

The essential brief on the Irish churches



HRH The Duke of York and First Minister Peter Robinson at the Remembrance Service in St Annes Cathedral

War centenary service at Belfast cathedral

A service of commemoration took place at St Anne's Cathedral in Belfast on Monday evening followed by a candlelit vigil at city hall.

During the service, the Archbishop of Armagh Dr Richard Clarke, said: "War must always represent the abject failure of the human spirit and of humanity itself.

"It can never be other and we should never pretend it is other.



Re-enactors at Belfast cathedral

"Without being guilty of the worst kind of religious escapism, we cannot spiritually separate the violence, the carnage and the suffering of the innocent that is under our gaze today - whether in Gaza, in Israel, in Syria, in Ukraine or in Iraq - from our memorialising of the beginnings of the First World War."

Dr Clarke continued: "This was the first time that the weaponry of war could be fully industrialised and it was, also for the first time, that the phrase total war was coined to indicate that civilians were to be regarded as being as much part of the war as the military."

He said extinguishing lights throughout the UK, a reminder of words used to characterise the outbreak of war by then British foreign secretary Sir Edward Grey, was an appropriate memorial.

"But yet, as people of faith, we must be ready to set alongside it another message about light and darkness, that eternal truth of the Gospel," said the clergyman.

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

Dr Clarke said it was easy to create monuments to hatred, painful to recognise beauty.

He added: "Memorialising can be a crude, self-obsessive and vengeful thing - an empty shell of past hatreds that seeks to demonise an enemy forever - or it can become, with forbearance, integrity and true spiritual courage, a thing of beauty that can strive to radiate the glory and the presence of God."

Ahead of the day's events, the Secretary of State Theresa Villiers, said: "One hundred years on from the start of the First World War and the huge scale of the conflict and the enormous loss of life is no less shocking today.

"It is very important that we remember the sacrifice made by men and women from across these islands who gave so much for our freedom."

Northern Ireland Secretary Theresa Villiers, First Minister Peter Robinson and Irish heritage minister Heather Humphreys were among those attending the service.

Young people lit five candles, each representing a year of the war. The Royal British Legion raised two standards and an act of remembrance was introduced by Dean of Belfast John Mann.

The church's construction began in 1899 and in 1924 its west front was designated a memorial to men and women who died during the First World War.

HRH The Duke of York, Northern Ireland Secretary Theresa Villiers, First Minister Peter Robinson and Irish heritage minister Heather Humphreys were among those attending the service.

Eight volumes of books in the cathedral - "The Books of The Dead", facsimiles of those kept at the National Garden of Remembrance at Islandbridge Dublin, were on display. They record the names of those from across Ireland who fought and died during the 1914-18 war.

A First World War exhibition, meanwhile, is taking place in Londonderry as part of the commemorations.

The Art of War exhibition is part of the Apprentice Boys' Maiden City Festival and features pieces created by soldiers in the trenches during their time on the western front.

Bishop of Cork and Dean of Cork Mark Centenary of Start of First World War with Appeal for Photos

Bishop Paul Colton and Dean Nigel Dunne Appeal for Photos of First World War Fallen and Veterans with Cork Connections



The Heroes Column – War Memorial in St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork

The War Memorial in St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork – known as 'The Heroes' Column' – like war memorials in other churches and public places throughout Cork City and County will provide a natural focus for centenary remembrance of the First World War, 1914-1918, and our prayers for peace, justice and reconciliation in our time.

The Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, Dr Paul Colton, and the Dean of Cork, the Very Reverend Nigel Dunne take the opportunity today, 4th August 2014, one hundred years after the outbreak of war, to ask for the help of the people of Cork and further afield to create a space of remembrance and prayer at the Cathedral War Memorial, which was also the principal memorial for the United Dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross.

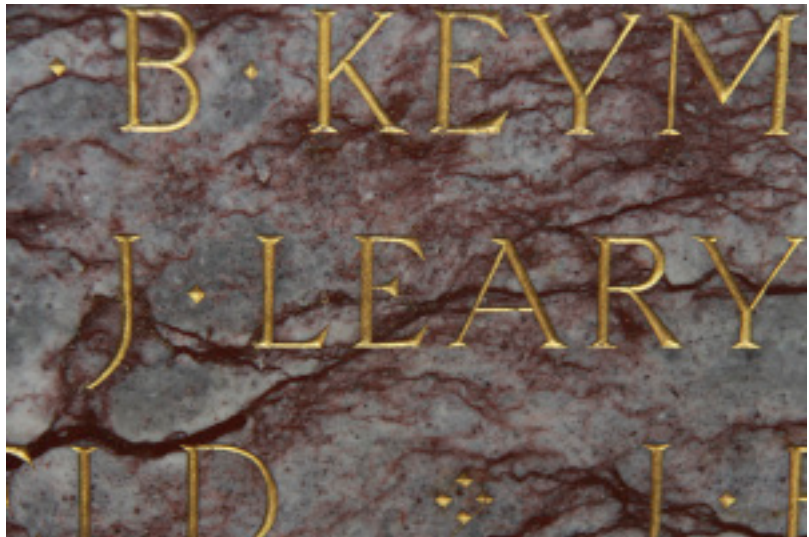
Both emphasise that 'the primary focus of our commemoration today is to inspire us to work for peace, reconciliation and justice in our world now, as well as, in the context of this Cork Cathedral, to remember those from Cork who died in the First World War, those from this region who served, and those (of any nationality, of all sides in that tragic conflict) who are now living in Cork and would like their loved ones to be remembered in this way.'

The Bishop and the Dean make an appeal:

"We want to create a visual memorial in coming months. Through old photographs we want to put faces on the human cost of war, on the names etched in stone, memories and hearts. Our plan within a place of prayer is to create a modern visual loop of scanned photographs. Photographs of these people frequently are stored away carefully and lovingly in family collections or in boxes of memorabilia.

We are appealing, therefore, to the relatives and descendants of the Cork people who died in the war, Cork veterans, and people of other nationalities now living in Cork who would like their relatives who died or fought in the First World War either

- to bring the photos to us for scanning on Saturday, 8th November, 2014 at the Cathedral between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. when we will be present personally to meet you; **or**
- those who have scans of photographs already



Detail from memorial

or who can scan photographs, may also email them to us at this special email address which we have set up. It is: CorkWorldWar1@gmail.com

To summarise what we are looking for: scans of photographs of the following (together with regiment, rank, nationality, where they are from, dates of birth and dates of death, where any of this information is available) of the following:

1. Photographs of those named on the War Memorial in St Fin Barre's Cathedral;
2. Photographs of those named on War Memorials in churches and public places throughout County Cork;
3. Photographs of Cork people who died serving in the First World War or were veterans;
4. Photographs of relatives of people living in Cork City and County today, of whatever nationality, whose relatives died or fought in the First World War and who would like them included."

Again, the email address for more information or to submit photos is:

CorkWorldWar1@gmail.com

Ex-Ardoyne priest Fr Aidan Troy does a U-turn over call to let Orangemen parade

The Catholic priest who rose to prominence during the Holy Cross dispute has backtracked on his support for a controversial Orange Order parade past Ardoyne to go ahead.

Belfast Telegraph - Fr Aidan Troy had said the offer of a goodwill gesture by the Catholic community in north Belfast, where he once ministered, would

offer a message of peace to other communities in strife around the world.

Fr Troy, who is now based in Paris, made his plea on his blog as he commented on the Gaza conflict in the Middle East.

But the Passionist priest yesterday distanced himself from his earlier proposal, and removed it from the blog. He said his article about Gaza had "had a far greater response than I expected".



"I appreciate the many positive and supportive reactions. Others were upset by the question I raised about a possible response in north Belfast," the priest from Co Wicklow added.

"I am freely editing out the question on a possible response in north Belfast lest what I raised could distract from sincere efforts being made by people in the area.

"The present 72-hour ceasefire will give some relief. My prayer is that this will extend into a long-term peace. Thanks to all who responded to my personal comments."

Fr Troy was at the centre of international attention during the 2001-02 Holy Cross Primary School protests when Catholic children were subjected to a daily gauntlet of abusive and often violent protest by protesting loyalists.

This year's parade past Ardoyne was restricted by the Parades Commission, but the Twelfth passed peacefully. Last year there was major loyalist violence, while republicans rioted in previous years when the march was allowed.

[Let Orange Order finish Ardoyne parade: Holy Cross priest Aidan Troy](#)

[Presbyterian Moderator calls for prayer for Middle East](#)

The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Ireland Right Rev. Dr. Michael Barry has issued the following statement:

“The conflict in the Middle East between Israel and Palestinian terror organisations has proved to be both complex and long-lasting. There is no easy solution to a problem that many have tried to solve and failed. What is

easy is to sit 2,500 miles away and offer advice for a situation we know little about. We experienced such advice during the 1970s and 80s from around the world.

“However the recent conflict between Israel and Hamas and others operating out of Gaza has escalated to such a level that comment must be made. It is also appropriate to speak from a Christian view point in the light of the unsuccessful ceasefire attempts.

“Christians are called to be peacemakers and to encourage peacemakers in conflict situations. As such it is unhelpful to support one side and condemn the other. The violence we are seeing in the Middle East is wrong. We echo the words of UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon who has said "In the name of humanity, the violence must stop." That is a position with which all Christians would concur.

“I have already spoken about the need to show respect to others. That means all others – not just those with whom we agree. We deplore the attacks on homes and places of worship in Belfast and elsewhere regardless of the religion or nationality of those who suffer them, and call on those who are intent on causing division to stop.

“Likewise we condemn the senseless killing in the Middle East and urge those involved to call a permanent ceasefire and work for a better shared future.

“I would call on Christians on this island to pray earnestly for peace both here and in the Middle East. Quite simply the violence must stop now.”

Church plant - Newtownards Glen Community Week ends with a get-together

A fun Community Get-together was the culmination of a busy week at The Glen



Estate in Newtownards. A bouncy castle, BBQ and even some country and western music drew a crowd of residents on Friday afternoon 1 August.

From Monday 28 July, a team of parishioners from St Mark's, Newtownards had been serving the estate under the banner 'Transforming Community'. They painted railings around pensioners' bungalows, did some tidy-ups and engaged with the children through games and activities.

The team was led by Stephen Doherty, Youth & Family Director in the parish and the leader of a new church plant – Glen Community Church – which will have its first worship gathering on Sunday 24 August.

The Glen will be the third church in the diocese's '[plantforHim](#)' church planting initiative, following Moneyreagh and The Braniel.

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