



**The stamps to mark the visit of Pope Francis to Ireland for wnof 2018 are now available**

**Volunteers needed for major World War One art installation at St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin**

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Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, is delighted to announce plans for an art installation to coincide with the centenary of the end of World War One. It will feature 30,000 messages which have been left at the Tree of Remembrance (pictured below) by visitors to the Cathedral since July 2014. These messages will be hung from the Cathedral's ceiling and will be on display for 2 weeks at the start of November 2018. Each leaf symbolises one Irish man or woman who was killed during World War One. The Cathedral is hoping to recruit volunteers to help with the creation of this new installation.

On the 28 July, 2014, The Tree of Remembrance was added to Saint Patrick's Cathedral. The date coincided with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the outbreak of World War One which was one of the most destructive wars in Irish history.

The Tree was inspired by the barren and desolate battle fields of World War One. Despite being inspired by World War One it was designed to be used as an interactive platform for personal remembrance.

Visitors to the Cathedral are invited to leave a message on or near the tree for someone who has been affected by conflict. These messages range in content; some are written in memory of those killed in wars in the past while others reflect upon conflict occurring in our world today.

The messages are written in a variety of different languages and are written by visitors from all over the world. The messages are written on pieces of card in the shape of a leaf. The leaves which are added symbolise the return of life and hope to an otherwise barren and bleak tree.



By November 2018 the Cathedral predicts that it will have received around 220,000 leaves. By chance, this figure matches the number of Irish men and women, who most historians agree, fought in World War One (July 1914- November 1918). As the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War One approaches the Cathedral is preparing events to mark this important occasion.

### **Leaves of Remembrance project**

From July until November 2018 Saint Patrick's Cathedral will prepare a new temporary art installation to be exhibited in the Cathedral to mark the centenary of the end of World War One. The installation will use messages which have been left at the Tree of Remembrance as the centrepiece for this response. These messages, which are in the shape

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of leaves, will be hung from the ceiling of the Cathedral. They will be installed in late October/ early November and remain in situ for a week either side of Remembrance/ Armistice Sunday (11<sup>th</sup> November).

220,000 leaves will be mounted and displayed throughout the building. These leaves symbolise the men and women who directly participated in World War One. 30,000 of these leaves will be hung from the ceiling of the Cathedral on transparent wire symbolising the men and women who never returned home from this war.

Between July and November 2018 the Education Department will lead the development of this installation. 30,000 leaves will be strung with transparent wire so that they can be hung within the Cathedral. This work will be relatively straight forward to carry out but extremely time consuming. It has been estimated that approximately 300 hours worth of work will be required to carry out this piece of the project.

### **How can you help?**

The Education Department is asking for support in order to deliver this project. Volunteers will meet on one afternoon per week, between 14.00 and 16.30 to work on stringing these leaves with transparent wire. No prior experience/ knowledge is required but this activity may suit those who enjoy knitting, needlework, sewing or other related activities. The Cathedral will provide some refreshment each evening along with an opportunity to meet new people and engage in an exciting project. Simply contact Andrew or Ciara in the education department on [01-4539472](tel:01-4539472) or

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email [education@stpatrikscathedral.ie](mailto:education@stpatrikscathedral.ie) to get involved! All welcome!

[Volunteer role description](#)



## **Archbishop Martin of Dublin hints he may step down early**

Archbishop of Dublin Dr Diarmuid Martin has given a strong indication that he may well step down before he is due to retire in April 2020.

Dr Martin – who first came back to Dublin as coadjutor archbishop in 2003 and succeeded Cardinal Desmond Connell the following year – has presided over one of the most turbulent times in the history of the diocese and has been widely credited with facing the crisis of clerical abuse head on.

Speaking on RTÉ Radio at the weekend, Dr Martin was asked about the disconnect between the Church and many young people. “My days are nearly over – I’m 73 and a half,” he said, “whoever takes over from me I will say to him: ‘here’s an area where I have failed. That’s the big challenge for you – how do you get in touch with thee great young people?’”.

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He added: “I’m moving on,” to which presenter Marian Finucane put it to Dr Martin that he is due to submit his resignation in line with Canon Law to the Pope in 2020. However, Dr Martin paused before replying “Well, yeah, maybe”.

He insisted “I don’t want to open the stakes and have the stakes for succession going.

“That’s only damaging, so I may get out early,” he said.

## **Churches asked to pray for peace in South Sudan this Sunday**

Following a joint statement by Church leaders in South Sudan, the Church Mission Society Ireland (CMSI) is once again urging people in Ireland to pray for peace. In particular, CMSI is asking churches to include South Sudan in their prayers this Sunday.

Following a meeting last week in Nairobi, Kenya, the South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) issued a joint statement, in which they call on political leaders to pursue peace. The statement, entitled ‘Peace Now!’ includes a renewed commitment to ‘pursue a vision that will bring our people out of the desert of this violence to an oasis of peace where all the fragmented people of South Sudan will seek a vibrant and cohesive nation that is one people, one nation, and one South Sudan.’

The Most Rev Justin Badi Arama, Archbishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan, was among those leaders who issued the statement. Archbishop Justin is well known within the Church of Ireland, having been hosted by CMSI and the Diocese of Down and Dromore on a number of occasions.

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In October 2017, Archbishop Justin spoke at Crossing Bridges, a peace and reconciliation event hosted by CMSI in Parliament Buildings, Stormont. As a follow-up to that event, plans are coming together for a CMSI Peace and Reconciliation Conference taking place in Arua, Northern Uganda from 15th–17th October.

This conference involves link parishes from Down and Dromore Diocese, Connor Diocese and Albany Diocese, USA. Archbishop Justin will be speaking along with representatives from Reconcile, an organisation from Yei Diocese, South Sudan.

Speaking about the statement from the SSCC, CMSI Partnership Coordinator for South Sudan, Linda Abwa, said: “The violence, chaos and insecurity continue in South Sudan, with no sign of an end. Lives and livelihoods are being lost every day. Meanwhile, the Church continues to walk the path of peace, bringing help and hope to those whose lives have been devastated. This statement from Archbishop Justin and his colleagues is a powerful reminder that we must keep standing with our brothers and sisters and uphold them in our prayers. We hope that many churches will join us in praying for South Sudan this Sunday.”

## **Royal wedding bishop Michael Curry reveals that he has cancer**

The American bishop [who preached during the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex in May](#) has been diagnosed with prostate cancer.



Most Rev Michael Curry opted to undergo surgery next Tuesday for the disease, which is diagnosed 47,000 times in UK men each year.

In an open letter, the Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church said: "I am happy to say that the prognosis looks very good and quite positive."

Announcing that the tumour was discovered during his annual physical examination a few months ago, the 65-year-old said the procedure will seek to remove his prostate gland.

Bishop Curry said he anticipates being in hospital for at least one day which will be followed by recuperation at home for between four and six weeks.

He added: "I have spoken with several others who have gone through this, and who have offered both encouragement and helpful advice."



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"I plan to resume my duties in early September and I do not anticipate any significant changes in my commitments.

"I am very blessed with a wonderful family, a first-rate medical team, a great staff, dear colleagues and friends, a calling to which I have given my life, and above all a good, great and loving God in whose hands we always remain.

"So, do say a prayer. And know that I look forward to being back at my post in September."

## **Pope Francis bobble head among novelty items for sale during Ireland visit**



As Dublin gears up for the pope's visit, a number of novelty items have gone on sale to celebrate the occasion.



Pope-themed caricature drawings, alarm clocks, lollipops and bobble heads are among the memorabilia people can purchase to remember the visit.

The 81-year-old Pontiff will take part in the Festival of Families, a faith-based cultural concert, in Croke Park on 25th August.

He will also celebrate Mass in the Phoenix Park on 26th August.



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