

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – St George celebrated

April 24, 2024

Image of the day

St George celebrated

Over the past weekend, Scout groups have proudly participated in St. George's Day parades, renewing their promises and celebrating the spirit of Scouting.



As is customary Queen's and King's Scout Award recipients participated in the annual special event at **Windsor Castle**.

A representative of Belfast County Scouts, Scott Robinson (Photo above) who was a volunteer at the Coronation weekend and providing support within the community at London received his **Coronation Medal** at Windsor as part of the St George's Day Service. Scott is a member of Newtownbreda Presbyterian Church.

Groups representing Newtownards, Comber, Ballynahinch, and Greyabbey also set up stalls and games, including bouncy castles, for **St. George's Fun Days**.



St. George's Monastery in Nessebar, Bulgaria.

St George's Day Awards - Northern Ireland

Stephen Donaldson, Chief Commissioner, Scouts NI, congratulated the following leaders -

THE SILVER ACORN

In recognition of specially distinguished service
County Antrim - David Holmes, Eugene Neeson
and Anne Nicholson.

Belfast County - Ian Berryman, John Lyons and Philip
Patterson.

County Londonderry - Mandy Gourley, Colin Scott, Robert
Simpson and Eric Wilson.

THE BAR TO THE SILVER ACORN

April 24, 2024

In recognition of further specially distinguished service
County Londonderry - Colin Rea.

THE SILVER WOLF

In recognition of service of the most exceptional character
County Antrim - Allister Law.

Belfast County - Maureen Campbell, Gordon Edgar, Carole
Scott and Ian Stewart.

County Londonderry - Evelyn Love.

Remembering St. George

Saint George (died 23 April 303), also George of Lydda, was a Christian who is venerated as a saint in Christianity.

According to tradition he was a soldier in the Roman army. Saint George was a soldier of Cappadocian Greek origin and member of the Praetorian Guard for Roman emperor Diocletian, who was sentenced to death for refusing to recant his Christian faith. He became one of the most venerated saints in Christianity, and he has been especially venerated as a military saint since the Crusades. He is immortalized in the legend of Saint George and the Dragon. His memorial, Saint George's Day, is traditionally celebrated on 23 April. Historically, the countries of England, Ethiopia, Georgia, Catalonia and Aragon in Spain, and Moscow in Russia have claimed George as their patron saint, as have several other regions, cities, universities, professions and organizations. The bones of Saint George are buried in the Church of Saint George, Lod (Hebrew name for Lydda), Israel. Have fun - Google - St. George's Monastery in Nessebar, Bulgaria.

News



Chag Pesach Sameach at Corrymeela

What a joy to share blessings and food with volunteers, staff and community members writes a correspondent at Corrymeela.

Children from Jewish, Muslim and Christian families gathered in the Croí.

Volunteer Haley Bannon led us in a seder meal using a Haggadah she compiled for Corrymeela.

We included on our seder plate oranges to symbolise 'the fruitfulness that diverse identities and backgrounds bring to



Jewish life' and olives to 'represent solidarity with Palestinians' with this universal symbol of peace.

'L'shana haba-ah b'shalom'
Next year in peace! L'chaim!

Anglican - Roman Catholic Malines Conversations in Helsinki, Finland

The Anglican Roman Catholic Malines Conversations met in Helsinki, Finland, in late April 2024, hosted by Fr Ambrosius, formerly Metropolitan of Helsinki in the Finnish Orthodox Church.



The conversations originally took place between 1921 and 1926 but were resumed in 2012. They are informal but high-level theological and ecclesiastical conversations supported by the Anglican Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC) and the Anglican Roman Catholic Commission for Unity and Mission (IARCCUM). The tenth meeting included many topics, including “Transhumanism: the Challenges of and Inverted Theology of Human Personhood”, “Artificial Intelligence versus Theology of Ethics”, “Church and Ministry of Women”, and “Christian Social Regeneration and the Prophetic Voice”.

In an open session with invited guests the Co-President of the Anglican-Lutheran Society, Bishop David Hamid, gave a moving talk about his ecumenical journey and challenged the ecumenical movement to take necessary concrete steps towards visible unity in Christ. Dr Jeremy Morris discussed the importance of the Church of England the German

April 24, 2024

Evangelical Church Meissen Agreement (signed in 1988) and the Anglican Lutheran Porvoo Agreement (signed in 1996).



Last Council Meeting for US Presiding Bishop

Last Saturday, at what would be his last Executive Council Meeting, as the Twenty Seventh Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church, Bishop Michael was Celebrant at the Closing Eucharist.

April 24, 2024

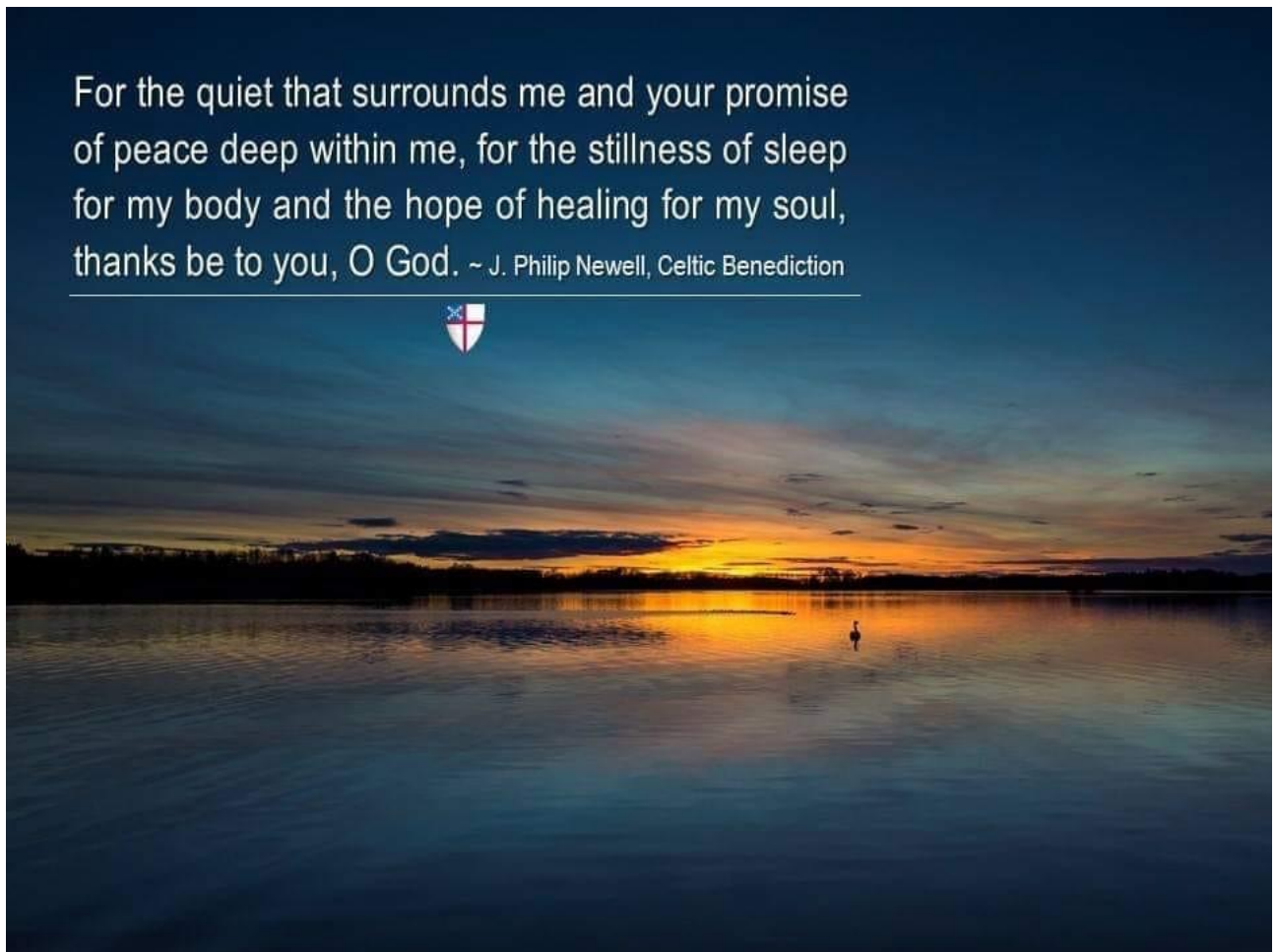
RHS Chelsea Flower Show to include garden from St James's, Piccadilly

The Royal Horticultural Society's Chelsea Flower Show will this year include a garden from St James's, Piccadilly, in London — the first time for many years that a church has been represented.

A landscape architect, Robert Myers, has designed the garden to reflect the Wren Project, a restoration and rejuvenation of the 17th-century church.

“We never in a million years thought we would be taking a garden to Chelsea. It feels really surprising,” the Rector of St James's, the Revd Lucy Winkett, said this week.

For the quiet that surrounds me and your promise
of peace deep within me, for the stillness of sleep
for my body and the hope of healing for my soul,
thanks be to you, O God. ~ J. Philip Newell, Celtic Benediction



April 24, 2024

The garden's title is "Imagine the world to be different" — a fitting theme for St James's, she says, which is known for its hospitality, advocacy of social justice, and engagement with the surrounding community.

The church's Southwood Garden (formerly the Green Churchyard) has been a sacred public space from its beginning. It was damaged during the Second World War, and afterwards dedicated in memory of the Londoners who had lost their lives in the Blitz.

Cathedral Call

Another Dean but an Irish one on campus at Virginia Theological Seminary

Dean Markham of VTS writes - We have another Dean on campus. The Very Rev. Dr. David Monteith is the 40th Dean of Canterbury Cathedral, and the chair of the College of Deans for the Church of England.

He will be on campus for the next few days as a guest of the Center for Anglican Communion Studies (CACCS) and VTS. While he is here, we are honoured to hear him speak at the CACCS Companions dinner on Tuesday evening, preach in chapel on Wednesday morning, and join a CACCS Wednesday lunch with community members in 1823.

Ordained in the Diocese of Birmingham in 1993, Dean Monteith has served as the Associate Vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields, London, as an Area Dean in Wimbledon, and Dean of Leicester in the East Midlands. He has a particular



The Very Rev. Dr. David Monteith

interest in faith in the public realm, change, culture, and the arts. His presence here is thanks to the Rev. Dr. Katherine Grieb, CACS Director, who has taught at the Canterbury program for New Clergy and Seminarians for more than 15 years and enjoyed friendships with each of Deans during that time.

Hosting guests from around the Anglican Communion is a highlight of life at VTS. Each year, the Center for Anglican Communion Studies invites a leader of the Anglican Communion to speak at the annual Companions dinner. Companions are a special group who commit to attending and supporting the Center for Anglican Communion Studies. Active Companions get the first invitations to these annual dinners.

April 24, 2024

The opportunity to learn and have meaningful conversation with people from a variety of contexts and ministries is a gift, and we are delighted to welcome Dean Monteith to campus. It is a joy to have him with us for the next few days. Please do make him feel welcome.

The Very Rev. Ian S. Markham, Ph.D. is Dean and President of Virginia Theological Seminary and President of The General Theological Seminary.

And he has the good fortune to have a former C of I priest on his staff - The Rev. Robert S. Heaney, Ph.D., D.Phil., is Professor of Theology and Mission. Dr. Heaney's areas of expertise include intercultural theology, mission theology, and World Anglicanism. See - [\[https://vts.edu/faculty/the-rev-robert-heaney/\]](https://vts.edu/faculty/the-rev-robert-heaney/)

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Celebrating the gifts of the breath of Christ - a Pentecost retreat

The Belfast Jesuit Centre is delighted to host this Pentecost Retreat from Friday 17th- Sunday 19th May.

Tom Cashman an Ignatian Spiritual Director from Tucson, Arizona, returns to us again this year to present this retreat in six sessions, supported by his wife Rosemary and the

April 24, 2024

BJC team. It begins on Friday evening and concludes with Mass on Sunday at 12noon.

Schedule

Friday 17th May – 7.30pm – 9.00pm

Saturday 18th May – 9.30am – 5.00pm (Lunch included)

Sunday 19th May – 9.30am concluding with Mass of Pentecost at 12noon.

Pentecost Sunday brings to a close the 50-day season between Jesus' Resurrection and the empowering descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples which marked the birth of the Church.

In this non-residential, contemplative prayer retreat, we consider key moments in Jesus' earthly ministry and his post Resurrection encounters with his followers. In so doing, we will deepen our awareness of our own gifts of the Holy Spirit, embracing them in gratitude and renewing our will to use them in the service of Christ.

Through guided prayer, reflection on pieces of art, private contemplative prayer exercises and journaling, we will gain insight into how to use these gifts within our families, communities, and the world.

For more information and to book, visit our website.

<https://belfastjesuitcentre.co.uk/celebrating-the-gifts-of-the-breath-of-christ-a-pentecost-retreat/>

WEBINAR

Anglican Schools

Securing Transformatonal Outcomes

Introducing the
Anglican Communion
Schools Network

• **LIVE**

21 May 2024
12.00 pm UTC+1

REGISTER NOW



Webinar Opportunity - Tuesday 21 May

Join a special webinar introducing the Anglican Communion Schools Network.

“I am excited that the Anglican Schools Network has become a reality. This is a very important network and will equip its members, who are already doing an outstanding job, with the confidence in knowing that they are not alone, that they belong to a wider family of Christians all committed

April 24, 2024

to the outcomes that they are committed to.” - Bishop Anthony Poggo, Secretary General of the Anglican Communion Tuesday 21 May 2024 - 12.00 pm UTC+1
Registration link: <http://acsn.anglicancommunion.org>

Holy Homicides

A murder, a web of secrets and a vicar-turned-sleuth...

When homicide descends upon the quiet Isle of Wesberrey, fear unfurls and faith is knocked.... the new priest at St. Bridget's Abbey certainly has her work cut out.

But Reverend Jessamy is no stranger to the island... and secrets about her past are about to be unearthed; family secrets that might connect the vicar herself to the murder.



The new resources to help churches recruit volunteers with children and young people



churchofengland.org/JOIN

Will the parishioners uncover the truth which puts their brand new parish priest in the picture? With a mighty cross to bear... can Jessamy keep her sanity?

Find out in the un-put-down-able 'Holy Homicide', book 1 of 'The Isle of Wesberrey series'.

Prefer a paperback? <https://www.amazon.com/Holy-Homicide-Isle-Wesberrey-Mysteries/dp/B0BKRX7TNW>

In the media

Murlog Church to celebrate 60 years of worship - Donegal News

Saint Patrick's Church, Murlog, Lifford is gearing up for major celebrations to mark the 60th anniversary of the opening of the Clonleigh Parish Church on May 5.

At the heart of the community it is, and has been, a place of prayer, celebrations and farewells for the past sixty years.

It's unusual design is the work of renowned architect, the late Liam McCormick, famed for his seven Donegal churches including Burt Chapel which was named Building of the Century.



Saint Patrick's Church, Murlog, Lifford, designed by architect Liam McCormick

To mark the milestone anniversary of St Patrick's Church, Bishop of Derry, Rev Donal McKeown DD, will celebrate Mass there on May 5.

Speaking to the Donegal News this week Parish Priest Fr Colm O'Doherty, who has ministered at St Patrick's since 2019, explained how the well-known architect had wanted to engage up and coming architects and artists to collaborate on the design and finish.

April 24, 2024

“Mr McCormick worked with then Parish Priest Fr Anthony McFeely who went on to become the Bishop of the Raphoe Diocese from 1965 to 1982. He had begun the project as far back as 1959 and travelled to Europe along with Liam McCormack and another architect, Frank Corr, to visit new churches being built in France, Switzerland and Germany.

“This helped to give a sense of the appropriateness of modern architecture as a solution of design of new churches in Ireland and their spiritual quality, which Fr McFeely always kept at the centre of his plans for the new church,” he said.

The stained glass windows were designed by Patrick Pollan and the Madonna and Child by Nell Pollan. Oisín Kelly was commissioned to create a work about St Patrick and he also created the four evangelists in mosaic which adorn the building.

The very large cross inside is the work of artist Imogen Stuart.

In 1964 the church was consecrated by the then Bishop of Derry, Dr Neil Farren, and dedicated to our national saint, Saint Patrick. Just ten years later the Parish of Clonleigh became an independent parish of the Derry Diocese. It had previously been part of the Parish of Camus (Strabane).

St Patrick’s replaced the original church which stood nearby from 1828 and its original tower still stands in the graveyard.

April 24, 2024

The church at Murlog replaced the former church which had stood there since 1828 but was now deemed to be too small to accommodate the growing catholic population of the area.

The 1828 building had itself replaced another church building, the first, which had been built in 1760 on the site which had been donated by the local landlord, The Earl of Erne.

Fr O'Doherty has seen congregations reduce, same as in every other church around the country, and the interior was revamped to reduce capacity which now stands at around 800.

“We have good attendances at weekends and we are all looking forward to the year of celebrations starting on May 5,” he said.

Other planned events include A Mass of the anointing of the sick on June 24; Family of Families Fun Day and Barbecue on July 31.

August 25 will see the visit of Arch-Bishop Eamon Martin and Primate of All Ireland, to celebrate Mass on the 50th anniversary of the Parish of Clonleigh becoming an independent parish in the Derry Diocese.

On December 15 a Christmas Concert will feature Queen's University Concert Choir and Orchestra, local schools and special guests.

“As a parish community, the people of Clonleigh have one of the most beautiful church buildings in Ireland and it

April 24, 2024

continues to be a place of great celebration and prayer,” Fr O’Doherty said.

“As we mark our jubilee this year, we hope that our church will always inspire people to be true to the faith that has been handed down to them over the centuries. Also for the generations to come, Saint Patrick’s Church, Murlog, will continue to be at the centre of parish life and a place where the faith will grow and flourish.”

Poem for today

By Faughan

by Francis Ledwidge

For hills and woods and streams unsung
I pipe above a rippled cove.
And here the weaver autumn hung
Between the hills a wind she wove
From sounds the hills remember yet
Of purple days and violet.

The hills stand up to trip the sky,
Sea-misted, and along the tops
Wing after wing goes summer by,
And many a little roadway stops
And starts, and struggles to the sea,
Cutting them up in filigree.

Twixt wind and silence Faughan flows,
In music broken over rocks,

April 24, 2024

Like mingled bells the poet knows
Ring in the fields of Eastern flocks.
And here this song for you I find
Between the silence and the wind.

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
