

Church News Ireland

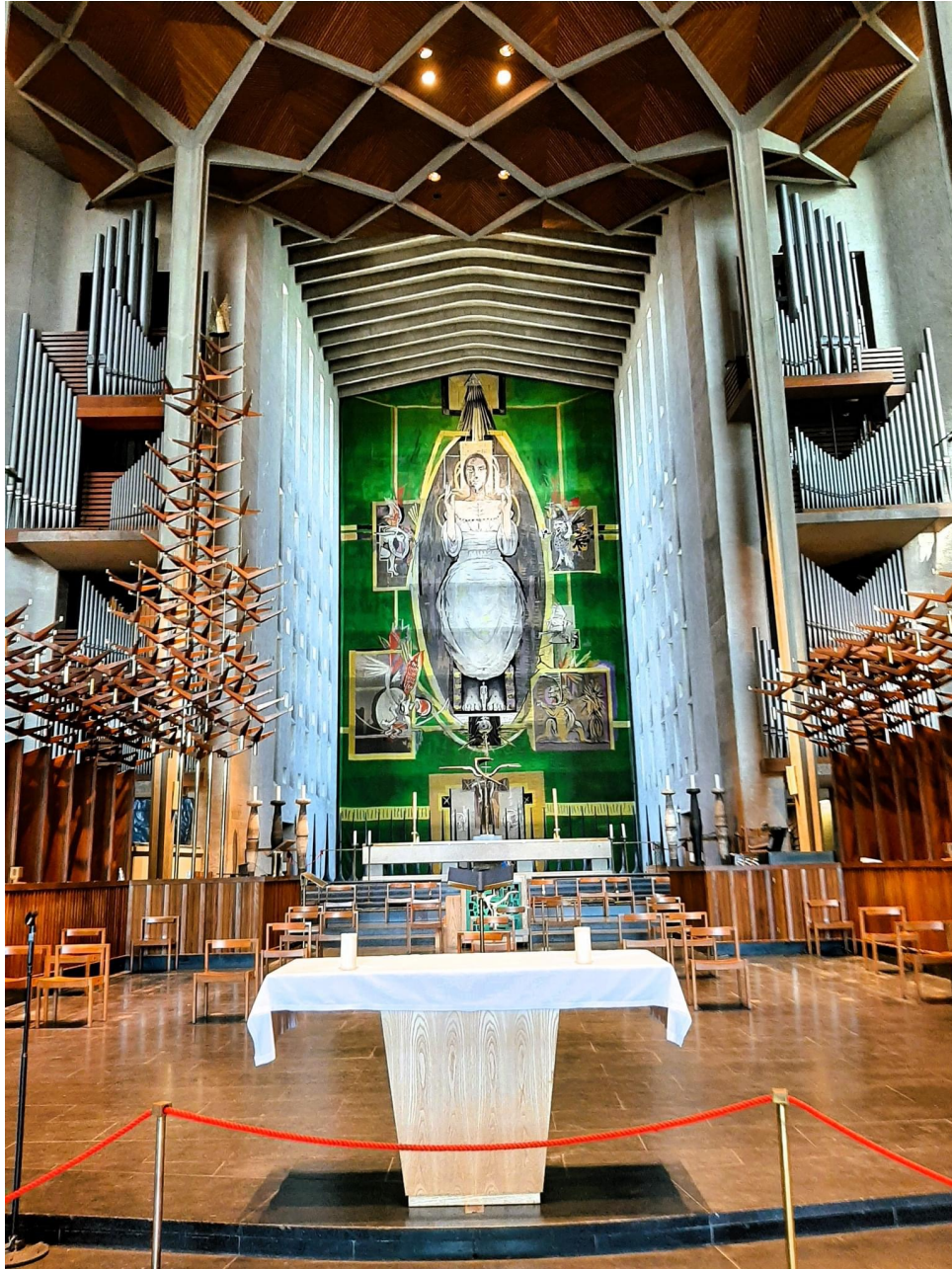


Image of the day – Cathedral call – Coventry

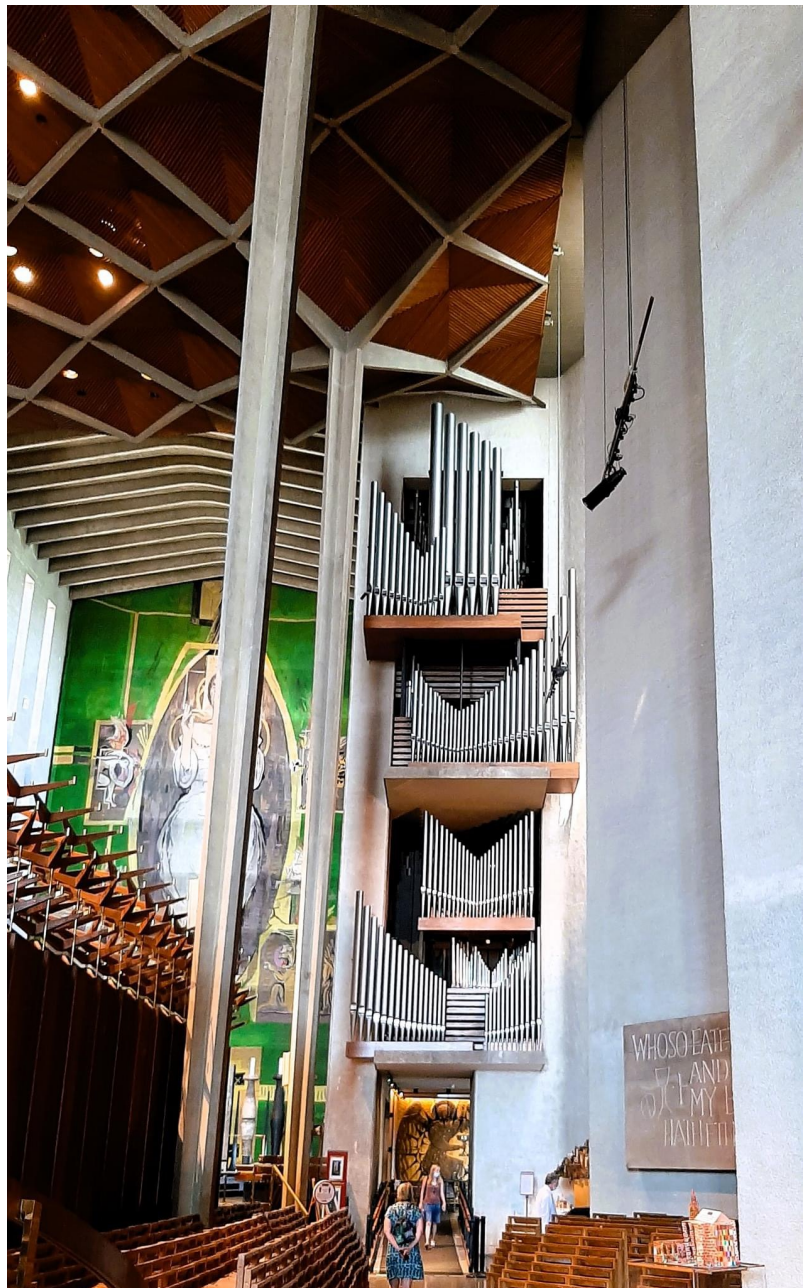
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Image of the day

Cathedral call - Coventry

CNI introduces Cathedral Call which is intended to be a regular feature with first class photography, and a link to the cathedral's web site.

Coventry is a parable of beauty, commitment and reverence overcoming the horrors of war. Art and architecture combine.



Organ pipes add to the grace of the cathedral. Enjoy and if you can be a pilgrim there you will be richly rewarded.

The Cathedral states - "As a global leader in Christian reconciliation, we show that journeys of transformation from darkness to light, aren't just possible. They happen here, every day. We invite you to visit us and experience them".

The cathedral you see today is the third to be built on the present site. "Founded with a Saxon nunnery circa AD 700,

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Coventry has endured conflict with King Canute (whose army destroyed the nunnery), Henry II (whose army largely destroyed Coventry Castle), Henry VIII (whose Reformation saw the destruction of the first cathedral), Charles I (Coventry was a



parliamentary stronghold) and, in 1940, with Hitler's Luftwaffe. The city and cathedral share a history of conflict just as, today, they share a determination to build justice and peace, by healing wounds and learning to live with difference”.

<https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/>

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News

Love your neighbour (hood)

Hillsborough Presbyterian Church began the Lenten season by considering it from an ecological perspective - 'Love your neighbour (hood)'



“A visit from the Climate Justice Candle on last Sunday morning with our service reflecting on focussing our minds on God’s wonderful creation”.

Pictured with Rev Dr Sleith are members of the congregation’s eco sub committee.

An Eco-Congregation Ireland



International Anglican Liturgical Consultation in Korea

This week, the International Anglican Liturgical Consultation will meet in Seoul. IALC is the official network for liturgy of the Anglican Communion. It promotes the deepening of communion between Anglican churches by renewing its life of liturgy and prayer as integral to the mission of Christ. Please pray for the members of the consultation this week and representatives of the Anglican Communion Office that are supporting the meeting.

Fire destroys outhouses at St Brigid's Cathedral

Meath & Kildare diocese posts - We are very sad to see that a fire has destroyed the outhouses at St Brigid's Cathedral, Kildare.

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“There was a massive blaze and we are thankful that four fire crews attended and prevented the fire spreading. The



cause is as yet unknown. We are grateful for the volunteers, staff and neighbours who attended last night. The thoughts and prayers of our diocesan family are with the parishioners”.

Dunluce Exhibition – call out to artists and photographers

The annual Dunluce Parish Art and Photography Exhibition will be held in Bushmills from Friday May 3 to Monday May 6.

Although the event is still some time away, the organisers have sounded a call out to artists and photographers to take part.

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Anyone interested in showing their works will find details in the Invitation to Artists document and Entry Form on the Downloads page of www.dunluceparish.org. The closing date for receipt of entries is Friday April 19 2024. Queries can be sent to the coordinator of the exhibition, Aileen Gault, dunluceparishart@outlook.com

Aileen said: “Last year we had 226 works on display by 59 artists/photographers and were delighted that 50 works by 32 participants were sold. The event was a lovely social occasion and feedback on the quality of the work was excellent.

“We raised £2,585 for charity in 2023 and we hope to build on that this year, when the Church of Ireland Bishops’ Appeal is once again our nominated charity.”

Create a heartfelt tribute at Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin

Saint Patrick's Cathedral writes - This Easter, join us in creating a heartfelt tribute at Saint Patrick's Cathedral! We're crafting a touching display of individual lilies to honour the memory of your cherished family members and friends.

“During Easter Sunday prayers and All Souls' Day, the names of your loved ones will be read. The lilies, adorned with cards bearing the names and sponsors, will grace the Cathedral in a special remembrance.



“To participate, kindly send your name, the person you wish to remember, and €5 per lily to 'Easter Flowers' at Saint Patrick's Cathedral Office, Dublin 8 by Monday 11th of March.

“Come together with us to celebrate Easter joy and cherish everlasting memories”.

Encounter speaker – meet Danielle

Down & Dromore diocese posts - “We’re delighted that Revd Danielle McCullagh is one of the speakers at our next Encounter morning for women in the diocese on Saturday 9 March in Holy Trinity Banbridge.

Danielle writes - “For just over a year, I’ve been the chaplain at The Hub Belfast, the joint Church of Ireland and Methodist Chaplaincy at Queen’s University and Stranmillis College.



“Monday to Friday, I’m responsible for discipling the 50 residential students who live with us during term time. It’s a privilege to lead a staff team who are committed to seeing student’s lives changed by Jesus, and to helping them grow in their God given gifts. On Sundays, I lead The Church of the Resurrection, the all–age community who worship at The Hub every Sunday morning.

“Prior to becoming chaplain, I was on the staff of Lisburn Cathedral for 6 years, as Curate then Vicar and before training for ordination I worked in special needs in Carnmoney Primary School. I became a Christian at 14 years old and since then, I have experienced the healing power of God, as he has restored me from a childhood deeply marked and shaped by my dad’s addiction. I’m passionate about helping other people to encounter the Lord, who brings that healing, restoration, and freedom!

“When I’m not surrounded by students, I love to travel and see the world! Although, my favourite place to be is the North Coast – you just can’t beat the East Strand in the sun!”

Walled City Passion to return to Derry this Easter with live, on-street performances

Derry city is to host an on-street, live reimagining of the Easter story again this year as the Walled City Passion returns for 2024.

Running from 28th – 30th March, this distinctive portrayal of the timeless tale will come to life amid the city's abundant heritage. The journey begins at St Columb's Cathedral, winds through the historic walls, and culminates at the iconic Guildhall.

Following the success of last year's event, this innovative production offers immersive street theatre enchanting audiences through a blend of ancient and modern storytelling techniques.

Set against the famous Derry Walls, the Walled City Passion revitalises the narrative of Jesus within a contemporary context, delving into themes of love, faith, and sacrifice.

Director and author of the Walled City Passion, Jonathan Burgess, explained how he was once again looking forward to turning the ancient walls into a piece of living art.

"From the beginning, the project was envisioned as a live performance staged on the City Walls," he said.

"Each year we have adapted the story and carefully selected a route that elevates the atmosphere of the production. For the audience, the historic walls become a



Congratulations to the eight new Cadets of the Order of Malta Ireland - Ambulance Corps - Mervue who were invested as members at Saint Patrick's Garrison Church, Renmore, and who made their promise before God to serve Our Lords the Poor and Our Lords the Sick. Significantly, they made their commitment on the World Day of the Sick, which is also the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. Pray for their perseverance and for blessings in their tasks.

silent character, one that has the power to enthrall, thereby transforming the production into an enchanting and memorable occasion.

“This year, we are centring on the often overlooked characters, with a special emphasis on marginalised women.”

He continued: “Characters such as Mary Magdalene, a faithful follower of Jesus, has commonly been represented as a repentant prostitute, yet she is also portrayed by the gospels as one of the most unrelenting and loyal supporters of Christ.

“She even earned the title of the ‘apostle to the apostles’ as she was the one credited with proclaiming Jesus’ resurrection to the other disciples. This deliberate focus on less prominent characters aims to bring a sense of depth to their stories, cultivating a richer and more inclusive storytelling experience for our audience.”

Producer of the Walled City Passion, Archdeacon Robert Miller, emphasised the project's concept, stating: “The play is central to our vision of an annual event on the walls, aiming to establish a signature experience drawing visitors from afar.

“Each year the captivating performance of Walled City Passion ignites a new creative era for audiences to explore and engage with, as well as highlighting the wealth of talent and creativity found within the city.

“The production boasts a talented cast of local professionals, while also providing an opportunity for emerging performers to gain valuable experience,” added Archdeacon Miller.

“The extraordinary ensemble craft such an enchanting atmosphere on set that radiates through every scene. Their connection serves as the vital element that brings the Walled City Passion to life.”

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Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District, Councillor Patricia Logue, welcomed the return of the unique production: “As the Mayor of our vibrant city, I am thrilled with the return of the Walled City Passion which unfolds against our city's historic walls.

“This fantastic event embodies the vibrant spirit that defines our city, and I, along with many others, eagerly await its return.”

Staged at 12:00pm and 3:00pm on Thursday 28th, Friday 29th and Saturday 30th March, the performance will commence at the Church of Ireland Diocesan Office on London St.

Cardinal calls for an end to war in the Holy Land

Echoing the words of Pope Francis for an urgent appeal for a lasting ceasefire, Cardinal Vincent Nichols has this week called for the release of all hostages, for humanitarian aid to be allowed through to help those most in need in Gaza, and for hospitals, schools and places of worship to be protected.

In his statement, the Cardinal writes:

'On 8th January, when speaking to the Diplomatic Corps accredited to the Holy See, Pope Francis addressed the terrible conflict in the Holy Land. He said:

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"To all the parties involved, I renew my appeal for a ceasefire on every front, including Lebanon, and the immediate liberation of all the hostages held in Gaza. I ask that the Palestinian people receive humanitarian aid and that hospitals, schools and places of worship receive all necessary protection."

This appeal takes on a fresh urgency at this moment of extreme danger if a ground offensive were to be launched in southern Gaza, in an area densely peopled by those already made homeless by this conflict. It is an appeal being echoed by many at this time, to whose voices I readily add my own.

'Let us pray insistently for relief for those who face multiple dangers, for an immediate cessation of armed conflict and for every serious attempt at a lasting ceasefire to be sustained.

'In this Diocese of Westminster I have called for a special time of prayer on 8th March, as a vital part of our observance of Lent. I invite others to take up this call, too.'

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Irish Council of Christians and Jews - Free lecture

Catholic-Jewish Relations Today: Past Progress, Present Problems, Promising Paths

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“Join us on Zoom on Thursday Feb 22 @ 3pm for a timely discussion with the eminent Phil Cunningham, Professor of Theology and director of the Institute for Jewish-Catholic Relations of Saint Joseph’s University in Philadelphia, PA, and former President of the International Council of Christians and Jews - ICCJ.”

Topic: Professor Philip Cunningham, "Catholic-Jewish Relations Today: Past Progress, Present Problems, Promising Paths."

Time: Feb 22, 2024 03:00 PM Dublin

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://dcu-ie.zoom.us/j/91755088836?pwd=Nl dpS0FRWW1ZenJ0UU1oQ01zVThJUT09>

Meeting ID: 917 5508 8836 Passcode: 685968

In Praise of St. Cecilia

Sestina Music is excited to share its incredible lineup of performers for In Praise of St. Cecilia, April 2024.

“Love to sing? We got you covered! Lift up your voices under the direction of Mark Chambers & join this outstanding lineup in hour-long choral workshops in Belfast and Kilkenny”.

Tickets for both events are available at www.sestinamusic.com or via the link in their bio

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Don't delay, seize the opportunity to meet their musicians; learn about period instruments and embrace a whole new choral singing experience with Sing with Sestina.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2024
FRIDAY 1 MARCH
A SERVICE FOR EVERYONE!

I beg you, bear with
one another in love

Please Join us for our
World Day of Prayer Service
prepared this year by the women of
Palestine
A women-led, global ecumenical movement
at 7:00 pm
in **St. John's, The Rock,**
Newcastle
Refreshments after the Service in the
Millennium Room
Everyone welcome

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In the media

Ireland is fast becoming Europe's nastiest nation - Daily Telegraph

Its image is changing fast thanks to its cheap shots against countries like Israel, Britain and Taiwan, Ruth Dudley Edwards writes

Ireland, which loves to be loved, is seeing its reputation transformed into one defined by a sullen, mean-spirited pettiness.

Every week we seem to witness yet another example of the ugliness that is fast taking over public life in the country, in which innocent bystanders are forced to take sides on a purely political matter. This time it was the turn of a women's basketball match in Latvia.

Like so many other sports teams in Ireland, and like other apolitical targets of the sinister Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions movement, the basketball team had come under heavy pressure from Irish Sport for Palestine to boycott fixtures against Israel. But for the Irish team this was a vital EuroBasket qualifier. Had they boycotted it, they'd have been effectively banned from competition for the next five years.

Some players chose not to travel. Then a member of the Israeli team said in an interview that the Irish side were

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“quite anti-Semitic and it’s no secret”. Cue absolute outrage from Irish commentators, and the Irish team deciding not to partake in pre-match arrangements like exchanging gifts and formal handshakes. The game was played behind closed doors.

It’s a telling incident. The Emerald Isle has built its tourism industry on visions of friendly, welcoming citizens. The reality is a country that is becoming increasingly nasty.

I disagree with my countrymen on many issues, because many are congenital virtue-signallers who love to support the popular, easy side of any controversy. The conflict between Israel and Palestine is a perfect example.

Fuelled by rampant Republican anti-Semitism over the years, what had been a low-key distrust of Israel in parties such as Sinn Fein seems to have turned to hatred. And hatred is what the Irish Republican leadership excels at spreading, whether it takes the form of terrorism (as in the past) or the propaganda they still devise and popularise so brilliantly.

They have long attempted to identify their cause with others who similarly claim to be freedom-fighting victims of oppression. But the role of these carefully selected “oppressed” groups – Palestinians, South Americans or whoever else comes in handy in the pursuit of power in Ireland – is purely to follow slavishly the Republican script.

Sometimes, this leads to bleakly amusing scenes. I had to laugh when I saw that Palestinian activists were apparently ejected from a Solidarity Rally for Palestine event in Belfast

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on Wednesday night because they were noisily demanding that Sinn Fein boycott the White House on Saint Patrick's Day. If you ride two horses, you are liable to fall off.

And it's not just Sinn Fein. Perhaps nowhere is modern Ireland's new character better summarised than in the current Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar. When he's not calling for a ceasefire, or carefully avoiding mention of why an Irish-Israeli girl was missing (answer: she had been kidnapped by



brutal terrorists), he's cosyng up to China, insisting that Dublin's position is that the small democracy of Taiwan is "part of China".

An odd position for an Irish politician to hold, given the country's own history with Britain, but fully in keeping with how pressure

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from Republicanism is corrupting politics.

Of course, some things don't change. The Irish government has spent the past few years taking cheap shot after cheap shot at the UK, over Brexit, over Northern Ireland, over the Troubles and frankly over anything else you care to name. Anglophobia is always a winning card for Irish politicians, and inflaming dislike of their neighbours a small price to pay for those precious Republican votes.

Ireland's reputation as a friendly, good-natured country is going up in smoke. If things carry on this way, it'll soon be gone for good.

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

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