

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Civic condolences Belfast

April 24, 2025

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Image of the day

Book of condolence opened in Belfast City Hall

The Lord Mayor of Belfast has led tributes to Pope Francis as a book of condolence was opened in Belfast City Hall for the pontiff.

Micky Murray opened the book alongside Father Tim Bartlett, who was the principal organiser of the late Pope's visit to Ireland in 2018.

Speaking as he signed it, the Lord Mayor said: "I was saddened to hear of the death of Pope Francis just a day after he gave his final Easter blessing at St Peter's Square on Sunday.

"We extend our sympathies and condolences to all those who are mourning Pope Francis's death.

"We can all reflect on the way Pope Francis worked to bring people together from different backgrounds through mutual respect and understanding."

A special council meeting has been organised to allow members to pay tribute to Pope Francis and reflect on his legacy.

The meeting will take place today at 5pm

[April 24, 2025](#)

The city hall will also be illuminated in yellow and white on Saturday evening to pay tribute to the late pope, who passed away on Easter Monday after a period of illness.

An online book of condolences can be signed on Belfast City Council's website.

JOIN US FOR

*Holy
Mass for
Pope
Francis*

WE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF HIS SOUL,
REFLECT ON HIS PONTIFICATE & LOOK TO THE
FUTURE WITH HOPE AS WE PRAY FOR THE
UNIVERSAL CHURCH

ST PATRICK'S CHURCH BELFAST
24/04/25 - 6PM

MASS WILL BE CELEBRATED BY FR GERRY CLARKE SJ -
DIRECTOR OF THE JESUIT CENTRE BELFAST & CHAPLAIN
TO ULSTER UNIVERSITY

News

President will attend the funeral in Rome

President Michael D Higgins signed the book of condolence for Pope Francis at the Apostolic Nunciature on the Navan Road in Dublin.

After signing the book, President Higgins said he signed on behalf of the people of Ireland, thanking Pope Francis for his life and his work and his example on embracing so many issues important to the future of our humanity together.

He confirmed he will attend the funeral in Rome on Saturday and said it was appropriate that he communicate the appreciation of all of the people of Ireland for the generosity of Pope Francis's life.

West Cork Princess Mum & Daughter Afternoon Tea a runaway success

There was great excitement in Drimoleague and beyond as news of the 'Princess Mum & Daughter Afternoon Tea' was announced.

Word spread like wildfire and the Methodist church initiative was fully booked on the first day. It was an opportunity for female members of families to spend an afternoon together.

One of the many ways Community and Family Worker, Esther Kingston is involved, is in creating bridges between



the projects we run and church family. The Princess event was one such bridge.

Esther said, “God showed us his extravagant love and my heart's desire was to show God's love to everyone there. I know this was achieved and my prayer is that we as a church family we would be able to keep building lasting relationships with the mums and that each mum and child would above all know that in God their life has great purpose and value.”

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Some of the girls had been counting down the days, and they arrived dressed in their princess outfits. The helpers were dressed as Snow White, Rapunzel, Belle, and Cinderella. There was a Princess village with dolls houses where the girls played while waiting for the treat of getting their nails done by real-life Princesses.

While having their nails done, they could read what God says about them,

"People look at the outside of us, but God looks at our hearts and says you are, loved, cared for, treasured, a child of God, precious, valued, and have purpose".

There was a Princess Bible sharing, Sing-along Dance Party and 3 tiers of yummy delights for the afternoon tea.

The families left with an overflowing party bag and a gift for mum. From the conception to the delivery this was all Esther. She had caught the vision from a friend's church but made it uniquely West Cork and along the way it was not without apprehension – would there be any interest?

The families that came had children attending the on-site community pre-school, Joy & Shine children's clubs, Tiny Treasures and Feed West Cork as well as others in the community.

It is one of the many ways that the community is being invited to 'Come & See' or in this case 'Come & Taste.'

From Irish Methodist Church's Stories of Growth.

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LECTIONARY REVISION WORKSHOP OF THE CCI

Lectionary Revision Workshop hosted by Indian churches

The Church of South India hosted the sixth phase of the Lectionary Revision Workshop of the Liturgical and Theological Committee of the Communion of Churches in India (CCI) on April 22 and 23, 2025, at the CSI Synod Centre, Chennai.



This significant ecumenical workshop brought together representatives from the Church of North India (CNI), the Mar Thoma Syrian Church (MTC), and the Church of South India (CSI) to collaboratively engage in the revision of the Common Lectionary used across the member churches of the Communion.

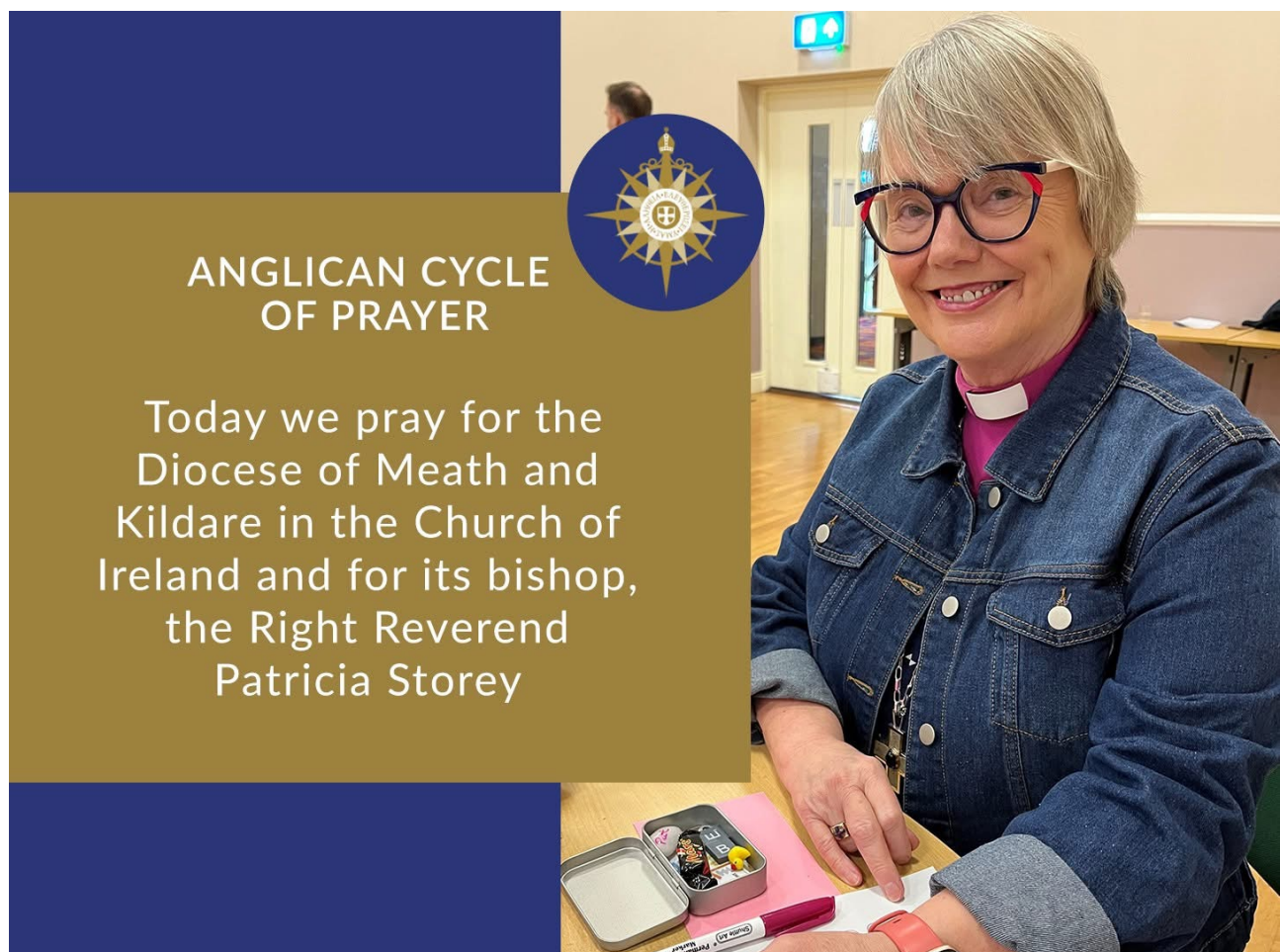
The primary goal of the workshop was to ensure that the shared lectionary maintains liturgical relevance and theological depth, rooted in the realities and spirituality of the Indian context.

The Department of Pastoral Concerns of the CSI played a pivotal role in coordinating and facilitating the sessions, providing space for mutual learning, theological reflection, and ecumenical engagement.

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The gathering reaffirmed the churches' shared commitment to a common liturgical life and united witness, emphasizing the value of ecumenical cooperation and contextual theology in the shaping of worship that speaks to the hearts and lives of Indian congregations.

Clergy and ministry



ANGLICAN CYCLE OF PRAYER


Today we pray for the Diocese of Meath and Kildare in the Church of Ireland and for its bishop, the Right Reverend Patricia Storey


Meath and Kildare remembered in prayer


On Tuesday in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, prayer was offered for the Diocese of Meath and Kildare in the Church of Ireland and for its bishop, the Right Reverend Patricia Storey.

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With a vision for renewal and growth, the diocese invites us to join them in prayer for the following:

 That current vacancies may be filled with the right people, bringing wisdom, compassion, and energy to their roles.

 For a fresh vision and renewed energy in reimagining youth ministry across the dioceses.

 That the Holy Spirit would bring lasting fruit from the series of Confirmation services taking place each week from April to July.

Chaplaincy as service of God and neighbour: Dublin symposium

Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, will host a special one-day symposium on the nature and role of chaplaincy on Wednesday, 14th May 2025.

With the theme of ‘Do good, be generous and ready to share: chaplaincy as service of God and neighbour’, the event is sponsored by the Church of Ireland Centre at Dublin City University and will run from 9.30am to 3.30pm in the Cathedral’s Song School. The event is aimed at those in chaplaincy roles, those studying chaplaincy or those considering chaplaincy as a future ministry. It has a wide focus on chaplaincy in a range of spaces.

The following guest speakers will take part:

CHAPLAINCY ONE-DAY SYMPOSIUM



*'Do good, be generous and ready to share':
chaplaincy as service of God and neighbour.*



REV. CANON DR. DANIEL NUZUM
*Pastoral Care:
tender generosity...*



VINCENT O'GRADY
*Tending to Heart,
Opening to Mystery*



**VEN. DR. MIRANDA
THRELFALL-HOLMES**
*What Chaplains Think We're Doing, and
What Institutions Think They're Paying For?*



DR. MARGARET NAUGHTON
*Coming Home to Self:
The Importance of
Selfhood in Ministry*



JOHN PATRICK DOHERTY
*Feeling Seen, Not Just Heard:
Relational Empathy in
Deaf Pastoral Care*



REV. DR. THOMAS GRENHAM
*Chaplaincy:
The Professionalism of
Meaningful Presence*

Hosted by
**Christ Church Cathedral,
Dublin.**

Sponsored by
**The Church of Ireland Centre,
DCU.**



WEDNESDAY
14 MAY 2025



09:30AM-3:30PM



THE SONG SCHOOL,
CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL,
CHRISTCHURCH PLACE, DUBLIN 08

REGISTRATION

chaplaincy25@gmail.com

€20 contribution to be paid
online once you register.



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The Revd Canon Dr Daniel Nuzum – Pastoral Care: tender generosity

Vincent O’Grady – Tending to heart, opening to mystery

The Ven Dr Miranda Threlfall-Holmes – What chaplains think we’re doing, and what institutions think they’re paying for

Dr Margaret Naughton – Coming home to self: the importance of selfhood in ministry

John Patrick Doherty – Feeling seen, not just heard: relational empathy in deaf pastoral care

The Revd Dr Thomas Grenham – Chaplaincy: the professionalism of meaningful presence

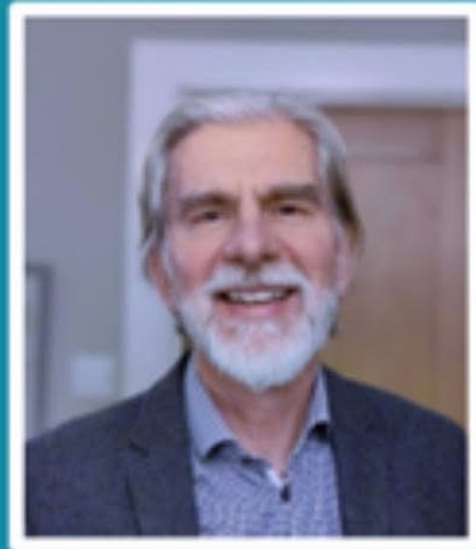
The Church of Ireland Centre’s Director, the **Revd Canon Professor Anne Lodge**, remarks: “Church of Ireland Centre staff contribute to the education of chaplains in DCU. We see the valuable contribution that chaplaincy makes across a range of institutions. We wish to provide space for those who are engaged in chaplaincy to share their insights and to encourage those considering a chaplaincy ministry.”

If you are interested in attending, please email chaplaincy25@gmail.com – a €20 contribution can be paid online once you register.

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Events

Quakers, Learning and Education - tomorrow evening



Public Lecture, IYM 2025

Friday, April 25, 2025 at 19.30

Main Hall, Friends' School Lisburn,
BT28 3BH, and online

**James Nelson on the topic
Quakers, Learning and Education –
Using the Future to Rethink the Present.**

Public Lecture. Fri 25 April 2025 at 7.30pm. In person and online. Speaker is James Nelson, a member of South Belfast Quaker Meeting, on the topic Quakers, Learning and Education – Using the Future to Rethink the Present.

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There is no charge and all are welcome.

If you have not already registered for IYM, you can sign up here <https://buff.ly/ooO9F2J>

The poster is divided into two main sections. The left section features the Royal British Legion logo (a red poppy) at the top, followed by the text 'VE DAY 80 REMEMBRANCE THURSDAY 8TH MAY 7.30PM'. Below this, a large blue hand icon with a red and white striped cuff holds a white banner with the text 'ALL SAINTS' CHURCH CLOONEY TERRACE LONDONDERRY'. The right section features a large '80' in a red and blue triangle, followed by 'VE DAY' and a circular image of a church building with a banner below it that reads 'The Garrison Church'.

In the media

An honour, he was very personable: Belfast city priest on meeting with pope

Belfast priest Fr Martin Magill has recalled meeting a “personable” Pope Francis as part of a pilgrimage to Rome in 2022, writes Gabrielle Swan in the Belfast Telegraph.

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The St John's the Evangelist parish priest also believes the pope may have been “holding on” to celebrate one final Easter before he passed.

The Argentinian native died after battling a respiratory illness for two months.

He made a TV appearance on Easter Sunday to give blessings to those gathered in Rome.

“I have had the experience, as a priest of 37 years, that some people do 'hold on'. It's as if they're waiting for a certain moment,” said Fr Magill.

“There is a sense that if there was a time to go, it would be Easter time, the celebration of Easter Sunday. Easter is the most important time of the year, so there is something very appropriate about it.”

As part of an inter-faith pilgrimage to Rome, Fr Magill recalls meeting Pope Francis.

“There is a whole sense of his humanity, compassion and generosity. I would also add in humour as well, his sense of joy.

“But the humanity — he had a real ability to relate to people.

“He was very much concerned for the world and in particular for the poor. I think in choosing the name Francis of Assisi [after St Francis of Assisi, who devoted his life to the poor], that would have been really important as well.

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“My friend Rev Steve Stockman, who is a Presbyterian minister, he and I are the co-founders of Four Corners Festival, promoting peace and reconciliation. We met [Pope Francis], along with a group from the Catholic chaplaincy, a group of students and their leaders, in his private library in Rome.

“He was very personable... he handed the room over to us to ask questions.

“He added that he found the experience 'lovely, so positive'.

“It really was such an honour to meet him... he was excellent with us, answering our questions. We had about an hour of his time. He greeted us at the door, though he was in considerable pain.”

Bob Dylan's tribute to Pope Francis, on his passing today at age 88.

"Pope Francis was a voice of mercy in a time of noise. He walked with humility, spoke with fire, and dared to love the unloved. He reminded the world that compassion isn't weakness, and faith doesn't have to shout to be heard. May he rest in the eternal peace he so often preached."

The Big Sing

With Joyful Together



Combine forces with Joyful Together in singing some of their favourite spiritual songs in the beautiful Carlisle Road Methodist Church

7 June 2025
2pm-4pm
Carlisle Road Methodist Church

Free admission

Doors open at 1:30 and tea and coffee will be provided

This will be a participative, inclusive, relaxed, and cross community event. **No need to be a brilliant singer or to read music.** Prior knowledge of songs not required. Song sheets and projection of words provided

Joyful Together are not a choir, but an enthusiastic group of singers and musicians inspired by Wesleyan tradition, obsessed by all things tuneful, ancient and modern.



It's going to be a good one!

Email Jim Simpson to confirm attendance at james.alfred.simpson@gmail.com



Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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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

Church News Ireland

www.churchnewsireland.org

**Link in Monday through Saturday from
early morning**

Please recommend to your friends