

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – The Archbishop of Cheeky Pandas

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Image of the day

The Archbishop of Cheeky Pandas

Archbishop Justin Welby comments - “Wonderful to have welcomed the Cheeky Pandas TV team, along with the author and

illustrator of the Jesus Storybook Bible, and some very special guests to Lambeth Palace Library last week to celebrate the launch of the Jesus Storybook Bible’s online episodes.

“I’m delighted by this opportunity to engage more young people with the story of Jesus.

“In the first episode, I read an excerpt of the Jesus Storybook Bible. You can watch this, along with all other episodes with Bear Grylls, Mary Berry and Cheeky Pandas presenters when you subscribe to their YouTube channel.



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News

Castleknock building Hope in Cambodia

Castleknock & Mulhuddart with Clonsilla parish invite you to Buy A Brick to support their parish team who will be partnering with Habitat Ireland to help build homes in Cambodia.

A brick is available from team members for €20 or by web to Habitat.

Cambodia is home to 15 million people; more than 2.5 million of these live below the poverty line. The country is

ST. MOLUA'S CHURCH PRESENTS

A MUSICAL FUNDRAISING EVENING

The Lagan Sea Orises

STORMONT COMMUNITY CHOIR
+ GUESTS

FRIDAY 10TH MAY 2024
IN ST MOLUA'S CHURCH AT 8PM
ALL PROCEEDS TO CHURCH REPAIR FUND

TICKETS
£10

REGISTERED WITH THE CHARITY COMMISSION FOR NORTHERN IRELAND NIC102374

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emerging from decades of conflict and inequalities still persist.

Habitat Cambodia works across the country to develop sustainable communities with decent housing, and water, sanitation and electricity access. Training promotes gender equality, income generation and appropriate responses to HIV/AIDS and vulnerable groups. Since 2003, Habitat Cambodia has been working to develop sustainable communities, serving more than 90,000 people. Habitat Ireland is supporting Habitat Cambodia's home repair and water and sanitation work in rural areas.

In September 2024, volunteers from Castleknock & Mulhuddart with Clonsilla will travel to Cambodia and work alongside members of the local community. Volunteers will:

SEE the reality of housing poverty and learn more about Habitat's impact

SERVE families and communities in need

SPEAK out for the cause of safe, decent housing when they return home

[<https://habitatireland.enthuse.com/cf/cmc-cambodia2024>]

C of I Vocation Sunday next month

On the Sunday between Ascension Thursday and Pentecost – Sunday, 12th May – clergy and lay readers are being encouraged to set aside some time in their services to consider the call of God in our lives, and to ask parishioners whether this means a step forward for them into a particular form of ministry.



Vocation Sunday is an annual initiative from the Commission on Ministry to encourage conversations and discussions about vocation and ministry. Anyone with an interest in exploring a vocation to ordained ministry is encouraged to speak with their rector in the first instance.

A range of resources for services is available at www.vocations.ireland.anglican.org – this includes the It's Your Call video (just over 6 minutes in length), articles on

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pathways to ordination, lay ministry, Pioneer Ministry, and understanding selection, and five posters for parishes to encourage people to think about the role to which God may be calling them. Parishes are welcome to choose another date at their discretion if this would be more convenient.

Alzheimer's Research benefits from Bushmills couple's London Landmarks half marathon

Congratulations to the Rev Brian Harper and his wife Heather.

They successfully completed the prestigious London Landmarks half marathon, raising more than £2,000 for Alzheimer's Research UK and Dementia UK.



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150 years of Methodism in Bessbrook

In celebration of 150yrs of Methodism in Bessbrook, there was a special service on Sunday in Bessbrook Methodist Church and events over the weekend.



The congregation commented, “We were truly happy to see you and hope you enjoyed the service. It was a lovely opportunity to meet and welcome new friends and to catch up with old friends too. Thank you all so much, especially to those, who travelled long distance to be with us”.

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The Revd Niall Stratford was instituted Rector of the Blessington Union of Parishes in St Mary's Church Blessington on Friday evening by Archbishop Michael Jackson.

Warm welcome marks new start at Blessington Union



Archbishop Michael Jackson, the Revd Niall Stratford and the Revd Robert Marshall.

Parishioners of the Blessington Union in the Diocese of Glendalough turned out in great numbers on Friday evening (April 12) to mark the beginning of a new chapter for the parishes.

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The Revd Niall Stratford was instituted Rector in St Mary's Church by Archbishop Michael Jackson. Blessington Union comprises the parishes of Blessington, Kilbride, Ballymore–Eustace and Hollywood.

Niall was joined by his children Nicholas, Robin and Amy as well as his mother Phyllis. Special mention reserved for his beloved wife Vivian and Amy sang 'Be Thou My Vision' during the service. As well as the many friends and clerical colleagues in the capacity congregation, there were



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Ireland

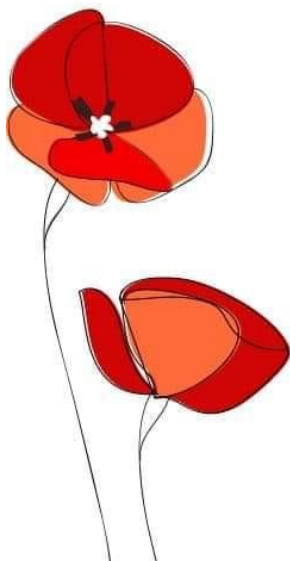
LEST WE FORGET

Anzac Day Dawn Service 2024

Thursday 25 April at 06:30am

Grangegorman Military Cemetery, 7 Blackhorse Avenue, Dublin

Complimentary food and refreshments available after the service



Never forgotten. Always remembered.
Let us give thanks.

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representatives of the wider community and local public representatives. Blessington No 1 School was represented and pupils of the senior classes sang the recessional hymn.

Niall has served in Non Stipendiary Ministry in Dublin and Glendalough since 2009 while also working in the insurance industry. He has served in many parishes since being ordained and this is his first full time role.

More news and Archbishop's sermon here:

<https://dublin.anglican.org/news/2024/04/15/warm-welcome-marks-start-of>

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Thy Kingdom Come 2024 - insight from Churches Together in England

This worldwide call to prayer takes place between Ascension and Pentecost from 9 May to 19 May this year.

Thy Kingdom Come is a global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. This year it spans from 9 to 19 May, from Ascension to Pentecost.



Since it began in May 2016, Thy Kingdom Come (TKC) has developed into a movement which unites more than a million Christians in prayer, in nearly 90% of countries worldwide, across 85 different denominations and traditions – so that friends and family, neighbours and colleagues might come to faith in Jesus Christ. Every person, household and church is encouraged to pray during the 11 days in their own way.

The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell said: “The disunity of the church is a scandal! During Thy Kingdom Come 2024 pray that the Spirit may make Jesus’s prayer for unity amongst his disciples a reality. I encourage churches

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of all denominations to join together and pray together as a visible witness to our common faith. I'm particularly looking forward to joining young people on Pentecost Sunday and many others online as we make our prayer: Thy Kingdom Come!"

How can I get involved?

Thy Kingdom Come also provides a great opportunity to bring Christians together in ecumenical prayer events online and in villages, towns, and cities. For example, Rev Dr Ben Aldous, CTE's Principal Officer for Mission and Evangelism is speaking at the TKC Beacon Event in Exeter Cathedral. He's joining Dr Ruth Valerio from Tearfund (a Charity and Network in Association with CTE), Andy Flannigan from Christians in Politics and the Rt Rev Jackie Searle, the Acting Bishop of Exeter. Another local event is being held by Churches Together in Haverhill, Suffolk where there is a "God Loves You" – Balloon Give Away on Pentecost Sunday.

Find out what is happening in your area via the Thy Kingdom Come events listing. And why not list your church or Churches Together event?

There are also many resources to encourage personal, family and church prayer. This year's new resources include an ecumenical prayer journal, which has contributions from Orthodox, Catholic, Methodist, Elim Pentecostal and Baptist voices as well as those from within the Church of England. The beautiful illustrations in the journal are by Baptist Minister Rev Chris Duffett.

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Other resources to help inspire prayer this year are a novena, videos and reflections and also specific resources for children, young people and families. More information can be found on the TKC website. Many of them are free of charge (postage costs apply).

KC-Prayer-Journal-2024 by Rev Chris Duffett Copyright: Rev Chris Duffett

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Carmmoney Parish Church
are seeking to employ

**A Part Time Community Outreach Worker to
Children and Young people**

20 Hours a week (Negotiable)

£16-£20 an hour depending on experience.

Ongoing training will be provided alongside the job through the Church Army including the opportunity to train on their 3 year certificate in Evangelism course from September 2025.

For more details, job description or an application form contact Rev Andy Heber (028 90836337 or andy.heber@googlemail.com)

Or download from <https://carmmoneyparish.org>

Closing date for applications: Friday 17th May 2024

Interviews: Monday 10th June 2024

Expected start Date: Monday 2nd September

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Thy Kingdom Come: The Prayer

Also new for 2024 is the invitation for young Christians and Christian youth groups to join in The Prayer from 5pm on Pentecost Sunday, 19 May. At 5.15 pm BST you'll be able to connect via livelink with contributions from the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Archbishop of York and the team from The Way, all building towards the moment when young people will unite together at 5.30 pm as one voice to pray The Lord's Prayer. Find out more about The Prayer.

[<https://cte.org.uk/thy-kingdom-come-2024/>]

Stained Glass Windows

A talk by George Walsh


Sandford Parish Church

Wednesday 24 April 2024 at 11 am

Hosted by the Sandmillers

All welcome

Refreshments provided





PM Special Guest
Dana
Big Band

Marie Curie

BIG BAND for a **BIG CAUSE**

Raising funds for Marie Curie

Friday 31 May 2024 at 7:45pm
Tickets on sale at the theatre at the mill box office
0300 123 7788



Join celebrated PM Big Band with band vocalists Ceara Grehan and David Hamilton as they take to the stage for this one off performance in aid of Marie Curie Hospice.

The PM Big Band will be in full swing as they play classics from the swing era of Frank Sinatra, Glen Millar and Count Basie right through to a more modern repertoire of Michael Buble, Amy Winehouse and the formidable Tom Jones.

Ceara and David will be joined on stage by special guest for the evening, Dana! Winner

of the 1970 Eurovision Song Contest, with "All Kinds of Everything", Dana has been a household name for more than 50 years. With a career spanning both the national and international music charts through to performances on stage in the West End, Dana is sure to bring a splash of glitz and glamour to an already packed stage!

Be sure to book your tickets early and enjoy a wonderful evening of music and song all while supporting such a worthwhile charity. (Tickets in aid of Marie Curie Hospice Northern Ireland)

Perspective

'It's Jesus, not me' says Scottie Scheffler after second Masters win

Golf's Masters champion Scottie Scheffler has said his Christian faith keeps him grounded.

The golfer won the tournament at the weekend for the second time, by four-shots at Augusta National, finishing on 11-under par.

But speaking at a press conference he said being a Christian defines him rather than being a golfer.

"I'm a faithful guy," he said. "I believe in a creator. I believe in Jesus. ... I feel like I've been given a platform to compete and show my talent. It's not anything that I did..."

"I've been called to come out here, do my best, compete and glorify God."

He admitted that he craved victory but said being a Christian gives him a sense of perspective:

"I was sitting around with my buddies this morning. I was a bit overwhelmed because I told them I wish that I didn't want to win as badly as I did. Or as badly as I do. I think it would make the mornings easier, but I love winning. I hate losing. I really do. And when you're here in the biggest moments

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when I'm sitting there with a lead on Sunday, I really, really want to win badly.

“And my buddies told me this morning, you know, my victory was secure on the cross. And that’s a pretty special feeling. To know that I'm secure for forever and it doesn't matter. You know whether or not I win this tournament or if I lose this tournament, you know, my identity is secure for forever.”

Scheffler who secured his four-shot victory over Sweden's Ludvig Aberg, last won The Masters in 2022 and he tied in tenth place last year.

The 27-year-old who is expecting his first child with his wife, Meredith, said his home life also keeps him grounded:

“All I can think about is getting home. It is a special time for us. I will go home, soak in this victory and enjoy the birth of my first child. I am looking forward to celebrating with Meredith - it's been a long week without her.

"My priorities will change very soon. My son or daughter will be the main priority, along with my wife, so golf will now be probably fourth in line.”

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In the media

Pastor admits robbing Kildare church of €125k after ‘road to Damascus type moment’ - Sunday World

Taxi driver and preacher who ‘dipped his hand into the church’s purse’ confronted over thefts

A pilfering pastor who fleeced his church out of more than €125,000 claimed to gardai he confessed after experiencing a ‘road to Damascus type moment’.

But, Naas Circuit Court heard this week that when Ebenezer Oduntan confessed his crimes, the plundering preacher had already been confronted by a fellow church official and forced to admit ‘dipping his hand into the church purse’.

A part-time taxi-driver, Oduntan (58) held the position of pastor at the City of David Church in Naas from 2012 to 2020, during which time he had sole access and control of the finances.

At a sentencing hearing on Wednesday, prosecutor Seoirse O Dunlaing detailed to Judge Martina Baxter how, during this time, Oduntan stole €52,000 from the church via a Credit Union account and another €75,000 through the issuance of blank cheques.

Among the illegal payments subsequently discovered were disbursements to cover Oduntan's own personal health insurance plan and a payment of over €1,650 to a childcare service run by Oduntan and his partner.

The father-of-four was convicted last month of 73 counts of theft, five counts of deception and nine company law offences.

More-

<https://www.sundayworld.com/crime/irish-crime/pastor-admits-robbing-kildare-church-of-125k-after-road-to-damascus-type-moment/a481295845.html>

Arklow Christian Community Church donates to local Tidy Towns group - Wicklow People

The Arklow Christian Community Church supported Arklow Tidy Towns at their monthly Super Sunday event for March.

Praising the volunteers for their dedicated service to their community, Pastor Solomon Aroboto was delighted to present a cheque in person to Olga Burmak, Iryna Romanenko and Sandra Duffy from Arklow Tidy Towns.

Speaking after the presentation, the Tidy Towns volunteers said they were "delighted" with the church's generous

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contribution and felt supremely honoured to be chosen as recipients.

The Arklow Christian Community Church organises a Super Sunday fundraising event at their highly popular Sunday service every month.

The Arklow Christian Community Church has made sizeable donations to a variety of worthy local causes over the years, including Men's Sheds, Arklow Cancer Support, local scout groups, local schools, Arklow RNLI, The East Wicklow Youth Service, the Vault Youth Café, The Arklow Community Action Resource Centre and Arklow First Responders – to name but a few.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

The publication of Church News Ireland is overseen by Very Rev Dr Houston McKelvey OBE, QVRM, TD. He may be contacted at houstonmckelvey@mac.com

