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Letter to Lord Mayor of Belfast

An open letter from Rev David McLaughlin of Carryduff Free Presbyterian Church to the Alliance Party regarding the decision of the Alliance Party Lord Mayor of Belfast, a professing atheist, Nuala McAllister, to refuse to have anyone return thanks at her installation dinner.



Lord Mayor of Belfast Nuala McAllister at her installation dinner in City Hall with her partner Sam Nelson and their son Finn

I write to you as a Minister of the Gospel within the Greater Belfast area and on behalf of thousands of Christians throughout Northern Ireland, regarding, "the glaring omission of scraping the grace", at the Lords Mayor dinner last Saturday night, the 2nd of September.

This decision by the Alliance Lord Mayor Nuala McAllister to disconnect from decades of inaugural procedure by distancing herself from the, 'saying of grace', is one that was clearly deliberate and designed to cause offence to many co religionists in the population that she professes to represent. The recent Northern Ireland consensus places 85% of the citizens of the Province as professing Christianity in the broadest sense.

Nuala was elected to be the first citizen of Belfast and was hosting a high-profile, public event with many dignitaries and clergy present. Her decision to dispense with the offer of thanks for the food was purely motivated by an atheistic ideology designed to undermine the Biblical Heritage that many value and adapt as the bases for their Christian Faith within Northern Ireland.

If Nuala didn't want to publicly pray then she should have deputised for someone else to offer 'the grace' or asked the clergy present to officiate.

Saying grace before a meal is one of the most common and universal forms of spoken prayer and follows the example of our Lord Jesus Christ, who, when he instituted the communion feast, offered thanks. He also gave thanks for the food at the feeding of the 5000 and the 4000. See Mark 8:6, Luke 9:16. This was in public before a multitude.

Saying 'Grace' acknowledges God goodness towards us as creatures made in his image and our dependency on him for our daily nourishment. Giving thanks for food is furthermore a biblical concept, for it is written, "In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you", 1 Thessalonians 5 :18 .

While the initial response has been one of shock, it soon becomes apparent that the Alliance party has done much in recent times, to undermine our Biblical Heritage and moral values.

The Alliance Party attitude to same sex marriage and abortion is now exposed as motivated by an atheistic ideology that has perpetuated its way into how the Lord Mayor has acted in the matter of saying 'grace'.

All the evidence indicates that our City is represented by an individual whose personality is dominated by an atheistic arrogance that is an unworthy attribute for the role of first citizen.

In light of her decision, I expect she will not be in attendance at the Remembrance Day services when prayers will be offered for the bereaved and the wounded of the past wars. If she should attend, it would be the personification of an hypocrisy that has, in my view been unprecedented in the history of Civic Leaders in Belfast. Nuala's recent attendance at the Presbyterian General Assembly and Saint Anne's Cathedral



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exposes her to the same charge.

In spite of her attitude towards her Creator, I will continue to pray for her that she might be brought to an understanding of Him, who is alive and is alive for evermore.

Yours Sincerely

David G McLaughlin