

September 15, 2018



---

## Film reveals Pope John Paul II effect on Northern Ireland peace process



A new documentary highlights the effect Pope John Paul

**September 15, 2018**

II's visit to Ireland in 1979 had on the Northern Ireland peace process.

A Plea For Peace, directed by David Naglieri and narrated by The Passion Of The Christ star Jim Caviezel, features interviews with Seamus Mallon, Martin Mansergh, Rev Harold Good, Lord David Alton and former IRA bomber Shane Paul O'Doherty.

O'Doherty's letter-bomb campaign caused explosions at the London Stock Exchange, the Bank of England, and a government building, injuring secretaries and security guards.

O'Doherty, who joined the IRA in Londonderry at 15, found religion while serving a life sentence, and famously wrote to his victims from prison, crediting the Catholic Church for sparking a major turning point in peace negotiations.

"When I first turned away from the IRA and apologised to my victims, I was not taken seriously, everyone thought I wanted early release.

"I was in prison in England when suddenly the Pope arrives in Ireland and speaks to these men, asking them to turn away from violence and make a new life. Suddenly I was taken seriously.

"Weeks after his visit, I had been visited by senior Labour MPs and Father Edward Daly.

September 15, 2018



"I was the first IRA man to publicly turn away from the IRA in 1977, and after the Pope's visit, scores of other prisoners left.

"To put the Pope's visit in context, 28 days before the visit, Mountbatten was killed along with 18 soldiers.

"I believe that was the closest Northern Ireland had ever come to civil war."

The film focuses on the Pope's famous appeal in Drogheda: "On my knees I beg you to turn away from the paths of violence and return to the ways of peace," in front of a quarter a million people, and argues this sowed the earliest seeds of peace.

Mr Naglieri said the film-makers discovered handwritten letters from Father Alec Reid to John Hume, which directly quoted the papal message.

"Through researching, at first we found a lot of cynicism - people said the violence continued for two decades after the visit, and superficially it didn't have much effect - but for us it was a lot of peeling the onion," he said.

**September 15, 2018**

"The thesis is not that the Good Friday Agreement wouldn't have happened if he didn't come, but we're tracing the ripple effects of the Pope's visit.

"For instance, Protestant leaders in the documentary say that speech was the break, where they first separated the Catholic Church from the IRA.

"However, the strongest case for the impact of the visit is the letters from Father Alec Reid.

"On May 19 1986 Father Alec Reid writes a seven-page letter to John Hume and references the speech in Drogheda twice, pointing to the part about dialogue being the way forward, and this ultimately sparks the secret meetings between John Hume and Gerry Adams, which lead to the peace process.

"The words germinated in the minds of peace makers, and without that happening Good Friday doesn't happen."

John Paul II In Ireland: A Plea For Peace will have a limited theatrical release with Omniplex cinemas in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland in late September.

## **Camino de Glendalough walkers take journey of spiritual reflection**

The third annual Camino de Glendalough took place on the second Sunday of September and the event is growing from strength to strength. Over 100 people took part in the

**September 15, 2018**

pilgrimage with up to 80 people undertaking the full 30 kilometre walk from Hollywood to Glendalough.

The Camino de Glendalough follows St Kevin's Way over the Wicklow Mountains and has been selected as one of the Celtic Camino routes which links in with the Compostela. Those planning to walk the Camino de Santiago can get their Camino Passports stamped at the beginning and end of the Glendalough walk.

The day started with a service of Holy Communion in St Kevin's Church in Hollywood. Pilgrims were sent out with a pilgrim blessing as the early Christians would have been when they stopped in Hollywood on their way to the Monastic City.

Others joined the Camino later and more undertook a section of St Kevin's Way from the Wicklow Gap to Glendalough, having availed of a bus which transported them from St John's Church in Laragh.

Many of the weary pilgrims took the time at the end of the day to join the Revd Brian O'Reilly, Rector of the nearby St John's Church, and the Revd Leonard Ruddock, who is Rector of St Kevin's, for a short service on the shore of the Upper Lake in Glendalough.

During the service Brian highlighted the importance of pilgrimage in our busy lives. Referring to the reading from Scripture (Mark 9: 2–10, The Transfiguration), he said that Jesus took Peter, James and John to a remote place. He said those who had undertaken the Camino de Glendalough had also taken a journey to a remote place.



**September 15, 2018**

“It is very important for us to develop a greater perception of Jesus’s voice, to take time to be alone with Jesus and enjoy his presence,” he explained. “We have come off the mountain and we have work to do. Today you have got inner strength that you can bring away with you. We are a people who are chosen by the living God and we have to go out and impact our communities.”

The Camino de Glendalough takes place on the second Sunday of September each year. For those wishing to walk St Kevin’s Way as part of the Celtic Camino, the stamp is available all year round in the Glendalough Visitor Centre and in the office of Hollywood Community Centre from 9am to 1pm Monday to Friday.

This year’s Camino received very positive feedback from all who took part and Brian and Leonard plan to develop the shorter routes for next year. It is hoped to encourage clergy from Dublin and Glendalough to accompany groups of their parishioners on a journey of spiritual reflection in the afternoon. This is also a great opportunity for parish walking groups.

## **C of I ‘Generous Love’ inter-faith consultation group meets**

Clerical and lay delegates from the various Church of Ireland dioceses gathered in Dublin, on Friday 7th September, to move forward the Church’s consultation on inter-faith mission and ministry, ‘Generous Love’. The name derives from the Anglican Communion’s Network for Inter

September 15, 2018



**The ‘Generous Love’ Church of Ireland consultation on inter-faith engagement, at CITI on 7th September 2018.**

Faith Concerns (NIFCON) document of the same name, ‘Generous Love: the truth of the Gospel and the call to dialogue’. The event had originally been scheduled for March but was postponed because of heavy snowfall.

The keynote speaker at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute was the Bishop of Bradford, the Rt Rev Dr Toby Howarth. Bishop Howarth – who was born in Kenya and studied at Yale and in the UK – shared helpful insights on ‘Generous Love’ with delegates – both clergy and laity – from across the Church of Ireland dioceses.

The bishop spoke of some of the initiatives that had emerged as a result of ‘Generous Love’, in particular the Church of England’s ‘Presence and Engagement’ project, which is ongoing and vibrant. The group warmed to his first-hand stories of inter-faith engagement, alongside his understanding of the Christian need to respect, and to

**September 15, 2018**

**The Church of Ireland's inter-faith working group (IFWG), as it stands at present: the Rt. Rev Kenneth Kearon, the Rev Suzanne Cousins, and Ms Georgina Coptly with the Bishop of Bradford, the Rt Rev Dr Toby Howarth.**



lovingly and courageously engage in friendship and dialogue with people of other faiths, while remaining true to the one Lord, Jesus Christ.

The afternoon session was introduced by the Rev Canon Patrick Comerford, after which the Rev Suzanne Cousins (Moville Group, Derry and Raphoe) spoke on 'Generous Love in Multi-Faith Ireland', her recently published dissertation (March 2018). This study in part examines the NIFCON document and the Church of England's 'Presence and Engagement' initiatives that followed it, with a view to exploring what the Church of Ireland might learn from these for the increasingly multi-faith mission context that is Ireland. The presentation included photos taken at a recent Letterkenny Intercultural Platform Arabic event, which parishioners from Moville and Donagh attended and thoroughly enjoyed.

During the consultation day, there was much positive and healthy sharing of experiences of inter-faith engagement –  
[churchnewsireland@gmail.org](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.org)



**September 15, 2018**

witness, service and dialogue – that is already ongoing or envisaged for the parishes and dioceses represented.

The day carried with it a sense of optimism and determination to seek God's help in developing this area of the Church's work and life, and a feeling that this was timely. It is hoped that a strong and supportive network of interested people from across the dioceses will grow from the event.

## **Telecommunications engineer now Curate-in-Charge in Craigs, Connor**

The Rev Adrian Halligan was introduced as Curate-in-Charge of the Parishes of Craigs, Dunaghy and Killagan, Diocese of Connor, at a service in Craigs Parish Church, Cullybackey, on September 12.

The service was led by the Rural Dean, the Rev David Ferguson, and the Ven Paul Dundas, Archdeacon of Dalriada. The preacher was the Very Rev John Bond, former Dean of Connor and a former rector of St Patrick's, Broughshane.

Adrian was Curate in Broughshane during his transfer training from Non-Stipendiary Ministry to Stipend Ministry.

He was ordained a Deacon in January 2011 in All Saints' Parish Church, Antrim, where he served as Curate and was also ordained there as Priest in November 2011. He did his first curacy in Antrim before moving to Skerry, Rathcavan and Newtowncrommelin, in Broughshane, for three years.

September 15, 2018



**Churchwardens and clergy at the service of introduction of the Rev Adrian Halligan as Curate-in-Charge in Craigs, Dunaghy and Killagan. They are, from left: Jackie Scott, June Davidson, Dean John Bond (preacher), Joyce McLoughlin, the Rev David Ferguson (Rural Dean), the Rev Adrian Halligan, the Ven Paul Dundas (Archdeacon of Dalriada), George Cinnamon, Alistair McCord and Frances Neilly.**

Adrian, a former telecommunications engineer, is married to Wendy and they have one daughter, Abigail.

Following the well-attended service of introduction refreshments were served in Craigs Parish Church Hall.

## **Tribute: Former Foyle College head led active life in community and church**

Hugh Wishart Gillespie BA, who died on August 27, was the former headmaster of Foyle College in Londonderry.

He was born on March 6, 1931, in Castlefinn, County Donegal, the oldest son and secondchild of Arthur Elliott

**September 15, 2018**

Gillespie and his wife Rachel, who was always known as Ella. Not long after he was born his father, who was principal of the National School at Castlefinn, was appointed headmaster of Killyrammer Primary School, at Kilraughts, near Ballymoney. Hugh moved with his parents and his sister Hazel to North Antrim, settling on a farm called Druckendult, near the Garry Bog. The family quickly grew, and within a few years, Hugh and Hazel were joined by Patricia, Elliott, Noel and Lorna. Hugh attended Killyrammer Primary School, then Dalriada.

In 1948 Hugh left Dalriada School and enrolled at Queen's University Belfast for a general arts degree, becoming the first member of his family to attend university. He continued to play rugby for Ballymoney RFC with occasional appearances for the QUB team.

Hugh secured his first job as a junior master at Friends' School Lisburn in 1953, teaching Geography and English. Hugh married Valerie Robinson, the daughter of family friends Rev and Mrs F A Robinson of Kilraughts, Ballymoney, in 1958. Hugh and Valerie were devoted to each other, enjoying 59 years of married life together.

They settled in Lisburn where Hugh was actively involved in community life, being a stalwart parishioner at Lisburn Cathedral where he was, variously, Peoples' Churchwarden, Rector's Churchwarden, Glebe Warden and General Synod representative. Hugh played rugby as a fearless wing forward for Lisburn Rugby Club, was a keen golfer, took up the clarinet, and learned to be a silversmith in classes at the Technical College in Belfast.

September 15, 2018



## **Hugh Gillespie**

After 20 happy years at Friends', Hugh was encouraged by his colleagues and peers to seek a headmaster's position, and he was duly appointed to be headmaster of Foyle College, Londonderry in succession to Stewart Connolly in 1973. Hugh and his family (which now comprised sons Stephen, Shaun and David) moved to Londonderry at the height of the Troubles.

The turmoil caused by the Troubles, and its demographic consequences, presented a crisis for Foyle College, and not long after Hugh's arrival, the governors concluded that the only hope for survival lay in amalgamation with Londonderry High School.

The amalgamation presented Hugh with the greatest challenge of his career - how to knit together into a cohesive



**September 15, 2018**

whole two sets of pupils, staff, boards of governors and communities of former pupils for most of whom the amalgamation was a hugely disruptive, transformative and (for many) unwelcome event.

But through his leadership, personality and unwavering dedication, a new school emerged with its own unique, liberal, friendly and inclusive identity, and the culture and character of Foyle College today owes much to him.

He sustained a broad range of interests, including photography, gardening, playing the clarinet in the Londonderry Amateur Operatic Society orchestra, supporting the North West Music Society and the Londonderry Feis, leading parties on the Mourne Wall Walk, exploring Inishowen with his family and school walking parties, building and sailing a Mirror dinghy, running the school photography club, creating multiple and varied pieces of silver work, and renewing an interest in painting.

He was an active and encouraging parent, and a well-liked member of the congregation of St Peter's Church, where he and his sons sang in the church choir. Hugh was loyally and faithfully supported in everything he did by his wife Valerie .

Hugh Gillespie retired at the age of 63 after 21 years at Foyle College, and after a few years moved back to the Greater Lisburn area to be closer to family and friends. The last few years of Hugh's life were clouded by the sudden and tragic death of his son Shaun in November, 2011 which took a terrible toll on Valerie. Hugh died peacefully in the Laganvale Nursing Home in Moira on Monday, August 27, with his sons and son-in-law by his side. He is survived by

**September 15, 2018**

his wife Valerie, his sons Stephen and David, their spouses Stephen Jones and Helen Gillespie, his six grandchildren - Sybil, Maeve, Esther, Margot, James and Simon - his sisters Hazel, Patricia and Lorna, and his brother Noel.

A memorial service will be held in Hillsborough Parish Church on September 28 at 2pm. Tribute courtesy of the News Letter.

## **Manchester hosting major cathedrals conference**

Representatives of every English cathedral are to gather in Manchester next week for a conference billed as the first of its kind.

The conference, entitled Sacred Space: Common Ground, will draw together more than 420 clergy and other cathedral staff in Manchester Cathedral. It is



**September 15, 2018**

aimed at helping participants think through the role of cathedrals in modern Britain.

Among other contributors are the mayor of Sheffield, Dan Jarvis, author Will Hutton and South African priest and social justice campaigner, Fr Michael Lapsley.

The Dean of Manchester, Very Rev Rogers Govender, said: 'It is a great honour and a privilege to host the first National Cathedrals Conference at Manchester Cathedral. I look forward to extending a warm welcome to colleagues from cathedrals from all parts of the country and abroad.

'We hope to give all delegates a taste of Manchester's hospitality, diversity, fun and sense of community. We pray for God's blessing on our conversations as together, we see to serve God's mission to this nation and beyond.'

Other speakers include Chine McDonald, head of engagement for Christian Aid; Nick Spencer of Theos think-tank; First Estates Commissioner Loretta Minghella, and Labour life peer, Baroness Maeve Sherlock.

Daily worship on Radio 4 will be broadcast every morning from the conference.

There will be a video message from the Archbishop of Canterbury and an address by the Archbishop of York. The conference is taking place with funding from the Allchurches Trust.

