



## Corrymeela founder member of new reconciliation network



**An ecumenical network of Christian organisations has been launched in an attempt to equip churches and their leaders to work towards transforming communities through reconciliation.**

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The network Reconcilers Together was launched last month, and will include a fully funded training programme for 20 Christian leaders, to equip them to deal with issues of conflict in their churches or communities.

A spokeswoman for the new organisation, Rebecca Brierley, said on Tuesday: “Reconcilers Together is a new ecumenical partnership between eight peace-building centres across the UK and Ireland. What started as an idea among a few of the centres became a passion to see reconciliation embedded in churches across the UK and Ireland.”

The organisations that have come together are:

Corrymeela, a community in Northern Ireland; St Michael’s House, at Coventry Cathedral; the Rose Castle Foundation, in Cumbria; Bridge Builders Ministries, a mediation service; St Ethelburga’s Centre for Reconciliation and Peace, in London; the Blackley Centre, a Baptist church in Yorkshire; the Scottish charity Place for Hope; and the Archbishop of Canterbury’s Reconciliation Ministry.

The training programme, “Journey of Hope”, will run from January to June next year. Mrs Brierley said: “We are aiming to take 20 leaders on a pilgrimage, or journey, to see what Christian reconciliation looks like in various contexts.

“We are looking for churches that have a vision for reconciliation in their church or in their wider community to put forward a nomination of someone who is a champion of reconciliation.”

Ms Brierley said that Reconcilers Together seeks to “inspire and equip churches to turn them into reconciliation hubs”; and that it hopes “that churches will be able to identify a

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particular conflict that they want to transform, whether that is within the church, between family members, or in the wider community”. They are hoping for “participants who will see conflict as something to embrace and see opportunity in, rather than something to run away from.”

Those interested in applying for the fully funded scheme, or wishing to nominate someone from their church, are invited to fill in an application form on the website of Reconcilers Together: <https://www.reconcilerstogether.co.uk/>. Applications are open until the beginning of November.

## **Moderator leads WW1 VC commemoration service**

In the run up to the official centenary commemorations of the ending for the First World War in November, a special service was held on Sunday to remember and honour the courage and sacrifice of the 40-plus Irishmen who received the Victoria Cross for acts of valour between 1914 and 1918. Presbyterian Moderator, Rt Rev Dr Charles McMullen, led the service and gave the sermon.

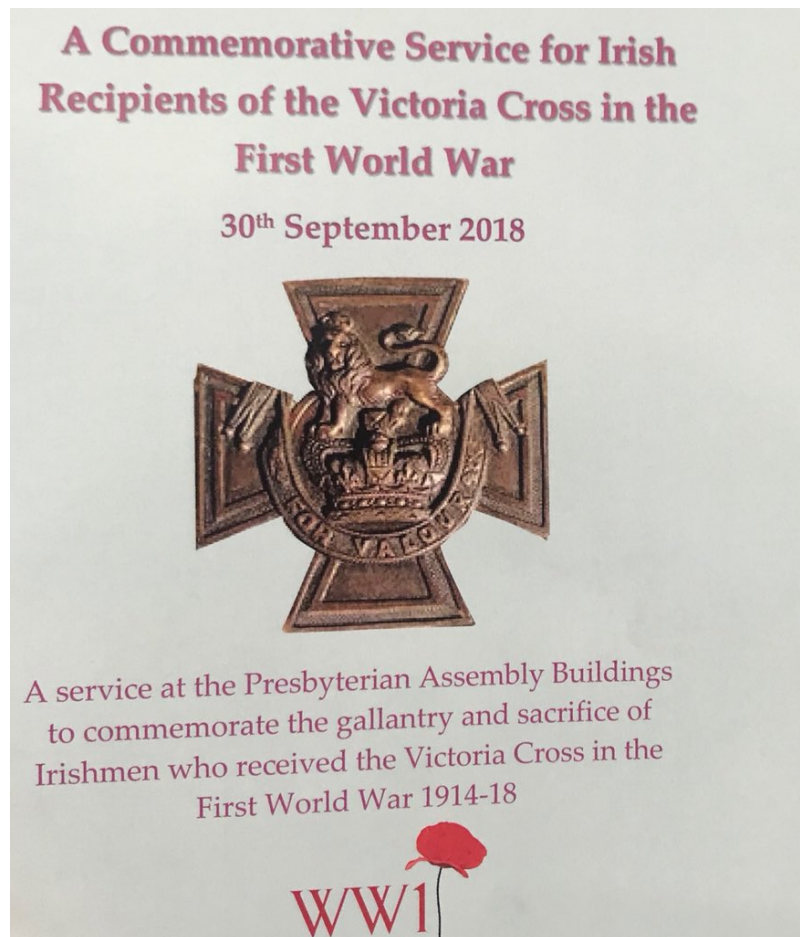
Organised by the Northern Ireland First World War Centenary Committee, the service was attended by the families of the VC holders, veterans’ groups, members of the armed services and forces chaplains, government and political representatives including An Tánaiste, Simon Coveney TD.

[Speaking about the service](#), which took place in Assembly Buildings, Belfast, Dr McMullen said, “It was a privilege to have been asked to take part in this special service of remembrance to honour the valour of those Irishmen who

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won the Victoria Cross during the Great War.”

“The scale of and horror of what took place in those four years is well documented and can only deepen our respect for those who went from these shores voluntarily, including my two great uncles who didn’t return, and those who won the highest award for their courage, the Victoria Cross.”



Attending the service, the Chairman of the Northern Ireland First World War Centenary Committee, Rt Hon Sir Jeffrey Donaldson MP, said, “In the First World War there were 627 recipients of the Victoria Cross. More than 40 of these men were either born in Ireland or had Irish parents. As we approach the centenary of the Armistice in November 2018, it is appropriate to remember once again these most gallant Irishmen, many of whom gave their lives in battle.

“Whilst many people are aware of the 4 Victoria Crosses that were awarded to the 36th Ulster Division on 1st July 1916, there are many more examples of gallantry and selfless sacrifice by Irishmen through the Great War. Not only soldiers but also sailors and airmen too. Indeed the

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first Victoria Cross awarded in the war was to an Irishman, Lieutenant Maurice Dease, from County Westmeath.”

## **The end of a long note: organist retires after 42 years service**

Organist Professor Gerard Gillen has bowed out of the role that he held at St Mary’s Pro-Cathedral for more than 42 years.

Sunday’s 11am Mass was the farewell Mass for Mr Gillen.

He was appointed *organiste titulaire* at the Pro-Cathedral by Archbishop Dermot Ryan in 1976. Since then he has served as organist for four archbishops of Dublin and has supervised the training of many archdiocesan organ scholars.

Many concelebrants joined with Archbishop Diarmuid Martin in celebrating Mr Gillen’s farewell Mass yesterday, where the professor’s chosen work was Dvořák’s *Mass in D* with the Palestrina Choir.

Among those in the congregation was Uachtarán na hÉireann Michael D. Higgins and his wife Sabina. In 1974, Professor Gillen played at their wedding and their paths have crossed many times since.

Mr Gillen was head of the music department at Maynooth University until his retirement in 2007, and he is a renowned scholar of Catholic church music and of organ building and performance practice.

He was the founder and chairman of the Dublin International Organ & Choral Festival and was the festival’s artistic director from 1990–2000. He was also consultant to

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**Prof Gerard Gillen, lead organist at Dublin's Pro Cathedral for 42 years, with his six granddaughters Sarah, Aoife, Maeve, Aisling, Clodagh and Amy.**

the National Concert Hall in Dublin on the installation of the hall's Kenneth Jones concert organ in 1991 and remains one of the hall's honorary organ curators. The Senate of the National University of Ireland awarded Professor Gillen with an honorary doctorate for his outstanding academic leadership.

Outside Ireland, Mr Gillen has performed at venues such as the Royal Festival Hall, London; McEwan Hall, Edinburgh; the Ulster Hall, Belfast; as well as the Cathedrals of Pittsburgh, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, Canterbury, Paris, Vienna, Salzburg, Regensburg, Freiburg, Hamburg, Lübeck, Brussels, Antwerp, Bruges, Ghent, Copenhagen, Madrid and Tallinn. In recent weeks, he completed a series of recitals in Slovakia and Germany.

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In 1994, Mr Gillen was appointed to the Pontifical Order of Knight Commander of St Gregory the Great (KCSG).

## **Gorey Methodist Church welcome new minister**



**Rev Katherine Kehoe, who was welcomed as Minister of Gorey and Arklow Methodist Churches, pictured with her husband John Kehoe and Rev Andrew Dougherty of the Dublin district**

The congregation at Gorey Methodist Church welcomed their new minister to town with an installation service at the church in the Market Square on Sunday evening.

Rev Katherine Kehoe, who is a native of Baltinglass, county Wicklow, was given a huge welcome to Gorey by the

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parishioners, some of whom travelled from Lucan, Tallaght and Arklow.

She finished her training for ordained ministry in Edgehill Theological College in Belfast in 2015 and served as a probationary minister in Lucan and Tallaght for three years before ordained in June of this year at St Columb's Church of Ireland in Derry. Rev Kehoe was ordained alongside previous Gorey Methodist Church minister, Rev Cheryl Patterson, who has moved to the a new parish - Glenbyrne, Belfast.

'I am the minister in Arklow and Gorey now,' said Rev Kehoe.

Before entering theological college, Rev Kehoe lived in Baltinglass with her husband John, who works for Wicklow County Council. They married in 1978 and have two daughters - Patrice and Caroline. Report courtesy the Gorey Guardian

## **A Harvest Time to remember at Christ Church Londonderry**

The words of the Lord's Prayer resonated strongly, on Sunday morning, as the parishioners of Christ Church Londonderry gathered for the rededication and consecration of their church following last year's vandalism attack there. "And forgive us our trespasses," the congregation prayed, "as we forgive those who trespass against us."

Minutes earlier, the Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Rt Rev Ken Good, had consecrated Christ Church – "this sacred



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space” – which had been repaired and refurbished in the intervening year.

The shock of the September 2017 attack had been traumatic for his parishioners, the Rector, Venerable Robert Miller, said at the time. One of the stained-glass windows had been smashed by the intruder who had then caused extensive damage to the church organ.

Just over a year later, many of those parishioners were back at Christ Church, along with friends from elsewhere in the Diocese and from across the community, to hear the newly-restored organ being played again, this time at a Harvest Thanksgiving Service led by Archdeacon Miller. The church was decorated beautifully for the occasion, with floral arrays and fruit and vegetable displays.

During his address, Bishop Good produced a cotton handkerchief which he held up to the congregation. He said when he was young, people would knot their handkerchiefs in the middle to remind them to do something which they regarded as important.

“Nowadays we’re more sophisticated,” the Bishop said, “we might use an alarm on our phone. But I’m putting this here,” he said, knotting the handkerchief and draping it over the edge of the pulpit, “as a prompt to remind us about the importance of remembering and taking care lest we forget.”

The Bishop said there were three simple but important things they needed to take care of at harvest time, lest they forgot. The first was they needed to take care lest they forgot to acknowledge God, who had given them what they had. The second thing was to thank him from their hearts

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for his goodness towards them. And lastly, they needed to take care lest they forgot to share.

Bishop suggested to the congregation that they could perhaps express thanks by giving away something this week. It could be as simple, he said, as leaving the pound coin in their trolley at the supermarket, so that somebody else could be blessed when they found it. “There’s something about sharing,” he said, “that breaks the grip that possessions have on our hearts when we give away. In fact, when we give away more than we think we can afford, the blessing – spiritually – is remarkable.”

During the Service, the congregation thanked God for the guidance, leadership and support they had received in the “moments of darkness” which had followed last year’s incident at the church; for lifting them out of the doldrums, and the feelings of hopelessness, anger and dismay they

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had felt; and for showing them the hope and positiveness that goes with living in faith.

## **Fr Brian D’Arcy - allow married men and women to be ordained as priests**

The Church must radically change the structure of the priesthood if it is to halt the decline in vocations and Mass attendances, according to Sunday World columnist and BBC presenter Fr Brian D’Arcy.

Speaking to the international Catholic weekly, *The Tablet*, the Passionist priest said, “We have prayed for years, particularly in the Western world, for an increase in vocations. We cannot say that God isn’t listening because we absolutely believe he is. But the vocations are not there, so maybe we are asking God for the wrong gift.”

The 73-year-old added, “If we keep on doing the same thing then we are likely to get the same result; the fact that the result is neither helpful to the Church nor priesthood is telling us that we better change our way of doing it.”

Fr D’Arcy publicly criticised compulsory clerical celibacy on the opening day of the National Ploughing Championship in Tullamore, saying he had always believed clergy should be allowed to get married. He said the Church urgently needed to consider making clerical celibacy optional, as well as ordaining married men and women.

“I think compulsorily tying the gift of celibacy with the gift of priesthood is more codology than theology. They are two separate gifts – they are not the same gift.” He suggested that compulsory celibacy can lead to an unhealthy

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emotional life and an unhealthy spirituality. It is based on “an utterly inadequate theology of sexuality”, he said.

He also highlighted how the Orthodox Church and members of the Ordinariate can be priests and be married.

However, Fr D’Arcy, who celebrates 50 years of priesthood next year, cautioned against a belief that one single change, such as abolishing compulsory celibacy, would provide an answer to all the Church’s challenges.

“I think we have to look at how the Spirit is working in the Church and I think the Spirit is very obviously in the great committed lay people in the Church.”

He told CatholicIreland.net that it was important for Christians to understand that the most important day in their life of faith was the day they are baptised.

“We have to look at the wonderful gift of the priesthood of the laity and a different structure to the one we have now. I think that is what the Holy Spirit is asking us to look at.”



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He also highlighted Pope Francis's criticisms of clericalism and said he agreed with the Pontiff's concerns. "The Gospel tells us we have to listen to the Spirit guiding us in a different way."

The need for change was underlined by the decline in Mass attendance from over 90 per cent when Pope John Paul II visited Ireland in 1979, to 19 per cent in some urban areas today. He said that figure could even be as low as 9 per cent if the older age group is excluded.

"I think we have got to give local people in their own local communities an ability to determine what kind of Church they are going to have and the possibility of proposing a married man who could be trained as a priest.

"We have gone halfway by saying we will train married men as deacons but why can't we ordain married men as priests?"

Fr D'Arcy also acknowledged that most people he encountered were telling him that the reasons why women cannot be ordained were "so ridiculous that nobody can take them seriously".

"If there is a theological reason why women cannot be ordained it must surely be greater than the argument that Jesus did not ordain women... Jesus didn't ordain Irishmen, so why have we been able to ordain them and not women?"

He added, "If canon law prevents something good from happening, then change canon law. Don't give us the idea that canon law is a greater law than the Gospel."

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## Battle's Over: A Nation's Tribute

On 11th November 2018, the United Kingdom and its friends overseas will mark the day 100 years ago when the guns fell silent at the end of the First World War. Please encourage your local Cathedral, Minster or Church to participate by ringing their bells at 7.05pm that evening, asking them to complete the registration form found at: [www.brunopeek.co.uk](http://www.brunopeek.co.uk)

You can play your part in remembering the sacrifice of millions of men and women by joining us in Battle's Over, a unique series of events in the morning and evening involving organisations and communities the length and breadth of our nation and in many countries abroad.

- Battle's Over – Sleep in peace, now the battle's over
- Battle's Over – The Last Post
- Battle's Over – WWI Beacons of Light
- Battle's Over – Ringing out for Peace
- Battle's Over – Cry for Peace Around the World

### **7.05pm Battle's Over – Ringing out for peace!**

As beacons blaze around the country, bells in 1,000 churches and cathedrals will ring out in celebration of the end of the First World War. Many people in Britain live within hearing of church bells, which call congregations to prayer and mark special occasions. But the sound of mighty bells, some of which are hundreds of years old, also provides a stirring soundtrack to historic events.

The ringing of bells to celebrate the end of the Great War is being organised in association with the Central Council of

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Church Bell Ringers, the representative body for groups who ring bells in the English tradition with rope and wheel. It was founded in 1891 and represents 65 affiliated societies of local ringers from all over the British Isles and many other countries from Australasia to North America to Africa.

The stirring sound of church and cathedral bells will provide a fitting conclusion to a day of contemplation, commemoration and, ultimately, celebration as our country and other nations reflect on events a century ago on the battlefields of Europe and at home in our factories and farms.

Please encourage your local Cathedral, Minster or Church to participate by ringing their bells at 7.05pm that evening, asking them to complete the registration form found at: [www.brunopeek.co.uk](http://www.brunopeek.co.uk)

Find out more in the [Guide to taking part in Battle's Over](#)

## **News Links**

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<https://www.independent.ie/opinion/columnists/how-dr-mcaleese-laid-down-canon-law-to-her-detractors-in-vatican-37368503.html>

**Nelson McCausland: Protestant exodus from Londonderry's West Bank uncomfortable for republicans**

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<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/opinion/nelson-mccausland-protestant-exodus-from-londonderrys-west-bank-uncomfortable-for-republicans-37358674.html>

**With its majority gone, it's vital unionism understands the new Catholic sense of identity**

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/opinion/news-analysis/with-its-majority-gone-its-vital-unionism-understands-the-new-catholic-sense-of-identity-37362094.html>

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[https://www.rte.ie/news/newslens/2018/0925/996954-blasphemy-referendum/.](https://www.rte.ie/news/newslens/2018/0925/996954-blasphemy-referendum/)

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