

The essential brief on the Irish churches

Dean Lynda Patterson - NZ Bishop's touching tribute in Dromore

Dromore Cathedral was filled to capacity on Sunday for the second funeral service of The Very Rev Lynda Patterson, who died while serving as Dean of Christchurch Cathedral in New Zealand.

News Letter - The 40-year-old Oxford graduate was found dead at her New Zealand home two weeks ago after failing to turn up to Sunday service.

The first funeral service for the leading Ulster-born cleric has held in New Zealand on July 29, where it was attended by a raft of senior clergymen from the country.

Rev Patterson's body returned home to the Province on Friday on the same flight as her friend the Bishop of Christchurch, the Rt Rev Victoria Matthews.

The funeral procession left her parents' Dromore home at 1.45pm for a 2.30pm funeral service conducted by the Ven Roderic West and the Rev Trevor McKeown.

She was buried later in the adjoining churchyard.



Rt Rev Victoria Matthews

Addressing hundreds of mourners, the Rt Rev Matthews said: “This is not easy for us. We are devastated and we feel our life has lost a wheel and is stuck deep in the mud.”

She added: “All I can say as a fellow mourner and close friend of Lynda is that our challenge is to do what Cedric and Evelyn did when Lynda went off to Oxford University and New Zealand.



Amongst the mourners was the former Unionist leader, Lord Empey

“Her loving parents said to her, ‘We have prepared you for this moment. It is time to go where you were called’. And she did. And she has.”

She added: “Dean Lynda Patterson was a theologian who had the most common touch” who “could take the most complex theology and make it accessible to the people in the pew”.

“She had an extraordinary ability to make clear what was complex.

“But now Lynda knows Christ even as is known. She no longer gazes into a glass darkly but sees God face to face.”

Bishop Matthews said that in “accepting the call to ordained ministry” Rev Patterson “rolled up her sleeves and helped people address and recover from any number of difficulties”

She added: “She was Christ’s hands and feet; heart and voice in more ways than can be described.

“She helped people who had been bowled over by life’s tragedies stand up and walk.

“She proclaimed the Gospel and lived the Gospel. Why? Because she knew the love of God in Jesus Christ her Lord and the power of the Spirit.”

Among the mourners were fellow clerics, close friends and former UUP leader Lord Empey.

Earlier, during the tragic cleric’s first funeral at Christchurch’s transitional cathedral in New Zealand, Bishop Victoria Matthews – who also preached at the second funeral in Dromore – said Rev Patterson’s death reminded everyone that life was “transitional”.

In comments published by Christchurch Cathedral after her untimely death, Rev Dr Peter Carrell, director of theological education in Christchurch, said: “We may not see her like in our lifetime again – she combined Irish wit and intellectual brilliance with a rare gift of communicating profound truth in everyday language.”

Other statements indicated that she had been instrumental in keeping the congregation together in the wake of the 2011 New Zealand earthquake.

Earlier her father Cedric Patterson said: “She was a great daughter, a brilliant daughter. She was our pride and joy.

“She was a first-class daughter, and in all her 40 years she never, never gave us any trouble or any bother in her life.”

It is understood Rev Patterson died after suffering a suspected heart attack.

Israel denounced by senior C of I cleric

Israel was unequivocally denounced for its actions in Gaza and accused of war crimes in an unprecedented and strongly worded sermon by a senior Irish priest in Dublin yesterday morning.

Patsy McGarry in Irish Times - Speaking at the Eucharist service in Dublin’s [Christ Church](#) Cathedral Canon [Patrick Comerford](#) recalled that, in the context of what has been happening in Gaza, the Israeli ambassador to the US [Ron Derner](#) had told a [Christian](#) lobby group there last week that some were “ shamelessly accusing Israel of genocide and would put us in the dock for war crimes. The truth is that the Israeli [Defence Forces](#) should be given the Nobel Peace Prize . . . a Nobel Peace Prize for fighting with unimaginable restraint.”

Canon Comerford, lecturer in Anglicanism, Liturgy and Church History at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute in Dublin, rejected this assertion, recalling also that truth was the first casualty in war.

‘Battered children’ “Night after night, on television screens and impartial news outlets, I see the wounded, injured, maimed and battered children, frightened, screaming and even mute in shock and terror, brought by inconsolable and despairing parents to hospitals deprived of adequate facilities and medicine,” he said.

Whoever argued against criticising Israel “has never read the Old Testament prophets and their condemnations of Israel and its political leaders”, he said,



A march protesting the Israeli treatment of Gaza, organised by The Ireland Palestine Solidarity Campaign (IPSC) took place in Dublin on Saturday, attracting thousands.

and that such “Old Testament prophets can hardly be labelled dismissively as anti-Israeli or anti-Semitic”.

As for himself, he was “shameless in my accusations of war crimes” against Israel “and when I describe Gaza as a wasteland and a wilderness. The crowds cannot flee in fear from the tyrant, for they are hemmed in and under siege, barraged by flares at night and bombarded by missiles by day, irrespective of whether they support [Hamas](#) or not, children or adults, fighters or civilians.

“Like the crowd in our Gospel reading, they are being told to go away. But there is nowhere for them to go, not even the sea.”

Lesson of history The principle casualties of war, time and again, he said, “are not the failed politicians, the failed diplomats, or even the poor soldiers, but civilians, children, the young and the elderly, women and men. And truth.” He recalled the saying that “in war, truth is the first casualty “, sometimes attributed to the *Æschylus*, a playwright in ancient [Greece](#).

The 18th century Anglican saint Samuel Johnson wrote: “Among the calamities of war may be justly numbered the diminution of the love of truth, by the falsehoods which interest dictates and credulity encourages.”

Canon Comerford asked “how long have we known that war never ends war, that war only brings the delusion of peace? The Roman orator and historian Tacitus, who lived at the time of the Gospel writers, condemns those who

plunder, slaughter and steal and then falsely call the result Empire, for 'they make a wasteland, and they call it peace'."

War is a one-way street - Archbishop Diarmuid Martin on 100th anniversary of the opening of World War One



In his homily at a service marking the commencement of World War 1 in the Pro-Cathedral, Dublin, yesterday, Archbishop Martin recalled the witness of Father Francis Gleeson.

The Archbishop continued - He was a priest of the Archdiocese of Dublin, born in Templemore in County Tipperary in 1884 and ordained here in this Pro-Cathedral in 1910. After ministering in Dublin for a number of years, in November 1914 at the age of 30, he became Chaplain to the Second Royal Munster Fusiliers as they set out to take part in the First World War.

Father Gleeson left behind him a fascinating diary which is conserved in the Dublin Diocesan Archives. The diary is a remarkable chronicle of World War One. It is not the chronicle of the Great War looked at from 10 Downing Street or from the Chancelleries of the other major European Capitals or that of the military strategists. Father Gleeson's is a diary from the front line, the diary of someone who was with and was respected by the troops of every religious denomination. It is a diary which records the letters he wrote to the families of those who had fallen bravely. It is a diary which captures in a unique way the

bravery of the soldiers he ministered to and what their faith meant to them. It is also a diary which captures the horrors of war.

We gather to recall the centenary of the opening of World War One. We remember the millions of young lives lost over those four long years of conflict right across Europe. We remember the idealism and the valour and the courage of those who served in that war. We remember in a particular way the thousands of young Irish men who fought and we remember especially those who fell in the pursuit of an ideal.

Father Gleeson knew the horrors of war. The young soldiers caught up in war were men and women of courage and valour and idealism. The ideals they defended were noble ideas, but war itself is always horrible and leaves all those who become caught up in war marked for life by the inhuman experiences they endured.

There is a Peace Park at Messines, in Western Flanders, designed to commemorate the joint action of the 16th (Irish) and the 36th (Ulster) Divisions in June 1917. Various quotations are inscribed on the stones that line the entrance walk. One is an extract from Fr Gleeson's diary written in May 1915.

“Spent all night trying to console, aid and remove the wounded. It was ghastly to see them lying there in the cold, cheerless outhouses, on bare stretchers with no blankets to cover their freezing limbs. ... Hundreds lying out in cold air all night at Windy Corner. No ambulances coming. They come at last – at daylight.”

In the very same month, on Ascension Thursday, 13 May 1915, he recalls:

The roll-call of the Munsters on Monday was the saddest thing imaginable. In the field beside “St. Mary's” (the little tent-chapel the artillery chaps erected for us) the four Companies all sat round on the dry grass. One Company. was called at a time. Everybody was worn, sad, depressed, after the loss of so many loved comrades. Some had lost brothers, others cousins, but all had lost good and faithful companions. The Sergeant Major called out name after name. “Killed”, “Wounded”, “Missing” was answered according to the fate of each.

Like many families in Ireland I had relatives who were involved very much in 1914 in the nationalist struggle in Ireland and I had relatives fighting in the British Army at the front. I remember one uncle, a bright and very sensitive

man, who for various reasons had gone away from home a mere teenager and joined the army in London. He served in World War One and lost the sight in one eye. He rarely if ever spoke about the war. The horror he witnessed was obviously something which deeply affected him as a person for the rest of his life.

I am not a historian and it is not up to me to analyse the factors which contributed to the start of the First World War and those factors which led to a conflict which became more protracted than anyone could have imagined. On Christmas Day 1914, Father Gleeson hears talk of the war lasting a further six months. And he notes: "What can we know? What does anyone know?"

Was the First World War necessary? Was it preventable? Did such a conflict have to happen which would last for so many years and cover practically every corner of a Europe which had been showing signs of economic progress and a degree of closeness and friendship about peoples? What went wrong?

Pope Benedict XV in 1917 made a dramatic appeal, in words which became famous, to end the war which he described as "un inutile strage", "a useless carnage". That was a phrase which was as far as one could possibly imagine in those days from being "politically correct language". Many Catholics on all sides were scandalised. Senior Catholic intellectuals responded to the Pope saying: "we do not want your peace".

War is a journey down a one-way street, and once you start the journey you almost inevitably establish a further momentum which is self perpetuating. The opening of the First World War led to a new industrialization of weaponry in constant need of replenishment. The First World War even generated a sort of fascination and glorification of war, with underage young men coming forward to something which seemed challenging, but which turned out to be horrendous trauma and carnage.

More at - <http://www.catholicbishops.ie/2014/08/03/homily-notes-of-most-rev-diarmuid-martin-archbishop-of-dublin/>

Tandragee Parish Church War memorial window dedicated

A large stained glass window commemorating those who died in the First World War was dedicated at a service in Ballymore Parish Church, Tandragee, on Sunday morning.

New Letter - The window was unveiled by the Vice-Lord Lieutenant for Co Armagh, Richard Hamilton-Stubber, and dedicated by the Ballymore rector, the Rev Shane Forster.

The window bears the inscription from Laurence Binyon's celebrated poem:

"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning

We will remember them."

In attendance at the service was the Northern Ireland president of the Royal British Legion, Mervyn Elder, and the women's president, Mrs Joanne Andrew Steer.

Also present were Newry-Armagh MLAs Danny Kennedy and William Irwin; the deputy Lord Mayor of Armagh Joy Rollston and local Tandragee and district unionist councillors.

Two Second World War veterans from Tandragee – William Cooke and Tommy Vennard – were given pride of place in the congregation.

Before the service, ex-servicemen and women from Tandragee Royal British Legion, led by branch president Major Paul Bowbanks, placed wreaths at the town's war memorial.

A special commemorative edifice has been erected at the war memorial, remembering those from the area who died in the First and Second World Wars.

A vigil will be held at Tandragee war memorial on Monday between 10 and 11pm.

Gay wedding canon has NHS job offer withdrawn

The first gay British clergyman to marry a same-sex partner has had an NHS job offer withdrawn because a bishop will not give the licence needed.

BBC News - Jeremy Pemberton currently works as an NHS chaplain in Lincolnshire, but has been blocked from taking a new job with the NHS in Nottinghamshire.

He was also told he could not work as a priest in Nottinghamshire after [he married his partner in April](#).



His case was [raised in the House of Lords](#) earlier this week.

[Continue reading the main story](#)

Same-sex marriage ‘at variance’ with Church of England teaching
The Acting Bishop for Southwell and Nottingham, the Rt Revd Richard Inwood, issued a statement on 9 July.

He said: “In its pastoral guidance on same-sex marriage, the House of Bishops said that getting married to someone of the same sex was clearly at variance with the teaching of the Church of England.

“The statement said it would not be appropriate conduct for someone in holy orders to enter into a same-sex marriage, given the need for clergy to model the Church’s teaching in their lives.

“In view of this, and having spoken to the Reverend Jeremy Pemberton, his permission to officiate in the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham was revoked.

“In light of the pastoral guidance and for reasons of consistency, I am unable to issue a licence to Jeremy Pemberton for the post of chaplaincy and bereavement manager, in the Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Trust.”

[Mr Pemberton told BBC Radio Nottingham](#) he was “very, very disappointed” not to be able to take up the post of chaplaincy and bereavement manager for Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust after the offer was withdrawn on Friday.

‘Treated inconsistently’

“I’ve now been treated, I think, in an unfair and rather harsh way in Southwell and Nottingham, whereas I’m now going to carry on doing the job I have been doing in Lincolnshire where I have a licence,” he said.

“So I’ve been treated in an inconsistent way, and the House of Bishops can’t agree amongst themselves what ought to be the processes that somebody who enters a same-sex marriage should go through.”

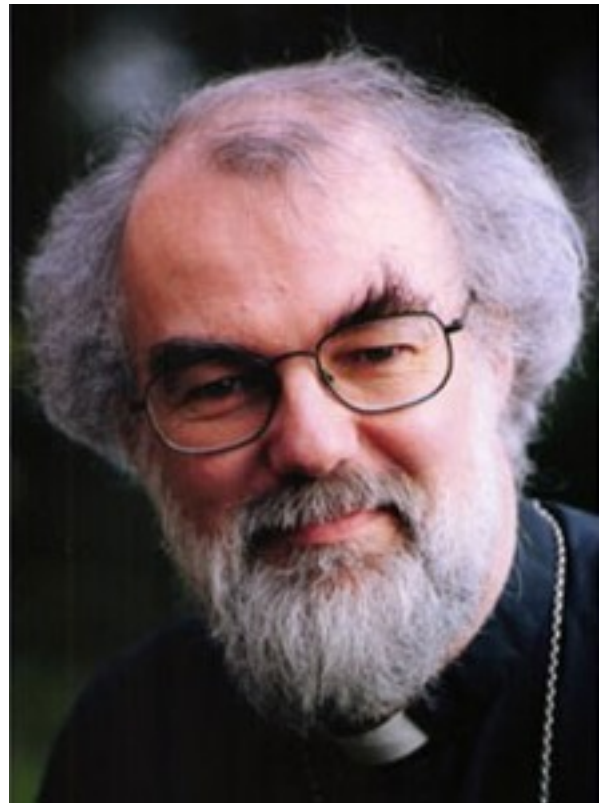
NHS chaplains are funded by the NHS rather than the Church of England, but a chaplain needs a licence from the relevant diocese.

The Acting Bishop for Southwell and Nottingham, the Rt Revd Richard Inwood, [revoked Mr Pemberton's permission to officiate as a priest](#) in June and wrote to the trust in July saying he would not give Mr Pemberton a licence for the new job.

'Islam is reviving British values', says former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams

Islam is rejuvenating "British values", the former Archbishop of Canterbury has claimed while lambasting sections of the press for presenting Muslims as "un-British".

Lizzie Dearden, Independent - Rowan Williams was giving a speech at the annual Living Islam Festival in Lincolnshire on Friday, discussing what British values were and how Muslims could affect them.



He said one of the greatest gifts to Britain had been bringing back "open, honest and difficult public discussion", [the Times reported](#).

Asked if he thought Islam was restoring British values, he said: "Yes. I'm thinking of the way in which, for example, in Birmingham we have seen a local parish and a mosque combining together to provide family services and youth activities, both acting out of a very strong sense that this is what communities ought to do. "

Dr Williams was one of several speakers at the event organised by the Islamic Society of Britain, which saw thousands of people gather for four days of talks, debates, music, worship and bazaars.

More at -

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/islam-is-reviving-british-values-says-former-archbishop-of-canterbury-rowan-williams-964431>

Vatican urges faithful to cool it during passing of the peace

In an effort to insure a more sober ritual, the Vatican has urged bishops to clamp down on singing, moving around and other casual expressions of affection when the sign of peace is exchanged during Mass.



The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments led by Spanish Cardinal Antonio Canizares Llovera, has sent a letter to bishops around the world expressing concern about what it considers to be ritual abuses.

Among them, he said, were turning the sign of peace into a “song of peace,” the priest leaving the altar during the interlude, or use of the ritual to offer congratulations at weddings or condolences at funerals.

Read more [here](#). Pope Francis has reportedly approved this letter. Exchanging the peace can range from reserved to raucous in Episcopal churches. Seeing how close we are liturgically to our Roman brothers and sisters, what do you think of this effort to create a more "sober ritual?"

More at -

<http://www.religionnews.com/2014/08/01/vatican-urges-priests-clamp-excessive-emotions-sign-peace/>

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