

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – A bishop for St Peter's**

April 16, 2024

## Image of the day



## A bishop for St Peter's

**Bishop Alan McGuckian was installed in St Peter's Cathedral as Bishop of Down & Connor.**

Bishop Alan McGuckian SJ had his installation ceremony in St Peter's Cathedral in west Belfast.

He was appointed as the Bishop of Down and Connor by Pope Francis in February' having previously been bishop of Raphoe in Donegal.

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Bishop of Down & Connor. School and pastoral parish members from Ballymoney

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It is the second largest diocese on the island of Ireland, stretching from the North Coast to Kilkeel, County Down.

### Queens University Chaplaincy and friends

The primate of all Ireland, Archbishop Eamon Martin, and the Pope's ambassador to Ireland, Archbishop Luis Montemayor, were also present for the ceremony.



Two of the bishop's brothers, Michael and Barney, who are also Jesuit priests, were also involved in the Mass. The Jesuit community was widely represented including the Provincial Shane Daly, Socius Terry Howard and members of the Belfast and Portadown communities.

In his homily, Bishop Alan McGuckian said that the diocese is "very specifically seeking to chart a pathway to the future". And "Much good work has been done to prepare us for that."

# News



## Food Bank support from Kilmore and Inch parish

Photo - Jean Reynolds CLWG, Mervyn Boyd KFB, Kathleen Jackson CLWG & KFB, Mandy Gibson CLWG.

Mandy & Jean on behalf of the 20+ members of Crossgar Ladies Walking Group kindly handed over a substantial donation of personal hygiene and toiletries to Kilmore Food Bank.

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It was a very thoughtful and welcome contribution, as these essential & often expensive items are often overlooked when making donations.

A big thank you to Mandy, Jean & all the members of Crossgar Ladies Walking Group.

## Girls Friendly Society enrolment service



**On Sunday the 14th of April the Tullow branch of The Girls Friendly Society had their enrolment service in St. Columba's Church, Tullow.**



It was presided over by Mr Richard Codd. Mrs Deirdre Alexander, Diocesan Vice President of The Girls Friendly Society attended as a representative of the Diocesan President Mrs Marion Smyth. The girls were enrolled along with leaders Clare Halligan, Florence Worrall, Gael Gibson and Lorraine Corrigan. It was delightful to see the girls singing and taking part in the service.

## **Guards Chapel farewell to The Duke of Kent**

**In his 50th year as Colonel of the Scots Guards, The Duke of Kent hands over Colonelcy of the Regiment to The Duke of Edinburgh.**



On Sunday 14th April, The Duke of Kent attended The Scots Guards annual Black Sunday events in London - this marked His Royal Highness's last day as Colonel of the Regiment.

Black Sunday is The Scots Guards annual day of remembrance in which tributes are paid to fallen members of the regiment and their families.

The Duke of Kent joined a Service of Remembrance at the Guards Chapel in Wellington Barracks with members of the Scots Guards before taking the salute for the final time as Colonel of the Regiment at a Scots Guards Parade.

The Duke of Kent was applauded as he left on Sunday.





## 25 years of Cork Confirmations

Bishop Paul Colton tweeted - “At tonight’s Service in St. Fin Barre's Cathedral I was thrilled to welcome young adults and young people from the Church of Ireland in Cork, Cloyne and Ross representing the confirmation year groups at whose Confirmations it has been my joy to preside during my 25 years so far as bishop”.

## Strabane Methodist Church re-opens

“This afternoon we gathered to give praise to God and celebrate the reopening of our Methodist church in Strabane. It was lovely that some past ministers were able to join us and hear their memories of their time in Strabane.





“It was also nice to be joined by Methodists from all over the Northwest and by our brothers and sisters from the other churches in Strabane and the surrounding area”.

## Clergy appointments

The **Revd Willie Nixon**, currently Incumbent of the Parish of Drumbeg, has been appointed Incumbent of **Seapatrick** (Holy Trinity, Banbridge and Saint Patrick's, Seapatrick), in Dromore Diocese. A date for the service of institution will be announced in due course.

**Canon Ian Berry** has been appointed by Bishop Ferran as Rector of the **Virginia Group of Parishes**. Canon Ian is a committed and experienced pastor and is currently Rector of Monaghan in Clogher Diocese. He is married to Gail,



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a teacher, and they have three children, two at college in Dublin and another still at secondary school. The Berrys will move into the Rectory in August and Canon Ian will be instituted in early September.

## **Pope to embark on Asia trip, his longest ever, in September**

**Pope Francis will take his first overseas trip of the year and the longest of his 11-year papacy, traveling to Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste and Singapore from Sept. 2-13.**

The Asia and Oceania trip has been on the papal agenda for some time, but there had been doubts on whether the 87-year-old pontiff would embark on it given his increasing frailty and a record of skipping engagements due to health problems.

His last international journey was a two-day stay in Marseille, France, in September. In November, he pulled out of a trip to the COP28 climate conference in Dubai because of a lung inflammation.

Francis is now scheduled to be in Jakarta between Sept. 3-6, Port Moresby and Vanimo between Sept. 6-9, Dili Sept. 9-11 and Singapore Sept. 11-13, his spokesman said in a statement.

Vietnam, which had been suggested by Vatican officials as a possible further destination during the nearly two-week long Asia and Oceania trip, was not mentioned.

In recent months, the pope has been suffering on and off from what the Vatican has described as a cold, bronchitis and influenza, and he needs a wheelchair or a cane to move around due to a knee ailment.

His agenda this year also foresees Italian day trips to Venice on April 28, Verona on May 18 and Trieste on July 7, and a visit to Belgium whose dates have not been confirmed, but expected in the second half of September.

The Argentine pope, the first from the so-called Global South, has made reaching out to Asia one of the priorities of his pontificate, during which the Vatican has struck a historic, yet contested, deal with China on bishop appointments.

Indonesia is the world's most populous Muslim nation and its 8 million Catholics represent about 3% of the total population. Timor-Leste, along with the Philippines, are Asia's only predominantly Catholic countries.

In Singapore, Catholics comprise about 7% of residents aged 15 or above, a 2020 census showed, while in Papua New Guinea, about 26% of the population are Catholics, according to a religious freedom report by the U.S. State Department.

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# Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

## St Patrick's Jordanstown Organ Recital

Organ Recital this Saturday 20th April at 7.30pm Joint hem. with their own Matt`Geer and Guest Flautist. A concert not to be missed, predicts their Rector

## Archbishop and Grylls bring Bible to young

**The Archbishop of Canterbury has enlisted the help of his celebrity “friends” Bear Grylls and Dame Mary Berry in an attempt to make the Bible accessible for children.**

They will read The Jesus Storybook Bible, written and illustrated by Sally Lloyd-Jones and Jago, which has sold over six million copies, helping children across the world discover the good news of Jesus Christ and God’s love for them.

6 - The number of Bible stories being adapted and read aloud for the children’s TV show

It has adapted the book for a new onscreen format; six Bible stories – from the Feeding of the 5,000 to David and Goliath – are read aloud, following an introduction from the Cheeky Pandas, an animated children’s series.

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Survival expert Grylls reads the story of David and Goliath while Mary Berry, chef and former judge on The Great British Bake Off, tells of Jesus feeding the 5,000.

The film version of the book aims to “help ensure it is enjoyed by people of all ages, many of whom might be discovering the Bible for the first time”. Welcoming the six-part online series, the Archbishop said: “We all love stories. They remind us who we are, what we are here for and how best to live. Jesus loved telling stories.

“They tell us who God is, how much he loves us and what his plans are for us. The stories of God are told in the Bible. To open the Bible is to open up to God’s voice.

“We are never too old or too young to hear about God’s story. I am beyond delighted about this project.

“Sally Lloyd Jones wrote the peerless Jesus Story Book Bible to engage children in these stories of God which make us.

“What I know will happen is that, as we listen to these stories, we will find ourselves invited to be an essential part of God’s story. And there is nowhere better to be than part of His story.”

The collaboration comes after a survey by the charity, Care for the Family, found that despite 95 per cent of Christian parents recognising the importance of teaching children about their faith, fewer than three-quarters shared Bible stories with them, and only 27 per cent engaged in faith-based conversations.



**2024 CHARLES  
WOOD COMPOSERS'  
COMPETITION**



**CHARLES WOOD**  
FESTIVAL & SUMMER SCHOOL

# CALLING ALL COMPOSERS!



Entrants are invited to compose a choral setting of ***O for a closer walk with God*** – text which Charles Villiers Stanford used for one of his most iconic settings.

A unique opportunity to have your work performed by members of the Charles Wood Singers, in front of **Errollyn Wallen, Elaine Agnew and David Hill.**

**The winning piece will be recorded and performed at the 2024 Charles Wood Festival in Armagh.**

**Deadline for entries: Friday 28th June**

For full details and to enter online, please visit:  
[www.charleswoodsummerschool.org/composers-competition](http://www.charleswoodsummerschool.org/composers-competition)

FIND US ON    Registered Charity Number: NIC102656

**The Charles Wood Festival has announced the return of the composition competition with the aim to inspire composers of all ages.**

Entrants are invited to compose a new choral setting of ‘O for a closer walk with God’ - text which Charles Villiers Stanford used for one of his most iconic choral settings.

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Three finalists will be invited to Armagh in August 2024 to hear their pieces performed by members of the Charles Wood Singers with the competition jury panel including Errollyn Wallen, Elaine Agnew and David Hill.

The winning entry will be performed at the Festival's Gala Concert on Friday 16th August, and a recording of the work will be made.

The deadline for entries is Friday 28th June 2024.

Full competition details and terms and conditions:  
<https://www.charleswoodsummerschool.org/composers-competition-rules>

## Cathedral Call

### Organ tuning - Canterbury Cathedral gives notice

#### **NOISE DISTRUPTION**

**Please note there will be organ tuning taking place all day Monday - Thursday this week.**

There are no closures but this could be audibly disruptive.

Ear defenders can be borrowed from our Visitor Centre if this will make your visit more comfortable.



The organ sits at the heart of our music, supporting all who sing here and inspiring all who journey here.

The Cathedral's four-manual organ in the Quire - originally built by Father Willis in 1886 and rebuilt by Harrison & Harrison in 2020 - comprises over 8,000 pipes! (So as you can imagine, it takes a long time to tune them all)

## **Stories of Sanctuary songwriting sessions**

**Following the success of last November's concert, Newcastle Cathedral said it is excited to launch its own Stories of Sanctuary songwriting group next month!**

These fun and free sessions are open to all, especially those who are seeking sanctuary or who consider the Cathedral, the city, or the region as a place of sanctuary.

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'Stories of Sanctuary' is led by Citizen Songwriters and made possible with the support of The Arts Society Tyneside.

[newcastlecathedral.org.uk/event/stories-of-sanctuary-songwriting-sessions/2024-05-07/](https://newcastlecathedral.org.uk/event/stories-of-sanctuary-songwriting-sessions/2024-05-07/)

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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## Church News Ireland

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