

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Messy pancake churches



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Messy pancake churches

It was a busy weekend in St Dot's (St Dorothea's, Gilnirk) with Messy Church on Friday (record attendance!) and free pancakes after church on Sunday.



St John's, Newcastle (left) also had a fantastic response.



News

70th Anniversary of Derryvullen North and Castle Archdale Mothers' Union (MU)



On Friday evening, members of the Derryvullen North and Castle Archdale Mothers' Union (MU) met for a meal in the Tullana, Lisnarick, to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the Branch.

They were joined by Mrs Heather Ellis (MU Diocesan President) and her husband, Bishop Ian Ellis. Lorraine (Branch Leader) welcomed everyone and Canon Betty said Grace.



The meal was wonderful. Karen and Raymond and their team were thanked for the lovely evening.

Long Service certificates were presented by Heather, who also reflected on the story of the MU in



Clogher and congratulated the members for their anniversary. A presentation was made by Paula to Heather to thank her for coming and to mark the anniversary.

There were also a display of photos and other items loaned by Canon Betty and Eileen along with a photo given to the Branch by the late Dr Margaret.

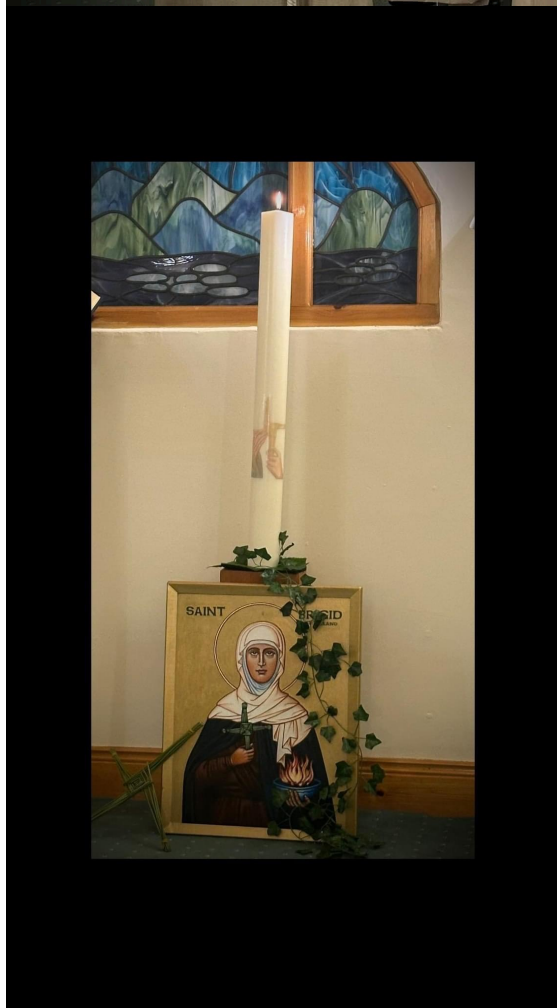


Poor Clares St. Brigid's anniversary candle

Northern Diocesan youth coordinator Janet Forbes was graced to be with the Poor Clare Community in Faughart for evening prayer as the St. Brigid's anniversary candle was received into the community.



The community will pray for the Archdiocese and its intentions in the coming year. Parish Communities are encouraged to take a portion of this light back to their communities during the upcoming year which is dedicated to the life and legacy of St. Brigid.





Invitation to St Matthew's Church Irishtown rededication

All are warmly invited to attend the official rededication and reopening of St Matthew's Church Irishtown by Archbishop Michael Jackson on Sunday afternoon February 18 at 3pm.

Dialogue of Friendship: Countering Voices of Enmity

Countering voices of enmity will be the focus of the second Dialogue of Friendship conference which will

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**DIALOGUE OF
FRIENDSHIP:
COUNTERING
VOICES OF
ENMITY**

Saturday, 25 May 2024
Wesley House, Ranelagh, Dublin, D06 N5P0

Book online at:
bit.ly/3HEKZ20
Free of charge but places are limited!

Keynote Speaker
The Revd Bonnie Evans-Hills
Bonnie Evans-Hills is a priest in the Scottish Episcopal Church and has considerable experience in inter-religious dialogue, working with organisations such as the EU Commission on Foreign Affairs & Security, the World Council of Churches, Churches Together in Britain & Ireland, the Anglican Communion, and the Anglican Mission organisation USPG (United Society for Partners in the Gospel). She was recently awarded the Hubert Walter Award for Reconciliation and Interfaith Cooperation by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Co-sponsored by:
 Church of Ireland
Interfaith Working Group
 Sanctuary in Faith
Places of Sanctuary Ireland

take place on Saturday May 25 in Wesley House, Leeson Park, Dublin.

The Church of Ireland's Interfaith Working Group is partnering with the Sanctuary in Faith Stream of Places of Sanctuary Ireland to present this day conference and networking event highlighting stories of interfaith and intercultural friendship and collaboration, and encouraging faith communities to engage with the Places of Sanctuary Ireland network.

All are welcome to attend and the organisers hope that participants will be encouraged and inspired through this event. It is free of charge but registration is essential.

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Bonnie has been involved in contributing to the UN Office for the Prevention of Genocide’s Global Plan of Action for Religious Leaders & Actors. Alongside several other publications, Bonnie is co–author of the book ‘Engaging Islam from a Christian Perspective,’ published by Peter Lang. She was recently awarded the Hubert Walter Award for Reconciliation and Interfaith Cooperation by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Sharing ‘Good News’:

Case studies of local projects in action

- ‘Connect’ Project, Centenary Methodist Church, Dublin
- Sanctuary Ambassadors

Raising Awareness:

Niamh McDonald, Director, Hope and Courage Collective

Hope and Courage Collective is a national civil society organisation that works with community groups, advocacy groups, trade unions, activists and academics to stop hate organising in communities and workplaces.

Conference Running Order

Tea/coffee will be available from 10.00–10.30am, with programme beginning at 11.00 sharp. The programme will conclude at 16.00. Lunch is included and will be prepared by ‘Cooking for Freedom’, a group of residents from direct provision centres around Dublin, who gather for cooking and conversation in community kitchen spaces, including in Wesley House.

This event is free of charge, but places are limited. Booking deadline is Friday May 17.

Book on Eventbrite here.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dialogue-of-friendship-countering-voices-of-enmity-tickets-813535525657>

If you find that your availability changes after booking your place, we kindly request that you cancel your booking so that your space can be made available to someone else.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Podcast with Archbishop of York

“What I see in the Diocese of Sheffield is a Diocese that is asking the right questions, not ducking them. I


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believe I have a lot to learn from the Diocese of Sheffield.”

The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York, is the guest on Words of Grace from Sheffield diocese this week.

Archbishop Stephen talks about:

- ✝ Not coming from a faith background
- ✝ The new Faith in the North initiative for the Northern Province
- ✝ What he learned from his visit to the Diocese of Sheffield in 2023
- ✝ The challenges facing the church today
- ✝ His eclectic music tastes: from Chopin to Eminem!

Listen here, or wherever you get your podcasts 
sheffdio.org/podcast

A Portrait of the Artist Sir John Lavery

Born in north Belfast, Sir John Lavery was, throughout his long career, a highly successful and acclaimed portraitist.

Yet, beyond the fashionable world of his salon and studio he travelled widely and recorded his impressions in a remarkable series of paintings.

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To coincide with the Ulster Museum exhibition Lavery on Location this illustrated talk by Anne Stewart, Senior Curator of Art, National Museums NI, gives an introduction to Lavery's world.

WHISPERS & THUNDER

THE ELGAR ORGAN
FINDS ITS NEW VOICE



A CELEBRATION CONCERT
TO MARK THE REBUILDING
WITH ACCLAIMED
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIST
JONATHAN SCOTT

**ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES CHURCH
HOLYWOOD
SATURDAY 2ND MARCH - 7.30PM**

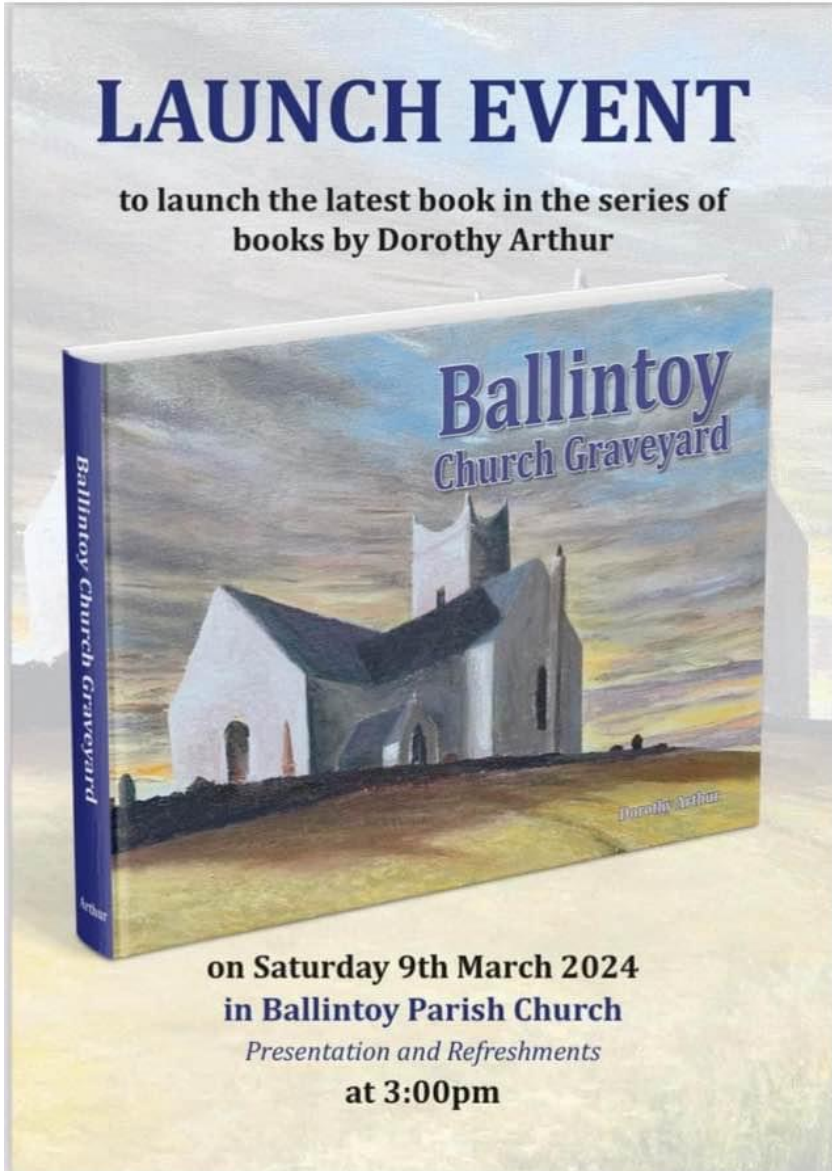
Tickets £15.00 available from
Holywood Parish Office
71 Church Road Holywood, BT18 9BX
Phone: 028 9042 3622
Email : info@holywoodparishchurch.co.uk
or online at www.holywoodparishchurch.co.uk





Alistair McMullan

7 m · 👤



You and Brian Shaw



Like



Comment



Send



Dunluce Parish

29 m · 🌐



Today is Ash Wednesday and St Valentine's Day! 💕
Issac Watts, hymn writer, when he wrote "When I survey

Following the talk at Belfast Jesuit Centre, Sun 25 Feb, 1pm, you are invited to visit St Patrick's Church (next door on Donegall Street) to view Lavery's triptych, Madonna of the Lakes, which he gifted to the church where he was baptised. The work depicts St Brigid, St Patrick and the Madonna. Lavery's models were the three women in his life: his daughter, his step-daughter and his wife.

Presented in association with National Museums NI and St Patrick's Parish.

Booking: tickettailor.com/events/thenorthbelfastfestival

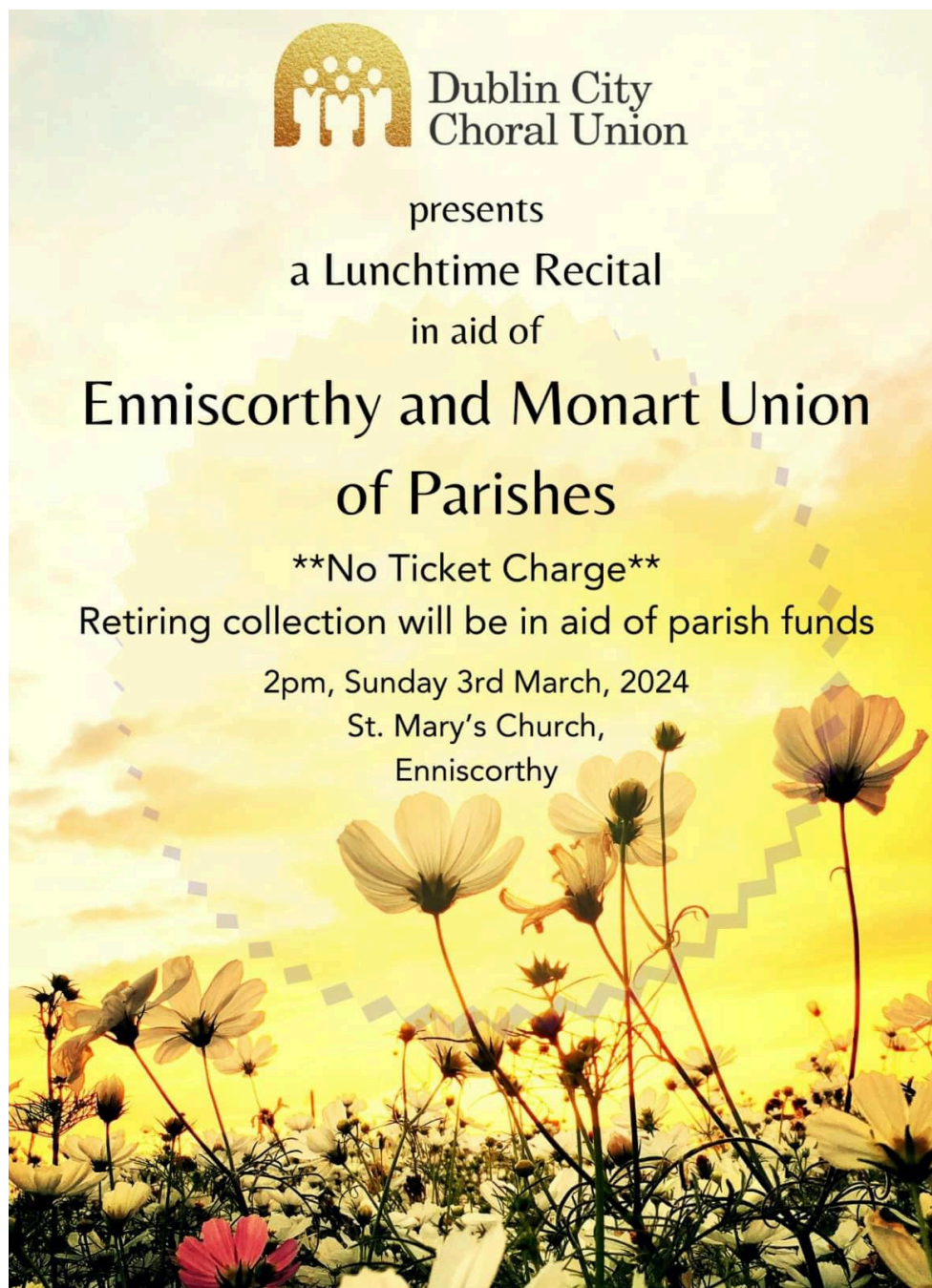
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Hear GRAMMY winner choristers on BBC Radio

Tune in to hear the choristers of Winchester Cathedral talk about how it feels to win a Grammy...

You can listen here: <https://bbc.in/49w4juh> (From 2 hours 25 minutes).

Read more about the award here: <https://bit.ly/48kcx7P>



 Dublin City
Choral Union

presents
a Lunchtime Recital
in aid of

**Enniscorthy and Monart Union
of Parishes**

****No Ticket Charge****
Retiring collection will be in aid of parish funds

2pm, Sunday 3rd March, 2024
St. Mary's Church,
Enniscorthy

Perspective



Evensong eavesdrop - Quentin Letts

Not your normal evensong today at St David's cathedral. Instead, at St David's tomb, we found an orthodox vespers conducted in Welsh, English, Greek and I think some Russian.

A congregation of 20 included a party of pilgrims from Oxford that included people from Georgia, Ukraine, Belarus, Latvia, Russia plus a handful of locals.

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The service was taken by three priests, one with a long, grey beard. Some of the women covered their heads. I recognised the Lord's prayer and the Nunc Dimittis (a surging, stirring version) and numerous eleisons. Chests were crossed a lot. Some of the Oxford visitors sang, the music being quite mournful, its harmonies reminding one of Ukraine's national anthem (perhaps the anthem is based on a sacred chant, I don't know).

Incense was burned, not excessively but enough to set off my chest and to make the Dean sneeze, which she did v tidily.

One tousled chap of about 65, in a dark greatcoat, appeared to find the service deeply affecting and after a short he while resumed his seat to bury his head in his hands..... Quentin Letts

In the media

Speculation grows over next Bishop of Raphoe and diocese amalgamations - Donegal News

Speculation is mounting regarding who will succeed Dr. Alan McGuckian as Bishop of Raphoe amid claims the Vatican might delay the decision in order to announce diocese amalgamations, a move that could signal the biggest shake-up of Irish Church structures in a generation, Jerome Hughes writes in the Donegal News.

When Dr. McGuckian takes up his new role as Bishop of Down and Connor at the start of next month, Raphoe's College of Consultors will meet to choose a Diocesan Administrator.

“The fact that an administrator is not being appointed straight away leads me to believe that some sort of diocese amalgamation might be in the pipeline.

“There has been a lot of talk about this possibility in recent years,” one senior priest told the Donegal News.

Not wishing to be identified due to the sensitive nature of the subject, the senior cleric explained how priest numbers and mass attendance figures would be among the factors considered when deciding diocese boundaries and potential amalgamations.

“Any major reform could be controversial because church buildings, parishes and dioceses are steeped in history, and people care very much about local heritage,” warned the priest.

The College of Consultors is a diocesan body made up of around 12 priests, chosen by the Bishop from the Diocesan Council of Priests. Canon law requires the Bishop to consult with his College of Consultors before making certain decisions.

“It's my understanding that, according to Canon law, the College must appoint an administrator to run the diocese within 8 days of Bishop McGuckian's departure.

“The truth is we don’t know precisely when a decision will be made regarding Dr. McGuckian’s permanent replacement,” said the priest.

Bishop McGuckian confirmed in a statement last week that he will be returning to his native Diocese of Down and Connor within weeks:

“I was informed a short time ago by the Apostolic Nuncio that Pope Francis was asking this new service of me. It will be a great sorrow for me to leave so many wonderful friends here in Donegal. I have been overwhelmed during the past six years by the kindness and readiness of so many people to take me into their hearts. It has been the greatest privilege of my life to have been your Bishop.”

Make churchyards for the living, not just the dead, urges bishop - Daily Telegraph

Churchyards should be rewilded to become “places of the living, not just the dead”, a bishop has said, Gabriella Swerling writes

The Bishop of Norwich, the Rt Revd Graham Usher, who is the Church of England’s lead bishop on the environment, made the comments in response to a paper submitted to the General Synod, the Church of England’s law making body, which is set to convene later this month.

His comments come as the Church has set an ambitious target to achieve net-zero by 2030. It is also a response to a

major new plan for the Church to strengthen its response to the biodiversity crisis amid its broader plans for tackling climate change. In a written paper submitted to the Synod for consideration by the Revd Dr Mark Betson, the Church's National Public Policy Advisor, a motion on land and nature was submitted to bring biodiversity higher up the Church's agenda, so that it is given equal weight as the current net zero goals.

The Revd said: "At the parish level the most common area where there is notable biodiversity potential is within the churchyard. These places carry significance for the communities that surround them and are likely to be managed by the parish or in concert with the Parish Council.

"Their significance and primary role as burial grounds mean that increasing biodiversity within churchyards needs to be balanced with public access and consideration for mourners."

In response, the bishop said many local communities and parishes have already been working on ways to create a positive impact on biodiversity in the way they manage churchyards, including limiting mowing.

"If some parts of the churchyard are not mown, allowing the sward and particularly rare species of plants to grow up in flower, there's a real interest from communities around that. If you do the correct and right interpretation, explaining what you're wanting to do, combining that management with perhaps areas that are mown, particularly around recent graves," he said. "But my dream is that churchyards will be places of the living, not just the dead."

The General Synod voted in 2020 for a 2030 net zero target with a Route Map on how to achieve it in 2022.

Poem for today

As we begin the season of Lent, we offer this prayer -

God whose love journeys with us,
God whose love will hold us close:
as we begin these forty days
and venture into deeper truth,
may we move towards an embrace
with a humanity we've lost.
May we find in simpler living
that comforts become crutches;
that self-protection suffocates.
And may we then see
in glaring desert light
a love you have for us,
a love that can restore us
to a place of fuller contentment.
Amen.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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