

**The essential brief on
the Irish churches**

**Cross of Sacrifice for Republic's war dead to be
unveiled today**



Irish President Michael D Higgins and the Duke of Kent on Thursday will officially unveil the first Cross of Sacrifice ever erected in the Irish Republic to commemorate those who died in the two world wars.

Earlier this year, Theresa Villiers and the former Irish Arts Minister Jimmy Deenihan laid a foundation stone for the new World War One memorial

The memorial to as many as 60,000 Irishmen and women killed in combat will stand in Dublin's Glasnevin Cemetery, the country's largest burial ground and resting place to many of the state's founding fathers. It is the latest milestone in the recent official recognition of Irish citizens who fought in the wars, who for decades were forgotten, pilloried and blacklisted for joining the British armed forces.

Just two years ago, the Irish government apologised for the treatment of 4,500 Irishmen branded deserters for signing up to the fight against Nazi Germany during the Second World War.

The duke said it was an important step in the continuing process of remembering those who died.

“It represents a lasting tribute to their sacrifice and it is my hope, in the years to come, that memorials such as these continue to inspire successive generations to remember,” he said.

The Cross of Sacrifice is erected in cemeteries around the world holding the graves of 40 or more war dead. Ireland was the only such country not to have one.

There are more than 200 fallen soldiers from the world wars buried in Glasnevin alone and over 3,000 laid to rest or commemorated at 670 locations throughout the Republic.

The majority were casualties who died in the UK and were taken home for burial by their families.

But there are also many who were killed in ships torpedoed and sunk in the Second World War and whose bodies were washed ashore.

Deirdre Mills, director of UK operations with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC), said she was delighted the landmark commemoration coincides with the centenary of the First World War.

“The cross is an important feature of our work worldwide, commemorating those from both Ireland and throughout the Commonwealth who gave their lives during both world wars,” she said.

“We are extremely grateful to the Irish government, public and the Glasnevin Trust, all of whom have done so much to support our work of commemoration and remembrance in Ireland.”

It is estimated around 210,000 Irishmen served in the British forces during the First World War, with many Irish descendants serving with other allied forces.

As many as 50,000 Irishmen died in the war.

In the Second World War, up to 100,000 Irishmen served and some 10,000 were killed.

Around 1,000 civilians were killed during air raids.

The Cross of Sacrifice was originally designed by renowned architect Sir Reginald Blomfield.

It represents the faith of the majority and the human sacrifice of all Commonwealth war dead, according to CWGC, which maintains the graves of 1.7 million servicemen and women who died in the conflicts.

NZ funeral for Irish Dean told that she always remained humble

Lynda Patterson always felt “unworthy and unprepared” – yet she was a towering Christian leader who changed the lives of others for the better.

Adam Kula in News Letter - That was the message from the bishop of Christchurch in New Zealand, as an estimated 750-plus mourners gathered to pay their final respects to the Co Down woman.



Bishop Victoria Matthews was speaking at the first of two funeral services to be held for Lynda, who had been Dean of the city’s Anglican cathedral until her death earlier this month at the age of 40.

Following yesterday’s service, which took place at 1pm New Zealand time, Lynda’s parents are understood to be making preparations to bring her back to Dromore, Co Down, where a second funeral service will be held.

The administrator of Christchurch Cathedral told the News Letter that around 650 mourners had been present at yesterday’s service in the Cathedral, as well as another 100-or-so of her fellow clergy.

Bishop Matthews – who led proceedings alongside New Zealand Archbishop Philip Richardson – said Lynda had been a trusted and “delightfully

intelligent” member of the Anglican church, but also possessed a strong sense of humour.

Printed on the order of service were a series of photographs showing her dressed as an alien, as a bird (more than once), and standing next to a goat in church.

The bishop asked the mourners: “When did you last see Lynda?

“Was she dressed as a dog for the mid-winter dinner, or a shepherd for the children and animal service, or as an octopus or a parrot or a chick?

“Lynda did not stand on ceremony and she did not take herself seriously.

“When did you last see Lynda? Was she praying? Presiding most beautifully at the Eucharist? Being installed as Dean?

“Whether it was preaching or teaching at clergy conference or presiding at Evensong, Lynda had a battle with her nerves. She never felt worthy or properly prepared. Yet she changed lives to the glory of God.”

The mourners heard that whilst Lynda never believed she was any good at ministering to the sick, elderly, or to children, her clerical colleagues could see that she was brilliant at all three.

As previously reported, Lynda’s official cause of death is not yet known, although it may have been a heart attack.

Yesterday’s service heard that she had suffered from ill-health in recent times, including bouts of pneumonia.

Drawing the eulogy to a close, Bishop Matthews said: “We often suggest that when human life is fragile and waning, it becomes more precious, but that suggests it should be locked away behind glass.

“In fact, many of us wanted and tried to protect Lynda. But Lynda would have none of it.

“Lynda’s life, as she realised she would not likely reach old age, became ever more delicious. She would not do less.

“With extraordinary courage she lived deeply, generously and extravagantly. She gave everything she could to serve others.

“She did that as a beloved child of God, as a faithful priest of the Church and as an outstanding teacher of the faith.

“And those privileged to spend even a brief time with her went away blessed.

“When did you last see Lynda? Remember and give thanks to God.

The order of service for yesterday’s proceedings reveals that Lynda had chosen the arrangements herself.

Ahead of the main gathering, Psalm 27 was recited as her coffin – laden with flowers – was brought into the cathedral at 10am.

As well as hymns and readings during the funeral service itself, the Lord’s Prayer was also intoned in Maori, the native language which Lynda had learned as part of her ministry.

At the end of proceedings, the assembled diocesan clergy formed a guard of honour for the hearse while the choir sang the Nunc Dimittus, beginning with the words: “Lord let your servant now depart in peace.”

NZ Church leader in tribute to Irish Auckland dean

Christians in New Zealand are unlikely to encounter a church leader like Lynda Patterson for a generation, according to one of the country’s leading Anglican figures.



Christchurch Transitional Cathedral

In comments published by the church in the wake of the Ulsterwoman’s funeral, Rev Dr Peter Carrell joined others in heaping praise on the late cleric before her body is brought back to Northern Ireland to be buried in her native Co Down.

Lynda had been Dean of Christchurch’s temporary ‘Cardboard Cathedral’ – so called because it is made from that material after the stone building was severely damaged in the deadly 2011 earthquake.

Statements from other clergy yesterday also indicated that she had been instrumental in keeping the congregation together in the wake of the natural

disaster in February that year which killed more than 180 and was later followed by a second, less-catastrophic quake that June.

Rev Carrell, director of theological education in Christchurch, said: “We may not see her like in our lifetime again – she combined Irish wit and intellectual brilliance with a rare gift of communicating profound truth in everyday language”.

The music had been selected by the Dean herself, with Tuesday’s service hearing that she had suffered serious ill-health in the time before her death.

Her coffin had been carried from the [cathedral](#) to a choral rendition of the words: “Lord now lettest thy servant depart in peace according to thy word” – followed by an impromptu native Maori blessing.

Rev Carrell added: “The brilliance of the music chosen by her for the service became a tribute to her own brilliance.”

Cathedral Lay Canon Margaret Neate offered these warm words for Lynda: “After the earthquakes she was like the glue that held us together. She knew everyone well and she knew just the moment to laugh with us or pray with us.”

C of I bishop calls for end to racist attacks

The Rt Reverend Harold Miller, Bishop of Down & Dromore has condemned the recent spate of racist attacks in east Belfast as “utterly disgraceful and unacceptable”.



He said we should be welcoming overseas visitors in similar fashion to the welcome Northern Irish people have received in many other parts of the world.

He also urged anyone with any relevant information to ensure the police can bring those responsible before the courts.

“Most of us, from this island, have known what it is to be welcomed in other countries, and many people from Northern Ireland have made their homes in other parts of the world.

“Offering hospitality and a warm welcome is not only part of our self-understanding but a deeply important Christian value.

“I encourage all of us to find ways of getting to know people from different cultures living amongst us and to value their contribution to our common life,” he said.

Bishop Miller added: “I also encourage anyone who may know anything about who is carrying out these attacks to let the PSNI know.

“They do not represent the people of east Belfast.”

Only two spaces left on PCI -YAC's Volunteers and Interns Programme 2014

The programme exists to encourage the growth and development of young adults with discipleship training and opportunities to serve God within a congregation or ministry project.

It also helps local congregations and/or ministry projects in their work within the Presbyterian Church as they reach out to their local community and carry out youth and children’s work.

The young adults involved work within a congregation or ministry project for 10-12 months. The role that they play is invaluable as it supports youth & children’s ministry throughout the Presbyterian Church in Ireland; and each person makes a valuable contribution to the work as they bring their skills, freshness and enthusiasm to the year.



All young adults involved gain new experiences of the wider church and have opportunities to learn new skills and develop their existing skills. Training appropriate for the work is provided in September and at various stages

throughout the year; along with support and supervision at an individual and group level.

For more information regarding the programme contact the YAC office on yac@presbyterianireland.org or (028) 9032 2284

Actions are creating more conflict - Statement from Archbishop of Canterbury on Gaza

Following a recent update from staff at the Al Ahli Arab hospital in Gaza, a ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, the Archbishop of Canterbury has spoken publicly (after many private contacts) of his concern for the deteriorating situation in Gaza.

Archbishop Justin Welby said today:

“You can’t look at the pictures coming from Gaza and Israel without your heart breaking. We must cry to God and beat down the doors of heaven and pray for peace and justice and security. Only a costly and open-hearted seeking of peace between Israeli and Palestinian can protect innocent people, their children and grandchildren, from ever worse violence.”

“My utmost admiration is for all those involved in the humanitarian efforts on the ground, not least the medical team and staff at Al Ahli Arab Hospital. Providing relief and shelter for those displaced is a tangible expression of our care and concern, and I encourage Church of England parishes and dioceses, as well as the wider Communion, to pray for them and support the Diocese of Jerusalem’s emergency appeal.

“While humanitarian relief for those civilians most affected is a priority, especially women and children, we must also recognise that this conflict underlines the importance of renewing a commitment to political dialogue in the wider search for peace and security for both Israeli and Palestinian. The destructive cycle of violence has caused untold suffering and threatens the security of all.

“For all sides to persist with their current strategy, be it threatening security by the indiscriminate firing of rockets at civilian areas or aerial bombing which increasingly fails to distinguish between combatants and non-combatants, is self-defeating. The bombing of civilian areas, and their use to shelter rocket launches, are both breaches of age old customs for the conduct of war. Further political impasse, acts of terror, economic blockades or sanctions and

clashes over land and settlements, all increase the alienation of those affected. Populations condemned to hopelessness or living under fear will be violent. Such actions create more conflict, more deaths and will in the end lead to an even greater disaster than the one being faced today. The road to reconciliation is hard, but ultimately the only route to security. It is the responsibility of all leaders to protect the innocent, not only in the conduct of war but in setting the circumstances for a just and sustainable peace.

“While it is acceptable to question and even disagree with particular policies of the Israeli government, the spike in violence and abuse against Jewish communities here in the UK is simply unacceptable. We must not allow such hostility to disrupt the good relations we cherish among people of all faiths. Rather we must look at ways at working together to show our concern and support for those of goodwill on all sides working for peace.”

Echoing the prayer of Pope Francis, Archbishop Justin concluded by saying, “Let us pray to the Prince of Peace who so suffered in a land of violence that hearts may turn to peace and the innocent be helped.”

During recent weeks Archbishop Justin has expressed his concern about the violence in Gaza. He fully accepts that Israel has the same legitimate rights to peace and security as any other state and to self-defence within humanitarian law when faced with an external threat. At the same time he shares the despair, and acknowledges the growing anger felt by many, including Jewish people to whom he has spoken, at the recent escalation of violence by all involved. All this highlights the need for underlying issues to be addressed, whether the ongoing terror threat to Israel or the expansion of settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. The failure to find constructive paths to peace poses a threat to the future of all the peoples of the region.

Read the statement on the Archbishop of Canterbury's website: <http://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/articles.php/5382/statement-from-archbishop-justin-on-gaza>

Further information about the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem's emergency appeal: <http://www.anglicannews.org/news/2014/07/emergency-appeal-made-for-gaza-hospital.aspx>

Archbishop of Canterbury's message for the end of Ramadan

Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby has [recorded a video message](#) for Eid al-Fitr to wish Muslims in the UK and around the world "Eid Mubarak".

"Archbishop Justin hosted an Iftar meal on Wednesday evening for the Christian Muslim Forum, of which he is Patron" [Iftar meal](#) last week.

An Iftar is the meal that Muslims share, often with other friends and neighbours, at the end of each day of fasting in the month of Ramadan.

Speaking before the breaking of the fast, Archbishop Justin expressed his appreciation for the good relations that Christians and Muslims enjoy in the UK, and spoke of the need of people of different faiths to stand together against the backdrop of terrible violence and suffering, particularly in the Middle East.

"There is much that we need to talk about, and much that we can work on together; but tonight is about celebrating the importance of our friendships," he said.

Press Review

Tel

Sarah Kahn writes on the Trojan Horse affair saying bigotry is bigotry, whether it's religious or not. "As a Muslim, I object to hardliners and apologists who try to excuse bigotry on the grounds that it's "Islamic."
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/10996208/Trojan-Horse-plot-we-must-not-excuse-bigots-on-the-grounds-that-they-are-Muslim.html>

Tel

Report that the Bible is to be translated into Cornish - the 20 year project is expected to be completed next year.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/10995999/The-Bible-in-Cornish-after-465-year-delay.html>

BBC

Report that an "extremely rare" medieval oak staircase in Gloucestershire is to be made safe by work costing £49,000. The 15th Century stairs, in St Michael and All Angels in Bishops Cleeve, are regularly used by bellringers and visitors to access the church tower. It states the "rather perilous" looking

stairs, with treads cut from solid oak logs, are thought to be amongst the oldest of their type in continuous use in England.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-wiltshire-28540153>

BBC

Report that the 100th anniversary of the deaths of World War One servicemen from Alderney (Channel Islands) will be marked by the ringing of St Anne's Church bells. A quarter peal, which lasts 45 minutes, will be rung 100 years on from the day of all 41 fatalities. It was announced as a plaque commemorating those killed was unveiled at the Memorial Gardens on Victoria Street on Monday. They will ring out to mark the 100th anniversary of Britain's declaration of war on Germany on 4 August 1914.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-guernsey-28542917>

Mail

Report that a run-down church hall will be transformed into a vibrant community centre thanks to a grant of £49,000. It states work began this week on the project at Crowhurst Hall in Preston, Brighton and the scheme is being led by the PCC of St John the Evangelist Brighton. Funding for the project has come from The Veolia Environmental Trust, which awarded £49,000 through the Landfill Communities Fund.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-2709441/49-000-FUNDS-CHURCH-HALL-REVAMP.html#ixzz38vMte600>

Guard

Report that the Australian Churches Refugee Taskforce has called on the federal government to stop sending unaccompanied child asylum seekers to Nauru and has warned that children are being placed at serious risk within Australia's detention network, in a report released on Wednesday. The report, titled Protecting the Lonely Children, argues the government is failing to care for the "especially vulnerable cohort" of unaccompanied minors and makes a number of recommendations to improve conditions and their legal circumstances.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jul/30/stop-sending-lone-child-asylum-seekers-to-nauru-urge-church-leaders>

FT

Report that Archbishop Chrysostomos, head of the (eastern) Orthodox Church of Cyprus has taken the unusual step of urging thousands of small investors in the island's biggest bank to reject a €1bn share sale agreed with international fund managers and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development when it comes up for approval next month at an extraordinary

general meeting of shareholders. The intervention is aimed at protecting almost 90,000 "old" shareholders of Bank of Cyprus who took a hit last year when large depositors were forced to convert a sizeable chunk of their savings into shares as part of an international rescue package, and now face further dilution if the private placement goes ahead. The Orthodox church was one of the biggest single shareholders in the bank before the island's financial collapse, controlling a stake of about 3 per cent and several seats on the bank's board.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/434a8b54-1727-11e4-b0d7-00144feabdc0.html?siteedition=intl#axzz38vKaoiyx>

Blogs

Law and Religion UK - David Pockington provides an update on civil partnership conversion to same sex marriage

<http://www.lawandreligionuk.com/2014/07/29/civil-partnership-conversion-to-same-sex-marriage-update/>

Christian Today

Lucinda Borkett-Jones: As Ramadan ends, Justin Welby tells Muslims he is praying for all who suffer