



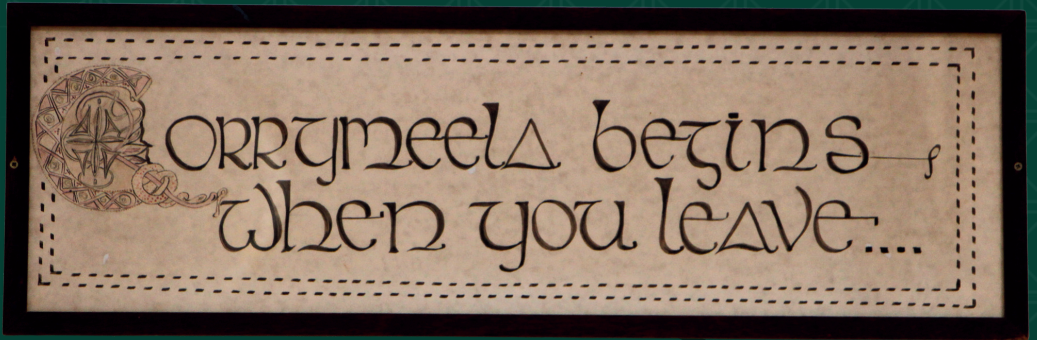
THE
LINEN
HALL
BELFAST 1788

corrymeela 
an unfinished
journey
towards peace

an exhibition celebrating **60 years of Corrymeela** and exploring the future of **peacebuilding at home and beyond**

1 April - 15 May 2026

Exhibition Programme



introduction

We are delighted to welcome you to Corrymeela: An Unfinished Journey Towards Peace.

For over sixty years, and often in times of darkness and division, Corrymeela has provided glimpses of a better world. This isn't because we are special or have answers to the world's problems, but because we are committed to genuine relationships where people can be themselves with others, including those with whom they disagree - and experience the hope of something better.

Ours is the work of everyday peacebuilding. This means welcoming strangers, celebrating differences, listening with curiosity and empathy to experiences different than our own, acknowledging how we have hurt each other, offering and seeking forgiveness where we can, and actively working for a future that works better for all of us.

A just and lasting peace can't be imposed from on high. It starts instead with us on the ground, working with each other. It happens around kitchen tables and cups of tea, in shared experiences and honest listening - in tears of newfound understanding as we discover that we do need not be divided. As we pursue peace and reconciliation with ourselves and with the world, we discover real hope and profound joy.

The world desperately needs more experiences of genuine connection where we learn how our own wellbeing is inextricably linked to the wellbeing of the whole. We hope that through this celebration of our first sixty years, we will all be reminded of the power of everyday peacebuilding and be inspired to take the next step on this journey together.

Grace and peace,

Alex Wimberly
Leader of the Corrymeela Community



about the exhibition

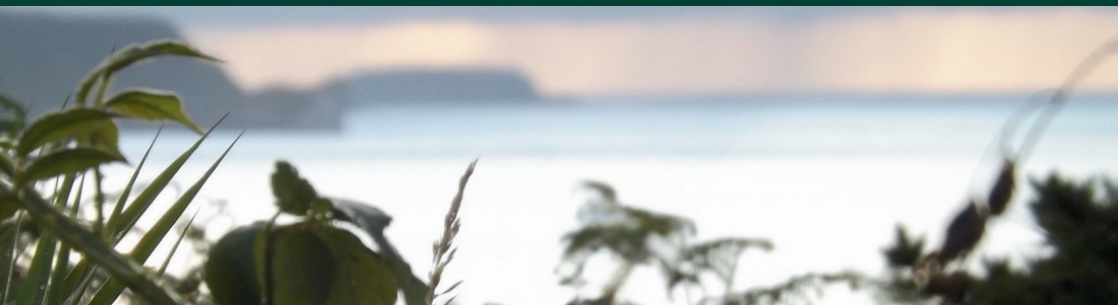
What does peace look like? Who makes it? And what does the next generation of peacebuilding look like in Northern Ireland and beyond?

At the heart of the exhibition is a challenge to a familiar idea. Sometimes we can think of peace confined to the higher echelons of power – an outworking of boardroom discussions and grand political gestures. But we have always believed something different. The real work of peace happens at a grassroots level, carried out by often unseen and unsung heroes.

Through illustrations and juxtapositions, the exhibition panels invite you to question what peacebuilding means in today's world and to reflect on how we can ritualise peace into our everyday lives.

With the rise of nationalism and authoritarianism, the ongoing fallout of Brexit, and the possibility of a border poll never far from view, the need for spaces of genuine, unmediated human encounter has rarely been more urgent.

Our current Corrymeela programme work continues across Northern Ireland. We are bringing people together across divides, supporting communities navigating difficult conversations, and creating residential experiences that change how people see themselves and each other. This exhibition celebrates that work – our unfinished journey towards peace – and looks ahead to a future to be defined by the next generation of peacebuilders.





RSVP Here

events programme

Launch Ceremony

1pm - 2pm, Fri 10 April

Join us to mark the official opening of the exhibition, as we bring together key figures from the Corrymeela community for a short programme of speeches and reflections.

Music, Community & Peacebuilding

1pm - 2pm, Fri 17 April

This presentation, with songs performed by a small group, will offer an overview of Corrymeela's musical life and journey and explore how music can be a valuable instrument in the ongoing task of building peace.

Live Podcast with Monica McWilliams

1-2pm, Wed 29 April

Live recording of the "Corrymeela Podcast" with an interview with Monica McWilliams by Jonny Clark. As well as reflecting on her past, conversation will crucially focus on her insight into where we are today as a society.

Brave Spaces

7:30pm - 9pm, Wed 29 April

Join us to get a glimpse of these spaces through an evening of music, poetry, storytelling, and reflections from those involved in Corrymeela's programmatic work. From 7pm, enjoy coffee, tea and a chance to explore the exhibition and the event will begin at 7.30pm.

Puppet Workshop

1pm - 2pm, Wed 6 May

Hosted by Corrymeela community member Yvonne Naylor, this session will share some Puppet Presentations on our relationship with the Earth with brief introductions, and a discussion.

Belfast: Past, Present and Future - PEACEPLUS Interfaith & Belief Walking Tour

2pm - 4:30pm, Mon 8 May

Join us as we uncover stories from our past of unexpected collaboration and hospitality between faiths and beliefs, revealing how a changing city learned to welcome difference – and what that legacy means today.

Tenx9

12pm - 2pm, Fri 15 May

A storytelling event where nine people have up to ten minutes each to tell a true story from their own life. This event will have nine people telling a true story about Corrymeela, how they got involved, memories of working or being at Corrymeela and how Corrymeela has made a difference in their lives.

exhibition illustrations



We were delighted to partner with the incredible Stéphanie Heckman, who created the illustrations featured within the exhibition.

Stéphanie came to Northern Ireland as a Corrymeela volunteer in 2017. She is still based in Belfast, now working internationally as a graphic recorder and visual facilitator. In this role she translates in real-time collective conversations into hand-drawn visual summaries that distil the essence of both content and undercurrent. Her visuals are powerful windows and mirrors into complex discussions, making them accessible to a much larger audience.

Active since 2018, Stéphanie has worked with close to 200 organisations, but focuses on supporting those advancing climate action, peace and reconciliation and leadership development. Since 2020, she collaborates regularly with UN Climate Change and many organisations in the global climate space, as well as supporting various peacebuilding organisations and initiatives with her visuals in Northern Ireland and beyond.

Illustrations by
Stephanie Heckman.com
@stephaniesaloli

about us

For over 60 years, the Corrymeela Community has created spaces where people from different backgrounds and perspectives listen to and learn from one another.

At our residential centre in Ballycastle, through our programme work across Northern Ireland, and in the lives of our community members, we pursue reconciliation by seeking guidance from the teachings of Jesus, the wisdom of other traditions, and the lessons of our encounters.

When you come to Corrymeela, we give you the opportunity to leave your current context and be in a restorative and supportive space - pioneering the idea of intentional community. All are welcome to be a part of Corrymeela's community. Wherever you are in your journey, there is a place for you here.

support us

Our work of reconciliation and peacebuilding depends on the generosity of people who believe in a more compassionate world. You can be part of this vital mission - donate to sustain our programmes, volunteer your time and skills, or become a member and join a community committed to healing and hope. **Together, we can build bridges across division.**

Find out more:



Get involved:

 [@corrymeela.community](https://www.instagram.com/corrymeela.community)

 [@corrymeela](https://www.facebook.com/corrymeela)

www.corrymeela.org



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