



## **RTÉ Orchestra for Knock Basilica peace concert**

The RTÉ Concert Orchestra is to perform in Our Lady's Basilica, Knock Shrine, as part of a stunning peace concert planned for next May to commemorate the 1916 Rising and World War I.

The concert, on Saturday, May 14th, will be the first such event to take place in the beautiful surrounds of the fully refurbished Basilica and is

being staged by the Mayo International Choral Festival.

Mezzo soprano Anne Marie Gibbons, who has performed in many prestigious operatic venues around the world, acclaimed Hollywood composer Patrick Cassidy, and one of Ireland's leading conductors today, David Brophy, are all coming together on the project, while members of the Ballina Chamber Choir, Cór Mhaigh Eo and Dún Laoghaire Choral Society will form a 120-strong choir.

The concert will feature the international choral sensation – *The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace*, by the Welsh composer, Sir Karl Jenkins.

The powerful and inspiring piece was composed to mark the millennium in 2000 and has since been performed over 1,000 times in more than 20 different countries with over 15 gold and platinum awards.

In addition, the orchestra will perform a special piece composed by Patrick Cassidy for the 1916 commemoration. Mr Cassidy is a hugely successful composer who is originally from Co Mayo but is now based in LA.

He is a recent recipient of the 'Creative Talent Award 2015' at the Richard Harris International Film Festival and has worked on the musical scores of major Hollywood movies, such as *Hannibal*, *Veronica Guerin*, *Kingdom of Heaven* and *Calvary*.

The concert will be produced in association with the The Western Development Commission and Knock Basilica.

Tickets for *A Concert for Peace* at Knock Basilica are now on sale.

Tickets cost €25 and €15 (restricted viewing) and are available from the Knock Shrine information office (opposite the Parish Church); the Book Shop at Knock Shrine; and Downtown Records Castlebar and Westport.

## **Choir brings Church goes to their feet with amazing rendition of Teenage Kicks**

Church wouldn't be the first place you would go to hear punk rock, but on Friday night, the sound emanating from Derry's St Columb's Cathedral

was not sombre hymns worshipping the Lord, but the strains of punk classic Teenage Kicks.

Belfast Live - Sang by a lively 30-strong choir and backed by a punk fusion band with Undertone drummer Billy Doherty at the helm, the epic punk anthem brought the Friday night congregation, including the city's Mayor to their feet in a scene not normally associated with Sunday worship.

It was more head banging than head bowing as the spectacular 'Bringing Choral to the Tone' musical event kicked off at the city's Cathedral, which saw Undertone Drummer Billy Doherty and his Rambling Band and famed musical director Ruth McPhillips and her Glórtha an Fheabhail/ Voices of the Foyle choir join forces to create an innovative punk, choral fusion, resulting in raw, rip-roaring, thundering folk versions of Undertone classics as well as other contemporary pop repertoire.

A plaque at the back of the 400-year-old Church of Ireland church reads, 'If Stones Could Speake..'. And if they could, those stones would certainly relay that they – now magically transformed from ancient stone to actual punk rocks - have never before heard such a sound

reverberating around the historic eaves of the ancient church on Derry's Walls.

Video at - <http://www.belfastlive.co.uk/whats-on/music-nightlife-news/watch-choir-brings-church-goers-10482958>

## **Presbyterian Moderator congratulates Church of England on Lord's Prayer initiative**

Speaking after a Prayer Breakfast at Belfast City Hall with councillors and representatives of various churches yesterday, the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church congratulated the C of E on its Lord's Prayer initiative. Very Rev Dr Ian McNie said, "This morning's Prayer Breakfast highlighted once again the importance of prayer as we prayed for the city, its people and elected representatives at different levels of government. This event was in stark contrast to the banning of the Church of England's advert promoting the Lord's Prayer, in cinemas in the run up to Christmas.

"I would want to congratulate the Church of England on its initiative to promote the Lord's Prayer in this way, a prayer that was given to us



***Presbyterian Moderator, the Rt Rev Dr Ian McNie***

by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. This prayer is used daily by billions of people throughout our world as a prayer thanking God for who He is, and the seeking of personal guidance and forgiveness for our lives in a fractured and turbulent world.

“Undoubtedly many Christians will be dismayed by this decision, although not surprised. However, it is my prayer that this negative initial response from the advertising company will be turned into a positive appreciation and understanding of the importance of prayer. This decision takes on a more poignant meaning,

especially at this time of year as we approach Christmas, when we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ who encouraged us to pray in this way.”

Dr. McNie has written to the Archbishop of Canterbury congratulating him on this initiative and the rationale behind it.

## **Prisons' Week 2015: Moderator visits Maghaberry**

Prisoners Week began in England and Wales in 1975 to provide an annual focus and reason for Christians to work together to make a difference for people who are in Prison. It became Prison Week in 1995. Today, the primary aim of Prisons Week is to pray for and raise awareness of the needs of prisoners and their families, victims of offenders and prison staff.

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI) has ministered in prisons to prisoners and staff in a number of locations and facilities across Ireland for many years and currently has both full and part-time Chaplains serving in Magilligan, Maghaberry, the Woodlands Juvenile Justice Centre in Bangor, and Hydebank Wood.



***Visiting Maghaberry Prison during Prisons Week (from left to right): Nehru Dass, Rev. Rodney Cameron, Moderator, Rt. Rev. Dr. Ian McNie, Rev. Leslie Patterson and Rev. David Bruce.***

Presbyterian Ministers also visit in prisons in the Irish Republic.

During his visit, Dr. McNie met with both prison staff and prisoners and had an opportunity to visit the Braille centre which produces resources for blind people. Dr. McNie had personally taken copies of Braille Bible materials produced in the centre to Malawi on a previous mission visit.

Accompanied by Prison Chaplain Rev. Rodney Cameron and Rev. David Bruce, the Secretary to PCI's Council for Mission in Ireland, Dr. McNie



said, “It was a privilege to visit Maghaberry Prison, and to see at first hand the important work being done by a large team of dedicated staff working in often challenging circumstances. The prisoners I met, and the work I witnessed confirmed to me that the grace of God is offered to all, without exception, and that Christ has the power to transform the lives of all who seek Him. Our chaplains work selflessly to bring the love of Christ to prisoners and their families, and to the community of staff and officers. They are to be commended for their important work, which we hope and pray may be secured into the future.”

Next year’s Prisons Week will be from 9-15 October 2016.

## **An invitation to the people’s climate day of action in Belfast**

Christian Aid Ireland invites you and your church to part of something extraordinary.

On the 29 November, the eve of important United Nations climate change talks in Paris, people will gather in cities all over the world to show support for urgent action on climate change. Events are



due to take place in Paris, London, New York, Dublin, Sao Paulo, Rome and Delhi to name a few.

*Two events will take place in Belfast on Sunday 29 November:*

Ecumenical Service for Climate Justice at 1.15 pm in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast

People's Rally for Climate Justice at 2.00 pm in Writer's Square, Belfast (opposite St Anne's Cathedral)

Please come along and demonstrate your concern for those most vulnerable communities who are already on the frontline of climate

change. Encourage others to join you and bring a banner showing the name of your church, group or organisation.

## **Bravery of firefighters is remembered at Mass**

The bravery of firefighters, who put their lives on the line to preserve life at all costs has been remembered at a special Mass.

More than 300 people attended the annual commemorative Mass for deceased members of the Dublin Fire Brigade and Dún Laoghaire Fire Brigade, which was held at St Saviour's Church on Dublin's Dominick Street yesterday. Irish Independent - Among those who attended was the Lord Mayor, Críona N Dhálaigh.

District Officer Adrian Sutton, an organiser of the event, said it was an important date in the brigade's calendar.

"It is a sad occasion as we remember deceased members, including 11 retired members and one



***Ray Murray of the Dublin Fire Brigade with Dublin's Lord Mayor Criona Ní Dhálaigh***

serving member who passed away during the year.

"It is a special occasion for families and it is valued by retired members, who come along and meet friends and former colleagues.

"Dublin Fire Brigade is essentially a caring service, dedicated to preserving life at all costs and people put their lives on the line."

Those who died in the past year were Robbie Kane, Colm Smart, Louie Duffin, Paddy McMahon, Christopher Fitzpatrick, Robert Kenny, Paddy Hanratty, Phil Daly, David Scannell, James Robinson, Michael Goldrick, and Patrick Ryan.

## **Second Limavady Presbyterian Church celebrates 175 years**

The Moderator was welcomed to Limavady on Sunday evening to take part in this very special service in the life of the congregation. Alongside Dr. McNie, also playing a role in the service was the North West Gospel Choir and the congregation's own Girls' Brigade and Boys' Brigade. During the evening a plaque was unveiled, showing all of the past ministers who have served, as well as the present minister Rev. Geoffrey Jones.

Commenting on Second Limavady having reached 175 years in existence, Dr. McNie said, "It is an honour to join with the congregation as they celebrate this considerable milestone. I would like to take the opportunity to encourage the congregation as they continue to worship

God, share His love, and reach out into the community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”  
“To see the young people of the Girls’ Brigade and Boys’ Brigade take part has also been special, as they make up the church of today and as we look forward – the church of tomorrow too.”

To acknowledge and celebrate the anniversary the Church has produced a short history entitled, Second Presbyterian Church, Limavady, 1840-2015 – Glimpses from the Past, 175th Anniversary. Providing a brief history, from the building of the foundations in March 1840 and the opening service on Sunday, 13th December 1844, to the introduction of instrumental music into the service and the singing of hymns for the first time in 1913, the booklet shares the changing scene of worship and church life right up to the present day.

Acknowledging the church’s past, present and future, Rev. Jones said,” These glimpses from the past remind us of the need to be thankful to God. We pray that Second Limavady will continue to be the spiritual home for members of the present congregation and also for those who follow us for many years to come.”

## Media digest

### Lord's Prayer advert: Head of Ireland's Presbyterian Church congratulates Church of England for ...

Belfast Telegraph

The controversial Lord's Prayer advert, which has been banned from cinemas, has been praised by The Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in ...

### Archbishop of Canterbury's comment of Church of England prayer advert

<http://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/articles.php/5642/archbishop-of-canterbury-on-the-church-of-englands-prayer-advert>

### News from the Church of England

[Church of England 'bewildered' by cinema ban on Lord's Prayer](https://www.churchofengland.org/media-centre/news/2015/11/church-of-england-%E2%80%9Cbewildered%E2%80%9D-by-cinema-ban-on-lord%E2%80%99s-prayer.aspx)

<https://www.churchofengland.org/media-centre/news/2015/11/church-of-england-%E2%80%9Cbewildered%E2%80%9D-by-cinema-ban-on-lord%E2%80%99s-prayer.aspx>

### Exp/Ind

Continuing coverage of the Archbishop of Canterbury's interview with *Songs of Praise* in which he says the Paris attacks did make him ask God why this had happened but believed that God was beside people in their suffering. The articles note his comment "Two injustices do not make justice. If we start randomly killing those who have not done wrong, that is not going to provide

solutions. So governments have to be the means of justice."

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/621257/I-doubted-God-Archbishop-of-Canterbury-reveals-crisis-of-faith-following-Paris-attacks>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/people/archbishop-justin-welby-admits-doubt-over-gods-presence-after-paris-attacks-a6743846.html>

### **Times/Mail/Tel/Guard/Mirror/Metro/Exp/Ind/BBC**

Continuing coverage of the decision of Britain's biggest cinema chains to ban an ad featuring the Lord's Prayer. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has spoken out against the decision to ban the short film promoting the prayer to cinemagoers in the week before Christmas. The *Times* reports that the CofE is threatening to sue the chains for religious discrimination. The *Guardian* reports that Richard Dawkins has called on the chains to screen the ad.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/faith/article4621112.ece>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3329702/>

[Hypocrisy-cinemas-Film-bosses-ban-Church-s-video-Lord-s-Prayer-allow-adverts-beer-violent-video-games-shown-children.html?](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3329702/Hypocrisy-cinemas-Film-bosses-ban-Church-s-video-Lord-s-Prayer-allow-adverts-beer-violent-video-games-shown-children.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

[ITO=1490&ns\\_mchannel=rss&ns\\_campaign=1490](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3329702/Hypocrisy-cinemas-Film-bosses-ban-Church-s-video-Lord-s-Prayer-allow-adverts-beer-violent-video-games-shown-children.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/12010720/Ban-Christmas-ads-if-you-dont-like-religion-Church-tells-cinemas.html>

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/nov/22/richard-dawkins-says-uk-cinemas-should-screen-the-lords-prayer>

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/cinemas-ban-church-england-lords-6879673>



<http://metro.co.uk/2015/11/22/uk-cinemas-wont-show-an-advert-of-the-lords-prayer-because-it-could-be-offensive-5518444/>

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/621180/Church-of-England-UK-cinemas-ban-Lord-s-Prayer-advert>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/church-of-england-bewildered-by-cinema-ban-on-just-pray-advert-featuring-the-lord-s-prayer-a6743881.html>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-34893762>

## **Times**

Reports that senior figures from Church of England and Roman Catholic schools have written to Education Secretary Nicky Morgan to complain that the education bill, making its way through Parliament, could result in school buildings and land being taken out of church control, and that the religious character of schools could be eroded (See [blog by CofE Chief Education Officer, Nigel Genders](#))

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/education/article4620796.ece>

## **Mirror/BBC**

Report that a Private Members Motion to be tabled General Synod, which meets this week, is calling for the removal of the 800 year old tradition of the reading of wedding banns. The motion will need 100 signatures before it can be heard.

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/church-england-marriage-banns-should-6880337>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-34895382>

## **Comment**

**Mail:** Comment on a major cinema chain refusing to

screen a CofE film including the recital of the Lord's Prayer.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-3329851/DAILY-MAIL-COMMENT-security-depends-cutting-deficit.html>

**Mail:** Dominic Lawson on above

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-3329824/DOMINIC-LAWSON-wife-s-tears-anger-Lord-s-Prayer-ban-Muslims-don-t-want.html>

**Telegraph:** Charles Moore on above

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/islamic-state/12010868/We-are-right-to-worry-but-Britain-has-no-option-but-to-launch-air-strikes-in-Syria.html>

**Guardian:** Giles Fraser on above

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/nov/22/banning-lords-prayer-cinema-star-wars-christianity>

## **Letters**

**Independent:** Archbishop seems to put up with a lot

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/letters-neighbourhood-policing-must-continue-to-be-supported-as-the-foundation-of-a-proactive-a6744356.html>

## **Blogs**

**Archbishop Cranmer:** Lord's Prayer advert banned by cinemas

<http://archbishopcranmer.com/lords-prayer-advert-banned-by-cinemas/>

**Law and Religion UK:** Round up 22 November

<http://www.lawandreligionuk.com/2015/11/22/law-and-religion-round-up-22nd-november/>

**Nick Baines:** Just Pray [https://  
nickbaines.wordpress.com/2015/11/22/just-pray/](https://nickbaines.wordpress.com/2015/11/22/just-pray/)

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