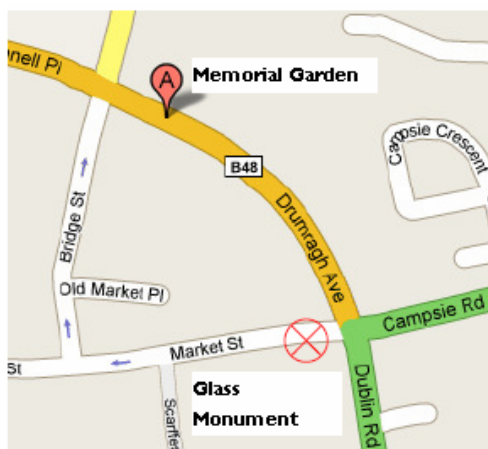


Memorial Location

The Garden of Light Memorial is located on 2 sites. The Glass Monument marks the location of the bomb on Market Street while the Memorial Garden is located a short distance away on Drumragh Avenue.



OMAGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Grange
Mountjoy Road
Omagh
Co Tyrone BT79 7BL

Phone: 028 82245321

Conditions of Use

In order to preserve and enhance the appearance of the memorial, protect public safety and to assist in the ongoing maintenance, the following conditions apply:-

- (a) Children under 12 years of age shall not be permitted within the garden unless accompanied by an adult.
- (b) Fresh cut flowers may be laid in the garden at any time – these will be removed when they become withered and will then be mulched.
- (c) Artificial flowers and potted plants are not recommended, however, if left in the garden the Council reserves the right to remove these when they become faded and unsightly or not later than three months from being laid in garden.
- (d) Planting of flowers, shrubs, etc is strictly prohibited.
- (e) Any floral tributes left at the glass obelisk at Market Street will be relocated to the garden.
- (f) Personal mementoes may be placed in the garden, however, will be removed if they become unsightly or damaged. (NB: see point (g) below)
- (g) For health and safety purposes, **no glass, ceramic, ornaments or wire items will be permitted** and any such items left in the garden will be removed.
- (h) Permanent or in-ground vases or any other form of permanent marker will be removed.
- (i) Omagh District Council reserves the right to remove all instances of unauthorised planting or unauthorised fixtures.
- (j) Pets are permitted within the memorial garden as long as they are on a leash and owners clean up after them.
- (k) No running or other sporting activities to be undertaken in the garden.
- (l) Please do not leave litter in the vicinity of the garden.
- (m) Visitors should not enter the pond and should refrain from placing any items in the pond.

GARDEN OF LIGHT MEMORIAL



“The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it” (John 1:5)

Garden of Light Memorial — Omagh Bomb 15 August 1998

The Omagh Bomb

The Omagh bombing of 15 August 1998 took place shortly after the signing of the Good Friday Agreement of that year.

Despite the peace process, a bomb exploded at 3.10 pm on Saturday 15 August 1998 in Lower Market Street, Omagh.

The consequences were devastating. Including unborn twins, 31 people were killed, over 300 were physically injured and upwards of 1,000 were traumatised. Many buildings were destroyed and parts of the town were closed for weeks.

This was one of the single worst atrocities in the thirty years of the troubles in terms of casualties and provoked a widespread reaction of sadness, helplessness and anger.



In the weeks and months after the event countless thousands of floral tributes and messages of condolence dedicated to the people of the area arrived in Omagh. People across the island of Ireland were galvanised in their support for the developing peace process and in their opposition to violence.

Design Concept

The 'Garden of Light' memorial is based on the themes of light and reflection. Its central focus is sunlight as the light which unites us all in that it makes all life possible. The concept of 'reflection' stems from reactions to the atrocity and its consequences and the approach to the art work is that it should attempt to express simply, uninhibitedly and vividly the huge outpouring of compassion for the victims.



A mirror in the garden, known as a heliostat, tracks the sun and reflects sunlight onto 31 small mirrors representing the 31 fatalities. They are arranged to carry the light to a glass sculpture, containing a Tyrone Crystal heart, at the bomb site which sits almost constantly in the shade.



As the sunlight appears the heart will pick up the reflection and will sparkle and glitter with the reflected light. The artwork will remind us that, even though the sunlight may not always be visible, the sun will come out again.

The garden itself is a simple, meditative space, not fenced off from the street but retaining a sense of quiet enclosure by dropping down to the reinstated original site level along a series of gentle steps or a gently sloping path. Contour lines, patterns in the grass, planting layouts, paving patterns and circulation focus in a gentle spiral to a reflecting pool which is the centre of the scheme.

Narrative

The process to determine the narrative for the 'Garden of Light' memorial was taken forward by an Independent Facilitation Team whose members were the Rev Dr John Dunlop (Chair), Rev Fr Brian Lennon and Mrs Olive Hobson.

Following a lengthy and exhaustive process in which the team held over 80 meetings with those directly affected by the events of 15 August 1998, the narrative recommended by the independent facilitators was unanimously accepted by Omagh District Council.



A copy of the report and recommendations of the Independent Facilitation Team can be obtained from Omagh District Council.

Narrative has been located at three sites— adjacent to the Monument on Market Street; at the entrance to the Memorial Garden on Drumragh Avenue; and within the garden itself.