

WORLD DAY OF REMEMBRANCE 2009, Country Activities: summaries

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http://www.totalcatholic.com/tc/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=679:services-remember-road-traffic-victims&catid=14:uk-and-ireland&Itemid=34

Services have been held across the UK and Ireland to mark *World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims*. Worldwide, almost 4,000 people are killed and many hundreds of thousands injured every day in road accidents. The day of remembrance was first initiated by the UK charity *Road Peace* in 1993. The day is now globally recognised following the UN General Assembly's call in October 2005 for all member states to recognise the third Sunday in November as *World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims* as an appropriate acknowledgement for victims of road traffic crashes and their families. According to *Road Peace*, "The price in terms of human loss, grief and care is immeasurable. Road crashes are the leading cause of violent deaths and injuries worldwide and World Day of Remembrance is drawing attention to the scale of this global disaster."

In Ireland, more than 1,000 people attended a special Mass at Knock shrine in Co Mayo to mark the day, while prayers were said at Masses in a number of other counties.

In a statement, *Road Peace* said that the theme of this year's day of remembrance was 'From global remembrance to global action'.

The UK charity said that road crashes were the "leading cause of death to young adults worldwide". It added that "more young people (age 15-29) are killed in collisions than by any other cause."

Over 1.2 million people were killed on the world's roads during the past year, and the World Health Organisation has projected that road deaths will be the 5th leading cause of death by 2030, exceeding those caused by HIV/AIDS. Meanwhile the first ever Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety takes place later this week between 19-20 November in Moscow. The UK will be represented by Paul Clark, the Road Safety Minister. He joins government representatives from around the world addressing the need for a "Decade of Action for Road Safety" and a required investment estimated at \$300 million, if five million lives are to be saved.

Brigitte Chaudhry, *Road Peace* Founder and President of the European Federation of Road Traffic Victims, represents road crash victims on WHO's Road Safety Collaboration, will also be attending the Moscow Conference. In a statement, she said, "The start of a new decade is bringing into action all those concerned about danger on the world's roads. At the Moscow conference, politicians, health and transport professionals will pledge the actions they propose to reverse the predicted global road casualty toll during the next decade." Ms Chaudhry added, "NGOs that advocate for road victims and road safety are calling in particular for the post crash areas to be included in countries' road safety strategies. We invite everyone to observe the World Day of Remembrance, now known and celebrated worldwide, and take this opportunity to demonstrate the terrible consequences of crashes."