**Dublin and Monaghan bombings**

**17th May 1974**

The Dublin and Monaghan bombings of 17th May 1974 were a series of co-ordinated bombings in [Dublin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dublin) and [Monaghan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monaghan) within the Republic of Ireland. Three bombs exploded in Dublin during the evening [rush hour](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rush_hour) and a fourth exploded in Monaghan almost ninety minutes later.

33 civilians and a full-term unborn child were murdered, and almost 300 others were injured. The bombings were the deadliest attack of [The Troubles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Troubles)’ in terms of single loss of life. Most of the victims were young women, although the ages of the dead ranged from pre-born up to 80 years.

The [Ulster Volunteer Force](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ulster_Volunteer_Force) (UVF) claimed responsibility for the bombings in 1993. It had launched [a number of attacks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_Ulster_Volunteer_Force_actions) in the Republic since 1969. There are allegations (although yet to be proven) that elements of the UK state’s security forces [helped the UVF](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ulster_loyalism#Collusion_with_the_security_forces) carry out the bombings, including members of the ‘[Glenanne gang](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glenanne_gang%22%20%5Co%20%22Glenanne%20gang).’

The bombings happened during the [Ulster Workers' Council strike](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ulster_Workers%27_Council_strike). This was a [general strike](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_strike) called by those within the broad unionist and loyalist communities who opposed the [Sunningdale Agreement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunningdale_Agreement%22%20%5Co%20%22Sunningdale%20Agreement).

No-one has ever been charged with the bombings. A campaign by the victims' families led to an Irish government inquiry under Justice [Henry Barron](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Barron_%28judge%29). His 2003 report criticised the [Garda Síochána](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Garda_S%C3%ADoch%C3%A1na)'s investigation and said the investigators stopped their work prematurely. It also criticised the [Fine Gael](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fine_Gael)/[Labour](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Labour_Party_%28Ireland%29) [government of the time](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Government_of_the_20th_D%C3%A1il) for its inaction and lack of interest in the bombings.

The report said it was likely that British security force personnel or [MI5](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MI5) intelligence was involved but had insufficient evidence of higher-level involvement. To this day families remain uncertain as to the truth of the events which forever changed their lives.

SEFF’s thoughts and prayers are well the innocents of the Dublin and Monaghan bombs whose lives were forever changed by the premeditated and brutal actions of loyalist terrorists. Let no-one ever be without challenge that would suggest that the attacks were in retaliation for activities perpetrated by the Provisional IRA and other republican terrorist organisations in Northern Ireland.

In the context of ‘The Troubles’ there was never justification for the use of criminal violence in the furtherance of or defence of a political objective, irrespective of who the perpetrators were.

We remember them as follows:

**Patrick Askin** (44): Forestry worker, married, Glaslough, Co Monaghan. Killed in the Monaghan bomb. Survived by his wife, Patricia and four young children: sons Paul and Patrick, aged 6 and 7 and two-year-old twin daughters, Sonia and Sharon.

**Josie Bradley** (21): Civil servant, single, Coolfin, Kilcormack, Co Offaly. Killed in Talbot Street, Dublin. Survived by her parents, May and Chris, twin sister, Marian and eight other siblings.

**Marie Butler** (21): Temporarily employed as a shop assistant at Clery's while awaiting a nursing place at Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital, single. Villierstown, Cappoquin, Co Waterford. Killed in Parnell Street, Dublin. Survived by her mother, Mary.

**Anne Byrne** (35): Housewife married, Donaghmede, Dublin. Killed in Talbot Street while on a shopping trip. Survived by her husband, Michael, and two children: Michelle aged 8 and Trevor, aged 4.

**Thomas Campbell** (52): Agricultural worker, single, Silverstream, Co Monaghan. Killed in Monaghan. Survived by his mother and sister, Mary, also two stepsisters. His mother never recovered from the shock of his death and died six weeks later.

**Simone Chetrit** (30): A French citizen visiting Ireland with a number of other French students on an English language course. She was due to return to her home in Paris the following morning. She was single and was survived by her parents, brothers Elie, Maurice, Marcel and Albert and sister, Yvette. She was killed in Talbot Street.

**Thomas Croarkin** (36): Agricultural worker, single, Tyholland, Co Monaghan. Seriously injured in Monaghan and survived until July 24th 1974, when he died in the Richmond Hospital, Dublin. Survived by his mother and seven siblings.

**John Dargle** (80): John was a pensioner, who lived alone at Portland Row, Ballybough, Dublin. He had served in the British army and was working at the Corporation Fruit Market in Dublin. He was killed in the Parnell Street bombing.

**Concepta Dempsey** (65): A shop-assistant at Guiney's, Talbot Street, Concepta was single, and lived at Chord Road, Drogheda, Co Louth. She was seriously injured in Talbot Street and survived until June 11th when she died in the Mater hospital, Dublin. She was survived by five nieces and nephews: Vincent, Deirdre, Gertie, Raymond and Aidan.

**Collette and Baby Doherty** (21): Colette ran a shop in Sheriff Street with her husband John. She was nine months pregnant when she was killed in Talbot Street. She was survived by her husband, John, daughter, Wendy, aged 22 months, her parents, Michael and Winifred and siblings. Wendy was with her when she was killed and was found wandering an hour later, relatively unharmed.

**Patrick Fay** (47): He was employed in the GPO, married, a native of Ardee, Co. Louth, he lived in Artane, Dublin. He was survived by his wife, Maura and only son, Pat, who had moved to live in London. He was killed in Parnell Street, having just filled his car with petrol at Westbrook Motors.

**Elizabeth Fitzgerald** (59): She had lived with her husband, Christopher in Phibsboro, Dublin. Both were injured in the Talbot Street bombing. She survived until May 19th 1974, while her husband, Christopher, recovered in the Mater hospital.

**Breda Grace** (35): Married, housewife and living in Portmarnock, originally from Tralee, Co. Kerry. She was survived by her husband, Tim and 12- month-old son, Edward. Breda was killed in Talbot Street.

**Archie Harper** (73): An active man who still ran a farm and family pub in his native Co Monaghan. He was survived by his wife and only daughter, Iris. He was injured in the Monaghan bombing and died on the following Tuesday night, May 21st, at 11.45 p.m.

**Antonio Magliocco** (37): Italian citizen. Restaurant owner, survived by his wife, Anna, and three young children, Tommassino, Corrado and Marinella. He was a native of Casalattico, near Cassino, in Italy. He was killed instantly in the explosion in Parnell Street, while visiting his brother Mario's restaurant. His wife and family moved back to Italy a number of years after his death, but his brothers and sisters remained in Ireland.

**May McKenna** (55): Originally from Monaghan and Dungannon, Co Tyrone, but lived in Talbot Street (over O'Neill's Shoe Shop). She was employed at Clery's. She was survived by her sister, Margaret McNicholl, brother-in-law and three nephews. May was killed instantly in the Talbot Street explosion.

**Anne Marren** (20): Worked in Department of Posts and Telegraphs in Hawkins Street. She was a native of Lavagh, Ballymote, Co. Sligo. She was survived by her father, two sisters and two brothers. Anne was killed in the Talbot Street explosion.

**Anna Massey** (21): Worked at Lisney's auctioneers and from Sallynoggin, Dublin. Anne was the eldest of seven girls and was a twin. She was survived by her parents, Frank and Annie, and sisters. She was engaged to be married and her wedding was due to take place in July 1974. Anna was killed in the South Leinster Street explosion.

**Dorothy Morris** (57): Employed at Cadbury's, Dorothy had five siblings and lived all her life in Kimmage with her mother and sister, Georgina. She was killed in the Talbot Street explosion.

**O'Brien Family** - **John O'Brien** (24), **Anna O'Brien** (22), **Jacqueline** (17 months) and **Anne-Marie**(5 months): Lived in Gardiner Street, originally from Finglas. John worked in Palm Grove, the ice-cream factory. This entire family was killed in the Parnell Street explosion.

**Christina O'Loughlin** (51): Worked in the Shelbourne Hotel as a French polisher. Resided in Townsend Street, Dublin. She was survived by her husband, Kevin and two adult sons, Kevin junior and Pius. Christina was killed in the South Leinster Street explosion.

**Edward John O'Neill** (39): Self-employed painter and decorator who lived in Dominick Street with his wife, Martha and five children: Denise, Angela, Billy, Edward Jnr and Niall. Edward was killed and his two young sons were seriously injured in the Parnell Street bombing. His wife gave birth to a still-born daughter three months after his death.

**Baby Martha O'Neill** (still-born): Stillborn child of Edward and Martha O'Neill, born in August 1974.

**Marie Phelan** (20): Worked in the civil service. Originally from Ballyvoreen, Woodstown, Co. Waterford and living in Dublin. Survived by her parents, Kitty and Billy, and brothers, Pat and Anthony. Marie was killed in the Talbot Street explosion.

**Siobhán Roice** (19): Worked in the civil service. Originally from Thomas Street, Wexford town and living in Dublin. She was survived by her parents, Johanna and Edward, sisters Aileen and Elizabeth and brother James. Siobhán was killed in the Talbot Street explosion.

**Maureen Shields** (46): Originally from Hollyford, Co. Tipperary, Maureen moved to Dublin where she worked in the civil service until her marriage to Leo in 1953. They had one son and two daughters. Maureen was killed in the Talbot Street explosion.

**Jack Travers** (28): Self- employed, single and from Park Street, Monaghan town. Jack still lived with his family and was very athletic. He was engaged to be married. Survived by his parents, brother Jim, sisters and fiancée. Jack was killed in the explosion in North Street, Monaghan.

**Breda Turner:** Worked in the civil service, in the income tax office. She was engaged to be married the following Easter. Originally from Thurles, Co. Tipperary, she had moved to Dublin and was survived by her parents, Biddy and Jimmy, and brother and sisters. She was killed in the Parnell Street explosion.

**John Walshe** (27): Single, from Crumlin, Dublin. He was survived by his father and mother, sisters Anne and Mary and girlfriend Joan. He was killed in the Talbot Street explosion.

**Peggy White** (45): Part-time restaurant worker. She was survived by her husband, Joe, a daughter and three young sons. She lived in Belgium Park, Monaghan town. Peggy was injured in the bomb in North Road, Monaghan, and died on the night of the bombing.

**George Williamson** (72): A bachelor farmer from Castleshane, Co Monaghan. George was survived by his sister Margaret and two brothers, Isaiah and Jesse, as well as nieces and nephews. He was killed in the explosion in North Road, Monaghan.