



Holocaust Memorial Day memories of Irish victim and two Irish women and an English nun with an Irish passport who befriended Jews

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The only Irish citizen known to have died in the Holocaust was Ettie Gluck (nee Steinberg) who died in Auschwitz in 1942 with her Belgian husband Vogtjeck and their little son Leon.

Ettie and her six siblings were brought up by their Jewish-Czechoslovakian parents near Dublin's South Circular Road.



Ettie Steinberg on her wedding day in Dublin

Ettie was born on January 11 1914, probably in Czechoslovakia before her family relocated to London, and then to Ireland in 1926.

In July 1937 Ettie married her Belgian boyfriend Vogtjeck Gluck in Dublin's Greenville Hall Synagogue.

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They moved to Belgium where Vogtjeck's family business was located and when war broke out they fled to France, where son Leon was born on March 28 1939.

Three visas were sent from the British Home Office in Belfast to Toulouse, where Ettie's little family was hiding, in fear of their lives.

The visas permitted them to come to Northern Ireland, but the documents arrived a day too late.

They were caught in the round-up of Jews on 2 September 1942 and put on a train to Auschwitz, arriving there on September 4 1942.

Ettie, Vogtjeck and little Leon were hustled along the platform with hundreds of other Jews to the awaiting gas chambers. But many Jews were saved from Hitler's genocide by heroic, selfless, often rarely-hailed rescuers.

People like Germany's Oskar Schindler and Britain's Sir Nicholas Winton are well-marked by history, but some 25,000 lesser-known rescuers from over 40 countries are remembered and honoured by Israel as The Righteous Among the Nations, a title bestowed on non-Jews who risked their lives during the Holocaust saving Jews from Hitler's extermination camps.

The names of The Righteous are recorded on the Wall of Honour, or commemorated by a tree, in the Garden of the Righteous at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, where two names have strong Irish links.

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Cork-born Mary Elmes (centre) in Spain, 1938, with Alice Resch and colleague Juan

Commemorating the Holocaust on this page four years ago was a gripping account taken from File Number 12543, which at the time was thought to contain details of the only Irish person named in the 25,000 files held at Yad Vashem.

She was Cork-born Mary Elizabeth Elmes, whose Righteous Among Nations medal was awarded on 23 January 2013 for her Second World War rescue missions at Pyrenees-Orientales. But in 2017 Clare (Sister Agn s) Walsh, who sheltered Jews from the Nazis in her convent in southern France, was honoured with a plaque in her home town of Hull.

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Sister Agnés, who died in 1993, received a Righteous Among the Nations medal in 1990, but her heroism wasn't widely known about in Britain until 2017.

Her fearlessness and daring is recorded in File Number 4590 in Yad Vashem, and it was under the cover of her Irish passport that she undertook her heroic Second World War rescue mission in France!

Sister Agnés was assistant to the mother superior, Sister Granier, in the St Vincent de Paul convent in Cadouin, in the Dordogne region on France.

Born Ada Vallinda Walsh in Hull, Sister Agnés joined the Daughters of Charity, serving in Ireland, Jerusalem and then in France, at the convent in Cadouin.

In December 1943, during manhunts for Jews in the area, the Jewish Cremieux family was given refuge in the convent. (During the occupation of France it is thought that around 76,000 French Jews were deported to German death camps. Only about 2,500 survived.)

Pierre Crémieux with his wife, two nine-month-old babies and their six-year-old son Alain, had tried unsuccessfully to get out of France.

Sister Agnés was profoundly moved by their plight and disregarding the extreme danger persuaded Sister Granier to shelter them. The family remained in the convent until liberation, treated warmly and devotedly by the nuns.

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Sister Agnès taught Alain English though she was pretending to be Irish and had an Irish passport from her time spent as a nun in Ireland.

As an Englishwoman - an 'enemy alien' - her presence was a further threat to the nuns' community. She was much safer coming from neutral Ireland, but even so she was risking death on a daily basis.

After the war the Crémieux family remained in touch with their rescuers and on 1 March 1990 Yad Vashem recognised Sister Agnès and Sister Granier as Righteous Among the Nations.

The only other Irish passport-holder honoured by Yad Vashem was Cork-born Mary Elizabeth Elmes whose Righteous Among Nations medal was awarded on January 23rd 2013 for her Second World War rescue missions at Pyrenees-Orientales.

In File Number 12543 Mary's religion is recorded as Catholic; her job-title in France is specified as Head of Emergency, Quakers; her married name was Danjou; date of birth was May 5 1908, in Cork, Ireland, and date of death was March 9 2002 in Perpignan, southern France.

As an aid worker in France she was credited with saving the lives of hundreds of Jewish children during the Holocaust, often by hiding them in the boot of her car. Article courtesy of the Rambler column, News Letter.

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New rector for Swords

The appointment has been announced of a new Rector of Swords, Donabate and Kilsallaghan. The Revd Neal Phair, who is currently Rector of the Ballybay Group of Parishes in the Diocese of Clogher, will be instituted in the spring.

Neal is married to Dr Lucy Jessop and they have two children, Emily (8) and Henry (6).

Prior to his current incumbency, he ministered in Oxford Diocese, was chaplain to the Dublin Institute of Technology, Rector of Ballintoy, Dunseverick and St Thomas', Rathlin Island, (Connor) and served as Curate in Kilconriola and Ballyclug (Connor).

Prior to entering training for ordination, he was a teacher and taught in St Columba's College, Rathdown School and the King's Hospital among others.

Neal has a keen interest in ecumenism. One of his main priorities in ministry is pastoral care and outreach to young families and young adults. He is also keen to reach out to all ages who are on the edge of the church or who are removed from it.

In his spare time, Neal enjoys acting, going to the theatre and visiting art galleries. He plays piano and enjoys singing. He has a keen interest in rugby and more recently has taken up golf.

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“I very much relish the opportunity to minister in the parishes of Swords, Kilsallaghan and Donabate. These are significant, rapidly growing areas of North Dublin which include important commercial development and Dublin International Airport. I have acquired a huge amount of experience running parishes here in Ireland, North and South and also in Oxford, as well as my time as a Chaplain in the Dublin Institute of Technology. I look forward to utilising this experience in leading the parishes forward, where the gifts, talents and faith of everyone are nurtured,” he commented.

Accredited youth leaders' course a success in Cork

Recently the Cork Diocesan Youth Council (CDYC) teamed up with the YMCA to put together an accredited course – Leaders in Training – for training Youth Leaders. The first group of 8 trainees began in September 2018 and consisted of 4 transition year students, 1 Leaving Cert student and 3 youth leaders.

The course was run over 8 weeks with assignments and sessions. As part of their overall assessment and final assignment, the trainees had to plan, organise and run an event.

On the 5th of January, the Leaders in Training participants held this event. They ran a Well-Being morning with different activities and workshops based on the topic of stress and worry. The morning was attended by 28 young

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people who really enjoyed the activities and expressed a wish for something similar in the future.

The tutors and youth leaders who came to support the participants on the day were deeply impressed by the confidence and organisation of the group.

Chairperson of CDYC, Judy Peters says - They did an amazing job and any youth group would be lucky to have them as leaders. I have watched them develop in so many ways over the last few months. Their confidence and leadership skills have come on immensely.

A big thank you was given to Joy Cantwell-Moore and Isla Jeffers for their hard work and teaching.

Preview of Presbyterian Herald articles

Rev Steve Stockman highlights the forthcoming Belfast 4Corners Festival theme, “Scandalous Forgiveness” and Ross Munro, evangelist at Lowe Memorial in Finaghy describes his role within the south Belfast congregation.

Copy into your browser and see -

https://issuu.com/presbyterianireland/docs/presbyterian_herald_february_2019/6

Zimbabwe Council of Churches says peaceful, non-violent engagement only way

“The challenges facing the majority of Zimbabweans can only be resolved through peaceful, non-violent

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engagement,” said the general secretary of the Zimbabwe Council of Churches, Rev. Dr Kenneth Mtata.

Read WCC press release 23 January, 2019 <https://www.oikoumene.org/.../urgent-call-for-constitutional...>

Statement from ZCC 21 January, 2019

<https://pbs.twimg.com/media/Dxc0APdW0AAAt419.jpg>

Survivor of Bethany Mother and Baby Home in Dublin hits back at government delays

A survivor of a Protestant Dublin mother and baby home in which 222 children died has demanded that the Church of Ireland and Irish government grant them an “apology and justice” before the remaining survivors all die.

Derek Linster’s teenage mother gave birth to him in the Bethany Mother and Baby Home in Dublin in 1941.

The death rate in the home was so bad that he believes the only reason he survived was because he was hospitalised with whooping cough, diphtheria, and gastroenteritis.

“I was told that I must have been born on a manure heap to have so many infections,” said Derek. Now in his late seventies, he suffered brutality and neglect in foster care and left school illiterate at 13.

Last week Irish Minister for Children Katherine Zappone said the Irish Government had extended the deadline by yet

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another year for the commission investigating Irish mother and baby homes to make a final report.

Derek said: “Survivors used to say state policy was ‘deny until they die’. Now it is ‘delay and deny until they die’.”

The investigation of other mother and baby homes should not delay justice for the six elderly Bethany survivors, he added.

The Department of Children and Youth Affairs told the News Letter that the Government “is on record as stating that it will not take steps which pre-empt the outcome of the Commission’s important work” now due in 2020.

But Senator David Norris slammed the government decision in the senate this week.

“I said that it was outrageous that the only Protestant institution involved should be denied this redress and that this should already have been done, as was originally requested by the Church of Ireland Archbishop of Dublin,” he told the News Letter.

Mr Linster said the Church of Ireland (Col) and other Protestant churches should also accept responsibility, as Col clerics were trustees of the Bethany home and the church supported it financially and referred women to it.

However a Col spokesman said it did not own the home, an independent trust, and that it had lobbied the state for survivors for over a decade. It had also offered survivors pastoral support, he added.



Pope Francis hears confessions in Panamanian youth prison

Pope Francis has denounced how society puts up "invisible walls" to marginalise sinners and criminals as he brought World Youth Day to Panama's juvenile delinquents who cannot participate in the Catholic Church's big festival of faith.

Francis celebrated an emotional penitential liturgy inside Panama's main youth lock-up, the Las Garzas de Pacora detention centre.

In a twist, he was also hearing the inmates' confessions inside confessionals made by the detainees.

It is all part of Francis's belief that prisoners deserve the same dignity as everyone else - as well as hope.



"There are no words to describe the freedom I feel in this moment," one of the inmates, Luis Oscar Martinez, told the Pope at the start of the service.

In his homily, Francis recalled that society tends to label people good and bad, the righteous and the sinners, when it should spend its time creating opportunities for them to change.

"This attitude spoils everything, because it erects an invisible wall that makes people think that, if we marginalise, separate and isolate others, all our problems will magically be solved," he said, again making reference to the walls that seek to divide people rather than unite them.

"When a society or community allows this, and does nothing more than complain and backbite, it enters into a vicious circle of division, blame and condemnation."

Francis has made a tradition of visiting prisoners during his foreign visits, and has long made prison ministry part of his vocation to minister to the most marginal in society.

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Last year, he changed church teaching on the death penalty, saying it was inadmissible in all cases.

The change was in keeping with his belief that prisoners can always change and deserve chances for rehabilitation so they can re-enter society after serving their terms.

In a sign of that need for inclusion, many of the inmates were wearing the World Youth Day white T-shirts that thousands of pilgrims were sporting around Panama City.

"A society is fruitful when it is able to generate processes of inclusion and integration, of caring and trying to create opportunities and alternatives that can offer new possibilities to the young, to build a future through community, education and employment," Francis said.

Las Garzas houses more than 150 inmates, some of whom are serving time for murder.

The facility, considered a model jail, opened a year after five minors died in a fire at another prison in Panama City in 2011.

Nine people including administrators and police were convicted of homicide or negligence in what was the worst tragedy for the country's youth prison system.

January 28 in Christian history

January 28, 814: Charlemagne, the first Holy Roman Emperor, dies. He was, in his day, not only one of the greatest political rulers of all time, he was, in his day, more

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influential in church matters than the pope. He saw his task as secular ruler "to defend with our arms the holy Church of Christ against attacks by the heathen from any side and against devastation by the infidels.

January 28, 1547: England's Henry VIII, who split the church of England from Rome and presided over the founding of the Anglican church, dies (see issue 48: Thomas Cranmer).

January 28, 1769: Thomas Middleton, first Anglican bishop of Calcutta, is born in England. While he oversaw a vast diocese covering all the territories of the East India Company, the church made some great advances, including the establishment of Bishop's College in Calcutta(a training college for missionaries in Asia).

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