

A SERVICE OF THE WORD FOR A COMMEMORATION OF THE EASTER RISING 1916

Remembering the events of 1916:

As the commemorations of events one hundred years ago continues, recalling the stories and tragedies of the years 1914-1918,. This service focusses on the Easter Rising (24 to 29 April 1916), and the executions that followed in May.

The casualties in the Easter Rising are difficult to count. The British Army reported 116 dead, 368 wounded and nine missing; 16 policemen died and 29 were wounded; 318 rebels and civilians were killed and 2,217 wounded – although the last figure has never been divided between rebels and civilians. All 16 policemen who were killed and 22 of the soldiers killed were Irish.

We should remember too that the majority of the casualties, both dead and injured, were civilians, and most of the civilians who died were killed by indirect fire.

The commemorations of the events in 1916 are often politicised and divisive. Yet, in the wider context at Gallipoli, in Easter 1916, and at the Somme, people from both parts of the island and from both traditions fought side-by-side, suffered together, and sustained, encouraged and cared for each other. Wherever they fought, on whichever side they fought, or whether they were non-combatants, the majority of those who suffered and died believed they were shaping and making a new Ireland that would value peace and justice.

Those who supported the Rising shared hopes for “the happiness and prosperity of the whole nation and of all its parts, cherishing all of the children of the nation equally, and oblivious of the differences ... which have divided a minority from the majority in the past.”

1916 Proclamation of the Irish Republic

In remembering the events of one hundred years ago, the Church must give voice to shared suffering, silenced and untold stories, the many and nuanced narratives, bravery and heroism, and commitment to ideals that were underpinned by shared and common aspirations. How we design and structure our commemorations can restore these hopes they shared for future generations. Confession and thanksgiving, in the proper proportions and in creative tension and balance, can help achieve this.

Preparation

GREETING

May the light and peace
of Jesus Christ our Lord
be with you.

The Lord bless you.

O

Christ has brought us out of darkness;
to live in his marvellous light.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE

One or more of the following may be used

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness;
for they will be satisfied Matthew 5.6

What does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6.8

God is our refuge and strength;
a very present help in trouble. Psalms 46.1

I lift up my eyes to the hills –
from whence will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord,
Who made heaven and earth. Psalms 121.1-2

HYMN

Brothers and Sisters,
In remembering the events of one hundred years ago, we,
the Church are called to give voice to shared suffering,
silenced and untold stories, the many and nuanced
narratives, bravery and heroism, and commitment to ideals
that were underpinned by shared and common aspirations.

Almighty God,
you call us to unity and peace.
We commemorate those who dedicated themselves
one hundred years ago to the building
of a better and freer society,
to a country guaranteeing religious and civil liberty,
equal rights and equal opportunities for all its citizens
and the cherishing of all the children of the nation equally,
Grant us grace to work for peace,
unity and justice among all your people,
to the glory of your name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord **Amen.**

Penitence

EITHER

Let us confess to God
the sins and shortcomings of the world;
its pride, selfishness and greed;
its evil divisions and hatreds.

Lord Jesus,
you wept over the sins of your city:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus,
you heal the wounds of sin and division,
jealousy and bitterness:

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus,
you bring pardon and peace to the sinner:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

OR

Our God and Father,
we confess with shame
that we have come short of your glory,
and have not done what we ought to have done.
We have remained deaf
to the cries of our brothers and sisters who hurt.
And we have remained silent in the face of evil.
In your mercy forgive us.
Make us strong in the Holy Spirit to live for you
and serve all your people, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The priest pronounces this absolution.

May the Almighty and merciful Lord,
grant unto you pardon and remission of all your sins,
time for amendment of life,
and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

If no priest is present the absolution is omitted and the following prayer may be said:

Merciful Lord,
grant to your faithful people pardon and peace,
that we may be cleansed from all our sins,
and serve you with a quiet mind;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Beatitudes (BCP pages 223-224) may also be used

COLLECT

Heavenly Father,
as we mark the centenary of the Easter Rising,
grant to us a true sense
of what is to be your people in the world.
We ask you to so guard and guide all who reflect on the
past,
all who lead us in the present,
and all who shape our future,
that we may live and grow
in the image of Christ and his glory,
in whom we trust and through whom we pray. Amen.

Ministry of the Word

PSALM

(46, or 145:13-end)

HYMN

FIRST READING

(Isaiah 40:27-31, or Micah 4:1-5)

HYMN

SECOND READING

(1John 4:16-end, or Colossians 3: 12-15, or Matthew 5:38-end)

THE SERMON

Response

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We affirm the presence of God among us:

**Holy, holy, holy
is the Lord God almighty.
who was, and is, and is to come.**

**We believe in God the father,
who created all things:
for by his will they were created
and have their being.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who was slain:
for with his blood,
he purchased us for God,
from every tribe and language,
from every people and nation.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit
the Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!'
Even so come, Lord Jesus! Amen**

Revelation 4:8,11; 5:9; 22:17.

Prayers

Either

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Almighty God, you promised through your Son Jesus Christ to hear the prayers of those who ask in faith...

We pray for your Church in all the world,
for its unity and mission
(for this diocese and for N. our bishop...)
and for all Christian leaders.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray that we may work for peace
and embody Christ's ministry of reconciliation ...

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for those whose discipleship
brings them into places of conflict and risk
and those who help to demolish walls
of mistrust and prejudice

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for all who stand
alongside victims of hatred and sectarianism,
that your Church may work unceasingly for human rights,
equality and justice in the world ...

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray that the leaders
of this and of all nations
may be given the courage to choose good
and reject evil in accordance with your will ...

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for all
who display courage in upholding justice
and in preserving peace throughout the world ...

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for our fellow countrymen and women
who work for the resolution of conflict
in our society and beyond ...

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for the sick, suffering and bereaved. We especially
remember those among us who still bear the physical and
psychological scars of the past ...

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for those who bear the wounds of conflicts past and
present. For the reconciling of memories and the healing of
wounded history ...

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We remember all who lost their lives in the conflicts of history
at home and overseas:

Let us in silence remember before God all those who,
motivated by selfless patriotism and the call of duty, brought
honour upon our nation in their lives and in their deaths ...

Silence

Grant that we may share with them they joys of your eternal
kingdom

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

At the end of the following may be used:

**Merciful Father,
accept these our prayers
for the sake of your Son,**

our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

Or One or More of the following

FOR HEALING AND A COMMITMENT TO LOVE

Almighty God,
in your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
you have shown us the way of forgiveness and love:
Help us, despite our wounded history,
to celebrate all that is good and true in our common life
and to affirm and acknowledge our common Irish heritage,
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FOR FORGIVENESS

Lord God, through your holy prophets you have shown us
that justice and righteousness must coexist,
and through your Son Jesus Christ
you have called us to celebrate the abundance of life.
May we honestly admit the hurts of the past,
reject violence and division,
and earnestly work for mutual respect
and the common good in Ireland today.
We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.
Amen.

FOR THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Almighty God,
as we recall the vision of the leaders of the Easter Rising,
we pray for all who today
shape our present and envision our future,
and that, as citizens of this Republic,
we may work for that radical equality and social inclusion
taught us by our Saviour Jesus Christ.
May we work unfailingly for justice, peace and love,
so that our State may embrace the values of your Kingdom
on earth as it is in heaven;
with the guidance of your Holy Spirit
and through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Followed by

THE LORD'S PRAYER IN IRISH

Mar a mhúin ár Slánaitheoir Críost dúinn,
tá sé de mhisneach againn a rá:

**Ár nAthair, atá ar neamh,
go naofar d'ainm,
go dtaga do ríocht,
go ndéantar do thoil,
ar talamh mar a dhéantar ar neamh.
Ár n-arán laethúil tabhair dúinn inniú.
Agus maith dúinn ár bhfiacha,
mar a mhaithimidne dár bhféichiúna féin.
Agus ná lig sinn i gcathú,
ach saor sinn ón olc.
Óir is leatsa an ríocht,
agus an chumhacht, agus an ghlóir,
trí shaol na saol. Áiméan.**

THE BLESSING

when a priest is present

**Now may the blessing of God the Father,
who made from one,
every nation that occupies the earth;
of God the Son, who bought us for God
from every tribe and language and people and nation;
and of God the Holy Spirit
who brings us together in unity,
be with you/us and remain with you/us now and
always. Amen.**

Or

the service may end with

THE PEACE AND DISMISSAL

God has made us one in Christ.
He has set his seal on upon us
and, as a pledge of what is to come,
has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you

Go in the joy and peace of Christ
Thanks be to God.

At a Celebration of Holy Communion

COLLECT

Heavenly Father,
as we mark the centenary of the Easter Rising,
grant to us a true sense
of what is to be your people in the world.
We ask you to so guard and guide all who reflect on the
past,
all who lead us in the present,
and all who shape our future,
that we may live and grow
in the image of Christ and his glory,
in whom we trust and through whom we pray. Amen.

PREFACE

Through Jesus Christ our Lord
who, through the suffering of the cross
has called us to account for the suffering of today,
and who through his glorious resurrection
has called us to be agents
of his transforming love in the world

POST COMMUNION

Almighty God,
in your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
you have shown us the way of forgiveness and love:
Help us, despite our wounded history,
to celebrate all that is good and true in our common life
and to affirm and acknowledge our common Irish heritage,
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.