



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Two items of interest from "The Burning Bush" of March/April 1988



A scene of grief that was all too familiar during the years of IRA terror

As already stated, this year will bring the witness of "The Burning Bush" to an end. I plan to discontinue publication from the end of February 2007. During this final year, I hope to reprint some items of interest which will possibly bring back memories of God's mercies in the past and help to inform younger readers of events that have now passed into history. *The Editor.*

**Two more IRA murders in Co. Fermanagh.
*Church of Ireland Rector accuses Rome in funeral sermon***

On 18th March a young Protestant girl, Miss Jillian Johnston was brutally murdered and her fiance seriously wounded as they sat in a car outside her home in Belleek, Co. Fermanagh. The IRA said it was a mistake shooting. They intended shooting her brother whom they claimed was a member of the UDR.

This is a lie. She has no relatives in the security forces. It is the excuse commonly used by the IRA whenever they wish to cover up a killing which had no motive other than the fact that the victim was a Protestant.

The other victim of the IRA was Mr. William Burleigh, a part-time member of the UDR. Mr. Burleigh was killed by a booby-trap bomb attached to his car. He had been attending an auction near Derrylin and it appears that the bomb was attached while he was at the auction. It exploded when he started his car to return home.

RECTOR HITS OUT AT POPYRY

At the funeral of Miss Johnston, her minister, Rev. Gordon Roycroft, said..... "Why did this happen? I can see no other reason for this happening except these two young people were Protestants. It did not matter what home they went to as long as the people they shot were Protestant people. How easy it is to shoot a young girl in a car when she doesn't know you are there."

He said the terrorist organisation was well named the IRA — "The Irish Runaway Army." They do their dastardly deed and run away into the Republic, into Donegal.

But there is another reason that so many shootings are taking place in these days and it is that these people who have been brought up and nurtured in the Roman Church are still assured of the blessing, the full blessing, of that Church if by any chance they should be killed on active service. Even if that active service is the killing of a young girl the Church will look after their souls.

The Word of God says murderers shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone. But what is the verdict of the Church of Rome? The murderer goes for a little while to purgatory and by Requiem Mass we will soon have him out.

I say to that Church today if you are serious in your sympathy when you offer it to us —



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stop this encouragement which you are giving to the killers of our people or else admit openly that you are on the side of the IRA. There is only one thing or the other.” In a radio interview later Bishop Hannon squirmed when he was asked if he supported Rev. Roycroft. The Bishop indicated that he did not.

We congratulate Rev. Gordon Roycroft. The time surely is not far away that he will quit the Romanistic Church of Ireland and affiliate with a Bible-believing church where he and his flock will be supported by his fellow ministers.

We offer our sincere sympathy to both bereaved families, the Johnstons and the Burleighs, and assure them of the prayers of our congregation in Kilskeery.

“The Burning Bush”, March/April 1988

When I left for the United States on 2nd March I had in my possession a copy of a reply to a parliamentary question tabled by Dr. Paisley. The question had to do with the number of terrorist murders that had taken place since the present troubles had begun. In Fermanagh/South Tyrone alone the number of murders was 195. Those numbers must again, as they have been so often before, be upgraded in the wake of one of the bloodiest months the Province has known for a long time.

MORE VICTIMS OF GENOCIDE

Two more murders have taken place in Fermanagh. Miss Jillian Johnston was shot dead outside her home on 18th March and Mr. William Burleigh was killed by a bomb placed under his car on 6th April. Two more statistics in the grim IRA war. Two more heinous crimes that join the long list of other foul and unpunished crimes in this constituency. All are awaiting some sort of judicial retribution. If the general pattern of law enforcement is any guide to go by no one will be successfully prosecuted for either crime.

KEEPING THE LIVING ALIVE

Prosecutions may do nothing to bring back those who have been done to death. But they would do a lot to stop others being murdered. A few more successful prosecutions in the past would very likely have meant that there would be some of those 197 victims alive today.

In the House of Commons it was disclosed during a debate on the slaying of the two English soldiers by the Roman Catholic mob in west Belfast, that in the last 12 years 111 people have been murdered in Fermanagh/South Tyrone. Of those 111, 110 were victims of



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Since Mr. Burleigh's murder those figures will read 112 and 111 respectively.

**Editorial from "the Burning Bush" March/April 1988,
By Rev. Ivan Foster**
