



Catholic Primate to preach at Armistice service for first time

The leader of the Catholic Church in Ireland is to preach at St Anne's Cathedral in Belfast on Sunday to commemorate the centenary of the First World War Armistice.

It is the first time a Catholic Primate will have spoken at such an event at the Church of Ireland cathedral.

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Archbishop Dr Eamon Martin will be joined by Church of Ireland Primate Dr Richard Clarke, Presbyterian Moderator Dr Charles McMullen and Methodist President Rev Bill Davison.

The televised service will be led by Dean of Belfast Stephen Forde.

In a letter published in the order of service, the Republic's foreign minister Simon Coveney "For far too long remembrance of the war on the island was a source of division. There was a sense that commemoration of the young Irishmen who died in the Somme or Gallipoli was a political declaration, or a marker of community identity." "In recent times, and as we have marked the centenaries of the events of that decade, we have seen something very different. We have seen leadership and scholarship and sensitivity and generosity."



Belfast-born poet Michael Longley (left) will read his acclaimed work Ceasefire.

Attendance is by invitation only, and the service will be broadcast live on BBC One Northern Ireland and Radio Ulster. Television and radio coverage

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begins at 3.30pm.

It will follow the traditional Evensong format, led by the choir of St Anne's and members of the Ulster Orchestra. The service will provide a moment of reflection rather than an Act of Remembrance, and instead of laying wreaths, volumes of Ireland's Memorial Records will be laid at a field altar.

The service is due to end at around 4.45pm, when a lantern will be carried out from the cathedral in commemoration of the fallen.

It will be the last major commemoration of the First World War.

It will take place at the same time as services in Dublin, Glasgow and Cardiff.

Sir Jeffrey Donaldson, chairman of the Northern Ireland World War One Centenary Committee, which planned the service with St Anne's, said yesterday: "Ulstermen and Irishmen have been remembered in all the places they fell.

"There have been special moments that not long ago would have been unthinkable, such as royal princes and dukes paying respect to Ireland's dead, and Irish Defence Forces pipers playing at Belfast City Cenotaph.

"Far from being purely symbolic, a deeper understanding, tolerance and respect has flowed from these events. Relationships have been built that have already proven their worth, and will last.

"No one's unionism or nationalism is diminished as a result."

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Sir Jeffrey said: "As we gather on Sunday...I feel it is appropriate to reflect on the progress that has been made with the themes of remembrance and reconciliation chosen for our commemoration.

"We have engaged in traditional acts of remembrance such as the Last Post and the laying of wreaths, silences recalling those who served and died. We have recognised more than 40 Irish recipients of the Victoria Cross and the names of many more men and women have been added to memorials old and new commemorating the war."

Dean Forde said:
"When the Armistice was signed it is said that not a single family in these islands was untouched by personal grief, expressed in the silence of mourning, and the silence of the soldiers who



would not speak of the horrors they had endured. In this unique and special service, we will both remember the loss, but also lay hold of the hope which those who suffered and died in the Great War held.

Our greatest tribute 100 years later will be to succeed in that ambition for peace.

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"There could be no greater way by which we can declare: 'We will remember them'."

Instead of the laying of wreaths, several volumes of Ireland's Memorial Records will be laid at a field altar of the type used by troops on the front line. The books will be carried by four people – representing families that had at least one family member killed in the war.

Report courtesy of Belfast Telegraph and the News Letter

Saint Michael's Catholic Parish, Enniskillen, to participate in Remembrance Day events marking the Armistice

Saint Michael's Parish, Enniskillen, together with other churches in Enniskillen, will take an active part in the various events on Sunday 11 November to commemorate the centenary of the of the Armistice which brought the First World War to an end in 1918. Enniskillen was the first town on the island to publicly proclaim the Armistice in 1918 and on this occasion it will be the most westerly location in Europe to host "Battle's Over", a national tribute commemorating one hundred years of remembrance.

Monsignor Peter O'Reilly, the Parish Priest of Saint Michael's Enniskillen & Lisbellaw, and Archdeacon of the Diocese of Clogher, will be present at the wide range of events in Enniskillen on Sunday. The events will begin at 6.00am in Enniskillen Castle, where special lamps will be presented to each of the churches in Enniskillen.

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Monsignor O'Reilly will also be participating in a short prayer service at the War Memorial in Belmore Street just before 11.00am. This will be followed by a Service of Remembrance in Saint Macartin's Cathedral, during which Monsignor O'Reilly will read from the Gospel according to John 15.

At 6.00pm on Sunday, the Liturgy of Evening Prayer will be celebrated in Saint Michael's Church. The special guest will be Viscount Alan Brookeborough, who is Queen Elizabeth II's Lord Lieutenant for County Fermanagh. He will be accompanied by Viscountess Brookeborough, together with Cadet WO Ciara McHugh and Cadet CSM Peter Watson.

The attendance will also include the Church of Ireland Bishop of Clogher, Right Rev John McDowell, and the leaders of the other Christian Churches in Enniskillen. Also in attendance will be Cllr Howard Thornton, the Chairperson of Fermanagh & Omagh District Council; Arlene Foster MLA; Bryan Wockley, the Deputy US Counsel General and his wife Sarah; Jerome Mullen, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland and his wife Margaret; and John Jones, Chairman of the Royal British Legion.

Each church community will then take part in the 'Service of Light' by carrying the symbolic lamp, presented to them earlier in Enniskillen Castle, across the street as a prelude to the lighting of a beacon in the grounds of Saint Macartin's Cathedral. The event will also feature the participation of Fermanagh Massed Pipes and Drums. A bugle, provided by the Inniskillings Museum, will sound the Last Post before Viscount Brookeborough lights the beacon.

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During the week Monsignor O'Reilly; the Church of Ireland Dean of Clogher the Very Rev Kenneth Hall; the Rev David Cupples, Presbyterian Church; and the Rev Lorna Dreaning, Methodist Church, attended a Service of Remembrance at Enniskillen Royal School, at which Rev Dreaning was the preacher. There was also a representation from Saint Michael's College which is a Catholic Diocesan College which has a longstanding partnership with Enniskillen Royal School in the area of peace studies.

RTÉ to broadcast Service of Remembrance at 11.30am on Sunday

Former Moderator represents church at inauguration of President of Ireland

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland will be officially represented at tomorrow's (11 November) inauguration of Michael D. Higgins as President of Ireland, by its former Moderator, Very Rev Dr Ivan Patterson.

With the current Moderator, Rt Rev Dr Charles McMullen, attending various services in Belfast to commemorate the centenary of the ending of the First World War on Remembrance Sunday, Dr Patterson will take part in a Christian act of worship as part of the Dublin Castle ceremonial state event.

“As Moderator in 2011 I was unable to attend President Higgins' first inauguration, so I am very pleased that I can take part in this one. The Presbyterian Church in Ireland is a part of Irish life, playing its part in various ways in

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communities up and down the country, so it is a privilege to be able to represent the Church at this significant state occasion.

Dr Patterson will read from Mark Chapter 10: 35-45. Explaining his choice of scripture, the former Moderator said, “I chose these verses from Mark’s Gospel as they reflect what I see as the essential nature of leadership, one that is relevant to all those who are called to high office and exemplified by those who occupy the presidency, and that is the servanthood of leadership.”

The Constitution of Ireland stipulates that the inauguration should take place on the day following of the expiry of the term of office of the preceding president. This has meant that Sunday’s ceremony has been moved to later on in the day, as it coincides with Armistice Day services that also mark the centenary of the ending of the First World War.

Commenting on this accommodation Dr Patterson said, “In taking Armistice Day and this significant anniversary into account, I would like to pay tribute to President Higgins who suggested that his inauguration be delayed, so that those who wished to attend the centenary Armistice Day commemorations could do so.”

16 days activism against gender based violence

A service, as part of 16 days activism against gender based violence, will be held in St Catherine’s church in Tullamore. It will take place on Saturday 24th November, at 11am.

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The service is being organised by the Mothers Union, in the dioceses of Meath and Kildare.

The event is a prayer vigil for victims of gender based violence and all victims of violence. Offaly Domestic Violence Support Services will give a presentation about their work and we will hear stories from the Travelling Community and The Syrian Community which have recently been resettled in Tullamore.

Moderator pays tribute to carers

The Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI), Rt Rev Dr Charles McMullen, has paid tribute this week to the 'amazing work' that carers do – both professional carers and those who look after loved ones at home. He was speaking on a visit to Aaron House in Dundonald, PCI's residential home for people with profound learning and physical disability.

The visit was one of 20 different engagements that he is undertaking this week as the Moderator continues his tour

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of the Church's Presbytery of East Belfast to encourage the local church and to see first-hand its work on the ground.

“As a member of our Church's Disability Services Committee I am very familiar with Aaron House and the amazing care that is provided here by the team. It is a very special place and much more than a Residential and Day Care Unit, as it is a home from home for our residents,” Dr McMullen said.

“Each room reflects their individual personalities, interests and tastes, while providing a personal space for family visits and celebrations. As a church we are so grateful to our local congregations, Presbytery and the wider community for their continued support and prayers. This isn't my first visit to Aaron House but on each occasion, I am made to feel so welcome and leave totally inspired – today was no different.

Dr McMullen also paid tribute to the staff. “During my visit today I wanted to take the opportunity to thank our staff for the amazing work that they do, for their commitment, skill and tender care. I also want to pay tribute to all professional carers for the invaluable work that they do, and indeed the unsung, unpaid carers who look after loved ones at home up and down the land.

PCI's Council for Social Witness has day-to-day management responsibility for the denomination's homes and support units, which includes Aaron House. Opened in the Ballybeen estate in 1995 it accommodates 16 residents on a permanent basis and two residents each week for respite care.

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“People matter to God and they matter to us. We are called to demonstrate his love for people, which means putting our faith into practical action and simple Christian caring, which is a powerful social witness to the gospel,” said Lindsay Conway, Secretary and Director for Social Witness, who accompanied Dr McMullen on his visit.

“We believe that people with disabilities have the right to live and work in the most normal and least restrictive of settings. Aaron House nurtures each individual’s emotional and spiritual growth, family and social relationships and community involvement. To provide these services, demands the highest level of dedication and care from professional staff, with the majority of our staff having been with us for more than 10 years.

“In these changing and challenging times, when resources are becoming increasingly scarce, as a Council we continue to welcome the valuable input from family members and other relatives in supporting staff who provide quality person-centered care,” Mr Conway said.

News briefs

Academic awards at Pontifical University, Maynooth

Today, 232 lay women and men will be conferred with academic awards in Theology, Philosophy and Education.

Archbishop Eamon Martin will grant the awards and address the graduates and their families. During the ceremony Archbishop Martin will also pay tribute to the late Emma Mhic Mháthúna, who was a former student of the

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Bachelor of Arts and Theology at the Pontifical University. Over 800 lay students are registered at the Pontifical University, including the first recipients from Ulster of the Cardinal O’Fiaich scholarships.

Church Life 2018

Come and bring a friend - take a look around the *Resources Exhibition Hall* and see what’s new - enjoy a cuppa and a chat and then sit in on one or two of the talks. We have a great programme of presentations and seminars which you will be well familiar with now. However, [CLICK HERE](#) to download more information. If you need to make bookings for sessions at Church Life 2018 [CLICK HERE](#) to book for Engage! presentations with Diane Holt. [CLICK HERE](#) to book places at FREE Seminars. If you have any queries regarding Church Life 2018, please contact: Paul Scott on [0799 078 0453](tel:07990780453)

Raising Faith

Care for the Family are hosting an event to help parents weave the passing on of faith into their family lives. Glenmachan Church of God, Belfast. Thursday 15 November 7:30pm

[Book a ticket here.](#)

Church Responses to Destitution among People Seeking Asylum

EMBRACE NI are hosting this conference focused on current efforts in Belfast to address destitution and practical ways that churches can make a difference. It is geared

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towards people who want to help the situation actively as well as those who are already involved. It would also be helpful for people in other Christian organisations who may come in contact with people who are destitute within the asylum system. The Duncairn (174 Trust), Belfast. Thursday 22nd November

9.30am to 2pm (Lunch Provided). The Conference is free but all participants must RSVP to be registered. Please send an email to info@embraceni.org

Meath clerical appointment

New Rural Dean appointed - Bishop Pat Storey has announced the appointment of Revd Philip Heak as the new Rural Dean for Kildare. Philip is rector of Naas Union of parishes. Bishop Storey said, "We wish Philip well as he takes up his new responsibilities, in addition to being rector of Naas Union of parishes." Rural Deans are appointed by the Bishop to assist in the regional oversight (including, but not exclusively) of property within the Diocese.

Prayer points

Pray for those attending Enniscorthy & Wexford Presbyterian Churches members' classes, to have clarity about the gospel. Pray too for the women's Bible study, 'Seven weeks in Philippians', which is attended regularly by five to six people. <http://bit.ly/2cgVbSa>

WCC - Mexican churches held an ecumenical prayer at the shelter set up for the humanitarian caravan crossing their lands in these days.

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LGBT Christians - We are distressed to report that we have been forced to cancel next week's Forum of LGBT Christians of Eastern Europe and Central Asia amidst political violence, death threats, and targeting of LGBTI individuals: [https://www.euroforumlgbtchristians.eu/media-press/275-organisers-forced-to-cancel-lgbt-christian-forum-in-yerevan-armenia-amidst-violence-and-death-threats ...](https://www.euroforumlgbtchristians.eu/media-press/275-organisers-forced-to-cancel-lgbt-christian-forum-in-yerevan-armenia-amidst-violence-and-death-threats...)

Bible Society - Check out how we designed our brand new Youth Bible, in partnership with Youth For Christ, by listening to the ideas of young people and hearing what really matters to them! <https://bit.ly/2PnWXmZ>

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