

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Mothers Union WW2 code breakers**

## Image of the day

### Mothers Union WW2 code breakers

**Two Welsh women who worked as codebreakers during World War II have celebrated their 100th birthdays together. Gwenfron Picken turned 100 on February 29, 2024 and Kath Morris reached the same milestone a week later on March 7.**

Both women worked at Bletchley Park in Buckinghamshire, a Victorian mansion that was the centre of Allied codebreaking during the war. They didn't know each other until they met at their joint birthday party, organised by Jackie Bates and the local Mother's Union at St Theodore's Parish Hall, Port Talbot.

Bletchley Park was the UK's secret codebreaking headquarters during World War II. Coded messages from the Nazis were intercepted and translated at the school. Source: Wales News Online. Thanks to Dublin Central Branch of the RBL

## News

### Roof completed at Shankill Parish church, Lurgan

**The third phase of the parish church repair has been completed and the site has been handed back over by the contractors.**





The parish has expressed thanks to Des Cairns Architecture and Woodvale Construction for all their hard work and dedication to the project.





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And thank also to everyone who has generously donated or contributed in any way. “We could not have done it without you.

“If you would like to contribute towards our next phase of our repair, restoration, and re-ordering of the church, you can do so via the giving link below” -

[https://pay.sumup.com/b2c/QEM3JMQJ?](https://pay.sumup.com/b2c/QEM3JMQJ?utm_campaign=pdf&utm_medium=print&utm_source=qr)

[utm\\_campaign=pdf&utm\\_medium=print&utm\\_source=qr](https://pay.sumup.com/b2c/QEM3JMQJ?utm_campaign=pdf&utm_medium=print&utm_source=qr)

Discussions about who should contribute to compensation packages for the women and children who survived the homes, which operated from 1922 to 1998, have been

## Tree planting at St Saviour's Connor

**Chris Wood from Mid and East Antrim Council recently joined the Rev Ian Magowan, David Culbert and Edric O'Neill to plant trees at St Saviour's Parish Church.**



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This is part of a project funded by the Woodland Trust.

Ian, who is rector is St Saviour's, said: "It was great to get these trees, especially after the recent storms we've been having, which damaged a number of the old trees. The new trees will preserve the beauty of this ancient 4th Century site for years to come. It's great to see God in all His glory in the beauty of his Creation."



## TABLE TENNIS NATIONAL FINAL



**CONGRATULATIONS TO  
OUR WINNERS!**



**1st Knocknamuckley**



## Knocknamuckley Boys' Brigade are UK Champions

**The team from 1st Knocknamuckley Boys' Brigade have become the UK National Table Tennis Champions!**

The boys travelled to London on Saturday 16 March to take part in the championship at Felden Lodge. Congratulations to Ethan, Charlie and Tom, along with coach Thomas and officer Stephen. Knocknamuckley Church of Ireland

## Archdeacon of Glendalough

**The Revd Ross Styles, Rector of the Parish of Newcastle & Newtownmountkennedy with Calary Parish, has been appointed Archdeacon of Glendalough.**

The announcement follows the retirement of Archdeacon Neal O'Raw who has served in the role since October 2018. Archdeacon O'Raw will continue to serve as Rector of Donoughmore and Donard with Dunlavin.

In 2010 Ross began to follow his calling by embarking on the foundation course in the Church of Ireland Theological Institute and in the following



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year he joined the part-time master's in theology course. He was ordained Deacon in 2015 and spent two years as a Deacon Intern with Canon David Mungavin in the parish of St Patrick's, Greystones.

In 2017 he was ordained priest and served as Curate in the Christ Church Cathedral Group of Parishes. In 2021 he was appointed rector of the parishes of Newcastle, Newtownmountkennedy with Calary. His hobbies include

**WALLED CITY  
PASSION**

Thursday 28th      Friday 29th      Saturday 30th  
March 2024

Performances Times:  
12:00pm and 3:00pm

Church of Ireland Diocesan Office,  
24 London St,  
BT48 6RQ

Tickets available via the Millennium Forum Box Office  
☎ 02871 264455  
🌐 millenniumforum.co.uk



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fishing and hill walking. He is married to Fiona and they have two children.

The Archdeaconry of Glendalough spans an area from Arklow, Inch and Kilbride in the south to Kiltarnan in the north and reaches west to Athy and Celbridge and Straffan with Newcastle–Lyons.



## Rockport School Founders day church service

Rockport School gathered in Glencraig Parish Church for its annual Founders day church service before their annual big race.



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The Rector and Rockport School gathered in Glencraig Parish Church

**MADNESS 2024**  
MAINSTAGE SPEAKERS

**Lauren Windle**

**Stuart Hawthorne**

MADNESS 2024  
28 JUNE - 2 JULY 2024  
PORTGLENONE



## **Archbishop of Canterbury at Lambeth Palace with Chief Rabbi**

**“Friendships across faiths are vital right now - and I give thanks for mine with Chief Rabbi Mirvis” commented Most Rev Justin Welby**

”Especially at this time of dreadful antisemitism, I was grateful for the chance to underline my solidarity with the Jewish community.

Thank you for the conversation today about our common concerns, and even disagreements, all shared with mutual regard.





**Webinars, music,  
resources,  
broadcasts, and  
books**

**Canterbury  
Cathedral Holy  
Week  
Reflections  
online**

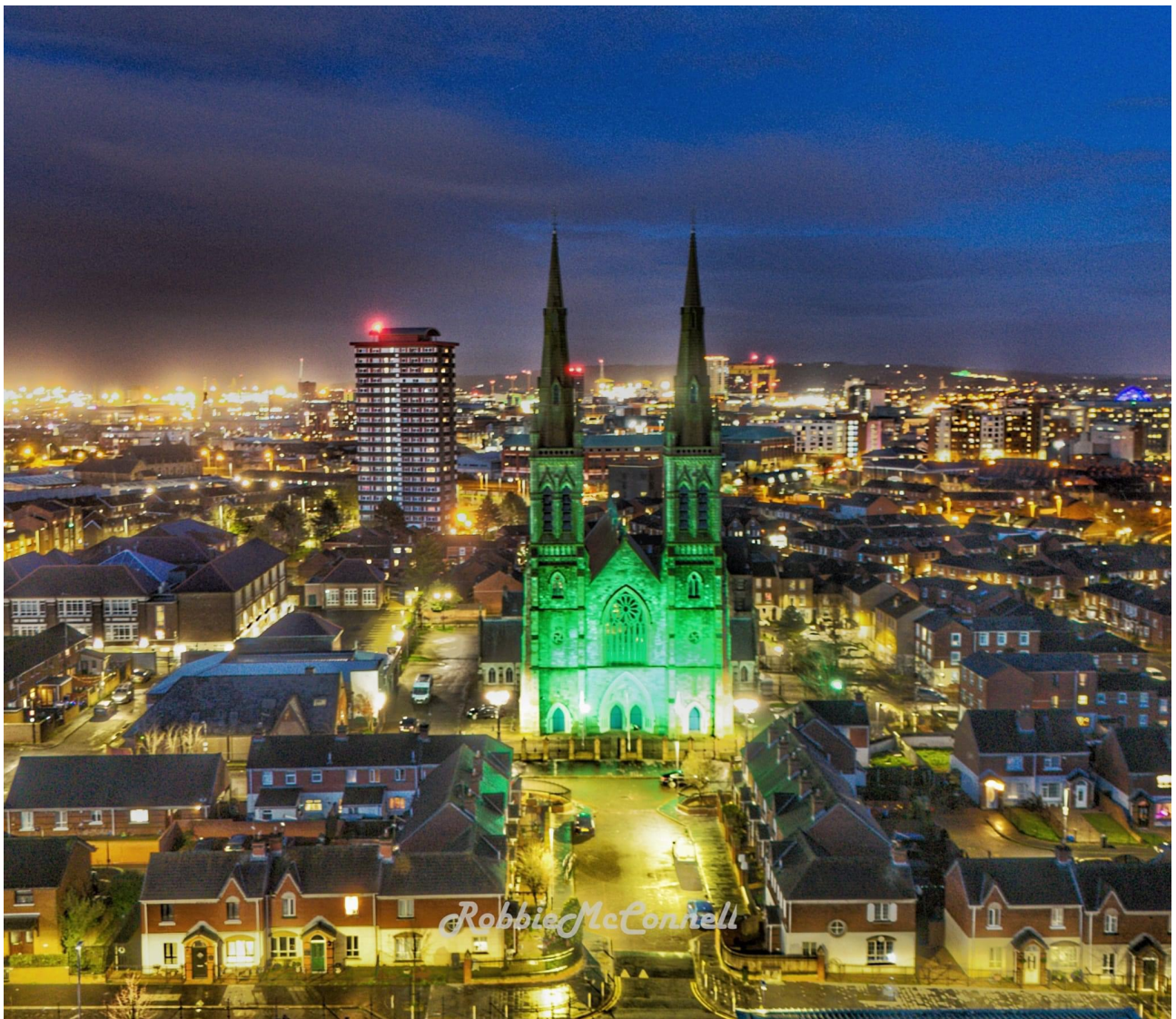
**The Cathedral writes -**

**Join us in-person or live online for our Holy Week Reflections, Monday 25 - Wednesday 27 March, at 19:30.**

The Bishop of London, Willesden and the Head of the Church Urban Fund will reflect on prayer in relation to gender, racial and social justice. All these areas are contested and yet Christians are called to engage and to pray wisely.

Hosted by the Dean of Canterbury and the Bishop of Dover; to include plenary, night prayers and talks.

See our full list of Holy Week services at [canterbury-cathedral.org/holy-week](https://canterbury-cathedral.org/holy-week)



## **St Peter's on St Patrick's Day**

Thanks to a good friend of St Peter's Robbie McConnell for capturing this image of the Cathedral on St Patrick's Day.

## **Saint John Passion 300th Anniversary at St Patrick's Dublin**

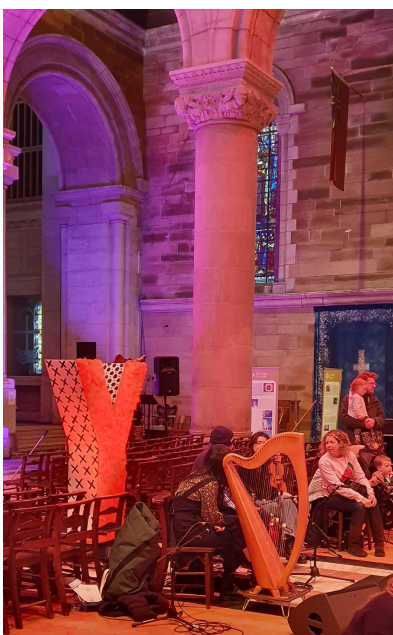
This year marks the 300th anniversary of the first performance of Johann Sebastian Bach's Saint John Passion, widely regarded as one of the choral masterpieces of all time. To mark the occasion, the Schola (Senior girls) and the Lay Vicars of the Cathedral Choir will be giving a



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liturgical performance of this great work with orchestral on Palm Sunday (24th March) at 6.00pm and all are welcome to join us.

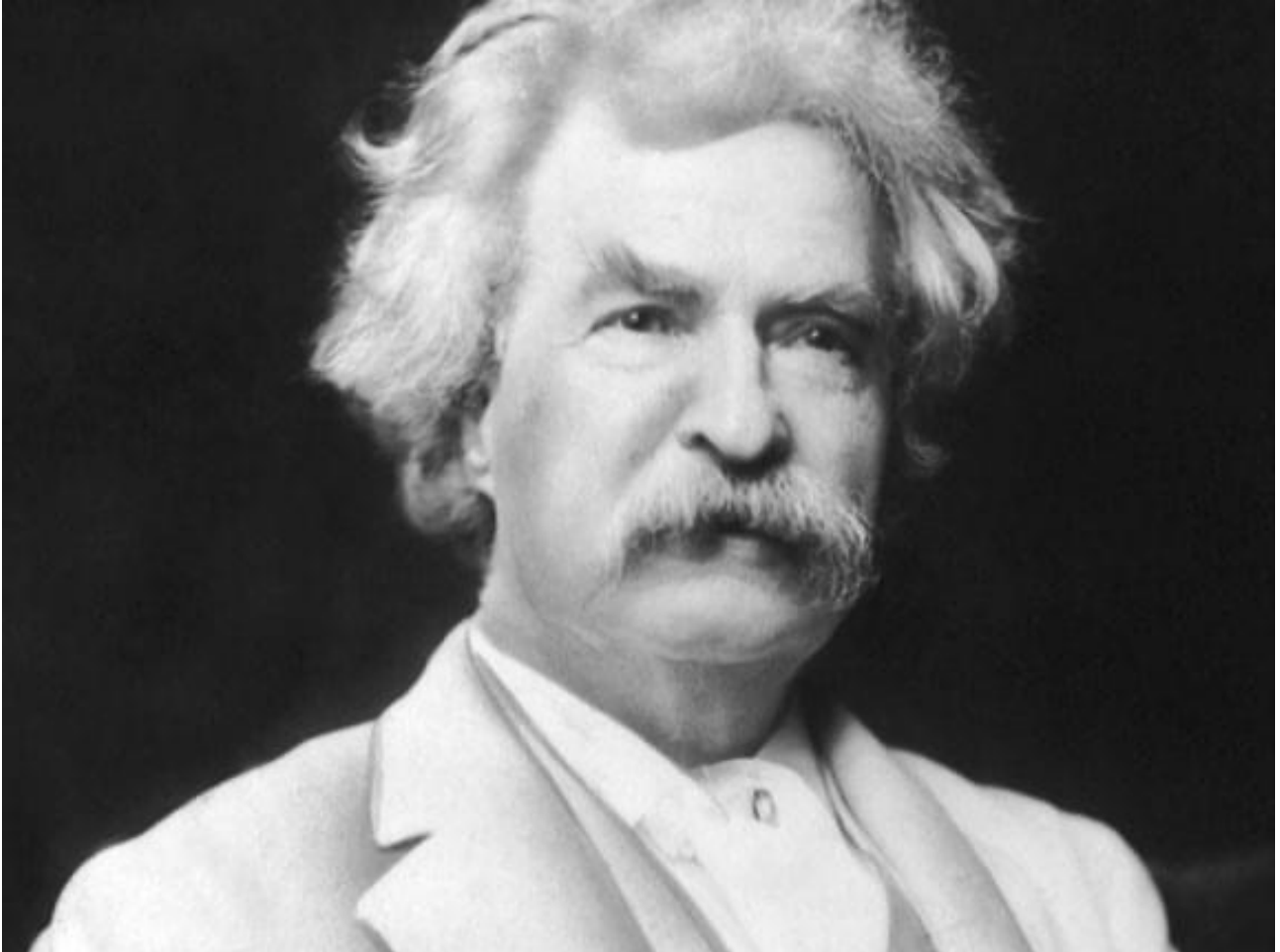
The service will last around 2 hours, and as with all our worship there is no charge to join us. The service will also be streamed live via the cathedral's website. Visit the link for more details of this and all their services over Holy Week and Easter.



## **Kiddies Ceilie in Belfast Cathedral**

In full swing. Everyone enjoying the space of Belfast Cathedral. Part of the St Patrick's Day programme

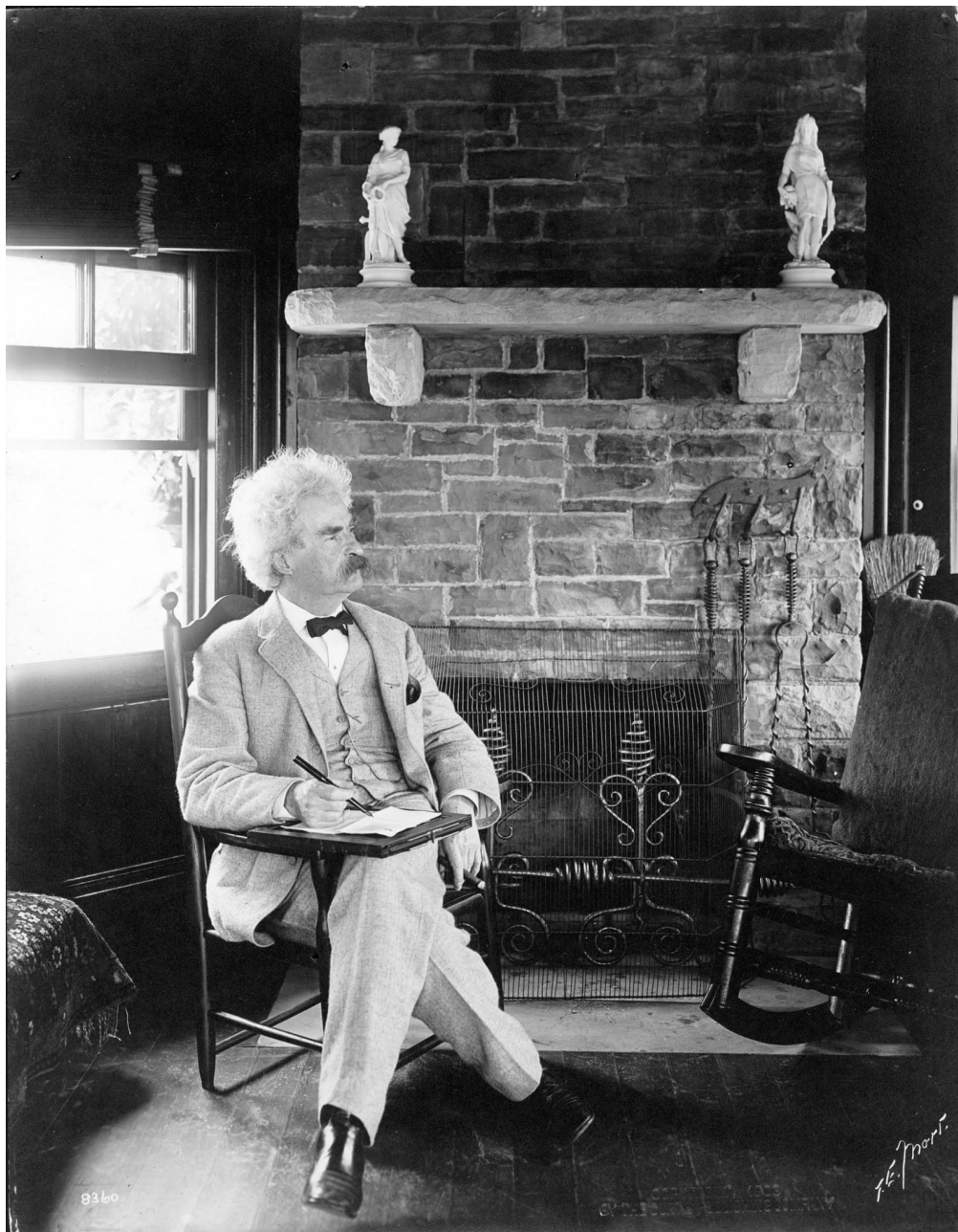
## Perspective



### Did you know he was a Freemason?

**Samuel Langhorne Clemens, better known as the author Mark Twain, was an American writer and humourist. Today he is readily associated with *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, *The Prince and the Pauper*, and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, among his many others works.**





Twain was born on November 30, 1835 in Florida, Missouri. He became an apprentice to a printer at age 12, and shortly thereafter became a Mississippi River pilot - the experience that sparked Twain's interest in joining Freemasonry.

Mark Twain presented his petition to Polar Star Lodge No. 79 of Saint Louis on December 26, 1860. Polar Star Lodge No. 79 was primarily made up of River Pilots at this time, giving us a hint as to why Mark Twain might have been inspired to join the Craft in the first place.

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In a twist of events shortly after Twain had been raised as a Master Mason, he left for the Nevada Territory to work as the private secretary to his brother Orion, who was secretary of the Nevada Territory and was subsequently suspended from his home lodge. Twain's fraternal activity was put on hold for the most part, and there is not a lot of evidence of Lodge visits or conversations about his Masonic practices during this time. Once Twain returned to "the States" however, his Masonic interests expanded.

In April of 21, Mark Twain petitioned for readmission to his home Lodge and was reinstated.

The beloved novelist soon became a busy man; writing, tours, and the beginnings of fame kept him away from Saint Louis for long periods of time. On one of his first trips exploring Europe and the Near East, Twain is said to have been greatly impressed by Lebanon and its connection to Freemasonry. He ended up retrieving a piece of cedar and had it made into a gavel to send back to the Worshipful Master of his mother Lodge.

According to The Masonic Dictionary, "The Cedars of Lebanon are frequently referred to in the legends of Freemasonry, especially in the advanced Degrees; not, however, on account of any symbolical signification, but rather because of the use made of them by Solomon and Zerubbabel in the construction of their respective Temples."

Phoenixmasonry.org reports that Twain "sent his lodge a gavel with this note: 'This mallet is a cedar, cut in the forest of Lebanon, whence Solomon obtained the timbers for the Temple.'



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Clemens cut the handle himself from a cedar just outside the walls of Jerusalem. He had it made in Alexandria, Egypt...”

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Taken from: “Mark Twain and Freemasonry”, by Alexander E. Jones. Source: American Literature, Vol. 26, No. 3 (Nov., 1954), pp. 363-373. Published by: Duke University Press.

## In the media

### **News Letter - Crossing the Line: New film tells story of how Troubles impacted life of Orange Order chaplain**

A senior Orange Order chaplain has released a DVD telling his story about how he was affected by the Troubles as a RUC Reservist - and his journey to faith in God, Roderick McMurray writes

Rev Rodney Beacom is minister of Lisbellaw, Lisnaskea, Maguiresbridge and Newtownbutler Presbyterian Churches and has launched "Crossing the Line", which has been billed as a "powerful film with a strong message".

Rev Beacom is also a deputy grand chaplain of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland, the county grand chaplain of County Fermanagh Grand Orange Lodge, and a member of Lisbellaw True Blues LOL 315.

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In the new film, the Orange Institution - as a "proud, cultural, and faith-based tradition" - plays a central role.

It was while serving in the Royal Ulster Constabulary Reserve that Rev Beacom and his colleagues narrowly escaped death during a terrorist ambush.

It is at this "fork in the road" of Rev Beacom's personal life that his testimony of his life-affirming relationship with God begins, and it has powered his mission of faith.

Rev Beacom said: "The widespread terrorist campaign of death and destruction that spread across Northern Ireland from 1969, for 30 years, impacted everybody, young and old, who lived here, and further afield, during that time.

"At the end of those 30 years over 3,700 people had been murdered, more than 47,500 injured, and an untold number of people traumatised.

"I was one of the injured, and 'Crossing the Line' is my story of how the Troubles impacted me, my brush with death, and how in Christ Jesus I crossed the line and received new and everlasting life in Him."

The film was launched at a special event held in The Valley Hotel, Fivemiletown, on Tuesday night. To obtain a copy of Crossing the Line, contact Stuart Brooker, deputy grand secretary, Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland, by phoning 07968 738491 or emailing [stuart@goli.org](mailto:stuart@goli.org)

DVDs are priced at £10, and USB sticks are £15, plus P&P as required.



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All proceeds go to The Christian Institute and the Lord Enniskillen Memorial Orange Society (Lemos).

## Poem for today

### A Stormy Night by Michael Peterson

Clouds filling the skies  
beautiful lighting show in the distance  
flashing like a disco ball, exciting to all  
winds picking up, swirling around  
a light sprinkle, a thunderous bang  
scattering birds from a bird feeder  
the rain comes pouring, birds soaring  
windows closing, umbrellas opening  
the storm is coming to brew  
rolling and going the rain keeps flowing  
the road become creeks then to rivers  
lighting and thundering to a different beat  
rain turns to hail. a ting to a ding  
it taps to nature's beat  
how long the storm  
moving rapidly, quickly its gone  
how calm it got before dawn  
what a beautiful storm.

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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# Church News Ireland

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