



New Roll of Honour for both World Wars dedicated in Derry church

St Augustine's Church in Londonderry held a service last Sunday at which a Roll of Honour Memorial of parishioners who served in the First and Second World Wars was dedicated by the Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, the Rt Rev Ken Good.

It was, the Rector, the Rev Canon Malcolm Ferry, said, a "special day" for his parish. "This little church sent 110 men
churchnewsireland@gmail.org

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and women off to the First World War, and 175 men and women to the Second World War – this tiny church – so we gather in their name today and we certainly are so proud.”



Gathered with them was Rev Dr Jim Francis, a Deputy Assistant Chaplain-General of the army, who helped conduct the Service and preached the sermon. Dr Francis said it was unusual to come to a church where it wasn't just the fallen who were commemorated but the sacrifice of “everyone who left hearth and home to go and fight in the cause of this country”. So, he said, St Augustine's was “unique, almost” in having that kind of commemoration in his parish. “This little church sent 110 men and women off to the First World War, and 175 men and women to the Second World War – this tiny church – so we gather in their name today and we certainly are so proud.”

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Seated at the very front of the church, proudly wearing his medals and accompanied by his daughter, was 93-year-old Jack Sterling, a Second World War veteran whose name is among those on the plaque. Sitting in the very back row, immediately below the Roll of Honour, were the Heatley brothers, whose father and uncles also are named.

In church, too, were other relatives, many wearing their loved ones' war medals: members of the Miller family, "a great name connected with our church", the Rector said, and the Musselwhite family who had both a father and daughter on the Roll of Honour. The daughter, Maud Musselwhite BEM, had been in the Auxiliary Territorial Service before joining the Royal Ulster Constabulary. "Maud has a special place in the history of policing in Northern Ireland," Canon Ferry said. "On the 24th May 1957 – just over six months after the outbreak of an IRA campaign that was to last six years – Sgt Musselwhite became the first policewoman in the province to be decorated for gallantry."

Paying tribute to the sacrifice of all those parishioners from 'the Wee Church on the Walls' who had fought in the two conflicts, Canon Ferry said: "They're not simply names on a

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board; they're families, they're people, they're blood of our blood.”

As they dedicated the memorial of those who had gone before them, Dr Francis told the congregation they were confronted by an inescapable fact: that they had behind them in their nation's history an enormity of sacrifice which they could not help but remember with pride – a pride tinged with sorrow. “But that memory brings an immediate realisation of another inescapable fact: looking forward, we have an enormous challenge – a challenge of building a world worthy of the sacrifice of those who left hearth and home, those of our home, of our flesh, of our love, those who didn't come back, those who came back for ever changed. We must build a world worthy of that sacrifice.”

That required moral and spiritual courage, the preacher said, a courage to see the world in a different way, to imagine it as a better place and work towards that. Dr Francis said Jesus's words and actions should compel us to shift our focus in a radical way and to respond with radical action – putting other people's interests at least equal to our own.

“So as – on a day like this – we rightly take pride in our distinguished history, let's try and locate that history in an even greater and more glorious history that we are part of: the history and the ongoing story of Jesus at work in our world, Jesus at the crossroads of our world, and let us pray for the courage to go there too. If we do, we might just see the day when – in the words of Isaiah – people shall beat their swords into ploughshares, their spears into pruning hooks, a day when nation shall not lift up a sword against

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another nation. It won't be easy, but we – the people of Jesus – in this place, at this time, we are called to try.”

During the Service of Morning Prayer, the choir and congregation sang ‘A Victory Hymn’ which was discovered only recently but had been written by Canon Ferry’s grandmother, Annie, around 1918 – the year the First World War ended. “I don’t think she ever thought her hymn would be sung in such a setting, especially in front of the Assistant Chaplain General of the British Army,” the Rector said, “so it’s a special day for me, too.”

Archbishop O’Reilly’s concern over hurt to Travellers during recent election campaign

Archbishop Kieran O’Reilly has expressed his concern over hurt caused by some of the public discussion which took place in recent weeks during the election campaign for the office of President of Ireland.

Archbishop O’Reilly said, “I wish to offer my congratulations today (Saturday) to President Higgins, and to his family, on his reelection as Uachtaráin na hÉireann. As a nation we can look forward, with confidence, to President Higgins’ compassionate style of leadership which has been characterised by unity, inclusivity and a respect for the diversity of all of our people. A Uachtaráin, O hUiginn, Guím rath Dé ort agus gach beannacht ar do chuid oibre ar son mhuintir na hÉireann sna blianta atá romhat.

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“In recent weeks I was alarmed by some of the inflammatory language used during the public discourse which formed part of this election campaign. Feedback that I have received from members of the Travelling community, and from those dependent on financial assistance from the State in order to survive, has confirmed my concerns. Ill-informed and inflammatory language has caused real hurt, humiliation and heartache. This offensive commentary was particularly virulent on social media. It has been particularly damaging to the Traveller community which has been endeavouring to grow and preserve its ethnic identity as part of our society.

“At this time, I ask of all those engaged in projects around Traveller health and well-being to redouble their efforts to ensure that people do not lose courage. Travellers are finding themselves at the centre of unwelcome and unfair comment. Our society, which is already unequal, cannot afford to become any more polarised. Whilst the election may be over, unfortunately the consequences of this campaign will continue for many for some time to come.

“In conclusion, I ask that we commit together, by way of prayer and action, to work to build understanding and solidarity between the Traveller and settled community in Ireland.”

Christian care group Jubilee on course to open first community-owned farm

A Christian care organisation in Co Antrim is on course to open Northern Ireland’s first community-owned farm.

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Jubilee directors Rebecca Stevenson, John Martin, Noreen Christian OP, Dr Jonny Hanson and Dr Jeni McAughey with the Community Share Offers

Having already raised £165,000 to purchase a farmhouse in Larne, Jubilee are now offering shares in their co-operative to generate £145,000 to buy 13.5 acres of land as well as polytunnels and other equipment.

More than 40 people attended the recent launch of Jubilee's community share offer at City Church Cafe in Belfast.

At the event, they heard from managing director Dr Jonny Hanson about the vision for the project.

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He said the plan is to farm organic pigs, poultry, goats and vegetables, plus introduce an internship programme, and even glamping in due course.

Panel members Rev Richard Kerr, Jim Kitchen and Tiziana O'Hara shared their own reasons for supporting the project, and its importance as an example of sustainable community enterprise, creating economic, ecological, social and spiritual value.

For the first six months of 2018, Jubilee was able to use a temporary site in Larne. Dr Hanson said: "In that short space of time we achieved a great deal of exciting things.

"Over 100 volunteers attended one of our monthly community volunteer days and almost 100 primary school children attended one of our curriculum-based nature education learning sessions.

"Twenty-four families each purchased a subscription to our pig club and received a quarter pig's worth of free range pork in return. And at our Bioblitz Festival of Science and Nature in June, we welcomed more than 400 members of the public to participate in a 24-hour programme of walks, talks and activities."

Having already raised £165,000 from existing supporters to purchase the farmhouse, they are now raising £145,000 by Christmas. As a co-operative social enterprise, Jubilee is raising the money via a community share offer, making this NI's first community-owned farm.

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Dr Hanson said: “Becoming a member of Jubilee Farm is the perfect opportunity for individuals, families, schools, churches, and community groups to come together and invest in a community enterprise that works for the benefit of everyone.”

Vatican meeting ends with call for greater role for women in Church

A major meeting of Catholic bishops ended on Saturday with a call for women to play a greater role in Church decision-making as a 'duty of justice', but appeared to water down language that would have been more welcoming to gays.

The role of women took centre stage at the synod, which was focused on reaching out to young people but has been overshadowed by the scandal over sex abuse in the Church and acrimony between social conservatives and reformers.

In a sign of the divisions, the synod used what appeared to be compromise language on the topic of homosexuality, saying people could not be identified solely by sexual orientation.

A working paper for the gathering, which began on October 3, had used the acronym LGBT, but this did not appear in the 60-page final document.

The document also called for stricter measures to combat sexual abuse, including more transparency in Church structures, and denounced a culture of elitism among some

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A nun enters to take part at the synod afternoon session led by Pope Francis at the Vatican October 16, 2018.

Church leaders which it said can facilitate cover-up and corruption.

All three issues were among the subjects debated at the gathering, officially titled Young People, Faith and Discernment of Vocation and attended by some 300 bishops, priests, nuns and lay participants.

Only 'synod fathers', including bishops and some other male representatives, were allowed to vote on the final document. It will be sent to the pope, who will take it into consideration when he writes his own document.

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Attention was drawn to the issue of women's rights by the synod's own rules, under which two non-ordained monks who lead religious orders were permitted to vote, while a nun with a similar role was not.

The Catholic Church restricts the priesthood to men, but allows people of both sexes who are not priests to hold positions of authority in other areas. However, none of the Vatican's 60 departments is headed by a women and only six women hold decision making roles in the Vatican bureaucracy.

Young people, the document said, believed the Church still lagged in attempts to give women 'space in decision making processes' in jobs not restricted to priests.

Change unavoidable

'The synod recommends making everyone (in the Church) aware of the urgency of an unavoidable change ...,' the document says.

It called for 'a female presence in church roles at all levels, even in positions of responsibility', which it described as a 'duty of justice'.

The three sections on sexuality in the document were not as strong or as inclusive as some young people had wanted, although it renewed the Church's 'commitment against all sexually-based discrimination and violence'.

The acronym LGBT appeared for the first time in a Vatican document in the working paper for synod issued in May. That working paper said: 'Some LGBT youths wish to

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benefit from greater closeness and experience greater care by the Church.'

But conservative bishops, including those from Africa and at least one from the United States, opposed the mention.

'There is no such thing as an "LGBTQ Catholic" or a "transgender Catholic" or a "heterosexual Catholic", as if our sexual appetites defined who we are', Philadelphia Archbishop Charles Chaput said in his address to the synod.

The Church teaches that having homosexual urges is not sinful but people must not act on them.

In its sections on sexual abuse scandals that have scarred the Church in a number of countries, the document called for "strong preventive measures to prevent any repeat" and supported calls for a stricter selection of men who want to be priests.

New Brunswick Anglican and Roman Catholic bishops unite in child development campaign

A Roman Catholic bishop and his Anglican counterpart have been inspired by an official international ecumenical mission partnership to create a joint project to address development needs of children living in poverty. In October 2016, the [Archbishop of Canterbury and Pope Francis](#)

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[jointly commissioned and sent out 19 pairs of Anglican and Roman Catholic bishops](#) to do joint mission across the

world. The Roman Catholic Bishop of Saint John, Robert Harris, and the Anglican Bishop of Fredericton, David Edwards, were not part of that initiative; but inspired by it the two bishop – whose dioceses overlap – have signed a joint declaration to launch a child development programme.



The Roman Catholic Bishop of Saint John, Robert Harris (left), and the Anglican Bishop of Fredericton, David Edwards, sign their joint declaration at St John's Anglican Church in the New Brunswick port city of Saint John

The project, "Dads & Tots", will work with single fathers from the Waterloo Village and South End neighbourhoods

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of Saint John, a port city in Canada's New Brunswick province. The project will enable mentoring relationships with experienced fathers who can teach them parenting skills and facilitate weekly relationship building sessions whereby the fathers can interact with their children in a controlled literacy- and play-based environment.

The project follows the formation last year of a Saint John IARCCUM Group between the two dioceses. Dads & Tots has now begun as a six week pilot ahead of its permanent launch in January. It is being run by a specialist in early childhood intervention and will use facilities and equipment donated by the two dioceses.

It is the second initiative to be launched in direct response to the Common Declaration issued by Pope Francis and Archbishop Justin Welby at San Gregorio al Celio in Rome in October 2016 to mark the 50th anniversary of the first official meeting since the Reformation between a Pope and an Archbishop of Canterbury. The first, launched in September 2017, was the [St Timothy Scholarship Programme in Malawi](#).

Both projects have been endorsed by the International Anglican-Roman Catholic Commission for Unity and Mission (IARCCUM), an official international mission partnership between the Anglican Communion and the Roman Catholic Church.

“I am delighted that the second IARCCUM project to be launched in direct response to the Common Declaration issued at San Gregorio should be initiated here in Canada and seek to address the effects of urban poverty, which is a blight on our modern society,” the Catholic Co-Chair of

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IARCCUM, Archbishop Donald Bolen, of Regina in Saskatchewan, said.

The Anglican Co-Chair, Bishop David Hamid from the Church of England's Diocese in Europe, added: "We hope that the Saint John project, following on the heels of the highly successful scholarship programme in Malawi, will inspire Anglican and Roman Catholic bishops around the world to initiate their own joint outreach projects in response to the call from San Gregorio".

News briefs

Presbyterian Church Clergy appointments

Alan Keith Duddy, as Minister of Woodvale, on 22 June 2018

Stephen John Lowry, as Minister of Whitehouse, on 14 September 2018

Scott William Moore, as Minister of First Dromara, on 14 September 2018

Resigned:

Alan Keith Duddy, as Minister of First Dromore, on 21 June 2018

Stephen John Lowry, as Moderator's Assistant in First Hollywood, on 13 September 2018

Scott William Moore, as Minister of Dervock, on 13 September 2018

John Martin Gracey, as Minister of Coagh, Ballygoney & Saltersland, on 30 September 2018

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Retired:

Brian Robert Hughes, as City Hospital Chaplain, on 5 October 2018

Robert David Maxwell, as Minister of St Andrew's Belfast, on 30 September 2018

Remembrance Day Service from Enniskillen on RTÉ1

RTÉ1 Service from Enniskillen: On Sunday, 11th November, at 11.30am, a Remembrance Day Service will be broadcast on RTÉ 1 television from St Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen, with representatives from the British, Irish, American and Polish Governments and the Northern Ireland Assembly. The Service will be conducted by the Dean of Clogher, the Very Revd Kenneth Hall, and the preacher is the Bishop of Clogher, the Right Revd John McDowell.

The Cathedral Choir will sing an anthem, "Thankfulness should be in every heart", based on a setting of words penned almost 100 years ago by the Revd Canon Charles Albert Robinson, Rector of Magheraveely Parish, near Kesh, who lost his only son, Lieutenant Charles Arthur Robinson from the 4th Battalion, Royal Irish Fusiliers, in battle in the First World War on 9th April 1917.

Churches celebrate Belfast City investment programme

The Rev Tracey McRoberts, Rural Dean for Mid Belfast, and a number of parishioners from both St Matthew's Parish Church, Shankill, and St Mark's, Ballysillan, attended an event in Belfast City Hall on Thursday October 25. This was organised to celebrate the City Council's local investment programme (LIF). Representatives of 132 projects which

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have been funded by LIF since it began in 2012 were present. Read more on the [Belfast City Council website](#).



Rural Dean for Mid Belfast, the Rev Tracey McRoberts (front centre) at Belfast City Hall with representatives of St Matthew's and St Mark's Parish Churches.

Friends Service St. Macartan's Cathedral, Clogher

The 63rd Friends Service and dedication of gifts took place in St. Macartan's Cathedral, Clogher, on Sunday, 28th October, at 3pm.

Members of the 'Friends of Clogher Cathedral' joined parishioners and guests for the annual Service conducted by the Rector, the Revd Olivia Downey.

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The guest preacher was Revd Professor RAB Mollan, a great-nephew of Canon Robert Augustine Mollan, who as Rector of the Cathedral, formed the Friends of the Cathedral in 1946. This group helps to raise funds and supports the upkeep of the fabric of the Cathedral.

Professor Mollan had a career as one of Northern Ireland's leading orthopaedic surgeons.

The Bishop of Clogher, the Right Revd John McDowell, was also present to dedicate a number of gifts at the request of the Churchwardens, Mr Ivan Domer and Mrs Hilary Keys.

These included:

– Paving on the south-side of Cathedral and Canticle Board from the Friends of the Cathedral;

– Communion Linen from the family and friends of the late Mrs Sarah Hunter;

– Graveyard seat from the family and friends of the late Mrs Maud Johnston;

– Additional *Thanks and Praise* hymn books as well as Communion Table hymn books and vestry flowers from the family and friends of the late



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Mrs Peggy Kerr;

– Modification of Cathedral sound system from the families and friends of the late Mrs Florrie Taggart, Mrs Maud Johnston, Mrs Sarah Hunter and Mrs Peggie Kerr.

The hymns were led by Murley Silver Band and included “Praise my Soul, the King of Heaven,” “Dear Lord and Father of Mankind,” “In Christ alone my hope is found,” and “To God be the Glory.”

The lessons were read by Isobel Gilmore and Ben Robson. Everyone was invited to refreshments served in the Cathedral following the service. The Friends of Clogher Cathedral also held their annual meeting.

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