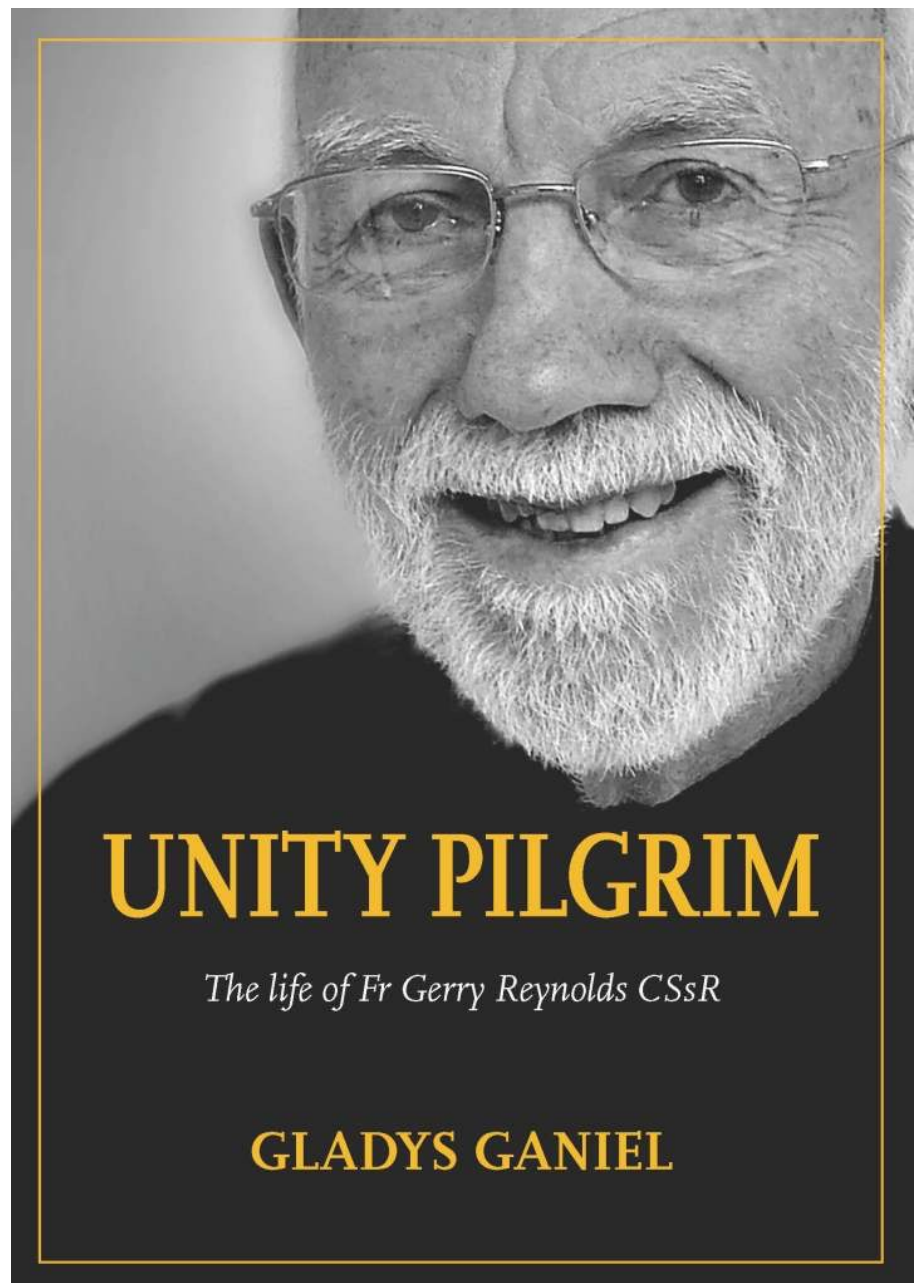




**Belfast  
and  
Limerick  
launches  
of “Unity  
Pilgrim:  
The Life of  
Fr Gerry  
Reynolds  
CSsR”**

A book on the witness and ministry of Fr Gerry Reynolds by Gladys Ganiel is to be



May 15, 2019

launched this month.

The author writes, “Over the last four years, I often have been approached by people wanting to tell me a story about Fr Gerry Reynolds (1935-2015).

“Word had gotten around that I was writing his biography, so somehow people felt compelled to convey to me how much Fr Gerry meant to them.

“All those stories didn’t make it into my book, though every one gave some insight into the man and helped me on my task. They also convinced me even more that Fr Gerry’s life story was one worth telling. So I’m excited to announce that Unity Pilgrim: The Life of Fr Gerry Reynolds CSSR, has made its way off the printing press and is available from Redemptorist Communications (€13.95).

<https://www.redcoms.org/product/unity-pilgrim-the-life-of-fr-gerry-reynolds-cssr/>

“It also can be purchased at two upcoming launch events and a public discussion. All proceeds from the book benefit the Redemptorists’ peace mission.

“The first launch is Wednesday 22 May at 7.15 pm at Clonard Monastery in Belfast, where Rev Ken Newell will be the speaker.\* Ken, minister Emeritus at Fitzroy Presbyterian and a former Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, enjoyed a decades-long friendship with Gerry. Indeed, it was Ken who asked me to write Gerry’s story – and, more crucially – convinced Gerry that this would be a good idea.

**May 15, 2019**

“The second launch is Monday 27 May, after the 7.15 pm Mass at Mount St Alphonsus in Limerick City\*, which is just a few miles from where Gerry grew up. Gerry also served as rector of Mount St Alphonsus between 1975-1978. The speaker is Ed Petersen, who worked with Gerry many years on Clonard’s peace and reconciliation mission.

\*On Sunday 2 June at 7.00 pm I will discuss the book at Fitzroy Presbyterian Church, moderated by Rev Steve Stockman.”

The Irish News has already published an interview with Gladys that reveals some of the book’s highlights.

<http://www.irishnews.com/news/northernirelandnews/2019/05/13/news/new-book-about-fr-gerry-reynolds-finds-popular-redemptorist-was-pioneer-of-catholic-media--1618062/>

## **Courageous and compassionate political leadership needed say church leaders**

In a joint statement yesterday (14 May) the leaders of Ireland’s main Churches said that talks between Northern Ireland’s political parties to restore the devolved institutions, were ‘a fresh window of opportunity, born of tragedy, but nestling in hope for the future that now requires courageous and compassionate leadership.’

The leaders of the Church of Ireland, Methodist Church in Ireland, Roman Catholic Church, Presbyterian Church in Ireland and the Irish Council of Churches, were speaking

**May 15, 2019**

today at Stormont House in Belfast, as they met to encourage those taking part in the inter-party talks.

*Church Leaders' joint statement in full*

‘As leaders of Ireland’s main churches, we want to add our collective voice to support and encourage everyone taking part in this new round of political talks to seize the opportunity for a new beginning that lies before them.

‘In welcoming this fresh initiative, together, we hope and pray that there will be substantive progress over the next number of weeks that builds relationships, bridges the gaps that remain and leads to the establishment of a sustainable power-sharing executive – one that is built on accommodation and trust, has reconciliation at its heart and is focused on the common good and welfare of all.

‘Having met with the five main party leaders last autumn, and since then having organised a series of meetings on the ground with elected representatives and many in civil society, we have been impressed by the genuine willingness of those involved to engage. At the same time, we all need to be realistic about the significant challenges that lie ahead in finding the necessary agreement.

‘In our churches and faith-based charities, as in other areas of society, we are witnessing daily the damaging and continuing impact of not having a functioning devolved government. Across our community, there is also a growing sense of hopelessness and even despair at the lack of progress. For the sake of the most vulnerable in our society, for the sake of the victims of our past, for the sake of

**May 15, 2019**

children in our schools and for the sake of people who need improved health and social care services, now is the time to find a resolution to the political impasse.

‘The Lord Jesus calls us all to go the extra mile for one another and to do what is necessary for the greater good. While the timing for these talks may not be perfect, we believe this to be a fresh window of opportunity, born of tragedy, but nestling in hope for a future that now requires courageous and compassionate leadership.

‘At times we can all become so focused on the issues that are significant to us, that we can fail to adequately take into account the concerns that are important for others. However, a way forward can be found when we all have a genuine desire to find a balanced accommodation that can serve the common good. That can be a difficult, but not impossible task. Today we want to support and encourage all those taking part in the search for such an accommodation.’

*The Most Rev Dr Richard Clarke, Church of Ireland Archbishop of Armagh & Primate of All Ireland*

*The Most Rev Eamon Martin, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Armagh & Primate of all Ireland*

*The Rt Rev Dr Charles McMullen, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland*

*The Rev William Davison, President of the Methodist Church in Ireland*

*The Rev Brian Anderson, President of the Irish Council of Churches*

May 15, 2019

## **Archbishop Jackson responds to ‘Sectarianism in Northern Ireland: A Review’**

An initial response by the Archbishop of Dublin, Most Rev Dr Michael Jackson, to ‘Sectarianism in Northern Ireland: A Review’ is headed - What is the Spirit Saying to the Churches Today?

Sectarianism in Northern Ireland: A Review by Professor Duncan Morrow, of the University of Ulster was published yesterday

Archbishop Jackson said the report “takes the on-going reality of sectarianism by the short hair.” He continued -

With more than fifty recommendations for implementation, it clearly is not for hanging around. It moves everyone forward from conversation to commitment, from argument to action in intensely practical ways. Its purpose, along with the Conference in which its launch is set, is to prevent those who shape society and claim a stake in the common good, churches included, from kicking the can any further down the road.

Professor Morrow, a respected analyst and passionate practitioner of community relations, presents facts around the on-going impact of changing demographics on minority-majority structures and on inherited expectations around personal and community identities. The Report confirms and objectifies many perceptions that some of us working on the ground have discerned in recent years.

**May 15, 2019**

Among the wide-ranging recommendations, the leaders of all major churches are called upon to run an agreed programme to encourage respect for other faiths. Such a recommendation is a clarion call to everyone involved in religious activity, not simply leaders, to move beyond sectarianism and beyond the binary definitions of faith and of religion as denominational entities within inherited Christianity. It is a call to encourage respect for faiths in an Ireland that, in its entirety, is multi cultural and multi faith today. People of more than two hundred ethnicities of origin live on the island of Ireland of 2019.

The broad questions for members of the Church of Ireland, as we embark this very week on our General Synod 2019 and during the Year of Commemoration of Disestablishment 150 where our theme is: free to shape our own future, surely are these:

- Do we see our face in the mirror of this analysis?
- What does it mean to us today to be an all-island church and how do we express our co-operation as a response to this analysis both South and North?
- How do those of us residing in the Republic of Ireland and claiming to be part of an all-island church accept our own role in perpetuating negative stereotypes and incapacity to achieve true reconciliation?
- What will it mean to take ourselves not to so much by the short hair but to take one another and those who are our neighbours by the hand and address the findings on identity, exclusion and inclusion showcased by the Report?

**May 15, 2019**

This is about community every bit as much as it is about politics; this is about the presence and the prompting of the Holy Spirit of God every bit as much as it is about existing institutional churches. This is about a thirty–two county approach on the part of our church.

During nine years serving in the diocese of Clogher and a further nine years serving in the dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough, I have seen that both action and interaction can flourish. Spearheading with others right across the community an outworking of The Hard Gospel issues in the border areas of Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, I found significant commitment on the part of my own people to cross–community work of reconciliation, particularly following the Enniskillen bomb. During an equivalent time in Dublin and Glendalough, I remain painfully aware of the need to keep this work going in order to enable an understanding of how all on this island are tied into such work of reconciliation combatting sectarianism and need each another practically, prayerfully and respectfully. I have also seen the flourishing of respect in Dublin and Glendalough across World Faiths and the embedding of the dialogue of life and humanity together with the dialogue of ideas culminating in the agreeing and issuing of the Dublin Interfaith Charter in 2018.

Apocalypse is about disclosure and about revelation and about self–understanding under God. This Report is such an apocalyptic moment as it asks us to reflect on what might be called The Laodicean Question in The Apocalypse itself: I know what you are doing; you are neither hot nor cold. How I wish you were either hot or cold! (The Revelation of John 3.15)



May 15, 2019



## **Dean gets on his bike for projects in Dromore and the Sudan**

The Dean of Dromore, the Very Revd Geoff Wilson, has been speaking to the Belfast Telegraph about his plans for a marathon fundraising cycle.

**May 15, 2019**

On 11 June Geoff will set off on a 275–mile trek, taking in all six counties and eight cathedrals before returning to Dromore on Friday 14 June.

He will take in the Church of Ireland cathedrals in Armagh, Clogher, Enniskillen, Londonderry, Belfast, Lisburn and Downpatrick.

In doing so, Geoff will raise funds to install a disabled toilet in Dromore Cathedral and a 20,000 litre water tank at Maridi Cathedral in South Sudan.

“The disabled toilet in Dromore Cathedral will make such a difference to people of all ages gathering for our worship,” Geoff explained.

“The provision of a water tank at Maridi Cathedral will mean that the church will be able to ‘harvest’ water during the rainy season and then use that water in all kinds of ways – including drinking if purified appropriately – during periods when water is much less available.

“This will mean that the church will be able to provide water to the community as well as save considerable amounts of money on an ongoing basis.”

Geoff hopes to raise around £4,000 from the cycle and says each pound raised will be divided equally between his two chosen projects, while any surplus will be given to Maridi diocese for emergency needs.

Down and Dromore’s link with Maridi stretches back almost 20 years.

May 15, 2019

<https://www.downanddromore.org/pages/ministries/maridi-diocese-south-sudan>

Geoff added: “Our cathedral has a long–standing link with Maridi diocese, most recently deepened through the participation of myself and others from the Church of Ireland in a Peace and Reconciliation conference in Arua in northern Uganda last October.

“The people of Maridi, and indeed South Sudan, have suffered a great deal in recent years with hundreds of thousands still displaced and many children orphaned through conflict.

“Yet, the Church is giving such a strong lead in returning them to their homes with renewed hope and the offer of forgiveness.”

Despite the epic challenge ahead, Geoff says he is “excited” about the sponsored cycle.

\*Anyone wishing to donate should make cheques payable to Dromore Cathedral and send them to: The Very Revd Geoff Wilson, 30 Church Street, Dromore, BT25 1AA.

You may read the full article on the Belfast Telegraph website -

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/cleric-swaps-robles-for-lycra-to-cycle-around-eight-cathedrals-across-northern-ireland-to-raise-funds-38100153.html>

May 15, 2019

## Today in Christian history

**May 15, 1265:** Poet and politician Dante Alighieri, author of "The Divine Comedy," is born in Florence, Italy. Dante finished the epic poem just before his death, and it was quickly recognized as brilliant. His epitaph begins: "Dante the theologian, skilled in every branch of knowledge that philosophy may cherish in her illustrious bosom".

**May 15, 1525:** Radical reformer Thomas Munzer is captured and many of his followers are killed in the disastrous Battle of Frankenhausen. Munzer was executed in Muhlhausen 12 days later after being tortured to force a confession. Though many of his beliefs were rejected by later, nonviolent Anabaptists, his emphasis on suffering discipleship, his rejection of infant baptism, and his call for judgment of the church became key teachings in the movement.

**May 15, 1886:** American poet Emily Dickinson, author of many poems on death, eternity, God, and the afterlife, dies. Only 7 of her 1,775 poems were published at the time.

**May 15, 1948:** Father Edward Flanagan, founder of the U.S. Home for Homeless Boys (later called Boys Town) in Omaha, Nebraska, dies. "There is no such thing as a bad boy," Flanagan believed.

**May 15, 1984:** American evangelical Francis A. Schaeffer dies in Rochester, Minnesota. Many of his books, which include *The God Who is There* (1968) and *How Should We Then Live* (1976), argue that moral relativity is responsible for social ills.

May 15, 2019

## News briefs

**+++ Soul Music in Belfast** - An uplifting programme of music from both sides of the Atlantic Tuesday 21st May at 12.00pm. The Shippensburg University Concert Choir, Pennsylvania is comprised of students representing all departments of the University, is an ensemble of approximately 25 singers selected by audition. The Concert Choir's repertoire consists of classic and contemporary works plus a variety of folk songs, gospel, and world music. They have earned a reputation for their moving and musical interpretations and the energy they bring to their performances. The choir's season includes several off-campus concerts as well as an annual spring tour. This is the group's first-ever international tour.

**+++ Open weekend at the church on Topped Mountain** - Coolbuck Church which is part of Lisbellaw Parish held a successful open weekend when visitors got an insight to this little mountain church which has Sunday afternoon services at 3pm. Many of the visitors had links to the church through their families from many years previous. The church has served the local community around Topped Mountain for over 150 years and is regarded as the smallest church in the Church of Ireland in regular use. Earlier this year an extensive interior overhaul was carried out including plastering and repainting, mostly by volunteers known as the 'Friends of Coolbuck' who keep the building in pristine condition for worship each week.

**+++ 400 miles and more for Uganda** - The hardy cyclists from the Hub Chaplaincy at Queen's University have to date

**May 15, 2019**

raised £16,000 for Abaana and Waakisi thanks to their mega cycle from Mizen to Malin Head.



**+++ Cork presentation of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Certificates** - On Wednesday 8th May the beautiful refurbished chapel at St. Luke's Home was the venue for the presentation of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Certificates by Dr Paul Colton, President of St. Luke's Home. The twelve week training programme brought five participants from Wexford, Dublin, Waterford and Cork. Mr Tony O'Brien (CEO, St Luke's Charity, Cork) spoke of the centrality of pastoral care within the life of St. Luke's Home and how the CPE programme is viewed as integral part of the life of the Home. This year two students, Hilary Dring and Virginia Giglio undertook placements in St Luke's Home and their contribution was celebrated by Dr Colton. Other institution placements were at Wexford Hospital, Waterford University Hospital, St Vincent's University Hospital and Marymount University Hospital and Hospice. The Centre appreciated the presence of three mentors Canon Dr Daniel Nuzum (Cork), Ms Hilda Plant (Dublin) and the Rev. Sarah Marry (Coordinator of Chaplaincy at St Luke's Home). It was a delight also to welcome Mr AJ McNamara

**May 15, 2019**

(CEO of Cork University Hospital) who had just announced his retirement. The Rev. Bruce Pierce (CPE Supervisor) paid tribute to Mr McNamara for his constant support of CPE and his unfailing attendance at the Annual St Luke's Graduation. For the first time the new Chapel made it possible for the residents of St Luke's Home, together with staff, to attend the presentation ceremony and closing Service.

**+++ Sam Maguire at St Patrick's** - St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, will host a special service celebrating inclusivity on Sunday May 26. The ecumenical choral evensong will take place at 3.15pm. Special guests include the Sam Maguire and Liam MacCarthy cups. Uachtarán Chumann Lúthchleas Gael, Seán Ó hÓráin, and Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral, the Very Revd Dr William Morton, have extended a joint invitation to people of all faiths and none to join them for this unique gathering. The service will acknowledge the rich tapestry of cultures and creeds that since 1884 continue to contribute to the enhancement of Gaelic games, culture, and life on Ireland and beyond. It will feature contributions from a variety of figures from the GAA and Irish community and church life. Sam Maguire was a parishioner of St Mary's Church of Ireland, Dunmanway. He rose to prominence in the GAA as chairperson of the London County Board following a successful playing career. (Coincidentally, the vice-chairman of the London County Board was Liam MacCarthy who gave his name to the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Championship Cup.) An open invitation is extended to all those who wish to attend the service.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR** - Evelyn Whyte, deaconess, as she concludes her work in First Lisburn Presbyterian – she is [churchnewsireland@gmail.org](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.org)

**May 15, 2019**

due to retire at the end of June. Praise God for his faithfulness, love, care & guidance over the 40 years she has served as a deaconess.

Naomi Keefe is a PCI global mission worker in Brazil, where recently a family connected with the Good News Club and Reading Room suffered a death which was drug-related. Pray that the family will know God's comfort and presence.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT** - People can be entertained on devices 24 hours a day; they do not need a church for that. They need a church for silence, reverence, community, ancient wisdom, the opportunity to be of service, the real presence of God. America Magazine

**HERITAGE** - Patrick Macrory was born in Limavady, County Londonderry. He was educated in Donegal, Cheltenham and Trinity College, Oxford, and was called to the Bar at Middle Temple in 1937. For four years during the Second World War he was a parliamentary draughtsman, and in 1947, he joined Unilever. He became its director in 1968. He served on the Devlin Commission of Inquiry into industrial representation, and sat on a committee on the preparation of legislation. He was treasurer of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, and was the director of Rothman Carreras and of the Bank of Ireland. He served for eight years on the Northern Ireland Development Council and on the Regional Committee of the CBI. He wrote military histories and thrillers, among which are *Borderline* (1932); *Signal Catastrophe* (1952); *The Siege of Derry* (1980) and *The Ten Rupee Jezail*, in 1992 with George Pottinger. It was his interest in Indian history and his ancestral links with the Indian army that instigated his



**May 15, 2019**

becoming chairman of the Merchant Ivory production company from 1976 to 1992. Both he and his wife had walk-on parts in E. M. Forster's Room With A View, which was produced by Merchant Ivory.

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