

‘Stations of the Cross’ art exhibition follows Jesus’ path to crucifixion at sites across Manhattan



The artwork “Stations” is made up of 14 columns of oil barrels painted different shades of red and two metal beams that appear to form a cross. It is on display at Trinity Church Wall Street in New York.

Churches around the world will welcome Christians this Lent as they pray the Way of the Cross, following Jesus' final path to crucifixion through 14 stations. In New York, that path of prayer will stretch the full length of Manhattan.

A public art exhibition opened Feb. 14 on Ash Wednesday and will continue through Easter on April 1 that traces the Stations of the Cross from "Jesus Is Condemned" near the northern tip of Manhattan to "Entombment" at the National September 11 Memorial. At each stop, people of all faiths are invited to view works of art chosen to reflect on ways the Passion of Christ speaks to contemporary struggles against injustice.

The exhibition, titled simply "[Stations of the Cross](#)," is sponsored by [Trinity Church Wall Street](#) and follows similar exhibitions in London in 2016 and Washington, D.C., in 2017.

New York City is a great place to host this year's edition, Trinity leaders said, suggesting that the metropolis is a greater hub of religious activity and reflection than it usually gets credit for.

"I think that New York upsets the American religious imagination," the Rev. John Moody said this week at Trinity. "It makes us search and go deep for meaning that the general culture doesn't give us."

Moody, a retired priest who attends Trinity, was co-curator of “Stations of the Cross” with Aaron Rosen, a [professor of religious studies at Rocky Mountain College](#) who helped create and assemble this and the two prior versions of “Stations.” Although the subject matter is drawn from Christianity’s most solemn and foundational story, this “Stations of the Cross” is presented as an explicitly interfaith experience.

Could aspects of Jesus’ story also speak to a Muslim or Jew or atheist? “I wanted to explore that sense of friction and tension for myself,” said Rosen, who is Jewish and married to an Episcopal deacon.

To represent each station, Rosen selected from existing artworks, some that were hundreds of years old, while others were commissioned specifically for “Stations of the Cross.” In some cases, works created for the London or Washington exhibitions were brought to New York, with slight modifications.

Trinity, which Rosen called “sort of the radiating center” of the exhibition, was chosen for the 13th station, “Jesus Is Taken Down From the Cross.” Just outside the church, next to its renowned cemetery, stand 14 tall columns of stacked oil barrels. The red columns are intersected by two

steel beams that, when viewed from a certain angle, form a large cross. The artwork, titled “Stations,” was created by G. Roland Biermann, who painted the barrels in 14 different shades of red, signifying the color of blood.

One value of art is to provoke new perspectives on something we think we already know well, said the Rev. Winnie Varghese, Trinity’s director of justice and reconciliation. So, for Christians who are used to praying the Stations of the Cross every Lent, following the path of Jesus through these artworks is an opportunity to re-examine what the gospel story means for their faith and for the world around them.

10,000 expected at Galway Solemn Novena this week

More than 10,000 people are expected to gather at the Cathedral of Our Lady Assumed into Heaven and Saint Nicholas over the coming days to take part in the 2018 Solemn Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

The novena, which is now in its 36th year, began yesterday 19 February and will continue until Tuesday 27 February.



Those attending will be welcomed to the cathedral by more than 300 novena volunteers and a team of twelve Redemptorists.

Ahead of this year's World Meeting of Families in Dublin this August, the novena will reflect on the central importance of the family and home. Preachers for the novena will include three team couples from the pre-marriage weekends in Esker who will speak at the Sunday Masses on the topic, 'You Married Me'.

Speaking ahead of the novena, Director Fr Brendan O'Rourke said, 'We come to learn who we are in the homes of our lives, and from there we get the energy to move out and fly. The

novena asks us, who is lost in our lives, in our family, among our circle of friends? Can we offer home to someone who is lost?

‘We reflect on the importance of friendship, the gift of presence. Am I trustworthy? Truthful? Faithful? Ready to say “sorry” and “I forgive you”?’

‘Love is like salt. It lends flavour when things are bland. It gives traction when the road is icy. It cleans out wounds, allowing healing to start. Love is a decision, and we get better as we practice it. When we hurt or are hurt and then seek and offer forgiveness – that’s a glimpse of the divine.

‘Families and homes come in all shapes and sizes. Jesus enlarges our sense of family, a family that makes space for those hurting, suffering, hungry, thirsty, enslaved, sick or in prison.

‘By living friendship, by living family, by living love, we are witnessing to the presence of Jesus in our lives. We are now his hands, his feet. We do not so much speak about Jesus, but point to his presence through our actions.



The Church of Ireland Board of Education presents

The 2018 Church of Ireland Theological Lecture at Queen's



'Religion, Equality & The Constitution'

Professor Julian Rivers

Professor of Jurisprudence, University of Bristol

Tuesday 20th March 2018

'At its best love lasts for ever! All of us – as we are – are accepted, loved, one family, in Christ Jesus! In the icon of the Mother of Perpetual Help Mary's eyes tells us: "You are always in God's heart. Always in my heart. Now risk living and loving with all your might!"'

For more information on this year's novena, visit www.galwaycathedral.ie.

Religion, Equality and The Constitution, C of I Annual Theological Lecture at Queen's

The annual Church of Ireland Theological Lecture at Queen's University, sponsored by the General Synod Board of Education NI, will be given by Julian Rivers, Professor of Jurisprudence at the University of Bristol. The title for this year's lecture is "Religion, Equality and the Constitution". This year's lecture will be

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held on Tuesday 20th March 2018 at 6pm. In the beautiful Isdell Courtyard at [QUB's Riddell Hall](#).

Professor Rivers observes, 'In recent years, religious individuals and groups have been found on a number of occasions to have acted in

breach of new legal obligations designed to secure equal treatment for all. A Jewish school is told that it cannot select pupils according to an orthodox test of Jewish identity; Christian hoteliers are fined for refusing a room to a same-sex couple; an Islamic school is held to have acted unlawfully in segregating boys and girls. In this lecture I will consider these, and other, examples of new legal tensions between religion and equality. When are we right to insist on the requirements of equality even in the face of deeply-held moral or social convictions to the contrary? When can the claims of religion justify a departure from principles of equality? If equality has, in some sense, become a fundamental constitutional requirement, what does this 'equality' mean and require of us? And if there is a balance to be struck, is the law helping us to get that balance right?'

Chaplain, Rev Barry Forde, has expressed his delight that Professor Rivers has taken up the invitation, saying, "Professor Rivers is an expert

in the field of religion and law, having written and spoken extensively on the increasing number of issues pertinent to people of faith that interface, and at times may conflict with, the interests of secular law”.

Professor Rivers will also be undertaking a second engagement during his visit, as the chaplaincy hosts a lunchtime event in conjunction with the School of Law aimed primarily at students (information to follow).

Rev Forde observes, ‘In recent years we have sought to vary the format of the Theological Lectures to engage with a range of different audiences.

“Whilst most years the lectures have been publicly over two evenings, it is hoped that directing a second engagement towards the student community will increase theological discourse on campus’.

Tickets are available here here: [#TLQ18: Law, Equality and the Constitution](#) Tickets are restricted to four per person.

Free parking is available on site.

Churchgoer hits out at Sinn Fein MP's clinic in parish hall

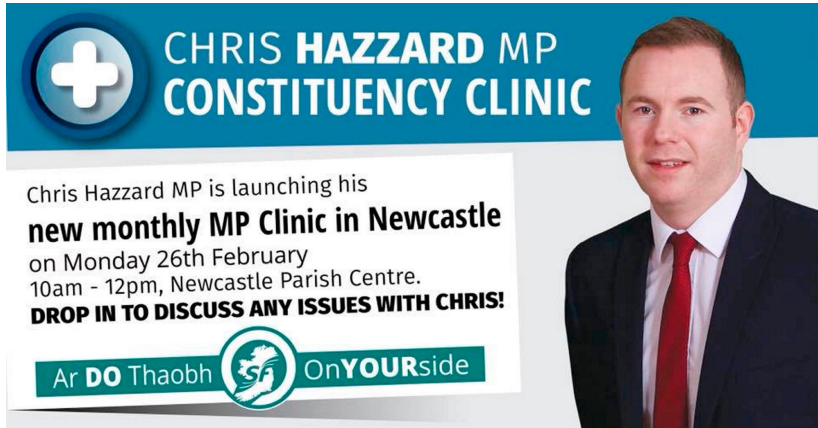
Sinn Fein's Chris Hazzard has sparked a row with church-goers after arranging to meet constituents in a Co Down parish hall, the Belfast Telegraph reports.

The MP for South Down posted an invitation online for members of the public to join him for a 'monthly MP clinic' at Newcastle Parish Centre from next week.

The notice says the regular meeting starts with a two-hour session next Monday morning where people can "drop in to discuss any issues with Chris".

However, the announcement has not been welcomed by all, with one parishioner warning the involvement of the party in a Church-linked location will be seen as "a calculated snub to the Protestant minority in the town" and will only "harden division and mistrust".

The grandfather, who has been an active member of the Church of the Assumption for more than 40 years and has seen his children and grandchildren baptised and married there,



The banner features a blue header with a white cross icon in a circle on the left. To the right of the icon, the text reads "CHRIS HAZZARD MP" in a smaller font and "CONSTITUENCY CLINIC" in a larger, bold font. Below the header, on a white background, is the text: "Chris Hazzard MP is launching his **new monthly MP Clinic in Newcastle** on Monday 26th February 10am - 12pm, Newcastle Parish Centre. **DROP IN TO DISCUSS ANY ISSUES WITH CHRIS!**". At the bottom left of the white section is a logo for "Ar DO Thaobh" featuring a globe and the text "On YOURside". On the right side of the banner is a portrait of Chris Hazzard MP, a man with short brown hair, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and red tie.

said he feels "ashamed and humiliated" over this "one-sided move" from the Church.

He said: "The Church of the Assumption is less than 50 yards away from the Presbyterian Church. What would the Catholic majority in Newcastle feel if the Presbyterian Church allowed its premises to be used to propagate a loyalist/unionist political agenda?"

"I am appalled at the decision of the Church authorities to allow, without any form of parish consultation, the use of parish property for party political purposes. In particular I am hurt and disillusioned that a political party which is fully committed to the introduction of abortion on demand, on both parts of the island of Ireland, is to be allowed a potential propaganda platform

for those views in a Catholic-owned and run facility."

The Newcastle local, who wished to remain anonymous, added: "The Parish Centre is, and has always been up to now, been regarded as a neutral space for all residents of Newcastle.

"It is used for a variety of purposes including interdenominational bible study classes.

"Nobody is going to feel comfortable going into those premises, however, for such events if the decision to allow that same space to be used for the propagation of the Sinn Fein manifesto."

A spokesperson for the Diocese of Down and Connor confirmed Sinn Fein will be hiring the room in the parish hall on a monthly basis. They said: "The hiring of rooms can be carried out by all agencies and individuals under the understanding the business conducted within the property is in alignment with the ethos of the parish community."

The Revd Canon Ian Ellis, from St John's Church of Ireland in Newcastle, said if any political party wished to hold official meetings in their premises, he felt it "unlikely" to happen.

"Something like that would go to the vestry, the Church committee, to discuss," he said.

"However I would consider it very unlikely."

A Sinn Fein spokesperson said: "During the Westminster election campaign Chris Hazzard committed to being an MP for all the people of South Down. In keeping with that commitment he is launching a new monthly constituency clinic in Newcastle in addition to the first class constituency services Sinn Fein provide right across South Down.

Presbyterian Church Summer Teams recruitment begins

Every summer Youth and Children's Ministry partners with congregations from across Ireland, to help support them in mission amongst their local community. These teams provide a wonderful opportunity for young people aged 16 and over to get involved in serving outside of their normal context, gain valuable experience in personal evangelism and grow in their own walk with Jesus.

In 2018, PCI will send out 10 Summer Outreach teams to be part of what God is doing through a



variety of churches and projects – and you are invited to be part of His unfolding story.

Working with children, teens, adults and in the community, you can be part of showing and sharing the good news of Jesus with a needy world.

Each team partners with a PCI congregation to help them reach out to their local communities.

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Where will you leave a footprint for God this summer?

To be part of a team, you don't need to be an expert, just someone who loves Jesus and wants to tell other people about Him.

Applications are welcome from people of all ages over 16 – those with no experience of this type of work and those with lots!

Application forms, venues and dates, please see

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<https://www.presbyterianireland.org/Events/Summer-Teams-2018.aspx>

Religion classes 'opt out' rules kicks off in Irish schools

Irish secondary school students who opt out of religion classes will be offered alternative subject choices.

The new regulation, which comes into effect immediately, will affect pupils who previously were required to remain physically in the classroom even if they did not want to be there.

A statement sent to state schools by the Department of Education acknowledged that the



past practice of assuming pupils are predominantly Catholic and arranging the teaching of religious studies accordingly was inappropriate.

Minister for Education Richard Bruton said: "It is important that Education and Training Board (ETB) and Community Post Primary schools, as multi-denominational schools, fully implement this circular as it presents an important opportunity to meet the expectations of parents and students in a changing society.

"This can only be achieved by consulting with parents, and including their wishes as part of the normal planning process of any school."

The new rules means parents and guardians will no longer be required to request a withdrawal

from the subject for their child and children will be allowed to opt out of religious ceremonies such as masses held during school time.

Newry enlightened after proposal to convert electrical shop into church

Plans are afoot to turn a former electrical shop in Newry into a church.

Murphy's Electrical store, which has been situated at Catherine Street in the city since 1972, closed down four months ago.

Now, Newry Baptist Church has submitted plans to transform the 5,640 sq ft site into a place of worship.

While older church buildings being renovated to accommodate new businesses is not uncommon, converting a business premises into a church is rare.

Newry Baptist Church has submitted a planning application for a "place of worship and ancillary facilities" to Newry, Mourne and Down District Council for approval.



According to the proposals, the entire ground floor of the two-storey building, which is currently an open-plan area, will be divided up into a number of rooms for church purposes.

Plans for the ground floor include a large worship area, a creche, a social space and a Sunday School room.

Designs for the first floor of the building propose that it be divided up into a children's area, an office and a small meeting room.

Newry Baptist Church was founded nearly 130 years ago and is understood to have been looking for a permanent space for worship for several years now, as the congregation has

grown with a large influx of Polish parishioners joining the church. It is understood the plans for the church will be advertised publicly next week.

A decision by planners is expected in the coming months. Currently, the church holds its Sunday services in a conference room at Enterprise House on Canal Quay.

Some church-to-business conversions have generated some degree of controversy in Northern Ireland.

Last month, residents in south Belfast reacted angrily to City Hall planners giving the green light to a £3m proposal to turn Windsor Baptist Church into an apartment block.

The development at Malone Avenue faced more than 100 objections from residents.

Other conversions have already proven successful.

North Belfast's Indian Community Centre is located in the Carlisle Methodist Memorial Church building, which was built in 1876.

The nearby Duncairn Centre for Culture & Arts is based in a former Presbyterian church.

The Belfast Empire Music Hall in south Belfast is a converted church.

Last month, hospitality firm Tullymore House unveiled plans to turn the iconic Holy Rosary Church in south Belfast into a restaurant and 21-bedroom hotel. Report courtesy The Belfast Telegraph

Planning music for Holy Week and Easter

A workshop organised by Living Worship on Planning for Holy Week and Easter, will be held on Saturday 24 February 2018, 10 am to 12.45 in The Mageough Hall, Cowper Road, Rathmines.

Led by the Rev. Jack Kinkead it will be an opportunity to consider music within the context of Holy Week and Easter liturgy. The sessions explore aspects of parish church worship, in an informal setting, and include an enjoyable break for refreshments.

Fee €10 per session, including refreshments. Booking is not required, simply come along. Further information

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