

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – St Bridgit 1500

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Image of the day

St Bridgit 1500



Today is St Brigid's Day (1st Feb) and marks the 1500th anniversary of her death.

At 11.00am a very special ecumenical service will take place in St Brigid's Cathedral, Kildare. Live link at - [\[https://vimeo.com/906452842\]](https://vimeo.com/906452842)

At 12 noon, a Pause for Peace will take place all over the world and at 12.30pm this extraordinary new mural of St Brigid will be formally launched in Market Square.

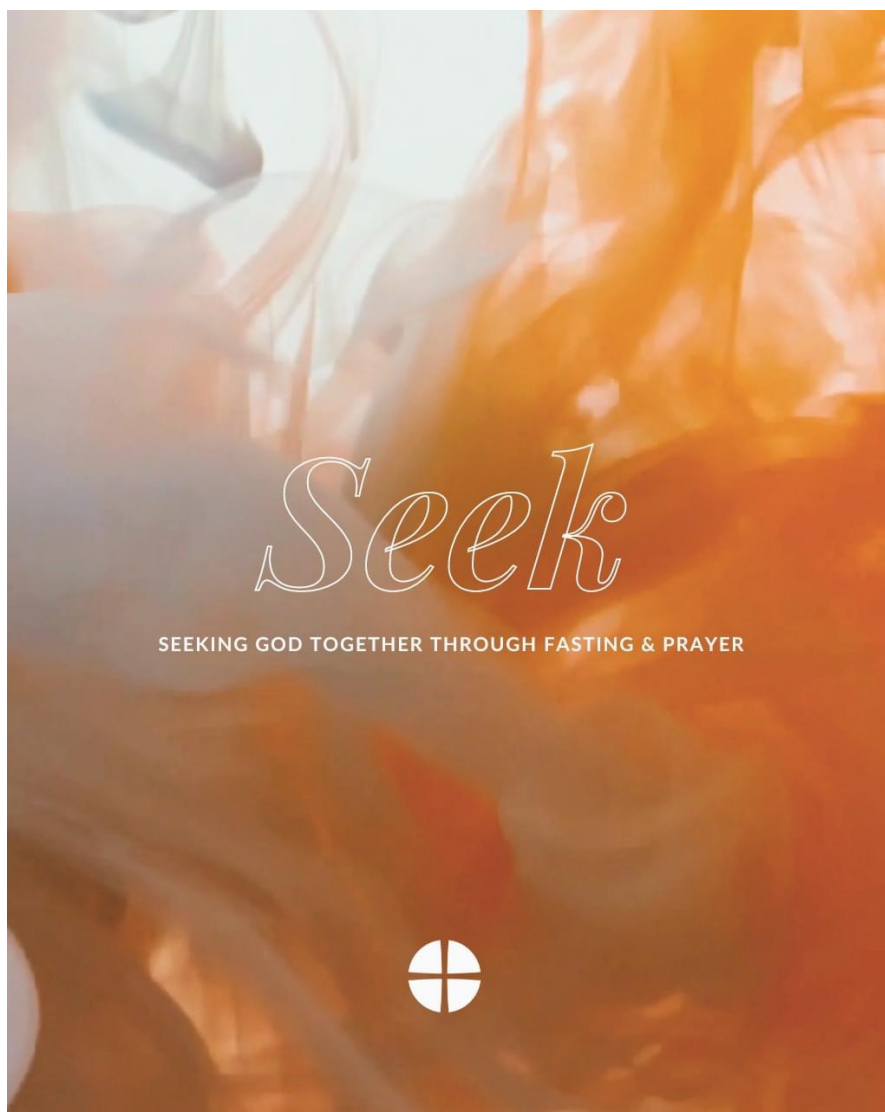
At 2.00pm, 4,000 schoolchildren will gather across the Curragh plains (Brigid's pastures) to form a massive human Brigid's cross and finally at 8.30pm Altan and the RTÉ Concert Orchestra will perform a sell out show in the Cathedral. It promises to be a momentous and unforgettable day of celebration. Photo: Mark McGuire Photography

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People and places

Methodist churches signing up for Lenten non-stop prayer

The following churches have all signed up for slots during the Methodist Church's 40 days of non-stop prayer this Lent.



Whitehead and Islandmagee Methodist Churches, Adare and Ballingrane Methodist Church, Thomas Street Methodist Church , Seymour Street Methodist, Newtownabbey Methodist Mission, Carlow Methodist Church, Ballinamallard and Trillick Methodist Church

The organisers are inviting churches across the Connexion to sign up for a specific length of time (e.g. 24, 48 hours or longer) to help cover the whole Lent season in prayer.

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The programme starts in two weeks and lasts from 14th February until 30th March 2024

Find out more and register at: irishmethodist.org/seek

A warm glow in a cold dark place - C of I stoves in Ukraine

Support from Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal gives hope through stoves in Ukraine

Two hundred and fifty wood-burning stoves have been distributed in the Kharkiv region by Habitat for Humanity Ukraine in recent months. Many arrived just in time for Christmas, and all will keep families warm and allow them to cook simple meals.

The current situation in Ukraine is challenging with more airstrikes, less support, and a general concern about the most vulnerable. The Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal for World Aid and Development funds raised for people displaced in and from Ukraine by the war continue to support Habitat for Humanity's work. Warren, a Habitat volunteer, describes the difference the stoves make, saying: "They help not just physically but mentally. A warm glow in a cold dark place, something life-sustaining to tend to and have some control over in these uncertain and difficult times."

In Romania, as well as support for Ukrainian refugees, the Government has asked Habitat to assist 400 people who have links to Romania and who have been evacuated from

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Gaza. Habitat has provided some nights in a hotel to allow them to catch their breath, helped them plan their next steps, and provided social housing.

To find out how you can donate to Bishops' Appeal online, by cheque or standing order, or through your parish, please visit:

<https://bishopsappeal.ireland.anglican.org/give>

Installations at St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast



At the installation of Canons Tracey McRoberts MBE and Jim Cheshire on January 28 are, from left: Canon Kevin Graham MBE; The Ven Barry Forde, Archdeacon of Belfast; Canon Jim Cheshire; Canon Mark Taylor; Dean Stephen Forde; Canon Tracey McRoberts; Canon Gill Withers; the

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Very Rev Edward O'Donnell, Ecuenical Canon; and Canon Ronnie Nesbitt.

Archdeacon Jim Cheshire was installed as Chancellor and the Rev Tracey McRoberts MBE was installed as a Canon for Connor Diocese in Belfast Cathedral at a service of Choral Evensong on Sunday January 28.

Canon McRoberts is rector of St Matthew's, Belfast, and Rural Dean for Mid Belfast,. The Venerable Jim Cheshire is Archdeacon of Down and rector of Ballybeen Parish.

The service was conducted by Dean Stephen Forde, with Rev Cameron Mack as Cantor, and the Rev Mark Reid leading intercessions.



The Rev Canon Tracey McRoberts MBE along with Dean Stephen Forde and friends, family and parishioners of St Matthew's, Belfast, where the Canon is rector.

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The lessons were read by Eva Cheshire and Philip McRoberts.

Announcing Canon McRoberts appointment to the Chapter of St Anne's Cathedral last October, the Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev George Davison said it was recognition of the commitment she had demonstrated to the life and witness of the Church in Mid Belfast.

“As well as her own parish commitments, she has worked tirelessly to provide oversight to a significant number of other churches in the Rural Deanery,” Bishop George stated. “I also recognise the significant contribution she has made towards ecumenical and community relationships in that part of Belfast.”

School Aid Romania meet the clients

The pupils from Methodist College Belfast and St Mary's Maghera arrived in Brasov in the early hours of Saturday morning. After a long day of travel the pupils got to enjoy a lie in and late breakfast.

They then had the opportunity to witness how the work of School Aid Romania has helped so many underprivileged children over the years with a visit to Casa Santa Maria, Casa Santa Patrick, Casa Irlanda and Casa Donald.

These are self-contained houses in which children have been taken in to be cared for and over the years School Aid Romania have helped to provide them with a better standard of living.



Sunday started with a visit to church and then a quick stop at the cash and carry. At the cash and carry pupils were able to spend some of their fundraising money buying much needed aid for an elderly care home- such as cleaning products, toiletries, towels and games.

In the afternoon they delivered this aid and spent time with the residents along with entertaining them with some singing and dancing which they thoroughly enjoyed.

Mr. Farquhar and Miss. Lloyd are incredibly proud of the pupils and how they have embraced this experience so far. They have stepped out of their comfort zone and used every opportunity to demonstrate that they are 'Made to Lead' and great ambassador's for the College.



If you would like to make a donation, please do so via the School Gateway app or JustGiving:
<https://ow.ly/ZHvr50QvMmk>.

Service of Commissioning for Cairncastle and Craig Hill Parish Reader

Mr Stephen Haslett was commissioned as Parish Reader in All Saints, Craigy Hill, Larne on Sunday last followed by an amazing buffet carvery in Ballygally Castle Hotel.

Amongst those who came and those who participated was the Diocesan Warden of Readers, Rev Peter Jones who preached an inspired and encouraging sermon, William Patton a Diocesan Lay Reader from the parish, Mrs Janis Young who read a lesson, Derick the organist and St

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Patrick's choir who sang a beautiful and poignant anthem.

Also present was Mr Jim Hunter, who has

served the parish for years and who started Stephen on his journey assisting with Communion; and Mrs Maureen



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Thompson who was Stephen's P2 teacher as well as being a member of St Patrick's Cairncastle.



Cantata: Jesu, der du meine Seele
Johann Sebastian Bach



Performed by singers from Sandford & St. Philip's Choral Union and the Ranelagh Singers, in collaboration with Gonzaga College.

Leaving Certificate Music students especially welcome!



Sandford Parish Church, Ranelagh



Friday 2 February
16:30

News

Canterbury Cathedral makes its gardens free after prices row

Canterbury Cathedral will trial a free entry scheme after a backlash over its prices, but will only provide access to limited areas.

The historic building, which opened in 1834 and stands as England's first cathedral, announced a "free precincts" scheme for large sections of the site for six weeks.

However, sightseers will still need to pay £17 to enter the cathedral building, as well as the northern side of the precincts including the Cloisters, Herb Garden and Chapter House during standard sightseeing hours.

The move comes after The Telegraph reported that one in four cathedrals are charging for entry, prompting criticism that access to the historic buildings is "only for the rich". Cathedrals run by the Church in England are now charging close to £30 to enter in some cases. Other cathedrals which charge entry include St Paul's, which has a £20.50 fee. Entry at Oxford's Christ Church costs £20, York Minster charges £18, while Ely – which states on its website it "will never turn anyone away if they are unable to or do not wish to pay" – charges £14.

Canterbury increased its entry fee by £1.50 to £17 last year, while Westminster Abbey has increased charges by almost

50 per cent in the space of four years to £29. Normal entry tickets for the whole site of Canterbury Cathedral are £17 per adult (over 17s) and are valid for 12 months and for repeated visits.

The Rev David Monteith, the Dean of Canterbury, told BBC Radio 4 that there was a sense the cathedral was “a bit shut off” because of “our walls and gates”, adding: “I wanted to try and open things up. There’s just a joy in being able to look at the building, even not to go inside, and share that beautiful space, and I’m hoping that this is going to enable many more people to do that.”

The Dean said the cathedral had to raise £12 million a year to keep the building open, and its utility bill is £550,000 a year. “ I don’t know a dean in the land who doesn’t want to keep their cathedral as open as possible, but we have to live with realities around us,” he said.

Asked how he felt on a theological level about charging people to enter a place of worship, he added: “We have to make sure that worship is always free, and if worship is going to be free, we’ve got to find ways of paying for the House of God.

“The people who built Canterbury Cathedral spent a fortune in building it and maintaining it. We now, in our generation, have the same responsibility and we need to make sure that whenever the least, the little or the lost need to come into the House of God, they can come free and we’ll make sure that happens.”

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Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Come and sing **The Crucifixion** by Sir **John Stainer**

The Choir of Saint Bartholomew's Church and the Sandford & St Philip's Choral Union invite singers from the United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough to participate in

A rehearsal and performance of **The Crucifixion** by Sir John Stainer in Saint Bartholomew's Church, Clyde Road, Dublin 4 on Saturday 23rd March 2024

St. Bartholomew's Church is easily accessed by Public Transport

Nearest DART Station, Lansdowne Road. Bus Services to Ballsbridge (4, 7, 7A, and S2). Bus Services to Donnybrook (39A, 46A, 145, 155 and Bus Eireann 133 from Wicklow). Street parking is available Free on Saturdays.

Musical Director: Ben Barnes

Organ: David O'Shea

Tenor: Max O'Neill

Bass: Robin Heather

2.30pm Registration / Rehearsal

4.30pm Break with tea/coffee provided

5pm Performance

Come and Sing **The Crucifixion** Sir John Stainer

Sat 23rd March

Musical Director: Ben Barnes

Organ: David O'Shea



Registration and rehearsal 2.30pm

Performance 5pm

St Bartholomew's Church Clyde Road

Ballsbridge Dublin 4

In aid of the restoration of the organ

Donations welcome

For more info please email Robin Heather on robin@ashcomms.ie

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Please bring your own scores. (Some may be available on the day)

The performance at 5pm is open to all, and Hymn sheets will be provided.

This event is a fundraiser for the St Bartholomew's Organ Restoration Fund so please give generously.

About The Crucifixion

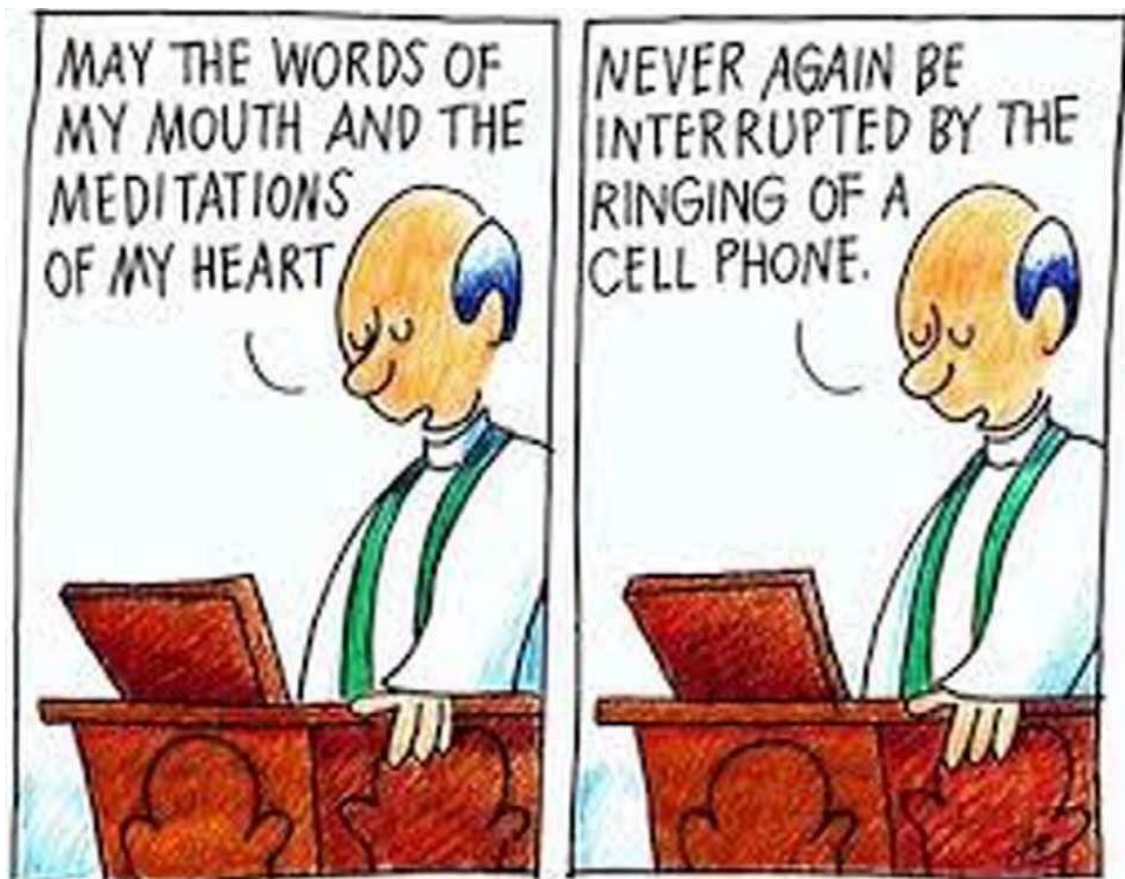
It is a very appropriate work to be sung on the day before Palm Sunday as we enter Holy Week. The Crucifixion: A Meditation on the Sacred Passion of the Holy Redeemer is an oratorio by John Stainer written in 1887 for SATB choir and organ with solos for bass and tenor. The format follows that of the Bach Passions and tells the story of the Passion and Crucifixion of Jesus. The text is taken from the King James Bible and other text is written by WJ Sparrow Simpson. The work is dedicated to "my pupil and friend W. Hodge and the choir of Marylebone Church". It was first performed on Ash Wednesday in 1887 and it has been sung in Marylebone Church every year since then. There are 5 hymns sung by the choir and audience throughout the work culminating in the final and most well known For the love of Jesus, also known as All for Jesus, All for Jesus .

“Please come and join us for what promises to be a very enjoyable afternoon and help us to raise some much needed funds for the continuing restoration of the St Bartholomew's organ”.

Be a Summer Madness legend



Want to be a Summer Madness legend like Andrew? There are loads of great opportunities to serve at Summer



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Madness this year. You can even do your Duke of Ed, did you know that?

Check out the website for more information.

<https://www.summermadness.co.uk/project/get-involved/>



**COMING TO A VENUE
NEAR YOU THIS WEEK...**

FRIDAY, FEB 2
BANGOR

BALYCROCHAN PRES
19:00

SATURDAY, FEB 3
ARDS

MOVILLA PRES
18:30

SUNDAY, FEB 4
BELFAST

THE HUB
19:00

New Life
CHOIR

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Poem for today

Leisure

by W. H. Davies (1911)

What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare?-

No time to stand beneath the boughs
And stare as long as sheep or cows:

No time to see, when woods we pass,
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass:

No time to see, in broad daylight,
Streams full of stars, like skies at night:

No time to turn at Beauty's glance,
And watch her feet, how they can dance:

No time to wait till her mouth can
Enrich that smile her eyes began?

A poor life this if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.

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
