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By Victoria O'Hara
Friday, 15 August 2008

Omagh is set to fall quiet today as the Commemorative Ceremony marking the 10th anniversary of the bomb which claimed 29 lives and unborn twins is held.

It is hoped the public service, which will begin at 3pm, will help those affected by the bomb to come

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The worst terrorist atrocity in Northern Ireland's history was ten years ago in Omagh.

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together in remembrance.

What are these?

The 45 minute ceremony will include scripture and inspirational readings, musical pieces and a short address by former hostage and church envoy Terry Waite CBE.

The ceremony will open with music by the Omagh Waterford Peace Choir and an introductory greeting in English, Irish and Spanish.

It will be read by Daniel McSorley, Chief Executive of Omagh District Council, Sinead McLaughlin, from Buncrana and Paula Helguero Mahon, from Madrid.

At 3.03pm this will be followed by a prayer read by Omagh Churches Forum members, John Murdoch, from the First Omagh Presbyterian, Sam McGuffin, representing Omagh Methodist Church and Brendan McCarthy, from Omagh Community Church.

A call to remembrance and minute's silence will be observed at 3.10pm, the time the bomb exploded.

At 3.11pm a single church bell will ring to mark the end of the moment of silence.

Poetry and scripture readings will also be read as well as further musical pieces and a short address by Terry Waite CBE.

At 3.15pm the names of the victims who lost their lives on August 15, 1998 will be read out.

An important element of the commemorative ceremony will be the Dedication to Peace which everyone attending will be invited to join in.

It will be led by Co-Chairs of Omagh Churches Forum, Monsignor Joe Donnelly and Rev William Seale.

At around 3.33pm a lament, will be played on bagpipes by Drew McDermott at the site of the bomb.

A group of young people from Omagh Youth Theatre will scatter petals on Market Street.

Floral tributes to be placed in the garden and the Garden of Light Memorial garden will be officially opened. The light of hope from the heliostats will be switched on.

They will travel along the path to touch the crystal heart glass sculpture at the bomb site.

The ceremony will conclude with a prayer and a blessing.

Following the closing hymn the families and official guests will be invited to lay floral tributes in the Memorial Garden.

The families will have some time in the garden before it is open to the public at around 4.30pm.

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