

## The essential brief on the Irish churches

### World War I Remembrance

**Next week the outbreak of World War I will be remembered.**

**On Sunday there will be a Memorial Mass at 11am in St Mary's Pro-Cathedral, Marlborough Street, Dublin, with Irish government officials and the Royal British Legion. The public may attend.**

Remembrance service at Dundonald Cemetery, Sunday 2pm, where 77 WW1 soldiers are interred. At 2.30pm at Bangor Town Hall, veterans and bands will march from Main Street to British Legion Hall on Hamilton Road, with a remembrance picnic in Ward Park from 3pm to 5pm. The First Presbyterian Church in Donaghadee will host a multi-denominational service from 7pm.



***Knockagh World War 1 Memorial***

The principal centenary service in Northern Ireland will be in St Anne's cathedral, Belfast, on Monday evening at 7pm.

The service, which is by invitation only, will be led by the Dean of Belfast, the Very Revd John Mann, and the preacher will be the Archbishop of Armagh, Dr Richard Clarke.

Queen Elizabeth will be represented by the Duke of York and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Theresa Villiers MP, will also be in attendance as will Heather Humphreys TD, Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, with other representatives of civic and political life. Senior figures from the main churches in Northern Ireland will be present along with representatives of other faith communities.

Young people will light five candles during the service, each representing a year of the war. The Duke of York will read a lesson and will light a candle to commemorate the occasion. This will be placed beside one of the eight volumes of books kept in the Cathedral which record the names of all those from across the island of Ireland who fought and died during the 1914–18 war.

Music, led by the Cathedral Choirs, directed by Master of the Choristers David Stevens, will include *In Paradisum* from Fauré's *Requiem*, and hymns including *St Patrick's Breastplate* and *Be Thou My Vision*.

The Royal British Legion will raise two Standards, and there will be an Act of Remembrance introduced by the Dean and the President of the Royal British Legion in Northern Ireland, Mervyn Elder. The Chairman of the Northern Ireland First World War Centenary Committee, Jeffrey Donaldson MP, will read an Ulster poem of the First World War.

There will be a candlelit vigil from 10pm to 11pm in the grounds of Belfast City Hall, which will switch its lights off.

A wreath will also be laid and the Last Post played.

Elsewhere, there will be commemorations tomorrow (Sunday) in St Macartin's cathedral, Enniskillen, where the Bishop of Clogher will preach and in St Patrick's church, Broughshane where the preacher will be the Dean of Connor, the Very Revd John Bond.

**On Monday evening** in St Patrick's cathedral, Armagh, there will be a Service of Reflection led by the Revd Patrick Irwin. In Killyeagh Open-air commemoration at the Castle Square at 7pm, with 100 church bell chimes. World champion piper Richard Parkes will perform, and commemorative crosses laid. In Carrickfergus, Church service in Quay Lane, preceded by a short parade and wreath-laying ceremony from 7.30pm at the Cenotaph. At 10pm, Knockagh Monument will be lit up for an hour, and at 11pm the Cenotaph will be lit up in red. There will be a candlelit vigil in The Diamond, Coleraine town centre, from 10.30pm, preceded by entertainment from the

Coleraine Fife and Drums. The Island Civic Centre in Lisburn will be in darkness for a vigil from 10pm to 11pm.

## Funeral of Very Rev Lynda Patterson

The funeral of the Very [Revd Lynda Patterson](#), Dean of Christ Church Cathedral New Zealand, will take place in Dromore Cathedral on Sunday 3 August at 2.30 pm.

The service will be attended by The Rt Revd Victoria Matthews, Bishop of the Diocese of Christchurch in the Anglican Province of Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia

## New NIO man: bakery has to obey law

**The new junior minister at the Northern Ireland Office has said that businesses have to obey equality laws — even if they oppose gay marriage for religious reasons.**

News Letter - Speaking about the case being taken against the bakery which refused to make a cake with a



*Andrew Murrison*

pro-gay marriage slogan, Andrew Murrison said that he believed businesses had to comply with the law, irrespective of the views of the owners.

The former Royal Navy surgeon, who took over as Secretary of State Theresa Villiers' deputy earlier this month, said that he only voted for same-sex marriage after being assured that churches would not be forced to act against their beliefs.

Last month Ashers Baking Company in Newtownabbey received a letter for the Equality Commission telling it that it had acted "unlawfully" in refusing to make a cake with the slogan "Support gay marriage" and has said it will bring court action unless the bakery reverses its stance.

Last week the Equality Commission, which sponsors Belfast's Gay Pride week of events, was awarded a community partnership award by Pride. The NIO has no role in overseeing the Equality Commission, which operates under the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister.

The Christian Institute, which is supporting Ashers, has said that the case shows that David Cameron was wrong when he assured Parliament that gay marriage would not cause discrimination against those who oppose it.

In his first interview since taking up the post, Dr Murrison told the News Letter: "Before I voted for this, I consulted with the Attorney General because my worry was that churchmen and churches would be obliged to do things which their consciences told them they really could not. I was given a reassurance at that point that the legislation was such that that would not arise and on that basis I was prepared to support this particular measure.

"However, I think if you're opening your premises for business you have to comply with the discrimination legislation.

"So, whilst I can understand the disquietude of the small business concerned, since they are I understand people of deep religious conviction, I have to say that in terms of running their business they have to comply with the law and the law, I think rightly, prevents discrimination against gay people."

The bakery has stressed that it did not refuse the order because of the customer's sexual orientation, but because of the message on the cake.

## **Church to blame for Northern Ireland's anti-gay attitudes, drag queen Panti Bliss tells Belfast Pride**

**The Irish drag queen who became an internet sensation after attacking homophobia in the region has blamed the church for perpetuating intolerant views.**

Belfast Telegraph -  
Speaking at Amnesty  
International Pride last

***Panti Bliss, one of Dublin's  
foremost drag queens***



night in Belfast, Panti Bliss, who is the alter-ego of Rory O'Neill, condemned the role of religion in fuelling homophobia.

"Homophobia is a problem in all of the UK. But polls suggest that Northern Ireland has a particular problem," O'Neill told The Independent.

"Twenty-six per cent of Northern Irish people in a recent vote said they'd have a problem living beside a gay neighbour and that's a pretty stark statistic," he said.

"I think the simple answer is that Northern Ireland is a more religious society and many people use religion as an outlet to express homophobic views."

O'Neill spoke of his own experience coming out to a church-going parent. "When I came out to my own mother, who's a religious woman herself, I never doubted that she loved me. But of course it took her a long time to come to terms with what her church had taught her all her life, and who her son had turned out to be, and that caused her a lot of difficulty and a lot of pain."

Bliss is one of Dublin's foremost drag queens and in recent years has become an "accidental activist" for equality.

## **Bishop MacDaid urges all road users to be safe and recommends prayer for motorists**

**Ahead of this August bank holiday weekend in the Republic, Bishop Liam MacDaid, Bishop of Clogher, calls on all road users: motorists, cyclists and pedestrians, to take special care of themselves and their loved ones.**

Bishop MacDaid said, "Up to 31 July the recorded 2014 road fatality figures stood at 112 for the Republic and 43 for the North. This loss of human life is heart-breaking for the loved ones of the deceased and a tragedy for our society as a whole. Ahead of our two August bank holiday weekends (2,3 and 4 in Republic and 23,24 and 25 in Northern Ireland) I am asking all road users to exercise particular vigilance in terms of safety and to be responsible on the roads over the coming days and weeks.

"Care for one another in our community is a basic human value which travels across different faiths and cultures. This duty of care also applies to our road use and it is fundamental to the common good of all in society."

Bishop MacDaid concluded, “As individuals we have an obligation to exercise a duty of care to other road users by improving our driver behaviour and, at a public policy level, this improved behaviour needs to be matched by effective strategic planning and greater resourcing.”

Bishop MacDaid recommends the following dedicated prayer for motorists which may be recited before driving, especially during the busy holiday month of August when so many more people are on the roads:

### **Prayer for motorists before driving**

Before I take my place behind the wheel  
I pray, O Sacred Heart – Guide me on my way.  
Virgin Mary, Morning Star, from every danger guide this car.  
Thou dear Lord who gave it to enjoy,  
Grant that its purpose be to save and not destroy.  
Amen

- The Diocese of Clogher is a cross-border diocese. It includes the counties of Monaghan, Fermanagh and portions of Tyrone, Donegal, Louth and Cavan. The Diocese of Clogher has 88,203 Catholics, 73 priests, 37 parishes and 85 churches. The Cathedral of Saint Macartan is located in Monaghan town.
- Road fatality statistics provided by An Garda Síochána and the Police Service of Northern Ireland.

## **Review of Church events**

**In Dublin today (Saturday) at 5.30pm the vocal ensemble, Peregrine, directed by Stuart Kinsella, will sing Compline in St Andrew’s church, Westland Row, and they will sing again tomorrow (Sunday) in the Lady Chapel of St Patrick’s cathedral.**

The Tacoma Youth Choir from California will give a lunchtime concert in St Mary’s cathedral, Limerick tomorrow (Sunday) and on Tuesday evening they will sing in St Patrick’s church, Greystones.

On Tuesday the Archbishop of Armagh will introduce Geoffrey Walmsley from the Church Army to be a lay pastor in the Dundalk group of parishes. In the National Library the Revd Professor Patrick Comerford, from the Church of Ireland Theological Institute, will speak on ‘Hatch, Match and Beyond – Finding Trails and Tales in Parish Records’ as part of the ‘Genealogy at

Lunchtime' series of talks. On Wednesday Canon Comerford, as President of Irish CND, will be one of the speakers at the annual commemoration of the Hiroshima bombing which will be held at 1pm in Merrion Square park.

On Wednesday the Bishop of Down & Dromore will institute the Revd Bryan Kerr as Rector of Dromore after which he will be installed as Dean of Dromore and on Friday Bishop Miller will institute the Revd Sue Bell, who has come from Preston in the Diocese of Blackburn, to the incumbency of Ballywalter.

The lunchtime organ recital in St Mary's cathedral, Limerick, on Wednesday will be given by Stuart Nicholson from St Patrick's cathedral, Dublin. C of I notes, Irish Times

## **Down & Dromore renew links with Albany diocese**

**A group of seven made the trip to the 2014 Albany Diocesan Convention – Bishop Harold Miller and his**



**wife Liz, Archdeacon Roderic West of Seapatrick, Banbridge, and his wife Joan, David Palmer, Rector of Magherally & Annaclone and his wife Lorna, and Jenny Smith from CMS Ireland.**

*Revd David Palmer shares his experiences...*

Most of the party flew from Belfast International to Newark Airport on 3rd June, returning the following week. For Lorna and me the arrangements were slightly different as our hosts were Revd Tom and Judith Malionek who lived in Washington DC, much further south, and so we left a day earlier. We knew Tom and Judith as we had hosted them for a week in Magherally as part of the reciprocal arrangement.

Lorna and I arrived in Washington late Monday evening and were met by Tom and driven to their house, where we stayed for a few days. We mixed sightseeing of the city with a visit to their Church of the Redeemer, Chevy Chase, where Tom is the Associate Rector, for a midweek service and a tour around the very large and amazingly well-equipped church premises (they have an in-house chef and florist!)

On Thursday Tom, David and Lorna drove all the way up to the beautiful Albany Diocesan Retreat Centre, about a nine hour drive, where we stayed overnight. The following morning we drove to the Camp-in-the-Woods, Speculator, (pictured above right) in the north of New York State where we met up with the other members of our party.

The Diocesan Conference encourages clergy and lay people to bring families and so is held in a beautiful lakeside camp. The very full programme included worship times, seminars and meetings. Bishops Harold Miller and Darren McCartney both preached at the main worship sessions, being enthusiastically received by those present, and also gave seminars about the dioceses of Down & Dromore and the Arctic. Jenny Smith also spoke about the work of CMS and Karen McCartney spoke about living in the Arctic.

Personally, I led Morning Prayer on Saturday morning. All of the sessions were inspiring and most interesting with hundreds present at all times. There was a large youth contingent who had a parallel programme but joined us in the final worship session. They certainly livened things up. Singing 'These are the days of Elijah' without the actions will never quite seem the same again!

It was also very interesting to relax and talk with Albany diocese folk, and with Bishop Bill Love and to find out about life in their churches. This, of course, was helped by the presence of 'The Tepee' which had an inexhaustible supply of free doughnuts (sorry, donuts) and coffee.

After the Diocesan event we had time to meet local clergy and made our way back to New York for the return flight home. In our case, Lorna and I stopped off in the city of Glens Falls where I gave a talk in an outreach service designed for 'transients' on Sunday afternoon: basically people with housing and/or other problems. There were about 50-60 present and we had a time of singing, a short talk followed by Holy Communion and we then shared a meal. Lorna and I were able to sit and talk with some and found that although many had very real problems in their lives they nevertheless had a real faith in Jesus. After the service they were able to access five items from the food bank donated by church members. We found the service very moving.



## Mothers' Union acts to improve maternal health in Zimbabwe

**The Mother's Union in Zimbabwe has resolved to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by actively contributing to the country's maternal health system.**

ACNS - The decision was arrived at after a Mother's Union (MU) team's visit to Budiro Polyclinic, a rural health facility located in a high-density suburb on the outskirts of Harare.

In a statement to ACNS and other partners yesterday, Church and Community Mobilisation Process (CCMP) Coordinator for Harare, Lizzie Zimunya reported: "We carried out a Site visit of Budiro Polyclinic and were able to carry out a needs analysis."

She added, "It was then that the MU executive decided to purchase and donate some medical equipment including a blood pressure machine, a foetal Doppler and baby hampers among others."

"The baby hamper donations will be given to the most needy mothers per month for a period of three months," said Mrs Zimunya. "It is hoped that during this period we will be able to motivate the MU and other churches in that community to continue in their own special way this initiative."

Mrs Zimunya explained that the Mother's Union in Harare has chosen to be guided by practical interventions which is reflected their theme for this year of "Faith and Actions" drawn from the book of James.

"We also want to be associated with the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) number five – improving maternal health," she said. "As a result we have been working with the City Health Department in Harare and have since decided to start off with Budiro, the busiest and also with the highest rate in maternal deaths."

Mrs Zimunya also said that the visit challenged her personally and that would contribute three ambulance service vouchers maternal patients who need to be referred to a hospital but cannot afford an ambulance service. "I would want to urge my fellow Christians to be compassionate just like Christ and remember the Bible teaching – whatsoever you do to the least of my brother and sisters, you do it for me," she said.

The donations will be made today, at a ceremony to be attended by representatives from Zimbabwe Council of Churches, Ministry of Women, Gender and Community Development, City Health Department and the equipment and service providers.

## **Cardinal to Hamas and Israel: pick up binoculars to see your innocent victims**

**The president of Caritas Internationalis has suggested that Israeli and Hamas leaders pick up a pair of binoculars so they could see that “most of your victims are innocent people”.**

Catholic Herald - Cardinal Óscar Andrés Rodríguez Maradiaga of Tegucigalpa, president of the Vatican-based umbrella organisation for Catholic charities, said peace was impossible without reconciliation, and reconciliation required recognising each other as human beings.

“Israel and Hamas, why do you keep pointing out the speck in the eye of your brother while missing the plank in your own eye?” the cardinal asked in a statement published yesterday.

“As Caritas,” he said, “we pray for peace in the Holy Land. We pray for the Palestinian and Israeli families who have lost their children, mothers and fathers, and for those who have been killed. Our prayers are with the children who live in terror and whose mental scars will run deep long after this war is over.”

Despite the violence, the cardinal prayed that Palestinians and Israelis “will remain free to believe in a future of justice and peace”.

“This is the third war in five years between Israel and militants in Gaza,” the cardinal said. “In the intervening years, Palestinians in Gaza have lived a life where water is scarce, much of their food comes from humanitarian organisations and where the dignity of a job is beyond many people’s reach.”

On Friday, shortly after what was to be a 72-hour ceasefire, Latin Patriarch Fouad Twal of Jerusalem said temporary halts in fighting obviously are good, but unless Israel changed its policies toward Gaza, the desperation of residents would continue to lead to violence.

“If conditions in Gaza remain that of a desperate land under siege, where the only things that grow are fear and frustration that spur hatred,” then a temporary ceasefire will have no lasting impact, he told Fides, the news agency of the Congregation for the Evangelisation of Peoples.

“It almost seems as if the point is to make Gaza a factory for desperate people who are easy to transform into extremists ready for anything,” the patriarch said.

The next step, he said, must be lifting the Israeli blockade of Gaza. “Even the tunnels” dug by Hamas and a primary target of Israel’s military action, “are a product of the embargo. If the siege ends, if roads are opened and the free movement of persons and products is permitted, if people are allowed to fish in the sea” along the Gaza coast, then “no one will need to dig tunnels.”

The patriarch did not say Hamas militants are innocent. In fact, he seemed to put part of the blame on them for the high percentage of victims who are children and women.

“Just think of the fact that of all the tunnels, Hamas never thought to build underground refuges for the people,” he said.

## Press Review

### Mail

Report that the woman who was jailed in Sudan for being a Christian has finally arrived in the US after her 10 month nightmare amid joyous scenes of jubilation. Meriam Ibrahim smiled and hugged her supporters as she landed in Manchester, New Hampshire and told a friend: 'Don't cry, I'm here now'.  
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2712767/Home-Meriam-Woman-jailed-Sudan-Christian-arrives-United-States-husband-baby-signaling-end-10-month-nightmare.html#ixzz3970qzg2T>

### Express

Article by Muddassar Ahmed on what troubles him as a Muslim about ISIS is the atrocities they are carrying out against Mosul's Christian population in the name of Islam. He states that Mosul, a city with one of the oldest Christian communities in the world has dwindled to a few who now face horrendous persecution from a militant group claiming to speak for Islam. The persecution of Christians shows not only another example of ISIS savagery, but also belies the fact that Muslims have co-existed peacefully with Christians in Mosul and elsewhere for centuries.

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/494158/OP-ED-What-ISIS-is-doing-to-Iraq-s-Christians-in-the-name-of-my-faith-makes-me-truly-sick>

### **BBC**

Report that an audio guide voiced by actors including Alan Rickman, Joanna Lumley and Bill Nighy has boosted visitor numbers at a church in Gloucestershire. It states more than 25 people voice the guide, which details the medieval windows of St Mary's Church in Fairford. Churchwarden Mike Godsall said visitors had doubled to 75 people a day since the guide launched on Monday. The two-hour guide gives an overview of the 28 stained glass windows, which tell the Christian story.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-gloucestershire-28540158>

### **Express**

Report that the village church where the Duchess of Cambridge and her sister Pippa Middleton were christened is to hold its last-ever service. The Grade Two listed place of worship, St Andrew's church in Bradfield, Berkshire, where the siblings were baptised in the 1980s, is set to close its doors and be sold to a boarding school. Officials announced today that St Andrew's church will hold its final service on November 30 to coincide with St Andrew's Day.

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/royal/494066/Kate-Middleton-Pippa-church-christened-closed>

### **Mail**

Report that a Church of England chaplain blessed the ground at St Thomas' Hospital in London where a 10ft statue is to be erected next summer to celebrate the 'black pioneer nurse' Mary Seacole. It states the £500,000 bronze will be the first public memorial and the site of the statue was unveiled by actress Suzanne Packer, of the TV hospital drama *Casualty*. The report is sceptical about Mary Seacole's role and comparison to Florence Nightingale.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-2712683/How-Mary-Seacole-saint-Florence-Nightingale-smear-twisting-history.html#ixzz3971k59fS>

### **Ind**

Report that the Irish drag queen who became an internet sensation after attacking homophobia in the region has blamed the church for perpetuating intolerant views. Speaking at Amnesty International Pride last night in Belfast, Panti Bliss, who is the alter-ego of Rory O'Neill, condemned the role of religion in fuelling homophobia. "Homophobia is a problem in all of the UK. But polls suggest that Northern Ireland has a particular problem," O'Neill said. "I think the simple answer is that Northern Ireland is a more religious society

and many people use religion as an outlet to express homophobic views."

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/drag-queen-says-church-to-blame-for-antigay-attitudes-9641237.html>

## Guard

Report that Ugandan activists are seeking to overturn the country's tough anti-gay law by petitioning the constitutional court to declare it invalid. Signed by Uganda's veteran president, Yoweri Museveni, in February, the law calls for homosexuals to be jailed for life, outlaws the promotion of homosexuality and obliges Ugandans to denounce gay people to the authorities. The activists argue that the law was passed in parliament without the necessary quorum of lawmakers. The 10 petitioners also claim that the law violates the constitutional right to privacy and dignity, as well as the right to be free from discrimination and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jul/31/uganda-anti-gay-law-constitutional-court>

## And finally .....

Express/Mail/Ind

Report that the Pope has revealed his top ten tips for happiness, including not being taken in by consumerism, enjoying leisure time and being accepting of others. But, perhaps unexpectedly, he also counsels against trying to convert others to your own faith, saying they would be "attracted" to religion instead. Other tips include turning off the television and taking Sundays off.

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/494216/Pope-reveals-top-ten-happiness-tips>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2712136/The-ten-tips-happy-life-according-Pope-Advice-includes-turning-television-not-converting-people-religion-spending-Sundays-family.html>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/people/pope-francis-issues-top-10-tips-for-happiness--including-dont-try-to-convert-other-people-9639488.html>

## Blogs

**Archbishop Cranmer** writes about the Archbishop of Canterbury's statement on Gaza calling it a "carefully worded equilibrium"

<http://archbishop-cranmer.blogspot.co.uk/>

**Nick Baines**, Bishop of Leeds, writes about the horrors of Gaza, Ukraine and Syria - ( BBC Radio 4s *Thought for the Day*)

<http://nickbaines.wordpress.com/2014/07/31/by-the-rivers-of-babylon/>

**Tel**

**Tim Stanley:** Peace in Gaza requires faith: a return to the gentle heart of Islam and Judaism

<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/timstanley/100282046/peace-in-gaza-requires-faith-a-return-to-the-gentle-heart-of-islam-and-judaism/>