



# Memorial wall to terrorist victims dedicated in Armagh



## Moving ceremony in Armagh on Sunday at the dedication by Lord Eames of memorial wall to the 345



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police and military murdered during the troubles. A sad but proud day for the 800 members of their families and colleagues who attended.

A poignant service took place on Sunday in Armagh to mark the deaths at the hands of terrorists of nearly 350 members of the security forces.

The service at St Mark's Church of Ireland in Armagh saw a County Armagh Memorial Wall unveiled and dedicated, bearing the names of 345 victims who were either killed as a result of terrorism in the county or came from the county and were killed elsewhere.



Rector of St Mark's, **Rev Malcolm Kingston**, welcomed over 700 family members and relatives to the service along with Church of Ireland Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland the **Most Reverend Dr Richard Clarke** who led the service.

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During the event one of his predecessors as archbishop – the **Right Reverend Lord Eames** – delivered the sermon, while a former president of the Methodist Church in Ireland, **Rev Ivan McElhinney** and the new Presbyterian Moderator **Dr William**

**Henry**, in his first official engagement, read from scripture.

The memorial wall was built using funds raised by the County Armagh Phoenix Group, formed in 2007 to support ex-security service members in the area who were victims of terrorism.

Discussing the terrorists who killed the 345 people named on the memorial wall, committee member Stanley Burrows BEM said the IRA and INLA were the main perpetrators though some were killed by loyalists.

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He added: “Despite all the stories about sectarianism in the security forces there are 16 Catholic names on the wall, and that’s just from Northern Ireland. We don’t know about the religion of the English soldiers.”

The book ‘From Partition To Peace’ by Mr Burrows is a chronology of all those whose names appear on the wall, with proceeds going towards the same wall.

He said: “It’s important to remember these victims in a full memorial. Co Armagh is the smallest of the six counties, but it’s where 33% of police were killed and 25% of military casualties took place...It would be a nice thing if other counties might do the same.”

The chair of the Phoenix group, David Hammerton BEM said: “Each name represents the tragic life of a loved one torn from their families in brutal and pre-planned acts of violence.

“It was bad enough that some of these lives should be taken whilst the victims were serving in uniform to protect all communities in County Armagh.

“Many were also murdered when off-duty whilst going about their day-to-day business, attending their places of worship and even in their own home.” - Report courtesy the News Letter

## **The Message is not the problem being a Christian in Ireland today**

‘What does it mean to you to be a Christian in Ireland today?’ was the question pondered by panellists in this



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**Garrison Group of Parishes takes Three Peaks for charity - Support for the Three Peaks Challenge fundraiser last June raised £8540.51 for Cancer Fund For Children, a charity that gave much support to Graeme and Sandra Gregg. Graeme and Hollie, along with two of the team members, handed over the cheque at the Cancer Fund For Children office in Belfast last week. All of the team members are pictured at the top of Scafell Pike during the challenge.**

year's Ecumenical Bible Week Thinking Allowed event last Thursday (June 13).

Speakers raised a wide range of challenges facing society, and Christians in particular. But they also brought stories of hope and encouragement.

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Sharing their thoughts in the Holy Cross Diocesan Centre in Dublin were Bishop Pat Storey, the Church of Ireland Bishop of Meath and Kildare; the Revd Jools Hamilton, Methodist Chaplain at Trinity College Dublin; Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, Catholic Archbishop of Dublin; and Julia McKinley, development officer for the National Bible Society of Ireland. The panel was chaired by Patricia Carroll of the Archdiocese of Dublin's Office of Evangelisation.

## **How is this not good news anymore?**

Bishop Pat Storey opened by suggesting that being a Christian in Ireland today meant a “whole lot of bother”. “Many of us find ourselves on the wrong side of culture and swimming against the stream of cultural norms,” she stated, adding: “It’s almost got to the stage that if the Church says ‘yes’ then society says ‘no’ and if the Church says ‘no’, society says ‘yes’.”

However, she said she loved the Church and wholeheartedly believed in its future. She had no doubt that God would take us through these confusing times. “The Church in Ireland is not used to being questioned, ignored and hated. And, hands up, some of it is our fault. Our place in society has almost been overturned in the last few years but this could be an opportunity. When I talk to people who don’t go to church, they still have a spiritual thirst ... We still have the same product to bring to market but our marketing needs to change. How have we managed to lose the message? How is this not good news anymore?” she wondered, stating “The message is not the problem, we are.”

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Bishop Storey suggested that there was only one response to the decline in traditional denominations – the passion of personal faith. “I can only bring my own story. I know Jesus Christ has changed my life. My one job is to tell that to others. I must communicate love – He loves you. Yes, there are challenges and we have some regrets but there is hope because He is hope. What is it like to be a Christian in Ireland today? It’s fantastic. God is love and that love is offered to whoever takes his hand,” she concluded.

### **What is God doing and how do I join in?**

The Revd Jools Hamilton brought his perspective as chaplain to both students and staff most of whom, he said, are not interested in the Church. They do, however, have questions about God and they are searching. Drawing on Luke Chapter 4 he said the challenge is to see the activity God is engaged in outside our walls – outside our churches.

He told the story of a student, ‘Niamh’ (not her real name) who was baptised in the church but who did not grow up in faith. She was studying theology in TCD and flourishing in her faith. She was also gay. He said that one of the Christian student groups she attended found out and presented her with a book to guide her from the darkness and sin in her life. She came to Jools about it and he later wrote a blog about her situation. He was contacted after his blog post by a conservative Christian couple who noted that whatever their opinions, everyone should be aware of “the radical inclusivity of the Gospel”.

“Where is my hope?” he asked. “Where ever we look outside our walls. When we recognise where the spirit of

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God is active. When we change our message from ‘what I’m bringing you’ to ‘what God is doing in us’. Church historian Dermot MacCulloch said that the most miraculous thing about the Church is that it is still here. There are days that it gets me down but it’s still here and God is still active and present outside our walls. Will we have the courage to ask, to pray, ‘what are you doing and how do I join in?’”

## **Faith is Always a Risk**

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin observed that sometimes if you profess yourself a Christian today “it’s like going to an ecological meeting wearing a fur coat – you’re not welcome”. He referred to the wretched man in Romans Chapter 7 and said the wretched man would not be found prominently in books on evangelisation or promoting youth ministry. But he said he likes the wretched man. He said it is important to avoid settling into a comfortable faith or what he termed “comfort zones of self–buttressed certainty”.

For many today in their search for meaning, the question of God and Jesus Christ keeps cropping up, the Archbishop said. In questioning the desire to reject God, questions of who God is are opened up. “For me, being Christian in today’s world is one who is haunted by Christ not one who is in certainty of faith. Being Christian is one who recognises the uncertainty of faith. Faith is always a risk,” he stated.

Archbishop Martin said that the Church is visionary and is never a closed fellowship of the like–minded. “We are encouraged to reach out to all of secularised Ireland,” he said. He said that in dealing with the issue of child abuse in the Church, many took the opportunity to reject the good will



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of the Church and of Christ. They were angry with the Church, he suggested. The answer to this will only come from men and women of integrity who can go out into society and who can bring the news that faith can add that extra dimension to society.

## **What is the question people are asking?**

While browsing the self-help section in Easons, Julia McKinley said she was struck by the range of subjects covered: organisation, decluttering, hygge, mindfulness, minimalism, Marie Kondo's multi-million selling book. "What is the question people are asking?" she wondered. "What is the yearning inside us?"

She suggested that one of the things we so crave is peace. "We're looking for it in colour schemes, apps on our phones, scrolling on public transport. We feel busier and busier, yet all the time we are striving for peace," she said. She said that increasingly there is a phenomenon of 'stopping without stopping'. Our phones are never truly off and down time is simply 'non-work' rather than stopping totally.

"If peace is a fundamental craving, is there anything that we as Christians can offer?" Julia asked. "Is there anything from Scripture that speaks into this yearning?" She explored what peace means – defined as 'lack of war' or 'tranquillity'. The Hebrew for peace is shalom meaning wholeness, safety, welfare. "One challenge with the modern world is the continual draw of social media. We are aware of the news, not only locally but globally. This can be overwhelming. The question is, who is standing in front of me and how can I see to their shalom ... Being a person of faith in Ireland requires

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a connection of faith with shalom at our core. Perhaps seeing to the shalom of our brother is one way of moving forward,” she concluded.



## **Armagh Cathedral choristers in concert**

The boy choristers of St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral in Armagh will present their annual concert on Friday 21 June 2019, beginning at 7.30pm. The concert will feature a variety of choral and instrumental items, ranging from music by J S Bach to the Beatles, so there will be something for all tastes!

Dr Stephen Timpany, Organist and Master of the Choristers, commented, "Our boy choristers are musically very gifted, [churchnewsireland@gmail.org](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.org)

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and this concert will showcase their many and varied talents. We are all used to seeing and hearing them sing in the Cathedral Sunday by Sunday, but our choristers have many other musical skills as well. There will be something for everyone, and there may even be a reference to the recent Champions League winners!”

The Dean of Armagh, the Very Revd Gregory Dunstan, said, “Dr Timpany and the choristers have been preparing for this concert for some time. Last year’s was a wonderful showcase of their talents. We look forward to some lovely music for a summer’s evening, on the longest day of the year.”

The concert, which will last around 45 minutes, will take place in the Music Hall opposite to the Cathedral, and will be followed by light refreshments. Admission to the concert is free with a retiring collection most welcome towards the further endowment of the Cathedral choir through the Archbishop’s Choir Fund.

## **Grammy winning US boy choir debut tour of Ireland**

Three-time Grammy winning US choir, Pacific Boychoir Academy, are making their debut tour to Ireland at the end of this month, with a free performance at St Anne's Cathedral in Belfast on 30 June at 7.30pm and a free concert at Saint Patrick’s Cathedral in Dublin on 29 June at 7.30pm. Then the choir go to St Eunan’s. Letterkeeny on July 3, St Nicholas’ Galway on July 6 and Galway Cathedral on July 7.



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Previously, the boy choir has performed with conductor Gustavo Dudamel alongside The Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra. The choir has also won Grammy awards for recordings made in collaboration with The San Francisco Symphony, and has also produced over 9 independent recordings.

Their tour programme will include sacred classics such as works by Tallis and Rachmaninoff, as well as folk songs including *The Parting Glass*, *Shenandoah* and a selection of traditional African songs. They'll also sing popular classic songs including *Over the Rainbow* and *Here Comes The Sun*. The Belfast eventbrite page is at: [bit.ly/pbabelfast](http://bit.ly/pbabelfast)

## **June 18 - Today in Christian history**

**June 18, 1464:** Pope Pius II begins a crusade against the Turks. He died on the way to a rendezvous with his allies, and the crusading mentality died with him.

**June 18, 1546:** Protestant Anne Askew is condemned in England for denying the doctrine of transubstantiation (the idea that sacramental bread and wine turn into the body and blood of Christ). When asked by her accuser, "Sayest thou that priests cannot make the body of Christ?" she answered, "I have read that God made man; but that man can make God, I never yet read, nor, I suppose, shall ever read.

**June 18, 1956:** Founder of The Navigators, Dawson Trotman dies of a heart attack while rescuing a swimmer at a summer Navigators conference in the Adirondacks.

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## June 18 - News briefs



**+++Clogher installation** - On Sunday night Rev Canon Ngozi Njoku was installed as Prebendary of Kilskeery in Enniskillen Cathedral by The Dean of Clogher, The Very Revd Kenneth Hall. She was supported by many family members who flew in for the service, also many friends and Parishioners. The preacher was The Right Revd Patrick Rooke, Bishop of Tuam, Killala and Anchonry.

**+++ Limavady school going to Kenya** - A team of 31 from Limavady Grammar School will be visiting Kajiado Diocese in Kenya from 28th June to 17th July. They will be working at Olooyusian Girls' School in helping to construct a new kitchen. Pray for safety and protection during their time overseas as a CMSI team.

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**+++Their Dean did it** - 4 days, 6 Counties, 8 Cathedrals, 273 miles....Finished! A relieved Dean Geoff Wilson, pictured with cycle buddy Jonny Jackson who accompanied him on the final leg, at the end of a marathon cycle around the province. Thanks is expressed to everyone who offered support, whatever that looked like, as Geoff cycled to raise funds for a Disabled Toilet in Dromore Cathedral and a 20,000 litre water tank at Maridi Cathedral, South Sudan. [Find out more about Geoff's fundraising cycle here.](#)

**+++ Farewell in Portadown** - The Rev. Thomas Stevenson and his wife Dawn will be saying farewell to the Portadown Methodist Circuit at a special service this Sunday in Thomas Street Methodist Church, beginning at 7.00pm.

**+++CMSI commissioning service** - was held on Sunday night in All Saints Parish Church, Antrim for their two teams and 2 STEPs going to Zambia, Kenya, and Nepal this summer. Please pray for them as they go out in obedience to God's call. Pray they will have hearts of service and humility as they interact with CMSI's Global Partners and God's family in these three places.

**+++ Clerical appointment in Meath & Kildare** - The new part-time priest for Clane Union of Parishes is Rev Ruth O'Kelly, who has been appointed to Clane Union of Parishes. Ruth is currently curate in Rathfarnham parish, in the diocese of Dublin. Her service of introduction will take place on Thursday 19th September, at 8pm, in the Church of St Michael and All Angels in Millicent.



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**+++Gathered in training** - On Saturday 8th June, representatives of parishes across the Diocese of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh met for a day of missional training, worship and fellowship. This autumn, KEA is partnering with Through Faith Missions for a time of mission throughout the diocese. The theme is 'Gathered In Mission 2019' and is taking place during the harvest season running from 21st September to 6th October 2019.

**+++PCI Children's Ministry Course** - Enrol now for 10 weeks of training that will change the way you build relationships and share Jesus with children in your congregation and community.

Monday nights, 7.30-9.30pm | 16 September – 25 November 2019

Venue: Union Theological College, Belfast

Cost: £100

This carefully designed course will enhance the gifts of anyone involved in children's ministry, whether they work in the church full-time, are a Sunday school coordinator, children's ministry leader or helper, or an elder with responsibility for children's ministry in the congregation. It will help participants see children's ministry differently and equip with skills and techniques to make their ministry even more effective.

Full details can be found at [www.presbyterianireland.org/cmc](http://www.presbyterianireland.org/cmc)

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**+++RSCM International Summer School** - A wonderful week experiencing worship through music from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> century, with excellent tuition from inspirational leaders.

RSCM says - A pilgrimage theme runs through the week, so we shall visit and sing in amazing buildings guided by musical and liturgical specialists. We are offering a comfortable, homely residential base in the countryside outside Norwich; opportunity to meet and learn from composers Cecilia McDowall and Joel Payne in person; adequate time for learning on-site in pleasant, bright rooms; cathedral choral worship shared with the RSCM's top youth choir, the MYC; fellowship and friendship with like-minded people from around the world.

A specialist team of seven RSCM tutors, including Helen Bent who will lead the pilgrimage day by coach to the East Anglian Angel-roof and other (historically) significant churches, will be available to offer really useful advice and workshops. There will be options for topic-choices, and at all times you would have the freedom to opt in or out of the programme according to your choice. Practical topics will include conducting, organ-playing, band-leading skills, vocal coaching, composition/arrangement, good working practices for church musicians, and how to teach musical literacy. Debates and forum opportunities will happen in the evenings and the days will begin and end with worship in a wide variety of styles.

There are limited places available for non-residential students whilst the majority will benefit from living and working on-site for the week. RSCM members receive a discounted price on full-week tickets, and we offer

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unbeatable value for money in all the above plus dinner, bed and breakfast (and some lunches) in pleasant surroundings.

Details at -

<https://www.rscm.org.uk/start-learning/international-summer-school/>

**+++Food for thought** - "The real test of being in the presence of God is, that you either forget about yourself altogether or see yourself as a small, dirty object." CS Lewis

## **June 18 News Links**

### [Review calls for Catholic Church safeguarding revamp](#)

BBC News

The Catholic Church in Scotland needs to revamp its measures for ... learned from the organisational changes made in the Catholic **Church of Ireland**.

### [Celebrating two centuries of worship in Arva](#)

Anglo Celt

The **Church of Ireland** in Arva will celebrate 200 years of the present building this Sunday, June 16. The current building was built in 1819 with the aid of ...

### [The first Hindu temple of Ireland](#)

New Europe

But at that time, there were very few Hindus in **Ireland**, and to collect ... Also, we had a lot of interaction with the **Church** of Scientology of **Ireland**.

### [Catholic schools in Tyrone could be closed or merged](#)

The Irish News

In Armagh, the **Church of Ireland** managed Drelincourt Infants', which has 28 pupils, will be looked at alongside the controlled Armstrong PS, which ...

### [Ireland: Archbishop Eamon Martin at Adoremus Conference Mass](#)

Independent Catholic News

Archbishop Eamon Martin preached on Saturday at Mass for the Adoremus Conference held in the National Marian Shrine, **Basilica** of Our Lady of ...



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## **Church of England** achieves second place in global responsible investment industry rankings

Premier

The **Church of England** has been ranked second globally in an industry survey ... This follows investor engagement by the **Church of England** Pensions ... of England to help lead an effective response to climate change and to **press** ...

## The **Church of England** needs to think more clearly about transgender issues

ChristianToday

The clear and rational stance taken by the Roman Catholic **Church** in its document 'Male and Female He Created Them: Towards a path of dialogue ...

## Oxford dean faces £500000 secret tribunal in pay dispute

The Guardian

Percy also heads Christ Church cathedral. He has strong support from within the **Church of England** and from some Oxford college heads, but a group ...

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