

# Church News Ireland



**Image of the day – 36th (Ulster) Division memorial**

## **Image for today -**

36th (Ulster) Division memorial service

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Short reading and a prayer daily on this site

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## Image of the day

### 36th (Ulster) Division memorial

**The Armed Forces Covenant was presented to 36th (Ulster) Division Memorial Association in Willowfield Church**

The 36th (Ulster)



His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Belfast



Division Memorial Association's annual church service took place at Willowfield Church, Belfast.



At this service the David Hagan, Chairman of the Association was presented with the Armed Forces Covenant.

A packed church was entertained by the City of Belfast Fifes and Drums Flute Band and the band, pipes, bugles and

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drums of the Royal Irish Regiment. The music of both bands was outstanding.

Historian Jason Burke gave a very informative presentation on the formation of the 36th Ulster Division.

Representatives from the Army, Navy, Cadets and RFCAN I attended the Service. His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant Dame Nuala O'Boyle and her Lord Lieutenant Cadet were in attendance as well as the Band, Bugles, Pipes and Drums of the Royal Irish Regiment.

Thanks were expressed by the Association to Rector Clive Atkinson and community Pastor John Menagh for their prayers and sermon.

## News

### Armagh MU Diocesan Council meeting

**Feedback reports a great**

**evening at Armagh Diocesan Council meeting which took place in Kildarton Parish Hall (kindly granted).**

Debbie Davidson, Diocesan President (above right) comments.





It was lovely to see so many of our members attending the meeting which is a great way to catch up with each other and plan for the year ahead.

Rev Alan Cross, Diocesan Chaplain led us in prayer, then I delivered the Presidents remarks before reports were given by the Unit Co-ordinators for Action and Outreach, Faith and Policy, Finance and Central Services and Fundraising and Communication. MUST and SPIN were distributed to branches.

Supper was served by Woodschapel and Ballinderry ladies. Thanks were expressed by Debbie to Kildarton Parish and all those who contributed to the evening.

We are looking forward to our bus trip to Ballymena on Saturday 16th November for the Final Big Sing in St Patrick's Church at 2pm. We will have some time for

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shopping and a meal on the way home. There are a few seats left if anyone wants to join us.

## **Bishop Williams is new Patron for Changing Attitude Ireland**

**Mark Bowyer  
Chair of  
Changing  
Attitude  
Ireland has  
announced**

**that Bishop Trevor Williams has agreed to become at Patron of Changing Attitude Ireland.**



“Bishop Trevor will preach at our Pride Evensong to be held in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin in June,” he added

Mark was speaking after co-hosting “From Exclusion to Embrace” in Belfast and given his first speech as Chair of Changing Attitude Ireland.

“Such a great experience meeting and listening to people”, he commented.



Rev. Dr. Katherine Meyer

## **Corrymeela Community saddened at treatment of Rev. Dr. Katherine Meyer and Amach le Dia**

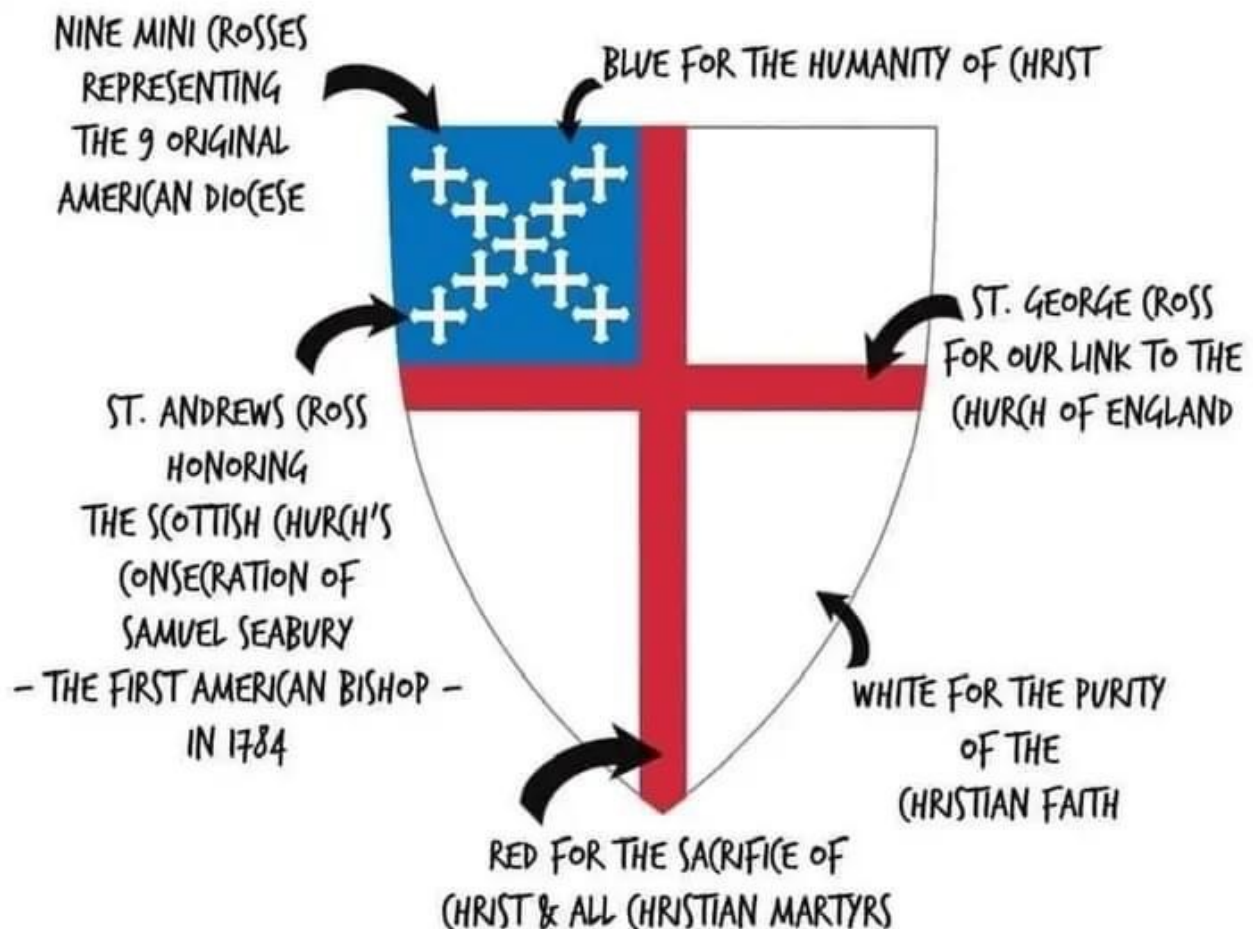
**The Rev. Dr. Alexander Wimberly, Leader of the Corrymeela Community, issued the following statement by the Community -**

Thank God that there are so many different ways of being human – and more than one way of being Christian. The Corrymeela Community lives in the conviction that the Gospel of Christ calls us to love unconditionally, to stand with those who have been marginalised, and to expect to learn more about God through our relationships of difference.



Our community is saddened that a Christian minister has been censured and rebuked by her denomination for living out the Gospel of Jesus in ways that demonstrate God's love for all. We worry that many will be left to believe that they must change who they are in order to be loved and fully accepted – not just by a church, but by their Creator. We are deeply concerned that this decision will have a chilling effect on other clergy and church leaders who retain the right to dissent, the freedom of their own conscience, and a wider view of God's reconciling love.

**Have you ever wondered why the Episcopal Shield looks the way it does?  
Each element has a meaning:**



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In standing with the Rev. Dr. Katherine Meyer and our friends at Amach le Dia we feel compelled to restate our conviction that each person is loved by God, that nothing can separate us from that love, and that the followers of Jesus remain faithful to him as they receive forgiveness from those who we have been made to feel unwelcome.

May all who are honoured to bear the name of Christ extend the grace that we ourselves have received.

## **Minister rebuked over Pride service participation - BBC News**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cpwr5vr9pz0o>

## **Irish Bishops welcome new Synod document**

**On 26 October, the second month-long session of the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod on Synodality concluded in the Vatican.**

This Synod was a Church gathering of 368 delegates of lay women and men, clergy and religious orders from all over the world, to discuss the theme 'For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission.'

Bishop Brendan Leahy, Bishop of Limerick, and Bishop Alan McGuckian SJ, Bishop of Down and Connor, attended the Synod on behalf of the Irish Bishops' Conference, and they welcomed Pope Francis' decision to publish the Synod's

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Final Document immediately. At this time the Final Document is only available in the original Italian, but will be available in other language versions over the coming days.

By immediately publishing the 52-page conclusions approved by the Synod, Pope Francis forwent the tradition of publishing an apostolic exhortation. In doing so, Pope



Francis explained to delegates in his final address to them: "There are already highly concrete indications in the Document that can be a guide ... This is why I am making it immediately available to everyone".

This Synod in Rome follows a period of three-years when Catholics all over the world have been offering their views and suggestions on how best to be a 'synodal Church', that is, a Church where stronger relationships among believers are promoted, increased lay participation in Church

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decision-making processes advanced, and a higher level of accountability in evidence.

Bishops Leahy and McGuckian expressed their gratitude for the Universal Synod's Final Document which, in turn, can feed in to the preparations of the Irish Synodal Pathway for a Synodal gathering in Ireland next year.

For both Bishop Leahy and Bishop McGuckian, one of the strongest messages emerging from this Synod is the importance of discernment at every level of the Church. They see this emphasis as affirming the work already taking root in the Irish Church, where creating prayerful and discerning communities - and ensuring participative structures such as Parish Pastoral Councils are in place - remains central to experiencing the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The bishops noted, "The Synod has underscored that fostering these communities is essential as we continue to listen for God's direction for the Church in Ireland."

More at -

[\[https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/50954\]](https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/50954)

## Cathedral Calls

### **Memorial quilt for Troubles victims dedicated in Down Cathedral**

**Families of police who died in IRA attack tell of loving family men**



Two police officers murdered by the IRA have been remembered at the dedication of a memorial quilt for Troubles victims.

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William Finlay (55) and James Ferguson (53) were shot while on foot patrol in Downpatrick on October 6, 1983.

Both men were married and left behind widows and three children each.

They are among the 109 people killed in the Troubles who are remembered on the latest quilt organised by the South East Fermanagh Foundation (SEFF).

It was dedicated during the packed service at Down Cathedral on Sunday by Bishop of Down and Dromore David McClay.

During the service Mr Finlay's daughter Helen said October 6, 1983 changed the lives of her and her immediate family forever.

She recalled how she had been just 13 and on a school trip when her father was killed. She returned home early and the next days passed in a blur.

“That night my daddy was cruelly stolen from mum and their three daughters who all went on to marry and to have kids. The family have also been blessed with five grandchildren, five great-grandchildren with two more due next year,” she said.

“I have missed out on daddy teaching me how to drive, he never got to walk me down the aisle on my wedding day, and he never got to pass on his wisdom and knowledge to his grandchildren and great-grandchildren as he had done with his own children.

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“Not a day goes by when he is not missed but he will remain in our hearts, young and old, and will never be forgotten. But 6 October 1983 changed my life and all my family members' forever.”

Mr Ferguson's daughter Sharon said she had been at choir practice in the same cathedral with her brother and sister on the night her father was killed.

She said that life went on, including looking after all the animals, including horses and chickens, that her father cared for, and thanked all those who supported her mother and family.

“All three of us completed our schooling, and Elaine and Roy went off to university to pursue the further education ... we have all managed to find our own paths, and have each formed successful work and family lives,” she said.

She added: “The repercussions of this traumatic event, though, mean that the effects have transcended the generations, resulting in our children being denied the opportunity to have their maternal grandfather in any part of their lives.”

## **Armagh Cathedral Macmillan Cancer support cheque**

**On Friday 27th September the Cathedral Music Hall was the location for a special Coffee Morning organised by members of the Cathedral congregation in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.**



The cathedral stated, “On Sunday 27th October, we were delighted to hand over the money raised to Mrs Daphne Kilpatrick from Macmillan Cancer Support - the grand sum of £818-75. Many thanks to all who supported this fundraising event which was in aid of a very worthy cause”.

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

**Another Pastoral Care podcast from BBNI**



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## **Season 3: Episode 2 Podcast with Paul Gallucci: Pastoral Care: A Compassionate Presence**

The BBNI Podcast is back for season 3 and on episode 2 this week Paul Gallucci, House Chaplain at The Big House, joins David on the BBNI Podcast to discuss his extensive experience in pastoral care, particularly with young people.

Paul Gallucci, House Chaplain at The Big House, joins David on the BBNI Podcast to discuss his extensive experience in pastoral care, particularly with young people. With over 22 years of pastoral care experience, 12 of those specifically focused on youth, Paul offers valuable insights. The Big House Ireland's vision is for every young person to understand that they are created, known, loved, valued, and deserving of respect. For more information about The Big House, including their training events, retreats, programmes, and ways to support their work, visit [www.thebighouse.org.uk](http://www.thebighouse.org.uk).

We've some incredible guests in season 3, all with amazing stories to share.

Available on Spotify, Apple and Youtube, Why not subscribe so that you don't miss an episode?

## **Mezzo Soprano Rebecca Rogers coming to Rathangan**

**Mezzo Soprano, Rebecca Rogers will perform An Evening of Song at the Church of Ireland in Rathangan on Thursday, November 14. Doors open 0730pm. Admission 20Euro**

## Handel's Messiah performances

**A staged production of Handel's 'Messiah' featuring professional Northern Irish musicians is touring Northern Ireland, with performances in a number of churches during November.**

These include St John's, Malone (November 8); St Patrick's, Whitehead (November 9) St Patrick's, Coleraine (November 16) and Lisburn Cathedral (November 23).

## Perspective

### Rev Harold Good's new memoir 'In Good Time'

**In Sunday Life Noel McAdam reviews ex-Methodist president Rev Harold Good's new memoir In Good Time which states Martin McGuinness suggested prayers with former first minister Ian Paisley.**

While an often harsh critic of Mr Paisley, Rev Good believed the first minister position was the DUP founder's "rightful place".

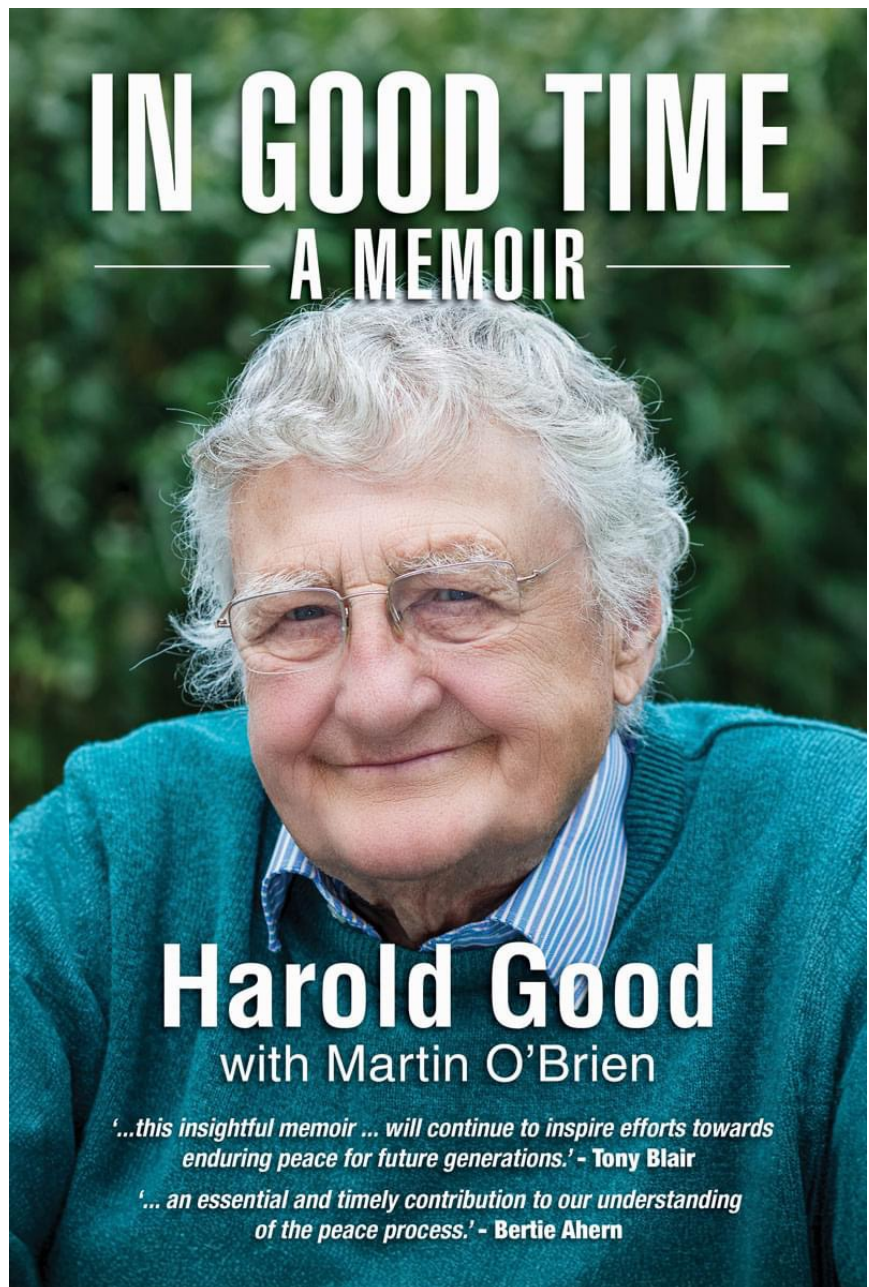
During a private meeting, Mr Paisley told the church leader, who became one of two official witnesses to decommissioning, how he and the former Derry IRA second-in-command had come to pray together.

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Rev Good writes:  
“(Mr Paisley) told me of another morning that they arrived at the office. 'Deputy', I said, 'we have a hard day's business ahead of us. It will take us a lot of prayer to get through it'. And he said to me, 'Well, why don't we pray about it?' And we did.”

He continues:  
“Having been a lifelong and consistent critic of Ian Paisley, I could not but be impressed by the change within himself, which had undoubtedly led to a change in our political landscape.

“Only he could have taken us across the Rubicon to a new place in Irish as well as Ulster politics. I do not subscribe to the cynical view that his entire motivation was personal gain of power and prestige.



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“The man who said 'never, never, never' was savvy enough to anticipate the potential cost of a change of heart and political style.

“So it was that some time after his ousting, I felt I wanted to personally acknowledge what he had achieved and the place to which he and Martin McGuinness had brought us.

“Once again, my request for a private meeting was readily granted, and we met in that small 'grace and favour' room that had been granted to him within Parliament Buildings upon his 'retirement'.

“I will be circumspect about what I record of that

### SAVE THE DATE

Our great friend, Rev. Harold Good has written a book, with Martin O'Brien called 'In Good Time - A Memoir'.

We are delighted to be hosting the local launch in partnership with Corrymeela and Red Stripe Press on

**Monday 11th of November in the Parish Centre at 2.30pm.**

Please save the date in your diary – *more information to follow.*

*'Rev. Harold Good's story is one of faith, reconciliation, charity, and hope, and the story of his life is inspirational.'*  
**Senator George Mitchell**

*'If you want to know the price of peace and the pathway out of conflict to peace then Harold Good's memoir is as sure and true a guide as there is.'* **Mary McAleese**

**corrymeela**<sup>+</sup>  
*Together is better*



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**Monday November 11 in Ballycastle C of I Parish**

Centreconversation, for to me it was much more pastoral than political.

“I asked him if he remembered what I had said on more than one occasion, about wanting to see him take his rightful place as first minister of Northern Ireland. And how I had suggested a meeting with Martin McGuinness, with whom I said he would be pleasantly surprised at how well they would get on together and discover that they were indeed two of a kind.

“In response, he told me of their first morning in the office when he said, 'Deputy, there are two ways that we can play this. We can spend all day arguing about the things on which we are not agreed. Or we can focus on the things on which we are agreed. I suggest that will keep us fully occupied all day and every day. And this is what people put us here to do'. He (McGuinness) replied that he fully agreed.

“Before leaving, we (Mr Paisley and Rev Good) prayed with each other, for each other, for our 'beloved province' and for our troubled world. For me it was a moment of amazing grace.”

Ian Paisley jnr, who lost his North Antrim seat in the summer, and Baroness Eileen Paisley have both referred to the prayers with McGuinness, but Rev Good's memoir casts fresh light on how they came about.

Baroness Paisley previously said: “I think what brought them together was the fact that every day, every morning, as soon as they met, Ian prayed with him.

“There was no particular prayer. Ian would have prayed a practical prayer.

“Whatever was the problem... they would ask for God's guidance and wisdom.”

Rev Good (87) also recalls a conversation with Baroness Eileen at a Stormont reception on March 15, 2012.

He writes: “After some small talk I heard myself saying, 'Eileen, if rumour is to be believed, you played a much more significant part in our peace process than is recognised'. I had heard it said (that she) conducted family prayers each morning at the breakfast table, where she shared her interpretation of the scriptures.

“There was a thoughtful pause, before she replied, 'Well, Harold, I often think of the women who stood at the foot of the Cross.

“Women can so often see things that men don't see'. She had answered my question, confirming what we had often heard.”

■ In Good Time, by Harold Good with Martin O'Brien (published by Red Stripe Press) was released this weekend

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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# Church News Ireland

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