

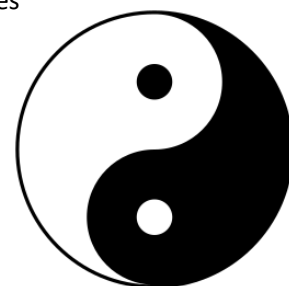
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This week, millions of people will be celebrating **Chinese New Year**. It will be marked by communities all over the world. People will eat lots of food, enjoy fireworks, wear special new clothes and hang red lanterns to mark the occasion



When is it? Chinese New Year marks the start of the lunar new year, which is when there is the start of a new moon. This is different to the 'Gregorian' calendar that we traditionally use in the UK, which always starts on 1 January. Because it depends on the moon, the date of Chinese New Year actually changes each year, but it will always fall at some time between 21 January and 20 February.

What is it? Chinese New Year is also known as the Spring Festival. It is the most important celebration in the Chinese calendar. In Chinese tradition, each year is named after one of twelve animals, which feature in the Chinese zodiac.

Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat, Monkey, Rooster, Dog, Pig. So the animals will have a year dedicated to them once every 12 years, in a cycle.

How is it celebrated? In China, schools and businesses close for the start of the new year, so that everyone can spend time with their families. People celebrate with food, including noodle soup, which traditionally brings luck for the year ahead. Celebrations include parades, performances with people dressed in traditional clothes and fireworks. Chinese new year fireworks welcome the god of wealth. To welcome the god, people will light fireworks and open doors and windows shortly after midnight. In the past, people also carried the traditional practice of eating all night with the hope the god of wealth will bring fortunes to their families in the coming year.



The beliefs and rituals for Chinese New Year are rooted in traditional Chinese folk religion and cosmology, at the heart of which is the concept of Yin and Yang. Yin is characterized as soft, slow, yielding, diffuse, cold, wet and passive; and is associated with water, earth, the moon, femininity and night time. Yang, by contrast is fast, hard, solid, focused, hot, dry and active. It is associated with fire, sky, the sun, masculinity and daytime. Yin and Yang refers to opposite but complementary forces in nature which work together to allow the cycle of life to continue. Chinese New Year falls at the point when the seasons move from Yin (winter) to Yang (spring).

Honour thy elders. The Chinese philosopher Confucius lived in the 5th Century BC and laid down an ethical code that still shapes Chinese attitudes today, including respect for elders. At Chinese New Year it's important to honour your ancestors and consider whether or not they would be proud of you. Although the ways of celebrating Chinese New Year have their roots in these religions, as well as Buddhism and other local customs, faith plays only a marginal role in its celebration today. Some traditions associated with Chinese New Year are now well known all over the world, such as the idea that each year corresponds to an animal.

The Chinese Zodiac. Chinese New Year is the point in the year when the Chinese zodiac transitions from one animal year to the next. According to Chinese culture, a person's character and fate are determined by the horoscope in their animal year. However, it is believed destiny can be changed through either acts of kindness or acts of cruelty and thoughtlessness. Belief in astrology is still widespread in China.



BRIGID OF KILDARE



Brigid was born in the fifth century in Ireland around the year 450 AD. Some sources record 457AD as her birth date.

Today many Christians call her as *Saint Brigid* and she is also known as the *Patroness of Ireland*. She is remembered on the 1st Feb every year

In the early Celtic times not a lot of material was recorded in writing, so we have only some facts about the lady. A man called Cogitosus wrote the Life of Brigid in 650AD in the Latin.

Born: 450AD in Leinster

Family: Her father was a man named “Dubthach” and was a noble wealthy man. He was pagan.

Her mother “Brocessa” was a slave girl, who knew of Christianity. It is most probable she would have had brothers and sisters but no sources mention them directly. Normally Celtic people had large families.

Education: The life of Brigid tells us she had some form of early education, perhaps with a pagan druid, organised by her father, she was also versed in poetry.

Her mother directly taught her about Christianity and Brigid often helped her mother in her duties tending and caring for other people. This is when the young girl learnt the importance of small acts of kindness towards others.

Marriage: Brigid’s father, like all Celtic pagan man, had organised her to be married. She refused, declaring she wanted to be a “Virgin of Christ”. Initially her father is believed to have been furious.

Vows: Brigid took her vows as a nun in front a Bishop Mel. Seven other young ladies followed Brigid and she asked for a piece of land to build a monastery at the Curragh in Kildare. (Cill Dara – Church of the Oak).

The King of the province refused but through persistence Brigid got her land and opened the FIRST covenant (female monastery) in Ireland.

It was also the first DOUBLE monastery in the whole of Europe as men and women joined her, living together in the same building with separate sleeping quarters. She had indeed set a precedent.

It became famous very quickly as many were attracted by **her piety and generosity to the poor** (something she learnt very early on from her mother)

Miracles: It is believed by some Christians that Brigid performed many miracles - one example as a girl she was to churn butter and milk with her mother. She instead decided to give all the butter and milk to a very poor family in a neighbouring farm. She faced huge punishment for this. As her master asked for the produce when she opened the dairy cans, they were all filled again, miraculously.

The Cross: On journeying through the countryside she met a very ill man by the roadside. She weaved a cross from reeds / rushes she found in nearby field (simple symbol of Christianity) and asked the man to accept and believe in the true God, not pagan gods. She used the cross to explain and the man converted to Christianity.

Many Christians today weave the “St Brigid’s Cross” to remind them of Christian faith, piety and kind actions towards those less fortunate than them. People often place them in their houses or land.

Death: Her death is recorded as the year 525AD around 75 years old.



What is Remembrance Day and why do we remember?

Each year the 11 November is commemorated across the world because at the 11th hour on 11 November 1918, an armistice was signed to end the Great War (now known as the First World War). Remembrance Day and the act of remembrance is a day when we remember all those who have been involved with, and affected by, war and conflict since World War One. On Remembrance Day there is a two minute silence at 11am.

Today people across the world wear a poppy as a symbol of hope. The reason for this is because a poem was written 'In Flanders Fields' which mentions poppies growing.

In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields, where poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead, Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high,
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

Lt Colonel John McCrea (1872-1918)



The poppy flowering was a symbol of hope on the battlefields and after war it became associated with

Remembrance, a sign of life continuing after the horrors of conflict.

The Royal British Legion's poppy appeal each year raises money to go towards much needed support for the Armed Forces and



their families. This year, 2016 their aim is to raise > £37 million.

Remembrance can often focus on battles and conflicts rather than those who have been affected by war. This is why memorials are so important as they can record names or act as a symbol of remembrance.

There are many forms of memorials to commemorate all those across the whole island of Ireland who have died as a result of war.

At Thiepval in France a monument stands which commemorates all those on the allied side in the First World War who do not have individual graves. Their names are engraved as a symbol of remembrance.



On the western front the Ulster Tower at the Somme commemorates all those from the 36th Ulster Division.



At Guillmont an Irish Cross commemorates all those from the 16th Irish Division.



The Irish Tower at Messines in Belgium commemorates all those across the whole island of Ireland. This was opened jointly by Queen Elizabeth II and President Mary McAleese.

Tynecot is the biggest Allied War Cemetery (First World War) in France and this is also where you would find the grave of the youngest soldier.



The Irish National War Memorial Garden in Islandbridge, Dublin is dedicated to the memory of 49,400 Irish soldiers who gave their lives in the **Great War 1914-1918**.



The Garden of Remembrance at Belfast City Hall, is dedicated to all those soldiers who lost their lives in the Great War 1914- 1918.

Memin Gate memorial to the Missing can be found at Ypres in Belgium. It is a war



memorial dedicated to 54,389 British/ Commonwealth officers & soldiers who were killed at Ypres (First World War) and who have no known graves. Since its official opening in 1927 and to this day at 20:00 hours each day the local fire brigade close the road and there is a sounding of the last post by buglers’.



“The Irish experience of the war was complex and its memory divisive. At the outbreak of the war, most Irish people, regardless of political affiliation, supported the war in much the same way as their British counterparts,^[1] and both nationalist and unionist leaders initially backed the British war effort. Their followers, both Catholic and Protestant, served extensively in the British forces, many in three specially raised divisions, others in the Imperial and United States armies. Over 200,000 Irishmen fought in the war, in several theatres and just under 30,000 died.” http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page



STORMONT

Parliament Buildings, commonly known as Stormont because of its location in the Stormont Estate area of Belfast, is the seat of the Northern Ireland Assembly. It previously housed the defunct Parliament of Northern Ireland.



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/robertpaulyoung/> -

CONTEXT:

Things that happened in the past affect how we live today.

From 1969 to 1994, Northern Ireland went through a violent period known as 'The Troubles'. Nationalist and Unionist political leaders and the governments of Ireland and Britain held peace talks to come up with ideas to end the violence. The peace talks resulted in the Belfast Agreement. This is also known as the Good Friday Agreement because it was signed on Good Friday 1998.

The Good Friday Agreement, also known as the Belfast Agreement, created a special type of government called power-sharing. This means that Unionists and Nationalists now share the power to make decisions about Northern Ireland.

Assembly

Northern Ireland Assembly – a group of 108 Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) who have been elected by the people of Northern Ireland. The Assembly has the power to make and change laws on local issues in Northern Ireland.

Assembly Chamber

This is a room in Parliament Buildings where MLAs meet on Mondays and Tuesdays. They debate issues, vote on new laws and question Ministers in charge of Government Departments. The meetings are called Plenary Meetings.

Why Do We Have the Assembly?

What events play a part in the story of Northern Ireland and the Northern Ireland Assembly?

The Assembly was set up after the Belfast Agreement was reached on Good Friday, 10 April 1998. This is also known as the Good Friday Agreement. It was the result of talks between political parties in Northern Ireland and the Governments of the United Kingdom and Ireland.

The talks aimed to find a way of ending 'The Troubles' of the previous 30 years and to make sure that the different communities could have their say on ho

Northern Ireland would be governed in the future.

Because of 'The Troubles' it was agreed that Northern Ireland should have a special type of government, called power-sharing. Political parties representing different sections of the community share the power to make decisions about Northern Ireland. For example, the positions of First Minister and Deputy First Minister are shared between the largest Nationalist and Unionist parties.

Local Councils

Made up of Councillors elected in your city or district, local councils do not pass laws but provide services for your local community. These include, for example, rubbish collection and disposal, street cleaning, and public parks.

Member of Parliament (MP)

Members of the UK Parliament are elected to the House of Commons at Westminster. They make laws that affect the whole of the UK. One MP is elected from each of the 18 Northern Ireland constituencies. There are 650 MPs in total.

Member of the European Parliament (MEP)

Members of the European Parliament make laws that affect all of the countries in the European Union.

Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA)

Members of the Legislative Assembly are elected by the people of Northern Ireland

to make laws about local matters on their behalf. There are 108 MLAs.

Minister

Ministers are the heads of Government Departments, for example Finance and Education. They sit on the Executive Committee/Executive with the First Minister and Deputy First Minister. The Assembly holds Ministers to account by monitoring their work to ensure that they are doing a good job.

How a Law is Made:

Laws are rules to protect people and help a country or region to run smoothly.

Where do laws come from?

There are laws about everything, from driving to teaching in schools. In Northern Ireland, the Assembly can make laws about different issues that affect us. These include hospitals, schools, policing and the environment.

Making a law can take a long time. An idea for a law is called a Bill. MLAs have to think about the Bill before it can become a law. Most of the MLAs have to agree that the Bill is a good idea before the Assembly will pass it. Once the Assembly passes the Bill, it becomes a law.

This and other information can be found on: <http://education.niassembly.gov.uk/>



The Belfast/ Good Friday Agreement.

The Belfast **Agreement** is also known as the **Good Friday Agreement**, because it was reached on **Good Friday**, 10th April 1998. It was an **agreement**, between the British and Irish governments and most of the political parties in Northern Ireland, about how Northern Ireland should be governed.



The Good Friday Agreement brought to an end the 30 years of sectarian conflict in Northern Ireland known as 'The Troubles'. It was ratified in a referendum in May 1998. The agreement set out the rules to put in place a power-sharing assembly to govern Northern Ireland by cross-community consent. The deal proved difficult to implement and was amended by the St Andrew's Agreement in 2006.

Timeline of events leading to agreement:

On 30th May 1996, elections were held to decide who would take part in the all-party negotiations. The UUP had the largest representation with 30 seats at the talks table. Sinn Fein achieved their highest vote ever, winning 17 seats. The DUP won 24 seats whilst the SDLP won 21. The Women's Coalition, UKUP, PUP, UDP and Labour were also represented.

Sinn Fein signed up to the Mitchell Principles and all-party talks began under the chairmanship of former US Senator George Mitchell. His Principles were six ground rules dictating that parties must adhere to 'democratic and exclusively peaceful means of resolving political issues'. The largest party, the UUP, had concerns but entered the talks process. The second largest unionist party, the DUP, withdrew from the talks because of the lack of prior decommissioning.

General John de Chastelain chaired the International Commission on Decommissioning to take place alongside the talks. It monitored the decommissioning of firearms, ammunition and explosives.



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On July 19 1997, the IRA announced the restoration of their 1994 ceasefire. After monitoring IRA activity to decide whether Sinn Fein would be admitted to the peace talks, Secretary of State, Mo Mowlam announced that she believes the IRA ceasefire was genuine so Sinn Fein were invited to join negotiations.

While all were undoubtedly significant breakthroughs in the peace process, problems were still plentiful and a successful outcome appeared remote.

Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) and the UK Unionist Party (UKUP) had earlier left the talks over the same issue. They also feared the negotiations might weaken Northern Ireland's place within the United Kingdom. There was also the very real possibility that negotiators for the loyalist paramilitaries would withdraw from the talks process. The **Secretary of State for Northern Ireland at the time, Mo Mowlam, met with** the paramilitary prisoners and assured them that their concerns were being taken seriously at the highest level and a



potentially show-stopping hurdle was overcome.

Frustrated at the lack of any real progress, the talks' chairman, **former US Senator George Mitchell**, concluded that a deadline was crucial to securing a settlement. After persuading all the participants to agree, Mitchell set it at the stroke of midnight on Thursday 9th April.

The final week was to prove a hectic and dramatic finale to a process which had begun almost two years earlier. At half past midnight on Tuesday 7th April 1998, Mitchell presented the negotiating teams with a **65-page draft document** for consideration as the basis for the final round of negotiations. It was rejected by the unionist parties.

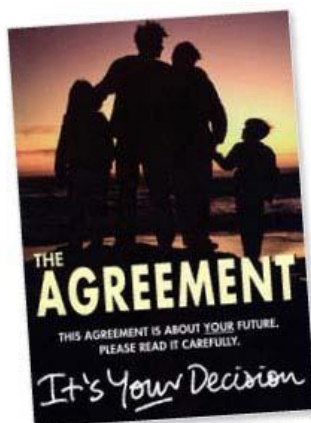
This prompted **British Prime Minister Tony Blair and the Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern** to join the negotiating parties at Stormont. The Thursday midnight deadline passed as the parties increased pressure on both governments to get the best possible deal.

Agreement

In the early hours of Good Friday, the Ulster Unionist team was still unhappy with some of the detail, particularly the sections dealing with the decommissioning of paramilitary weapons and the release of paramilitary prisoners. A personal assurance from Tony Blair to UUP leader David Trimble smoothed these last ripples of discontent.

At 5.30pm on Friday 10 April 1998, George Mitchell stated: "I am pleased to announce that the two governments and the political parties in Northern Ireland have reached agreement".

(some material taken from BBC media)



The Belfast Agreement (or Good Friday Agreement as it would become known) contained proposals for

- a Northern Ireland Assembly with a power-sharing executive,
- new cross-border institutions with the Republic of Ireland and a body linking devolved assemblies across the UK with Westminster and Dublin.
- The Republic of Ireland has also agreed to drop its constitutional claim to the six counties which formed Northern Ireland.
- There were also proposals on the decommissioning of paramilitary weapons,
- the future of policing in Northern Ireland and
- the early release of paramilitary prisoners.

In Northern Ireland, 676,966 people voted in favour of the deal, while 274,879 voted against. The 'yes' vote was 71.12%. Turnout was a record 81.10%.

A referendum in the Republic of Ireland was also held, with 94% in favour of revising articles 2 and 3 of the Irish Constitution. These articles now recognise that Northern Ireland remains part of the United Kingdom as long as the majority of the people agree.

The Good Friday Agreement was reached through negotiation, compromise, persistence and an overwhelming desire to bring about peace in Northern Ireland. Former US President Bill Clinton said the 20th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement should be celebrated "not for what happened but for what can happen". He also spoke of the value and importance of compromise and not creating a society based on 'Us vs. Them'. "Inclusive decisions are always better than homogenous ones or lone genius."



Democrat

Guide to the US Presidential Election 2020

The US Presidential election is on 3rd November 2020. The US political system is dominated by two political parties, so the president always belongs to one of them. The Republicans are the Conservative party and the Democrats are the Liberal party. This is an oversimplification though, both parties represent a wide range of views along the political spectrum.



Republican



The Candidates



Joe Biden

77 Years Old

Scranton, Pennsylvania

Former Vice President

Former Senator for Delaware 1973 -2009

Vice President: Kamala Harris

- Expand the Affordable Care Act (Obama Care)
- Make testing for Covid-19 free
- Transition away from Fossil Fuels
- Re-joining International Agreements
- Increase taxation of those on over \$400,000 a year



Donald Trump

74 years old

New York, New York

Incumbent President

Property Tycoon & Reality TV Star

Vice President: Mike Pence

- 10 million new jobs in 10 months
- 'Operation Warp Speed' to develop a vaccine for Covid-19
- 'American First' Foreign Policy
- Law & Order
- Tax cuts for all including a cut in Corporation tax

Who can vote?



If you're a US citizen and you're 18 or over, you should be eligible to vote in the presidential election, which takes place every four years.



However, lots of states have passed laws requiring voters to show identification documents to prove who they are before they can vote.



These laws are often put into place by Republicans who say they're needed to guard against voter fraud. But Democrats accuse them of using this as a form of voter suppression as it is often poorer, minority voters who are unable to provide ID like a driving licence.



Because of the Covid-19 pandemic there will be an increased use of postal and early voting. 70 Million Americans have already voted. There are fears that this method will be subject to abuse. Democrats are more likely to have voted early whilst Republicans are more likely to vote on the day

When will we find out the result?



It can take several days for every vote to be counted, but it's usually pretty clear who the winner is by the early hours of the following morning.



Officials are already warning that we may have to wait longer - possibly days, even weeks - for the result this year because of the expected surge in postal ballots, which cannot be counted until election day.



The last time the result wasn't clear within a few hours was in 2000, when the winner wasn't confirmed until a Supreme Court ruling was made a month later.

What about Congress?



Voters will also be choosing who represents them in Congress.



Democrats already have control of the House so they will be looking to keep hold of that while also gaining control of the Senate.



If they had a majority in both chambers they would be able to block or delay President Trump's plans if he were to be re-elected.



All 435 seats in the House are up for election this year, while 33 Senate seats are also up for grabs.

How is the winner decided?



When Americans vote in the presidential election they are not actually voting directly for President, they are voting for which candidate gets their states electoral college votes.



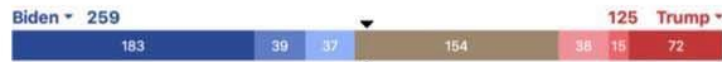
Each state gets a certain number of electoral college votes partly based on its population (the bigger the population of a state, the more electoral college votes it has) and there are a total of 538 up for grabs, so the winner is the candidate that wins 270 or more.



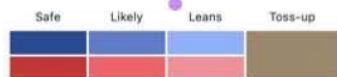
This means voters decide state-level contests rather than the national one, which is why it's possible for a candidate to win the most votes nationally - like Hillary Clinton did in 2016 - but still be defeated by the electoral college.

What does the map look like?

Here is the polling prediction from the opinion poll analysis website FiveThirtyEight.



You are viewing: Polling Map



Map Updated: Oct. 28, 2020 at 14:00 UTC (10:00 AM EDT)

How are projections made?



Projections are made by pollsters. They contact voters and ask them how they intend to vote.



It is not a perfect system, some groups are underrepresented. In 2016 the vast majority of polls predicted a win for Hilary Clinton.



Polling companies have changed their methodology for 2020, using more weighting based on educational background.

What are the candidates' chances of victory?

Fivethirtyeight ran the election 40,000 times through their prediction program. The results were;



Biden Wins

88%

Trump Wins

12%



Which are the key States to watch out for?



Data from fivethirtyeight.com

Key Terms

These are the key phrases you will hear used on election night

Bellwether state: Places like Ohio and Missouri where voters have proven reliable at choosing the national winner.

Exit poll: In-person interviews with voters as they leave their polling locations asking how they voted.

Electoral college: Each state gets a number of electors, roughly in proportion to its population. In most cases, whichever candidate wins a state also wins all that state's electors, who meet later to choose the president and vice president. Because there are 538 electoral college votes, each candidate needs 270 to win.

Projections v calling: On election night, ballot counts will be used to predict - or project - the likely winner of each state and the nationwide vote. A state will not be "called", however, until enough data has been collected to declare a clear winner.

Swing state or battleground state: These states lack a clear party affiliation, meaning they are up for grabs for both Democratic and Republican candidates. Vital for winning the presidency.

Red state v blue state: These states tend to vote with a particular party - Republicans in red states and Democrats in blue.



US Election Night 2020

Use this guide to keep track of the votes as they come in on election night.

Key times

voting closes at the following times in the key battleground states



North Carolina
Ohio* 19:30 EST (00:30 GMT)



Florida
Pennsylvania* 20:00 EST (01:00 GMT)



Arizona
Wisconsin*
Michigan* 21:00 EST (02:00 GMT)

*results likely delayed



Donald Trump

Republican

Electoral
College
Votes

Shade in the states as they are declared and add the Electoral College votes to the tracker.

Joe Biden

Democrat

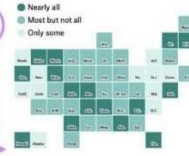
Electoral
College
Votes

270

Electoral
College
Map



Due to Covid-19 there has been an unprecedented amount of early and mail-in voting. This means that it will take longer than usual to count the votes in some states. Here is how much of the vote fivetyeight.com think will be counted on election night per state.



Polling projection



Election Coverage Bingo

Cross off these events if you see or hear them over the course of the evening.

"I Voted" sticker	Touch screen map	Long lines at polling locations	Celebrities voting	Interview with a voting teen
Faithless Electors	"Too close to call"	Confetti	Voting technology explained	More than 6 pundits at the table
"Blue Tsunami"	Quoting Twitter	Issues with Mail in Ballots	Person crying	Interview with a voting octogenarian
Chanting	"Never seen anything like this"	Candidate refuses to concede	SNL clip	Town Hall footage
Campaign ad clip	"Surge"	Excessive balloons	Gridlock	"The Resistance"



David Trimble

Nobel Peace Prize Laureate 1998

William David Trimble, Baron Trimble, PC (born 15 October 1944), is a Northern Irish politician who was the first 'First Minister of Northern Ireland' from 1998 to 2002, and the leader of the Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) from 1995 to 2005. He was also the Member of Parliament for Upper Bann from 1990 to 2005 and a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) for Upper Bann from 1998 to 2007. In 2006, he was made a life peer in the House of Lords and a year later left the UUP to join the Conservative Party.

Trimble began his career as a Professor of Law at The Queen's University of Belfast in the 1970s, during which time he began to get involved with the paramilitary-linked Vanguard Progressive Unionist Party. He was elected to the Northern Ireland Constitutional Convention in 1975, and joined the UUP in 1978 after the VPUP disbanded. Remaining at Queen's University, he continued his academic career until being elected as the MP for Upper Bann in 1990. In 1995 he was

unexpectedly elected as the leader of the UUP. He was instrumental in the negotiations that led to the Good Friday Agreement in 1998, and (along with John Hume) won the Nobel Peace Prize that year for his efforts. He was later elected to become the first 'First Minister of Northern Ireland', although his tenure was turbulent and frequently interrupted by disagreements over the timetable for Provisional Irish Republican Army decommissioning. After being defeated at the 2005 general election, Trimble resigned the leadership of the UUP soon afterwards. In June 2006, he accepted a life peerage in the House of Lords, taking the title of Baron Trimble, of Lisnagarvey in the County of Antrim. He did not stand again for the Assembly, which finally reconvened in 2007, instead leaving the UUP to join the Conservative Party.

Quotes by David Trimble include:

"The dark shadow we seem to see in the distance is not really a mountain ahead, but the shadow of the mountain behind - a shadow from the past thrown forward into our future. It is a dark sludge of historical sectarianism. We can leave it behind us if we wish."

"There are two traditions in Northern Ireland. There are two main religious denominations. But there is only one true moral denomination. And it wants peace."

"Politics can be likened to driving at night over unfamiliar hills and mountains. Close attention must be paid to what the beam can reach and the next bend."

"In the future there cannot be room for ambiguity. They have to make their position absolutely clear before they can expect anyone to respond to it."

Ref:wikipedia

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2018 Fact File



HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
DAY TRUST

'I want to go on living even after my death! And that's why I am so grateful to God for having given me this gift, which I can use to develop myself and to express all that's in me. When I write I can shake off all my cares; my sorrow disappears; my spirits are revived.'

Anne Frank, written in her diary, 5 April 1944

The power of words is the theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2018.

Words can make a difference – both for good and evil

Each year, the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust chooses a different theme to enable audiences on Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) to learn something new about the past, and to make it easier for HMD activity organisers to create fresh and engaging activities. Every theme is relevant to the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution and to each subsequent genocide, and has the life stories of those who were murdered and those who survived at its heart – as well as the experiences of resisters, rescuers and witnesses.

Spoken and written words from individuals, corporations, community organisations or the state, can have a huge impact, whether good or bad.

This theme explores how language has been used in the past, and how it is used in the present day. HMD activities can focus on the impact that words had in the Holocaust and subsequent genocides, through propaganda used to incite, through slogans written in resistance, and through memoirs written to record and respond to what was going on. The words that we see and hear all around us today – in newspapers, online, in conversations – the words that we chose to use, all have an impact upon us and those around us.

1 - The power of words

Words have a mighty power, articulating in writing or speech what is otherwise unsaid. They can reflect thoughts, views and attitudes, and can also play an active role in shaping them.

Kind words can take on disproportionate power in times of intimidation and insecurity, where some people are victimised and persecuted. Words used to good effect can restore hope, courage or faith. Words can challenge prevailing views and can state solidarity.

Words that are used to ill-effect, when seen or heard, can normalise what might otherwise have been considered too extreme. Harsh words, or words that feed negative stereotypes, can fuel tensions, increase vulnerability and even incite violence.

2 - Words written during the Holocaust and during the subsequent genocides

a) By perpetrators

Nazis used propaganda extensively to incite ordinary people to persecute Jews and others. Nazis deliberately used words and images in newspapers, films and school textbooks, to build and reinforce negative stereotypes, to label Jews and other groups, whip up negative feelings and promote ideologies. In the years leading up to the Genocide in Rwanda, propaganda was disseminated via the radio, with broadcasters referring to Tutsis as 'cockroaches'.

b) By people who wanted to criticise perpetrator regimes, or stand up against them

Criticising a prevailing culture and perpetrator ideology in printed or broadcast form was difficult and often dangerous to do, as writers and journalists were often on target lists. But there were brave individuals who used the spoken and written word to challenge what they saw around them, for example the White Rose group published leaflets in 1942 and 1943, challenging Nazi ideology, and distributed thousands of copies.

c) By people who wrote to survive, or to record their experiences for the future

Some people found solace in the written word, such as diaries, poems or letters, and used their writing to provide inner strength. Others wrote to record testimony and provide evidence for the future: Imprisoned in the Warsaw Ghetto along with hundreds of thousands of Jews, and correctly believing that they were facing certain death, the historian Emanuel Ringelblum organised the Oneg Shabbat archive to record the details of their life and the conditions in the ghetto.

3 - Words written as a response to Holocaust, Nazi Persecution and the subsequent genocides

Some survivors, witnesses and others affected have responded to their experiences through writing. Examples include Primo Levi (poetry and memoirs about the Holocaust), Denise Affonço (autobiography about the Cambodian genocide), Mary K Blewitt (personal account of her work with survivors of the genocide in Rwanda) and Zlata Filipovic (memoir of her childhood in Sarajevo). For some, this is a way of coming to terms with their past, for others it is to provide evidence or serve as a warning for others, for others it is a way of honouring the past and memorialising their murdered relatives.

Some of the most powerful words written since the Holocaust are those that form the text to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, developed in response to the Holocaust and the Second World War.

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4 - Words today

We cannot be complacent today. We see media headlines, listen to politicians talk and have a responsibility to read and listen critically. The words we read and hear have power and can shape our views; how careful are we with the words we ourselves use? Social media enable words to travel faster and further than ever before; they can be powerfully used to unite people to achieve positive goals but can also be used to whip up prejudice, to intimidate and harass people.

5 - How we respond to words

Today, bombarded with information and relentless social media, we may find ourselves filtering out what we do not want to hear and are in danger of listening only to what we want to hear - words which can reinforce our own prejudices. Are we equipped to recognise, and are we able to respond adequately to, propaganda? Will our words be backed up by action?

6 - The power of definitions

The legal term 'genocide' carries a weight of international political and legal commitment that differs from that attached to other atrocities of war and crimes against humanity. This makes tangible differences in terms of international support given to victims and their communities, and the potential for initiating legal processes in seeking justice. For some victims, this can result in hoping that the crimes they suffered will be labelled 'genocide' – and many feel they carry an additional burden if the crime is not defined as such.

7 - Free speech and censorship

In recent times some institutions have initiated policies of 'no platform' to prevent extremist and offensive speakers from airing their views publicly. This sends a strong message that such views are not tolerated by the institutions, and limits the influence these views may have. However, this policy can be counter-productive in serving to draw attention to the proscribed speakers. Moreover, it can be used to render unheard a wide range of perspectives, and can entrench views when those in power 'no platform' people with whom they disagree.

Further reading

See **hmd.org.uk** for resources on this theme and on marking Holocaust Memorial Day, suggestions for further reading and for links to sister organisations.

Find out more...

Holocaust Memorial Day Trust: **hmd.org.uk**

Order an activity pack or resources: **hmd.org.uk/activitypack**

Resources for educators: **hmd.org.uk/educators**

hmd.org.uk/enquiries@hmd.org.uk 020 7785 7029

@hmd_uk hmd.uk @holocaustmemorialdaytrust

Learning lessons from the past to create a safer, better future



John Hume

Nobel Peace Prize Laureate 1998

John Hume KCSG (18 January 1937 – 3 August 2020) was an Irish nationalist politician from Northern Ireland, widely regarded as one of the most important figures in the recent political history of Ireland, as one of the architects of the Northern Ireland peace process.

A native of Derry, he was a founding member of the Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP), and served as its second leader from 1979 to 2001. He also served as a Member of the European Parliament, and a Member of the UK Parliament, as well as a member of the Northern Ireland Assembly.

Hume was co-recipient of the 1998 Nobel Peace Prize with David Trimble, and also received both the Gandhi Peace Prize and the Martin Luther King Award. He is the only person to receive these three major peace awards.

In 2012, Pope Benedict XVI made Hume a Knight Commander of the Papal Order of St. Gregory the Great. He was named "Ireland's Greatest" in a 2010 public poll by Irish national broadcaster RTÉ to find the greatest person in Ireland's history.

Quotes by John Hume include:

"Difference is of the essence of humanity. Difference is an accident of birth and it should therefore never be the source of hatred or conflict. The answer to difference is to respect it. Therein lies a most fundamental principle of peace: respect for diversity."

"The basis of peace and stability, in any society, has to be the fullest respect for the human rights of all its people."

"All conflict is about difference; whether the difference is race religion, or nationality."

"When people are divided, the only solution is agreement."

"I was grateful for the opportunity to make a difference. The political violence really started in 1970-1971. The political difficulties start a little bit beyond that."

"The civil rights movement in the United States was about the same thing, about equality of treatment for all sections of the people, and that is precisely what our movement was about."

"We're much closer together in the world today than we ever were in the past. Given that it is a much smaller world; we are in a stronger position to shape that world. As we enter the new century, and a new millennium, let us create a world in which there is no longer any war or any conflict."

Ref:wikipedia

Leo Varadkar Fact File - Taoiseach

Leo Eric Varadkar is Taoiseach (Head of Government/Prime Minister) of the Republic of Ireland. He was 38 years old, on his election as Taoiseach, becoming the **youngest person** to ever become Taoiseach.

He is also the first Taoiseach to come from a minority ethnic background (Varadkar's mother, an Irish-born nurse, and his father, an Indian-born physician).



Mr Varadkar was born in Dublin in 1979. He attended a state-run Roman Catholic elementary school (St. Francis Xavier National School) and a private Protestant secondary school (the King's Hospital) before studying medicine at Trinity College Dublin. He spent several years as a hospital doctor before qualifying as a general practitioner in 2010. Varadkar's parallel interest in politics began early. At Trinity he was an active member of the campus Young Fine Gael organization. He also served as the vice president of the youth

organization of the European People's Party. In 1999, at age 20, while still a medical student, Varadkar contested his first election for public office. In October 2003, he was appointed as a replacement onto the Fingal County Council. When representing Castleknock, in 2004, he established himself as a bright prospect for Fine Gael by attracting more than 4,800 votes, the largest total for anyone running for local election

in the country that year.

2007, age 28,

Varadkar emerged on the national stage by winning election to the Dáil representing Dublin West.

'The Dáil' means an assembly or parliament, so a literal translation of Dáil Éireann is "Assembly of Ireland". In 2011 Varadkar was named Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport. In that capacity, he oversaw "the Gathering," a nationwide initiative in 2013 to revive tourism in Ireland with the staging of some 5,000 special events celebrating Irish culture and aimed at attracting



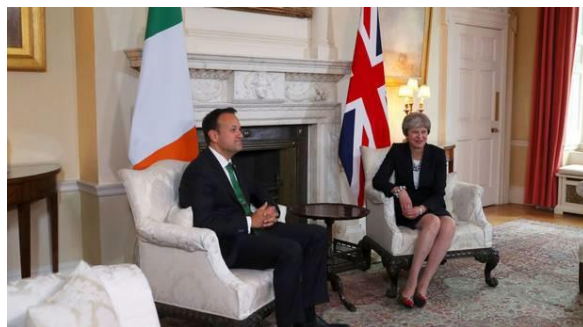
other visitors to Ireland. In July 2014 he became Minister for Health, fulfilling his childhood ambition. Beginning in May 2016, Varadkar took over as the Minister for Social Protection.



In June 2017 Varadkar, at the age of 38, became the new Fine Gael leader and became the 14th Taoiseach of the Irish state. Varadkar said after his appointment: *"I know when my father travelled 5,000 miles to build a new home in Ireland, I doubt that he ever dreamed that one day his son would grow up to be its leader and despite his differences, his son would be judged by his actions not his identity....Every proud parent in Ireland today can dream big dreams for their children"*

The Taoiseach was speaking at a European summit, attended by UK Prime Minister Theresa May. Mrs May's spokesperson said both leaders had agreed to work together to find solutions ensuring

there is "no return to the borders of the past". The Belfast Telegraph reported recently that Irish Prime



Minister Leo Varadkar has said that he and Theresa May are prepared to get directly involved in the Stormont talks, stressing the need for restoring a power sharing government in Northern Ireland to try and achieve the best outcome for the island of Ireland after the UK leaves the European Union.

Theresa May and Leo Varadkar hold talks at Stormont.



Mr

Varadkar has said he is "willing to drop everything" to help end the political deadlock in Northern Ireland, but only if he believes it will make a difference.

SAINT PATRICK

St. Patrick is one of the world's most popular saints. He was born in Roman Britain and had a very privileged upbringing. His father, Calpurnius was a civil servant for the Roman Empire and his Grandfather was a priest called Pontinus.

His family lived in a very rich estate of land on the coast of Roman Britain (Wales or England today). At 16 years old he was taken captive with many hundreds of Roman British by Irish Celtic Raiders (around 400AD). He was sold as a SLAVE to a Co Antrim farmer and herded sheep on Mount Slemish.

He believed his abduction was a punishment for a boyhood sin and not listening to his pastors.

In Celtic Ireland the people were PAGAN, this meant they did NOT have one God but hundreds of gods for different things. They spoke a different language and they had no civil laws. There were no roads, towns or villages.

Patrick devoted his 6 years in slavery to God. He prayed 100 times, day and night.

He turned to his Bible, "The Spirit comes to help our inadequacy at prayer. For when we cannot choose the words in order to pray properly, the spirit Himself expresses our plea with great emotion that we cannot put into words" Romans 8:26

Through a dream/vision, Patrick believed that God delivered him freedom and a

route to escape, 200 miles on foot and a passage on a boat.

Patrick preached to the sailors, "Turn sincerely your whole heart to the one true God, for nothing is impossible for Him."

Eventually Patrick made his way back to his home village. He was thrilled to see his family were still alive to welcome him. God called him again and Patrick could not forget the beautiful green island of Ireland and all the people who did not know the one true living God.

"He who has given up His life for you...it is He who speaks to you."

Patrick returned to Ireland to preach Christianity (432 / 462AD). He sailed into Strangford Lough, Co Down and his old slave master was one of the first to be converted to Christianity. After an intervention from God, Patrick was able to preach the Gospel throughout Ireland. He converted many people and he began building churches across the country.

He often used shamrocks to explain the Holy Trinity and entire kingdoms were eventually converted to Christianity after hearing Patrick's message.

He died at Saul, where he had built the first Irish church. He is believed to be buried in Down Cathedral, Downpatrick. His grave was marked in 1990 with a granite stone.

Patrick was a humble, pious, gentle man, whose love and total devotion to and trust in God should be a shining example to each of us. So complete was his trust in God and of the importance of his mission, he feared nothing -not even death.

Patrick believed that God succeeded in Ireland. There was only ONE Christianity then, no division, no Catholics or Protestants; either you believed and followed Christ or you didn't. Patrick said:

"I am very much in debt to God, who gave me so much grace that through me people were born again into God". "Although I am unskilled in every way, I am spoiled and uplifted by the grace of God, whom I will eternally thank."

REMEMBER – BE THANKFUL

"I now entrust my life and my soul to the direction of the Lord in His words (Bible), who will make goodness from me."

REMEMBER- TRUST IN THOSE AROUND YOU

"The Lord prepared me to respect and care for His people in a way I never understood before. I work for the salvation, love and respect for them"

REMEMBER – SHOW RESPECT AND LOVE EVERY DAY

"The people of Ireland who worshipped unclean things and idols of the past all come to know God...orphans and slaves, men and women, even sons and daughters of nobles and Chieftains."

REMEMBER- Welcome the young, old, stranger and friend, people of all religions and nations

The Breastplate, Patrick's poem of faith and trust in God:

Christ with me,

Christ before me,

Christ behind me,

Christ in me,

Christ beneath me,

Christ on my right,

Christ on my left,

Christ when I lie down,

Christ when I sit down,

Christ when I arise

Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,

Christ in the mouth of every man who speaks of me,

Christ in every eye that sees me,

Christ in every ear that hears me.

Christ be with me everywhere I go.



St Patrick by Harry Clarke

What Is Lent?

- Lent is a period of time set aside by the Christian Church to reflect on the decisions that we make and choices that we have in our Christian lives
- We also remind ourselves off all the good things we have in our lives
- We remember the journey of Jesus in the desert for 40 days being tempted by Satan
- We prepare for the celebration of Easter and the end of the Lenten period

ASH WEDNESDAY

- The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. Catholics wear blessed ashes on their foreheads as a sign of repentance for the mistakes that they have made and to show they are members of the Christian faith
- The priest will say “Turn away from sin and believe in the gospel”.
- This is a sign to renew faith and REPENT for all the mistakes that may have been made
- In Reformed Faiths members of the Churches mark this individually in prayer and reflection spiritually preparing for their Lenten journey towards Easter – the most important Christian Feast. (no physical sign of ashes)

FASTING

- There are 2 days of fasting in some Christian traditions during the Lenten season – Ash Wednesday and Good Friday
- If you are in good health, over 14 years old some fast on these days. This means taking one meal (with no meat) such as soup. It reminds us of the sacrifice that Jesus made in the desert. This is an individual choice.
- It also reminds us of our fellow Christians in poorer nations
Christians also fast by giving up a food that we enjoy for 40 days teaching us self-control

ALMS-GIVING

- Christians are called by the Church to give to those less well off than ourselves not only in our own country but also the Third World.
- In Northern Ireland, Trocaire (mercy), Fields of Life, Mission Outreach all have an annual campaigns to help those in the developing nations. They set up projects, educate and give health training to those in need.
- The focus is long term aid – To help the people in the Third World to help themselves
- The money is a helping hand out of poverty

PRAYER

- During Lent we are asked to spent more time praying
- In this way we become closer to God and are made more aware of his presence in our lives
- We will be more ready to trust in God and to have confidence that he is always there for us
- We also use prayer during Lent to carry the problems of others to God. Some people forget and turn away from God and we pray that they may be guided in life and find time for God again