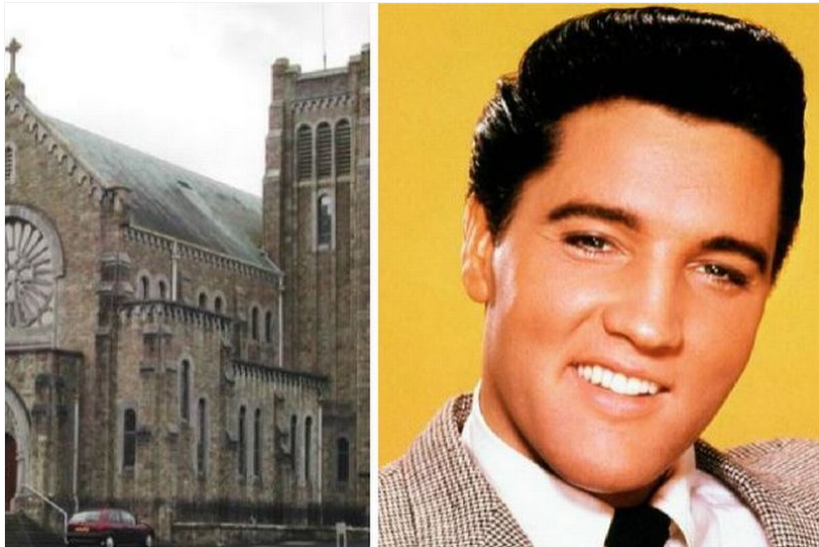


## Elvis remembered in Coleraine mass notice of death anniversaries



**Elvis may have left the building but St  
Malachy's Parish Church remembers him still**

Well bless my soul, Elvis Presley has cropped up in a rather unusual spot this week, Jilly Beattie reports in Belfast Live.

His name made it into the death anniversary notices in the mass bulletin of St Malachy's Parish, **Coleraine** .

Fr Diarmuid Sheehan included the king of rock'n'roll along with a number of local people whose loved ones had requested anniversaries of their passing to be announced in Mass.

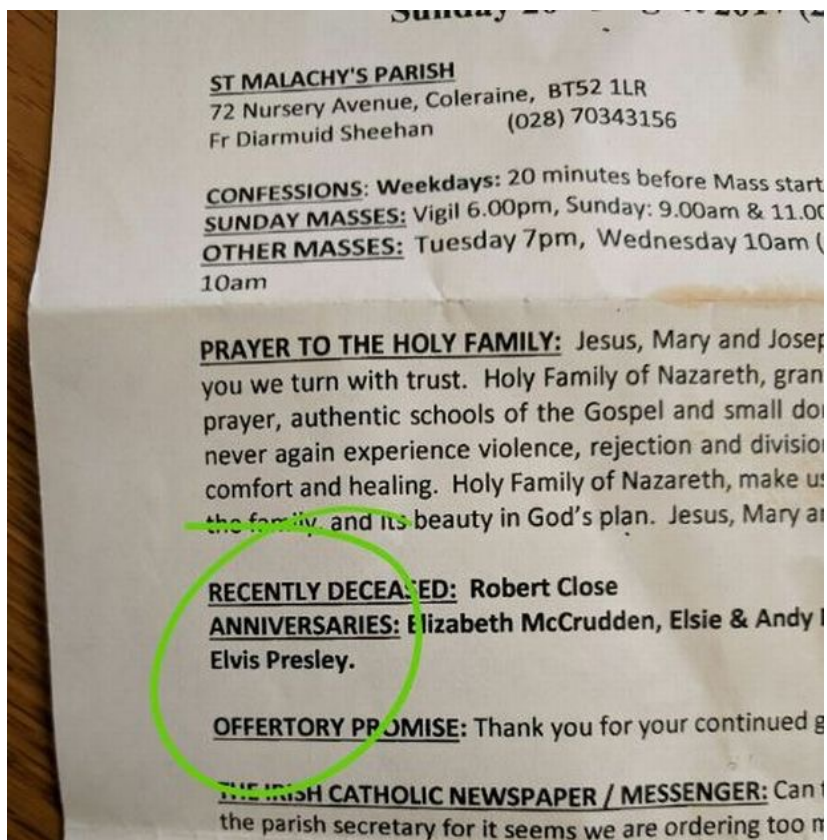
Fr Sheehan told Belfast Live: "The request for Elvis to be remembered had been sent in and our secretary came to me with it and asked me if it should be included.

"I assumed it was genuine and that they were serious and wanted the king of rock'n'roll remembered at the weekend and I thought why not.

"I assumed it was written by one of the older members of our church because the handwriting was all in capitals and a bit shakey.

"People don't ask for this sort of thing unless they're serious about it and it means something to them.

"So Elvis was included in the death anniversary notices along with all our other special people,



and when I read out his name there were a few warm smiles about the place.

"Of course it's 40 years since his death and I remember clearly where I was when I heard he had died. I was 18 and listening to pirate radio, Radio Caroline, when the news broke and I was pretty shocked.

"I was at my father's home place in Cork. My parents were school teachers so we were off school for the summer and I was working with some lads, everyone together. I recall it so clearly.

"I was happy to remember Elvis this weekend. He was loved those who knew him - and of course those who didn't know him but loved him anyway.

"I thought it was a lovely request. I'm wondering who'll be next of the famous faces we seem to be losing so many of these days ... maybe Jerry Lewis."

## **US speakers looking forward to Coleraine Special Assembly**

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland's (PCI) 2017 Special Assembly, the Church's largest gathering outside of its annual General Assembly in June, is taking place this week (August 21 - 24) at the Ulster University campus Coleraine.

Entitled 'Everyday Disciples', it is the fifth Special Assembly to take place since 1990, and will see over 600 Presbyterians from across Ireland explore what it means to be an 'everyday disciple' of Jesus Christ in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The

two keynote speakers, who will speak throughout the four-day gathering, are both from the United States of America.

Speaking ahead of the opening, Rev. Randy Pope of Perimeter Church, Atlanta said it was his first visit to Northern Ireland and he was looking forward to the week with 'great anticipation'.

"This will be my first association with this great denomination. I am expecting God to meet us and as a result, to see His Kingdom bear upon the people of Ireland and Northern Ireland in an unusual manner."

During the Special Assembly he said that he would be speaking about 'bringing discipleship back to the local church', a subject that he is passionate about. "I plan to share our own experience in Atlanta and how a life-on-life expression of discipleship can result in significant numbers of church members becoming reproducing mature and equipped followers of Christ.

"I truly believe this has become a lost practice in today's churches worldwide. I am also convinced that this is the model Jesus used to impact the twelve disciples."



**Keynote speaker Rev. Dr. Ray Ortlund Jr. of Immanuel Church, Nashville, Tennessee**

Special assemblies are opportunities for church members to come together in a residential setting for a time of fellowship, worship and prayer, to explore and reflect on a particular aspect of church life, faith or discipleship. Presbyterians from local congregations across Ireland and other local experts in their field will

also deliver the seminars, with worship being led by New Irish Arts.

Keynote speaker Rev. Dr. Ray Ortlund Jnr. of Immanuel Church, Nashville, Tennessee said that he was 'glad to be back', as this was his third time in Northern Ireland. "I expect this week to foster new friendships in the gospel and impart new vision for building churches that embody Jesus in the world today," he said.

"Discipleship is simply learning what it means to respond today to what Jesus said so long ago: 'Follow me.' Every one of us is following something or someone. Why not Jesus?

"My main message is that gospel doctrine creates a gospel culture. In other words, the truths of the gospel create a new kind of community unlike anything else in this world. A church renewed as a gospel culture makes it feel as though Jesus Himself has come to town. What could be more wonderful than that?"

Excited about the week, Presbyterian Moderator, Rt. Rev. Dr. Noble McNeely, said, "The daily keynote addresses from our two principal speakers and the range of seminars available will help us to consider seriously the need for daily discipleship.

“As Christians, Jesus calls us to be His disciples in all aspects of our lives. Being an everyday disciple is the theme I intend to develop during my year in office, challenging our Church as to how we can all respond to Luke’s call to ‘deny ourselves and take up the cross daily.’ As I said in my installation address as Moderator in June, I believe to be an everyday disciple is the most exciting and amazing vocation anyone can be engaged in.”

For those attending, Dr. McNeely has produced a 31 day daily devotional for delegates. Thirty-one contributors from Ireland, the UK and further afield have contributed their thoughts for readers to prayerfully reflect on what it actually means to be an everyday disciple. As part of the Church’s vision to resource whole-life disciples across PCI, a brand new discipleship resource will be unveiled at the Special Assembly. Called ‘Essentials’, this practical resource aims to help followers of Jesus reflect on and live out the essentials of everyday discipleship.

## **IRA victim: Reflection day idea tied my stomach in knots**

A man who was orphaned by the IRA at 12 says his stomach “tied up in knots” when he heard





## **Sammy Heenan on the Leitrim farm where the IRA murdered his father**

former Methodist president Rev Harold Good propose a day of Troubles acknowledgment that would include victims and terrorists, the News Letter reported yesterday.

Rev Good told BBC's Sunday Sequence: "We were silent when we should have spoken. There was injustice, there was discrimination, there was sectarianism from both sides. Where there was injustice, where there was sectarianism, we were silent.

"Together across our community we might come together each of us and all of us, from all sectors

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**Former Methodist President Rev Harold Good has proposed a day of acknowledgement across Northern Ireland**

including the churches and acknowledge our part in the hurt, the grief and the pain of the past 48 plus years.”

As a child sleeping in his bed, Sammy Heenan heard his father scream as he was being shot by the IRA in 1985 near Leitrim. His mother having died not long before, he was left an orphan at 12 years of age.

“The comments by Rev Harold Good on Sunday made my stomach tie up in knots when I heard

them,” he said. “Once again victims have become pawns in a process to further the ecumenical ambition of individuals within church hierarchies. These people constantly fail to acknowledge the hurt and emotional rawness that still prevails in many lives and homes.”

He thinks the main churches have failed victims badly during the peace process of the past 20 years. “They have shied away from the cold hard reality of the hurt that exists on the ground and need to stand up and speak for most victims. “I am a good neighbour and a friend to everyone. What do I have to apologise to anyone for?”

**The Irish News and BBCNI reported that clergy had welcomed the idea -**

[http://www.irishnews.com/news/2017/08/21/news/-troubles-day-given-guarded-welcome-by-clergy-1116023/?utm\\_](http://www.irishnews.com/news/2017/08/21/news/-troubles-day-given-guarded-welcome-by-clergy-1116023/?utm_)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-40991758>

**Survivors and relatives of Ballygawley bus bomb attend memorial events**

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/survivors-and-relatives-of-ballygawley->

[bus-bomb-attend-memorial-  
events-36051066.html?utm](https://bus-bomb-attend-memorial-events-36051066.html?utm)

## **Parish commemorates life of WWI hero Fr Willie Doyle SJ**

A Mass to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the much loved priest and World War One chaplain, Fr Willie Doyle SJ took place in the Church of the Assumption, in the seaside town of Dalkey near Dublin last Wednesday. There was also an exhibition and a talk about Fr Willie at Dalkey Library.

William Joseph Gabriel Doyle was born in Dalkey on 3 March 1873, the youngest of seven children.

He entered the Jesuit Noviciate at the age of 18. Soon after his ordination in 1907 he was appointed to the mission staff for five years. From 1908 to 1915 he gave 1532 missions and retreats. His fame as a preacher, confessor and spiritual director spread far and wide. In the midst of such an active apostolate he maintained a fervent spiritual life of prayer.



He was sent to France in 1915 to service as Chaplain to the 16th Irish Division, the 9th Dublin Fusiliers, 6th Royal Irish Iniskilling Fusiliers and 7th Royal Irish Rifles.

He was killed at Passchendaele on 16 August 1917, “having run all day hither and thither over the battlefield like an angel of mercy”. His body was never recovered

Read more about Fr Willie Doyle SJ here: <https://fatherdoyle.com>

## **Pope throws down gauntlet to world leaders with new migration call**

Pope Francis has issued a challenge to world leaders to do more for the protection of refugees and migrants.

The Vatican has made a roadmap on how governments should approach the issue entitled Responding to Refugees and Migrants: Twenty Action Points.

In the plan which he describes as 'a sign of our times' he wants governments to act on several areas including:

- o What can be done to support refugees who leave their countries and make it over the border into neighbouring countries
- o How to help those who are travelling further e.g. the thousands of young men fleeing Eritrea
- o How migrants in a new country can be supported and integrated.

The 'action points' are aimed at galvanising governments into action ahead of two UN Global



Compacts on Refugees and for Migration at the UN General Assembly in September 2018.

The Vatican's Migrants and Refugees Section, which strategized the plan made it clear that global community must welcome, protect, promote and integrate migrants and refugees.

The Vatican called the document, one of the most politically and policy focused documents it has ever issued and is "unprecedented in its forensic look at what governments should be seeking in the global compacts".

The manifesto has called for greater support for countries which have borne the lion's share of migrants, many of which suffer from high levels of poverty themselves.

According to the UN, more than 56 per cent of the world's displaced people are living in Africa

and the Middle East, with just 17 per cent present in Europe.

Graham Gordon, head of policy at CAFOD told Premier what it will take for the plan to work.

He said: "This will actually take governments to recognise the extent of the crisis."

The last time Pope Francis sought to influence the political process was on the issue of climate change.

He was credited by the UN's Christiana Figures as having a 'major impact' on the process to agree the world's landmark deal on climate change.

However, Gordon admitted that the new migration and refugee strategy may be met with some resistance.

He told Premier News: "Other countries maybe if they have more of sceptical approach to working with refugees, depending on what governments in place may see it as a threat or a challenge and may not be as amenable to it."

The pope's intervention is the latest in a series of challenges to politicians.





In February 2016, the Pope launched a veiled attack on then-presidential candidate Donald Trump's pledge to ban Muslims from entering the US, stating that a person who builds walls rather than bridges "is not a Christian".

Gordon described the current refugee crisis as the worst yet and one that will get worse for 65 million displaced people due to impacts of climate change and unresolved conflict.

He told Premier how the Church can get involved: "Be praying about how we respond ourselves. Wherever we are there's going to be a person from another country and someone who has had to flee persecution.

"There's an awful lot that we can be doing just to welcome people into our own countries," he said.

## **Christian Aid welcomes Pope's call for 40 million displaced people**

Christian Aid today welcomed Pope Francis' call for more to be done for the massive numbers of people who have been forced to leave their homes due to persecution, violence, natural disasters and the scourge of poverty. But the charity said it was telling that Governments have so far ignored the Pope's call to include the largest group of people forced to flee –the forgotten 40 million people displaced within their own countries, which make up the majority the 65 million people fleeing their homes.

Christian Aid's, Head of Advocacy, Laura Taylor said: "Pope Francis has time and again demonstrated his commitment to those otherwise left behind by the rich and powerful. Today he reminds us that the world can and must do more for all people who have been forced to flee their homes.

"But the forgotten crisis is the 40 million people internally displaced people who need refuge within their own borders. This equates to two thirds of people who are forced from their home and yet they remain outside of our consciousness and the world's interest.

“At a time when the news is dominated by politics that is seemingly determined to divide us, faith leaders have a unique ability to speak across borders and remind us of our common humanity.”

The Pope has called upon all world leaders to ensure there is adequate respect for the dignity, right and freedoms of over 40 million internally displaced people, seeing the forthcoming UN Compacts on refugees and migrants as “a unique opportunity to respond together through international cooperation and shared responsibility” that encompasses all people on the move, especially those displaced within their own countries.

Internally displaced people outnumber refugees two to one, yet they are largely forgotten by the international community. Churches and faith communities are often at the front line of responding where governments and refugee agencies are failing. The Pope’s comments come ahead of the UN General Assembly in September, and a year before the international body has promised to finalise two new agreements on migration and refugees.

It’s an opportunity that must be seized by world leaders but the draft agreements so far fail to

comprehensively address the issue because they neglect the biggest population of internally displaced people.

Christian Aid partner organisations in Northern Nigeria are currently supporting some of the two million people who have been displaced by violence and hunger and whose future remains uncertain. Poor communities are offering shelter, despite having little themselves. In the Democratic Republic of Congo so far this year there have been 997,000 people have fled their homes due to violence and conflict with a total of 3.7 million internally displaced people.

## Press Watch

### **Rebel female bishop on an NI crusade to recruit women into Catholic priesthood**

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/rebel-female-bishop-on-an-ni-crusade-to-recruit-women-into-catholic-priesthood-36051458.html?>

### **Guidelines for priests who have fathered children**

The Catholic Church in Ireland has issued guidelines for priests who have fathered children

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saying they "should face up to responsibilities - legal, moral and financial".

### Catholic Church's idea of gender equality may be too little, too late

Irish Times

Catholic **Church's** idea of gender equality may be too little, too late ... In **Ireland**, the Association of Catholic Priests has called on all dioceses to hold ...

### **Walking the Cork Camino**

News Letter - Writer ANDY POLLAK treks through some of the most beautiful scenery in Ireland and finds a former Methodist who has embarked on a unique cross-community project  
<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/lessons-in-our-shared-christian-heritage-found-in-west-cork-1-8112423>

### **Martin McGuinness grave is 'place of pilgrimage'**

The grave of the former deputy first minister has become a major attraction for visitors from all over the world, according to a Derry City Cemetery tour guide  
<http://www.irishnews.com/news/2017/08/21/news/martin-mcguinness-grave-has-become-place-of-pilgrimage--1115800/?utm>

## **Controversial pastor plans gospel rally at Foyle Pride**

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/controversial-pastor-plans-gospel-rally-at-foyle-pride-36051247.html>

## **Irish MEP speculates on UK-Irish relationships post Brexit**

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/uk/brexit-will-radically-change-irelands-relationship-with-uk-says-mep-36050180.html>

## **Times/Mail**

Reports that the family of Bruce Forsyth are considering the possibility of a memorial service for the entertainer at Westminster Abbey. Similar services were held at the Abbey for his close friends Ronnie Corbett and Terry Wogan.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/westminster-abbey-could-host-service-for-sir-bruce-forsyth-vbptfjppq>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4807788/Campaign-Sir-Bruce-Westminster-Abbey-memorial.html>

## **Mail**

Reports that hundreds of death certificates signed by a retired doctor previously found guilty of 'serious professional misconduct' are being re-examined in a new inquiry into whether the

deaths were caused by overdoses. The inquiry, chaired by the former Bishop of Liverpool James Jones, who headed the 2012 Hillsborough review, is expected to publish a report next spring.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4807540/800-death-certificates-examined-13m-inquiry.html>

## Tel

Reports a rise in the number of direct cremations, in which the body is taken straight from the place of death to the crematorium before the ashes are returned to the family. Although they represent only around 5pc of all cremations in the UK, direct cremations are an increasingly popular option.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2017/08/20/growing-number-people-planning-not-have-funeral/>

## Religious News Service summarises last week in the USA

- **Emily Miller** talked to an astronomer priest, an evangelical preacher, an Orthodox Jew, and others to explain the various ways the eclipse has been and still

- is understood by those who see the divine in the natural world. | [Read the story](#)
- She followed up with a 'Splainer on the eclipse and the Crucifixion. Scripture more than hints an eclipse was the backdrop for Jesus' death. Could this be true? As we say here at RNS, "Let us 'Splain . . ." | [Read the story](#)
  - And if Charlottesville and its aftermath felt at all apocalyptic to you, read **Rabbi Jeffrey Salkin's** column: "The eclipse is deeper than we thought." | [Read the story](#)
  - Charlottesville also focused more attention on a civil rights march planned for August 28. **Adelle Banks** got the scoop on this "1,000-minister march" from its organizer, the Rev. Al Sharpton. | [Read the story](#)
  - We also covered the first resignation of a member of President Trump's evangelical advisory council in the wake of Charlottesville. | [Read the story](#)
  - London correspondent **Catherine Pepinster** introduced us to Greenbelt, the largest Christian festival in the United Kingdom, which opens next week with a tent devoted to Muslim music and worship. | [Read the story](#)



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