



Image of the day - Service of Light

Dean Dermot Dunne, lights a candle during the Service of Light in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, for those who died in pandemic times

News Reports

My father held dying woman in his arms after blast: Mary McAleese

Mary McAleese has recalled how the death of a woman in her father's arms after his west Belfast pub was blown up led to his “catatonic depression”, and revealed how she still suffers nightmares from the Troubles, Niamh Horan writes in the Belfast Telegraph.

When loyalists left a car bomb outside her father Paddy Leneghan's pub, The Long Bar, off the Falls Road in Belfast, he managed to get his staff and customers to safety, but one woman mistakenly thought her child was still on the street. He rushed to save her but the bomb exploded and a piece of shrapnel from the keys of the car broke the woman's neck. He was left holding her lifeless body in his arms.

The former Irish President said it changed her family forever. “My father went out to work that morning his normal self and when he came home he wasn't my father. That day our lives changed dramatically. We lost our home, we lost our business and my father somehow was lost inside himself,” she said.

A man who was once so full of personality went “silent, just sighing”. He died in 2013, aged 88. In the years after the tragedy, he had suffered “catatonic depression”.

November 16, 2021

Like so many others who lived through the Troubles, his daughter, now 70, said she continues to suffer from trauma herself, with “recurring horrible dreams”.

“Terror is an awful thing to live with on an ongoing basis,” she said. “I don't think these things are ever over.”

Later, Dr McAleese said she was “driving, listening to the radio, when I heard the psychiatrist Peter Curran describe post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and I had to pull the car over. I suddenly realised, 'dear God, that's an exact description of my father'”.

Almost two decades after the pub bombing, she eventually asked her father about his mental prison.

“I said: 'Can we just talk about what it did to you and where you went to in your head?' And he looked at me and he said, 'Do you know, you are the first person who has ever asked me that.' And this was the best part of 20 years later,” she said.

Dr McAleese, who was President from 1997 to 2011, was speaking ahead of her new documentary *With God on our Side*, which marks the centenary of partition. In it, she explores the role religion played in the conflict. Contributors include Pat Hume, widow of the late Nobel Peace laureate, John, in her last interview before her death; former Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams; former DUP first minister Arlene Foster, and Alan McBride, whose wife and father-in-law were among 10 people killed in the Shankill fish shop bomb.

November 16, 2021

The woman who is proud of her roots in Ardoyne said Northern Ireland “was and is a hell on earth created by Christians — and we have to be able to say that straight out. Straight out loud. And ask of those Christians: how are you going to change that? How are you going to stop creating and recreating that hell on earth and try and make Northern Ireland and Ireland in general into the decent good and kind place that all of us long for in our hearts?”

With God On Our Side which has been shown on RTÉ1 will be shown on BBC One Northern Ireland at 10.35pm on Wednesday. Report courtesy the Belfast Telegraph

Archbishop of Canterbury apologises to Ghana Church leaders over LGBT statement

The Archbishop of Canterbury has apologised to Anglican leaders in Ghana after publicly criticising their support for a Bill criminalising LGBT relationships without speaking to them first.

Archbishop Justin Welby said in a statement last month that he was "gravely concerned" by the support of the Anglican Church of Ghana for the Bill, which also makes it a crime to advocate for LGBT rights.

The statement reminded Ghanaian Church leaders of Resolution I:10 of the 1998 Lambeth Conference, which assures LGBT people "that they are loved by God and that



all baptised, believing and faithful persons, regardless of sexual orientation, are full members of the Body of Christ."

Welby said it was his intention to meet soon with leaders of the Anglican Church of Ghana to raise his concerns with them directly and Lambeth Palace confirmed on Friday that this meeting had now taken place.

It was held online on 3 November and joined by the Anglican Archbishop of Ghana, Cyril Kobina Ben-Smith, as well as several Ghanaian bishops and clergy.

During the meeting, they discussed the draft Bill and Welby apologised for failing to speak to them about his own views before issuing his statement.

November 16, 2021

"I welcomed this conversation, which should have happened before my previous statement. That is not mere diplomacy: Christ commands us to speak directly and prayerfully with our brothers and sisters. I apologised for failing to do so," said Welby.

"We affirmed that the 1998 Lambeth Conference Resolution 1.10 represents the last and most widely accepted statement by the Anglican Communion on the question of human sexuality.

"We agreed that all human beings are made in God's image and are worthy of love, respect and dignity, and that the Church of Jesus Christ is called to demonstrate the love of God by protecting all vulnerable people and communities."

Archbishop Welby ended with a commitment to speak with leaders of the Anglican Church of Ghana before making future statements.

"This was a conversation between equals: I have no authority over the Church of Ghana, nor would I want any," he said.

"I say that partly because of Britain's colonial history in Ghana, but also because of the very nature of the Anglican Communion. We are a global family of churches who are autonomous but interdependent: a holy, catholic, apostolic Church bound together by history, sacraments, liturgy, and the love of Jesus Christ for each and every person.

November 16, 2021

"One of the key conclusions of the meeting is that human dignity is always paramount, and that cultural, social and historical contexts must also be considered and understood.

"I encourage continued good conversation with the Anglican Church of Ghana, with the same courteous but clear and robust conversation as I experienced, ahead of any future public statements."

Christian Aid convenes leaders to address how business can tackle climate crisis

As COP26 moved towards its conclusion in Glasgow, international development charity Christian Aid is set to convene a meeting of leaders to discuss actions the private sector can take to drive forward ethical and climate ambitions.

The conference to be held today, November 12th, in London will hear from several guest speakers from Martin Rich, Co-founder and Executive Director of Future-Fit Foundation to Matt Bird, Founder CEO of Cinnamon Network International.

Speaking ahead of the Conference, Samuel Williams, Christian Aid's Private Sector Partnerships Lead, said:

"It is so important that at this time, with growing inequality in many parts of the world, that we find economic and sustainable solutions to meet these challenges.

November 16, 2021

“The private sector holds a central position; working with governments and charities, it is sustainable business that will make our world fairer and more sustainable.”

To find out more about Christian Aid’s annual conference - Building a Better Future: Re-imagining the Social Contract - and the charity’s work with the private sector visit: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/events/salt-network-conference-building-better-future>

Bishop of Cashel leads urgent funding appeal for Anglican Centre in Rome

This week the Bishop of Cashel, Ferns & Ossory, the Rt Revd Michael Burrows, will be in Rome chairing a meeting of the Governors of the Anglican Centre there.

This is the first time the Governors will have met in–person for two years. The Centre is something of an embassy in Rome for the whole Anglican Communion – a place of hospitality, study, witness and networking. Its Director, Archbishop Ian Ernest, former Archbishop of the Indian Ocean, is also the personal representative of the Archbishop of Canterbury to the Holy See.

The ACR was founded in the immediate aftermath of Vatican II with the support of a notable Roman family, the Doria Pamphilj, who wished to bring an Anglican voice into the conversations and the emerging ecumenical vision associated with the Eternal City. It is located on a floor of their Palace in the Piazza del Collegio Romano, still made available on the most generous terms. Its rooms contain the

November 16, 2021

largest library of Anglican theology on mainland Europe; the Palace itself contains probably the finest art gallery in Rome in private hands.

The vision and value of the ACR remain unchanged, but Covid has created problems with the always very tight budget of the Centre. Few have been able to travel to Rome to use the accommodation or to join in courses, and with financial pressures in many local churches some income streams have dried up. The Governors are overseeing an Urgent Appeal for €200,000 to restore stability and to permit strategic planning. As always, the Church of Ireland is proving generous in its response. Perhaps Ireland, more than any other nation, knows from its own history the importance of the ecumenical vision symbolised by the ACR in terms of the will to Unity and its fruit in common action.

Golf cathedral puts faith in mother's ruin

A cathedral that caused controversy when it set up a crazy golf course in its nave, has launched a brand of gin.

Rochester Cathedral, the second oldest in England, has named the drink 604, the year it was founded by St Justus.

The 1,400-year-old place of worship attracted criticism after installing the nine-hole course in its medieval nave two years ago. The Rt Rev Dr Gavin Ashenden, Bishop of the Anglican Episcopal Church, called the attraction a “serious mistake born of desperation”.

November 16, 2021

He said: “The idea that people are so trivial they can be tricked into a search for God by entertaining them with a golf course is a serious category error.”

The cathedral’s latest venture aims to keep the venue free of charge for the hundreds of thousands of visitors it attracts every year. Dr Philip Hesketh, the Dean, said: “We are enormously grateful to the Copper Rivet Distillery for collaborating on this project which will help raise crucial funds every time a glass of 604 is raised.”

Only 250 bottles will be produced retailing at £39.99. The label is decorated with words from the Textus Roffensis, a medieval manuscript on Anglo-Saxon law.

People and places

Government representatives attend Remembrance Service in Enniskillen

The main Remembrance Service in Clogher Diocese was held in St Macartin’s Cathedral, Enniskillen at 11.30am on Sunday, 14th November, following the wreath-laying ceremony held at the Cenotaph in Belmore Street. The service was conducted by the Dean of Clogher, the Very Revd Kenneth Hall and the Bishop of Clogher, the Right Revd Dr. Ian Ellis was the preacher. Monsignor Peter O’Reilly of St. Michael’s Roman Catholic Church led the prayers. The readings were by Mr John Jones, Chairman of the Enniskillen Branch of the Royal British Legion; Viscount

November 16, 2021



Brookeborough, Her Majesty's Lieutenant for Fermanagh and Mr. Scott Elliott, Parish Reader.

Among the guests attending were Minister of State, Mr Conor Burns M.P.; the Taoiseach, Mr. Micheál Martin T.D.; the US Consulate General representative, Mr Chris Rendo;



November 16, 2021

the Honorary Consul of Poland, Mr Jerome Mullen; the NI Executive representative, Ms Michele McIlveen, Minister of Education; the Shadow Secretary of State for NI, Ms Louise Haigh M.P. and Mrs Arlene Foster, former First Minister.

During the Act of Remembrance, a page in the Book of Remembrance was turned by Lt. Col Mark Scott (Ret'd) MBE, DL Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, who also led the exhortation. The Last Post and Reveille were sounded by Mr Warren Kerr, of Ballyreagh Silver Band and a Piper's Lament was played by Pipe Major Gordon McKeown, 4 UDR Association.

Link to Bishop's sermon

<https://clogher.anglican.org/News/newsevent.php?id=1087>

Remembrance Sunday in Londonderry

Local church leaders gathered with hundreds of people at the War Memorial in the centre of Londonderry on Remembrance Sunday for a cross-community Act of Remembrance. The attendance was well up on last year's, when numbers were badly affected by restrictions introduced to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

Among those who laid wreaths at the event were the Queen's Lord Lieutenant for the City of Londonderry, Dr Angela Garvey, and the Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District Council, Alderman Graham Warke.

The worship was led by the Rev Canon John Merrick from St Columb's Cathedral. Readings were performed by the



Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, the Rt Rev Andrew Forster; the Vicar General of the Derry Diocese, Fr Michael Canny; and the Rev John Montgomery from Carlisle Road Methodist Church.

After the ceremony, the Dean of Derry, the Very Rev Raymond Stewart, led a Service of Remembrance in St Columb's Cathedral, where he was assisted by Canon Merrick.

In a deeply personal sermon, Bishop Forster talked to the congregation about his grandfather, Roger Charles Botley – who fought at the Battle of Ypres, and was later wounded and discharged from service – and his late uncle and godfather, RUC Constable Billy Forster, who was awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal for saving a man's life as a car bomb exploded in Belfast almost 50 years ago. "I wonder



Rev Canon John Merrick from St Columb's Cathedral

who you remember today,” Bishop Andrew said, “with solemn gratitude and thankfulness, with a deep mixture of pride and grateful hearts?

“On this day, we, as a nation, fulfil our sacred duty of remembrance for those who held back the tide of war, for those who held back the tide of terrorist violence, so that you and I could sleep safely in our beds and live our lives peacefully. Today we acknowledge their service and sacrifice, and we fulfil our solemn duty by saying ‘We will remember them.’”



Remembrance Sunday service at Christ Church, Rushbrooke, Cobh

The Rector, the Reverend Paul Arbuthnot with representatives of veterans organisations which attended the service.

Dublin Service of Light honours those who died in pandemic times

Lives lost from our diocesan community during the pandemic were honoured at a Service of Light which took place in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin on Remembrance Sunday (November 14).

The beautiful reflective service aimed to give people space to remember their loved ones and recognised the enormous impact Covid restrictions have had on grief and mourning.

A second service, this time in the Diocese of Glendalough, takes place in St Saviour's Church in Arklow on Sunday November 28.

During the service the names of 90 people from the diocese who have died since the start of the pandemic were read out. Members of the congregation were invited to come forward to light candles in memory of their loved ones. Duruflé's Requiem was sung by the Cathedral Choir.

Dean Dermot Dunne told the congregation that each came bearing their own hurts, sorrows and brokenness. He said, "As we light our candles we offer our wounds to the God who loves us deeply, carries our pain and bears our sorrows," he said. "I invite each of you to come forward and light a candle. As you light the candle, remember that it is God who lights a candle in our darkness and holds us close until we are able to shine."

Archbishop Michael Jackson said, "These lights in their brightness are only symbols, but as they burn and finally go out, we remember that suffering passes, though memory remains forever. As we have gathered in this place, we embrace and claim the darkness that is present both in the world and in our own lives. As people who are familiar with darkness, we also know that we gather to be illumined by the light of the Christ."

Archbishop meets Bugs Bees and Native Trees

Archbishop John McDowell was at Kildarton Parish Church on Saturday 13th November as part of its "Bugs Bees and Native Trees" Project. The Revd David McComb, the Sunday School and their leaders and others helped make the day a success..

PS. Archbishop John is not taking enquiries for garden make overs just yet...

Connor MU - Silence will highlight gender-based violence

Connor Mothers' Union is hosting a short service, incorporating a three-minute silence, as part of this year's 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign.

On Saturday November 27, members across the UK and Ireland will gather together at 1.03pm in groups large and small for a three minute silence. This links to the theme of #Nomore1in3 (no more one in three) – one in three women will be impacted by some form of violence in their life and Mothers' Union states that this is unacceptable.

In Connor Diocese, the three-minute silence will be held during service which will take place in All Saints' Parish Church, Eglantine Road, Lisburn, with the service getting underway at 12.45pm. It will last no longer than 40 minutes.

November 16, 2021

For those who are unable to attend, the service will be available to watch later that day on Facebook and YouTube. The Order of Service will also be available on the Connor Mothers' Union website.

Archive of former Organist and Master of the Choristers presented to Belfast Cathedral

On Tuesday 9th November, Mrs Heather Grindle was joined by former choir members Alan Boyd, Cyril King and Valerie Ireland to make a presentation of archive photographs to Belfast Cathedral from the collection of her late husband.

Dr Harry Grindle was Organist and Master of the Choristers at Belfast Cathedral from 1964 to 1975. He arrived at St Anne's as successor to the redoubtable Captain Brennan, but quickly established his own style and reputation as a highly regarded organist at the cathedral. As Master of the Choristers, Harry Grindle prepared not only the cathedral choir for morning service and the afternoon Choral Evensong, but he also conducted the "Evening Choir" who sang at the 7.00pm evening service. Under Dr Grindle's guidance the choristers of the choir often numbered 24 boys.

Across the years, Dr Grindle, frequently accompanied by Canon John Nolan and other choir parents, led the choir and choristers for summer residencies at many of the major cathedrals in England, including St Paul's and Westminster Abbey in London.



In 1975, having rehearsed and guided the cathedral choirs through some of the darkest years of the Troubles in Belfast, Harry Grindle was appointed to Stranmillis Training College. There he would apply his skill and dedication training generations of music teachers to inspire and lead music making in schools across Northern Ireland.

Since Harry's death in July 2013, it has been a labour of love for Alan Boyd and Cyril King, along with Valerie Ireland to assist Heather Grindle in sorting through the extensive collection of photographs which Harry had amassed through his years at St Anne's. The pandemic provided an unexpected opportunity to complete this time consuming project, as the choristers and choir members shown in each picture were meticulously identified and annotated.

November 16, 2021

The conclusion of this project was the presentation to Belfast Cathedral, not only of all the original photographs, but also a beautifully created book of each photograph which Dean Stephen Forde received from Heather Grindle. Also present was the current Director of Music, Mr Matthew Owens, who described the most recent developments with the Cathedral Choir and Children's Choir. On behalf of the cathedral Matthew Owens presented everyone with a copy of the cathedral choir's recently released Christmas CD "A Belfast Christmas".

The Dean concluded a fascinating morning by thanking Heather for the generosity of her gift, and hoped that she and the other former members of the cathedral choir, would continue their close association with the cathedral and its musical tradition for many years to come.

Poem for today

Autumn by John Clare

I love the fitfull gusts that shakes
The casement all the day
And from the mossy elm tree takes
The faded leaf away
Twirling it by the window-pane
With thousand others down the lane

I love to see the shaking twig
Dance till the shut of eve
The sparrow on the cottage rig
Whose chirp would make believe

November 16, 2021

That spring was just now flirting by
In summers lap with flowers to lie

I love to see the cottage smoke
Curl upwards through the naked trees
The pigeons nestled round the coat
On dull November days like these
The cock upon the dung-hill crowing
The mill sails on the heath a-going

The feather from the ravens breast
Falls on the stubble lea
The acorns near the old crows nest
Fall pattering down the tree
The grunting pigs that wait for all
Scramble and hurry where they fall

+ Please share CNI with your friends
www.churchnewsireland.org

