

• Only Roman Catholics fought in the Easter Rising

Protestants such as Sir Roger Casement of the Irish Volunteers and Broughshane's Captain Jack White, who drilled the Irish Citizens Army were both key characters in the Rising.

Those involved were felt to be fighting for different reasons; some were led by politics, others by religion and others still by their socialist belief system.

Orange Order

• The Orange Order has only a presence in Northern Ireland

The Loyal Orange Institution, more commonly known as the Orange Order, is a Protestant fraternal organisation based primarily in Northern Ireland. It also has a significant presence in the Scottish Lowlands and lodges throughout the Commonwealth, as well as in the United States and Togo. Africa is a particular growth area. There is even an Orange Lodge attached to Stormont.

• The Orange Order is not a charitable organisation

The Orange Order is deeply committed to helping those in need. Charitable giving is an essential part of Orangeism. Large sums of money have been raised for various deserving causes such as equipment for local hospitals, holidays for disadvantaged children and "third-world" relief.

• Was the Battle of the Boyne a battle between Protestants and Roman Catholics?



Protestants fought Protestants as well as Catholics fought their co-religionists. To portray the battle as a religious conflict would be nowhere near the truth. William had not only the support of the Pope; Roman Catholics were fighting on both sides.

And so were Protestants. It was all about politics in the end - with a few supporters even merrily switching sides during the war. Political sides, their religion did not change.



More men were killed at The Battle of Newtownbutler (circa 3,000) than were killed at the Battle of the Boyne (circa 2,250)

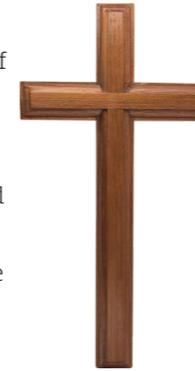
Ultimately the war was about the foundations of British society - and about the choice between an absolutist or a parliamentary monarchy.

Saint Patrick

• St Patrick was Irish

St Patrick's background is uncertain; he could have been from Wales, France or even Spain. However he was a slave brought to Ireland and therefore could not be Irish. The cross of St Patrick (red) is at the centre of the Union flag and is also the official emblem/flag of The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI)

The original colour associated with St Patrick's Day was actually blue - not green. And this is still represented by the flag which flies above Áras an Uachtaráin (The Home of the President of the Republic of Ireland)



• St Patrick brought Christianity to Ireland

There were Christians in Ireland before St Patrick's missionary and there is also documentary evidence that at least one missionary was sent to Ireland before Patrick was tasked with spreading the gospel. However Patrick is accepted as the first significant disciple of the gospel message within Ireland.

• St Patrick drove the snakes out of Ireland

There were no snakes in Ireland, ever or at least not after the last ice age. However the snake is an established symbol for Satan so it could be a metaphor - St Patrick drove paganism from Ireland not snakes.



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Celebrating South Fermanagh's Cultural Diversity Myth Busting



Background

Lisnaskea-based South East Fermanagh Foundation and Carrosyl Community Association have been engaged in a cultural diversity Project funded by The Central Good Relations Fund under the remit of the Northern Ireland Executive Office.

The core aim of the Project was to celebrate the rich diversity which exists within the south Fermanagh area; to celebrate what is different about each other's culture but also examining and recognising the commonalities we share. The Project seeks to engender an ethos that we are part of ONE community, a FULL community with different component parts.

Another key focus of the Project was about busting myths and mistruths that have existed for generations and which often feed sectarianism, keeping people divided from one another. This Project has sought to educate young and old alike as to the true facts around issues which are often viewed as contentious.

Remembrance

- Wearing a poppy shows that you are a protestant



Since 1921, poppies have been worn on and ahead of Remembrance Day. The Royal British Legion says the poppy “honours all those who have sacrificed their lives to protect the freedoms we enjoy today, and so the decision to wear it must be a matter of personal choice. If the poppy became compulsory

it would lose its meaning and significance. We are thankful for every poppy worn, but we never insist upon it, to do so would be contrary to the spirit of Remembrance and all that the poppy stands for.”

The Poppy is not a British symbol. The red poppy grew in the green fields of France and in other areas and was adopted as an official emblem of remembrance.

- Only protestant soldiers fought in the Battle of the Somme



The 36th Ulster Division was comprised mainly of members of the historical UVF, although many northern-based Roman Catholics also fought and died with that division in the Somme. The 16th Irish Division was born out of the Irish Volunteers, which had been pushing for Home Rule. It consisted

predominantly of Roman Catholics from across the island, including many northern nationalists. Both the 36th Ulster and the 16th Irish divisions believed the British government would reward them for loyalty to the crown in its’ hour of need, with unionists hoping to kill off Home Rule and nationalists seeking to revive it.

Phil Orr (author of the Road to the Somme): argues that “the cultural impact on the both communities was immense”. He gives an example of the Roman Catholic community in Carrickfergus, who he states had given a tremendous amount in sacrifice to the effort in what was known then as the Great War. Yet until the early sixties, the only monuments to the fallen in that war were in Protestant churches in that town.

In recent years there has been a steady campaign to redress the situation with many memorials and publications now including the names of those who would have come from nationalist backgrounds. No longer do the photos and medals etc have to remain under beds.

Gaelic / Rugby

- Only Roman Catholics play Gaelic Football

Glentoran goalkeeper James Taylor played Gaelic football in the University Championships.

Former GAA president Jack Boothman became the first Protestant to hold the office when he was elected in April 1993. In 1991, Peter Withnell, a Down full-forward and Protestant, won an All-Ireland medal with his county. Indeed the cup which every Gaelic football player seeks to hold aloft, the Sam Maguire is named after a Protestant who has become synonymous with the game.



Since the abolition of rule 21 which banned members of the British security forces from membership of the GAA and from playing Gaelic games there is some evidence to suggest that increasing numbers of Protestants are less threatened by the Games, with further numbers now participating.

There are four sports which comprise Gaelic Games and it is safe to say that practically everyone on this island has played at least one of these: gaelic football, hurling, handball and rounders.

- Only Protestants play rugby

Ulster have a healthy number of Roman Catholic players in their 52-man professional ranks and a survey conducted in 2012 concluded that 20-25% of the supporters who attend Ravenhill regularly are from the nationalist community and the numbers are growing.



Ulster is a 9 county Provincial team (Londonderry/Derry, Antrim, Armagh, Tyrone, Down, Fermanagh, Donegal, Monaghan and Cavan) with support coming from across Northern Ireland, the border counties and beyond.

Rugby is strong across Ireland in all four Provinces, with the three southern-based Provinces being predominantly Roman Catholic in composition.

Easter Rising

- All who participated in the Easter Rising were born in Ireland



Eamon de Valera who became a prominent figure in Irish politics was born in New York therefore an American citizen. James Connelly was born in Scotland and Thomas Clarke was English born.

There were many lesser known figures involved who came from outside of the Island of Ireland.

- Sinn Fein organised the Easter Rising

Sinn Féin was not directly involved in the Rising but it was wrongly associated with it. This was because the role of the Irish Republican Brotherhood Military Council actually responsible for the Rising were not widely known. Sinn Féin was the best-known, openly anti-English, nationalist propaganda body in Dublin and therefore many assumed they were responsible. This has an impact with today’s politics where political parties across the nationalist/republican community claim their roots from the events of 1916, seeking to claim the mantle of ‘inheritors’ of that period.

- Everyone in Dublin supported the Easter Rising



As Great Britain had passed the Home Rule Act which gave Ireland its own parliament in Dublin many people felt that although this was to be implemented after World War I, they were happy to wait.

Indeed as those responsible for the Easter Rising were arrested many people through rotten vegetables at them. It wasn’t until Marshall Law was introduced and the execution of those responsible that public opinion began to change.

Dependent on perspective of this period, some view the event as a noble event with others seeing it as an uprising and an act of opportunism when the Great War was stretching Great Britain’s resources.