

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Easter in Seagoe

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Image of the day

Easter in Seagoe

The Rector with his support team.



News

Dublin Organist's 45 years service

Presentations were made after the Easter Eucharist to Mr Rodney Baldwin who has retired after 45 years as Organist and Choirmaster in St Andrew's Church, Church of Ireland, United Parishes of Malahide, Portmarnock & St. Doulagh's.

The Rector Canon David Gillespie said, " We wish him well in all that lies ahead and thank him for his commitment to the worship life of St Andrew's Church.



“After service we cut a special cake and enjoyed a glass of Prosecco to mark the occasion”.



100th Birthday of Newry Methodist member

The President, Rev David Turtle and Lay Leader Mr Tom Wilson visited the Circuit's oldest congregant Mrs Mary Bodel in celebration of her 100th Birthday. Mary is a member of Newry Methodist Church.

Troubles victims' names read aloud for final time

A ceremony during which the names of all those killed during the Troubles are read aloud has taken place for the final time in Dublin.

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The service at the Dublin Unitarian Church on St Stephen's Green has been held annually for the past 22 years.

The conflict in Northern Ireland known as the Troubles lasted almost 30 years and cost the lives of more than 3,500 people.

The reading of those people's names began at midday on Friday.

Irish broadcaster RTÉ reports that the church's management committee have decided that since nobody has been killed in political violence in Northern Ireland in nearly five years, it is time to end the commemoration.

Yesterday was April 1



Kilmore and Inch

We are delighted to announce that Pastor Begbie has agreed to be our new rector for Kilmore & Inch Parish.

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Ballylesson

If you were in church on Sunday the Rector mentioned some exciting news in regards to the hall extension project...well today , the 1st April we can let you all in on the secret!



'WATER of LIFE' is coming to Ballylesson!

We are so excited to announce the installation of a small number of optics in a corner of our new church hall extension. This will be in the area set aside for local produce. This will also provide an innovative socialising space for our community.

The Rector was approached by a local businessman (Mr Ivan Paul Knightley) who has offered to sponsor this

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innovative plan. There has been a resurgence of local distilleries making local whiskey and gin and after discussion with the Rector they came to the decision that this kind of 'spirit' could have a place in Ballylesson

The precedence and idea came from a long standing tradition of churches being involved in the making of these 'medicinal tonics'. Indeed, Scottish whiskey was invented by a devout monk. The first official recording of distilling stretches back to 1494, when Friar John Cor of Lindores Abbey in Fife was granted the king's commission to make aqua vitae, Latin for "water of life". Buckfast is another well known 'Tonic' which is still produced in Buckfast Abbey.

Not to miss on this 'water of life' initiative, Mr I P Knightly has offered to help with the application process for the required licences. He even provided the Rector with reassurance of his ambitions and plans. He also shared that his favourite scripture is from Proverbs 29:11.

Easter celebrations

Limavady and a special occasion

"We had a joyful celebration of Christ's Resurrection today in Church. Special thanks to the Catering Team for providing a wonderful breakfast between services. To Elaine and the Choir, not just for leading our Hymn singing today, but throughout Lent and Holy Week also, and to everyone who decorated the Church.

"A special occasion was observed this morning as our Parish Reader Eric marked 10 years as a commissioned



Reader. We are so thankful for his incredibly faithful service to the worshipping life of our Parish during this time”.

Cleanish

Absolutely brilliant Dawn service at Cleanish Centre. So lovely to see new folks coming along to celebrate. He is not here HE HAS RISEN” just as he said” Matthew Ch 28 v 6

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Wicklow

The simple but profound Walk of Witness on Good Friday, from Wicklow Methodist Church to Wicklow Parish Church to St. Patrick's Church Wicklow & St Joseph's Church Rathnew, reflecting on the sacrificial love of Christ in his death.

All Saints' Eglantine

Joyful photos of the Rector, choir, altar servers and congregation of All Saints'

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Eglantine after the Easter Day Eucharist. “A massive thank you to Jonathan and the choir who sang two anthems - 'Thanks be to God' and 'Ave Verum'. Thanks also to the flower arrangers, readers, servers and wardens. We are sorry that some of the congregation had left before this photo was taken, but I think they were worried about their legs of lamb in the oven!”

Christ Church Strabane

Today we gathered together for a Walk of Witness stopping at several Churches along the way.

Waterford

Bishop Adrian Wilkinson - “I was delighted to share Easter greetings with Bishop Alphonsus Cullinan who visited us at

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Christ Church Cathedral in Waterford before the Eucharist this morning. I extended my good wishes to all in his diocese of Waterford and Lismore. Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!”



Rev'd Ruth Murray tribute

The Archbishop of Armagh writes -

Although some of you will have heard by now, it is with a heavy heart that I have to let you know about the death of our friend and colleague, the Rev'd Ruth Murray, rector of Woodschapel (St John's and Gracefield). Ruth died after a long and dignified battle against cancer on Easter Saturday.

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Like me, Ruth began her ordained life as curate assistant of Antrim where she developed a ministry that characterised her service throughout her life in Holy Orders - quiet, conscientious, and modest, strongly rooted in the care of all people, and in faithful devotion to the ministry of Word and Sacrament. Ruth was the absolute soul of discretion in pastoral ministry and brought a gentleness to all her dealings with people in times of both joy and sorrow.

Her life was centred on her service to God and to his Church and the wellbeing of her family. We remember her husband John and sons James and Richard in prayer at what is a very difficult time for them.

+John Armagh

Cathedral call

Lords Prayer read in Urdu at Canterbury

Canterbury Cathedral's Easter Sunday services saw the Lord's Prayer read in Urdu and Swahili to reflect the "very international" congregation.

At the 10am service shown on the BBC, The Very Rev Dr David Monteith, Dean of Canterbury Cathedral, invited each member of the congregation to say the Lord's Prayer in their own language, while it was led in Urdu on the microphone by a member from Pakistan. The subtitles on screen were in English.

Girl
choristers of
St Columb's
Derry with
the Director
of Music and
the Bishop



At an earlier service, aired on Radio 4, the prayer was led in Swahili.

The Dean said: “We invite congregations to say the Lord’s Prayer in their own first language at most of our communion services.

“We are aware that our congregations are very international and reflect the worldwide Anglican Communion... This

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practice happens in many church services today along with music and songs in different languages too.”

It is not known if this is the first time that the Easter Sunday service at Canterbury Cathedral read the Lord’s Prayer in a language other than England. The BBC, which has long broadcasted the service, said it was not an editorial decision made by the BBC.

The prayer derives from when Jesus’s disciples asked him how they should pray and begins: “Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name.”

Revd Wendy Dalrymple, head of worship and events at Canterbury Cathedral, said: “As a place of worship where people visit from all over the world, every Sunday we invite the congregation to pray in whichever language is their own.

“On special occasions we ask someone to lead this from the microphone.”

Shortly after the Lord’s Prayer was said, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev Justin Welby, used his Easter sermon at the cathedral to condemn “the evil of people smugglers” in the wake of a row over the Clapham chemical attacker being granted asylum.

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Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



International Day of Zero Waste

March 30 was International Day of Zero Waste - a day designated by the UN to raise awareness for plastic reduction and zero waste initiatives in achieving sustainable development.

This is a priority for Anglican churches because of the impact waste has on the poorest and most vulnerable of our communities.

The Anglican Communion's UN team works to represent Anglican voices on matters of environmental justice at the UN. A delegation recently attended the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-6), where they spoke into resolutions being made.

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Nicholas Pande explains some of the resolutions passed and how Anglicans can help to progress what governments committed to for sustainable lifestyles and zero waste.

Read his article here: <https://bit.ly/3PJqzZV>

Perspective

The Archbishop of Canterbury's Easter Sermon

Read the Archbishop's sermon preached at the Easter Sunday Eucharist at Canterbury Cathedral.

As delivered:

Come Holy Spirit and set our hearts on fire with the flame of your love. Amen.

In each of our lives there are moments which change us forever. Sometimes it's individual. We have watched, sympathised with and felt alongside the dignity of the King and the Princess of Wales as they have talked of their cancer – and in doing so, by their lack of selfishness, by their grace and their faith, boosted so many others.

Sometimes the events which change our lives are those which come internationally. A pastor in Kyiv told me of the moment he heard the Russian helicopters clattering over his house in 2022. He knew his life, his country's future, had all been altered once for all, and nothing could be the same again.



In all these cases we pray – for the Royal family, for so many places.

When Jesus' life ended so did the lives of many other people. His mother Mary, Salome and Mary Magdalene were among them. The reason they go to his grave early on this Sunday morning is to spend time preparing his corpse for its final resting place. What they encountered changed their world: "He has been raised; He is not here." They are perplexed, terrified. Every assumption no longer holds water, whether about God, about Jesus, about life and death itself. Jesus is God and when we look at Jesus we see the very nature of God.

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“He has been raised, he is not here.” God is the victor over death, even his own death, in Jesus. Death is conquered.

Everything changed. The universe shifted to a new mode of living.

And so our understanding of Jesus must change: he was not just a great teacher or a good man, but God revealing God. The one they knew had been raised from death.

How we see the world must change; how we see our purpose in this changed world must change, for God came as baby, making room for us to ignore him. God lived a fully human life, in obscurity. He was crucified, bearing on his shoulders the cost of all human sin and failure, and God died for our sins, unseen by most. Now we can be forgiven all our wrongdoing. God is humble and in love reveals himself to us with the choice of accepting him in faith or living with our own wisdom. God exists; we must deal with God's reality.

God suffers for his love-in-action. The changed world is one in which the greatest darkness is overcome at the highest price: the crucified God. We will suffer in our broken world, because God did, but God's life is always stronger than the worst of this world. That is Christian belief. It calls all of us, each of us, to courageous action in changed lives and changed world and changed understanding of God.

We must confront evil and pain. Whether it is the evil of people smugglers, or county lines in our schools, or the pain and suffering in a family riven with grief or rage or substance abuse; Jesus, the God-man, who experienced every pain

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and temptation, is calling you and me to love-in-action.
Action driven by prayer, directed in wisdom.

The church is not party political, for its members are all different in our party politics. But the church does not pick causes by opinion polls or human pressure: we show love-in-action and word because of who God is, revealed in Jesus. We act because of what God says, found in the Bible and lived out by the church.

Today in England in over 30,000 social projects, in 8,000 food banks, we proclaim the righteousness of God who acts for the poor and vulnerable, for the rich and comfortable, with love and perfect justice for all, good and bad.

Nothing in this world will stop us seeking to obey God faithfully, whatever the ridicule, the price or the result, for Christ is risen and He will be our final and perfect judge.

Therefore, let us seek action amongst the starving children of Gaza and Sudan, and the parents who desperately try to find food for them; action the hostages held by Hamas; for those in the trenches and cities and fears of Ukraine; in at least 30 but probably closer to 50 other places of armed conflict; action for the 25 – 30% of children in this country in poverty.

God is revealed in Jesus, so action-in-love means we must live sacrificially and generously, for others not for ourselves. We accept that suffering is normal, for it was normal for Jesus. We accept generosity is necessary because God's generous gift was giving his Son, Jesus, so that we might have eternal life.

The result of sacrifice and generosity is to be like Jesus in his resurrection as we are like Jesus in his suffering. St Paul puts it perfectly: “For me to live is Christ, to die is gain.”

We carry in words and actions the good news of Jesus, for we have the news of death conquered.

The resurrection is God-shaped, God-sized. It is literally a new creation that sets the whole of what exists, especially our lives, on a path of purpose and hope, whatever evil deeds or times will confront us in the next few years.

God has done everything necessary about everything evil – even death. Eternal life is God’s gift to be grasped by every person, society, nation and place. God says to each of us: “Choose life from God’s hands through faith in Jesus Christ, who is God crucified, God resurrected.” Amen.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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