

**PRIME MINISTER'S REMARKS AT THE
OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE NORTH CITY
BUSINESS CENTRE**

Lord Mayor

Lady Mayoress

Ladies and Gentlemen

The North City Business Centre is a fine example of the way Northern Ireland's economy is turning round.

Unemployment in North Belfast has fallen by nearly one thousand (16 per cent) in a year.

That's part of a trend which has seen thousands of new jobs created in Northern Ireland, with more to come.

Last month alone, inward and local investment was announced which will lead to nearly 3,000 more jobs.

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New jobs, new businesses, new investment, have shown people the futility and waste of terrorism.

They have given hope and pride back to local communities.

They have helped the world outside to remember that Northern Ireland has always been a place of industry and industriousness, of advanced skills and education - a good place to do business, and now a good base in the European Union.

That's the image we all want for Northern Ireland. the sooner everyone accepts the rules of legal, peaceful, and democratic behaviour, the faster prosperity will spread throughout the province.

So I'm delighted to perform the official opening of the North City Business Centre today.

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It shows what the public and private sector can achieve together.

I congratulate your Chairman, Irvine McKay, who took up the challenge and has piloted the project from the outset.

I congratulate all in the local community and the sponsoring agencies and companies who contributed to this success.

I am sure that the Business Centre will go from strength to strength.

[LESSON 1: UNANNOUNCED AFTER THE
BIDDING PRAYER]

LUKE 1, 5-25

In the days of Herod, King of Judea, there was a priest —
named Zechari'ah, of the division of Abi'Jah; and he
had a wife of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was
Elizabeth.

And they were both righteous before God, walking in all
the Commandments and Ordinances of the Lord, —
blameless.

But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, /
and both were advanced in years.

Now while he was serving as priest before God, when his
division was on duty, according to the custom of the
priesthood, it fell to him by lot to enter the temple of the
Lord and burn incense.

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And the whole multitude of the people were praying
outside at the hour of incense.

And there appeared to him an Angel of the Lord
standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

And Zechari'ah was troubled when he saw him, and fear
fell upon him.

But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid,
Zechari'ah, for your prayer is heard, and your wife
Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his
name John.

"And you will have joy and gladness, and many will
rejoice at his birth.

"For he will be great before the Lord, and he shall drink
no wine nor strong drink, and he will be filled with the
Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb.

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"And he will turn many of the sons of Israel to the Lord their God,

"And he will go before him in the spirit and power of Eli'jah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared."

And Zechari'ah said to the Angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years."

And the Angel answered him, "I am Gabriel, who stand in the presence of God; and I was sent to speak to you, and to bring you this good news.

"And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things come to pass, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time."

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And the people were waiting for Zechari'ah, and they wondered at his delay in the temple.

And when he came out, he could not speak to them, and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple; and he made signs to them and remained dumb.

And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she hid herself, saying, "Thus the Lord has done to me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men."

Thanks be to God.