

Four governments represented at Enniskillen cathedral service



Representatives from the four governments of Northern Ireland, United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland and the United States led the prayers at the Remembrance Day service in St. Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen on Sunday past, 12th November.

The service which followed the wreath-laying service at the War Memorial in Belmore Street was attended by the Secretary of State, Right Hon. James Brokenshire MP; former First Minister, Right Hon. Arlene Foster; Taoiseach, Mr. Leo Varadkar TD and the USA Consul General in Northern Ireland, Mr Daniel Lawton.

Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Fermanagh, Viscount Brookeborough, was present.

The service was conducted by the Dean of Clogher, the Very Revd Kenneth Hall, assisted by the Curate, Revd Chris MacBruithin; the Bishop of Clogher, Right Revd John McDowell and Monsignor Peter O'Reilly.

The preacher was Revd Alexander Bennett, Deputy Assistant Chaplain General, 38(Irish) Brigade.

The hymns were; "Be Thou my vision," "I vow to thee my Country," "Abide with Me," "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind," "All people that on earth do dwell," and "Nearer my God to thee." The organist was Mr Glenn Moore.

During the Act of Remembrance led by the Dean, the Last Post and Reveille were sounded by Warren Kerr of Ballyreagh Silver Band and a Piper's Lament played by Pipe Major Gordon McKeown, 4 UDR Association.

Kerygma Choir Evening of Celebration Praise in Lisburn Cathedral

The Kerygma Choir is holding its annual “Evening of Celebration Praise” in Lisburn Cathedral on Saturday 18 November at 7.45 pm.

Undoubtedly one of the additional highlights of this evening will be the first performance of the “Junior Kerygma” choir and this will be of particular interest all the members of the family!

Lisburn Cathedral is a smaller venue with only 340 seats available and is likely to be sold out early.

Tickets are £14.00 (with a Group ticket for four at £50.00 and some concession at £12.50 available on-line). Tickets are available from choir members, from the Cathedral office and on-line at www.ticketsource.co.uk/kerygma.

Who let the Dads out Children's ministry conference

Building Blocks is a conference to support those working with children in their local church,



The poster is divided into two main sections. The left section has a blue background and features the 'buildingblocks' logo at the top left. Below it, the text 'KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:' is followed by the title 'WHO LET THE DAD'S OUT?' in large, bold, white letters. A stylized logo for 'WHO LET THE DADS OUT?' with a blue figure jumping is positioned to the left of a paragraph that describes the movement as a growing one that resources churches to reach out to dads, father figures, and their children. Another paragraph below explains that the event provides ideas and resources for 'journeying' with dads and children in the context of family support, ministry, and mission. The right section has a white background and lists the event's features: 'PACKED PROGRAMME!' followed by a list of stalls, workshops, giveaways, networking, top tips, and more. It also provides information on how to follow the event on Facebook, the website 'WWW.BUILDINGBLOCKS.IE', and the booking availability from September 2017.

buildingblocks

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

WHO LET THE DAD'S OUT?

WHO LET THE DADS OUT?

Who Let The Dads Out? is a growing movement that resources churches to reach out to dads, father figures and their children.

Who Let The Dads Out? provides a number of ideas and resources to 'journey' with dads and their children in the context of family support, ministry and mission. Come hear from their experience and pick up some great ideas on engaging with families!

PACKED PROGRAMME!

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- WORKSHOPS
- GIVEAWAYS
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FROM
SEPTEMBER 2017**

community or school and to encourage others to be involved in this vital ministry.

It will be a day packed with useful resources, inspirational ideas and stimulating workshops.

The keynote speakers are from 'Who Let the Dads Out?', a growing movement that resources churches to reach out to Dads. They will be talking about taking and creating ministry opportunities.

The conference is on this Saturday 18 November 2017 at St. Andrew's College, Blackrock, [View Map](#)

Download a brochure and booking form [here](#) or book online through Eventbrite [here](#).

The Keynote speakers from 'Who let the Dads Out' will be running a seminar for clergy at the annual Clergy Lunch the day before Building Blocks on Friday 17 November at 12.30 pm in CITI. More information can be found [here](#).

The Building Blocks Conference is organised by children's ministry leaders from a broad spectrum of Christian Churches and organisations throughout Ireland.

Launch of Anti-drug campaign at Belfast Cathedral service

Belfast Cathedral will host a special service on Monday November 20 at 5.00 pm to commemorate the first anniversary of the death of Jamie Burns.

The 23-year-old north Belfast man died after taking ecstasy on a night out.

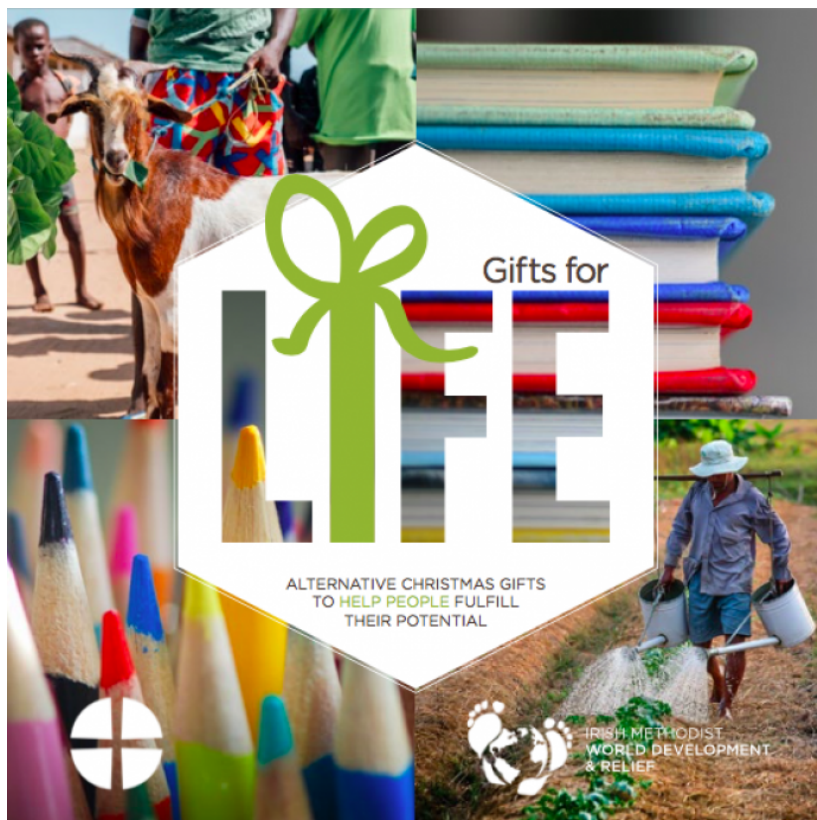
The service will be an opportunity to gather with his family, friends, work colleagues and the wider community to give thanks and to remember.

At the service, the Burns' family will launch their #1PIIIWILLKILL Christmas 2017 campaign. #1PIIIWILLKILL is an anti-drugs initiative established by Jamie's family in the wake of his death. The campaign's hard hitting message is already having a big impact on raising drug awareness among young people.

The service in St Anne's will be led by clergy of various denominations, highlighting the all-encompassing nature of the drug problem across all parts of society. While the service focuses on Jamie, there will be an opportunity to remember others as well. People will be invited to write the names of loved ones on pieces of paper, which will be placed on the altar and these lives will be commemorated in a time of respectful silence. Dean's Vicar, the Rev Canon Mark Niblock, said: "We hope that this will be an occasion of celebration of Jamie's life, but also an occasion of solemn remembrance of the many precious lives that have been and are being lost due to drugs."

Alternative Christmas gifts from Methodist World Development

Irish Methodist World Development & Relief 'Gifts for Life' 2017 catalogue is now available.



By buying a '*Gift for Life*' this Christmas you will help people in materially poor communities fulfil their potential. Each gift you choose will empower local people by supporting the activities of our expert and committed partners across the world.

When you choose any of the gifts, your donation is allocated to that partner's work. Your gift will

help make a long-term, positive change. Catalogues are available in Methodist churches across Ireland. If you need any more information or would like to receive a catalogue, please email wdrc@irishmethodist.org

<http://methodistworlddevelopment.org/>

Exhibition on Jesuit chaplains in World War I opens

A new exhibition which has just opened at Rathfarnham Castle in Dublin explores the role and experiences of military chaplains in World War I through original artefacts belonging to Jesuits who served in the trenches.

Of the 32 Irish Jesuit chaplains who served in the First World War, on the battlefields of France, Belgium, Egypt, and Mesopotamia, four were killed: Frs John Gwynn, William Doyle, Michael Bergin and John Fitzgibbon and two died from illness: Frs Austin Hartigan and Edward Sydes.

The majority of Jesuit chaplains served at the frontline with the soldiers, with intervals at

Casualty Clearing Stations, field ambulances and hospitals.

Periods of leave provided some respite. The chaplain's duties included giving the sacraments (communion, confession and absolution) saying Mass, burial, working as stretcher-bearers or medical attendants, writing to relatives of those who were killed and keeping up morale.

The most striking characteristic of the ministry was that the chaplains were alongside the troops and were exposed to the same dangers and threats.

They shared the soldiers' lives in the trenches with the mud, rats and lice; under fire from snipers and the frequent barrage of heavy artillery. They shared long periods where nothing happened and boredom ensued. It was this apostolate of presence and proximity that won the admiration and respect of the soldiers.

Jesuit chaplains who served in the First World War didn't regard themselves in any sense natural heroes, and their apostolates and lives were, for the most part, humdrum and ordinary. In the circumstances of war, some were transformed into truly exceptional men. For others who survived the conflict, they never recovered from their wartime experiences.



The artefacts on display at Rathfarnham Castle include Fr Willie Doyle's blood-stained maniple, used by him to give extreme unction to soldiers at the Front.

The exhibition also displays the Dublin priest's altar kit, including missal stand, A Kempis, altar linen, kneeler and corporal, which were used by him to say Mass as the war raged around him.

Fr Henry Gill's scrapbook containing items collected by him during the war, including burial details of soldiers, train tickets and postcards is also on display.

The exhibition also features the award-winning graphic short, 'A Perfect Trust', by illustrator, Alan Dunne.

The Jesuits bought Rathfarnham Castle in 1913. During the war, the castle housed Jesuits who

were attending university and missionaries. Four of the five chaplains profiled in the exhibition lived there before serving as military chaplains – Frs Willie Doyle, Joseph Flinn, Henry Gill and Patrick O'Mara. The Castle provided a sacred space where the Jesuits prayed and played.

According to Jesuit archivist, Damien Burke, Irish Jesuit chaplains gained many military awards including the Military Cross, Distinguished Service Order, Belgian and French Croix de Guerre and Portuguese Ordem de Cristo.

The exhibition follows Burke's 2014 book, 'Irish Jesuit Chaplains in the First World War'.

He explained that artist Rita Duffy has reproduced for the exhibition a letter received by her grandmother on the death of her grandfather in 1916, written by the Jesuit chaplain Henry Gill. The letter is printed on a tea towel.

Julie Burke has reproduced Katharine Tynan's poem, 'The Last Parting', which was published by the Jesuits at Rathfarnham Castle in their publication 'The Irish Monthly' in 1915. Tynan was from South Dublin and had two sons serving in the war.

“Many relatives of the chaplains have attended the exhibition, as have many Dubliners who remember when Rathfarnham Castle operated as a retreat house and attended retreats here,” Damien Burke told Catholicireland.net.

Jesuit chaplains served at the frontline with the soldiers. In the circumstances of war, some chaplains were transformed into truly exceptional men and for others who survived the conflict, they never recovered from their war-time experiences. In remembering them, we need to read the past with respect and to acknowledge the different traditions and loyalties.

The exhibition runs until 10 December 2017

Some Jesuit World War I Chaplains:

Fr Michael Bergin SJ from Roscrea, Tipperary served as a chaplain in the First World War and died on 12 October 1917. He holds the distinction of been the only member of the whole Australian forces in the First World War to never to have set foot in Australia, and the only Catholic chaplain serving to have died as a result of enemy action.

Michael Bergin was born in 1879 at Fancroft, Roscrea, Tipperary. Educated at Mungret

College, Limerick, he joined the Society of Jesus in 1897. After two years, Michael was sent on the Syrian mission as it was thought his health would improve if he worked in a dryer climate.

He taught English in Beirut, and studied Arabic. He transferred to the French Lyons Province in order to work as a missionary in the Turkish-controlled Syrian region.

After eight years abroad, Michael began his theology studies with the exiled French Jesuits at Ore Place, Hastings, England. After ordination in 1910, Fr Bergin gave retreats and missions in England before returning to Syria.

At the outbreak of the First World War, Fr Bergin was interned, then expelled by the Turks from Syria. While in Egypt in 1915, he became friendly with the Australian Imperial Forces (AIF), then training in Cairo.

Fr Bergin applied to the AIF however Church authorities in Australia knew nothing about this Irishman and while they procrastinated, the 5th Light Horse Regiment were dismounted and ordered to go to Gallipoli.

Fr Bergin, determined to go, enlisted in the ranks as 818 Trooper Bergin on 12 May 1915, as a stretcher-bearer. Trooper Bergin carried out his

pastoral duties as a priest, and worked as a stretcher-bearer and medical attendant. After his formal appointment as a chaplain in July 1915, Fr Bergin suffered influenza, chronic diarrhoea and enteric fever at Gallipoli.

Evacuated back to London to recover, he visited his family in Ireland, wearing his Light Horse uniform, complete with slouch hat with emu feathers. However, 'to all who saw him it was clear that he was really unfit for further service'. By December 1915, he was back at Gallipoli, but due to his ill health, he was transferred to hospital work.

Arriving in France in June 1916 with the 51st Battalion of the 13th Brigade, Fr Bergin lived in the front trenches, hearing confessions and celebrating Mass. He accompanied his men through the battles of Pozières and Mouquet Farm, the advance on the Hindenburg Line and was promoted from Captain to Major.

On 10 October 1917, his battalion moved up to the Front line at Broodseinde Ridge. The next day, Fr Bergin was visiting the Advanced Dressing Station of the 3rd Australian Field Ambulance when German shell-fire severely wounded him. There are a number of different accounts of his death but he died the following

day. Colonel Reilly commented, 'Fr Bergin was loved by every man and officer in the Brigade... He was the only Saint I have met in my life.' Fr Bergin is buried in Reninghelst Churchyard Extension, Belgium.

The citation for the Military Cross awarded posthumously but based on a recommendation made prior to his death read: 'Padre Bergin is always to be found among his men, helping them when in trouble, and inspiring them with his noble example and never-failing cheerfulness.'

Fr Willie Doyle SJ was born on 3 March 1873 at Melrose, Dalkey Avenue, Dalkey, Co Dublin. Known as Willie, he was the youngest of seven children of Hugh Doyle, registrar of the insolvency court, and Christine Doyle (née Byrne). Educated at Ratcliffe College, Leicestershire, in 1891 Willie followed his older brother Charles into the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).

Willie taught at Clongowes Wood College, where he produced *The Mikado* and founded the school journal, *The Clongownian*. His Jesuit formation included periods in Belgium and England, and further teaching at Clongowes and Belvedere Colleges.

After ordination at Milltown Park on 28 July 1907, Willie began work as an urban missionary and retreat giver in Ireland. His positive attitude made him a great success, and he travelled all around the British Isles. He was also the author of best-selling pamphlets on retreats and vocations.

Volunteering as a military chaplain in the First World War, Fr Doyle was sent to France with the Royal Irish Fusiliers in early 1916. Within days of his arrival at the Front, he showed himself outstanding in the work of a chaplain.

Present at the battles of the Somme and Messines, Fr Doyle was killed during the third battle of Ypres on 16 August 1917, while going to the aid of a wounded man near Frezenberg. He is commemorated on the Tyne Cot memorial, Belgium.

Fr Doyle was awarded the Military Cross, and put forward for the Victoria Cross posthumously but did not receive it.

Writing to Willie's father, Hugh, in December 1917, Major General WB Hickie remarked that: "I could not say too much about your son. He was loved and revered by us all. His gallantry, self sacrifice and devotion to duty were all so well known and recognised. I think that his was the

most wonderful character that I have ever known.”

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