

## *“The Paris Peace Conference 1919” with Dr Johnston McMaster*

at Drumalis Retreat & Conference Centre, Larne  
on Saturday, 21 September 2019



*United Nations International Day of Peace  
The General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted  
to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and people.*

'Unprecedented in scale, with its large numbers of delegates and journalists, the Paris Peace conference was a laboratory of the twentieth century, an experimental space for the creation of a new world order geared to public opinion and the principles of collective security'. (*Jorn Leonhard, Pandora's Box, 2018, p847*).

The conference began on 18 January 1919. Some thirty-two Allied and associate powers were there. The defeated powers from 1914-1918 were excluded. Everybody there wanted to reshape the world. The real decisions came down to a Council of Four, the heads of government of the four main Allied powers, USA, Britain, France and Italy.

These leaders may have had a thankless task. Paris was an attempt to create peace and a new world order after the most catastrophic war ever. They had no road map. The conference is best known for the Treaty of Versailles, which was essentially to keep Germany in place. There were many other Treaties from Paris. The lynch-pin of the new order was the League of Nations and under its direction Mandates were given to the French and British for the former provinces of the collapsed Ottoman empire in the middle-east region. The French and the British ignored the League and played at mandatory empire. At Paris there was also the betrayal of China. Paris 1919 has left serious legacies with which we still struggle and which threaten the peace of the planet. The violent and humanitarian crises of the Middle East are still with us.

In remembering Paris 1919, this event at Drumalis, Larne will reflect critically on the history and legacies still haunting us and take critical stock of the European and global context of now. Attention will be given to the ethics of a just peace and the crucial importance of justice in preventing war and violence, and building sustainable peace.

The day begins with registration at 9:30 am, starting at 10:00 am and ends at 4:30 pm approx. The cost of the day is £40 per person and includes refreshments and lunch. **The Conference is part of the Public Theology programme at Drumalis.**

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If you would like to book a place, please complete the slip below and return it to Drumalis, 47 Glenarm Road, Larne, County Antrim BT40 1DT together with full payment of £40. Cheques should be made payable to **Drumalis**.

Name: .....

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Telephone Number: ..... Email Address: .....

Special Dietary Requirements: .....

**Why not save time by booking your place by phone - we accept payment by credit and debit card - telephone 028 28272196/28276455 (Mon-Fri, 9 am - 5pm).**



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