SUDO UK; Waging Peace (London, UK).

## **June 7 - Today in Christian history**

**June 7, 1099:** The First Crusade reaches Jerusalem.

**June 7, 1502:** Ugo Buoncompagni is born in Bologna. As Pope Gregory XIII (1572-1585), he issued the Gregorian calendar, supported the Inquisition, promoted the Counter-Reformation, and encouraged missions.

**June 7, 1891:** English Baptist Charles H. Spurgeon, who preached to (on average) 6,000 people at each of his services, delivers his last sermon at London's Metropolitan Tabernacle.

June 7, 2019

# An Evening With David Norris



Ireland's pioneering public figure whose challenge to the Irish state led to the decriminalisation of homosexuality, speaks about his life, work and being gay in the 60s, 70s, 80s & 90s Ireland.

## 'My Life in the Gay Jungle'

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June @ 7PM

The Music Room at

Christ Church Cathedral

Dublin

Drinks Reception  
@ 6.30pm

Tickets €15  
Available at the door

 This event  
may be  
recorded or  
livestreamed



A Changing Attitude Ireland Event [www.changingattitudeireland.com](http://www.changingattitudeireland.com)

June 7, 2019

## June 6 - News briefs

**+++75th anniversary of D-Day** - There will be a Service of Commemoration marking the 75th anniversary of D-Day in St Paul's, Glenageary, at 11am on Saturday June 8 in association with the Dun Laoghaire Branch of the Royal British Legion.

**+++ Enniskillen school D Day anniversary events** - The Dean of Clogher, the Very Revd Kenneth Hall, will be representing Clogher Diocese at a special event at Enniskillen Model Primary School to mark the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings on Thursday. The Dean will join the High Sheriff for Fermanagh, as well as the Consul Generals for the US and Poland, and the New Zealand Honorary Consul, as well as the Vice-Chairman of Fermanagh and Omagh District Council. A number of World War Two veterans will be attending along with representatives from the Army, Royal Air Force and Navy. There will be a model of a Spitfire aircraft in the grounds along with US vehicles.

**+++ RTÉ broadcast service** - for Trinity Sunday, 16th June, will be led by the Revd Canon Andrea Wills, Priest-in-Charge for Straid Parish Church (Foxford), and will feature a congregation and choir from the parish. The service will be broadcast on RTÉ One television and RTÉ Radio 1 Extra from 11am to 11.45am, and will be available afterwards at [www.rte.ie/player](http://www.rte.ie/player)

**+++ Talk and tour of Balmoral Cemetery** - The Presbyterian Historical Society is hosting a talk by Tom

**June 7, 2019**

Hartley, Local Historian and Writer on Wednesday 26 June 2019 at 2.30 pm in Malone Presbyterian Church, 452 Lisburn Road, Belfast BT9 6GT (at the corner of Lisburn Road and Balmoral Avenue; Car park access is from the Lisburn Road). Followed by a guided Walk in the Cemetery which is nearby in Stockman's Lane, across the road from Malone Presbyterian Church. Everyone Welcome

**+++ News from Eco–Congregation Ireland** - The latest [newsletter](#) from Eco–Congregation Ireland features highlights from General Synod, including a short film, introduced by the Revd Andrew Orr, the All Ireland Pollinators campaign, local actions by parishes, and Tearfund's 'This is a Rubbish Campaign' to prevent plastic pollution. Details of Manorhamilton parish's forthcoming talk on bee-keeping, eco-tips from Killiskey parish, and a reflection by the Revd Trevor Sargent on St John the Baptist are also included. The Irish Council of Churches also adopted several Climate Justice Affirmations at its recent annual meeting. Eco–Congregation Ireland is an initiative of the Irish Inter Church Meeting, and includes members from the Roman Catholic Church, Church of Ireland, Presbyterian Church, Methodist Church and Religious Society of Friends. More information from - [info@ecocongregationireland.com](mailto:info@ecocongregationireland.com)  
[www.ecocongregationireland.com](http://www.ecocongregationireland.com)

## **June 7 News Links**

### **Presbyterian Church keeps Scottish distance**

BBC News

Presbyterian ministers from south Belfast failed to persuade the **church** to rethink ...

**Church** is the largest Protestant denomination in Northern **Ireland**.

[Presbyterian Church rejects motion to 'restore relationship' with mother church in Scotland](#) - Belfast Newsletter



**June 7, 2019**

## [Media right to challenge \*\*Church\*\*, says ex-Moderator](#)

Belfast Telegraph

A former Presbyterian Moderator has told the **Church's** General Assembly that "contrary to what many people appear to think", the media are ...

[Presbyterian leaders vote to maintain split with Scotland](#) - Belfast Telegraph

[Presbyterian general assembly: We must face up to cracked past of Troubles, not paper over ...](#) - Belfast Newsletter

## [QUB criticised for cutting theological college links](#)

BBC News

By Robbie Meredith BBC **News** NI Education Correspondent ... At its general assembly last year, the Presbyterian **Church** in **Ireland** (PCI) decided to ...

## [Divisions not going away anytime soon](#)

Belfast Telegraph

However, it reveals a deep-seated opposition to the Scottish **Church's** liberal view on same-sex issues, despite the plea by the outgoing Moderator, ...

## [Presbyterian leaders vote to maintain split with Scotland](#)

Belfast Telegraph

The Presbyterian **Church in Ireland** (PCI) has voted overwhelming not to revisit its controversial decision from last year to end high-profile exchange ...

## [QUB criticised for cutting theological college links](#)

BBC News

At its general assembly last year, the Presbyterian **Church in Ireland** (PCI) decided to deny full church membership to anyone in a same-sex ...

## [Invitation to priest who blames autism on parents 'should be withdrawn'](#)

Irish Times

A priest of the Eastern Syro-Malabar Catholic **Church**, which is based at Kerela in India and has about 4,000 members in **Ireland**, Fr Valanmahal has ...

## [Father Ted musical on way, says Hannon as he lays into Brexit, Trump and benefits](#)

Belfast Telegraph

The 48-year-old knows all about the border - he was born in Londonderry, the son of **Church of Ireland** minister Brian Hannon, before the family ...

## [Concert in Armagh for retiring conductor and trustee Roger Jarvis](#)

Armagh i

The Drake Music Project, Northern Ireland exists to afford physically disabled ... The concert is at 7:30 on the 14th June in St Patrick's **Church of Ireland** ...

## ['Drugs don't make you king. Drugs make you into a corpse' - priest delivers powerful address at ...](#)

**June 7, 2019**

[Independent.ie](http://Independent.ie)

There was an obvious garda presence at the **Church** of Our Lady Immaculate in Darndale for the funeral mass this morning, just yards from the ...

### [Special commemoration to remember those who have lost their lives through farm accidents](#)

Leitrim Observer

Embrace FARM the support network for those affected by farm accidents will host its Annual Ecumenical Remembrance Service in the **Church** of the ...

### [Model of Clonmel's oldest building presented to St. Mary's Church of Ireland](#)

[TipperaryLive.ie](http://TipperaryLive.ie)

The Mary Street **church** is the town's oldest building. The first mention of the **church**, and also the first reference to any building in Clonmel, is in a letter ...

### [Free up church land for therapeutic gardening, says bishop of Carlisle](#)

The Guardian

Churches should offer their green spaces as gardening projects for people with mental health problems, a senior **Church of England** bishop has said.

[Free up church land for homeless and lonely to do therapeutic gardening, says Bishop of Carlisle - Telegraph.co.uk](#)

## **AN INVITATION**

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

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

June 7, 2019

