



Image of the day - Knight of The Order of St John

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HRH The Duke of Gloucester, Grand Prior of The Order of St John, invested the Lord-Lieutenant of County Antrim, Mr David McCorkell, as a Knight of The Order of St John (KStJ) at St John's Gate, Clerkenwell. He is pictured with his son, a Priory Esquire

Reports

Church leaders dedicate remembrance memorials in Armagh on anniversary of WW2

A memorial service of dedication to unveil seven memorial tablets was held on Friday 3rd September at the Mall Armagh.

A short service of dedication was carried out by leaders of the four main churches.

The Most Reverend Dr. Eamon Martin Roman Catholic Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of all Ireland led the service. He prayed for the victims of hatred, war and violence throughout the world. He prayed in thanksgiving for those from these environs. They were the sons and daughters of our families who came from our streets and neighbourhoods, our townlands and parishes. Although sadly separated by religion or political tradition, they were united on the front line in courage, camaraderie and determination to defend and protect us all. He also reflected on a pilgrimage to the battlefield he had made with the then Church of Ireland Archbishop Richard Clarke. They were



Lord Mayor Alderman Glenn Barr, Armagh War Memorial Service of unveiling and dedication of memorial tablets at The Mall, Armagh

accompanied by young people from across the community. His most moving memory was watching these young people reflecting on the thousands of young Ulster and Irish people around their age, Protestant and Catholic who had died side by side in war. He said that these tablets will speak to the hearts of our people and encourage us to build bridges and redouble our efforts for lasting peace.

He invited The Right Reverend Dr David Bruce Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Rev Dr Sahr Yambasu President of the Methodist Church in Ireland and The Very Reverend Shane Forster Dean of St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral representing The Most Reverend John McDowell Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of all Ireland

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to assist him in the Service of Dedication. and The Deputy Lieutenant read from Psalms 103. The service concluded with the four clergymen reading together a prayer of dedication.

The Act of Remembrance included the exhortation spoken by David Hammerton BEM President of the City of Armagh Branch of the Royal British Legion. The Last Post and Reveille were played by Julieann Stevenson. Wreathes were laid by, The Deputy Lieutenant, The Lord Mayor, The trustees of the Royal Irish Fusiliers Museum, The Royal British Legion and the families while the piper played a lament.

In November 2020 following the hard work and efforts by volunteers at the Royal Irish Fusiliers Museum Armagh, the names of over five hundred and twenty servicemen and women from the area who died in two World Wars, were placed on Memorial tablets on the corners of the Armagh War Memorial.

Due to the COVID pandemic, the planned service of unveiling and dedication was postponed until Friday 3rd September 2021 – the anniversary of the outbreak of WW2.

Deputy Lieutenant for County Armagh Mr Simon Cassells QVRM DL VR joined by Lord Mayor Alderman Glenn Barr unveiled the seven Memorial tablets.

A number of relatives and families of those named on the Memorial tablets were in attendance several of whom had travelled from England joined elected members, The Royal Irish Fusiliers board of Trustees, members of the Mall



Trustees and the City of Armagh Branch and The Royal British Legion at the service.

Ms Caroline Corvan BA curator of the Royal Irish Fusiliers Museum welcomed everyone to this special occasion and introduced Mr Stanley Burrows BEM who gave a short history of the War Memorial and paid tribute to his friend and colleague Joe Center who had been instrumental in the whole project of identifying the fallen and in getting the names on to the War Memorial. Sadly, Joe was diagnosed with cancer but lived to see the project completed, sadly passed away in March this year.

Lord Mayor Alderman Glenn Barr spoke of the pride that the Council felt in being part of the project. He said, "This is a very poignant moment as we gather to remember the fallen

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and as the Council Veterans Champion, I am particularly proud.”

The Deputy Lieutenant accompanied by the Lord Mayor and the Lord Lieutenants Cadet Cpl Nicole Hughes (RSA CCF) unveiled each of the seven Memorial tablets, whilst Officer Cadet Faith Hoy (Queens University OTC) played appropriate pipe music.

Malcolm Dawson spoke on behalf of the Mall Trustees paying tribute to Curator Caroline Corvan, staff and volunteers who had worked on today’s memorial service and he praised the City of Armagh Branch of the Royal British Legion for its continued work in enhancing the War Memorial and placing commemorative seating and yew trees.

Brigadier Naughten Chairman of the Trustees of the Royal Irish Fusiliers Museum addressed the ceremony, he said, “that although he did not live in Armagh, he felt at home here as he had joined the Royal Irish Fusiliers in Armagh in the nineteen sixties.” He added, “being the oldest surviving Royal Irish Fusilier and had served with the Fusiliers in its last operational tours in Aden and reflected that there were some one hundred and sixty Royal Irish Fusiliers commemorated on the Memorial Tablets.”

The Armagh War Memorial was unveiled in 1926 and now almost a century later, the fallen of Armagh are properly remembered.

Two books, one for WW1 and the second for WW2 were published, giving details of the fallen of County Armagh west

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of the Bann and are available to buy in the Royal Irish Fusiliers Museum.

Open day at Brooke House new health and wellbeing centre

Brooke House – the health and wellbeing centre officially launched in Fermanagh by Falklands veteran Simon Weston – is to unveil a wide range of support programmes at an open day in Colebrooke Estate on Sunday (12th September).

Drawing on the wide resources available across the estate and with a panel of experts on the team the courses and events are specially designed for eligible veterans of both Defence and Police as well as carers. With pandemic

restrictions now easing the organisers are able to kick-start the ambitious programme which give individuals not only health and well being but also new skills and interests including fly fishing, gardening, woodwork and knowledge of nutrition and mindfulness.

Brooke House Director Joan Clements is keen to see families attend on Sunday (12th September – 1300-16.30) so that the team can showcase just what is available. “We have an exciting range of events and programmes suitable for all abilities,” she said. “In the walled garden Head Gardner Dougal Dorman has arranged a fascinating series of workshops and this will run in tandem with the Defence Garden Scheme focusing on people, place and purpose.



Simon Weston, War Veteran with Jim Dixon, Chairperson of Ely Centre Enniskillen at the launch of Brooke House, Health and Well Being Centre in Co.Fermanagh. Photo courtesy The Impartial Reporter

“In a glade by Colebrooke River Eco Therapist Anja Rosler will be leading nature based therapy courses helping participants develop resilience as well as self awareness.

Health Nutritionist Michael Mullan will lead a number of workshops on healthy eating. And as well as this we have arranged a number of walks to let people visit Colbrooke Church, Colbrooke House and the woodlands,” she added.

Sundays open day will also feature a display of model boats, planes and trains as well as burgers and tea.

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Colebooke Estate is at 26 Colebrooke Park,
Brookeborough, BT94 4DW.

Derry & Raphoe ordinations

The onerousness of their new ministry was brought home to the Rev Andrea Cotter and Rev Alan McCracken during their Service of Ordination as priests in All Saints, Clooney on Wednesday evening.

“Your ministry will be one of joy as well as of responsibility,” Bishop Andrew Forster told them, “of happiness as well as of diligence. Yet remember in your heart that if it should come about that the Church, or any of its members, is hurt or hindered by reason of your neglect, your fault will be great and God’s judgement will follow.”

The new curates came to the Diocese of Derry and Raphoe by way of the Diocese of Connor, where they completed training as intern deacons. Rev Cotter, who completed her internship in the Parish of Skerry, Rathcavan and Newtowncrommelin, has been appointed Curate Assistant of All Saints Parish, Clooney, where she will serve with Rev David McBeth.

Rev McCracken undertook his training in the United Parish of Ballynure and Ballyeaston, and he will be to the Merville Group of Parishes, at a service on Saturday afternoon.

Bishop Andrew extended “the warmest of welcomes” to Andrea and her husband Richard, and Alan and his wife Karen. He said all in the diocese looked forward to seeing



what plans God had for the new priests' lives and ministries. The Bishop said he was sure that both couples would enjoy the support and prayers of their new congregations. If the seriousness of priesthood sounded daunting, Rev Cotter and Rev McCracken were assured by Ven. Robert Miller, in his sermon, that God wasn't sending them out without equipping them for the task. "In John's Gospel, which we heard read this evening, we read the words, 'God is sending you'. And I wonder as a child were you ever sent to run a message for your parents, or were you ever sent to the school office by the teacher to collect something? I'm sure you were, unless you had a very privileged existence. And if so, you probably were greeted with the words: 'Who sent you?' Or you may have announced yourself with the words, 'My mum has sent me to collect.' But 'Who sent you?' is often what people want to know.

“And these important words of sending in our Gospel reading this evening remind us that we all – as God’s people – are sent. The passage allows us to hear Jesus’ words of sending to His apostles after the resurrection, and He speaks to them: ‘As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’”

Archdeacon Miller told both new priests that they were to be messengers, watchers, stewards of the Lord; they were to teach and admonish, to feed and to provide for the Lord’s family; to search for God’s children in the wilderness of the world’s temptations and to guide them through its confusions, so that they may be saved through Christ forever. “As the disciples were sent by Jesus, and empowered by the gift of His holy spirit, so you too are to be ordained this evening and God is asked to pour out His holy spirit upon His servants for the office and work of a priest in His church.

“God is sending you, but He doesn’t send without equipping, for God also – as we were reminded by our reading from Isaiah – God is anointing you. The invocation of the Bishop, with the laying on of hands by your fellow priests, is an intercession for God’s anointing: ‘Pour out Your holy spirit upon Your servant for the office and work of a priest in Your church. As God’s people we are all given the anointing of the holy spirit, and when I reflect on His role in my discipleship and ministry, or – if you prefer – in my following and my leading, I’m reminded of what the Rev Canon David Watson taught: if you think of the Holy Spirit as an ‘it’, you’ll want more of it; but if you remember He is a person, then you will want Him to have more of you.”

Archdeacon Miller reminded the two new curates, and the other clergy present, that they were “co-workers with Christ”. He said God was making His appeal through them. “This ministry of joy and responsibility needs God’s anointing, as indeed the calling of each of us as believers needs to be done so in God’s strength. Each day, each moment of each day, we are called to turn to Him. And St John reminds us that the role of His holy spirit is to lead us into all truth – truth about God, truth about the world we are called to minister in, and truth about ourselves.

“Our ministry is not as a professional Christian, but as a follower. And so, His sending and anointing is for a purpose. And His purpose, as St Paul reminds us from our reading in Corinthians, is that we are ambassadors for Christ – God making His appeal through us. Now, if that doesn’t make you feel uncomfortable, then I don’t think anything will.

“In our epistle, it reminds us why we have been given the Lord’s anointing. We need it. Ministry is impossible without it. God is making His appeal through us – really. He is engaging with the needs of the world through me. It is a truth that should drive us to our knees.”

Wednesday evening’s service was arranged by the Rector of All Saints Clooney, Rev David McBeth and was carried out in accordance with the Northern Ireland Executive’s guidelines and Church of Ireland guidance. Bishop Andrew thanked the Rector, his team, the choir and musicians. He also thanked the two archdeacons who assisted in the service, Ven. David Huss and Archdeacon Miller.

Two new deacons for Cork

On Sunday 5th September 2021, two people from the United Dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross in the Church of Ireland were ordained deacon by Bishop Paul Colton: Carole Pound in Abbeystrewry Church, Skibbereen, and Richard Dring in St Mary the Virgin Church, Carrigaline.

On both occasions there were strict limits on attendance in line with current regulations. Nonetheless, the congregations were representative of the family and friends of the candidates and of the parishes in which they were being ordained into local ministry. In the Church of Ireland, Ordained Local Ministry is about valuing the locality and empowering the local congregation.

In his sermon, Bishop Colton spoke about the uncomfortable encounter in the Gospel reading between two disciples who were arguing about which of them was the greater of the two, and he asked, in the light of that, what it is to be a Deacon in today's Church and world.

'As so often happens in today's Church and world' the Bishop said 'the disciples had failed completely to grasp the meaning of Jesus' teaching.' Pointing to the words of Jesus who said 'whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all' Bishop Colton said that service is the model for not only deacons, but also for priests, bishops and all Christian ministry. In particular, drawing on his studies of

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Roman Law, the Bishop said that he wrestled with what Jesus meant when he said that we must be ‘slave of all.’

News briefs



End of a two-year project at Saint Patrick's Cathedral

The completion of the roof conservation works, announced today, marks the end of a two-year project.

“This is a wonderful moment for Saint Patrick's Cathedral,” said Dr Morton. “The conservation project has been extremely wide-ranging, and there are many different factors which had to be considered for a heritage restoration project of such a scale.”

Read more at <https://www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/completion-of-roof-restoration-works/>

Academic thumbs down to government's plans

A report by academics at Queen's University Belfast and the Committee on the Administration of Justice, found that the government's plans were a "betrayal of repeated promises" to victims, "politically unworkable", and a breach of the Good Friday Agreement

Not much change for Cork on church capacity

Most church buildings - 76 of them - in Church of Ireland in Cork, Cloyne and Ross are small. One who knows said, "The recent announcement that capacity can increase from 50 to 50%, regardless of the immunity status of a person, won't make a lot of difference in most of our churches and chapels as we are required to continue to have all the 'appropriate measures' in place, including social distancing. I estimate about 8 of the 76 places will be able to increase their numbers a little. It's all good news and progress".

An Armagh welcome

Revd David McComb was welcomed On Sunday 5th September 2021 as Diocesan Curate of the Grouped Parishes of Lisnadill and Kildarton by Archdeacon Terry Scott.

Healing - speaking from experience

Br David Jardine was the speaker at the weekly Divine Healing Service at St. Patrick's Church of Ireland, Ballymacarrett, on Thursday 9th September.

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Br David has journeyed through hip surgery in recent weeks. His message was on "Ten things to do spiritually when we are sick" and Br David brought that recent lived experience of how to journey and cling to the Lord through these times.

Br David said, "When we are sick it is important to confront the illness with all the resources that are available to us. This is especially true if the illness is a serious one. Naturally we will want to take advantage of medical help, and we thank God for it. But in addition to that there is a vast array of spiritual resources available."

New Dean of St Albans

It was announced this week that The Queen has approved the appointment of Archdeacon Jo Kelly-Moore as the new Dean of St Albans. The new Dean is married with a family.

King's College Choir seeks Alto and Tenor

King's College seeks to appoint an Alto and a Tenor to sing in the world-famous Choir of King's College Cambridge this academic year (2021/22).

With commitments six days a week during Full Term, the regular round of December TV and radio broadcasting, and tours and recordings planned into 2022, the places are ideally suited (but not restricted) to either current members of the University or recent graduates. A competitive remuneration package of financial and educational benefits will be offered to suitable candidates, with the possibility to extend for a further year if appropriate.

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Enquiries in the first instance should be made to Daniel Hyde by email: choir@kings.cam.ac.uk

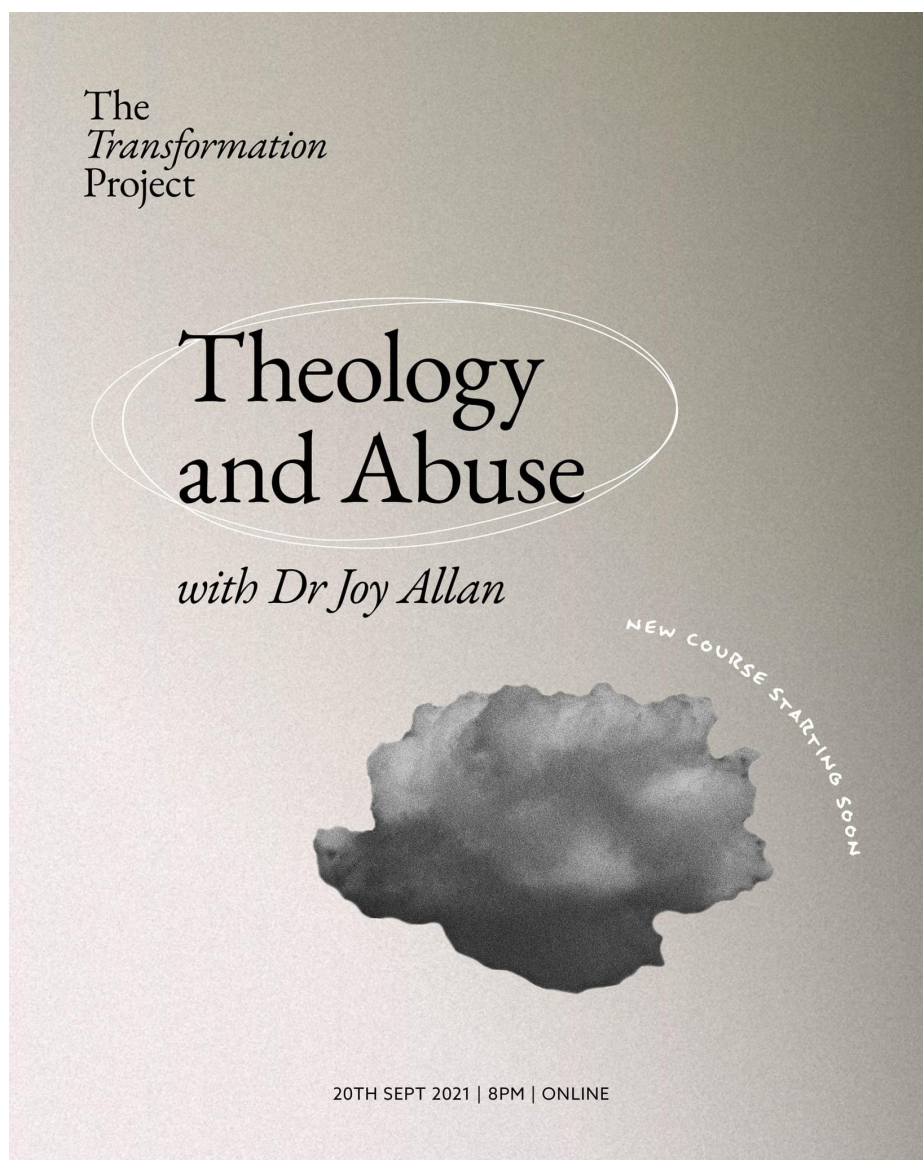
Interviews and auditions are likely to be held in person and/or online in the week of 20 September.

Books, Broadcasts, Resources and Webinars

Theology and Abuse with Dr Joy Allan

New course at Belfast-Bible College

Abuse. It would seem that this heart-breaking issue is all too present in our current society, even (at times – especially) in the church. This course will



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explore, through scripture, theology and engagement with real-life narratives, what it means to be a church which offers comfort, safety, and life-giving hope in response to this important and difficult issue. It will consider both theologically and practically, the ways in which we, as church, as the ones who love 'the God who sees' (Gen 16:13) can too see clearly.

In this issue we need discernment, compassion, and insight into the complex and complicated world of abuse. This course offers that. It will leave you feeling not only equipped but hopeful about the potential which the church has to respond to this difficult issue.

There is still time to register for this course! Click the link to learn more:

<https://belfast-bible-college.learnworlds.com/course/theology-and-abuse>

100 years on - The history of Sexuality in Ireland, 1900-2020

The first in a series of online events exploring the impact of events surrounding partition, #100years on.

Join Queen's University Belfast's Dr Tom Hulme, alongside Jeffrey Dudgeon MBE, Mary Ellen Campbell and Dr Páraic Kerrigan as they explore the history of Sexuality in Ireland, 1900-2020

<https://bit.ly/3l7Rzll>

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Sponsored by Special EU Programmes Body - SEUPB,
National Lottery Heritage Fund, Northern Ireland Nerve
Centre

All-online seminar: Exploring the Imagination

Rebekah Smick's all-online seminar exploring the imagination starts in one week -- on September 15th! This course won't come around again for another few years, so this is a rare opportunity to gain a whole new outlook on the role of the imagination in our lives.

Artists, philosophers, theologians, historians, pastors, teachers -- all are welcome! Plus, the cost is only \$425 to first-time auditors!

To join the course or to have a look at the syllabus, email academic-registrar@icscanada.edu or visit <https://www.icscanada.edu/fall-courses> for more info.

Alpha course by Cornerstone City.Church

In September Cornerstone City.Church in Derry is “kicking off a new Alpha course on 20th September and a Youth Alpha course on 17th September.”

Alpha is open to anyone and everyone, regardless of your beliefs. It consists of a series of interactive sessions that explore the basics of the Christian faith by watching a short video together before engaging in discussions to share your thoughts.

churchnewsireland@gmail.org

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Designed to encourage debate, these sessions will help you to explore Christianity in an honest and informal environment.

You can sign up using the below link... "we'd love to see you there!"

<https://cornerstonecity.church/alpha>

Public Speaking - on Zoom

Offered by Flying Turtle Productions -Starts Tues Eve Sept 14th. Only a few spaces left! Small class size. Master Tutor. Fully interactive and engaging.

More info: <https://flyingturtleproductions.com/drama-school/adult-courses/public-speaking-for-non-actors/>

Poem for today

Composed upon Westminster Bridge, September 3, 1802 by William Wordsworth

Earth has not anything to show more fair:
Dull would he be of soul who could pass by
A sight so touching in its majesty;
This City now doth, like a garment, wear
The beauty of the morning; silent, bare,
Ships, towers, domes, theatres, and temples lie
Open unto the fields, and to the sky;
All bright and glittering in the smokeless air.

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Never did sun more beautifully steep
In his first splendour, valley, rock, or hill;
Ne'er saw I, never felt, a calm so deep!
The river glideth at his own sweet will:
Dear God! the very houses seem asleep;
And all that mighty heart is lying still!

Pointers for prayer

Almighty and everlasting God,
Give unto us the increase of faith, hope, and charity;
and, that we may obtain that which thou dost promise,
make us to love that which thou dost command;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We give You thanks, O Lord, that You have invited Your people to pray, in the confidence that You will both hear and answer them according to Your merciful will.

We praise You, O Lord, for the gift of work and for the gifts and skills which shape our earthly vocations. Teach us to labour not for earthly reward but for Your glory, knowing that nothing we do in Your service is ever in vain. Give comfort and direction to the unemployed and the underemployed, that they may find work appropriate to their needs and abilities. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray especially for those who labour on behalf of Your kingdom, for our bishops.....,clergy, our pastor(s), and for all missionaries and church workers. Bless especially those who serve You on mission fields far from home and those

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who bring the light of Your Word to the blind. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for our nation and those who labour on our behalf at every level of government, and for all who serve the public trust, that they may fulfil their duties with wisdom, honour, and justice. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for the men and women of our armed forces, especially those who labour against the forces of war, terrorism, and oppression. We ask Your blessing also upon those who protect and defend us here. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

We are mindful of the many whose lives are filled with pain and suffering, grief and sorrow. As You once showed Your mercy to those who called upon You long ago, so show Your mercy to those who cry to You today. According to Your will, grant them healing and peace, especially _____**those whom we name now in our hearts. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.



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Almighty God,
whose only Son has opened for us
a new and living way into your presence:
Give us pure hearts and steadfast wills
to worship you in spirit and in truth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Speaking to the Soul

Ananias went and found Saul. He laid his hands on him and said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road, has sent me so that you might regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 9.17 NLT

I find this declaration from Ananias one of the most moving sentences in the whole of the Bible. He had been asked by God to go and meet Saul. Ananias was fully aware of Saul’s reputation and that he was on a mission to arrest the followers of Jesus. He was bound to think that there must be some mistake. But the Lord informed him that Saul had been appointed to take the Gospel to the non-Jewish world. In obedience to the Lord and, with considerable courage, Ananias headed off to the house in Straight Street placed his hands on Saul and called him brother. How amazing! This man, who had been doing everything possible to ensure the destruction of the church, had changed so completely that he was now part of the family. He was a brother.

The story of Saul’s conversion should be a warning to us all not to put a limit on what God can do. I invite you to think of

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people whom you know who are completely dismissive of Christian faith. Perhaps they laugh at you for your faith. Or they love trying to prove that Christianity is just a lot of sentimental nonsense. Or, like so many people, they are not remotely interested in anything connected with the church. It is very tempting to assume that it is a waste of time sharing our faith with them, and that we should focus our attention on the people who show some interest. I suggest that we need to pray for everyone we know, whether they are interested or not, knowing that God loves everyone and invites them all to follow him, however antagonistic they may be.

When someone becomes a Christian, in an instant they become part of the family. They don't need to go through a ceremony first or complete a course of instruction. The moment a person decides to follow Jesus as the Lord of their lives, they are part of God's eternal family. What an amazing miracle!

QUESTION

Are you willing to share your Christian faith with people who are opposed to it?

PRAYER

Dear Father, thank you that you are a God of miracles and want to welcome everyone to yourself. Amen

