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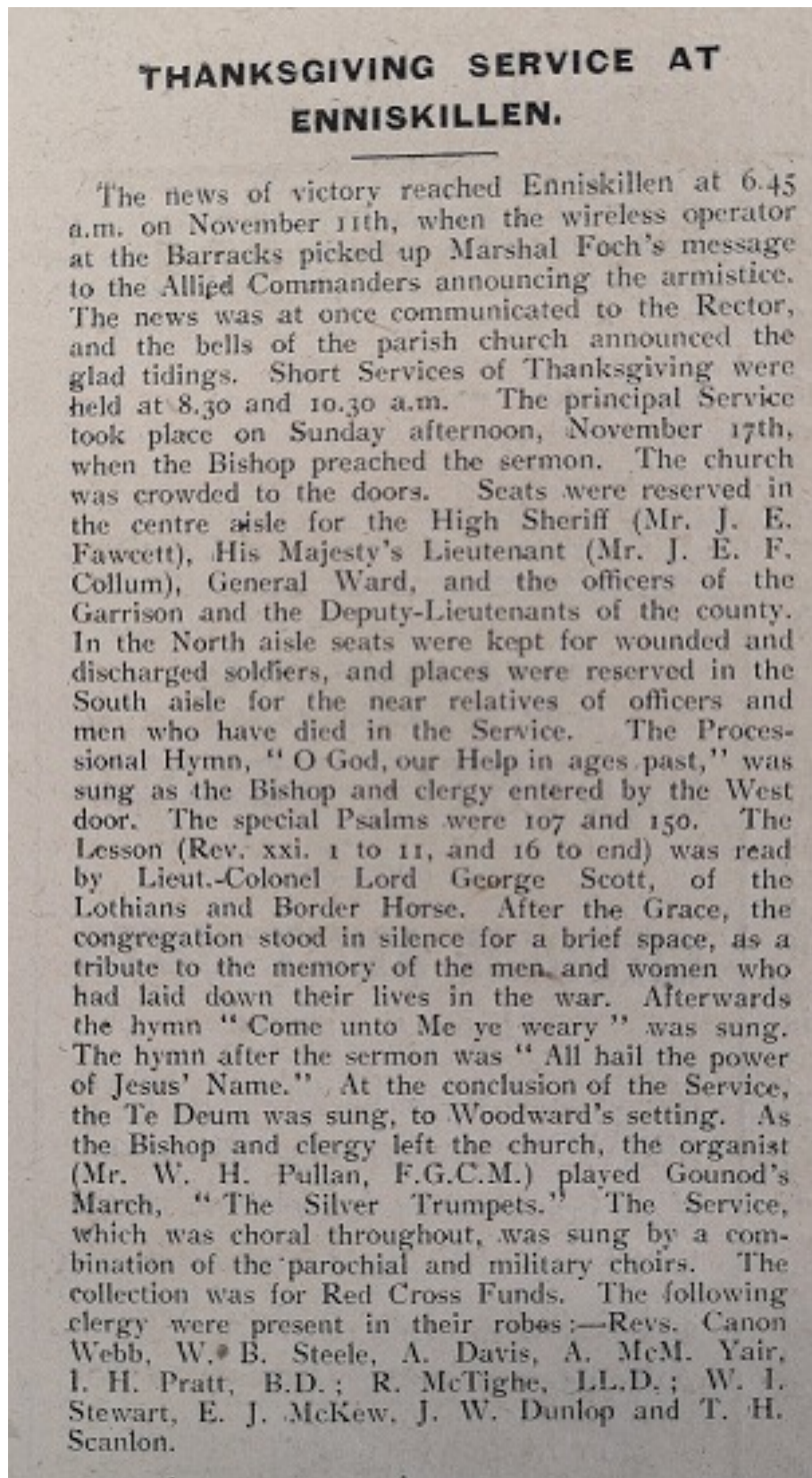
## New C of I online archives of end of World War 1

The ‘War to end all Wars’ came to an end on Monday 11th November 1918. After over four years of fighting and death, it was finally over. The sense of relief is captured in the pages of the weekly newspaper, the *Church of Ireland Gazette*, especially its issues for 15th and 22nd November 1918. The first edition published just four days later, on 15 November, was probably in press as the news of the end trickled through and runs with the simple headline (“Laus Deo”) while by 22nd November the realities of the impact are hitting home, and the edition contains more reflective news pieces.

One hundred years on, marking the anniversary of this event, the RCB Library in Dublin is making both editions available as downloadable PDFs, in the context of its dedicated online exhibition at the Archive of the Month slot. Research into the armistice highlights the usefulness of the *Gazette* as a contemporary commentator and eye-witness on events in the past. The paper’s editorials, diocesan

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notices and correspondence pages, when combined with parish records, have collectively enabled the historian Dr Miriam Moffitt once again to peel back the layers of hidden history and recover specifically how the Church of Ireland responded to the end of hostilities and other political and social concerns of the time, both at local and national level.



Although the guns fell silent on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, 1918, a few people had advance knowledge that the end was imminent. In the town of Enniskillen, the wireless operator at the barracks had managed to intercept

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the news very early in the morning as he listened to Marshal Foch's message to the Allied commanders on the Western Front, at 6.45am. This was swiftly communicated to the parish rector, the Revd Arthur Webb, who arranged for the bells of the parish church be rung to mark the occasion and, within two hours, he convened services at 8.30am and at 10.30am.

High-profile services were held in churches and cathedrals in the days that followed, and Sunday, 17th November, was designated a day of special thanksgiving. So many people attended St Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin, for example, that another service was hastily arranged for the following evening. Attendance in St Patrick's included the Lord Lieutenant, many prominent members of clerical and civic society, and large numbers of military. The chosen Psalms were those that had been sung in all churches following the victory at Agincourt in 1415, the defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588, and also after Waterloo in 1815, while a special prayer of thanksgiving compiled at the Restoration in 1662 was also recited. The victory sentiment of these worship elements were balanced by sermon preached by the Revd Dr AH McNeile, Regius Professor of Divinity in Trinity College Dublin, who struck a reconciliatory tone, urging that notwithstanding four years of wartime combat, the Germans should be treated as fellow human beings: 'We ought to be able to think of the Germans, as God thinks of them – sinful souls indeed, but souls whom He nevertheless loves, whom he died to save as well as He died to save us, whom He wants to dwell, with us, in the eternal joy of His heavenly kingdom.'

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Elsewhere, thanksgiving services were held in all parish churches, often in conjunction with other Protestant denominations. In Galway, for example, a large number of soldiers and sailors came to a united service in St Nicholas Church, where the attendance was augmented by the congregations of the Methodist and Presbyterian churches whose ministers read the lessons. Parishioners in the County Down parish of Groomsport were similarly joined by their Presbyterian neighbours. The holding of thanksgiving services is further fleshed out in specific parish preachers' book entries with varying degrees of flourish. In Blackrock, county Dublin, for example the rector, the Revd Harry Dobbs, used red ink to flamboyantly record three services held in his parish churches.

The new exhibition also explores the context in which the realities of the war's end brought for Ireland. In many parishes, significant numbers were succumbing to the raging flu epidemic raging while a second concern worrying many people, and reflected in the pages of the *Gazette*, was the realisation that the outstanding political issues of the Irish situation had to be addressed – a situation captured under the 22nd November 1918 lead article, “Irish government policy and Ireland”. The *Gazette* recognised the deeply-held political and economic opinions on both sides and came to the view in its editorial that ‘the outlook in Ireland was rarely more dark’.

In tandem with the multitude of events taking place island-wide across the Church to mark the centenary (see listing at <http://bit.ly/2PbpcpJ>), it is hoped that this Archive of the Month may further enable reflection and understanding of the context in which to remember those who lost their lives

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and why the episode that was naively termed ‘the war to end all wars’ exacted such a high death toll across all of Europe.

Dr Miriam Moffitt comments: ‘The world was greatly changed between 1914 and 1918, both inside and outside the island of Ireland, as people began to reconsider their role in society, and how they believed it should function. These changes, in some ways, happened slowly, as attitudes and opinions were shaped and reshaped in response to people’s experiences over the four years. One important resource for the study of the attitudes of members of the Church of Ireland, and changes in these attitudes, is the *Church of Ireland Gazette* whose editorials, comment pieces, diocesan notes and correspondence provide contemporary evidence of the range of opinions found across the Church.’

Speaking from the RCB Library, Dr Susan Hood, Librarian and Archivist, says: ‘We are again indebted to Dr Moffitt for her forensic work to uncover hidden stories and make this specific contribution to the Decade of Commemorations. We are further delighted that the wealth of detail provided by the primary resource that is *Church of Ireland Gazette*, which we incrementally continue to make freely-searchable online has underpinned her work. In conjunction with the new exhibition, we are also pleased to announce that the digitization project (expertly undertaken for us by service provider Informa) has now reached the landmark of 1949. Thus the content of some 93 years of *Gazettes* from its foundation in 1856 up to and including December 1949 are all accessible and searchable here:

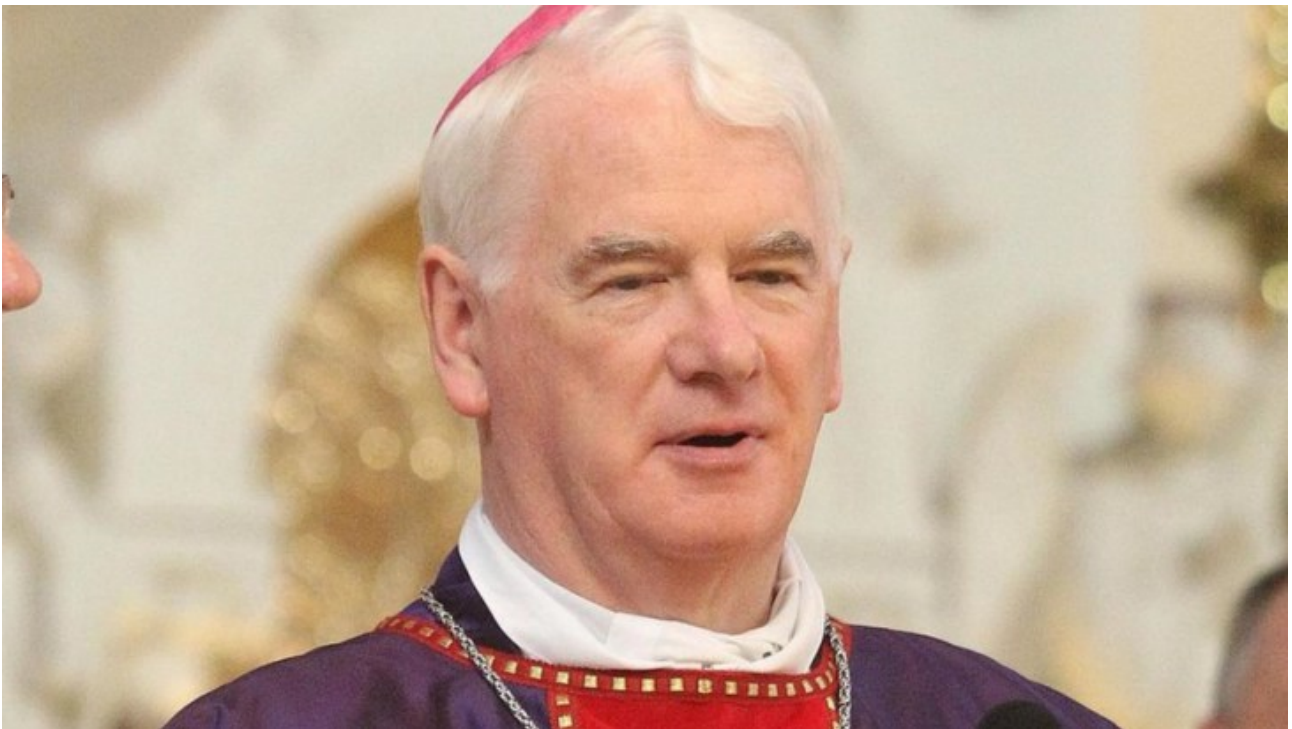
<https://esearch.informa.ie/rcb>’

[churchnewsireland@gmail.org](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.org)

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## **Brexit could lead to border violence again, bishop says**

Brexit will have “dire consequences” across Ireland and could evoke “violent reaction” from those on border counties, the Bishop of Down and Connor has warned this week.



### **Bishop Noel Treanor**

Speaking to the German Catholic News Agency, KNA, Bishop Noel Treanor said: “As recently as 20 years ago, we still had the British army, armed checkpoints and police vehicles at the border. My fear is that if the border were once again to become a frontier – with all the necessary infrastructure involved – that will unfortunately almost certainly evoke some sort of violent reaction.” He added that as soon as this happens, further security measures and a larger police presence would follow.

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Dr Treanor, who is also a vice-president of COMECE and President of the Conference of European Justice and Peace Commissions in Brussels, said that Britain and Ireland's accession to the EU had "created the framework and provided the propellant for overcoming the ongoing conflicts between north and south at the time". He also pointed that, thanks to the EU, in the last two decades: "peace, reconciliation and political progress has become possible in our divided Ireland".

Bishop Treanor said that during the Brexit negotiations, parties paid little attention to key, complex questions which are affecting us now as public opinion had been "manipulated by fake news" and the atmosphere was still "strongly polarised and characterised by mutual recriminations and self-promotion".

Despite these setbacks, he said the churches in Northern Ireland were actively trying to solve the problems of Brexit and the difficulties of forming a government in Northern Ireland noting how they had recently succeeded in bringing the representatives of Sinn Féin and the DUP together again in one room for the first time since the Northern Ireland Executive collapsed more than 18 months ago.

## **Mental ill-health an issue for all, Archbishop Clarke**

There is an urgent need for more to be done to stem the "immense upsurge" in mental ill-health, Archbishop of Armagh Dr Richard Clarke has said.

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**Westminster Abbey hosted the annual National Scout and Guide Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving. Pictures: [https://www.westminster-abbey.org/abbey-news/scouts-guides-2018/ ...](https://www.westminster-abbey.org/abbey-news/scouts-guides-2018/)**

The Church of Ireland already has courses on mental health for those involved in ministry with young people as well as suicide awareness training, but these need to be made more widely available, Dr Clarke told the Armagh Diocesan Synod meeting of lay people and clergy.

Dr Clarke said that while mental health problems were particularly acute among young people, people of all ages were affected.

"In a recent survey in Northern Ireland, over 40 per cent of 16-25 year olds said that they had experienced a mental



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health problem, and nearly 70 per cent that they 'always or often' feel stressed," he said.

"One in five in a younger age-group - 11-15 year olds - in the Republic of Ireland experience clear symptoms of anxiety or constant nervousness, according to the latest report issued by Unicef Ireland.

Dr Clarke cited figures from the Samaritans which showed that since 2014 the overall suicide rate in the UK had increased by 3.8 per cent, during which time it had increased in Northern Ireland by 18.5 per cent.

"Taking the figures year on year, this means that more people have died through suicide in Northern Ireland since the signing of the Belfast Agreement than died from violence during the Troubles," said Dr Clarke.

"Despite this terrible reality there is not enough funding available to address suicide and mental health problems in a proactive and beneficial way within the Province."

It was important "to accept that mental ill-health is not an issue only for the young", said Dr Clarke.

"Many older people, suffer isolation or depression and do not have the confidence to look for help from others," he said.

"To be alert to the suffering of others without being intrusive or overbearing is a difficult balance to bring to our relationships."

Elsewhere in his address, Dr Clarke called on the Church of Ireland to take risks to fulfil its "ambitions for the Kingdom of God".

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In a fast-changing world, the Church should not settle for mere survival.

"It was Our Lord who said that whoever seeks only to save his or her life will assuredly lose it," he said.

"Part of the continuing good health of any Christian community is the degree to which it looks outside itself and its own continued existence.

"Real health is not achieved when we simply wrap ourselves up and refuse to take any steps outside familiar and unruffled surroundings."

Beyond the Church, political drift meant "we are living in dangerous times", said Dr Clarke.

"When a stable society begins to collapse and when democratic norms no longer seem to work, other saviours will emerge but they are not the ones we need," he warned.

## **20 engagements in Moderator's East Belfast tour**

In the week that leads up to Remembrance Sunday and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ending of the First World War, the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Rt Rev Dr Charles McMullen, took part in a community act of remembrance today (7 November) when he laid a wreath at a special ceremony in east Belfast.

The event was one of 20 different engagements that Dr McMullen is undertaking as he continues his weeklong tour of the Church's Presbytery of East Belfast to encourage the local church and its members and to see first-hand their

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work in the community. The Moderator was invited to take part in the service by Rev Mervyn Gibson, minister of Westbourne Presbyterian Church, following a lunch with local community workers in the East Belfast Network Centre.

Speaking after this afternoon's service, Dr McMullen said, "In remembering the events of 100 years ago you cannot escape its enduring impact that was so keenly and painfully felt at the time across Ireland's towns and villages and cities, like Belfast.

"Our collective memory at times like this is so important, as it expresses a tremendous sense of community, solidarity, heartfelt gratitude and tells a greater story than the sum total of its parts. Many communities were simply changed forever by the First World War and few families remained untouched by it, including my own. As we gather to remember today on the Newtownards Road, we also remember the hope that we have in Jesus Christ, triumphing over death, and his call of us to be peacemakers."

Explaining how this act of remembrance came about, Rev Mervyn Gibson said, "Each year from 2014 and the centenary of the start of the First World War, thousands of Poppy Crosses have been planted in Dr Pitt Memorial Park, not far from Westbourne, creating a temporary 'Field of Remembrance'. It's a simple opportunity for anyone to place a cross at any time to remember relations lost in the Great War, those who served in other conflicts, or simply loved ones no longer present. Owing to the bad weather we had to move the service to the East Belfast Network Centre on Templemore Avenue.

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“The week running up to Remembrance Sunday includes other activities, but in the middle of the week, we hold what has become a Community Act of Remembrance. It usually attracts a lot of local interest and this year has been no different, I am very pleased that this year the Moderator was able to say the opening prayer and lay a wreath.”

The service was attended by local churches, schools, football clubs, and representatives from ethnic minority communities. Members of the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service; Northern Ireland Ambulance Service and the Police Service of Northern Ireland also attended.

Mr Gibson explained that during the service the story of a local member of the community was read out. Over 30 such stories have been heard since 2014. “Today we heard of the sacrifice of Sergeant Edmund McNeff, an Irish National Volunteer from 66 Short Strand who attended St Matthew’s Catholic Church. He joined the Royal Inniskillen Fusiliers in 1914 and was killed aged 21 two years later. Today we recall all those who have gone before us and fought for the freedoms that we enjoy today,” he said.

On Friday, Dr McMullen will preach at a remembrance service in Campbell College, which lost 126 former pupils and one member of staff during the First World War. On Remembrance Sunday he will lead the prayers in a Christian act of worship at the Cenotaph at Belfast City Hall and attend a service in St Anne’s Cathedral in the city, to commemorate the centenary of the ending of the war

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## Hidden history of Northern Ireland's mother and baby homes

Last month, the Irish government announced plans to excavate the bodies of several hundred babies interred on the site of the former mother and baby home in Tuam in the Republic of Ireland. The Tuam controversy is part of a larger episode in Irish history that focuses on the treatment of unmarried mothers and their children.

However the story is not only pertinent in the Republic of Ireland – Northern Ireland has its own hidden history in this respect. A stark advertisement that appeared in the Northern Whig in 1950 is evidence of this.

Sitting alongside notices about second hand cars is a notice that reads: 'Bonny Baby Boy: full surrender given to kind Protestant parents - Box PM2112.'

In an era when stigma was attached to pre-marital pregnancy, how did Northern Ireland respond to this issue?

Professor Sean O'Connell from Queen's University Belfast said: "We know very little about this and the babies involved are part of a hidden history.

"This advert suggests an ad hoc and furtive process took place, certainly at this point – 1950."

He added: "We estimate that up to 4,700 Northern Irish women were sent to homes operated by Protestant

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churches, including Thorndale, Malone Place, Hopedene Hostel and Kennedy House between the 1920s and 1990s.

“A further 2,800, from the Catholic community, had their babies while residents of the Marianvale in Newry and Marianville in Belfast, which were operated by the Catholic Sisters of the Good Shepherd.

“In total, that is 7,500 women: each with their own story. “Moreover, there are a further 7,500 potential stories to be told of what became of their babies.

“We are currently recording the memoirs of some of those women and their children and would like to appeal to readers to help us secure even more.”

“We have been asked to discover the reality that lies behind the sketchy historical evidence on mother and baby homes in Northern Ireland that can be found in the dusty paperwork left behind.

“Our research will lead to a report for the Department of Health which will feed into a decision on whether or not Northern Ireland follows the Republic and instigates a full scale inquiry on mother and baby homes.”

Over the course of the past century, hundreds of women made the journey from their homes across Northern Ireland to a number of mother and baby homes run by Catholic and Protestant organisations, as well as by the state.

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A smaller number of residential homes operated as so-called Magdalene laundries and a large number of women worked in them, for various lengths of time.

Working alongside Professor O'Connell on the examination of the mother and baby homes in Northern Ireland is Dr Leanne McCormick from Ulster University.

## **Clogher Diocesan Big Sing**

The Clogher Diocesan Big Sing which takes place on Sunday evening, 18th November, at 7pm in St Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen, will bring together a number of choirs, music groups and soloists from parishes across the diocese.

This first event of its kind in the area will feature a number of popular hymns chosen by readers of the Clogher Diocesan Magazine who responded to the appeal for requests – well-known hymns such as “Be Thou My Vision,” “Blessed Assurance,” “And Can it Be,” “Great is Thy Faithfulness,” “How Great Thou Art; “Stand up Stand up for Jesus” and “In Christ Alone.”

Soloists taking part will include Linda Lyndsay, Roy Crowe and Michelle Elliott as well as instrumentalists Warren Kerr and Gavin Rogers and others including Ethne McCord, Jayne Malcolmson, the Revd Olivia Downey, the Revd Andrew Quill and Lorna Thompson.

A number of clergy and parishioners from parishes across the Diocese will also be taking part. Among the well-known faces from parishes introducing their favourite hymn will

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include Bishop John McDowell, Elizabeth Armstrong, Dean Kenny Hall, Irene Boyd, Arlene Foster, Stuart Brooker, the Revd Neal Phair, Rosemary Barton, Walter Pringle and others.

Some parishes have already booked a coach to bring parishioners along to the occasion.

Everyone is welcome to attend what is expected to be an uplifting evening of music and praise.

## **News briefs**

### **Music on Remembrance Sunday in St Columb's, Derry**

This Remembrance Sunday service begins at the later time of 11.30am following an act of remembrance at the Diamond. Music includes Gabriel Fauré's 'Pie Jesu' and Peter Aston's 'So they gave their bodies'. In place of Choral Evensong, The St. Columb's Cathedral Choir and St. Columb's Chamber Choir will be joined by St. Eugene's Cathedral Choir to perform Gabriel Fauré's Requiem at 4.00pm in St. Columb's Cathedral. The Armistice Requiem is in commemoration of the Centenary of the Armistice. Conducted by Maghnus Monaghan and accompanied by Derek Collins on the organ.

### **New poetry for Remembrance**

A collection of verse *Wake Up Jamesie Lad (A Century Beyond The Armistice)* by Paul Gilmore has generated a lot of interest and 1000 copies have been purchased by the Northern Ireland First World War Centenary Committee in



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order to place one copy on each seat in Belfast Cathedral for the centenary Remembrance Service on Sunday afternoon. The service will be broadcast live. Paul will be an invited guest. Copies can be had for £5 and the proceeds go to Combat Stress ([www.combatstress.org.uk](http://www.combatstress.org.uk)) they can be purchased from The Northern Ireland First World War Centenary Committee, The Causeway Institute for Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution International, The David Cross Foundation for Reconciliation, and other outlets, and worldwide through the Internet. Or the author!

### **Gospel concert Christ Church, Dublin**

Come along for an evening of soulful and inspiring music featuring Discovery Gospel Choir and Dublin Gospel Choir. Hear voices raised in a spirit of peace and hope, and join in a moment of silent reflection in memory of all who have died in war. This concert is in aid of the Irish Refugee Council's 'A Place to Call Home' project and Trócaire. Admission is free. Your generous donations encouraged! Sunday November 11 at 8.00 pm

### **Musical and Literary remembrance in Trim**

A Musical and Literary event on the theme of Remembrance, featuring actors Barry McGovern, Donal O'Kelly and the RTE Contempo String Quartet on Sunday 18th November at 8pm in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Trim. Admission Free

### **Divine Healing seminars at Church Life Conference**

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# REQUIEM

Remembrance Sunday, November 11th, 3pm



THE DUBLIN  
BACH SINGERS

*Fauré Requiem*  
*Durufié Requiem*

Conducted by Blánaid Murphy

Soloists:

Sharon Lyons, soprano

Alison Browner, alto

Peter Manning, baritone

John Magee, baritone

Organist:

David Leigh



Collection in aid  
of UNHCR Syria Appeal

St. Mary's Pro-Cathedral, Marlborough St., D1

Tickets: €20 from [eventbrite.ie](http://eventbrite.ie) and on the door

Fergus McMorro Director of Divine Healing Ministries has been asked to lead a seminar along with Margaret Clarke from Transformations Ireland at 4.30pm on November 13 at the Church Life Conference on the theme "Praying for and with your Community: Practical steps to Blessing your community" [churchnewsireland@gmail.org](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.org)

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Locality.” This seminar will encourage and inspire with real examples of the impact of prayer on businesses, crime levels and schools. You will be provided with very easy to use resources and an opportunity to practice praying for your community.

Brother David Jardine will also be leading a seminar on “Equipping for Life” at 1.30pm on the same date. Equipping for Life is a vision given to Brother David to help the Church serve people in areas that suffered a lot during the Troubles and who are still suffering deprivation today. Through this project, he will be asking Church members to volunteer their time and talents to serve people in these areas with whatever needs they have. You will be most welcome to attend on Tuesday 13th November at Assembly Buildings, Fisherwick Place, Belfast. For further information, visit <http://www.churchresourcesonline.com/>

## **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.

## **Mothers' Union day centre in Ruagre**

In Ruagre, Mothers' Union members inspired a day centre to enrol children from disadvantaged families. Since 2016,

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many of those pupils are now in full time primary education. Find out how you can support us here [https://www.mothersunion.org/projects/church-and-community-mobilisation ...](https://www.mothersunion.org/projects/church-and-community-mobilisation...)

