



London attack: Archbishop of Canterbury responds in House of Lords

Paying tribute to victims and first responders, Archbishop Justin Welby spoke of the "deep values" in British society that give us the strength to persevere.

Speaking in the House of Lords yesterday (Thursday) morning about the attack in Westminster yesterday, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, said:

“My Lords, I want to associate myself with the thanks and tributes paid today, especially for our prayers and thoughts for PC Keith Palmer and for his family. Also, to acknowledge the work of so many members of the public who pitched in and did what they needed to do, when faced with things for which they had never been trained or prepared.

“Yesterday afternoon, one of our own security staff at Lambeth Palace, a Muslim, arrived at the gate having been missed by the vehicle very narrowly, and spent time helping those who had been injured. It was typical of this community and this country that he refused to go home until the end of his shift, and simply spent the time doing his job as he expected.

“This has been typical of so many in this city – the emergency services who contained the incident within six minutes; the staff at this extraordinary place, who give so much of themselves on normal occasions, and extraordinary occasions.

“But I think on our hearts especially today are those who wait at bedsides, who are suddenly caught up in things for which they could never

have been prepared or which they never expected and our prayers continue for them on this day.

“Much shock has been experienced, but we know that in the reactions we saw yesterday, that we have the strength to persevere through it. We will talk more generally about that later.”

Responding to the Prime Minister’s statement, the Archbishop said:

“My Lords, I’d like to add welcome of these benches to the statement from the Prime Minister, which quite rightly, as the Noble Baroness, the Leader of the Opposition said, set the tone and spoke for this country.

“I’d also like to convey to the House messages I’ve received through the night from faith leaders around the world, of sympathy and support, and from faith leaders across this country, who want the House and Parliament, and particularly its staff and those who have suffered to know how much those people are in their hearts and minds.

“But I want in terms of values, to refer to something that seems to me to go deeper, to something that is really at the foundation of our own understanding of what our society is about, and to do that in three very simple, very brief pictures.

“The first is of a vehicle being driven across Westminster Bridge by someone who had a perverted, nihilistic, despairing view of objectives of what life is about, of what society is about, that could only be fulfilled by death and destruction.

“The second is of that same person a few minutes later, on a stretcher or on the ground, being treated by the very people he had sought to kill.

“The third is of these two Houses, where profound disagreement, bitter disagreement, angry disagreement is dealt with not with violence, not with despair, not with cruelty, but with discussion, with reason and with calmness.

“My Lords, it seems to me that those three pictures point us to deep values within our own society – deeper even than ones that have been mentioned, quite rightly, in the Prime Minister’s statement and in other statements – which is the sense that comes from (and you would expect this from these benches) a narrative that is within our society for almost 2000 years.

“That speaks of – at this time of year as we look forward to Holy Week and Easter – of a God who stands with the suffering, and brings justice, and
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whose resurrection has given to believer and unbeliever the sense that where we do what is right; where we behave properly; where that generosity and extraordinary sense of duty that leads people to treat a terrorist is shown; where that bravery of someone like PC Keith Palmer is demonstrated, that there is a victory for what is right and good; over what is evil, despairing and bad.

“That was shown yesterday. That is shown not just in our expression of values, but in our practices which define those values. And that is the mood that we must show in the future.”

Dublin prayers for Westminster

Archbishop Michael Jackson has offered prayers for the people of London following the attack in Westminster:

“Our thoughts and prayers are with the people of London and the United Kingdom this evening as they come to terms with the terror visited upon them today. We pray for the families and loved ones of those killed in Westminster this afternoon and all injured in and affected by the attack. Our thoughts are also with the

emergency services and all who work in the aftermath of the atrocity.

“While London occupies a special place in the hearts and lives of many Irish people, and many will have relatives and friends in the city who will be touched by fear and sorrow this evening, we continue to pray for the people of Syria and Iraq where untold suffering persists and for people all around the globe who live with terror on a daily basis.”

Pope Francis says he is 'deeply saddened' by Westminster attack

Pope Francis has sent a message to Britain saying that he is 'deeply saddened' by the attack in Westminster and has expressed 'prayerful solidarity with all those affected by the tragedy'.

His comments came in a message from Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Vatican Secretary of State, to Mgr Matteo De Mori, charge d'affaires at the apostolic nunciature in London, according to the **Catholic Herald**.

The message was then passed on to Cardinal Vincent Nichols, the Archbishop of Westminster. It read: 'Deeply saddened to learn of the loss of



Pope Francis has expressed 'prayerful solidarity' with the victims of the attack in Westminster.

life and of the injuries caused by the attack in central London, His Holiness Pope Francis expresses his prayerful solidarity with all those affected by this tragedy.

'Commending those who have died to the loving mercy of Almighty God, His Holiness invokes divine strength and peace upon their grieving families, and he assures the nation of his prayers at this time.'

In his own note to Cardinal Nichols, Mori added: 'I avail of this opportunity to assure you of my

own deep sympathy and prayers at this difficult time.'



Cardinal Vincent Nichols

Cardinal Nichols has called for prayer, compassionate solidarity and calm in the wake of Thursday's attack.

The Cardinal noted that one of the victims, Aysha Frade, a 43-year-old who worked at a nearby sixth form college, had children who attended St Mary of the Angels primary school in Bayswater, west London. Aysha Frade is believed to be a British woman with family in Galicia, Spain. Yesterday afternoon she was

reportedly on her way to pick up her children from the school when the attacker struck on Westminster Bridge.

Four people in total were killed in the attack outside the Houses of Parliament.

Cardinal Nichols, who is the president of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, said: 'Yesterday's attacks in Westminster have shocked us all. The kind of violence we have seen all too often in other places has again brought horror and killing to this city.

'I know you will lead people in prayer, especially for those who have lost their lives and those who have lost one they love. Pray for Aysha Frade, killed by the car on Westminster Bridge. Her two children attend St Mary of the Angels Primary School. Pray for them and for their father. And please remember the young French students who have been injured.

'We remember too all who have been injured, and those who care for them.

'We pray in particular as well for Keith Palmer, the police officer who died, and for his family, thanking God that so many show such brave dedication to keeping our society safe.

'Let our voice be one of prayer, of compassionate solidarity, and of calm. All who believe in God, Creator and Father of every person, will echo this voice, for faith in God is not a problem to be solved, but a strength and a foundation on which depend.'

Interfaith response from Scotland

Rt Rev Dr Russell Barr, Moderator of the Church of Scotland, joined with representatives of ecumenical and interfaith groups and with Muslim faith leaders to condemn yesterday's deadly attack at Westminster Palace and to call for peace and healing. They issued the following statement:

As representatives and leaders of our various faith communities, we are united in our condemnation of Wednesday's terrorist attack in London.

Love of God and love of neighbour are the guiding principles of our faith traditions and we deplore all acts of violence.

Trusting in God's healing presence and power, our thoughts and prayers are with everyone who has been bereaved, injured or left traumatised by this terrible incident.

We urge everyone of whatever faith tradition or none to live peaceably with their neighbours and to actively uphold the values of compassion, love and respect.

Right Rev Dr Russell Barr, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland

Dr Naji Arfaj, Executive Director, Edinburgh Central Mosque

Hassan Rabbani, Annandale Mosque, Leith

Imam Sayed Razawi, Director General, Scottish Ahlul Bayt Society

Rev Matthew Ross, General Secretary of Action of Churches Together in Scotland

Iain Stewart, General Secretary, Edinburgh Interfaith Association

Theologian and philosopher Marilyn McCord Adams dies



Marilyn McCord Adams, one of the world's most prominent and respected philosophers-theologians, has died aged 73.

She was the first woman ever to hold the prestigious title of Regius Professor of Divinity at Oxford University and the first woman to receive a Doctor of Divinity degree from Oxford.

Her work was varied, but her most well known publications and lectures were on evil. *Horrendous Evils and the Goodness of God* was her most widely known work, in which she addressed the problem of evil.

An American who spent some of her career in the UK, Adams was ordained as an Episcopal priest and taught at prestigious institutions such as Yale, Rutgers and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, having received degrees from Cornell and Princeton.

Reactions to her death came from both sides of the Atlantic with Dr Giles Fraser among those remembering her. Her fellow priest and academic said: 'RIP the wonderful, feisty, clever, brilliant Marilyn McCord Adams. It was a privilege to know her.' Helen-Ann Hartley, Bishop of Waikato, New Zealand, added her thoughts. She tweeted, 'Saddened to hear about the death of Marilyn McCord Adams, who led my deacons retreat in [@oxforddiocese](#) way back in 2005, inspiring!'

C of I Bishops' Appeal crisis appeal for East Africa

In an urgent response to the crisis in East Africa, the Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal has launched an emergency appeal to raise funds for Christian Aid and Tearfund, who are working with partners in the region to provide urgently needed humanitarian assistance. The Bishops' Appeal is appealing for contributions from parishes and



individuals throughout the island of Ireland to help with the disaster relief efforts.

The Rt Revd Patrick Rooke, Chairperson of Bishops' Appeal, said: 'Hunger on a massive scale is looming across South Sudan, northern Nigeria, Somalia and Yemen, as a combination of drought and conflict has left nearly 20 million people without enough food to feed themselves. Kenya and Ethiopia are also on the verge of crisis, with millions in need of humanitarian assistance. Across these countries, people are in critical need of food, water and health support with women and children suffering the most. The United Nations has referred to this as the worst humanitarian crisis since 1945, and we cannot stand by and allow the suffering to continue.'

Parish and individual donations are encouraged and greatly appreciated at this time. Dates for parish responses can be chosen locally over the coming weeks with proceeds sent to: Bishops' Appeal, Church of Ireland House, Church Avenue, Rathmines, Dublin 6. Donations can also be made online at <https://store.ireland.anglican.org/donations>. Queries from parishes should be directed to Bishops' Appeal diocesan representatives or to the Education Advisor, Alexandra Reihill, at bishopsappeal@ireland.anglican.org

International recognition of pastoral care education in Cork

St Luke's Charity, Cork has funded for some time, as part of its outreach programme, an annual unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) on site in its education centre at Northridge House, Mahon, Cork.

The CPE Centre has recently been accredited by the All Ireland CPE Accreditation Board (AICAB). The Director at Northridge House is the Rev Bruce Pierce. The AICAB visiting group consisted of representatives of the following bodies – National Association of Healthcare

Chaplains, ACPE (Ireland) Ltd, Chaplaincy Accreditation Board and the Northern Ireland Healthcare Chaplains Association. Fr Brian Gough is Chairperson of AICAB.

The visiting group involved an overseas CPE Supervisor to enhance objectivity and best international practice. On the February accreditation site visit to Northridge House, the Rev. Dr. Neil Elford was part of the team. Dr Elford is a member of the Canadian Association for Spiritual Care and part of the CASC Centre Accreditation Committee. Currently he is Director for Spiritual Health Mission and Ethics at Providence Care and Hotel Dieu Hospital, Kingston, Ontario.

Commenting on the news of the accreditation, the Chairperson of the Board of Saint Luke's Charity, Cork, Dr Paul Colton said: 'While the historic core of the work of our charity is Saint Luke's Home, Cork where we care for the elderly and dementia sufferers, our outreach programme has become increasingly important. This includes our day care centre, and support for the chaplaincy work of Canon Dr Daniel Nuzum at Cork University Hospital. A key element also in this outreach programme has been the development of Northridge House, our education centre. This news of the accreditation

of the CPE centre at Northridge House is a significant milestone, Full credit and great praise is due, in particular, to the work of Bruce Pierce, our Director of Education, for his creativity, energy and diligence in bringing this about to an internationally recognised standard.'



Bishop of Llandaff appointment – statement

In response to further questions about the recent Electoral College for the Bishop of Llandaff , the Church in Wales has issued the following statement:

“We understand the disappointment felt by all the candidates considered by the Electoral College who did not secure enough support to be elected as Bishop of Llandaff. However we are satisfied that the Electoral College process was carried out properly and fairly.

“The meeting was confidential and we will not comment on speculation about the nomination and discussion of candidates. However, we strongly deny allegations of homophobia in the process. Neither homosexuality nor participation in a civil partnership are a bar to any candidate being either nominated or elected as a Bishop in the Church in Wales. Moreover, this was made clear to members of the Electoral College by its President, the Bishop of Swansea and Brecon.

“The Constitution of the Church in Wales requires that an electoral college meets for up to three days and that if the college fails to elect, the decision passes to the Bench of Bishops. The Bishops are now

acting carefully in full accordance with the Constitution. Unlike the Electoral College process, there is no fixed timetable for an appointment process, however, the Bishops would wish to announce any appointment made as soon as all necessary formalities are finalised. The appointment process is underway and we see no reason to halt it.

“The Bishops have stressed during the whole process that whoever becomes Bishop of Llandaff, whatever their circumstances, will receive their full support.”

More information

News briefs & Upcoming events

+++ Memorial lecture on Reformation - The annual Clive West Memorial Lecture will be given by Dr Mark Thompson, Principal of Moore Theological College, Sydney, on Tuesday March 28 in All Saints' Church, University Street, Belfast, Dr Thompson will speak on the Reformation. The lecture will be opened by

Archdeacon David McClay and the Rev Marty McNeely (Ballykeel Presbyterian Church, Ballymena). The lecture begins at 7.45pm.

+++ Pedalling for the organ - Robbie Syme, an Enniscorthy parishioner, will cycle to all points of the Diocese of Ferns between Sunday 23rd and Sunday 30th April to raise funds for the restoration of the organ in St Mary's Church. He will visit all nine cures and cycle over 250 km during that week. He will collect a favourite hymn from each cure and these hymns will be sung at a 'Songs Of Praise' service in St Mary's Church on Sunday 30th April 2017 at 10.30 a.m.

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