

Northern Ireland District the Royal British Legion

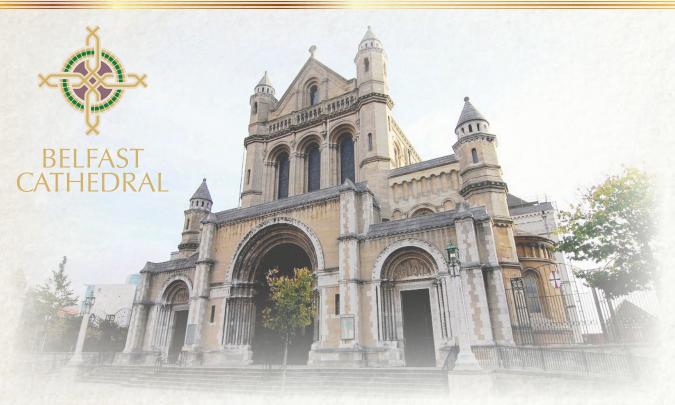
A Service to Celebrate ——The Centenary of the Royal British Legion

Sunday 26th September 2021 3.30pm



Face coverings **<u>must be worn</u>** when entering and exiting the building, and when singing the hymns. We request members of the congregation to wear face coverings throughout the service. Please provide your contact details on the sheet provided with your order of service for the purposes of contact tracing. We ask you to place it in the box at the West End as you leave following the service. This booklet can be retained as a memento.





The Cathedral Church of St. Anne

St Anne's Cathedral is over 100 years old. The foundation stone was laid in September 1899. The decision to build the Nave first was a significant departure from normal procedure. The construction of nearly all the great Cathedrals, ancient and modern, was begun at the East End, which has special significance as it contains the Altar. In 1924 it was decided to build the west front of the cathedral as a memorial to the Ulstermen and women who had served and died in World War I. The foundation stone for this was laid by Governor of Northern Ireland, the Duke of Abercorn on 2 June 1925 and the completed facade, to an amended design by the architect Sir Charles Archibald Nicholson, was dedicated in June 1927.

The 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme was commemorated in St Anne's Cathedral on 3rd July 2016. This was a period of remembering those who served and those who gave their lives in that battle, particulary the men of the 36th (Ulster) and 10th (Irish) Divisions and remembering the sacrifices and loss suffered by those who remained at home. The cathedral is home to a military memorial presented by the officers of the 36th (Ulster) Division, which contains the 8 volumes of the so-called 'Books of the Dead' with the names of those Irish killed serving in the First World War.

The Cathedral is home to the Regimental Chapel of the Royal Irish Regiment. Amongst its antecedent Regiments are those that made up the 36th (Ulster) Division at the Battle of The Somme including the Royal Irish Rifles, The Royal Irish Fusiliers and the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. The chapel was dedicated in June 1981 and is dominated by a stained glass window bearing the Regimental crests and lines from Binyon's poem "For the Fallen".

The chapel contains items of military interest - the list of those awarded the Victoria Cross, the personal banners of Sir Gerald Templar and Sir James Steele and a Roll of Honour and a copy of a book of prayers written on rice-paper by a prisoner of war Captain James Majury (later Major General James Majury) in August 1953 in Korea.

Introduction

We bid you a warm welcome to this service, celebrating the centenary of the Royal British Legion.

For 100 years the Royal British Legion has been supporting the Armed Forces Community, responding to the needs of serving and ex-serving personnel and their families. From those who served in the First World War, through the many wars and conflicts that bring us up to the men and women serving in our Armed Forces today, we believe no-one should suffer for having served others.

As we take time to reflect on our achievements over the last 100 years, and mindful of the lessons learned on that journey, we dedicate ourselves to continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with our Armed Forces Community, upholding the remembrance of those who sacrificed themselves for us, our communities and the nation, supporting those who need our support and advocating on their behalf.

The first Poppy Appeal was first held in 1921, so we are also celebrating that centenary. The Poppy Appeal is a wonderful example of members, staff, volunteers, supporters and the public joining together in a united effort to meet the needs of those we were established to support. Our thanks go to those who organize the collection of the muchneeded funds that enable us to deliver support when it is needed, to those who go out in all weathers to collect funds on doorsteps, in shops, street corners and myriad ways throughout the year. Special thanks to those who contribute to the appeal, making it possible for us and others to provide much needed support.

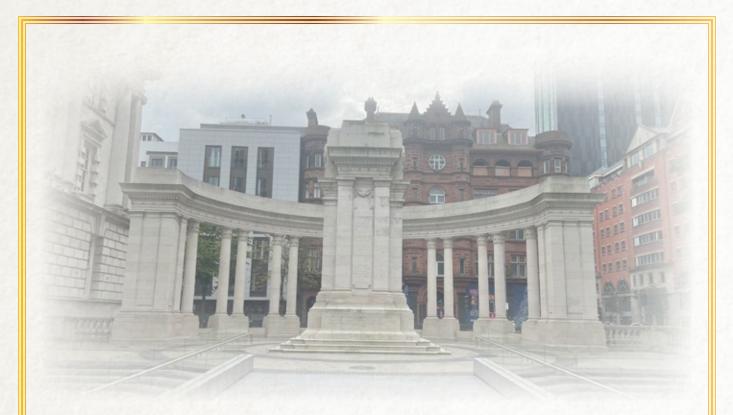
Thank you to everyone gathered here today, for setting aside time to join us as we reflect on and celebrate the achievements of the Royal British Legion over the past century, whilst preparing for the challenges the next century will bring.

John Stewart District Chairman Northern Ireland



100

YEARS OF SUPPORTING THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY



3.00-3.15pm Branch Standards paraded in to music by the R IRISH Regimental Band

3.20pm Organ Prelude: Prologue (from A Wartime Sketchbook) William Walton (1902-83), arr. Christopher Palmer and Robert Gower

At **3.25pm** the congregation will stand as the Dean's Vicar greets the Lord Mayor of Belfast and escorts her to her seat

At **3.28pm** the congregation will remain standing as the Dean greets Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for the County Borough of Belfast and conducts her to her seat

Please remain standing to sing the National Anthem

God save our gracious Queen, long live our noble Queen, God save the Queen. Send her victorious, happy and glorious, long to reign over us, God save the Queen.

Thy choicest gifts in store on her be pleased to pour, long may she reign. May she defend our laws, and ever give us cause to sing with heart and voice God save the Queen. Please remain standing to sing HYMN 537, during which Standards are presented:

A volume of the Cathedral Roll of Honour and a WW1 Padre's Bible will be carried to the Dean by Petty Officer Alexander Johnston (WW2 Centenarian) and Corporal Eric Glass DCM 2GM (Most highly decorated Op Banner soldier) to be placed on the Drums after the Standards are laid

> O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.

> Beneath the shadow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt secure; sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood, or earth received her frame, from everlasting thou art God, to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in thy sight are like an evening gone; short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream, soon bears us all away; we fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, be thou our guard while troubles last, and our eternal home.

> Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748) Tune: ST ANNE, William Croft (1678-1727

Please sit as the Dean welcomes the congregation and introduces the service:

We are here in the presence of God, to remember with thanksgiving and sorrow those whose lives, in the world of wars and conflicts past and present, have been given and taken away in the cause of justice and freedom; to pray for all who in bereavement, disability and pain, continue to suffer the consequences of fighting and terror, and in this Centenary year of the Royal British Legion in its ministry of care and support to them: and to commit ourselves, young and old, to work in penitence and faith for reconciliation between the nations of the world - that under God, people of every race and creed may be at peace.

Please stand as symbolic items are presented to the Dean

Globe of the World, representing RBL Formation:

Mrs Shirley Patterson - District Training Officer says:

The British Legion was born out of the First World War to fight injustices following a global crisis. The Legion was founded as a campaign organisation, fighting for fair treatment of those who had given so much for their country and provided much needed welfare and comradeship to millions.

Chain of Office, Minutes Book, Sets of WW1 Medals and Laptop, representing RBL Membership/Volunteers:

Mrs Alanna Meharg - Membership Support Officer NI & ROI says:

The Royal British Legion in Northern Ireland is a community made up of 8000 Members, in 76 Branches including Volunteers and Staff. The Legion is governed by a Board of Trustees who are responsible for the overall strategic direction, governance and management of the Royal British Legion. The Board delegates responsibility for the day to day running of the Legion through the Director General to the Executive Board.

Red Cross and Mobile phone, representing Branch Community Support (Welfare):

Mr Ian Freeburn - Chairman District Community Support Committee says: The Royal British Legion is here to help Members of the Royal Navy, Army, Royal Air Force, Veterans and their families. From expert recovery, rehabilitation to much needed support. We're here 24/7 all year round to ensure our Armed Forces Community can access help they might need.

Poppy Boxes, representing the Poppy Appeal:

Ms Lucy McFarland - Community Fundraiser says:

For over 100 years the Poppy Appeal has brought the Nation together to help those who have served to remember their unique contribution. When you buy a Poppy you ensure that those who have served are being looked after no matter what the challenges they and their country face.

Irish Peace Tower (Messines Belgium), Council Freedom of Borough Scroll and Binoculars, representing Community and the Future:

Maj Brian Duffy - District Chairman ROI says:

The Royal British Legion is at the heart of a National network that support our Armed Forces Community, we've been supporting ex-Service personnel and their families since 1921 and we're not going anywhere. By working together we'll make sure that all who have served and sacrificed on our behalf get the fair treatment and recognition they deserve.

Cadet Coproral Tamzin McMullan says:

As we reflect on our achievements over the last 100 years, we stand ready to support the next generation when they need us.

Please sit while the choir sings the PSALM 46

God is our hope and strength:

a very present help in trouble.

Therefore will we not fear, though the earth be moved:

and though the hills be carried into the midst of the sea.

Though the waters thereof rage and swell:

and though the mountains shake at the tempest of the same. The rivers of the flood thereof shall make glad the city of God:

the holy place of the tabernacle of the most Highest.

God is in the midst of her, therefore shall she not be removed: God shall help her, and that right early.

The heathen make much ado, and the kingdoms are moved: but God hath shewed his voice, and the earth shall melt away.

The Lord of hosts is with us: the God of Jacob is our refuge.

O come hither, and behold the works of the Lord:

what destruction he hath brought upon the earth.

He maketh wars to cease in all the world:

he breaketh the bow, and knappeth the spear in sunder, and burneth the chariots in the fire.

Be still then, and know that I am God:

I will be exalted among the heathen, and I will be exalted in the earth. The Lord of hosts is with us:

the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Please stand for the GLORIA:

Glory be to the Father: and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Chant: Martin Luther (1483-1546)

Please sit for the FIRST LESSON: Micah 4:3-5 *Read by Mr John Stewart, District Chairman the Royal British Legion Northern Ireland*

The LORD shall judge between many peoples, and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more; but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees, and no one shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken. For all the peoples walk, each in the name of its god, but we will walk in the name of the LORD our God

for ever and ever.

Please remain seated as the choir sings the MAGNIFICAT:

My soul doth magnify the Lord: and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded: the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from henceforth: all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on them that fear him: throughout all generations. He hath shewed strength with his arm: he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat: and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things: and the rich he hath sent empty away. He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel: as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

Please stand for the GLORIA:

Glory be to the Father: and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Setting: Evening Service in C Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

Please sit for the SECOND LESSON: John 15:9-17 Read by Mrs Alanna Meharg, Membership Support Officer the Royal British Legion Northern Ireland ප Republic of Ireland

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.

'You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.'

Please remain seated as the choir sings the NUNC DIMITTIS:

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace: according to thy word.For mine eyes have seen: thy salvation.Which thou hast prepared: before the face of all people.To be a light to lighten the Gentiles: and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Please stand for the GLORIA:

Glory be to the Father: and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Setting: Evening Service in C Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

Standing, we face east to recite the APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Lord, we pray thee that thy grace may always prevent and follow us, and make us continually to be given to all good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Choir: Amen.

COLLECT FOR PEACE

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels and all just works do proceed; Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both, our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Choir: Amen.

COLLECT FOR AID AGAINST ALL PERILS

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord: and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Choir: Amen.

Please stand to sing HYMN 502

God! As with silent hearts we bring to mind how hate and war diminish humankind, we pause - and seek in worship to increase our knowledge of the things that make for peace. Hallow our will as humbly we recall the lives of those who gave and give their all. We thank you, Lord, for women, children, men who seek to serve in love, today as then.

Give us deep faith to comfort those who mourn, high hope to share with all the newly born, strong love in our pursuit of human worth: 'lest we forget' the future of this earth.

So, Prince of Peace, disarm our trust in power, teach us to coax the plant of peace to flower. May we, im-passioned by your living Word, remember forward to a world restored.

> Words: Fred Kaan (1929-2009) Tune: THE SUPREME SACRIFICE, Charles Harris (1865-1936)

Please remain standing for the THE ACT OF REMEMBRANCE:

The Reverend Canon Sam McVeigh MBE TD DL, District Chaplain, says:

Let us remember before God our heavenly Father, the Shepherd of souls, the Giver of Life Everlasting, those who have died in the service of our country and its causes.

Maj Philip J Morrison MBE BEM, District President the Royal British Legion Northern Ireland says:

They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember them. We will remember them.

A Regimental Bugler will sound the Last Post, after which there will be a two-minute silence. This will be followed by a sounding of Reveille.

Lt Col Ken Martin, District President the Royal British Legion Republic of Ireland says: When you go home, tell them of us and say: 'For your tomorrow, we gave our today'.

A piper plays a lament, after which wreaths will be laid on behalf of the following:

Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for the County Borough of Belfast Lord Mayor of Belfast NI District President ROI District President Poppy Appeal

The District Chaplain will pray:

Everlasting God, we remember those whom thou hast gathered from the storm of war into the peace of thy presence; may that same peace calm our fears, bring justice to all peoples, and establish harmony among the nations, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Reverend Mark Grant-Jones, Senior Padre 38 (Irish) Brigade, leads the ACT OF DEDICATION

Let us pledge ourselves anew to the service of God and our fellow people, that we may help, encourage, and comfort others, and support those working for the relief of the needy and for the peace and welfare of the nations:

All say:

Lord God our Father, we pledge ourselves to serve you and all mankind, in the cause of peace, for the relief of want and suffering, and for the praise of your name. Guide us by your Spirit; give us wisdom; give us courage; give us hope; and keep us faithful now and always. Amen

Members of the wreath laying party return to their seats and the Standard Bearers return their Standards to their positions

Please sit as the choir sings the ANTHEM

Turn back O Man, forswear thy foolish ways. Old now is Earth, and none may count her days, yet thou, her child, whose head is crowned with flame, still wilt not hear thine inner God proclaim, "Turn back, O Man, forswear thy foolish ways."

Earth might be fair and all men glad and wise. Age after age their tragic empires rise, built while they dream, and in that dreaming weep: would man but wake from out his haunted sleep, earth might be fair and all men glad and wise.

Earth shall be fair, and all her people one: nor till that hour shall God's whole will be done. Now, even now, once more from earth to sky, peals forth in joy man's old undaunted cry: "Earth shall be fair and all her folk be one!"

> Words: Clifford Bax (1886-1962) Music: Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

SERMON by the Reverend Canon Sam McVeigh MBE TD DL, District Chaplain

Please kneel or sit for the PRAYERS, led by Church Leaders

The Very Reverend Dr Ivan Patterson, President of the Irish Council of Churches We give thanks for our Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth, The Patron of the Royal British Legion, for her unstinting devotion to duty and her unswerving commitment to the service of all her peoples. Grant that she may be so strengthened by God's grace and guided by his Spirit, that following in the way of Christ with her whole heart, she may at the last come into his eternal kingdom. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

The Reverend Dr Sahr Yambasu, President of the Methodist Church in Ireland

We pray for those upon whom the responsibilities of government are laid, and for all who, through positions of influence and authority, serve the well-being of this nation, the Commonwealth and the world. Give them the courage and integrity always to do what is right: that, upholding honour and justice and restraining evil and oppression, they may enrich our common life and further the cause of goodness and truth.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

The Right Reverend Dr David Bruce, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

We commend to God the men and women who serve today in the Royal Navy, the Army and the Royal Air Force; and all who support them in their mission at sea, on land and in the air. Most especially at this time we pray for Her Majesty's Forces who have recently returned from Afghanistan. May they meet danger with bravery and, facing whatever lies before them with discipline and loyalty, truly serve the cause of justice, freedom and peace.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

The Very Reverend Canon Edward O'Donnell represents the Bishop of Down & Connor, the Most Reverend Noel Treanor

Lord of all the earth, as we celebrate the Centenary of the formation of the Royal British Legion, we hold before you those whose names are well known, and those whose names are rarely mentioned. As we honour the past, may we put faith in your future, and work to establish your kingdom of peace through justice in our midst. Grant us the grace to pray for those who wish us harm and to lift our eyes above the torment of this broken world, for you are the source of life and hope. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude with THE GRACE, said by all:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.

Please stand to sing HYMN 529, during which the Standard bearers recover their Standards and take post:

Thy hand, O God, has guided thy flock, from age to age; the wondrous tale is written, full clear, on every page; thy people owned thy goodness, and we their deeds record; and both of this bear witness: one Church, one Faith, one Lord. Thy heralds brought glad tidings to greatest, as to least; they summoned all to hasten and share the great King's feast; their Gospel of redemption, sin pardoned, earth restored, was all in this enfolded: one Church, one Faith, one Lord.

And we, shall we be faithless? Shall hearts fail, hands hang down? Shall we evade the conflict, and cast away our crown? Not so: in God's deep counsels some better thing is stored; we will maintain, unflinching, one Church, one Faith, one Lord.

Thy mercy will not fail us, nor leave thy work undone; with thy right hand to help us, the victory shall be won; and then, by all creation, thy name shall be adored, and this shall be our anthem: one Church, one Faith, one Lord.

> Words: Edward N. Plumptre (1821-91) based on Ephesians 4:4-5 Tune: THORNBURY, Basil Harwood (1859-1949)

Please remain standing

The Right Reverend George Davison Bishop of Connor pronounces the BLESSING: God grant to the living grace, to the departed rest, to the Church, the Queen, the Commonwealth and all nations, unity, peace and concord, and to us and all God's servants, life everlasting: and the blessing of God, Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. All: Amen.

Please remain standing as the choir, clergy and dignitaries depart

Organ Postlude: Marche Héroïque Herbert Brewer (1865-1928)

Music by the R IRISH Regimental Band

Please exit as directed by the Cathedral Wardens.



The Royal British Legion



The British Legion was formed on the 15th May 1921, bringing together four national organisations of ex-servicemen that had established themselves after the First World War.

The main purpose of the Legion was straightforward: to care for those who had suffered as a result of service in the Armed Forces during the war, whether through their own service or through that of a husband, father or son. The suffering took many forms: the effect of a war wound on a man's ability to earn a living and support his family, or a war widows struggle to give her children an education.

Even those who had come through the war relatively unscathed struggled with employment. As a result of the war, Britain's economy plummeted and in 1921 there were two million unemployed. Over six million men had served in the war-725,000 never returned. Of those who came back, 1.75 million had suffered some kind of disability and half of these were permanently disabled. Added to this figure were the families who depended on those who had gone to war-the wives and children, widows and orphans as well as parents who had lost sons in war, who often contributed to the household income.

The situation so moved Lancastrian Lance Bombardier Tom Lister that he decided that if the government was either unable or unwilling to do anything to improve the lives of ex-servicemen, he would do something about it himself. This eventually led to the formation of the British Legion.

When the Legion's leaders looked around them, they saw the gigantic task of looking after those who had suffered in the recent war and also the need to prevent further sacrifice by reminding the nation of the human cost of war and to work actively for peace.

In Northern Ireland the concerns for the ex-service community were the same, the Comrades of the Great War (North Irish Branch) was formed at a meeting in the Ulster Hall on Friday 28th June 1918 where some 200 men discharged from the Services were in attendance. The first meeting of the Northern Ireland Headquarters of the British Legion was held at 9 Howard Street Belfast on 14th June 1921 and its first conference was held on 2nd December 1921 in the Imperial Hotel Belfast.

By the time of the Legion's formation in 1921, the tradition of an annual Two Minute Silence in memory of the dead had been established. The first ever Poppy Appeal was held that year, with the first Poppy Day on 11th November 1921.

We were granted 'Royal' status in 1971 and extended our membership to serving members of Her Majesty's Armed Forces, as well as ex-service personnel in 1981. Now, anyone can become a member of the Royal British Legion. We welcome men and women of all ages, whether they have served in the Armed Forces or not, to continue the work that was begun 100 years ago.

The Royal British Legion has 2,500 Branches of which 95 are overseas and a membership of 174,000. The Legion is the nation's biggest Armed Forces charity providing care and support to all Members of the British Armed Forces, past and present and their families. It is well-known for the annual Poppy Appeal, and its emblem the red Poppy.

There is a Retiring Collection at this service, which will go to support the ongoing work of the Royal British Legion in Northern Ireland

Please do not gather on the cathedral steps. Unfortunately, it is not possible to provide refreshments within the cathedral today. However, there are many excellent local cafés and restaurants, who will appreciate your custom.

Bible passages in this service are from the New Revised Standard Version. Material in this service is reproduced from the Book of Common Prayer copyright © RCB.2004 Belfast Cathedral text, music and live streaming licence numbers CCL 8124, MRL 1049409



The Officers of the Northern Ireland District the Royal British Legion acknowledges with grateful thanks the support received for this Centenary Celebration Service and parade to mark the formation of the Royal British Legion from:

Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for the County Borough of Belfast Mrs Fionnuala Jay-O'Boyle CBE

The Very Reverend Stephen Forde, Dean of St Anne's Cathedral, the Reverend Canon Mark Niblock, Dean's Vicar, Reverend Canon Mark Taylor, Mr Matthew Owens Director of Music and the Choir and Staff of the Cathedral

The Officiating Clergy

The Right Honourable Lord Mayor Cllr Kate Nicholl, Aldermen, Councillors and Staff Belfast City Council

The Band of The Royal Irish Regiment by kind permission of Brig J M Senior CBE Commander 38 (Irish) Brigade

The Bugles, Pipes and Drums, 2nd Battalion The Royal Irish Regiment by kind permission of Lt Col S C R Baxter VR Commanding Officer 2nd Battalion The Royal Irish Regiment

Lt Col K P Thomas MBE RE Headquarters 38 (Irish) Brigade

Police Service of Northern Ireland

www.britishlegion.org.uk