



Remember: Never Forgotten

George Lane, Coordinating Chaplain of Manchester Airport, is looking forward to a different way of marking International Workers Memorial Day on April 28 this year. You can find an Act of Remembrance online.

“When ‘this’ is over, we ought to have some kind of Day of Remembrance for all the NHS staff who have lost their lives caring for patients with Covid-19”, a friend of mine wrote on Facebook. “We already have one, I replied: it’s this Tuesday, April 28; International Workers Memorial Day”, which also coincides with the UN World Day for Safety and Health at Work.

For the third year running, UNITE, MAG and the Chaplaincy, Manchester Airport are marking this important occasion with a short Act of Remembrance with the Laying of Wreaths.

On IWMD, we remember the lives of workers across the globe and in every industry who have died or become ill or injured during the course of - or as a direct result of their working lives.

At Manchester Airport we also seek to be a community that cares for one another in all circumstances, and so we also use the day to remember by name, and to celebrate the lives of all colleagues who have died in the past twelve months.

International Workers Memorial Day is:

- A Global Day of Remembrance and Commitment to Action to support workers throughout the world.
- A commemoration of and tribute to the millions of people throughout the world killed, injured, disabled or left unwell by their work.
- An opportunity to name, remember, and celebrate the lives of our own colleagues and friends who have died in the past year.

In recent years, we have filled the Airport’s Garden of Remembrance, but as government restrictions are in place around large physical gatherings, and we are being urged to “stay home, protect the NHS and save lives”, this year will be a virtual



WE REMEMBER THEM ALL

On International Workers’ Memorial Day, light a candle for all those who have been killed because of Covid19 and other hazards at work

28 APRIL

#IWMD20

gathering, with just a very small number of us present to lay wreaths on behalf of the wider airport community.

In this time of isolation this is a reminder that we are part of a wider community, and just as we share one another’s triumphs, we help to bear each other’s sorrows.

This year’s Act of Remembrance, will be more poignant than ever, as we not only

Many workers are still attending work ill-equipped and without necessary safety measures in place.

The short Act of Remembrance will be streamed at 12 noon on the Manchester Airport Chaplaincy Facebook page, Unite & MAG sites.

If you know the names of anyone from the airport community (any of our 200+

businesses) who has died in the past twelve months and whom you would like to be remembered by name, **please email George Lane at**

george.lane@manairport.co.uk before 09.00 on April 28.

More information at: www.tuc.org.uk/international-workers-memorial-day-iwmd

The Manchester Airport event takes place thanks to the Airport Chaplaincy, Unite, the union, Mark Bowcock, Andy Ashton, and Andrew Cowan, Divisional CEO of Manchester Airport.

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remember those of our own airport community who have died, but also give thanks for the commitment and service of all front-line workers (including our own amazing front-line colleagues at the airport).

The coronavirus pandemic affects every worker regardless of sector or locality. Tens of thousands of workers worldwide have died. More have fallen ill or continue to go to work risking their lives.

Multifaith Prayer Rooms are still open, but all corporate worship is suspended until further notice.

Use of Prayer Rooms is subject to government restrictions on numbers and proximity.

Please be mindful of other users and give space to them.

Eating, drinking and sleeping in prayer rooms all remain prohibited.

We always were in this together (though we may not have appreciated it)

A preview of some words offered at the IWMD Act of Remembrance this coming Tuesday 28 April by George Lane, Coordinating Chaplain.

"United we stand: Divided we fall" is a basic human truth repeated for more than two and a half thousand years, from Aesop, through the life and teaching of Jesus, the American Revolution to the foundation of Trade Unionism. And it's still evidently true.

It's a paradox of the Covid-19 pandemic that the more separated we have become through social distancing... the more we have come to realise how dependent we are (and always have been) on one another.

"United we stand: Divided we fall" is also a divine truth for those of us who acknowledge God as a God of Justice, of Truth, of Peace. For without Justice, without Truth, without Peace, what may pass for Unity is simply Tyranny (or Cowardice) in disguise.

Manchester Airport is (for such an apparently modern workplace) very much like an old-fashioned kind of workforce: a mining-village, a ship-building town, a

community where... whatever their individual trade, all the workers contribute to the same industry, serve one common goal: mourning together, suffering together, rejoicing together, prospering together.

Unity may come naturally because we know we are only as strong as our weakest link. Seldom has authentic unity in purpose and unity in compassion been more necessary than now.

And we are reminded that it's often the lowest-status and lowest-paid workers that form the bulwark of protection for us all; that keep the show on the road.

'When this is over...' we all now say, When this is over, let's never again forget the dignity and value of all who work alongside us, and that it's not our uniform or our wage-package that defines us, but the unity that comes, when love of God is revealed in our care for one another.

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The Mother of All Troublemakers

Mary Jones was an unlikely champion of workers' safety. A life-long Roman Catholic, 'Mother' Jones led a children's march on the American President's home to protest child labour, yet she opposed women's suffrage as a 'distraction', and supported a living wage for men so that a woman's place could be at home. She gave the international workers' movement their rallying cry: *Pray for the Dead and Fight like Hell for the Living!* An American investigative news magazine is named in her honour.

Mary G. Harris Jones (baptized 1837; died 1930), known as Mother Jones from 1897 onwards, was an Irish-born American schoolteacher and dressmaker who became a prominent union organizer, community organizer, and activist. She helped coordinate major strikes and co-founded the Industrial Workers of the World.

After Jones' husband and four children all died in the yellow fever epidemic of 1867, and her dress shop was destroyed in the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, she became an organizer for the Knights of Labor and

the United Mine Workers union. In 1902, she was called "the most dangerous woman in America" for her success in organizing. In 1903, to protest the lax enforcement of the child labour laws in the Pennsylvania mines and silk mills, she organized a children's march from Philadelphia to the home of President Theodore Roosevelt in New York. Read more at:

www.crisismagazine.com/2015/uncertain-pilgrimage-mother-jones-making-ruckus

www.motherjones.com/politics/2001/05/mother-jones-woman/

A Prayer for Key-Workers*

*especially those previously called 'low-skilled'.

We are not people of **fear**: we are people of **courage**. We are not people who selfishly preserve our own safety at all costs: we are people who protect our neighbours' wellbeing for all our sakes. We are not people of **greed**: we are people of **generosity**. We are your people God, **giving** and **loving**, **wherever** we are, **whatever** it costs. For **as long as it takes** **wherever** you call us.

Barbara Glasson
President of the Methodist Conference

Anxiety happens when you think you have to figure out everything all at once. Breathe. You're strong. You got this. Take it day by day.

—Karen Salmansohn

Workers Memorial Day

April 28, 2010



Since 1980 the Chaplaincy Manchester Airport has provided pastoral, spiritual and practical help, support and guidance to all who work at the airport as well as those who travel through it. The Chaplaincy office is in Terminal 1 Check-In B (by Jet2.com). A member of the team is always on-call.

Contact us on: 0161 489 2838 or thechaplaincy@manairport.co.uk

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