

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Cathedrals confer in Sweden

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Cathedrals confer in Sweden

The Northern European Cathedrals Conference is underway in Lund



Archbishop Michael Jackson of Dublin and the Dean of Christ Church Cathedral Dublin, Very Rev Dermot Dunne are in Lund, Sweden at the moment attending the 2024 Northern European Cathedrals Conference. The theme of the conference is 'Living with Uncertainty'.

Archbishop Michael Jackson writes - The Northern European Cathedrals Conference was held in Dublin before Covid-19 in 2019. The 2024 Conference began in Lund Sweden on Tuesday February 6th with 80 participants.



The theme for 2024 is: Living with uncertainty. Both the Dean of Christ Church and I are attending the Conference.

Dean Dermot Dunne leading prayers in Lund Cathedral.

The idea of uncertainty itself was well outlined by the Canon Precentor Lena Sjostrand in her

remarks at the Opening Service. She spoke of uncertainty in two parts: the uncertainty of the fragility of the world today and the uncertainty of the unfinished work of God in that world. Hence we can move between fear and hope. Her point was that cathedrals and their life are part of both of these.

On the first evening, we worshipped together in the cathedral and the Dean of Christ Church, a member of the Steering Committee, led prayers on an ecological and environmental theme. In the evening we attended, again in the cathedral, an oratorio written for the nine hundredth anniversary of the cathedral entitled: At the gate. The

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oratorio gave a musical interpretation of the cathedral from the perspective of The Virgin Mary, in whose name the cathedral is dedicated. It used ancient and contemporary language, music and ideas to present an understanding of a living, dynamic cathedral for the twenty first century. One of the pieces took the following theme: ... a riddle, the world filled with what is larger than the world ... alluding clearly to the relationship between Mary and her son Jesus Christ the Word of God.

A second report from Archbishop Jackson will be carried by CNI on Monday

News

Breathtaking performance by Derry student at her first public recital.



Four generations of Anna Wilson-Hegarty's family were in the audience at Christ Church, Derry on Wednesday afternoon to hear the outstanding young soprano deliver a breath-taking performance at her first public recital.



Anna, who's studied at the Royal Irish Academy of Music and is currently undertaking a Bachelor of Music degree at Ulster University, was the latest artist to appear in Christ



Church's 'First Wednesday Recital Series' of lunchtime concerts. The recitals – part of the parish's musical outreach ministry – has firmly established itself in the local cultural calendar, and now draws a dedicated and enthusiastic following.

Anna was accompanied on the piano by Ben McGonigle, one of the main instigators of the recital series, who was recently appointed Musical Director of the Cantemus NI choir. The afternoon's repertoire ranged from Robert Schumann's 'Widmung' and the traditional Irish airs 'Sé Fath Mo Bhuartha' and 'Ag Críost an Síol', through to contemporary pieces 'Moon River' and 'Songbird'. Anna also demonstrated her versatility by performing on the flute.

The next concert the series, on Wednesday 6th March, will feature an organ recital by Ven Dr Peter Thompson.

Bite sized podcast on couples departure to Sudan

In the lead up to Andrew and Joanne Quill leaving for South Sudan, they have been extremely busy speaking at link Parishes, being trained and facilitating training.

Just last week they had the opportunity to sit down with Revd. Canon Jonathan Pierce, St Finnian's, to take part in his regular "Bitesize" podcast to share their story.

The introduction to the podcast says - In this episode Jono shares a conversation with Andrew and Joanne Quill who are soon to leave Northern Ireland to work as mission partners with an agency Called CMS Ireland. They share of how God has placed this call on their lives to serve in a very different culture and context and share also something of their faith story in an inspiring conversation.

Enjoy listening... https://open.spotify.com/episode/0rYatbZmAaD0S20LUWVTX4?si=79PbZlakR8e7ZaZ_YhkMcA



Archbishop of Canterbury disappointed at mischaracterisation of the role of churches in the asylum system.

Archbishop Justin Welby said, “Over the last week it has been disappointing to see the mischaracterisation of the role of churches and faith groups in the asylum system.

“Churches up and down the country are involved in caring for vulnerable people from all backgrounds. For refugees and those seeking asylum, we simply follow the teaching of the Bible which is to care for the stranger... Continued...

GRIEF & LOSS

REVD PAUL FITZPATRICK



WEDNESDAY 20TH MARCH



7.30PM



ST. MARYS COMMUNITY HOUSE,
HAYMARKET, CARLOW
R93 E427



FREE EVENT

Carlow Town native, Paul Fitzpatrick has recently been appointed as Rector of Carlow Union of Parishes. His life experience, education, and training have enabled him to work and engage in Ministry and Pastoral Care crisscrossing many boundaries.

Paul's journey allows him a unique perspective that encourages travel towards the coal face of acute Trauma. He uses his skillset to shine glimmers of light and hope on what often seems hopeless and is deemed the unreachable and impossible.



www.carlowmentalhealth.ie

Hospitality/ Refreshments Afterwards



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“It is the job of the Government to protect our borders and of the courts to judge asylum cases. The Church is called to love mercy and do justice. I encourage everyone to avoid irresponsible and inaccurate comments – and let us not forget that at the heart of this conversation are vulnerable people whose lives are precious in the sight of God”.

MARCH
18

Saint
PATRICK'S
Walk

Annual Glaslough St Patrick's Day Community Pilgrimage Walk on Bank Holiday Monday 18th March. We meet at 11am in front of St Salvator's, Church of Ireland and walk to Glennan Presbyterian Church and St Mary's, Catholic Church concluding with a lunch of homemade soup and bread in Donagh Parochial Hall on Main Street

DONATIONS FOR
THE ARCH CLUB AND
OSCAR'S KIDS

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Ash Wednesday at QUB

Mass Times

08:05

13:05

18:05

ALL MASSES WILL TAKE PLACE IN ELMWOOD HALL



*Guest Preacher
Fr. Conor McDonough OP*



Make this your
BEST LENT YET

The chaplaincy is delighted that Ash Wednesday Masses at QUB will be celebrated this year in Elmwood Hall. Masses will take place at 8.05am, 1.05pm and 6.05pm. All students, staff, alumni and friends are most welcome to join with us.

“We are very much looking forward to welcoming Fr. Conor McDonough OP as our guest preacher for the day. Music will be provided by Canticle Sacred Music Society.

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“Elmwood Hall has a limited seating capacity, so we encourage students to arrive promptly. Please note that ashes will not be distributed outside of Mass times.”

Prayer strategy and end of clerical vacancies in Cork



On Saturday, 27th January, Bishop Paul Colton held a Morning Vigil of Thanksgiving for ministry in the Diocese with prayers also for vocations at Cloyne Cathedral.

This was in response to the Morning Vigil held in 2023 at which members of the Diocese prayed for the vacant parishes at the time. During the course of the year, all these vacancies were filled, and at last Saturday's Vigil the



Diocese gave thanks for the various appointments made in 2023, and prayed for vocations, ministries and upcoming vacancies.

Bishop Paul Colton said:

I say this tentatively and in humility, that, nearly one year on, I cannot help but feel that our prayers offered here last year have, in huge measure, been answered. Thanks be to God. And thank you to all those who worked so hard to fill the vacancies, including those who tested vocations and are shortly to join us.

Invariably by the way we operate as dioceses in the Church of Ireland, before long we, in all probability, may have more vacancies in the months ahead, but there is much to be thankful for this year:



vacancies in stipendiary posts filled or about to be filled since January last year

one in ongoing training for stipendiary ministry

four new people in training for the Ordained Local Ministry

four new Diocesan Readers with one more in training

five new Lay Local Ministers (Pastoral)

one new Lay Local Minister (Liturgical)

three pioneer ministry hubs established discerning potential in connection with pioneer ministry

not to mention all the countless volunteers for the unceasing number of voluntary tasks and work needing to be done to do the work of the Church in Cork, Cloyne and Ross

We constantly need to pray for the sustaining and supporting of all in ministry, lay and ordained, and the work



of all parishes and chaplaincies. And we need to discern what God wants of us in ministry in this place, and how we are to give shape, through our churches, chaplaincies and parishes to that calling, taking into account the many demands, exigencies and realities of the present time.

So we returned to Cloyne Cathedral on the equivalent Saturday this year – to give thanks and pray for what the future will bring.

The Bishop led the Vigil in the Quire of Saint Colman's Cathedral together with the Dean of Cloyne, the Very Rev. Susan Green, and the prayer stations set up in the two chapels provided a space for private prayer. Parishioners of Cloyne Union served refreshments throughout the morning. The varied opportunities for guided prayer, private prayer



and mingling with people from all across the diocese resulted in a prayerful yet lively and joyful occasion.



The Kirk calls for minimum unit pricing of alcohol to be increased to 65p

The Church of Scotland has urged MSPs to back proposals to increase minimum unit pricing of alcohol to 65p.

Emma Jackson, convener of the Public Life and Social Justice group, wrote to party health spokespeople and the Scottish Government ahead of a ministerial statement at the Scottish Parliament tomorrow.

The measure is aimed at controlling alcohol-related deaths and hospitalisations.

Alcohol for sale in a shop.

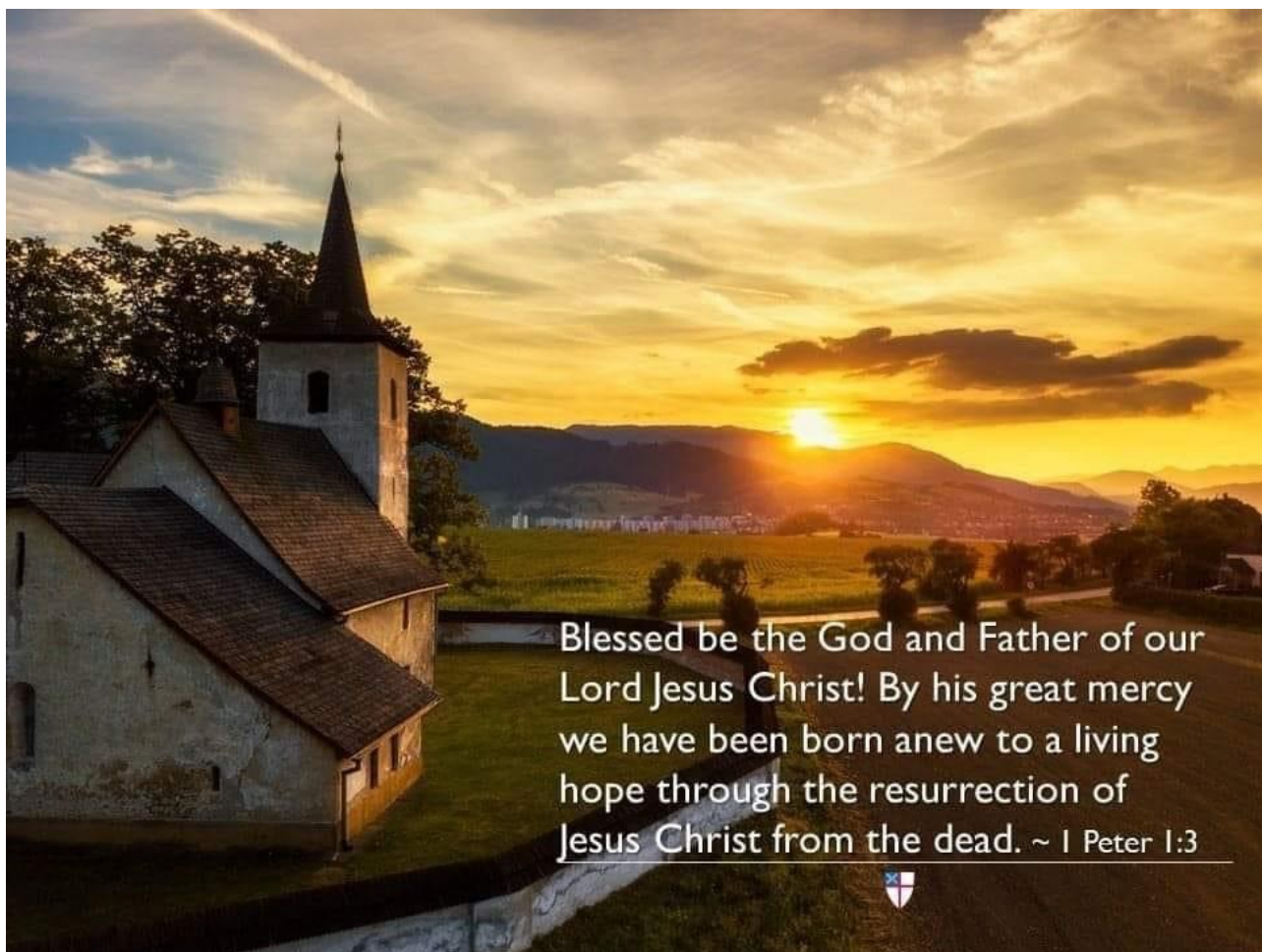
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She made the point that inflation has eroded the effectiveness of Minimum Unit Pricing (MUP) as the level at which it has been set – 50p - has not kept pace with prices.

A study by the University of Sheffield stated that the original 50p price was now equivalent to 41p.

Ms Jackson wrote: "If we want to see the 24% of the population who consume alcohol at hazardous or harmful levels reduce consumption and therefore reduce all its associated harms, we need the level of MUP to be uprated to 65p.

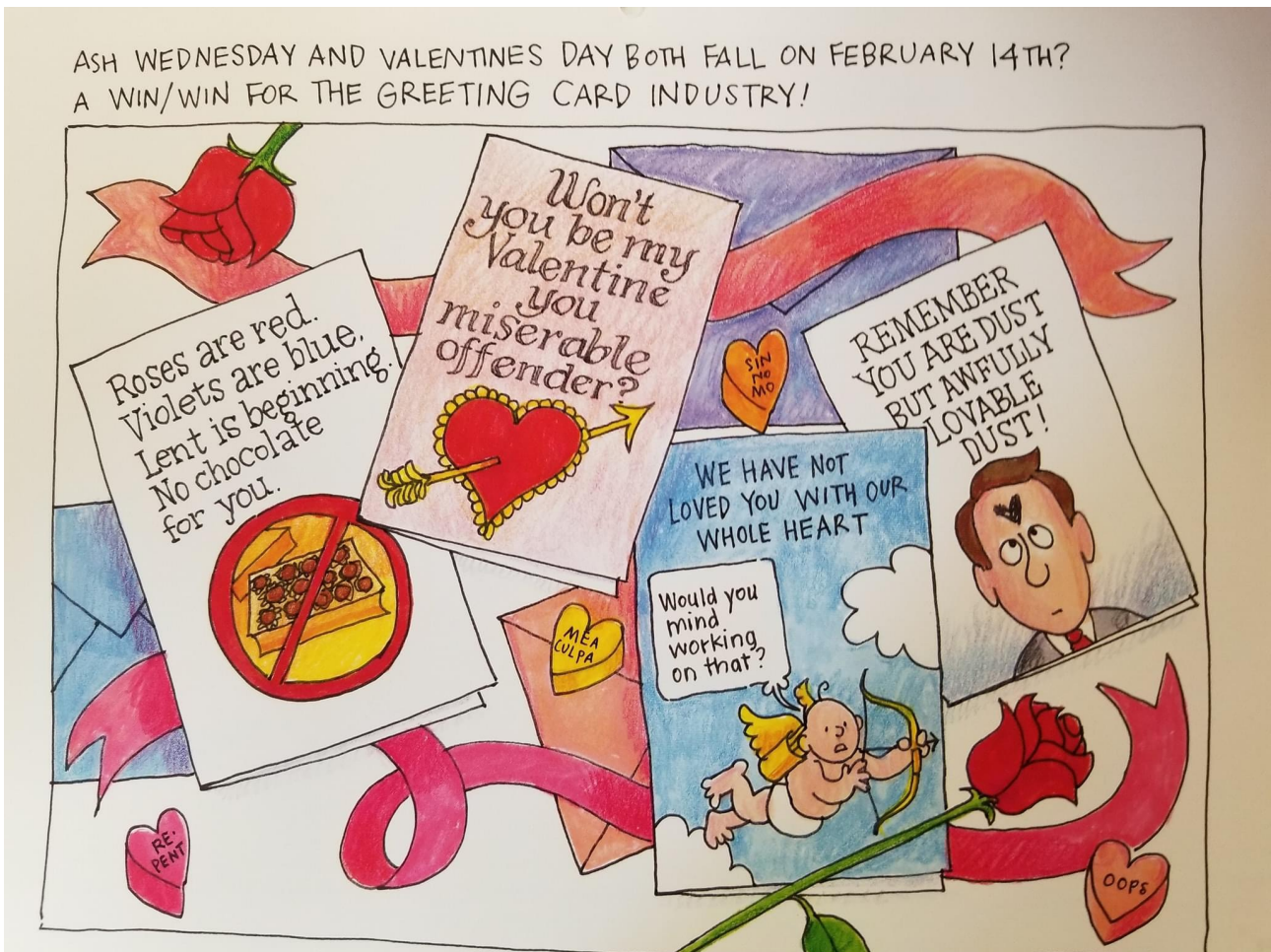
"To not do so would be to render the policy ultimately useless and could lead to an additional loss of more than 1,000 lives over 20 years."



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CrossReach, the operating name of the Church's social care council, runs support services for people affected by alcohol and drug addiction, therefore has first-hand experience of the impact of harmful dependency.

“Pilgrims are persons in motion passing through territories not their own, seeking something we might call completion, or perhaps the word clarity will do as well, a goal to which only the spirit’s compass points the way.” — H. Richard Niebuhr



For those troubled by this year's coincidence of Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day...Thanks to Penelope Bridges, Dean of San Diego and C of I nurtured, for posting.

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
