

Church News Ireland



Image of the day - MU and CMSI aid for Burundi

MU Food distribution to vulnerable community members at St Luke's Cathedral Women's Day.

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Image of the day



Mothers Union and CMSI share insights on Gitega-Burundi

Left -Roger from CMSI and Armagh MU President Debbie Davidson

Below - Armagh MU President Debbie Davidson joining in the Burundi-style worship with Lesa Martin and Heather Galway.



Rev Roger Thompson had a great welcome at the recent Armagh Diocesan Mothers' Union Worldwide Meeting, where he shared about the amazing MU Literacy Programme in the Anglican Diocese of

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Gitega-Burundi, supported by the C of I Bishops' Appeal.



Bishop Aime-Joseph with Gitega Mothers' Union at the recent Women's Day celebration service in St Luke's Cathedral. It was attended by all the pastors and their spouses who had recently attended a 5 day retreat, which was supported by CMSI.

Rev Roger Thompson was introduced by Debbie Davidson (President) and welcomed by Rev Alan Cross (chaplain), before showing video footage of a confirmation service in Kabanga Parish, Gitega when hundreds of worshippers were singing and dancing.

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He then taught the members some African praise songs, inviting them to dress in colourful East African kangas and shirts.

News



Unitarian Minister ordained

Rev Chris Hudson texts - "We, All Souls, are very proud of Lynda Kane, now a Unitarian Minister.

"What a wonderful Anniversary service with Rev. Ant Howe. Bilingual as well with Welsh and English. All happening in Northampton.

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“Lynda has renewed our historic link with our fellow Liberal Christians. She will be a wonderful Minister in Ballyclare. Main photo Lynda with Irish Colleagues. Every blessing to her in her new journey”.

Minister appoints new members to Board of the Education Authority

The Education Minister has announced the appointment of 12 members to the Board of the Education Authority (EA). Six new members have been appointed with six reappointed.

The appointments are as follows:

Four persons nominated by the Northern Ireland Commission for Catholic Education (NICCE) to represent the interests of trustees of maintained schools:

Mrs Patricia Carville OBE has served as a representative member on the EA Board since April 2015. She is a former school principal of St Patrick’s College, Dungannon and has been a Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS) Council member for over 29 years and a Governor of a number of schools in both the primary and secondary sectors.

Mrs Marie Lindsay is a former school principal of St Mary’s College, Londonderry. She is a Governor of a primary school, chairperson of the Board of Management of an Irish school and a member of Council at Ulster University.

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Mrs Gillian McGrath has served as a representative member on the EA Board since February 2021 and is a former Director of Education in CCMS. She is an Independent Education Adviser, College Governor and Director on the National Board for the Safeguarding of Children in the Catholic Church, and Trustee of an Educational Trust.

Mr Arthur Scott is a former senior civil servant completing 20 years across four different Departments, an Executive Agency and a Non-Departmental Public Body.

Four persons nominated by the Transferor Representatives' Council (TRC) to represent the interests of transferors of controlled schools:

Reverend Canon Amanda Adams has served as a representative member on the EA Board since April 2015. She is a Church of Ireland Minister in the Diocese of Connor and a Governor of a number of schools in both the primary and secondary sectors.

Reverend Robert Herron OBE has served as a representative member on the EA Board since April 2015 and is a retired Presbyterian Church Minister. He is a member of the Strule Main Campus Project 2 Board and the Managing Authorities Liaison Group.

Mrs Edith Shaw is retired with a background in education and training and is a College Governor. She is a Director of the Open College Network Northern Ireland.



Mr John Wilkinson OBE is a former member of the CCEA Council, the Southern Education and Library Board and more recently, a Non-Executive Director of the Southern Health and Social Care Trust. He is an Associate with CCEA.

One person nominated by the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education (NICIE) to represent the interests of integrated schools:

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Mr Maurice Johnston has served as a representative member on the EA Board since April 2020. He is a former member of the North Eastern Education and Library Board and worked for the Northern Ireland Housing Executive for 37 years. He is currently a Governor in the primary school sector.

One person nominated by the Association of Controlled Grammar Schools (ACGS) to represent the interests of controlled grammar schools:

Mr Trevor Robinson OBE is retired from the teaching profession after 36 years working in the grammar school sector where he was headmaster of Lurgan College. He is a former Director of the Controlled Schools Support Council, President of the Association of School and College Leaders NI as well as Chairman of the Association of Controlled Grammar Schools. He is a Trustee of Ahorey Presbyterian Church.

One person nominated by Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta (CnaG) to represent the interests of Irish-medium schools:

Mrs Eilís Uí Néill is a former teacher in the Irish Medium school sector and principal of Scoil na Fuiseoige, Dunmurry. She is an external reviewer for the Performance Review of Staff Development Scheme in several Irish medium schools and is a Professional Associate with CnaG.

One person nominated by the Governing Bodies Association (GBA) to represent the interests of voluntary grammar schools:

Mr Ronnie Hassard currently a Director and Vice-Chairperson of the GBA representing the voluntary grammar sector and is a College Governor. He has over 40 years' experience in controlled and voluntary post-primary schools and is a former school principal of Wellington College, Belfast and Ballymena Academy.

The members have extensive backgrounds in such areas as corporate governance, finance, analytical ability and decision making, team working and communication. Their significant knowledge and skills will play a key role in underpinning the work of the Board.

All members have declared that they have not undertaken any political activity during the past five years and only one member, Mrs Patricia Carville, holds one other public appointment as a member of the Council for Catholic Maintained School. All other members do not hold any other public appointments.

Westminster Cathedral forced to turn people away due to numbers attending Easter Triduum

Staff at Westminster Cathedral were compelled to turn away people hoping to attend Mass due to reaching full capacity over the Easter weekend.

Westminster Cathedral, which is the mother church of the Catholic Church in England and Wales, and has a capacity

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of 3,000 people, was unable to let any more people in for its Good Friday liturgy on 29 March.

“This Easter morning our hearts are full of hope and joy – so too is this Cathedral,” said Cardinal Vincent Nichols two days later during Easter Sunday Mass.

Robert Stephenson-Padron was one of those turned away on Good Friday by staff at Westminster Cathedral.

“It’s like everybody is becoming Catholic,” he told the Catholic Herald. “Easter 2024 is very special. \[It is the] first time I can recall since my baptism in 2006 where it seems there is a flood of new converts into the holy Catholic Church. So much so, that it appears to be widely noticed.”

Stephenson-Padron, 39, who co-founded Penrose Care to combat labour exploitation in the care sector, was awarded an OBE by King Charles III in February 2023.

“Friedrich Nietzsche is dead. King Christ the Crucified and His holy Catholic Church are alive and well!” Stephenson-Padron Tweeted in a message on X, accompanied by a photo of crowds attempting (in vain) to gain access to Westminster Cathedral, which went viral on the social media platform.

After being unable to gain access to the Good Friday liturgy at Westminster Cathedral, he walked nearly two miles to the historic Catholic Church of St James in Spanish Place, while listening to the service electronically on the way. When he arrived at St James’ Church, he discovered it was also full –

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though he was permitted to find a space standing amongst the crowds at the back.

The following day, he arrived back at the Cathedral an hour early for the Easter Vigil Mass and was able to gain a spot. He confirmed that the service also became full.

“In my UK-wide Catholic men’s group \[WhatsApp] chat, it seemed like it was the same everywhere,” he told the Catholic Herald.

Similar surges in attendance, well beyond the sorts of levels of attendance usually expected, occurred in other parishes across the world, including in New York City and rural parts of North Carolina.

Cathedral Call



Blue is the colour!

Peterborough Cathedral (above) was lit blue all weekend in support of Peterborough Unite.

United went to Wembley on Sunday for the final of the Bristol Street Motors Trophy



Cork choir trip

Bon voyage to the choir of St. Fin Barre's Cathedral who are Cork Airport heading off on their choir trip.

A well-deserved, but working change, after so much singing at many services and concerts in the Cathedral and in the Church of Ireland in Cork, Cloyne and Ross in recent months under the Director of Music, Peter Stobart and Assistant Director of Music Matthew Breen. Bishop Paul Colton remarked, “A special thank you from me as bishop for all the many occasions that I have turned to them for the best of music over the last 25 years”.

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Church of Ireland Children and Family Ministry invite you to book now for Building Blocks Children's Ministry Conference.

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Downpatrick artist's exhibition

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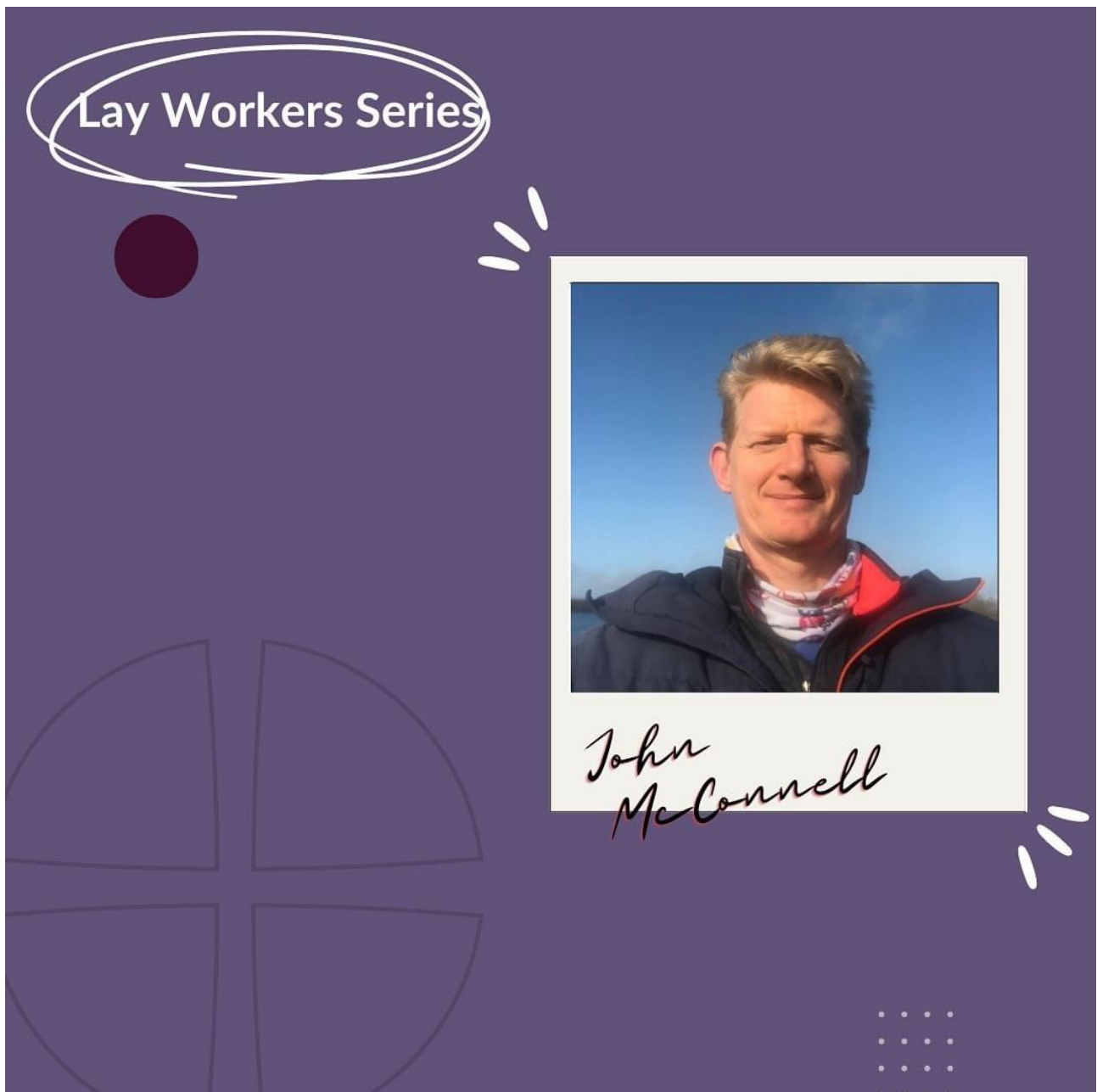


Downpatrick artist Brian Trainor, who captures the beauty of County Down in oil, has opened a new exhibit this weekend at The Saint Patrick's Centre.

The exhibition, entitled "A Beautiful World" was launched at The Saint Patrick Centre's art gallery, Downpatrick on 6th April.

MCI Lay Workers Series

In the fourth of MCI's Lay Workers Series, meet John McConnell Lay Evangelist in the Lisbellaw Circuit.



He tells us a little bit about his background, his family, his work and God's guidance and goodness.

To read John's story in full, click the link
<https://irishmethodist.org/ministries-stories>

Talk by Pope Francis biographer, Dr Austen Ivereigh



First Belong to God: *On Retreat with Pope Francis*

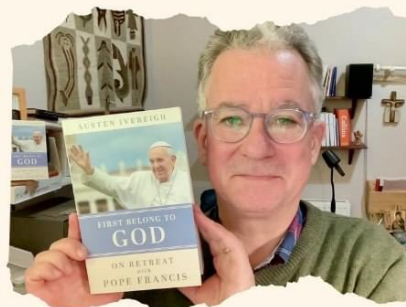
A Talk by Dr Austen Ivereigh

During his research into the Latin American Church Dr Ivereigh discovered two texts of retreats given by Pope Francis when he was still Fr Bergoglio. They testified to Bergoglio's skill as a retreat facilitator and the fact that he was much in demand as a spiritual director. Using these texts and the growing body of Pope Francis's teachings, Dr Ivereigh has written a book entitled ***First Belong to God: On Retreat with Pope Francis***, which links the teachings of Pope Francis with their spiritual roots in his experience of the *Spiritual Exercises* of St Ignatius of Loyola. This is an invitation both to those who lead the Spiritual Exercises, and those who may be called to experience them, to do so with the help of Pope Francis.

Austen Ivereigh is a Fellow in Contemporary Church History at Campion Hall, Oxford, and a biographer of Pope Francis. A well-known journalist and commentator, Ivereigh has written widely on Church affairs and on the Francis papacy for publications such as, The Tablet, Commonwealth, The New York Times, Crux, America Magazine and Thinking Faith, to name just a few. He is a frequent guest on the BBC and other media.



Belfast Jesuit Centre
Saturday
27th April
3pm



Copies of the book will be available to purchase on the day.

To Book

Visit:
www.belfastjesuitcentre.co.uk for the link to book, or contact us by email or phone. Details below.

Belfast Jesuit Centre
193 – 195 Donegall Street, Belfast BT1 2FL

Email
belfastjesuitcentre@gmail.com

Phone
0770 631 6319

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“First belong to God : On retreat with Pope Francis” by Dr Austen Ivereigh.

The Belfast Jesuit Centre is delighted to host this talk by renowned journalist and Pope Francis biographer, Dr Austen Ivereigh on Saturday 27th April at 3pm, and we invite you to join us.

During his research into the Latin American Church Dr Ivereigh discovered two texts of retreats given by Pope Francis when he was still Fr Bergoglio. They testified to Bergoglio’s skill as a retreat facilitator and the fact that he was much in demand as a spiritual director. Using these texts and the growing body of Pope Francis’s teachings, Dr Ivereigh has written a book entitled "First Belong to God: On Retreat with Pope Francis, which links the teachings of Pope Francis" with their spiritual roots in his experience of the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius of Loyola. This is an invitation both to those who lead the Spiritual Exercises, and those who may be called to experience them, to do so with the help of Pope Francis.

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Visit our website for more info and to book.

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<https://belfastjesuitcentre.co.uk/first-belong-to-god-on-retreat-with-pope-francis-a-talk-with-dr-austen-ivereigh/>

Poem for today

Sunday Morning by Louis Macneice

Down the road someone is practising scales,
The notes like little fishes vanish with a wink of tails,
Man's heart expands to tinker with his car
For this is Sunday morning, Fate's great bazaar;
Regard these means as ends, concentrate on this Now,

And you may grow to music or drive beyond Hindhead
anyhow,
Take corners on two wheels until you go so fast
That you can clutch a fringe or two of the windy past,
That you can abstract this day and make it to the week of
time
A small eternity, a sonnet self-contained in rhyme.

But listen, up the road, something gulps, the church spire
Open its eight bells out, skulls' mouths which will not tire
To tell how there is no music or movement which secures
Escape from the weekday time. Which deadens and
endures.

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
