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Latest news

Danny McIlhone finally rests in peace

Andersonstown News Thursday

West Belfast man Danny McIlhone man was finally laid to rest this week, 27 years after he was killed by the IRA.

Danny (21) was laid to rest with his parents Lily and Dan in Milltown Cemetery on Monday. Danny's remains were recovered in County Wicklow and definitively identified last week.

The local man was abducted in Dublin in 1981 by the IRA and shot dead.

In 1999 the IRA admitted that they had killed the local man saying Danny had been shot by accident while struggling to escape.

Hundreds of mourners joined the McIlhone family at St Teresa's Church on the Glen Road for the funeral Mass.

Hundreds of mourners joined the McIlhone family at St Teresa's Church on the Glen Road for the funeral Mass, which was celebrated by Fr Darach Mac Giolla Catháin, a priest from St Luke's Parish.

"Today, as we offer Requiem Mass for Danny McIlhone, we gather with mixed emotions in our hearts," he said.

"There is the obvious sadness each of us experience when we lay our loved ones to rest.

"Yet there is also a very real sense of thankfulness that, after a wait of over 27 years, we can at last give his body the dignity of a Christian burial."

The local priest prayed for the McIlhone family, who he said had great dignity.

Speaking at the Mass he said: "All of you have been influenced and touched in different ways by Danny's death. What is clear in these circumstances is that time doesn't heal. Truth heals, justice heals and righting a wrong heals."

Fr Mac Giolla Catháin said that Danny's family had described him as full of mischief and a person who lived life to the full.



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New Year... a new set of blogs!

It's a new year and we're starting off with some new additions to our blogging authors. Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams and Mark Finlay of Barnabas Ventures join From the Balcony, Food and Drink Ireland and Punter's Guide to blog



Fr Mac Giolla Catháin said that the McIlhone family had never given up hope. He said that they longed to have Danny's body back.

"You will now have a cemetery to visit, a place to lay your flowers, a grave to stand at and pray.

"This was the deepest longing amongst the family, to have him back and be able to bury him."

The names of the remaining Disappeared were read out by Fr Mac Giolla Catháin and he asked that God sustain their families as they continue to wait.

The local priest also read out comments which were made by Secretary of State Shaun Woodword.

"The McIlhone family have endured great anguish and pain over the past 27 years.

"Anyone with information, no matter how small or insignificant it may seem, must come forward to help end the families' suffering and agony."

There were emotional scenes as Danny McIlhone's coffin was carried out of the church to the strains of Danny Boy.

West Belfast MP Gerry Adams has appealed again for anyone with any information concerning any of those remains still missing to "either bring that information forward to the Commission or any of the official agencies, or to myself or any other Sinn Féin representative."

Mr Adams praised the great resilience and determination of the McIlhone family and their refusal to give up.

"Efforts continue to identify the locations of Seamus Wright, Kevin McKee, Columba McVeigh and Brendan McGraw, who were killed by the IRA," said Mr. Adams.

"Sinn Féin will continue to support all the families, including the families of Seamus Ruddy, Charlie Armstrong, Gerard Evans and Lisa Dorrian, and to work diligently on this important issue.

"Let me repeat my call on anyone with any information, no matter how small, to bring that information forward either to the Commission or any of the official agencies or to myself or any other Sinn Féin representative."



