



## Services mark the 100th anniversary of the Easter Rising

Events took place across the country over the weekend to mark the 100th anniversary of the Easter Rising, which took place on April 24th, 1916.

The annual 1916 State Commemoration took place at Arbour Hill, Dublin, on Sunday morning where an inter-faith service and ceremony was held at the graveside of the 14 executed leaders.

During the televised event, President Michael D Higgins laid a wreath on behalf of the people of [Ireland](#).

St Patrick's cathedral, Dublin, hosted the Church of Ireland's national service to mark the centenary of the Easter Rising. The service followed the order for Evensong, and included music from Irish composers Charles Villiers Stanford and George Hewson. It took place in the presence of the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Armagh, the Most Revd Eamon Martin, and the aide-de-Camp of the President of Ireland. The preacher was the Most Revd Dr Richard Clarke, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland.

There were also commemorative services in Cashel cathedral and in St Mary's church, Tipperary, where the Co Tipperary Ryan Youth Orchestra performed the Irish premiere of *Salute to 1916* by the late Danny Ryan.

Special flag raising ceremonies also took place in Fingal, Longford, [Louth](#), Roscommon and [Waterford](#) as well as the opening of a number of new commemorative gardens.

Full details of events can be found at [www.ireland.ie](http://www.ireland.ie)

## **Irish language award for Methodist Church's East Belfast Mission**

Turas, the Irish language project of the Methodist Church's East Belfast Mission, was awarded €1,000 and a bronze medal for its promotion of the Irish language and in particular the fáinne at a recent Glór na nGael prize-giving ceremony.

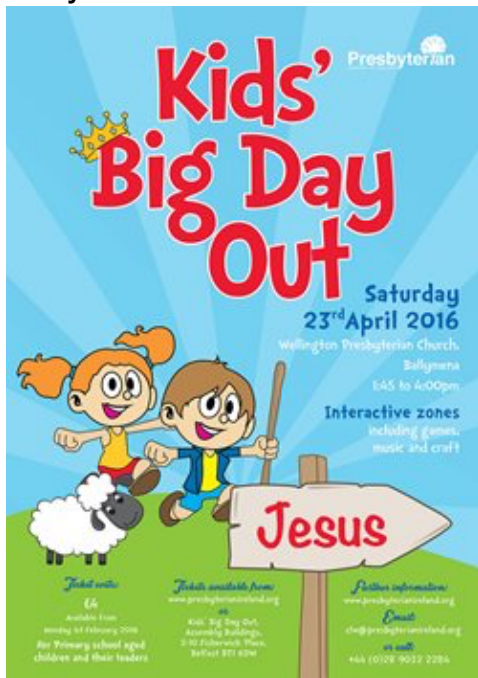
Turas, meaning journey or pilgrimage in both Irish and Scots Gaelic, is an Irish language project designed to connect people from Protestant communities to their own history with the Irish language.

Glór na nGael, in existence since 1961, is a national award presented to community groups for their work within the community and promotion of the Irish language. Approximately 120 community groups throughout the 32 counties of Ireland participated in this year's awards.

## **Amazed by Jesus' at the Kids' Big Day Out 2016**

On Saturday children, leaders and volunteers from all over the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

came together at Wellington Presbyterian in Ballymena.



The Kids' Big Day Out is hugely popular – this being the ninth year it has taken place. For primary age children, the day is especially for them to come together and learn more about God.

The aim is for the leaders who attend with the children to also learn and benefit from the day, and so each was given a take home pack with follow-up material to use in the weeks after the event.

“We hope that each child attending Kids’ Big Day Out felt welcome and secure, and most of all that they will know that they are specially made and loved by God,” said Caroline Dyer, Acting Children’s Development Officer.

The theme for the day this year was ‘Amazed by Jesus’. The children were invited to learn more about God’s special messenger by moving around the Church and getting involved in four different interactive zones, ably assisted by the Kids’ Crew volunteers.

“Children respond best when they are able to explore the stories we tell them for themselves, and so they will be learning about Jesus through games, prayer, music and craft.

“There aren’t many opportunities for children from across the denomination to come together for collective worship, and so we helped create a good atmosphere on the day, and that they will feel part of a wider church community. We pray that through the interactive zones they were prompted and encouraged to think about the relationship they have with God, and make an appropriate response to what He is saying to them,” said Caroline.

## **Change of chief executive at Bible Society NI**

The Bible Society in Northern Ireland recently appointed Catherine Little as its new general secretary.

Catherine has been working for the mental health charity Praxis Care as a co-ordinator of their volunteer, befriending and counselling services. She will also bring experience gained developing a special programme with the Church of Ireland Youth Department and as a trainer with Youth Link NI. This work embraced both community relations and youth work, and has included training with many of the province's youth organisations.

While the society dates back to 1807, Catherine will be the first woman to lead the organisation. John Doherty, general secretary for the past 15 years, retires next month.

## **First Minister says Missionary Maud Kells is inspirational**

Northern Ireland First Minister Arlene Foster has hailed missionary Maud Kells as one of the most inspirational ladies she has ever met.



***Maud Kells with Arlene Foster***

News Letter - Mrs Foster met Maud at a fundraiser for WEC International in Ballygawley Presbyterian Church this week. Maud was shot twice in the shoulder by intruders at her home in the Democratic Republic of Congo in January 2015. Recently the Cookstown pensioner returned to DR Congo not even a year after she was almost killed there by bandits.

“I was honoured to be asked to introduce Maud Kells. Maud is one of the most inspirational ladies I have ever met. Her work rate is

phenomenal and at 77 seems to defy her age,” said Mrs Foster.

“As I listened to Maud telling us about her work in the Democratic Republic of the Congo I was struck by her humility and unassuming character. A real example to us all. Her story of how she was shot was incredible and showed a determination and trust in God so rarely witnessed today. We need more Maud Kells in this world.”

Mrs Foster said Maud had “helped establish” a hospital in the region as well as roads and in so doing has “preached a very practical gospel”.

She continued: “As a mid-wife, her focus was on maternity but she told us how she has been involved in road building, crop management, acquiring medical supplies and many different building projects to bring vital facilities to the area.

## Cathedral and choral

In **St Patrick’s cathedral, Dublin**, on Thursday at 7.30pm there will be a **gala concert** in aid of the Grammar School Building Programme. Compared by Tim Thurston, the concert will feature the choirs of the cathedral and grammar



school, with special guests David Adams, Peter Kerr, Judith Lyons, Eric Sweeney, the Allgeria Singers and the Close Singers. Tickets at 089-7022662.

Yesterday in St Patrick's cathedral, Dublin, David Leigh continued his series of organ recitals to mark the centenary of the death of Max Reger.

The Armagh Diocesan Choral Festival was held in St Patrick's cathedral yesterday afternoon.

At lunchtime on Tuesday the final lecture in the series about music in St Patrick's cathedral, Dublin, will be held. The speaker will be Prof Harry White from UCD, who will talk about *Dublin's Cathedral Musicians in the Long 20th Century*.

Fittingly, the day that **Limerick Choral Union** will offer its tribute to the centenary of 1916, is also the 100th anniversary of the execution of Con Colbert, the Castlemahon man shot in Kilmainham on May 8 for his part in the Easter Rising.

Limerick Leader - Limerick Remembers 1916 is the 110 strong choir's offering to the commemoration of the seminal moment in Irish history and will do so by performing Beethoven's Missa Solemnis.



***The Limerick Choral Union and orchestra in full flow at the University Concert Hall. It returns to the venue on May 8***

The choral union said it was “proud to remember and the mark the event with such an amazing work”.

The choir, which marked 50 years of song in 2014, last performed the piece in 1972, which it says has not been performed in Munster since. Leading Irish soprano Cara O’Sullivan will return to perform with the choral union, which has assembled a typically impressive cast and the full forces of the LCU Choir and Orchestra and

soloists, also including Sarah-Ellen Murphy, Lawrence Thackeray and Jeffrey Ledwidge, plus the Coláiste Muire School Choir from Ennis, conducted by Carmel Griffin, who will open the concert in the UCH with some much loved melodies.

The choir, operating under the baton of conductor Malcolm Green, is embedded in the musical fabric of Limerick and performs a number of concerts in Limerick annually, most recently Handel's Messiah for its annual Christmas concert.

The oratorio choir, based in the heart of the city, aims to make choral singing “accessible, enjoyable and rewarding for the singers and audience alike”.

<http://www.limerickleader.ie/news/what-s-on/206232/Limerick-Choral-Union-to-remember-1916.html>

## **Poverty and social exclusion eroding rural communities**

The number of people at risk of poverty in rural Ireland has doubled since 2008.

The *Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC)* shows that in 2014 some 19.1% were at

risk of poverty while there was 8% living in consistent poverty in 2008.

“(The survey shows) a continuing escalation of poor living conditions and a lack of basic services which adds to the exclusion of those who live in what is called ‘rural’ Ireland,” wrote Peg Hanafin in the latest edition of the *SVP Bulletin*, the magazine of St Vincent de Paul.

“We now have a large number of people suffering from stress and anxiety, feeling forgotten by successive government agencies,” she stated.

She called on the Government to stop this “erosion of rural communities”.

Peg Hanafin pointed out that the Government has reduced investment in community development programmes since 2008 and stated that this will have to be reversed and “every assistance be given to alleviate the growing exclusion being experienced in rural Ireland in 2016.”

During recent years rural Ireland has seen closures and reductions in public services.

There is a shortage of further education opportunities, child care, social and affordable

housing and financial services, such as banks and post offices, have been closed.

A report on the future of post offices produced by *Dragon's Den* star Bobby Kerr and his steering group states that Ireland has gone from 1,907 post offices in 1992 to 1,135 today.

The *Final Report of the Post Office Network Development Group*, published in January 2016, recognises the importance of the post office network to Irish Society and its economic and social infrastructure.

“Given the age and income characterisation of many An Post customers, the services they provide allow people to fully participate in modern society,” the report states.

Many customers of the post office who have little or no access to the internet can be restricted in their ability to “fully participate in the economy,” it explains.

“The post office may be a focal point for weekly face-to face interaction and communication,” it also asserts.

The report recognises the need for three types of post offices – retail, service and community.

The latter include those post offices where the economic rationale for retention is weak but the social reasons are strong.

One way of ensuring their viability is to co-locate them in another business such as with the local shop.

About a year ago, the SVP also raised the subject of service cuts which were causing rural isolation (see story in CatholicIreland.net 15 March 2015).

Back then, the SVP stated that its members visiting homes throughout rural Ireland witnessed on a daily basis the isolation, loneliness and difficulty caused by the relentless curtailment of services in rural Ireland in recent years.

## News briefs

Happy 50th Birthday to the congregation of **Abbey Presbyterian Church, Monkstown, County Antrim**. Congratulations on half a century of Christian witness and service in the community. Saturday morning saw a coffee morning with exhibition of memorabilia, old photographs and films of the past including laying of the foundation stone and the building of



the church itself; '50 years, 50 stories of faith' book launch by Rev Colin Morrison, the Moderator of the N Belfast Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church, and commemorative tree planting by Cllr [Thomas Hogg](#), Mayor of Antrim & Newtownabbey

In **St Coman's church, Roscommon**, on Wednesday at 8pm there will be a Service of Thanksgivings for the Flocks of the Field which will mark the beginning of the annual Lamb Festival

On Thursday, the Archbishop of Dublin will open **St Andrew's national school, Lucan**, and on Friday Dr Jackson will be in **Rathdrum** to officially open the newly-extended St Saviour's national school.

On Friday evening in the **Adelaide Memorial Church of the Redeemer, Myshall, Co Carlow**, there will be a prayer service for peace, reconciliation and tolerance.

Music will be by the Jason Dowty Gospel Band and the preacher will be Trevor Sargent, former Green Party TD and currently an ordinand in the Church of Ireland Theological Institute.

## **News links to reports on faith, politics and education**

### **McGuinness says criminalisation of woman who took abortion drugs was 'absolutely wrong'**

Journal.ie

Speaking at the Sinn Fein Ard Fheis he cautioned against anyone using medication accessed on the internet.

<http://www.thejournal.ie/sf-ard-fheis-mcguinness-2731427-Apr2016/>

### **Psychiatric patients should be asked religious beliefs**

Irish Medical Times

Despite historical tension between psychiatry and **religion, religious** and ... The study, presented at the College of Psychiatrists of **Ireland's** Spring ...

<http://www.imt.ie/news/latest-news/2016/04/psychiatric-patients-should-be-asked-religious-beliefs.html>



## **Religious orders key to child protection**

Catholic Courier

By Carol Glatz/Catholic **News** Service ... said Mark Vincent Healy, an advocate in **Ireland** for services and care for survivors of child sexual abuse.

<http://www.catholiccourier.com/news/world-nation/religious-orders-key-to-child-protection/>

## **Eve Stand/Ind**

Reports that a life-size statue of a 'Homeless Jesus' is at the centre of a row between Westminster Council and clergy over its proposed installation outside Methodist Central Hall in Westminster. Report notes that the council has refused to grant permission for the installation of the artwork as the area is already "saturated" with statues but had no objection to it being located inside the Hall. Reverend Dr Martyn Atkins said that clergy plan to "respond with a statement or appeal" following the result of their application, which was rejected in February.

<http://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/westminster-church-leaders-to-fight-homeless-jesus-statue-snub-near-houses-of-parliament-a3231821.html>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/central-london-church-says-it-will-fight-westminster-council-to-install-homeless-jesus-statue-a6997896.html>

## **S Mirror**

Interview with first wife of Newcastle vicar, Rev Geoffrey Short, following news story last weekend that his second wife had left him for actor Robson Green.

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/3am/celebrity-news/vicar-whose-second-wife-ran-7820804#ICID=nsm>

## **Exp**

Report that BBC has been criticised for its interview yesterday on the *Today Programme* with Labour mayoral candidate Sadiq Khan which focused more on his religion than political beliefs.

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/663739/Fierce-criticism-follows-Sadiq-Khan-interview-as-John-Humphrys-grills-mayoral-candidate>

## **Sun**

News item on the origins of St George's Day (April 23) noting although very little is known about St George's life, records suggest that he was an officer in the Roman army, born around 280AD and was beheaded on 23rd April 303AD after he refused to denounce God.

<http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/features/7099697/Who-was-St-George-and-was-there-REALLY-a-dragon.html>

## **S Times**

Feature on how paying the living wage is affecting small businesses, some of whom fear they will close. Includes comment from Mike Cherry, Chair of the Federation of Small Businesses: "Without the right type of productivity growth, there is a real risk that higher enforced statutory wages will lead to fewer jobs being created, fewer hours for existing staff and, unfortunately, in some cases, job losses."

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/living-wage-becomes-a-question-of-survival-ldd27b675>

## **Yorks Post**

Reports that the Archbishop of York helped lead tributes from peers to the Queen as the House of Lords sent its

[churchnewsireland@gmail.com](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.com)

"warmest congratulations" to the monarch on her 90th birthday (*see above*). He said, "Let this be a day of thanksgiving and much rejoicing for Her Majesty's birthday. Long live the Queen."

<http://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/archbishop-proclaims-a-day-of-thanksgiving-and-much-rejoicing-for-queen-1-7868010>

### **Times**

Letter from faith leaders from both sides of the Atlantic stating that the US and UK must do more for Syrian refugees: "We urge David Cameron and President Obama to use what could be their final meeting in the UK as heads of state to urgently address the humanitarian crisis in Syria." The signatories include four CofE bishops; the Bishop of Coventry, the Bishop of Croydon, the Bishop of Durham and the Bishop of Wakefield.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/comment/us-and-uk-must-do-more-for-syrian-refugees-m87mrnzmk>

### **Times/Guard/FT**

Reports that mining giant Anglo American became the latest FTSE 100 company to face a protest at the hands of investors over executive pay. The remuneration report for Chief Executive Mark Cutifani was rejected by 42 per cent of shareholders, according to provisional results. Adam Matthews, head of engagement for the Church Commissioners and the CofE Pensions Board, urged the company to consider its pay policy and is quoted in the *Times*.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/anglo-american-hit-by-protest-vote-over-share-plan-t5mfcmlxw>  
<http://www.theguardian.com/business/2016/apr/21/anglo-american-chief-executive-pay-mining>

[http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/f93b371e-07db-11e6-a623-b84d06a39ec2.html?FTCamp=engage/CAP1/webapp/Channel\\_Moreover//B2B#axzz46WqHEJva](http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/f93b371e-07db-11e6-a623-b84d06a39ec2.html?FTCamp=engage/CAP1/webapp/Channel_Moreover//B2B#axzz46WqHEJva)

### **[Christian Today/Premier](#)**

Further reports that Revd Graham Sawyer, a survivor of abuse by Bishop Peter Ball, has said he will not cooperate into the independent review of the Church's handling of the case. A spokeswoman is quoted saying that Archbishop Justin has publicly said it is a matter of deep shame and regret that a bishop in the CofE committed these offences and that the review will provide the Church as a whole with an opportunity to learn lessons which will improve safeguarding practice and policy.

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Bishop-Peter-Ball-victim-quits-church-abuse-review>

### **BBC**

Hundreds of people are expected to pay tribute to a man known as "Britain's oldest DJ" at his funeral in Bristol later today. Derek Serpell-Morris, known as DJ Derek, went missing in July 2015 aged 73. His remains were discovered in March in the city. The service will take place at St Agnes church in St Pauls, Bristol.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-bristol-36092556>

### **BBC**

On the eve of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare, the article highlights locations where tourists can 'get near to' the playwright. Holy Trinity church by the River Avon is cited at Shakespeare's church.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-35837601>

## **Comment**

Guardian: Photographer Jim Grover explains how his camera helped him "re-focus on my faith".

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/apr/21/moment-that-changed-me-faith-anglican-london-photography>

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