



## **Prayers said worldwide after 129 dead in Paris attacks**

Prayers were said all over the world for Paris following a series of attacks on the French capital on Friday evening.

Islamic State has claimed responsibility for a series of attacks that began on Friday evening, 129 people are feared dead. Eight extremists



***Archbishop Diarmuid Martin signing the Book of Codolence at the Pro-Cathedral following mass on Saturday where he spoke of the attacks in Paris.***

have been killed, including seven in suicide bombings. 200 people are thought to be injured.

Pope Francis has condemned the killings in Paris as "mad terrorist violence" and has called for a response to counter the spread of "homicidal hatred".

A spokesman for the Vatican said it condemns the attacks "in the most radical way".

The events in Paris are a "horrific example of what fundamentalism can do and what happens when religion is distorted for ideological reasons", Archbishop of Dublin Diarmuid Martin has said.

In a homily at the pro-Cathedral in Dublin on Saturday morning, he called for prayers at all Masses across Dublin this weekend, for those who had died in Paris and for those who mourned them.

"[Pope Benedict](#) went so far as to say that 'the pathology of religion is the most dangerous sickness of the human spirit'.

"St Laurence O'Toole, whose feast day we celebrate today, was a European peace-maker in his time, an Irish bishop who died in [France](#) on a mission to the Norman king to secure peace for his native Dublin. We remember those who died last night and those who mourn them and we share in the grief of the entire city of Paris."

Speaking to journalists after the Mass, [Dr Martin](#) said society must seek to understand why such

atrocities could take place in a “modern, neighbouring city”.

“If there are religious elements motivating people who do this, we as believers have to say, ‘Enough’. There is no way you can do anything of this kind in the name of God. We have to think of those young people who are being dragged into conflict for various reasons, to try and understand what is it that drags them into it, and try and broaden their horizons. “

He said there could also be a “secularist fundamentalism” that “fails to understand what people are looking for in faith...The more people are marginalised in any way the more they will [be drawn to extremism]”.

He warned, however, that the attacks should not be used to further marginalise and exclude sectors of society, or to exclude people fleeing religious fundamentalism in the Middle East and north [Africa](#).

“This is taking place at time in which political leaders and society in general in [Europe](#) is facing a huge crisis of movement of people, of people who are fleeing persecution in their countries. We have to learn to show solidarity and to make sure

any signs of hostility to migrants, that we give no space to it.

“These are people who are fleeing from terrible persecution and we shouldn’t let any event like this change our attitudes. These people who are coming to Europe are fleeing from exactly the kind of thing that happened in Paris.”

Asked if he would be concerned about the impact on inter-faith relations, he said the mainstream Churches were “absolutely clear”.

“I know that here in [Ireland](#) the Muslim and Jewish and Christian leaders are all united on this but we have to show that and we have to fight against any type of fundamentalism.” He warned there could be fundamentalism even among members of the Catholic community.

A book of condolences is being opened in the pro-Cathedral, the fourth to be opened this year. A spokeswoman said there usually would be one a year.

The other three this year have been for the 11 people who died in the attack on the offices of the *Charlie Hebdo* magazine in Paris in January, the six young Irish people who died in the

Berkeley balcony collapse in July, and for the 10 people who died at a fire in a temporary halting site in Carrickmines, Dublin in October.

“All of us, when something like this happens ask what we can do,” said Dr Martin. “We can do two things - we can pray and we can show some kind of solidarity, especially for those who mourn and who are in trauma. “

Following the attacks in Paris Archbishop Michael Jackson issued the following statement and offered a prayer to be used throughout the dioceses on Sunday 15 November. He comments, “I am sure that, like everyone else, you are saddened and horrified by the indiscriminate and pre-meditated killing of people in Paris on the evening of November 13.

I should like to express my sorrow for and solidarity with all those who have died and those who are bereaved and terrified as a result of the atrocities of Friday evening.

I offer the following prayer for the people of France and suggest that it might be used in churches and places of worship in the Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough on Sunday 15 November.”

*“Almighty God we lay before you today the people of France and in particular the citizens of Paris.*

*We pray for those who have been killed in the atrocities of Friday evening November 13 and we ask for your mercy towards those who mourn the lost and tend the sick and injured.*

*We pray for the security and support services and for all who exercise political and civic leadership.*

*Most of all we pray for peace in a world of violence.*

*We offer our prayer for your grieving and devastated children in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.”*

A book of condolence is available in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin,

The victims of the terror attacks are being remembered also in St Anne’s Cathedral, Belfast, where special prayers are being said. The prayers, written in response to the attacks are available in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit inside the Cathedral. Anyone wishing to come in may remember those who died in the attacks may pray and light a candle. Belfast Cathedral is open

for prayer from 8am until 5pm on Sunday and from 8am until 6pm on weekdays.

The Bishop of Down and Connor joined other Church leaders on Saturday in praying for the 128 people killed and the 200 injured in the IS claimed terror attacks.

In a homily at the inauguration of the parish council in St John's Parish in Belfast, Bishop Noel Treanor pledged to hold in his prayers and thoughts "those who were killed, their families and friends, the injured, as we do also the people of France, the city of Paris and all who serve in public office in that country and city."

He described the terror attacks as "barbaric and monstrous".

Dr Treanor emphasised that parishes and the faith communities of all religions share a responsibility before God, humanity, the international community and its institutions, to promote and inculcate at individual and local community level attitudes and virtues which pursue the way of peace over war and violence, justice and dialogue over revenge and retaliation, the language of prayer, mercy and contemplation



over words of poisonous hatred and xenophobia”.

Commissioning the pastoral council in the parish of St John the Evangelist he commented, “We are painfully aware of the precarious, insecure and troubled state of the human family and the cosmos in our times, of which last night’s barbaric and monstrous attacks in Paris were cruel expressions,” he said.

“What else should and can we do, we ask ourselves? What responsibility do we carry as one parish in a local Church in the Christian world community?”

“We can and should intensify our commitment and efforts to promoting a culture, a morality and a lifestyle of respect for all human beings, their culture, traditions, religions and their rights as persons and peoples.”

“In this fiftieth anniversary year of the publication of the Second Vatican Council’s prophetic declaration on relations with non-Christian religions *Nostra aetate*, we should provide for inter-religious dialogue and encounter in our communities and especially for our youth as a service to civic education and to furnishing an

integral and necessary element of governance systems from the most local to the global level,” the Bishop said.

“Parishes and faith communities must rally to create and sustain that civic space where courageous and hope-building political leadership can grow, function and flourish.”

In a statement, the General Secretary of COMECE, Fr Patrick H. Daly on behalf of the European bishops said, “The attacks perpetrated on the people of Paris yesterday evening fill us all with revulsion. They are beyond contempt. My thoughts and prayers go to the victims of these senseless acts of violence and their families.”

“France cannot give in to campaigns of terror or violent attack, nor can Europe.”

“Barbarism such as we have witnessed in Paris calls for a response from the civilised world. It is to be hoped that Europe is up to providing the response required. It is vital that Europe presents a united front to the terrorist threat, that it be united too in its foreign and defence policy.”

“The forces which currently threaten Europe do not respect national borders. It is imperative that

the twenty-eight member states of the EU act together more effectively. Our collective security is at issue, as is our freedom to live together in peace.”

“We are united with the people of France in prayer and solidarity.”

The Primate of All Ireland, Archbishop Eamon Martin, said on Saturday morning, “Our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Paris today and we express our solidarity with the French community living here in Ireland.”

He said once more, “We are all shocked and deeply saddened to hear about terror on the streets of Paris. The sounds and images of these attacks make for frightening viewing.”

## **Belfast Central Mission gears up for Christmas**

Belfast Central Mission (BCM) of the Methodist Church is gearing up for this year's Christmas Programme.

Last week, together with the Department for Social Development and The Society of St Vincent de Paul they launched their Giving Tree.



They have also started collecting presents for children and food parcels for families and older people. Most of these items are donated by individuals, schools, churches and staff in local businesses.

Last year, with the help of a team of over 100 hard-working volunteers, a total of 3,250 children received gifts of toys while 1,860 food hampers were given to families in need and older people.

BCM's Director Brian Burns commented on the upcoming Christmas Programme, "We do anticipate there will be more demand for support over the festive period this year. We will as always try to meet the needs of all who apply for

assistance. We do however ask the public, local businesses and community groups to think ahead and begin donating now, to ensure we can uphold our ethos and motto of ‘Supporting those who need it most’. Volunteers and staff at BCM have found that tough economic times often bring out the more generous side of people.”

## **Prayer urged during Prisons Week**

Bishop Harold Miller of Down and Dromore encourages people to pray during Prisons Week.

The primary aim of Prisons Week (15–21 November) is to pray for and raise awareness of the needs of prisoners and their families, victims of offenders, prisons staff and all those who care.

“In Down and Dromore we are very aware of the issues and needs highlighted by Prisons Week,” says Bishop Harold.

“The diocese has chaplains in both Hydebank Wood and Maghaberry Prison and our Mothers’ Union does wonderful work among the female prisoners in Hydebank Wood. I realise, of course, that not all of us can volunteer but all of us can



## PRISONS WEEK

pray and so I encourage people to make use of the Prisons Week resources from 15–21 November.”

The theme this year is ‘A New and Living Way’. Hebrews 10 tells us that by God’s will, “we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all”, and that his body has become a curtain, through which we can enter his presence and begin a new and living way.

Prisons Week provides a prayer focus for all people affected by prison, “that we will walk this new way, this new life, so that with confidence we can come together as God’s people, companions on the way, to spur each other on and encourage the good in us, whoever and wherever we are.”

### **The Prisons Week Prayer**

*Lord, you offer freedom to all people.*

*We pray for those in prison.*

*Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist.*

*Support with your love prisoners and their families and friends, prison staff and all who care.*

*Heal those who have been wounded by the actions of others, especially the victims of crime.*

*Help us to forgive one another, to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly together with Christ in his strength and in his Spirit, now and every day.*

*Amen*

## **C of I bishop addresses Clogher Catholic clergy**

Bishop John Mc Dowell, Church of Ireland Bishop of Clogher, was the guest speaker at the Annual General Conference of Catholic clergy in the Diocese of Clogher. The conference of clergy and co-workers was held in the Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan.

The theme of Bishop McDowell's keynote address was 'Personal Reflections on Ministry'. Recalling his formative years and life experiences, he spoke warmly of his encounters with friends from the Catholic community which had helped shape his views on culture and identity



Bishop McDowell suggested that people of faith need to be aware of the new gods of ‘state’ and ‘market’, both of which had ambitions to influence and control. He urged that as Christians we need to work together to proclaim the Gospel, citing the principle that “no single Christian tradition should do on its own what can be done together”.

Bishop Liam MacDaid thanked Bishop McDowell and as a token of appreciation presented him with the gift of a limited-edition print depicting St Macartan, first Bishop of Clogher and patron of the diocese. St Macartan is honoured in both Catholic and Anglican traditions, and represents



the shared heritage of the two Churches. The work was created by well-known Monaghan artist Nelius Flynn.

## 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Christ Church Cathedral's girls' choir

On Saturday 21 November Christ Church cathedral, Dublin, will have a 20th anniversary celebration evensong for former members of the girls' choir. All former or existing girls, alto or soprano, of the choir are invited to attend. Rehearsals start at 2pm, for evensong at 4pm, which is followed by a reception. Further information may be had from Victor Coe at

## Media digest

### Killers do not represent Islam, Irish Muslim leaders stress

Irish Times

"Terrorists have no **religion** whatsoever. Their **religion** is intolerance hatred for Peace. The **news** from Paris is very frightening. "May God be with us all ...

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/killers-do-not-represent-islam-irish-muslim-leaders-stress-1.2430626>

## Archbishop Martin calls for prayers for Paris victims

Irish Times

"If there are **religious** elements motivating people who do this, we as ... "I know that here in **Ireland** the Muslim and Jewish and **Christian** leaders are all ...

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/archbishop-martin-calls-for-prayers-for-paris-victims-1.2430616>

## Christian fury over sex change Queen Jesus play at Belfast Queer Arts festival

Belfast Telegraph

Furious **Christian** leaders have demanded that the screening of a play ... 25th annual Belfast Pride parade on August 1, 2015 in Belfast, Northern **Ireland**. .... 1.3) and the good **news** of the **Christian** message entirely depends on this ...

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/christian-fury-over-sex-change-queen-jesus-play-at-belfast-queer-arts-festival-34193244.html>

## Former Irish president so ashamed of the Church she's considered leaving

IrishCentral

Former **Irish** President Mary McAleese revealed she has contemplated leaving the Catholic **Church** because of their opposition to gay rights and the ...

<http://www.irishcentral.com/news/Former-Irish-president-so-ashamed-of-the-Church-shes-considered-leaving.html>

## Former **Irish** President McAleese discusses her decision to defy **church** leaders

National Catholic Reporter

... **Irish** Catholic newspaper, McAleese discusses her decision to defy **church** ... Support the independent Catholic **news** source that's on the ground ...

<http://ncronline.org/news/global/former-irish-president-mcaleese-discusses-her-decision-defy-church-leaders>

## UN Climate Change Conference: 'I will be embarrassed to be **Irish** in Paris'

Irish Times

Trade unionists, church-goers and youth groups will walk the streets together, calling for national and international action on climate change. Trócaire, Oxfam Ireland and Friends of the Earth will be watching as world leaders meet for the Cop21 summit. They're already disappointed by the Government's 'inaction'

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/environment/un-climate-change-conference-i-will-be-embarrassed-to-be-irish-in-paris-1.2427091>

## BBC Children In Need: More than £900000 raised in Northern **Ireland**

BBC News

On Friday night, Barra Best and Jo Scott presented BBC Northern Ireland's contribution to the ... Highlights of Friday night's Northern Ireland fundraiser included performances ... from Northern Ireland joining more than

2,000 others from across the UK to form a choir for the rendition.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-34805026>

## Brendan Smyth abuse: **Irish** Court of Appeal halts three actions for damages brought over alleged ...

Belfast Telegraph

They also said they were unaware of meetings which, they alleged, showed Catholic **church** representatives were made aware of Smyth's abuse in ...

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/republic-of-ireland/brendan-smyth-abuse-irish-court-of-appeal-halts-three-actions-for-damages-brought-over-alleged-failure-to-act-to-prevent-paedophile-sexually-abusing-children-34195497.html>

## Helping teachers to be **Christian** witnesses

the Irish News

If the latest reports are to be believed - and there seems to be no good reason to discount them - then young Catholic teachers in **Ireland**, who have ...

<http://www.irishnews.com/paywall/tsa/irishnews/irishnews/irishnews//lifestyle/faithmatters/2015/11/12/news/helping-teachers-to-be-christian-witnesses-320613/content.html>

## Atheist group calls for religious equality in **Irish** schools

Irish Times

“This invented bogeyman underlines how important the debate about the future of the **Irish** schools system is, both to the power of the Catholic church ...

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/atheist-group-calls-for-religious-equality-in-irish-schools-1.2428786>

## A religious explorer continues his journey

The Irish Catholic

I learned of the death of Michael Paul Gallagher via a message posted on Facebook by the **Irish** Jesuits. It was strangely appropriate to get the **news** ...

<http://www.irishcatholic.ie/article/religious-explorer-continues-his-journey>

## Mitford sister's Irish gift to auction

Irish Times

Before leaving Ireland – for Switzerland, where she lived for the next decade – Mrs Jackson called to say goodbye to the local **Church of Ireland** rector ...

<http://www.irishtimes.com/life-and-style/homes-and-property/fine-art-antiques/mitford-sister-s-irish-gift-to-auction-1.2428587>

## BBC/S Exp/Christian Today

Further reports on the Paris terror attack on Friday including comment from Archbishop of Canterbury (*see above*) and Scottish church leaders. Bishop of Chelmsford, Stephen Cottrell is interviewed on BBC news saying he was praying for Nick Alexander's family (the first UK victim named) and had sent a message of support to their local church.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-34824903>  
<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/619493/Paris-Scots-music-fans-hid-cellar-escape-concert-massacre>  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-34820132>

## **Ind on Sun**

Reports on publication of the paper's Rainbow list – celebrating the 101 most influential lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people in Britain. List includes religious commentator Vicky Beeching and Revd Andrew Foreshew-Cain who is commended for his pledge to campaign for the church to deal with sexuality in an “honest and compassionate way.”

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/people/therainbowlist/rainbow-list-2015-1-to-101-a6731391.html>

## **Ind on Sun/Eve Stand**

Report that retired vicar Roger Wakely, from Exeter, has been jailed for sex offences committed over four decades while a teacher and priest in both London and Leicester. <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/retired-vicar-roger-wakely-jailed-for-sexual-assaults-on-pupils-over-four-decades-a6734556.html> <http://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/retired-vicar-jailed-for-sex-assaults-on-young-boys-over-four-decades-a3114371.html>

## **Guard**

Review of new BBC series *Island Parish* from the Falklands focusing on the work of the chaplain and his wife.

<http://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2015/nov/14/an-island-parish-falklands-last-nights-tv-bbc2-review>

## **Premier**

Interview with Dean of Coventry Cathedral, John Witcombe to mark today's 75th anniversary of the Coventry Blitz and 75 years of peace building and reconciliation in the city.

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Courage-overcomes-destruction-as-Coventry-Cathedral-reflects-on-75-years-since-Blitz>

## **BBC/Times/Exp/Ind/Christian Today/Metro**

Reports on the Paris terror attacks last night with condemnation from political leaders across the world. All articles note tweet from Archbishop of Canterbury: "Tragic Paris, desperate news of deep tragedy, with heartbreak for so many. We weep with those affected, pray for deliverance and justice."

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-34816571>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/world/europe/article4614225.ece>

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/619368/Paris-terror-attacks-David-Cameron-Barack-Obama-Angela-Merkel-Jeremy-Corbyn>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/paris-attacks-david-cameron-shocked-by-violence-in-french-capital-a6734276.html>

<http://metro.co.uk/2015/11/13/an-attack-on-all-of-humanity-world-leaders-react-to-multiple-terror-assaults-in-paris-5500722/>

## **Times (scroll down)/Metro/Sun/Christian Today**

Further reports following [the publication](#) of an overview of the Church's finances for the past 10 years, noting that the CofE's income was £1.41 billion in 2013, higher than Macdonalds or Starbucks. *Times* notes [the response](#)

[from the CofE](#) outlining where its money goes stressing it is all ploughed back into its work across the country – and it has more outlets than a certain burger chain.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/environment/article4614007.ece>

<http://metro.co.uk/2015/11/13/the-church-of-england-makes-more-money-than-mcdonalds-and-starbucks-in-the-uk-5499076/>

<http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/6741472/Church-of-Englands-income-bigger-than-McDonalds-and-Starbucks.html>

## **Times**

Report that the Bishop of Salisbury, Nicholas Holtam, CofE lead bishop on the environment, has accused the government of betraying its climate change pledges, as the church unveiled plans to build wind farms. The interview with the Bishop of Salisbury was to mark the start of the Church's Pilgrimage to Paris in the run up to the UN Climate Change talks at the end of the month. Edward Mason, Head of Responsible Investment for the Church Commissioners, is also quoted.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/environment/article4614007.ece>

## **Guard**

Report on the start of the Pilgrimage to Paris yesterday, marked with a service at St Martin's-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square. The Bishop of Salisbury is quoted.

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/nov/13/christians-set-out-on-climate-pilgrimage-from-london-to-paris>