

Church News Ireland



Image for Holy Week – Armagh Cathedral

People and places



The new boy choristers with their Dean, the Very Rev. Nigel Dunne, their Director of Music, Peter Stobart, and the Assistant Director of Music, Robbie Carroll.

New Choristers for Cork

During March, five new boy choristers and four new girl choristers were admitted to the choir of St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork.

The Director of Music, Peter Stobart, commented: Most of the new choristers have just completed their six month probationary period. However, some of them have been



The new girl choristers with their Director of Music, Peter Stobart, and the Assistant Director of Music, Robbie Carroll.

waiting for this moment for over two years. For those who were quite new in early 2020, it has been a very tough start to their Cathedral singing career. I am delighted that both the children and their parents remained dedicated throughout this period.

Lenten Organ Recital at St Cedma's, Larne

St Cedma's Parish Church, Larne, will host an organ recital in the approach to Easter on Friday April 8 at 1pm in the church.

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It is almost exactly two years since the last Lenten Organ Recital Series was suspended due to the pandemic.



Parish organist, Dr Mark McKinty (Photo right), will play a short repertoire of contemplative music to reflect on the period of Lent ahead of Holy Week and Easter.

All are welcome to attend. Entrance is free, although retiring donations will be gratefully received towards the Bishops' Appeal in aid of the ongoing crisis in Ukraine. A light lunch will be served in the adjoining church halls following the recital at 1.30pm.

It is almost exactly two years since the last Lenten Organ Recital Series was suspended due to the pandemic. The church last hosted a recital in September 2021 to mark the 140th anniversary of the installation of the Conacher organ in 1881.

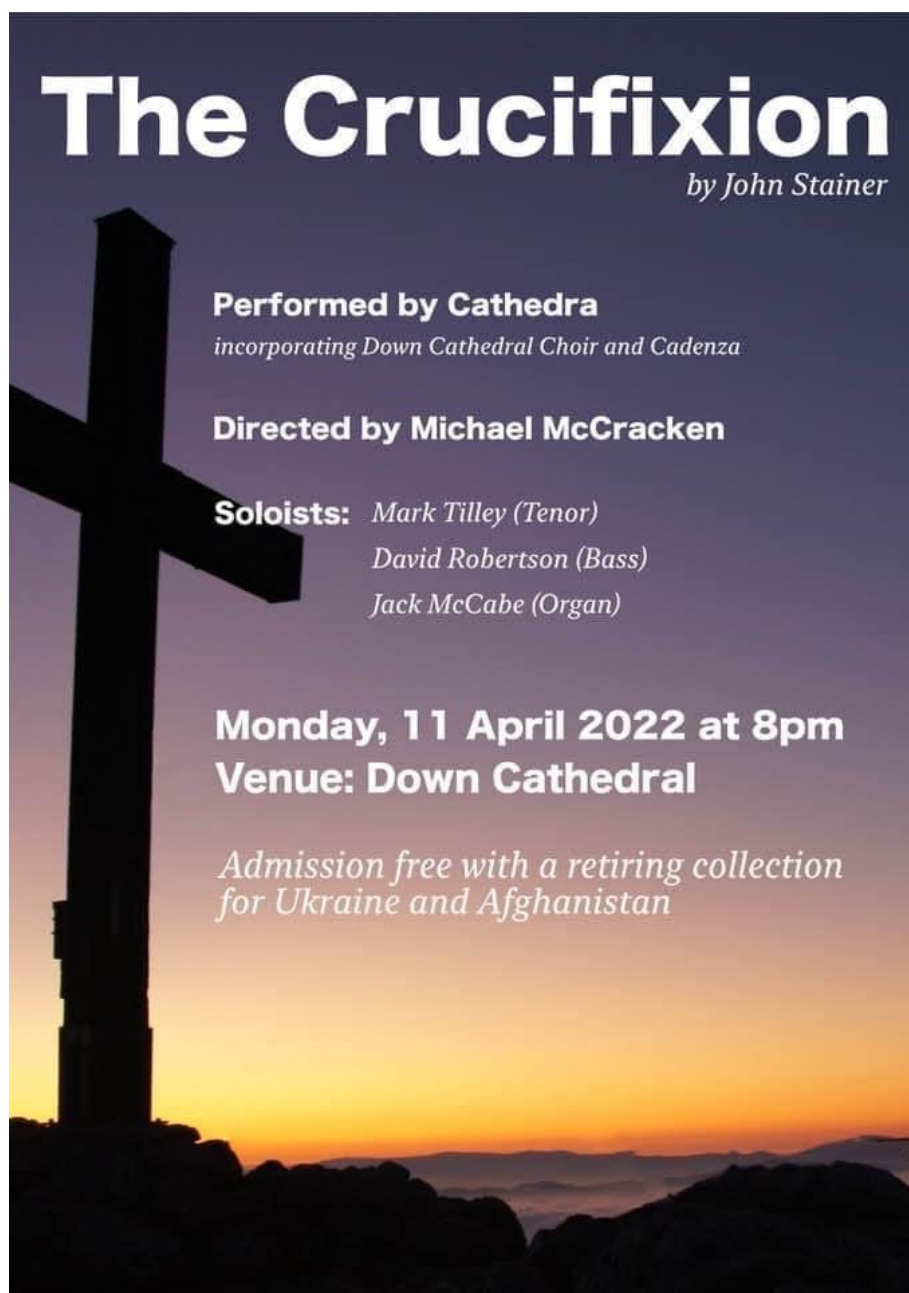
Upcoming events

Monday 4th April - Church of Ireland Theological Lecture at Queen's University, Belfast

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm, Isdell Courtyard, Riddel Hall, 185 Stranmillis Road, Belfast, BT9 5EE United Kingdom. Tickets are available for the 2022 Church of Ireland Theological

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Lecture at Queen's University, which will be delivered by Professor Alister McGrath.



The Crucifixion
by John Stainer

Performed by Cathedra
incorporating Down Cathedral Choir and Cadenza

Directed by Michael McCracken

Soloists: *Mark Tilley (Tenor)*
David Robertson (Bass)
Jack McCabe (Organ)

Monday, 11 April 2022 at 8pm
Venue: Down Cathedral

*Admission free with a retiring collection
for Ukraine and Afghanistan*

**Tuesday 5th
April –
Passion for life
UK 2022**

The parish of Colaghty, Lack, will be joining with other churches, and those in Fermanagh in promoting and equipping for mission. An outreach event in Lack takes place on Tuesday 5th April 2022. Further information will be given nearer the time.

**Thursday 7th April – Institution of Revd Rebecca
Guildea -**

as Rector of Garrison, Slavin, Belleek and Kiltyclogher Parishes by the Bishop of Clogher, the Right Revd Dr. Ian Ellis in Garrison Parish Church at 7.30pm.

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Friday 8th April - Lenten Organ Recital Larne

1:00 pm - 1:30 pm. St Cedma's Parish Church, Church Road, Larne, BT40 3EU. See news item above.

Friday 8th April – Book Launch Enniskillen

'Duty Bound' detailing the Ulster Special Constabulary in County Fermanagh written by local historian and author, David Keys in the Cathedral Hall, Enniskillen at 8pm.

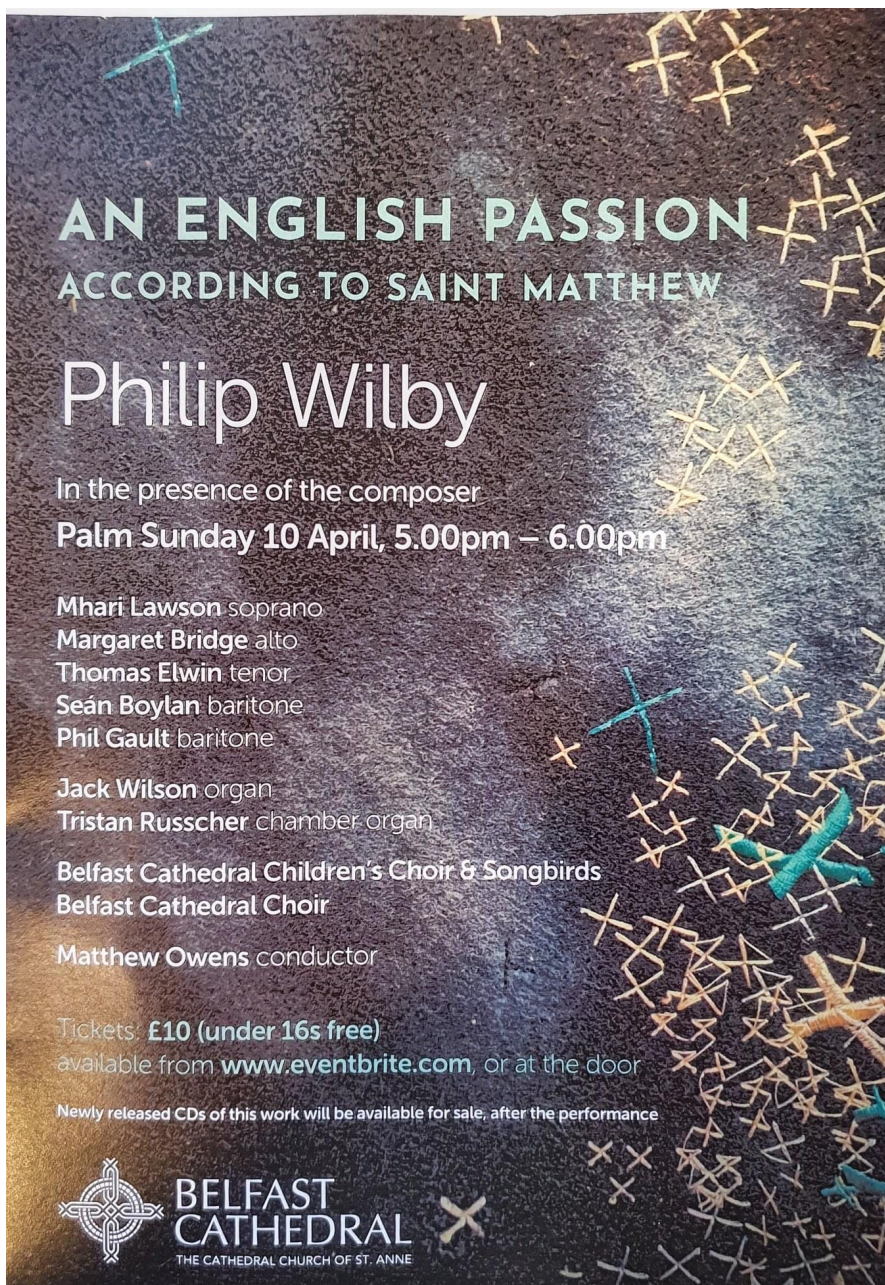
Saturday 9th April – Tempo Parish Church Car Boot Sale

Coffee Morning and Cake Sale organised by Tempo Parish Church from 10am to 12 noon. Cars welcome 10. Proceeds towards Church funds.

Sunday 10th April – Palm Sunday procession Enniskillen

From the Cathedral Hall to St. Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen for

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AN ENGLISH PASSION
ACCORDING TO SAINT MATTHEW

Philip Wilby

In the presence of the composer
Palm Sunday 10 April, 5.00pm – 6.00pm

Mhari Lawson soprano
Margaret Bridge alto
Thomas Elwin tenor
Seán Boylan baritone
Phil Gault baritone


Jack Wilson organ
Tristan Russcher chamber organ

Belfast Cathedral Children's Choir & Songbirds
Belfast Cathedral Choir

Matthew Owens conductor

Tickets: **£10 (under 16s free)**
available from www.eventbrite.com, or at the door

Newly released CDs of this work will be available for sale, after the performance

 **BELFAST CATHEDRAL**
THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. ANNE

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service beginning at 11.00am. Palm branches and Palm Crosses will be provided.

Sunday 10th April – Philip Wilby’s new Passion for Palm Sunday

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm. This powerful and dramatic setting of the Passion story will be brought to life by Belfast Cathedral Choir. Tickets 10 pounds. St Anne’s Cathedral, Donegall Street BT1 2HB United Kingdom.



SAINT PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL
DUBLIN

DONNA NOBIS PACEM
A Concert for Ukraine

stpatrickscathedral.ie/ukraine

April 4, 2022

Good Friday 15th April - Concert for Ukraine

St Patrick's
Cathedral,
Dublin. Good
Friday 15th
April at 7.30pm.
In response to
the Irish Red
Cross' Ukraine
Appeal, the St
Patrick's
Cathedral Choir
will be
performing a
special Good
Friday concert
on April 15 at
7.30pm in the
Cathedral with
organist David

Leigh, bass Jeffrey Ledwidge and directed by Stuart
Nicholson. The choir will be performing one of the best
loved choral works of all time, Requiem by Gabriel Fauré
alongside works by two other Parisian composers Maurice
Durufle and Louis Vierne. Join them in supporting those in
need by doing what they do best – demonstrating
compassion, peace and love through beautiful music.

Tickets €50/€45(Premium) €35/€30 (Nave) at -

[[] https://www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/event/ukraine/?utm_]



**The Choral Scholars
of St. Macartin's Cathedral
Proudly Present:**

An Evening of Song & Sacred Music

**Musical Director: David Robertson
Organist: Glenn Moore**



Friday 29th April
7.30pm
St. Macartin's Cathedral

Retiring Donation in aid of the Cathedral's Organ Fund

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Tuesday 26th April - Connor Mothers' Union Diocesan Spring Council

7:30 pm - 9:00 pm, St Patrick's, Ballymoney, 4 Queen Street Ballymoney, BT53 6JA. Connor Mothers' Union Diocesan Spring Council 2022 will take place in St Patrick's, Ballymoney, on April 26. The meeting will begin at 7.30pm.

Friday 29th April - May 2 - Dunluce Parish Art and Photographic Exhibition

Dunluce Parish Centre, Priestland Road, Bushmills, BT57 8QP. Dunluce Parish Church will host its Annual Art and Photographic Exhibition in the Parish Centre, Bushmills. The exhibition is back after a two-year break due to the pandemic, and the organisers are inviting artists and photographers to take part. This has always been a very popular event with residents and visitors to the North Coast over the Bank Holiday weekend. Anyone wishing to exhibit their works can get more details and download an application form from the parish website: www.dunluceparish.org. Deadline for return of applications is April 8.

Tribute to Revd Ivan Betts

A tribute to Revd Ivan Betts (1938 – 2022) written by the rector of St Mark's Dundela, Revd Canon Helene Steed.

Revd Ivan Betts, assistant priest in St Mark's Dundela, died on 19 March 2022. Ivan, Belfast born and bred, was a good friend to many of us and a faithful servant in God's Church. This coming July would have been the 60th anniversary of his ordination as deacon.



Ivan began his ministry in the Church of Ireland as a curate in Ballyholme parish before arriving for a second curacy in St Mark's, Dundela in 1965. After four years he moved on and became a chaplain to Seamen, a ministry that took him England, Sudan and Trinidad. Eight years later, Ivan returned to the Church of Ireland where he served as incumbent in Drumglass (Diocese of Armagh), Augher and Newtownsaville (Clogher Diocese) before returning to Belfast and St Martin's, Ballymacarrett.

One word that comes to mind in capturing Ivan, is the word faithful. Ivan was a faithful father – Andrew and Stephen's dad; he was a faithful servant of God; he was a faithful minister in the Church of Ireland and chaplain to seamen; he was a faithful pastor and preacher and he was a faithful friend.

Ivan's faithfulness to God and God's people did not end with retirement. Ivan settled in St Mark's parish where he was a faithful assistant priest. Ivan supported rectors and parishioners alike in a quiet and caring manner. Ivan was always there to help and assist and did so with a willing

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spirit. He celebrated communion and provided holiday cover for rectors. He preached God's word and his sermons were solid, informative and you always felt spiritually fed after listening to him.

In addition, Ivan made us laugh. Many of us recall his acting talents and participation in St Mark's Drama group. His latest performance was as the leading lady in Sam Cree's play Cupid Wore Skirts. Ivan also appreciated the importance of dramatic readings as part of church services. He participated many times as The Passion of Our Lord was read, took part in biblical dramas and also read poems. May we be inspired by Ivan's faithful commitment to his God, his creator, redeemer and judge.

We as a parish are deeply grateful for Ivan's contribution to St Mark's. As we give thanks for his life, we remember in our prayers his sons, Andrew and Stephen, and the wider family circle.

Faithful vigil ended ...
watching, doubting cease:
grant to us your servants
our discharge in peace.

(From Hymn 691, Timothy Dudley-Smith)

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News reports

Positive and encouraging primates' meeting



The primates, or chief bishops, of 30 of the Anglican Communion's 42 provinces gathered at Lambeth Palace in London last week, their first in-person gathering since January 2020.

A further nine bishops, who were unable to travel to London because of COVID-related travel restrictions, participated virtually in the gathering's business sessions. Among other things, the primates drafted a communique which called for the withdrawal of Russian troops from Ukraine, and urged prayer and action on behalf of those impacted by a series of political and climate-related disasters.

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The meeting, which constitutes one of the Anglican Communion's four Instruments of Communion, was the sixth convened by Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, who described it as "the best I have been to" at a press conference on its final day.

"It was a very positive and encouraging primates' meeting," added Archbishop Samy Fawzy Shehata of the North African Province of Alexandria, who joined Welby, Archbishop Azad Marshall of Pakistan, and Archbishop Linda Nicholls of Canada in the press conference. "The unity I see; there may be differences on some views, but we can still talk with one another," Shehata added.

Primates' Meetings are, by tradition, informal gatherings, largely focused on prayer and fellowship. Welby shared a series of reflections on leadership based on passages in St. John's Gospel, and the primates also participated in Bible studies on 1 Peter, the foundational text for this summer's Lambeth Conference.

The bishops also "were able to talk and hear about the burdens we each face in our provinces and home regions," a process that Nicholls described as allowing her fellow Anglicans to "know us as a family in God together."

The meeting's four-page communique addressed a series of international crises, beginning with Russia's five-week-old war against Ukraine. "We are particularly aware of the humanitarian crisis and other catastrophic effects of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. We call for an immediate ceasefire and the withdrawal of Russian troops from Ukraine," the primates said.

They also devoted time to discuss a proposal to increase the wider Anglican Communion's involvement in the selection of future Archbishops of Canterbury, a conversation that Shehata said had been one of the highlights of the gathering. "The large majority of the primates were generally supportive of the direction of travel," the communique noted.

It also laments the intense suffering associated with climate change, especially the devastation brought to Mozambique and Madagascar by a series of recent cyclones. It reiterates that the Diocese of Egypt is "an integral and constituent part of this Church," in support of its ongoing struggle to secure full state recognition, and expresses concern at the "continuing misuse of blasphemy laws in Pakistan to unfairly target religious minorities," a cause in which Marshall serves as a leading public voice.

Other sections expressed concern about "the increasing use of 'fake news and false reporting,'" an unresolved dispute between Ethiopia, Egypt, and Sudan over the pending construction of the Grand Ethiopian Dam, and increasing refugee problems and food insecurity in many parts of the world.

The primates also expressed excitement about gathering with more than 700 fellow bishops for the Lambeth Conference this coming July and August. Welby said that the pre-Lambeth bishop's conversations convened online over the last year have been "one of the best innovations of this Lambeth Conference." He added, "It is, in effect, a four

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year conference: two years virtually, two weeks physically, two years follow-up.”

Marshall, who will be attending his third Lambeth Conference this summer, said “For us, the Lambeth Conference has already started. Our fellowship has been very meaningful, and those relationships that have already formed will be more meaningful when we meet together.”

The primates spent time at the gathering reviewing the Lambeth Conference’s program, and Welby said, “It is certainly one of the agreed aims of the primates – I think, by everyone – that we do not have the whole Lambeth Conference spent talking about issues of human sexuality, but we look at those things that are destroying tens and hundreds of millions of human lives, and will do even more around the world. The title of the conference is ‘God’s Church for God’s World,’ and the encouragement for it is to look outwards and to look at other issues that are deeply troubling to the way we treat people on the edge.... Things that come under the heading of God’s call to the Church to speak for justice in every area, and not to human sexuality alone.”

The leaders of three large provinces, Nigeria, Rwanda, and Uganda, chose not to attend the meeting, as in recent years. “Our reflections, deliberations and fellowship are diminished by their absence. We miss them and their prayerful wisdom, and we long for the time when we will all meet together,” the communique said.

Welby said the missing primates had not given him specific reasons for their absence, but added, “They don’t want to be

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in the room with those who have changed their teaching on marriage and the nature of human identity.”

Perspective

Sinn Fein will be re-writing recent Irish history when it gets into power by Andy Pollak

Earlier this month Mary Lou McDonald denied that the deletion of thousands of Sinn Fein press statements going back over 20 years represented an attempt to cover-up the party’s ‘soft’ position on Russia in the wake of its invasion of Ukraine. The Sinn Fein leader brazenly jumped that ship shortly after the invasion, leading the calls for the expulsion of the Russian ambassador to Ireland.

However as far back as 2015 Sinn Fein’s four MEPs abstained in a European Parliament resolution that condemned human rights abuses in Russia and criticised Vladimir Putin’s annexation of Crimea. In December Chris McManus, now the party’s sole representative in the parliament, voted against a resolution that supported Ukraine’s independence, stated that Putin’s military build-up at Ukraine’s borders represented a threat to Europe’s peace and security and called on Russia to respect its international obligations. McManus has abstained or voted against six European Parliament resolutions critical of Russia since 2020.¹

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We can expect a lot more rewriting of recent history – Irish history – if and when Sinn Fein gets into power in Dublin. The Provisional IRA's 30-year campaign of violence will be rewritten as an unavoidable consequence of the peaceful civil rights movement in Northern Ireland when faced with the repressive Northern state. Multiple killers of off-duty policemen and UDR men like Seamus McElwaine and Francis Hughes will be portrayed as glorious heroes. And most importantly of all, the IRA's campaign will be justified as the legitimate and righteous continuation of the 1916-1921 War of Independence against the British occupier, completing the unfinished business of winning Irish freedom, unity and sovereignty.

Many people in the Republic of Ireland will be open to this interpretation. Republicanism is a kind of underlying orthodoxy in Southern society. A lot of people in this state, notably Fianna Fail followers and supporters of left-wing parties, proudly call themselves republicans or republican socialists. In this period of centennial commemorations, many – perhaps most – people here find it easier to identify with the uncompromising Irish republicans of that era than with supporters of the compromising Irish Free State or John Redmond's peaceful Irish Parliamentary Party (people like this are always in danger of being demonised as 'free staters', 'shoneens' or 'west Brits'). With Fianna Fail now discredited after having spent too much of the past century in government, this adds up to one more psychological advantage for Sinn Fein.

Republican assumptions and language are shared by those who would never call themselves supporters of the Provisional IRA. You can see it in the small things. I am

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starting to see apolitical theatre reviewers refer to IRA prisoners in the Maze, who may have been convicted killers, as ‘political prisoners’ and a part-time soldier in the Ulster Defence Regiment as a ‘terrorist.’ The liberal intelligentsia is particularly guilty here: acquaintances of mine inveigh against the former Sunday Independent columnist Eoghan Harris, a fierce critic of the IRA, with a vitriol they would never use against Gerry Adams or Mary Lou McDonald. With prominent anti-IRA voices like Harris, Kevin Myers and Professor John A. Murphy silenced by death or disgrace, there are few people left in the media and public life to take on the now ascendant Sinn Fein champions of republican violence.

It may not be politically correct these days, but it is worth reminding people forcefully of the extent of that violence. Between 1971 and 1998 the Provisional IRA killed nearly five times more people than the British army, the RUC and the UDR combined. Of the 1771 people they killed, 636 were uninvolved civilians. I’m going to repeat that in bold. Between 1971 and 1998 the Provisional IRA killed nearly five times more people than the British army, the RUC and the UDR combined. Of the 1771 people they killed, 636 were uninvolved civilians. Is there any other ‘freedom struggle’ in recent world history where the forces of ‘freedom’ killed nearly five times more people than the repressive state forces facing them? A Northern friend from a security force background has estimated that there are over 400,000 people with some past or present connection with the security forces in Northern Ireland – and the majority of them have the most vivid recollection of relatives, friends and comrades who were killed and injured by the

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IRA. Does that affect their view of Sinn Fein and its policy of driving on to an early united Ireland? You bet it does.

Which brings me to an interesting long article in the New York Review of Books this month.² Because if Fianna Failers and Irish left-wingers are susceptible to Sinn Fein's propaganda (and Irish republicans are world-class propagandists), that is doubly or trebly so for many (perhaps most) Irish-Americans, who support the IRA because it aims to drive the British out of Ireland, and most European leftists, who admire the IRA as Europe's very own anti-imperialist guerrilla force. One rarely hears a well-argued contrary view in Europe or the United States. However the novelist Nick Laird, born and reared in Tyrone, has provided one in his excoriating review in that prestigious US publication of a new three volume collection of photographs of Northern Ireland – *Whatever you Say, Say Nothing* – by the celebrated French photographer of the 'Troubles', Gilles Peress, a former president of the Magnum photo agency, and now professor of human rights and photography at Bard College, New York, and senior research fellow at the Human Rights Centre at Berkeley University.

Laird is damning of the partiality and prejudice of this mighty photo collection and its accompanying text, most of it by Peress's collaborator, an American lawyer called Chris Klatell. Both both Peress and Klatell are unashamed supporters of the IRA. For example, Klatell is happy to quote *An Phoblacht*, the Sinn Fein newspaper, as his source for an account of the disputed killing of IRA men by the SAS; and to describe two men as having been killed "on active service" when the bomb they were making exploded prematurely. Apart from other photographers, those thanked

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by Peress in the acknowledgements for “their hospitality, generosity and advice” are nearly all IRA members and Republican activists.

Laird calls the book “deeply partial, and by turns incomplete, ill-informed, outdated and patronizing.” He gives many examples of this. Here are two: Klatell describes Francis Hughes, who was to die in the 1981 Maze prison hunger strike, as “a charismatic and tenacious young member of the Provisional IRA referred to as the ‘most wanted man in the North of Ireland.’ The authorities captured him in a ditch after a shoot-out with the SAS, looking like a rock star with dyed blonde hair even though he was gravely injured.” What Klatell doesn’t mention is that “Hughes was convicted of killing three people and reputedly killed more than a dozen, with some sources alleging he was responsible for at least 30 deaths. Among the deaths he was linked to were those of a 77-year-old grandmother and a 10-year-old girl.”

Here is a second. “Klatell recounts Peress describing how, back in 1985, Daithi de Paor, an IRA man, had told him a story of the IRA bombing a costume shop: ‘For some reason, or maybe for no reason, the Volunteers decided they had an issue with the Indian man who owned the costume shop’ and decided to blow it up. After setting the bomb on the counter they drove away, but saw in the rearview mirror ‘the fucking Indian guy, calmly carrying the bomb out of his shop and chucking it into the street.’ So the following week they went into the shop, ‘froze the owner at gunpoint, and glued the bomb to the counter. Then they all stood round in awkward silence, holding the bomb down, waiting for the glue to dry.’ After recounting this story, Peress laughed. ‘No one else did. That’s a terrible story, they said.

What happened to the poor Indian man who owned the shop?’ Gilles looked around in puzzlement. ‘That story wasn’t about the man who owned the shop’, he said. ‘It was about the glue.’”

Laird concludes: “Realizing that murdering an immigrant for ‘some reason, or maybe for no reason’ might strike readers as despicable, Klatell tries here to put some daylight between himself and Peress, though with its black humour, casual gangsterism and purposeless violence this anecdote is somehow one of the truest things in the book.”

Klatell cannot imagine a Northern Protestant sensibility that is “anything other than grotesque”, says Laird. “Orange marches are ‘sadistic victory parades of the Prods, ecstatic in their imposition of humiliation’. To many people, not just Protestants, this might seem not only a caricature but a gross misrepresentation.”

Laird concludes that “among Americans the list of useful idiots for the Irish Republican cause is long, and Klatell, though he has clearly steeped himself in the history and culture of the North, has also, in the end, let himself be a tool of violent Republicanism. He is attempting to cement a story that simply isn’t true, the reality being more complicated and demanding than his scrapbook admits.

“It is, of course, possible to believe in the inevitability and desirability of a united Ireland without supporting or romanticising Irish Republicanism. It is possible to think that partition was a disaster and that Northern Ireland practised systematic discrimination against its Catholic minority for many years, while also refusing to justify, glorify or

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accommodate the horrific actions of Republicanism. That's why the Social Democratic and Labour Party exists – to advocate for Irish reunification, though it has been largely eclipsed by Sinn Fein.”

Seamus Heaney is invoked repeatedly in these volumes. “What is missing is Heaney’s sense of a morally complicated place, a location where no one was exactly right but some were clearly wrong: ‘My sympathy was not with the IRA, but it wasn’t with the Thatcher government either”, the great poet wrote during the 1981 hunger strike. Laird recommends reading another engrossing book by an American observer of the North, which takes its title from the same Heaney poem as Peress’s collection: Say Nothing, by the New Yorker journalist Patrick Radden Keefe. Laird calls this a “masterpiece, and one of the best introductions you’ll find to the twisted state of Northern Ireland.” I could not agree more.

1 Elaine Loughlin, ‘Sinn Fein’s soft stance on Russia is clearly on the record’, Irish Examiner, 1st March

2 ‘Partial Reports’, New York Review of Books, 10th March

Courtesy of Andy Pollak. First published March 31, 2022 on 2 Irelands web site

[[] <https://2irelands2gether.com/>]

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

The publication of Church News Ireland is overseen by Very Rev Dr Houston McKelvey OBE, QVRM, TD. He may be contacted at houstonmckelvey@mac.com
