

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Mothering Sunday game changers

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Mothering Sunday game changers

An invitation to celebrate Mothering Sunday with the Mothers Union worldwide. As we prepare to celebrate Mothering Sunday and cherish our mothers and special women in our lives, you are invited to purchase a 'Gift of Dignity' in their honour.

You'll receive a card that explains your gift, plus a beautiful Mothering Sunday greetings card.

Give a gift that will create lasting change and turn the tide on gender inequality. Please have a look here:

<https://mueshop.org/collections/make-a-mothers-day-2024>

News

Ireland's Josh van der Flier endorses Dublin diocesan 'Shine a Light' appeal

Ireland and Leinster rugby player Josh van der Flier has taken time out from his busy Six Nations schedule to throw his weight behind Dublin & Glendalough's Shine a Light campaign for Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza City.

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The 2022 World Rugby Player of the Year is calling on everyone to support the United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough's appeal which is raising much needed funds for the hospital run by our partners in the Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem.



Al Ahli serves all faiths and none and is part of the Diocese of Jerusalem's Christian outreach. Every cent you donate will go to the Diocese of Jerusalem for the hospital. In particular we are focused on three areas: repairing or replacing the solar panels Dublin and Glendalough provided 10 years ago; contributing to the repair of the hospital's cancer centre; and the treatment and rehabilitation of children, both physically and psychologically.

Any donation big or small is welcomed. You can support by donating to our Go Fund Me campaign – <https://gofund.me/0b2a08e6>

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You can still donate by bank transfer to: Diocesan Funds of Dublin and Glendalough No 1 A/C Current Account, Bank of Ireland, 2 COLLEGE GREEN DUBLIN 2 IBAN: IE50 BOFI 9000 1769 3548 78, BIC: BOFIIIE2D. Cheques may be sent to Diocesan Offices of Dublin and Glendalough, Church of Ireland House, Church Avenue, Rathmines, Dublin 6, D06 CF67.



Belfast Cathedral stalwart's 100th birthday

**Stanley McIlroy MBE,
celebrated his 100th
birthday on Thursday.**

Stanley has been a member of the cathedral congregation for over 60 years and was also a member of the Cathedral Board for over 30 years. He was the leading cathedral fundraiser during the period of the development of the ambulatory and the Chapel of Unity. He was also the Christian Stewardship recorder.

With his late wife he was an outstanding supporter and fund-raiser for cancer research, raising over the years in the region of one million pounds. This was part of his voluntary service recognised by the awarding of the MBE in 2016. He was also active in the support of Masonic charities.

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He was a close friend and supporter of Dean Crooks, and particularly in establishing the Belfast Cathedral Black Santa Sitout.

Stanley had a surprise visit from the Bishop of Connor, RT Rev George Davison and the Very Rev Stephen Forde who presented him with cards from the diocese and from the cathedral family.

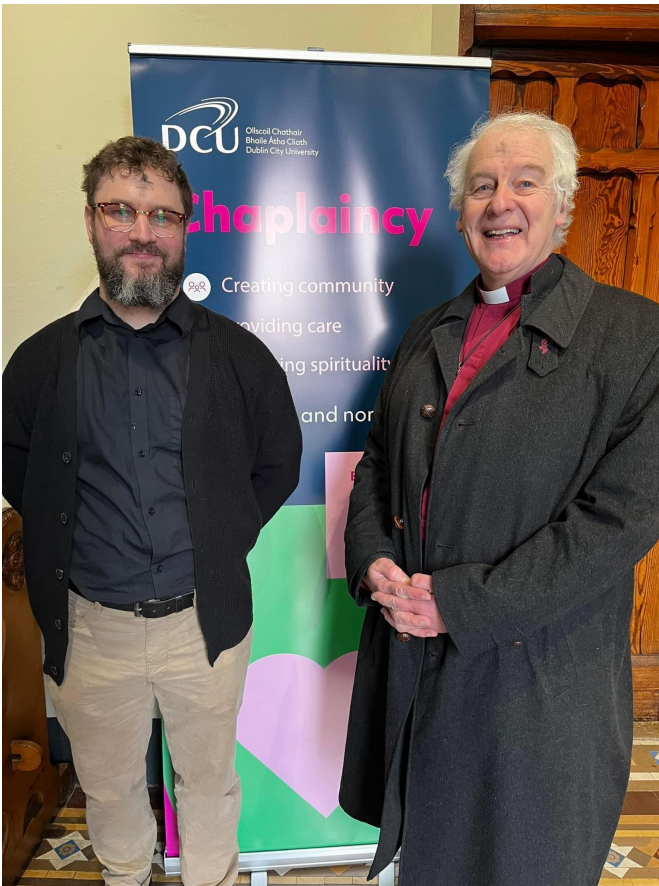
Ash Wednesday chaplancy services in Belfast and Dublin

**DCU Chaplancy
Ash Wednesday
service** - “What a blessing to mark the beginning of Lent with our Ash Wednesday service in the beautiful All Hallows Chapel. Thank you to Rev. Jane Burns



for reminding of Gods love shown through Jesus, to Archbishop Jackson for leading the service so thoughtfully,

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and to Rev. Anne Lodge for organising it all”.



Queen's University Catholic Chaplaincy -

“What an incredible start to Lent we’ve had. More than 1200 students and staff passed through Elmwood Hall for Mass and the imposition of Ashes and to hear inspiring words from Fr Conor McDonough OP.

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“Remember this is just the start of your Lenten journey, and we’re here to support you throughout”.



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Anglican reps meet with COMECE and EU in Brussels

A very encouraging meeting was held this week between Anglican reps including Archbishop Justin Welby and COMECE in Brussels discussing current issues including migration and Ukraine.

The Anglican Bishop in Europe Robert Innes said, “Pleased to welcome Archbishop Justin Welby to Brussels yesterday following his visit to Ukraine”.





Archbishop Welby referred to “an important meeting with Stefano Sassino, Sec. Gen. of the EU External Action Service. We will stand together with Ukraine in all circumstances”.

Heading the COMECE representatives was the former. Catholic Bishop of Down & Connor, Noel Treanor.

Archbishop of Canterbury on shocking rise in antisemitic abuse in the UK

Archbishop of Canterbury said this week - “The shocking rise in antisemitic abuse in the UK since October 7th demands deep soul searching from us all. Whatever our differences in religion, ethnicity, or stance on the war in

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Gaza, our Jewish neighbours need to feel and know they are safe. We must stand in solidarity with each other and call out all forms of antisemitism”.

Anglican Communion presents resolutions on to the UN Environment Assembly

As we witness the impact of the environmental crises on God’s world, the Revd Rachel Mash, Coordinator for the Anglican Communion Environment Network, presented resolutions on to the UN Environment Assembly:

'These resolutions give us a new way of being - from a throw away economic system to a circular economy that recognises the value of the environment and our interconnectedness'.

C of E Statement from the House of Bishops on the war in Gaza

C of E House of Bishops makes call for immediate ceasefire and release of hostages

Statement from the C of E House of Bishops on the war in Gaza -

With the onset of Israel’s ground offensive into Rafah, we call for an immediate ceasefire. The relentless

[The Catholic Church in Gaza](#)



Ash Wednesday in Gaza's Catholic Church

bombardment of Gaza and its huge cost in civilian lives and civilian infrastructure must stop. The manner in which this war is being prosecuted cannot be morally justified.

We urge Israel to adhere to the ICJ order and to ensure that Palestinians have access to food, water, healthcare, and safety, that have long been denied to them. We welcome the Foreign Secretary's recent call for an immediate pause in the fighting and would also welcome further representation to the Government of Israel about the way that it is exercising its right to self-defence and to affirm adherence to international law.

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We continue to advocate for the release of the remaining hostages and an end to the missile attacks on Israel by Hamas. All sides must begin to imagine a future beyond this conflict: for a just peace for Israelis and Palestinians. This war can't result in the consolidation of a system of occupation that has for too long denied Palestinians their rights and freedoms.

In praying for all those in Israel and Palestine living in the midst of war and the fear of war, we pray particularly for the Palestinian Christian communities, that they may know strength and the presence of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace.

As we consider the impact of the current conflict in the Middle East on community relations here in the UK, we again condemn all antisemitic and anti-Muslim sentiment. We are horrified by the growing threats and abuses of Jews on university campuses, in our neighbourhoods, and online. We appeal to our communities to be safe for all people whatever their nationality, ethnicity or religion. For our own part, we commit to working alongside our fellow faith leaders for the common good, despite and with our differences.
The House of Bishops 13/02/2024

Dublin Rector hits the road for Lent

Canon Gillian Wharton's Lenten Challenge has become a regular fixture. During Lent 2024 Gillian is walking at least 5km every day – Wednesday February 14 to Saturday March 30 2024 inclusive – “no skipping out on Sundays!” she promises.

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AshOriginally the Rector of Booterstown and Carysfort with Mount Merrion began the challenge in support of the Irish Cancer Society during COVID in response to not being able to have the usual parish Daffodil Service followed by a Daffodil Coffee Morning with Bring-and-Buy.

Since her first challenge in 2021, it has become a Lenten tradition with funds being raised for a variety of causes including the Irish Cancer Society, Protestant Aid, Blackrock Hospice, the Irish Motor Neurone Disease Association, the victims of the earthquake in Turkey and Syria (channelled through the Bishops' Appeal) and parish funds.

GATHERED
YOUTH GROUP

PRAISE NIGHT

Sunday 25th February
7pm
St Andrew's Church
Ballysally

Contemporary and Traditional Hymns

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“Lent is the season for examining ourselves and seeing how we can more fully reflect the life and love of Christ and his commandment to us to love our neighbour as ourselves. That means respecting and caring for others and for ourselves,” Gillian comments.

“Therefore, again, this Lent, I am encouraging people to take up something that gives you a focus each day and that benefits you physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually, and lives out loving your neighbour as yourself.

“This year, I’ll be walking each day for my spiritual, mental, emotional and physical wellbeing and for the victims of the conflict between Palestine and Israel, (channelled through the Bishops’ Appeal and the Dublin and Glendalough Diocesan ‘Shine a Light Appeal’ to assist the Al–Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza which is run by the Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem (which covers Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon, Syria and Israel). It is the only Christian hospital in the Gaza strip and the only cancer hospital in Gaza. It normally treats approximately 45,000 patients a year. Al–Ahli Hospital in Gaza welcomes and treats people of all faiths and none,” she explains.

You can make a donation to support Gillian’s efforts by online banking to:

Boosterstown and Mount Merrion Account IBAN:
IE30IPBS99062932796541 BIC: IPBSIE2D

You can follow her progress on Facebook and Instagram and she will be inviting people to walk with her on some days.

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Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



Crucifixion

A meditation on the sacred passion of the Holy Redeemer; an oratorio by **Sir John Stalner**.

Sung by the Osborne Singers
Soloists Michael Brown and Glenn Tweedle
Organist Richard Campbell
Guest conductor Collin Scott

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Abaana New Life Choir at St John's Church, Falls Rd., Belfast



On Sunday 3rd March 2024, the Abaana New Life Choir will be coming to perform in St John's Church, Falls Rd., Belfast.

Don't miss the opportunity to see this incredible group of 20 young Ugandan children performing live in concert.

Admission is free with a voluntary collection taken up at the end of the concert. Save the date and spread the word.



Diploma in Youth Ministry & Spirituality

✕ Even if you've never studied theology before, the Diploma in Youth Ministry and Spirituality enables you to qualify for Youth Pastoral Work in just one year!

If you want to study more about the Catholic Faith, and gain hands-on placement education experience in youth ministry, apply now for this one-year, full-time, level 7 Diploma.



Big Breakfast Fundraiser

Saturday 9 March 2024

Portglenone Parish Centre
Breakfast Served 9am to 11.30am

£5 for 5 piece fry or £7 for 7 piece fry.

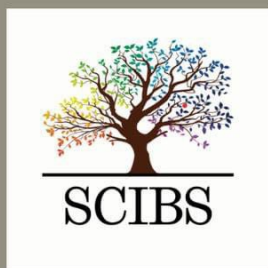
Ahoghill & Portglenone Church of Ireland are sending a small team to Ibba, South Sudan in August 2024 with CMS Ireland for a short-term mission trip!



PORTGLENONE PARISH CHURCH
ROOTED IN THE GOSPEL GROWING IN CHRIST SERVING WITH LOVE



Online seminar with Yale professor



Sheffield
Centre for
Interdisciplinary
Biblical
Studies

THE USE OF REVELATION IN AMERICAN IMMIGRATION HISTORY

Prof. Yii-Jan Lin (Yale University)

Monday 26 February 2024

2-3:30pm (UK time)

Online

From European discovery to the present, America has been imagined as a heavenly destination—as the New Jerusalem of the Book of Revelation. This apocalyptic metaphor and the narratives and images of Revelation have played a significant role in American discourses about national identity and its attitudes toward immigrant groups. This talk examines the America-as-New Jerusalem metaphor and its role in anti-immigrant movements, focusing on anti-Chinese discourse in particular.



Email m.j.warren@sheffield.ac.uk for link

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SCIBS (Sheffield Centre for Interdisciplinary Biblical Studies) next online research seminar will be on 26 February at 2pm. Prof Yii-Jan Lin (Yale University) will give a paper titled, "The Use of Revelation in American Immigration History" Please email Dr Meredith Warren (link on previous page) for the link to join. For abstract visit

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1SWzEbbISG6_4z0EK-b_8glGOVaqBx3vbmzwbxMfhio/edit

Poem for today

Next, Please

by Philip Larkin

Always too eager for the future, we
Pick up bad habits of expectancy.
Something is always approaching; every day
Till then we say,

Watching from a bluff the tiny, clear
Sparkling armada of promises draw near.
How slow they are! And how much time they waste,
Refusing to make haste!

Yet still they leave us holding wretched stalks
Of disappointment, for, though nothing balks
Each big approach, leaning with brasswork prinked,
Each rope distinct,

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Flagged, and the figurehead wit golden tits
Arching our way, it never anchors; it's
No sooner present than it turns to past.
Right to the last

We think each one will heave to and unload
All good into our lives, all we are owed
For waiting so devoutly and so long.
But we are wrong:

Only one ship is seeking us, a black-
Sailed unfamiliar, towing at her back
A huge and birdless silence. In her wake
No waters breed or break.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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