

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Change lives on Mother's Day

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Image of the day

Help the Mothers Union change lives on Mother's Day

Please make a Gift of Dignity today by supporting Mothers Union worldwide in the lead in to Mother's Day.

The women in the photo on today's opening page state honestly, 'We share what we have grown.'

Through initiatives like peanut and chilli plots, banana stalls and renting plots of land women are not just earning income —they're reclaiming their power.

£36 could give a woman like Jeanne in Burundi the business skills she needs to support her family through a money matters gift.

Make a Gift of Dignity today by supporting Mothers Union worldwide in the lead in to Mothers Day.

Please have a look at the Mothers Union shop - <https://mueshop.org/collections/make-a-mothers-day-2024>

**Join CNI in liking the title of the photographer -
Taking Pictures, Changing Lives**

News



Richill Methodist is Young at Heart

There was a warm welcome for guest speaker Ron Wilson from Richill Methodist Church at the monthly meeting of the Young at Heart Club at Tullyroan.

Ron showed slides and spoke about his small beginnings selling goat's milk around numerous houses, and when asked to supply potatoes it was the start of an interest in

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that crop. He now grows 2,500 acres in various counties of Ireland which are pre-packed at his factory in Portadown and are supplied as Wilson's Country to numerous supermarkets.

The staff of 130 pack 850 tons per week. They have built two digesters to use up waste materials to generate electricity which helps run the factory.

Members also learned of Ron's great passion - the Fields of Life international development organisation - in which he has been involved for 25 years. It operates mostly in Uganda where 900 wells have been dug to supply fresh water to 700,000 people. It has also been involved in building 100 schools over the past 30 years - courtesy Portadown Times

Graduation Service for Young Leaders in Londonderry

St Augustine's Londonderry hosted a service with a difference on Monday evening (19th February 2024) when it held a Graduation Service for Young Leaders.



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Bishop of Derry & Raphoe with Young Leaders and friends

It was a special occasion for the young people present who were commissioned by Bishop Andrew after completing Derry and Raphoe Youth's 'Young Leaders Ministry Training Programme'.



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It was an encouraging evening, too, for clergy and lay members of the DRY Board, and those working in our youth and children's ministry, who were able to see the fruits of their investment in our young people.

During the service, the teenagers were presented with certificates of achievement marking the completion of their training, and afterwards they enjoyed refreshments provided by the parish team at 'the Wee Church on the Walls'.

Clonard Christmas crib gift to Habitat

Habitat's Chief Executive Jenny Williams paid tribute to "the amazing support from Clonard

Monastery Christmas Crib Appeal which will make a huge difference to the lives of vulnerable people in our community".

Jenny said "A huge thank you to all those who, so generously, supported Clonard Monastery's Christmas Crib in December".



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She collected a cheque last week for £5,000. The funds will directly support Habitat's local 'House to Home' programme.

The 'House to Home' programme supports vulnerable people who have been homeless or who are at risk of repeat homelessness, to sustain tenancies by helping them to make their house a home. Learn more about the programme here: www.habitatireland.org/housetohome

You can get in touch to book a Habitat speaker to speak at your church or community group: info@habitatireland.org

Archbishop of Dublin stands in solidarity with Imam following attack

“Shaykh Dr Umar Al Qadri is a friend of many of us and a household name in Dublin and further afield for promoting understanding among people who know one another all too little” said Most Rev Dr Michael Jackson.

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The Archbishop continued, “He has put this God-given grace to use in the service of his own people and in the service of Inter Faith understanding.

“We are shocked to learn of his being the recipient of hate crime. We stand alongside him and all others who have been and continue to be subjected to intimidation and violence simply because they are who they are.

“I urge everyone to pray for his recovery to good health,

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for his family members and for those whom he serves in their religious, spiritual and pastoral needs.”

Black Santa funds distributed to Dublin charities



Representatives of the charities who benefited from the Black Santa Sit Out 2023 at St Ann’s Dawson Street with the Vicar, Canon Paul Arbutnot and the preacher, the Revd Natasha Quinn–Thomas.

Dublin’s Black Santa appeal continued to spread goodwill last Sunday February 18, as €55,000 was distributed to local charities.

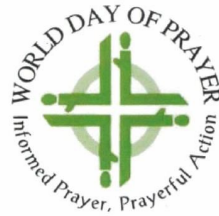
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The funds were collected during the annual sit out at St Ann's Church, Dawson Street, in the days before Christmas and representatives of the charities joined parishioners for a service of thanksgiving where they received their cheques.

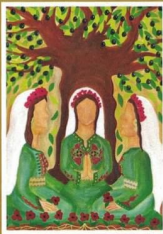
During Choral Matins the lessons were read by Dr Ruby Morrow, secretary to the Select Vestry, and Major Gordon Fozzard, Chaplain of Dublin Homelessness Service of the Salvation Army.

**WORLD DAY
OF PRAYER**

will be celebrated on



Friday 1st March 2024



**Theme: "I Beg You...
Bear with one
another in Love"**

The service is prepared by the Palestinian WDP Committee

Where?

**Methodist Church
Northumberland Avenue
Dun Laoghaire**

Time?

3 p.m.

All are welcome!

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In her sermon, the Revd Natasha Quinn–Thomas, Curate Assistant in Castleknock and Mulhuddart with Clonsilla outlined her 'Five Fs of Lent' which she devised as part of her ministry with school children.

The first F relates to the length of Lent – 40 days and 40 nights during which we carve out time from our daily lives to find space to be in closer relationship with God.



Ballinderry Parish Church
invites you to

THE BIG EASTER HUNT

SATURDAY FUN DAY
23rd March 11am - 1pm

Join us for The Big Easter Hunt , ideal for children up to 12 years old and their family/carers.

Come and follow the Easter hunt, search, paint and roll eggs and ride the egg train. Refreshments and treats.

The second F is for Fasting and what we give up or take up to get closer to God. The third is Favour to which she returned later. The fourth F is Forgiveness and the fifth is Faith.

Focusing on Favour, she explored the generosity of giving. “This community which lies in the heart of Dublin has given with generous hearts. We have demonstrated through the appeal that we are charitable, that we want to help people in need in our community. This is our obligation to mission and our obligation to help those in our community to develop a deeper relationship with God and ultimately with God’s kingdom here on earth,” Ms Quinn–Thomas observed.



She added: “By giving we receive even more. Through this appeal we have received even more,” she explained adding that her first visit to St Ann’s was on the first day of the 2023 Black Santa Sit Out with the pupils of Castleknock National School. “When I was outside singing and dancing, what I received was the joy of people passing by, their encouragement of the children and watching the children grow in confidence... Those people who gave financially that day received so much more in happiness and the gratitude of the children collecting the money,” she said.

She said that this favour had demonstrated that St Ann’s has a Christian heart for mission and its people were keen to give so that they may receive a greater gift which is uniting God’s kingdom on earth. She urged the congregation to explore the Five Fs over the coming 40 days and nights and continue to demonstrate the gift of love and giving in the heart of the city.

Speaking after the service, the Vicar of St Ann’s, Canon Paul Arbuthnot, thanked all who helped coordinate the sit out.

On behalf of the charities who benefited from the appeal, Sandra Younge of the Brabazon Trust thanked the people of St Ann’s for their generosity in giving so much time and energy to running the appeal each year. She said the donations were appreciated by all the charities and added that she knew that the donations would be wisely spent to the benefit of all the people who used their services.

The charities supported included: the Salvation Army, the Simon Community, Alice Leahy Trust, Protestant Aid, St

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Vincent de Paul, Solas Project, Focus Ireland, the Samaritans, LauraLynn, Barnardo's and other local charities. A contribution was also made to Dublin and Glendalough's Shine a Light for the Diocese of Jerusalem Appeal.



+Miss Caroline Dickson former Diocesan Architect

Tributes have been paid to the former Diocesan Architect for Derry and Raphoe, Miss Caroline Dickson, who passed away on Friday after a short illness.

Miss Dickson retired from her diocesan role last year after 40 years' service. Throughout those four decades, she worked diligently on the Diocese's behalf, displaying

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formidable expertise when it came to working on buildings of great historical significance.

Last year, at the Diocesan Synod, a special presentation was made to Miss Dickson by Bishop Andrew to acknowledge the outstanding service she had given Derry and Raphoe.

Miss Dickson's funeral will take place in her beloved local church, St Mura's (Fahan) on Thursday afternoon at 2.30pm.

She was predeceased by her parents Christine and Peter Dickson and is sadly missed by her cousins, her fellow parishioners, her many friends and colleagues, and by the wider community in Fahan.

Photo: last October, at the Diocesan Synod, Bishop Andrew made a presentation to the late Miss Caroline Dickson to mark her retirement after 40 years' service as Diocesan Architect. The Bishop was accompanied by Ven. Robert Miller, Archdeacon of Derry.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Ireland beyond 2024 - A younger perspective

This public seminar series, sponsored by Belfast South and Dun Laoghaire Methodist continues on Wednesday, 28

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February 2024 when two young adults from the wider church community will lead the discussion:

**SHAPING THE FUTURE:
A Conversation with the Generation
for whom it matters most.**

Harold Good, well-known senior Methodist minister and community activist, will introduce the guest presenters.

“We will shortly give further details of our participating young people. Please share this post and make this event known in your various circles. All are welcome.

“Let's talk about the future of our island before the future arrives and overwhelms us”. By Zoom @ 7:30pm

For login details. please contact:
thinkingaloudserminar@icloud.com

Safeguarding Trust training sessions in Connor

Safeguarding Trust training sessions have been organised for across Connor Diocese in the period from April 30 to June 27.

This training is for clergy, staff and volunteers who have not undergone safeguarding training in the last three years.

Dates and venues are:
Continued on page 17

IRELAND AND THE BIRTH OF EUROPE

An exhibition
1–28 February 2024

Bangor Carnegie Library
Hamilton Rd, Bangor BT20 4LH
028 9127 0591



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs



University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

Join us in Bangor Carnegie Library and view the **Ireland and the Birth of Europe Exhibition**. This richly illustrated exhibition tells the story of the part played by Irish scholars and missionaries in the early history of the European idea. Available during library opening hours during the month of February.

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30 April 2024 – Ballyrashane Gebe Hall at 7pm – Canon Amanda Adams

8 May 2024 – St Nicholas', Carrickfergus, at 7pm – Rev Chris St John

21 May 2024 – Holy Trinity, Carrickfergus, at 7pm – Rev Dr Alan McCann

20 June 2024 – Derryvolgie, Lisburn, at 7pm – Rev James Boyd

24 June 2024 – St Bartholomew's, Stranmillis, Belfast at 7pm – Canon Kevin

Graham MBE DL

27 June 2024 – Antrim Parish Centre, Antrim, at 7pm – Ven Dr Stephen McBride

All registration requests for these events should be emailed to David McGrory, Connor Safeguarding Trust Compliance Officer, at davidmcgrory@connordiocese.org.

Christ's College School in Christchurch, New Zealand, are looking for an organist

It's a great place to spend a Gap year for any organ scholars who fancy a break from the UK and Ireland. Flights and accommodation are provided.

<https://christcollege.com/assets/PDF/CC-JD-Organ-Choral-Tutor.pdf>

<https://christcollege.com/about-us/employment-opportunities>

Heritage

The story of St. Malachy's Church, Alfred Street, completed 1844

This was the fourth Roman Catholic church in Belfast, needed to cater for the rising numbers coming from rural areas. The population of 'The Markets' nearby was expanding in the first decades of the 1800s, supplying labour for the burgeoning linen industry.

Three people closely associated with this church bought burial lots at Friar's Bush, but none of them are actually buried there.

Captain Thomas Griffith left a bequest that paid over half of the building costs. In 1838, he was buried in Shankill cemetery.

Peter Lundy completed the spectacular interior of this church. Shortly afterwards, he was declared bankrupt and emigrated to the US.

Felice Piccione executed large paintings that grace the elaborate altar. We do not know his place of burial.

By 1844, when this church opened, Friar's Bush had become the main burial place for the Catholics in the city, and hence many from this parish are buried at Stranmillis.

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This is a stunning building, inside and out, and it is usually unlocked during the day. It is well worth wandering through the quiet backstreets behind City Hall to have a look.

An excellent piece by Belfast Pandp is attached.

[<https://www.belfastentries.com/places/places-to-see/saint-malachys/>]

Poem For Today

Going Home to Mayo

By Paul Durcan

Leaving behind us the alien, foreign city of Dublin
My father drove us through the night in an old Ford Anglia,
His five-year-old son in the seat beside him,
The rexine seat of red leatherette,
And a yellow moon peered in through the windscreen.
'Daddy, Daddy,' I cried, 'Pass out the moon,'
But no matter how hard he drove he could not pass out the moon.

Each town we passed through was another milestone
And their names were magic passwords into eternity:
Kilcock, Kinnegad, Strokestown, Elphin,
Tarmonbarry, Tulsk, Ballaghedereen, Ballyvarry;
Now we were in Mayo and the next stop was Turlough,
The village of Turlough in the heartland of Mayo,
And my father's mother's house, all oil-lamps and women,
And my bedroom over the public bar below,

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And in the morning cattle-cries and cock-crows:
Life's seemingly seamless garment gorgeously rent
By their screeches and bellowings. And in the evenings
I walked with my father in the high grass down by the river
Talking with him – an unheard-of thing in the city.

But home was not home and the moon could be no more
outflanked

Than the daylight nightmare of Dublin city:
Back down along the canal we chugged into the city
And each lock-gate tolled our mutual doom;
And railings and palings and asphalt and traffic lights,
And blocks after blocks of so-called 'new' tenements –
Thousands of crosses of loneliness planted
In the narrowing grave of the life of the father;
In the wide, wide cemetery of the boy's childhood.

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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