



Archbishop Michael Jackson and Archbishop Diarmuid Martin leading the procession past the GPO

Good Friday Walks of Witness

The Church of Ireland and Roman Catholic Archbishops of Dublin led several hundred people through the streets of Dublin on the annual Good Friday Walk of Witness.

Archbishop Michael Jackson and Archbishop Diarmuid Martin carried a Taize Cross from Christ Church Cathedral down Dame Street, through College Green, along Westmoreland Street and on to O'Connell Bridge, finishing at St Mary's Pro-Cathedral.

This year they paused, amid all the preparations for Easter Sunday's centenary commemorations, for a minute's silent prayer at the GPO for all who died during the events of Easter Week 1916.

During short prayer service in Christ Church Cathedral, Archbishop Jackson said that they set out on their journey in a historic year and towards the end of a very sad week.

He remembered in prayer those who died in Buncrana and who were buried in Derry the previous day. He also recalled those who were killed and injured in Brussels and continued to hold in prayer those who were refugees and who were suffering in Syria, Iraq and other forgotten places of the world. He concluded with prayer for those suffering in Ireland.

Four Lambeg Churches organised an Easter procession. Harmony Hill Presbyterian, St Coleman's RC, Derryvolgie Parish and Lambeg Parish all came together with about 150 in attendance. One participant said It was "a great family day out with very moving acts of devotion in every church along the route."

Good Friday was marked in Bray with the Annual Ecumenical Stations of the Cross on Bray Head.

Commemoration should not just consist of looking back, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin

The authors of the 1916 Proclamation were men of faith who dreamed dreams of hope for Ireland and for the Irish people, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin said on Saturday evening in his Easter vigil homily.

But the leader of the Roman Catholic Church in Dublin, where major events yesterday marked the centenary of the 1916 Rising said, “celebrating and commemorating should not consist just in looking back”.

He said the believer in the Risen Christ should be focused towards the future.

They should be in the forefront in combating the “signs of darkness and despair that exist all around us and in working with all people of goodwill who dream” Of “building a more compassionate, caring and just society”.

Archbishop Martin said Christians are called to speak the language of resurrection and hope within the society they live in.



“Christians are called to build a society where hope can flourish,” he said and added, “This is a call especially in these days here in Ireland as we celebrate and commemorate the events of 1916.”

He prayed for all those for whom darkness seems impossible to overcome, for whom darkness seems unbearable and without hope.

“We remember those who grieve. We remember those who feel abandoned. We remember those for whom the darkness of their own past haunts them. We remember those whose torment and anxiety tears away at their will even to live.”

A Christian community is called to be a light in the world, he said. “We are called to be with those for whom darkness is excruciating and who see no future, no hope.”

“Wherever we encounter darkness, the Christian must speak words of resurrection, words which say to each of us in the darkness of our hearts, that life and light are possible.”

“Woe to a Church which with harsh words would hide or destroy or dim the light in people’s hearts. Woe to a Church which would prevent the light of Christ from appearing as it should.”

1916 Centenary Commemorations today

Today, Easter Monday, the Bishop of Cork will attend the 1916 Centenary Commemorations in Cork.

In St Ann’s church, Dawson Street, Dublin, at 2pm the writer Julie Parsons will give a talk entitled From “‘Fine Cheerful Day, Good Congregation’ to ‘The Undiluted Celt, A Curse’”. This will be a reflection on the Easter Rising and its aftermath as observed and recorded by some

Church of Ireland clergymen in vestry minutes, preachers' books and parish magazines, and draws on extensive research in the RCB Library.

This event is part of RTE's 'Reflecting the Rising'. Admission is free and booking is via the RTE website.

Choral services and events

From Monday until Thursday the services in St Patrick's cathedral, Dublin, will be sung by the Choir of Guy's Chapel, King's College, London. There will be free lunchtime recitals in St Patrick's next Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday featuring the Burnsville High School Choir, the Heritage Christian Choir and the St Edmundsbury Male Voice Choir.

On Friday in St Anne's cathedral, Belfast, the Morris Knolls High School Chorale from New Jersey begin a short Irish tour with a recital at 1.15pm.

The office of Choral Evensong will be reintroduced in St Ann's church, Dublin, following Easter. It will take place each Wednesday at 5.30pm for an initial period of ten weeks. Further details and dates of the services

will be available at
www.stann.dublin.anglican.org

New praise centre for Anglican Igbo community in Dublin

The inauguration of a new Igbo Praise Centre in Dublin will take place in St George and St Thomas's Church on Cathal Brugha Street on Sunday April 3 at 5.00 pm. This will enable the Igbo Anglican community to worship in their own language on a regular basis. Archbishop Michael Jackson will officiate at the service.

The Igbo, some pronounce it, Ibo people live in southeastern Nigeria, generally in the area of the Niger delta. As with most languages, theirs has (or did have) several dialects. Anglican missionary work there originated with the CMS in 1870, and coincided with the publication of the first Igbo Book of Common Prayer, in the Isumma dialect. There was one additional translation in this dialect, one in the Lower Igbo dialect, and two in the Upper Igbo (or Onitsha) dialect.

Methodist Newsletter Easter Art competition results

The results of the Methodist Newsletter's Easter Art Competition have been announced. In first place is Victor McMullen for 'Above all, leave love'. In second place is Ray Elwood for 'Father, forgive them', and in third place is John Halliday for 'It is done'.

Carole Kane, who judged the competition commented:

The entries for the competition are a treat to enjoy. I chose 'Above all, leave love' as the winner because of the way the artist has depicted freedom and life in this Easter theme. The light is powerful and the sense of space, release and praise is evident.

Second place goes to a painting entitled, 'Father, forgive them'. My attention is caught in this watercolour by the two soldiers who are walking away from the cross. Jesus, even in his agony, knew that the soldiers seemed oblivious to what was taking place at the 'mercy seat'. Looking on, despite his present pain, he intercedes by asking for their forgiveness.

Third place goes to 'It is done'. Hands that flung stars into space, to cruel nails surrendered – the scars and sacrifice of Easter lead the way for our freedom. Pain is finished. Freedom is offered in its place.

Runner-up: 'Such Love'. This painting has a different style and kind of image from the others. Texture and the contrast between dark and light make this an intriguing piece.

The winning paintings will be shown in the April issue of the Methodist Newsletter and on this site at a later date.

Special Dublin and Glendalough synod to discuss changes in boundaries

Archbishop Michael Jackson is convening an Extraordinary Diocesan Synods meeting on Wednesday April 20 2016 in Athy to discuss proposed changes in provincial and diocesan boundaries which affect the United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough.

The proposals are being brought to the General Synod of the Church of Ireland in May by the Commission on Episcopal Ministry and Structures, and if agreed by General Synod, would see six parishes from Glendalough being transferred to the Diocese of Meath and Kildare.

The parishes included in the proposal are: Leixlip and Lucan; Celbridge and Straffan with

Newcastle–Lyons; Blessington and Manor Kilbride with Ballymore–Eustace and Hollywood; Donoughmore and Donard with Dunlavin; Narraghmore and Timolin with Castledermot and Kinneigh; and Athy, Kilberry and Fontstown with Kilkea. The change, if approved by General Synod, would come into effect at a date to be determined – but not before the General Synod of 2017.

The Extraordinary Diocesan Synods meeting will take place in Athy Parish Centre, Carlow Road, Athy, following a celebration of Holy Communion in St Michael’s Church, Athy at 7.00 pm. The business of Synods will commence at 7.45 pm.

Clerical appointment to grandfather’s parish

The Revd Colin Darling, currently Curate in St Finnian’s, Cregagh, has been appointed incumbent of the Parish of Killyleagh in Down Diocese.

Colin, a son of Bishop Edward and Mrs. Darling, is following in the family footsteps as his maternal grandfather, Revd Stanley Mann, was rector of Killyleagh from 1935–1962.

The date of the institution will announced in due course.

Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway comments on murder of muslim shopkeeper



The Rt Rev Dr Gregor Duncan, Episcopal Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway says “The news of the brutal murder of muslim shopkeeper Asad Shah has come as a great shock to us in Glasgow and beyond. From a Christian perspective it is particularly awful that our brother of another faith had just been wishing us the blessings of Good Friday and Easter, the holiest time of our Christian year. Along with Jesus Christ who was murdered on a cross and entered into the darkness of human cruelty and violence, we

mourn this well respected member of our local community who was so horribly done to death.

“I am sure that I speak not only for members of my own church but for all Christian people when I say that the faith we celebrate at Easter tells us, however hard it is sometimes to believe, that human evil and wickedness do not have the last word; but rather God’s word of compassion, life and love spoken to us through Christ raised from the dead.”

Pope's Easter message condemns failure to help migrants

Pope Francis has condemned those who fail to help migrants, during his traditional Easter speech in Rome.

[The Pope](#) said migrants often met "rejection from those who could offer them welcome and assistance".

He also condemned terrorism as "a blind and brutal violence" that should be fought with "weapons of love". The Pope was delivering his "urbi et orbi" (To the city and the world) message to thousands amid tight security in St Peter's Square.



Pope Francis condemned terrorism as "a blind and brutal violence"

The Pope said: "The Easter message of the risen Christ... invites us not to forget those men and women seeking a better future, an ever more numerous throng of migrants and refugees... fleeing from war, hunger, poverty and social injustice.

"All too often, these brothers and sisters of ours meet along the way with death or, in any event, rejection by those who could offer them welcome and assistance."

Tens of thousands of migrants, mainly fleeing conflict in Syria and Iraq, are now stranded in Greece, after European nations and Turkey

agreed a plan to shut their route to northern Europe.

Pope Francis also offered a prayer for Syria: "The risen Christ points out paths of hope to beloved Syria, a country torn by a lengthy conflict with its sad wake of destruction, death, contempt for humanitarian law and the breakdown of civil concord."

He expressed his hope for success at peace scheduled to resume next month.

The Pope also urged people to use the "weapons of love" to combat the evil of terrorism.

He spoke of recent attacks in Belgium, Turkey, Nigeria, Chad, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, and Iraq.

"May [the risen Jesus Christ] draw us closer on this Easter feast to the victims of terrorism, that blind and brutal form of violence which continues to shed blood in different parts of the world," [he said \(text in Italian\)](#).

The latest terror attack - in Brussels on Tuesday - left 28 people dead. The former king and queen of Belgium, Albert II and Paola, attended the Mass on Sunday and met the Pope.

Many pilgrims cancelled their planned trips to Rome in the wake of the violence in Brussels, but the square was packed on Sunday, as was St Peter's Basilica when Pope Francis celebrated Mass on Saturday evening.

In his homily in the basilica, he called on Christians not to let fear and pessimism "imprison" them.

He said: "Today is the celebration of our hope. It is so necessary today."

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

Leading Irish theologian condemns Easter Rising as unchristian

The Guardian

An actor posing as **Irish** rebel leader Patrick Pearse reads the 1916 ... As **Ireland** prepares for the 100th anniversary of the uprising this Easter Sunday, ... Murphy is the first major **Irish religious** figure to launch a blistering attack on the 2016 Guardian **News** and Media Limited or its affiliated companies.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/mar/26/irish-theologian-condemns-easter-rising-unchristian>

Easter Rising and Troubles dead remembered in Dublin church commemoration

BBC News

Two separate religious services were held on Good Friday at the Dublin Unitarian **Church** in memory of "the dead of two conflicts in **Ireland**".

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-35900739>

Suspended Belfast priest resumes duties

News Letter

A Catholic priest at the centre of an alleged affair scandal has returned to ministry, the church has confirmed.

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/affair-scandal-down-and-connor-priest-back-in-new-ministry-1-7297503>

Priest's stress over Buncrana tragedy

News Letter

A priest of 43 years' experience has declared that conducting the funerals of the five tragic Buncrana pier victims was the worst thing he has ever had to deal with.

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/buncrana-pier-tragedy-worst-thing-i-have-dealt-with-says-priest-of-43-years-1-7297468>

Flag and intimidation concern at Presbyterian Church

News Letter

Unionist representatives in south Armagh have called for the immediate removal of an Irish tricolour being flown outside a Protestant church in Keady.

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/tricolour-at-keady-church-act-of-intimidation-1-7297658>

Church of Scientology donations up 76% in Ireland

Irish Times

Donations to the **Church of Scientology in Ireland** increased by 76 per cent ... The organisation said its members' fund in **Ireland** showed a deficit of ...

<http://www.irishtimes.com/business/church-of-scientology-donations-up-76-in-ireland-1.2587286>

Archbishop calls on people to stand up to men of violence

Irish Times

Led by a man carrying a plain cross, the gathering of Catholics, **Church of Ireland** members, Methodists, Lutherans, and others set off up Lower ...

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/archbishop-calls-on-people-to-stand-up-to-men-of-violence-1.2587414>

Archbishop condemns 'murdering criminals'

Irish Independent

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/news/archbishop-condemns-murdering-criminals-34573887.html>

Way of the Cross

Irish Times

The ceremony involved local **Church of Ireland**, Presbyterian, Methodist, Roman Catholic and Luthern Communities

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/images-of-the-day-1.2587180>

The 'lost' Caravaggio, and the Irish woman who bought it

Irish Times

His grief-stricken widow commissioned a stained glass window by Harry Clarke for the **Church of Ireland** church in Gorey to commemorate her ...

<http://www.irishtimes.com/life-and-style/homes-and-property/fine-art-antiques/the-lost-caravaggio-and-the-irish-woman-who-bought-it-1.2584737>

‘What is your religion?’ People are being urged to think hard about that come census night

The Journal

The Humanists Association of Ireland want people to consider how they really feel.

<http://www.thejournal.ie/census-religion-2679339-Mar2016/>

Churches amongst recent listed buildings in N Ireland

BBC News

Over 30 buildings have been granted listed status in Belfast, including a property on a street immortalised in song by Van Morrison.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/35898575>

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