

## Message from Queen as new memorial to Enniskillen's Remembrance Day bombing is unveiled



**A memorial to honour the victims of the Enniskillen bomb is unveiled at Belmore Street, Enniskillen on the 30th anniversary of the atrocity**

The people of Enniskillen have joined together to remember their loved ones, 30 years after one of

the darkest days of the Troubles. Several hundred people gathered for a memorial service at the town's cenotaph, where an IRA bomb exploded during a Remembrance Sunday ceremony on November 8 1987.

Eleven people were killed in the blast and a 12th victim, Ronnie Hill, slipped into a coma and died 13 years later. More than 70 people were injured. A new memorial to those killed in the attack was unveiled, as survivors and families of those who died were joined by dignitaries including Secretary of State James Brokenshire, Chief Constable George Hamilton and political representatives.

The Rev David Cupples, of Enniskillen Church, told the crowd how the terrible events of 30 years ago had “changed the lives of everyone who was here that day and who are here today”. He said 12 people, who were beloved family members, friends and neighbours, were “slain by the hands of wicked men”.

He spoke of the pain of the “shattered hopes and dreams” and the “struggle to carry on day by day” that many still face.



## **Viscount Brookeborough reads a message from the Queen during the ceremony to unveil the new memorial**

A hush fell over the town as a memorial bearing the names of the 12 dead was unveiled and wreaths were laid.

The Ballyreagh Silver Band, who played at the 1987 Remembrance Sunday service, provided music for the ceremony.

In a written message read by Viscount Brookeborough, the Queen sent renewed sympathies to the families and victims.

She said: “I am aware of the irreplaceable loss and profound sadness shared by so many families who lost their loved ones and of all those who were injured.

“I renew my sympathy with you all on this occasion. Whilst this memorial will serve your community as a permanent reminder of that tragic day it is my hope that by it the families who have suffered will be strengthened in the knowledge that those who lost their lives and the injured are never forgotten.” Report courtesy of The News Letter

## **Sam Maguire Community Bells first peal on Remembrance Sunday**

The first peal attempt on the recently installed Sam Maguire Community Bells in St Mary's Church, Dunmanway, County Cork, will take place on Sunday coming, 12th November, beginning at 2.30pm. It is also Remembrance Sunday.

While this peal is being rung, there is an open invitation to people to come along to St. Mary's Church in Dunmanway between 2.30pm and 5pm to listen to the bells, and to remember

anyone from their family or from their community who served in or suffered as a result of any conflict or war. People will be able to write the name of the person being remembered on a stone, and it may be placed at the base of an Olive Tree (symbol of peace) outside the Church. It doesn't matter who the person was or for whom they served, just that they are remembered for their contribution towards freedom and justice in our world and in our country.

A peal is the ringing of all the possible combinations on 7 bells, with the 8th bell sounding a steady beat at the end of each round. The peal will take about two and a half hours and will have 5,040 different combinations of bells rung.

## **Down & Dromore Pastoral Carers Course**

Knocknagoney Parish will host a 10 session Pastoral Carers Course on behalf of Down & Dromore diocese in the New Year. This highly regarded course will be facilitated by Pastoral Care NI and take place on successive Tuesdays beginning on Tuesday 16 January.



The course will enable participants to develop their understanding of pastoral care from a Christian perspective and to become more effective in relating to and caring for the people and communities around them.

Who is it for?

- those who see themselves helping others informally in their daily relationships and who desire to learn more about pastoral care generally without being part of a pastoral care team.

- those who may be members of a pastoral care team and who desire to learn more about pastoral care in order to help others both informally and formally.
- those in church leadership or who have specific church roles and who desire to develop their awareness of pastoral care in order to support those for whom they have responsibility.
- those who wish to help others in specific community and workplace settings and desire to learn more about pastoral care in outreach and mission.
- those who desire to explore a call to pastoral care.

How do I participate?

The course will appeal to many, but spaces are limited. If you're interested, please discuss it with your rector as they will need to recommend you by letter or email. The cost (subsidised) will be £50 per person.

This training is part of the diocese's Life Changing Leadership initiative coordinated by Diocesan Development Officer, Andrew Brannigan.

## Armagh's Georgian Festival organ recital

The next organ recital in St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral, Armagh, will be part of Armagh's Georgian Festival and will be given by NykkÖ–Mickaël Grégoire on Sunday 26 November 2017 at 4.15pm.

NykkÖ was born in France of Russian and Scandinavian stock. He studied the organ, harpsichord and the early electronic musical instrument, the Ondes Martenot, at the conservatory of Bordeaux. He moved to the UK in 2009 and now works with choirs and theatre ensembles. He has also developed an international career, performing music in Europe, South East Asia and America. He plays the cello, duduk (Armenian wind instrument), and bawu (Chinese flute). He travels extensively for his work and has established a unique and distinctive portfolio as a photographer.

In choosing the programme for this Georgian Festival event, NykkÖ said, "I wish to start the concert with a famous Toccata by Bach and close it with another famous Toccata by Gigout, which would be a good way to 'frame' the recital. The Prelude Choral 'Nun Komm Der Heiden Heilan' BWV659 by J S Bach, is an



advent choral which suits well for this time of the year.”

He continued, “I have especially chosen to play some music by Handel because I know that my recital is part of the Georgian Festival of Armagh. By way of a contrast, I thought it would be ideal to play some music from Eastern Europe, which is not generally that well known in Ulster, followed by a gentle piece composed by my best friend, Yannick Fournier, who resides in the Bordeaux area of France. Before closing the recital with Gigout’s Toccata, I have chosen to play the famous Prelude Fugue and Variation by Cesar Franck, a very evocative piece from the French School of the 19th century, a real ‘Song without Words’.”

The Dean of Armagh, the Very Revd Gregory Dunstan, said, “A couple of years ago, I heard NykkÖ give a recital on the historic organ at Kilmore Parish Church. Playing some major pieces on a small instrument, with an entirely mechanical action, it was a tour de force. I look forward very much to hearing him again, with all the resources of the Cathedral organ to draw on.”

Admission to the recital is free with a retiring collection most welcome towards the further

endowment of the Cathedral choir through the Archbishop's Choir Fund. The next organ recital will be held on Sunday 21 January 2018 at 4.15pm and will be given by Mr Orly Watson.

St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh. Tel: 028 3752 3142

Web: [www.stpatricks-cathedral.org](http://www.stpatricks-cathedral.org)

## **Irish parish link to Dracula**

Bram Stoker, the famed gothic novelist, was born on 8<sup>th</sup> November 1847. The Stoker family were members of the Church of Ireland parish of Clontarf, county Dublin, where they resided at 15 Marino Crescent. His parents were Abraham and Charlotte Matilda and they had seven children, all of whom were baptised in parish church dedicated to St John the Baptist, including Abraham, baptised a month after his birth, on December 30, 1847. At some point thereafter his name would be shortened to the more familiar 'Bram'.

The ceremony was conducted by Revd Edmund Nugent, whose father – Sir Edmund Nugent – Abraham Stoker would have known through his involvement with the Tailor's Guild. Indeed, the

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of <u>Clontarf</u> in the County of <u>Dublin</u> in the Year 18 <u>48</u>						
When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents' Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
Dec 25 <sup>th</sup> 1847 Born No. 62	Abraham	Abraham	Stoker	Clontarf	Gentl <sup>e</sup>	Edmund Stewart D.D. Esq <sup>r</sup>

**Baptismal entry for Abraham ['Bram'] Stoker as recorded in the Clontarf baptismal register [RCB Library P833.1.2] reproduced here with the permission of the National Archives of Ireland.**

connection between the families was so close that their son Richard was given 'Nugent' as a second name. The ceremony was witnessed by three people, Elizabeth Walker, Samuel Walker, and Thomas Blake Thornley (a brother of Abraham's mother, Charlotte) whom we may presume acted as Abraham's God-parents.

**Press watch : Church-run schools have failed at a deeper level**

**Would the Celtic Tiger madness have overrun this country if schools had instilled Christian**

## **values? Patsy McGarry asks in The Irish Times' Rite and Reason column.**

he churches run 96 per cent of our primary schools and approximately 50 per cent at secondary level, yet the fastest growing cohort in the Irish population today is people with no religion. They are also among our youngest.

Their number, including atheists and agnostics, increased by more than 70 per cent per cent between 2011 and 2016, and now number 481,388. They are now the second largest category in the State, at 10.1 per cent of the population, with an average age of 34, or 3.4 years younger than the average for our population overall.

All came through an education system dominated by the churches.

It was Catholic Archbishop of Dublin Diarmuid Martin who last July noted that those in the “no religion” category were “highest in the age group 20-39, the group with children entering school life”.

That age group, he said, “accounts for 28 per cent of the general population, but 45 per cent of those with no religion fall into this age bracket”.

Yet there remained, he said, “a stubborn reluctance within the church” to allow the current situation to change. The “Irish religious education establishment is fixated on questions of ownership and management, and too little on the purpose of the Catholic school and the outcomes of Catholic education in terms of faith formation”.

The same would apply to the other churches.

All our major churches are ageing and in decline. The average age of [Church of Ireland](#) members was 40.3 years in 2016, while their number was down 2 per cent on 2011.

Catholics averaged 38.2 years, while their number was down to 78.3 per cent of the population in 2016. Most dramatic of all are Presbyterian numbers on the island of [Ireland](#), which have dropped by approximately 40 per cent since the 1970s.

The trend is clear, vigorous and relentless, and it is unequivocally towards the secular among those who will be our future – our younger population – while more and more of those younger people who still identify with a church do so for cultural/identity reasons rather than faith.

## Christian values

And all despite an education system dominated in Ireland by the churches for almost 200 years.

It is at the deeper level of faith and values that our church-run schools are failing most abjectly.

Would the [Celtic](#) Tiger madness have overrun this country with such a devastating effect if our church-run schools were successful in instilling Christian values in our population?

Would developers have been as reckless had church-run schools been effective? Would bankers have driven the economy over a cliff? Whatever happened that laudable “Protestant probity” once associated with Irish banks?

Had our church-run schools been effective would we have had need for so many tribunals and lengthy bank-related trials? Would the September 2008 bank guarantee in Ireland have been necessary, or the arrival of the bailout troika in November 2010? Would there have been need for either had our church-run schools done what they still claim to do?

Would our homelessness figures continue to climb even while 40 years ago, in a poorer

Ireland, a government could build 100,000 homes over four years?

You do have to wonder.

None of this is to deny the quality of education provided in our church-run schools without which Ireland could not have evolved into the first-world country it is today with one of the fastest growing economies.

All of us have benefitted from such church-run education, including myself. That needs to be acknowledged. We should not throw out that baby. We should appreciate it, and at least some Irish people still do.

## **Irish names**

This came to mind when, on a visit to Rome, I found myself in the sacristy of the [Pauline Chapel](#) at the [Vatican](#), where I saw some prominent Irish names on a plaque there. It acknowledges, in Latin, generous financial support by 26 patrons for the chapel's restoration which cost an estimated €9 million before completion in 2009.

Among those included are Seán FitzPatrick formerly of [Anglo Irish Bank](#), [Michael Fingleton](#), formerly of Irish [Nationwide](#), property developers

Paddy McKillen, Seán Mulryan, and [Johnny Ronan](#) and financier [Derek Quinlan](#).

They are listed as patrons of the arts in the Vatican museums. They have not forgotten their debt to church-run schools.

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