

Belfast Service to Remember Life of Nelson Mandela

14 Dec 2013

Belfast, NORTHERN IRELAND: A special service to remember the life of former President, H.E. Nelson Mandela was held at St Anne’s Cathedral under the theme: “Reflections on the life of Nelson Mandela – Lessons in Peace and Reconciliation”.

The service was organised in partnership with the African Caribbean Support Organisation Northern Ireland (ACSONI), Lord Mayor of Belfast – Cllr. Máirtín Ó Muilleoir and Dean of Belfast - Very Reverend John Mann of the Cathedral Church of Saint Anne, Belfast.



Dr Christopher Stange - Hon. Consul for St. Vincent and the Grenadines to Northern Ireland & Chair of ACSONI signing Book of Condolences

Dr Christopher Stange, Chair of ACSONI and Hon. Consul for St. Vincent and the Grenadines to Northern Ireland, said: “May I take this opportunity to express our sincerest condolences on behalf of the entire African and Caribbean community and call upon our brothers and sisters in Northern Ireland to join in commemorating the life of Nelson Mandela. May his lesson of reconciliation be a beacon for all of us, and may his memories remain forever in the hearts of people and countries across the world.

The Lord Mayor added: “This is an opportunity for the people of Belfast to reflect on the life of Nelson Mandela and give thanks for the inspiration and legacy he has left us. I would like to thank the Dean and Chapter of St Anne’s and ACSONI for their invaluable work in putting together this service.”

Reverend Mann commented: “I welcome this opportunity to share with the Lord Mayor and

the African Caribbean community in Belfast in a celebration of the life of Nelson Mandela. It is important that we mark the occasion of his death, but yet more important that we learn the lessons of his life.”

The service focused on 6 ‘reflections’, interspersed with prayers, bible readings and hymns. The reflections are inspired by Nelson Mandela’s life, and will take the themes of ‘Those Who Live In Darkness And Experience Violence’, ‘Freedom’, ‘Forgiveness’, ‘International Co-Operation’, ‘Unity And Victory Over Apartheid’ and ‘Peace And Reconciliation’.

In addition to addresses by the Dean, Lord Mayor and Dr. Stange, participants will include representatives of the Roman Catholic, Methodist and Presbyterian churches, as well as the Hindu and Bahá’í faiths. Poet Nandi Jola will read two of her works, while there also will be contributions from the Manukahunney Singers, the Intsika Ka Xhosa South African dance group and Belfast’s Filipino community, as well as local business leaders and members of Belfast City Council’s Youth Forum.

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