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**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:****Fr Oliver Crilly**

Fr Oliver Crilly is Parish Priest of the Melmount Parish in Strabane, Co Tyrone, since 1989. He served as a curate in the neighbouring Strabane Parish from 1982.

He was born in the village of Curran, Co Londonderry, and attended a local primary school, later studying at St Columb's College in Derry City before going on to St Patrick's College, Maynooth, where he was ordained in 1965. After ordination, while teaching in St Patrick's High School, Maghera, Co Londonderry, he was the first post-graduate student in Irish Studies in the New University of Ulster, Coleraine, gaining an M.Phil in 1973.

Fr Crilly taught in Maghera from 1965 - 1969, before being seconded to the Catholic Communications Institute of Ireland, based in Dublin. From 1969 - 1977 he was Director of Veritas Publications, the Institute's publishing division.

From 1970 - 1973 he was Chairman of the interdenominational Religious Press Association of Ireland. From 1977 - 1982 he was Director of the Catholic Communications Institute of Ireland, the executive arm of the Catholic Bishop's Commission for Communications. From 1980 - 1985 Fr Crilly was a member of the Irish Commission for Justice and Peace. In 1989 - 90 he was a member of a joint working party of the Irish Commission for Justice and Peace and the Irish Council of Churches who visited all of Northern Ireland's prisons and wrote "Northern Ireland's Prisons - A Report to the Churches", which was published in 1990.

He is a member of the National Executive of the National Conference of Priests of Ireland. He is a frequent broadcaster in Irish and English for the BBC and RTE, and presented the first Irish language documentary filmed by the BBC. He is very much involved in education and is a member of the Western Education and Library Board and of the Derry Diocesan Education Committee. He is interested in art, literature, and the local theatrical scene which includes Lifford Players and the Puddle Alley Theatre Group.

In 1994 Fr Crilly was a member of a Trocaire delegation which visited Rwanda in the aftermath of the massacres and civil war, and wrote a report for the Irish Catholic bishops.



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For some years he was associated with the Inter-Church Group on Faith and Politics. He has lectured for the Irish School of Ecumenics, and in the Spring of 1996 spoke at the Portrush Conference "Moving Beyond Sectarianism". He has taken part in inter-church speaking tours in the United States, in 1990 with the Rev Margaret Johnston, and in 1995 with the Very Rev Dr John Dunlop.

### The Very Rev Dr John Dunlop

Born in 1939 in Newry, Co Down, Dr Dunlop attended Newry Grammar School and Royal Belfast Academical Institution.

Following studies at Queen's University, Belfast, New College in the University of Edinburgh, and Assembly's College, Belfast, he was minister first in Fitzroy Avenue Presbyterian Church, Belfast, and then for ten years in Jamaica with the United Church of Jamaica and Grand Cayman. Since 1978 he has been minister of Rosemary Presbyterian Church in north Belfast.

In 1985 - 86 he delivered the Warrack Lectures on "Preaching in the Midst of Conflict" in the Theological Faculties of the four ancient Scottish Universities. In 1989 he was an Eisenhower Exchange Fellow in the USA.

Dr Dunlop was Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland (1992 - 93). In June 1993 he received the "Cultural Traditions Award", in recognition of his "established and continuing contribution to the debate on cultural diversity within Northern Ireland".

Dr Dunlop has spoken at many inter-church services and given numerous lectures at events organised by groups like the Irish Association, The Corrymeela Community, the Irish Theological Association, the Merriman Summer School, the Glenstal Ecumenical Conference, the British Irish Association, and the John Hewitt Summer School.

He has visited the United States on a number of occasions at the invitation of the Presbyterian Church USA and the US Catholic Conference. He was there in February 1995 with Fr Oliver Crilly as well as attending the White House Conference on Investment in May 1995.

His book "A Precarious Belonging: Presbyterians and the Conflict in Ireland" was published by Blackstaff Press in May 1995.