

Spatiotemporal Chronology of Bloody Sunday Commemorative Activity, 1972–2009

Source: Brian Conway, *Commeration and Bloody Sunday: Pathways of Memory*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2010.

1972

27 February DWAC hold march along original route of Bloody Sunday march.
February Galway music group, Dinkeas, release song entitled ‘The Derry Massacre’.

1973

27 January DCRA all-night vigil at Free Derry Corner.
28 January New record entitled ‘London’s Derry’ is released by music group, Blackthorn.
28 January Requiem Mass at St Mary’s Church, Creggan.
Inter-denominational service at Rossville Street.
Cutting of first sod on site of proposed memorial at Rossville Street by British Labour Party Peer, Lord Fenner Brockway.
Recitation of Thomas Kinsella’s poem ‘Butcher’s Dozen’ by British film actor, Vanessa Redgrave.
Singing of songs dedicated to Bloody Sunday.
One-hour vigil organized by Newry Civil Disobedience Co-ordination Committee held outside Newry police station.

30 January First annual commemorative marches organized by DCRA and NICRA.
SF march against internment takes place from the Creggan to Westland Street to Celtic Park where a rally is held.
Recitation of ‘Have you Forgotten Bloody Sunday?’ poem by Kathleen Largy.
First anniversary Mass at St Mary’s Church, Creggan.
Laying of wreaths at graves of dead in city cemetery and at site of proposed memorial.
Singing of songs in memory of dead.
Observation of two-minutes’ silence at 4pm.
Inter-denominational service at Rossville Street flats.

28 January – Black flags flown in Creggan and Bogside.
30 January Black armbands worn by Bogside residents.
Window blinds lowered.
First candlelit vigil in Bogside at end of commemorative ceremonies.
4 February March from Derrybeg to town centre organized by NCDCC.

1974

26 January Unveiling of Rossville Street Monument by Bridget Bond of DCRA.
Two commemorative marches held – PSF and DCRA and NICRA.

1976

31 January SF Commemoration theme: demand the release of all Republican prisoners.
NICRA Commemoration theme: “Civil Rights – not – Civil War”.

1978

Provisional IRA display M-60 heavy sub-machine gun at Bloody Sunday march for the press.
Only SF commemorative march held – NICRA held wreath-laying ceremony.

1983

22 January Fourteen trees planted at Rossville Street by Derry SF.

1984

25 January First Bloody Sunday Commemorative lecture, ‘The Road from Bloody Sunday: Reflections 12 Years On ...’ at Creggan Community Centre.
Bloody Sunday march raised to the level of a national event by SF.

1985

27 January American Red Indians participate in march and rally. Bloody Sunday Commemoration Committee organizes commemorative events.

27 January Relatives of Bloody Sunday dead placed wreaths at the memorial and recited a decade of the Rosary.

22 January Motion tabled at Derry City Council for Bloody Sunday commemorative plaque to be erected in the Guildhall.

1986

25 January Bloody Sunday Forum at Central Drive Community Centre, Creggan, addressed by Ken Livingstone.

1988

Seven days notice given to RUC of intention to hold commemorative march under Public Order Act (Northern Ireland) 1987.

1989

30 January Establishment of Bloody Sunday Initiative
Bloody Sunday photographic exhibition in Pilot’s Row Community Centre organized by Camerawork Darkrooms.
3 February Bloody Sunday memorial damaged by graffiti.
7 December Stained-glass commemorative window installed in porch of Guildhall.

1990

28 January “Free the Birmingham Six” chosen as theme of commemoration.

1991

November Gregory Campbell criticizes BSI as a ‘closet Sinn Féin type’ organization and declines support for application for funding by the BSI for two Bloody Sunday commemoration seminars on human rights.
27 January Plaque at Glenfada Park to Charles Love, who was killed by an IRA bomb intended for the security forces, unveiled by Love’s father, Patrick Love, as the march passes. Plaque was erected by the BSI.

1992 (20th anniversary)

26 January March proceeds to Guildhall Square for the first time where white crosses and wreaths were laid at the steps of the Guildhall.
30 January Former NICRA executive committee members lay wreaths at memorial out of concern for people who wished to commemorate Bloody Sunday without it ‘being linked to any political party or paramilitary group’ (Derry Journal, 24 January 1992).
March proceeds to Guildhall Square.
Establishment of Bloody Sunday Justice Campaign.
A mock High Court judge whitewashes over the Bloody Sunday victims mural on Westland Street.

1993

March returns to original route.
Bloody Sunday Memorial Weekend on theme of “Bloody Sunday – Beyond Injustice”.
Gregory Campbell criticizes BSI for inviting Robert McBride, convicted for killing three civilians in South Africa, as the main speaker at the rally.

1994

Ms Bernadette McAliskey delivers first annual BSJC Memorial lecture.
“March for Peace” chosen as theme of annual commemorative march.

28 January Forum on “Just Peace”.

1995

28 January Unionist/Loyalist Perspectives on the Peace Process discussion forum held in Bogside.

1996

Third annual Bloody Sunday weekend commemoration.

1997 (25th anniversary)

30 January Rededication of Rossville Street monument.
Establishment of Bloody Sunday Trust.
Two minutes’ silence observed throughout Derry marking beginning of weekend-long series of commemorative events.
Concelebrated commemorative Mass in St Mary’s Church, Creggan.
Derry Journal Bloody Sunday commemorative supplement published.
Image of each victim is raised at Fahan Street as their names are called out.

31 January Fourteen trees planted at Creggan Reservoir.
Seamus Heaney publishes poem, ‘The Road to Derry’.

2 February Bloody Sunday commemorative badges go on sale.
Street drama of walking through a large-size reproduction of the front page of the Widgery Report at Westland Street.
Banners depicting Bloody Sunday dead are displayed on embankment at Southway at start of march. Unveiling of new Bloody Sunday victims’ mural on Westland Street.
Black flags flown at Free Derry Corner.
Commemoration in Guildhall of publication of Widgery Report.
‘Remember Rossville’ street exhibition in Bogside.

1998

25 January Sunday Business Post publishes eight-page supplement of photos of and interviews with victims’ relatives.

28 January Discussion forum on Unionist/Loyalist perspectives on the Peace Process at Pilots Row Community Centre, Bogside.

30 January Publication of Bloody Sunday booklet by BSJC.

First SDLP political representative addresses the rally.
Fourteen banners of the faces of the dead are raised along Rossville Street.
Fourteen black flags flown at Free Derry Corner.
BSJC booklet Bloody Sunday: A Miscarriage of Justice published.

1 February Six large paintings of British soldiers are hung from the Derry Walls at the Grand Parade section.
Worldwide tour of exhibition ‘Hidden Truths: Bloody Sunday 1972’.

1999

30 January Two-minutes’ silence observed by people of Derry at 4pm.
27 September Bloody Sunday Centre opens in Shipquay Street.

2000

March proceeds to Guildhall instead of Free Derry Corner.
Service at Bloody Sunday Memorial attended by Bishop of Derry, Dr Seamus Hegarty, SDLP, and SF Assembly members.
Commemorative garden added to Rossville Street memorial.
30 January Commemorative march changes traditional route and continues on to the Guildhall Square, Derry city centre.
Free Derry Corner undergoes landscaping and rally takes place on the fringes of it.
29 January Discussion forum in Workhouse Museum, Waterside, on meaning of Bloody Sunday to Protestants (event cancelled).

2001

“Protecting the Guilty?” chosen as commemoration theme.

2002 (30th anniversary)

24 January Launch of Bloody Sunday black ribbons and programme of commemorative events
29 January Unveiling of Bloody Sunday mural at Free Derry Corner.
Unveiling of plaque at the Bloody Sunday memorial.
Launch of A Matter of Minutes: The Enduring Legacy of Bloody Sunday.
30 January Minute’s silence at Rossville Street memorial to mark time when British army opened fire.
Bishop Daly officiates at rededication of memorial wearing stole he wore on Bloody Sunday.
1 February Derry Journal eight-page commemorative supplement published.
12 August ‘Hidden Truths – Bloody Sunday 1972’ photograph exhibition opens in Pilots Row Community Center, Rossville Street.

2003

2 February Banners and lighted torches at Free Derry Corner commemorate massacres across the world.
Launch of ‘Open the Files’ campaign (campaign to force British government to make publicly available information about collusion between the state and loyalist paramilitaries in bringing about the deaths of people in Derry and Donegal).

2004

“Time for Truth” chosen as commemoration theme.

2005

“Time for Truth: From Bogside to Basra” chosen as commemoration theme.

2006

“Towards Justice” chosen as commemoration theme.

2007

27 January Official opening of Museum of Free Derry
“Hold Power to Account” chosen as commemoration theme.

2008

“Truth and Lies” chosen as commemoration theme.

2009

31 January Unveiling of DCRA banner in Museum of Free Derry.
1 February “Justice Delayed Justice Denied” chosen as commemoration theme.
Sea of Solidarity-Sea of Flags – expressing solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza victimized by Israeli military attacks – involved carrying 1,000 Palestinian flags on the Bloody Sunday march.
Rally takes place in William Street at spot where barricade was erected to stop the original march reaching the Guildhall.