

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Canterbury in Jerusalem

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Canterbury in Jerusalem

Front page photo -The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby presides over the Sunday Holy Eucharist and preaches at Saint George's Cathedral in Jerusalem on 22/10/2023.

Following the service Archbishop Hosam Naoum and the Arabic and English congregations bid him farewell marking the end of His Grace's visit to the Episcopal/ Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem.

People and places

Disability champion receives British Empire Medal for committed service

Mrs Joan Bruton BEM pictured on next page receiving her award from Mr Robert Lowry Scott, His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Co. Tyrone, during a ceremony at Hillsborough Castle earlier this month.

A dedicated worker for improving the lives of people with disabilities, Mrs Joan Bruton, has received an honorary British Empire Medal, in recognition of her role as the retired founder of the Lighthouse Trust Summer School and for her services to the disabled community in Ireland. Mrs Bruton is a member of Dunboyne Church of Ireland parish, in Co. Meath.

Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II approved the giving of honorary British awards to non-British nationals in 2022 shortly before her death. Joan received her award from Robert Lowry Scott, His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Co. Tyrone, during the ceremony at Hillsborough Castle, on Tuesday, 3rd October.

For 22 years, in a voluntary capacity, Joan served as organiser of the Lighthouse Trust Summer School which was attended by her son Thomas.

The school was set up in 1997 by parents of children with cerebral palsy and met in Donaghadee Parish Hall. It



Mrs Joan Bruton BEM pictured receiving her award from Mr Robert Lowry Scott, His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Co. Tyrone, during a ceremony at Hillsborough Castle earlier this month. Photo by Aaron McCracken.


provided conductive education which included physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy and also helped to develop a child's mobility and social skills. The school also provided a fun programme of ice-skating, sailing lessons, horse riding and carriage riding, boat trips, music and drama, crafts, visits to popular attractions and much more.

Canon Lady Shiel was Chair of the Trust and gave invaluable support and advice over 22 years.

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Joan also contributes widely to parochial, diocesan and General Synod committees of the Church of Ireland, as Meath and Kildare lay representative on Standing Committee and on the Priorities Fund Committee.

Commenting on her medal, the Bishop of Meath and Kildare, Bishop Pat Storey, said, “We are delighted to congratulate Joan on her prestigious award. Joan is an integral part of our diocesan family and ‘when one rejoices, we all rejoice!’ This award is well deserved. Joan, whilst



Glorious is our God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Lord, You robe Yourself in light and splendour.
The heavens declare Your majesty, power and
might.

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devoted too to Thomas, has given innumerable hours to public service, particularly in Donaghadee. Warm congratulations from us all!”

St Polycarp's choir sings at Derry Cathedral



St Polycarp's Parish Choir and senior trebles led the singing at Choral Evensong last Sunday afternoon in St Columb's Cathedral, Derry.

The cathedral was filled with stunning singing and the choir was supported by many families and friends from Finaghy .



Cashel tributes to new dean at St Flannan's

There was a distinct touch of Cashel in St Flannan's Cathedral at the installation of Richard Marsh as Dean.

St Canice's Choir enabled uplifting music and the Dean Very Rev Stephen Farrell was the preacher. He commented, "We will miss Richard and Ro so very much but we are beyond excited for them and their new church family."

A response from St Flannan's said "Thank you to everyone who came this evening. To Stephen Farrell for his preaching and St Canice's Choir for

their singing. Thanks, too to everyone who watched online”.

And at the reception afterwards the Dean of Cashel’s daughter entertained Bishop Michael Burrows - or should that be the other way round?

Loved ones of Shankill bombing remembered 30 years on at special service

Relatives of the nine people murdered by the IRA in the Shankill Road bomb – along with survivors of the explosion, first responders, members of the local community and other invited guests - gathered in West Kirk Presbyterian Church yesterday, (23 October), for a special memorial service to honour the memory of their loved ones, 30 years to the day when their lives were taken.

The service was led by West Kirk’s minister, Rev David Clawson, with the address given by the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Right Rev Dr Sam Mawhinney.

Children and young people from the local community also played their part in the service, with the Belfast Boys’ Model School’s Head Boys reading Chapter 3 verses 18 to 26 from the Book of Lamentations, while a choir drawn from Primary Schools in the Greater Shankill area sang two songs. The Rev Alan Conly, minister of Woodvale Methodist Church,

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and Rev Canon Tracey McRoberts, Rector of St Mathew's Church of Ireland also took part.

During the Service the hymns, 'The Lord's My Shepherd', and 'Amazing Grace', were sung by the 90 invited guests, with a flautist playing 'Nearer My God to Thee' and 'Abide with Me' in a special 'Tribute to the Innocent'. During this time, children from three schools, Harmony Primary School, Springfield Primary, and Belfast Girls' Model, left the church to lay floral tributes at the Memorial Lamp in the Shankill Memorial Park next to West Kirk. The primary school children were all grandchildren of Michael Morrison and his partner Evelyn Baird, who were both killed in the explosion, and nieces and nephews of Michelle, their daughter, who was also killed.

As a bell continued to toll nine times for each of the victims, the children then moved a few hundred yards down the Shankill Road to the site of Frizzell's fish shop, where on Saturday, 23 October 1993, the bomb exploded. Here, the Shankill Wreath was laid, along with a wreath on behalf of the Belfast Girls' Model School. Both tributes were laid at a new memorial that was dedicated that morning – a clock, carved in granite, with the names of the nine people killed inscribed upon it, along with nine hearts, its hands at six minutes past one, the time the bomb detonated.

Speaking about the service, West Kirk's minister, Rev David Clawson said, "It's always an honour to serve the Shankill community as God's people in West Kirk Presbyterian. It's been our humble privilege to be able to host and lead this memorial service, as we did for the 20th and 25th

anniversaries of the Shankill Bomb, and today has been both moving and poignant.

“I hope that these services give each of the victim’s families comfort, even 30 years on, as we come together, with the whole community embracing them, both inside and outside of the church. At today’s service, we stood with them in their grief, looking to the Lord, who shares in our tears and leads us towards hope, especially in times of sorrow, through the resurrection of Jesus. It’s been our prayer that as we came together, and gathered for worship, that the grace and peace of Christ would be a soothing balm for the souls of the families, for our Shankill community, and the countless thousands affected by The Troubles.”

Speaking after the service, Dr Mawhinney, said, “For those most intimately affected by this appalling tragedy 30 years ago today, I am sure that it feels like it was only yesterday, and the pain and the sorrow they feel for their loved ones, still runs deep. I count it a special privilege to have been invited to today’s memorial service and to have had an opportunity to sympathise with family members, relatives and friends of those murdered and injured.

“When we grieve and are full of sorrow, the Bible encourages us to lament, and that was the theme of my short address. It’s an old-fashioned term, but an appropriate one. To paraphrase what I said, as we lament the hatred in the human heart that causes people to plant bombs and to wish death on others, and as we lament the pain and the loss caused and the years lost, we are offered the rock of God's love and goodness. We are also reminded that Jeremiah the prophet lamented the destruction of his people

and community, but recalled, and held on to the hope of God, his love and compassion – ‘because of the Lord’s great love, we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail’ (Jeremiah 3:22),” he said.

Dr Mawhinney concluded by saying, “When we lament and come to Jesus, He offers us all a safe space, to relate in community. An innocent victim of injustice, He gave his life for His people. So, lament offers us this hope in the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ, hope of forgiveness from sin, hope of life, hope of renewal, hope of eternity. Jesus is for us, He hears us, He speaks with us, and He walks with us, especially the often-forgotten victims of sectarian violence. He also offers hope for society that is based on justice and mercy, love not hatred, forgiveness, not revenge, peace not conflict, and hope not despair.”

As well as the unveiling and dedication of a new memorial at the site of Frizzell’s fish shop, nine trees have been planted in the garden on the Conway Street side of West Kirk Presbyterian Church, as a living memorial. Each has an individual plaque and tribute from the families.

Archbishops support PSNI campaign Preventing Hate Crime

The Archbishops of Armagh met with the PSNI team which is heading up campaign to prevent hate crime in the local council area.

The mission statement is - Reporting hate crime of all kinds will help to stop it.

Tributes to Bishop Gordon McMullan

Bishop McMullan served as Bishop of Clogher from 1980 to 1986, and as Bishop of Down and Dromore from 1986 to 1997.

Archbishops John McDowell and Michael Jackson and Bishops Ian Ellis, David McClay, Harold Miller and Robin Eames have paid tribute on the announcement of the death of Bishop Gordon McMullan, at the age of 89, which took place last Sunday (15th October).

From the Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, the **Most Revd John McDowell**, who was Bishop of Clogher from 2011 to 2020:

“Bishop Gordon McMullan was a conscientious pastoral bishop with a lifelong love for learning and scholarship, each aspect of his ministry enlivening and informing the other. Gordon was my sponsoring bishop when I went forward for selection for ordained ministry, and I will never forget the quietly searching interviews that I had with him before being sent off to the Selection Conference.

“When I first went to live in the Diocese of Clogher, following my election as bishop, one very experienced clergyman who had served with Gordon, when he was bishop there, told me: ‘Bishop McMullan, he could see round corners’, meaning he had the gifts of wisdom and foresight which allowed him to be well-prepared for what was experienced by those around him as an unforeseen crisis.”Gordon had a

cool and measured intelligence and an insatiable curiosity about the spiritual life as well as the realities of life around him. He never forgot his roots in working class Belfast. He understood the people he ministered to whether in St Brendan's, Sydenham, leafy Knock, or rural Fermanagh and Monaghan. His scholarship helped him understand more deeply the great movements and upheavals of life in the twentieth century, but his trust was always in the Lord of History, who Himself had hurried on events on a world scale.

“He had a deep sense of the distinctive role which the Church of Ireland could play in the religious and civic life, particularly of Northern Ireland, and never tired of proving good relationships and a sense of hope.

“My thoughts and prayers are with Gordon's sons, Philip and Stephen, as they mourn the loss of a wise and caring father and grandfather, just as we in the Church of Ireland mourn the loss of a great bishop.”

From the Archbishop of Dublin and Bishop of Glendalough, the **Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson**, who was Bishop of Clogher from 2002 to 2011:

“Having lived in Clogher Diocese when Bishop Gordon McMullan was bishop, I remember with affection his own care for the people of the diocese in what were troubled times. He is remembered for facilitating an administrative structure for the diocese that stood the test of time and enabled both parishes and the diocese itself to flourish with calm confidence. His untiring work ethic and attention to detail ran hand-in-hand with his commitment to learning

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and the education of others. It was an honour and a pleasure some years later to succeed him as bishop.

“His sons, Philip and Stephen, and their families are in our thoughts and in our prayers as they mourn a devoted servant of civic society and of the Church of God.”

From the Bishop of Clogher, the **Rt Revd Dr Ian Ellis**:

“Bishop Gordon McMullan is remembered fondly here in Clogher Diocese. He was a very pastoral bishop who was across the detail of diocesan life and kept an attentive watch over the flock in his care. His deep interest in learning meant he gave considerable time to young people and education in this diocese.

“We offer our sincere condolences and the assurance of our prayers to his children and the wider family circle at this time of loss.”

From the Bishop of Down and Dromore, the **Rt Revd David McClay**:

“Bishop Gordon McMullan served as bishop in the Dioceses of Down and Dromore from 1986 to 1997. Prior to his election as Bishop of Clogher in 1980, Bishop Gordon served all of his ministry in the Diocese of Down, having grown up in the Parish of Willowfield. To this day he is remembered in Willowfield for his skills as a footballer and indeed might well have had a career in football had he not chosen the path of ordination.

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“Bishop Gordon once said to me that the Church of Ireland was a pastoral church and this was something I should never forget. He lived this out in how he loved and cared for his clergy particularly at times of illness, bereavement or any other sort of trouble. I personally experienced his pastoral care firsthand and his love and support during what were for me dark and difficult days; this is something I will never forget and will always be thankful for.

“Bishop Gordon also led the diocese during what was then known as the ‘Decade of Evangelism’, and his leadership in this laid very good foundations in many parishes. Along with his wife Kathleen, Bishop Gordon always ensured that the See House was always a place of welcome, warmth, care and generosity. I would like to extend my personal sympathy to Bishop Gordon’s sons, Stephen and Philip, their families and the wider family circle.”

I am the resurrection and the life saith the Lord: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. John 11:25–26

From **Bishop Harold Miller**, who was Bishop of Down and Dromore from 1997 to 2019:

“I remember the first phone call I ever received from bishop Gordon McMullan. It began: ‘This is Gordon McMullan.’ In those days that surprised me. I expected him to introduce himself by a title – ‘The Bishop of Down and Dromore’ – but he introduced himself personally. That was true of his letters as well. They were always handwritten, and very warm. Gordon and I shared a secretary called Betty McLaughlin,

and she summed him up beautifully in these words: ‘He was both ordinary and extraordinary.’

“Gordon never forgot his roots in inner city East Belfast. He had the rootedness of that background, the strong independence of an only child, and the carefulness and caution of someone who grew up in hard times. He could be both firm and caring in equal measure, and he left a diocese which was well-administered and on a good financial footing. But he was also a very good scholar, who completed several doctorates.

“Unlike most of us, his holidays were simply ‘working away from home’, and he had many good friends and helpful connections in the USA, which continued after his retirement. As the years of troubles began to abate, Gordon also revitalised the St Patrick’s Day celebrations in Downpatrick, inviting people from across the community, young and old, to join him in worship, and for lunch, on the day of our common patron saint.

“I often visited Gordon in my years as Bishop of Down and Dromore and found someone who was very gentle and appreciative in his old age. He would often thank God for his long life, as he remembered his father’s early death, or for the kindness of those who cared for him, or for his youth in Willowfield; and now, in our turn, we gratefully thank the Lord for him.”

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.
Psalm 116:15

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From **Bishop Robin Eames**, who was Bishop of Down and Dromore (from 1980 to 1986) and subsequently Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland (from 1986 to 2006):

“I am very saddened to learn of the passing of Bishop Gordon McMullan and express my deepest sympathy to the members of his family.

“As a colleague for many years, I saw at first hand his devoted pastoral ministry firstly as a parish priest and then as a bishop in Clogher Diocese and then in Down and Dromore during years of suffering and violence for the community. His gifts of pastoral compassion for so many people will be long remembered. In particular I recall his support and care for clergy in those years.

“He brought wisdom and personal strength to his calling as a bishop and contributed so much to the leadership of the Church in difficult times.”

Biography

The Rt Revd Dr Gordon McMullan (born 1934) grew up in the parish of Willowfield, in East Belfast, and worked in the aircraft manufacturing and petroleum industries prior to his ordination in 1962. He initially served as Curate in St Patrick's, Ballymacarrett (1962–1967), and subsequently as the Church of Ireland's Central Advisor on Christian Stewardship (1967–1970). His ministry continued in the Diocese of Down and Dromore as Curate in St Columba's, Knock (1970–1971), and Bishop's Curate of St Brendan's, Sydenham (1971–1976), before he returned to Knock as

Rector (1976–1980), during which time he was also Archdeacon of Down (1979–1980).

He was elected as Bishop of Clogher in June 1980, and was consecrated in St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh, in September of that year. Bishop McMullan was subsequently elected as Bishop of Down and Dromore in March 1986. He was deeply involved in cross–community bridge–building and mutual understanding, pastoral care, and active concern for the unemployed and people living in areas of social and economic disadvantage. He retired in 1997. He was predeceased by his wife, Kathleen, in 2006 and is survived by their two sons, Philip and Stephen.

Bishop McMullan was a keen footballer in his youth and one of the founding members of Willowfield Parish Football Club. He attended Belfast Technical High School and Belfast College of Technology before studying at Queen's University Belfast from where he graduated with a BSc in economics in 1961. He then studied for ordination at Ridley Hall, Cambridge. Bishop McMullan was considered an authority on the history of the white–collar trade union movement in Ireland, and held three doctorates – a PhD in Irish economic and social history (Queen's, 1971), a ThD in the interaction of doctrine, politics and economics in the Church of Ireland in the mid–19th century (Irish School of Ecumenics, 1987), and an honorary D.Min from the University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee, in 1995.

Bishop McMullan also completed an MPhil in peace studies, through Trinity College Dublin, in 1990. He was an accomplished author on Christian discipleship whose publications included *A Cross and Beyond*, *We are Called*

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..., Everyday Discipleship, Growing Together in Prayer, and reflections on the gospels of Mark and Luke.

Poem for today



The Darkling Thrush by Thomas Hardy

I leant upon a coppice gate
When Frost was spectre-grey,
And Winter's dregs made desolate

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The weakening eye of day.
The tangled bine-stems scored the sky
Like strings of broken lyres,
And all mankind that haunted nigh
Had sought their household fires.
The land's sharp features seemed to be
The Century's corpse outleant,
His crypt the cloudy canopy,
The wind his death-lament.
The ancient pulse of germ and birth
Was shrunken hard and dry,
And every spirit upon earth
Seemed fervourless as I.
At once a voice arose among
The bleak twigs overhead
In a full-hearted evensong
Of joy illimited;
An aged thrush, frail, gaunt, and small,
In blast-beruffled plume,
Had chosen thus to fling his soul
Upon the growing gloom.
So little cause for carolings
Of such ecstatic sound
Was written on terrestrial things
Afar or nigh around,
That I could think there trembled through
His happy good-night air
Some blessed Hope, whereof he knew
And I was unaware.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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