

# Church News Ireland



**Image of the day – Service recognised**

## Image of the day



### Service recognised

**The highest civic honour, the Freedom of the Borough Award, has been bestowed upon former Chief Executive of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council, Mrs Jacqui Dixon MBE DL, at a celebration ceremony held at Mossley Mill last week.**

Since her retirement in October, Jacqui has been appointed Deputy Lieutenant for the County of Antrim, awarded an MBE and now the Freedom of the Borough of Antrim and Newtownabbey.

The Freedom of the Borough is the highest award that the Council can grant and is awarded to local people and



organisations that have rendered eminent services to the Borough.

The Council expressed appreciation for her years of service and congratulate her on this well-deserved achievement.

# Abaana New Life Choir

## Live in concert

### Abbey Hotel, Donegal Town

### Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March 7pm

Children's Choir  
from Uganda  
Sharing their  
stories through  
song and dance

*New Life*  
CHOIR

ABA  
ANA

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Mrs Dixon was accompanied by her husband Rev Campbell Dixon, formerly of St Mark's Parish, Ligoniel and Belfast Cathedral.

For the full news story please visit:  
<https://bit.ly/FreedomOfTheBorough>

## Mothers Union Christmas appeal raises £110,000 for savings groups in Tanzania

**MU was delighted to announce that, "Together, we raised an incredible £110,000 for savings groups in Tanzania from our Christmas appeal.**

Lucia and her son Aidan, Tanzania



“Every pound raised will enable women in Tanzania and across all of our savings groups globally to be able to

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access funds to start small businesses and grow their income.

“This will make a tangible difference to families and communities for generations to come.

“Plus, every gift made through the Big Give website was DOUBLED. That's double the impact!

“”Thank you for being a beacon of hope - we couldn't have done it without you.”



## **Belfast Community Gospel Choir to sing for SU Schools Project 20th anniversary**

**Come and join with  
Belfast Community  
Gospel Choir on  
Saturday 24th**

**February at 7:00pm in Portstewart Baptist church at a joyful evening filled with music and singing to celebrate 20 years of the SU Schools Project on the North Coast.**

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Tickets are selling fast so please book early to avoid disappointment. All proceeds from the night will go towards the work of SU Schools Ministry in our district.

If you would like to know any more information about the evening, please contact Catherine ([catherine@sunl.co.uk](mailto:catherine@sunl.co.uk)).

Tickets are available via <https://tinyurl.com/NCE3GospelChoir>

## Limavady Parish poetry helps charity

**Crohns and Colitis Organising Team Member Leonie visited Christ Church, Limavady to collect a cheque for £500.00.**

This amazing amount of money was raised through a breakfast morning and book sale.

Pictured are Curate Andrew and Church Member Dallas Houston who wrote poetry books to contribute to this



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fundraiser. Thank you to all at Christ Church Limavady for your kind donation.

The Institution, Induction, and Installation of the Rev'd Gerry Lynch who hails from St George's Parish, Belfast, as Team Rector of the Wellsprings Benefice, at St. Mary's, Potterne which is a village and civil parish in the county of Wiltshire.



## Pope invites Anglican woman bishop to Council of Cardinals meeting

With the help of a woman Anglican bishop, a Salesian sister and a consecrated virgin, Pope Francis and his international Council of Cardinals devoted the first morning of their February meeting "to deepening their

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**reflection, begun last December, on the role of women in the church," the Vatican press office said.**

Matteo Bruni, director of the Vatican press office, said Feb. 5 the pope and cardinals heard from Bishop Jo Bailey Wells, deputy secretary-general of the Anglican Communion; Salesian Sr. Linda Pocher, a professor of Christology and Mariology at Rome's Pontifical Faculty of Educational Sciences "Auxilium," and Giuliva Di Berardino, a consecrated virgin and liturgist from the Diocese of Verona, Italy.



The pope and council were to continue meeting the afternoon of Feb. 5 and all day Feb. 6, focusing on other themes, Bruni said.

The Vatican has not shared details about the discussions on the role of women in the church nor the texts of presentations made at the meeting.



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Cardinal Gérald Lacroix of Québec was present at the meeting; in Jan. 30 video message said he would "temporarily withdraw from activities in my diocese" after he was accused in a civil lawsuit of inappropriately touching a 17-year-old girl on two occasions in the 1980s. He has denied the allegations.

The Vatican press office did not comment on the cardinal's participation in the council meeting. In addition to Lacroix, those at the February meeting included Cardinals Juan José Omella Omella of Barcelona; Seán O'Malley of Boston; Fridolin Ambongo Besungu of Kinshasa, Congo; Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state; Oswald Gracias of Mumbai, India; Sérgio da Rocha of São Salvador da Bahia, Brazil; Fernando Vérgez Alzaga, president of the commission governing Vatican City State; and Jean-Claude Hollerich of Luxembourg.

Courtesy The National Catholic Reporter.

**Tractor Run**  
**Saturday 16 March 2024**

St Colmanell's Church Hall, Ahoghill  
Run leaves @ 12:30

Registration @ 12noon

Route: Ahoghill, Cullybackey, Galgorm, Ahoghill

St Colmanell's & Portglenone Church of Ireland are sending a small team to Ibba, South Sudan in August 2024 with CMS Ireland for a short-term mission trip!

Minimum donation: £10 per tractor

Lunch on return: Irish Stew and wheaten bread

cmsireland  
Equipping the Church to witness



**AN OUTREACH CENTRE  
OF GLENDERMOTT  
PARISH CHURCH**

A large yellow circle containing a black silhouette of a lighthouse with a beam of light. Above the lighthouse, the text "I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD" is written in a curved path. Below the lighthouse, the text "The Lighthouse" is written in a cursive font, followed by "@ Another Chance" in a bold sans-serif font. At the bottom of the circle, the words "Faith &gt; Hope + Love" are written in a smaller font with a small heart symbol.

**YOU ARE INVITED TO  
THE OFFICIAL OPENING  
OF  
THE LIGHTHOUSE**

**UNIT 1  
GLENDERMOTT VALLEY  
BUSINESS PARK,  
TULLYALLY BT473LR**

**WED 28TH FEB @ 7.30PM**

**Everyone Welcome!**



Guest speaker  
**RT REV ANDREW  
FORSTER  
BISHOP OF DERRY &  
RAPHOE**

## Caring and imaginative cleric to serve again in Cashel diocese

**The Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory, the Right Reverend Adrian Wilkinson has appointed the Reverend Canon David Bayne as incumbent of Tinahely and Carnew Union.**



David was born in Stirling, in Central Scotland, and attended Stirling High School followed by St. Andrews University, graduating in History and Economics. After a fifteen-year career in business, he returned to college, to Coates Hall in Edinburgh, in 1987, to study for Ordination. His entire ministry was within the Scottish Episcopal Church & Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway, serving firstly as Rector of Dumfries, then of Castle Douglas and as Rural Dean of Galloway. The Church made much use of his previous experience, as a Convener both of the Diocesan

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Administration Board and of the Provincial Finance Committee, and as a Trustee of the Pension Fund.

For 17 years David was a Chapter Canon of St. Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow, and was made an Honorary Canon on his first retirement, to Askamore on the border of Wicklow and Wexford.



He is married to Alison, who is an artist and speech therapist, and whose family is from Wicklow. They have one son, Andrew, who is married to Yasmin and lives in Ayrshire.

After almost seven years of retirement, during which David has officiated in over 30 Churches in the Diocese, Alison and he are excited to begin a new chapter of their ministry, in the Tinahely and Carnew Union.

Bishop Wilkinson says 'I am delighted that Canon Bayne has accepted this incumbency. He is a caring and imaginative priest. Since moving to Askamore, David has been very active in the Diocese, covering in parishes where there have been vacancies. The people of Tinahely and Carnew Union know both David and Alison as much-loved and committed parishioners already and they will be delighted with this news. I know also that David's clerical colleagues in the Diocese will warmly welcome this appointment too.'


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A date for the institution service will be announced in due course.

## **Lambeth Call Bible Study resources on Anglican Identity**

**The Lambeth Call Bible Study resources on Anglican Identity have now been released to help and support Anglicans across the communion.**

You are invited to use these Bible Study materials and resources to discuss the Lambeth Call and take it forward in your setting.

To find the new Bible Study Resources, visit  <https://bit.ly/3N4n3bx>

## **Silent disco is not a ‘rave in the nave’, Canterbury cathedral insists**

**Canterbury Cathedral has claimed its silent disco is “appropriate” following backlash over the “rave in the nave”, Gabriella Sterling, Social and Religious Affairs Editor, writes in the Daily Telegraph**

Clubbers will take to the nave in sell-out events on Thursday and Friday for a 90s-themed disco featuring hits from the Vengaboys, Britney Spears, Spice Girls and Eminem. It is expected that 750 people will attend each day. Tickets were £25 but are now sold out.

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Church leaders are using the event, where alcohol will be available, as a way to reach out to younger people and raise “large sums” in order to keep the Cathedral running, with the landmark’s historic Nave as a dancefloor.

However, petitioners say silent discos belong in nightclubs, not “the most important Christian church in England”. But Canterbury has hit back and defended the event, insisting it will be “respectful” of the historic site, first established in the year 597.

The Dean of Canterbury, the Very Rev David Monteith, said: “Whilst dancing of all different kinds has happened in the cathedral over the centuries, there are many different views on the secular and the sacred. Our 90s-themed silent disco will be appropriate to and respectful of the cathedral – it is categorically not a ‘rave in the nave’ – but I appreciate that some will never agree that dancing and pop music have a place within cathedrals.”

Dr Monteith added: “Cathedrals have always been part of community life in a way much wider than their prime focus as centres of Christian worship.”

Critics said it is inappropriate to host this sort of event at a cathedral.

A petition to stop the discos has attracted more than 1,600 signatures.

Andrea Williams, chief executive of Christian Concern, said: “Will the real Church of England please stand up, please stand up.

“The reason why cathedrals were built was to point towards the majesty and beauty and reverence of God and Jesus Christ, not the lyrics of Eminem.”

Dr Cajetan Skowronski, who organised the petition, said: “It will not bring young people closer to Christ, rather it will send the message that Christ and his church, and all the truth, beauty and goodness it has to offer, are unimportant – that entertainment deserves attention more than God.”

## **Accord Catholic Marriage Care Service seeks marriage preparation facilitators**

**Accord, the Catholic Marriage Care service, is currently recruiting volunteers to train as marriage preparation programme facilitators.**

Accord is seeking applications from those who have a positive attitude towards marriage in the Catholic Church, and the enthusiasm to be part of a team supporting couples who are preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage.

Accord has over 60 years experience in supporting marriage and family life. The service has 49 centres which are situated in all 26 dioceses on the island of Ireland. Accord’s marriage facilitators come from a wide variety of backgrounds, and successful applicants will receive professional training and will form part of a team delivering marriage preparation programmes in their local areas.



Pope Francis blessing engaged couple, Denis Nulty and Sinead Keoghan, in Saint Mary's Pro-Cathedral, Dublin, during the 9th World Meeting of Families in August 2018.

For further information, contact Aisling on +353 (1) 505 3112 or by email to [marriagepreparation@accord.ie](mailto:marriagepreparation@accord.ie). The closing date for receipt of application forms to be included in selection for this year is Friday, 3 May. Additional information about becoming a facilitator can be found on [www.accord.ie](http://www.accord.ie).

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## **+Mr Tom Skelton, Headmaster of Dalriada School**

**Tom Skelton, Headmaster of Dalriada School, died peacefully at Causeway Hospital on 8th February 2024 with his Family at his bedside.**

Dalriada School, Ballymoney stated on Friday last, “It is with profound regret and sadness that we announce the passing of our esteemed Headmaster, colleague and friend Mr Tom Skelton. Our thoughts and prayers are now with his family.

“Mr Skelton was loved by so many in our school community and this will be a challenging time for our staff, pupils and families”.

Brian Dillon, Chairman of the Board of Governors, commented; “Throughout his 16 years as Head of Dalriada School, Tom Skelton worked closely with Governors, Staff and Parents to provide an excellent education for all pupils.

“Tom, with his energetic enthusiasm, approachable attitude and sense of humour provided outstanding Leadership creating a great staff team. He adopted a “hands on approach” putting the pupils first and with a love of education continued weekly teaching throughout his Headship.

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“He will be very sadly missed by the Dalriada community and by the many organisations he was involved with outside school.”

Dr Ian Walker and Ms Louise Crawford, Deputy Heads of the school commented that “he lived and breathed Dalriada. He had a pride in the school, always putting the staff and pupils at the centre of everything he did. He was head of our school family, and his humour and unwavering encouragement will be dearly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing and working with him.”

“We pass on our sincere sympathies to his wife Wilma, his sons Thomas and Andrew, daughters Emma and Alice and his sister June”.

<https://www.funeraltimes.com/thomas-jamesskelton758229827>

## **+Very Rev Dr Stephen White**

The death has taken place of Very Rev Dr Stephen White, who was Priest-in-Charge in the Gweedore Group of Parishes from 1988-92 and Dean of Raphoe from 1992 until 2002.

Dr White, who was born in London, left the Diocese of Derry and Raphoe to become Dean of Killaloe and served there until 2012, when he returned to parish ministry in England. He was married to Frances, and the couple had two grown-up sons, Samuel and Charles.



## **Kilkenny's famous Grammar School founded in 1538**

**One of the most famous schools of 16th century Ireland was the Grammar School founded by Piers Butler, 8th earl of Ormond, in c. 1538 within the Cathedral Close of St Canice's.**

The school was at the vanguard of the transformation of Kilkenny from a medieval town to a Renaissance city. One of the masters of the school was Peter White who taught humanism, classical Renaissance thought and had progressive ideas about how to educate children, including that the beating of children in schools should be banned! Much of the building still survives today in the library and





Reconstruction painting by Philip Armstrong and Cólín Ó Drisceoil of the Cathedral Close in the 16th century.

residence in the south-west corner of the Close and incorporates a tower on the town wall of Irishtown known as Black Rath castle.

In c. 1585 it was used as a public lecture room and in 1615 it became a public school. The Cromwellian attack in March 1650 led to its closure but it was re-established in c. 1666.

In 1684 it was transferred to a new premises on John Street and became Kilkenny College. Its site is now the Kilkenny County Council offices. Kilkenny Archaeology.



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# SO MUCH A PART OF US

**Tuesday 13th – Friday 16th February 2024**  
**St Comgall's Divis Street, 11am–4pm**

Our exhibition is free and open to all. It tells the story of Albert Street Presbyterian Church, which closed in 1971, providing a link to the past and a bridge to the future.

We will also be running two special events:

<b>Meet the Neighbours</b> Wednesday 14th, 2pm	<b>Book Launch</b> Friday 16th, 12noon
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For further information or to get in touch please contact Rev. David Moore

07707 028 312  
dtmoore765@gmail.com

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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.

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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](mailto:houstonmckelvey@mac.com)

