

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Almond blooms in Jerusalem**



## Image of the day

### Almond blooms in Jerusalem

**The Reverend Dom Binder writes from St George's Anglican Cathedral, Jerusalem -**

The Almond Trees in Jerusalem are Beginning to Blossom.

FEBRUARY 23, 2024

In the Holy Land, the blossoming of the almond tree is always a sign of the approach of spring. This year we hope their appearance also signals a nearness to the war's end, as well as a movement toward a just and lasting peace here in the Land of our Lord...



# World Day of Prayer International

**An inter-church Service prepared  
by Women and led by Women**

**This year the Service is being held in the  
Sacred Heart Church, Irvinestown  
on Friday 1st March at 8.00pm**



## News

### Anniversary of Blessed John Sullivan SJ

Monday was the anniversary of Blessed John Sullivan SJ and there was a special mass held in Gardiner Street Church, Dublin, at the weekend to mark the occasion.

This new painting, unveiled for the occasion, captures his life and ministry, with his bike on the streets of Dublin.

<https://www.ignatianspirituality.com/ignatian-voices/18th-and-19th-century-ignatian-voices/john-sullivan-sj-1861-1933/?amp>

### Down & Dromore 4–Peaks challenge

The 4–Peaks challenge is back! In 2022 a mixed but very determined group of 23 people climbed the 4



**highest mountains in the UK in just 3 days. From 20–23 June 2024 we are aiming to repeat the journey but this time it could be you!**

The challenge is open to everyone and if you would like to know more, we're holding an Information Evening in the Diocesan Offices on Wednesday 20 March at 7.30pm.

**[Please register your interest AT THIS LINK](#)** (Eventbrite) and if you have any other questions, please email Andrew Brannigan at: [andrew@downanddromore.org](mailto:andrew@downanddromore.org).

## **Organ works Glendermott**

**Wells-Kennedy have been chosen to clean and overhaul the Organ of Glendermott Parish in Londonderry.**

The church whilst carrying out repairs to walls within the chamber are taking the logical approach to carry out the cleaning of the organ.

As part of that work the two pedal chests will be overhauled and all pipe work will be repaired and voicing checked.

## Long-serving Minister retiring at Kells & Eskylane Presbyterian Churches

Worshippers at Kells & Eskylane Presbyterian Churches are preparing to say goodbye to their long-serving Minister, Rev Brian Boyd, who is set to retire from the County Antrim congregations after nearly 32 years.

Brian, his wife, Thelma and their sons, Andrew, Jonathan, and David arrived at the twinned charges on 17th June 1992.

**ST BERNARD'S CHURCH**  
**GLENGORMLEY**  
PASTORAL CENTRE  
165 ANTRIM ROAD  
GLENGORMLEY  
BT36 7QR

**TERRY QUINN**

**AWAKE**

**MARIA VADIA** **SATURDAY**  
**9:30AM**  
**-4:30PM**  
**23RD MARCH**

**ALL WELCOME!**

**LIAM STEWART**  
**ROISIN DOHERTY**  
**DAVID HAMILTON**  
**FERGUS MCMORROW**

**TALKS - TEACHING - PRAYER MINISTRY - HOLY SPIRIT**

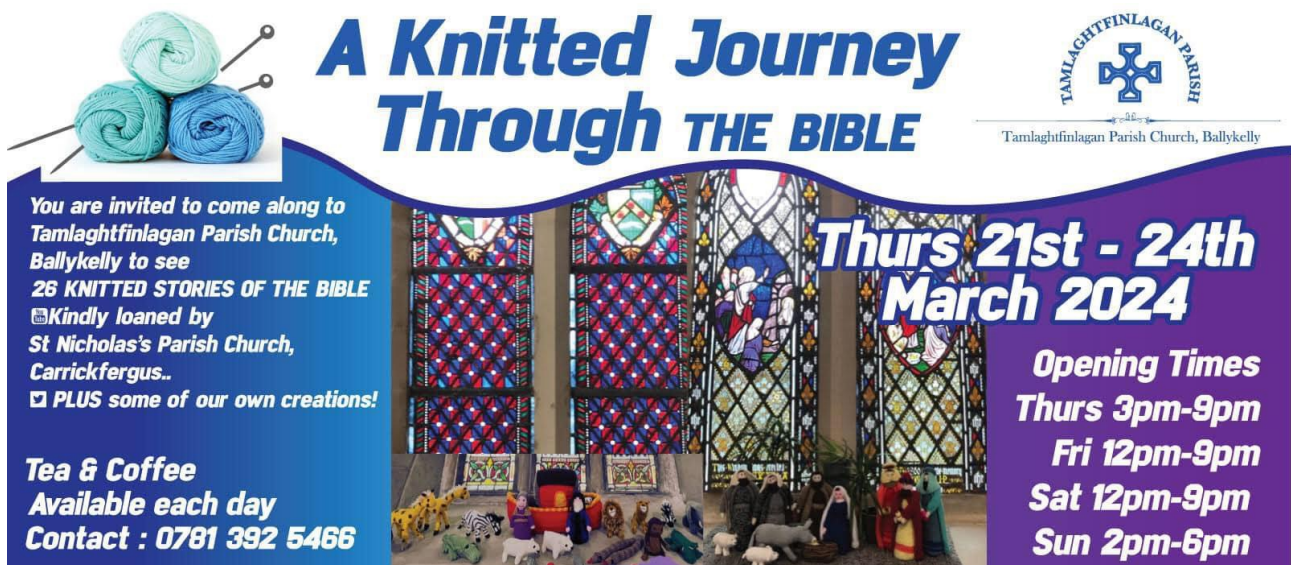
**£20 ENTRY • TEA AND COFFEE PROVIDED**  
**• BRING A PACKED LUNCH • PARKING**

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Recalling how he felt before when he first stepped into the pulpits there over three decades ago, Brian said: “My first morning in Kells and Eskylane was daunting: it was much bigger than I had been used to. I remember thinking I am not worthy of this. How can I follow Stafford Carson? However, at my first ever midweek, there was a young man converted and that felt like a real seal of approval from the Lord.”

Looking back on some of the highpoints of his ministry, Brian went on to say: “I enjoyed working with young people I have to say in the days when I was young enough to be able to relate to them. The growth of our Campaigners clan has been a big highlight. I have enjoyed seeing people converted and watch those same people grow in faith with some becoming elders. Looking around the session at the minute, most of them came on to the session in my time, that’s been thrilling too.”

“Both congregations are full of warm and friendly people; they have a real desire to see new people coming in while



**A Knitted Journey  
Through THE BIBLE**

**Thurs 21st - 24th  
March 2024**

**Opening Times**  
Thurs 3pm-9pm  
Fri 12pm-9pm  
Sat 12pm-9pm  
Sun 2pm-6pm

**You are invited to come along to  
Tamlaghtfinlagan Parish Church,  
Ballykelly to see  
26 KNITTED STORIES OF THE BIBLE**  
Kindly loaned by  
St Nicholas's Parish Church,  
Carrickfergus..  
PLUS some of our own creations!

**Tea & Coffee  
Available each day  
Contact : 0781 392 5466**

TAMLAGHTFINLAGAN PARISH  
Tamlaghtfinlagan Parish Church, Ballykelly

**Donations gratefully received for Tamlaghtinlagan Church Repair Fund**

also being very willing to embrace change. It was all summed up for me when we started Fit4Life. We were the first Church in the area to run it and some people found it hard to take. The first night it started, the ladies had an Aerobics class and I saw an elder called Willie Harkness, who was nearly 90 years old, heading across to it. I wondered what was happening, but Willie went in to do the aerobics with the ladies. He embraced the idea and showed that the session had got behind it and wanting people to get saved through it.”

Appropriately, Brian was also keen to pay tribute to those men who have served as Clerk of Session in either congregation throughout his ministry. In Kells, Jim Beattie, and Robin Carson, both now with the Lord, held the post before the present incumbent, Brian Turtle. In Eskylane, John Todd has performed the role with distinction for many years.

Brian remarked: “Jim was a real father in the Lord and the Godliest man you could ever meet. Robin was the best organiser I have ever known, and Brian Turtle is a lovely people person. John Todd’s commitment and Godliness is inspiring; one of the things that I am most thrilled about is the way in which the congregations of Kells & Eskylane have pulled together. Their exhibit a great sense of unity as evidenced by the joint midweeks and Christian Endeavour.”

During his time in Kells & Eskylane, Brian has also served as Convenor of the Drug & Alcohol Education Committee for PCI and been a member of the Church’s Judicial Commission. Both roles have, he says, been challenging yet rewarding.



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As he looks towards retirement, Brian says: “I am looking forward to not having the responsibility for a congregation; but I am dreading saying goodbye to the people because they are my family. I love them to bits, and I find it hard to think of not being involved with them anymore. However, I clearly recognise that it is time for me to leave. My energy levels are not what they used to be, and I am also ready for a new challenge.”



**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.

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“I also think that Kells & Eskylane need somebody to come in with youth and vigour who has new ideas. Whoever he is will not do things the way Brian Boyd did and that is right and proper. People must accept that and honour and love him and they will. The interesting thing is that Kells and Eskylane are two different places. Eskylane would be much more traditional but people who like that sort of worship deserve to have somewhere to go and the two places complement each other very well.”

Although Brian has some preaching engagements in the pipeline after retirement, he is looking forward to studying Hungarian and enhancing his links with the Church in Hungary as well as spending time at home. He and Thelma plan to become members of Muckamore Presbyterian Church.

Rev Brian Boyd’s final service will be in Kells Presbyterian Church on Sunday, 25th February 2024 at 6.30pm.

Courtesy Joe Boyd in The Church’s Page

## **New TLK appointments**

**Bishop Michael Burrows confirmed that two new appointments to incumbencies in TLK Diocese were joyfully announced -**

The **Revd Suzanne Cousins**, who currently serves in Benburb in County Tyrone is to be the Incumbent of the Aughaval Group of Parishes – Holy Trinity Westport, Christ

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Church Castlebar, Turlough Parish Church and St Thomas' Dugort on Achill Island.

The **Revd Canon Kevin O'Brien** will move from the Drumcliffe Union of Parishes to serve as Incumbent to the Adare & Kilmallock Group.

It is thought that both institutions will take place early in July.

The **Revd Keith Barry's** institution with the Nenagh Union of Parishes is now fixed for the afternoon of Saturday, 24th June, 2023 at 3.30pm.

The Bishop offers his good wishes to Rachel Kenny who was commissioned as a Diocesan Reader in Ballinasloe this morning and looking ahead to next Sunday (7th May) we'll see the installation of Canons – the **Very Revd Lynda Peilow, the Ven John Godfrey, the Rev Canon Kevin O'Brien and the Rev Canon Michael Cavanagh** at St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick at 4pm.

## **Anglican Communion represented at UN Environment Assembly in Nairobi**

**The Anglican Communion will be represented at the UN Environment Assembly in Nairobi this week (Feb 24 – March 1), to discuss the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.**

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The Anglican Communion will be represented at the UN Environment Assembly in Nairobi (Feb 24 – March 1), to discuss the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. The United Nations Environment Assembly is the only forum in which the world's countries discuss the environmental crisis as a whole.

The Anglican delegation at the Assembly include Reverend Rachel Mash – Coordinator of the Anglican Communion Environment Network from the Anglican Church of Southern Africa, Nicholas Pande from the Anglican Alliance and Reverend Denis Nthenge, Chaplain to Archbishop Jackson Ole Sapit of the Anglican Church of Kenya.

During the Assembly, Revd Rachel Mash will be Co-chairing discussions about how civil society can work to find a coherent position on the root causes of the environmental crisis. This is important work to ensure clarity is given in government negotiations about what churches are hearing from those most impacted by the crisis – including indigenous peoples and those with the smallest financial resources.

Her interventions will focus particularly on how we move away from excessive consumerism and throw-away mentalities to a sustainable economy that prioritizes what can be reused and recycled. It will call on governments to act on issues of waste management and socially-responsible mining.

Mining has a major impact on many Anglican communities. Whilst it can contribute to job creation, strengthening local economies and reducing poverty, it can also become linked to infringement on indigenous rights, exacerbate conflict and child labour and irreparably damage the environment. The delegation will draw attention to how the Anglican Communion is in dialogue with mining companies to achieve better environmental practice, through Church ethical investment work and local community engagement.

Nicholas Pande, Environmental Lead for the Anglican Communion's UN team, will attend the Assembly to speak with governments and other faiths groups, looking for opportunities to advance global and local responses to protecting biodiversity and limiting the increase in global warming. He will also refer to the Anglican Communion's "Communion Forest" (a global initiative encouraging reforestation and tree planting around the world) as a powerful response from Anglicans to the environmental crisis.

Revd Dennis, Chaplain to Archbishop Jackson Ole Sapit of the Anglican Church of Kenya, will coordinate a youth presence at the civil society gathering that starts the Assembly, mostly including representatives of the Green Anglicans movement in Kenya.

At the last UNEA, the world's governments made a landmark agreement to manage plastic, which can determine how much plastic our countries produce and what plastic we use and throw away everyday. A similar agreement could be made on waste management – a major issue for many Anglican communities living amidst the waste, with the greatest impact on the most vulnerable in our societies.

Looking ahead to the discussions, Rachel Mash said: “Climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution are some of the biggest long-term threats we face to human flourishing. The Church is called to care for God's creation and stand in solidarity with those suffering. Representing Anglicans at this UN Environment Assembly is a vital way to share the experience of indigenous people in these discussions. Powerful change can be made when we work together with others to contribute to a more just world.”

## Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

### Alpha Ireland 2024 conference

**Alpha Ireland will bring together diocesan leaders, rectors, priests, parish teams and teachers to network and hear input on leadership, discipleship, prayer and reaching young people in the Irish Church at their 2024 conference in Dublin next month.**

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'AIC24: Called to One Hope' takes place on Saturday March 2 in the RIASC Centre in Swords, Dublin, from 9am to 4.30pm.

Speakers will include Fr Conor McDonough, Ruth Garvey–Williams, Fr Columba Jordan, the Revd Rob Jones, Canon Roly and Susan Heaney and Dr Chloe Swart. They, along with the Alpha Ireland team, will share their experiences and outline new opportunities for mission, prayer, working with young people and reaching the wider community.

Find out more from Alpha below.

[alphaireland.org](http://alphaireland.org)

## Lenten zoom from Tuam Cathedral

**Join the Very Revd Diane Matchett and parishioners at Saint Mary's Cathedral, Tuam on the Wednesdays of Lent at 7pm for Beyond Belief - courtesy of Archdeacon David Huss, Derry & Raphoe Diocese - a series of reflections, each session, 45 minutes in duration.**

If you can't be there in person, but would like to take part, you're welcome to join via zoom - the link is below.

Beyond Belief from Tuam Cathedral

Time: Feb 21, 2024 07:00 PM Dublin

Every week on Wed, until Mar 20, 2024, 5 occurrence(s)

Feb 21, 2024 07:00 PM

Feb 28, 2024 07:00 PM

Mar 6, 2024 07:00 PM

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Mar 13, 2024 07:00 PM

Mar 20, 2024 07:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88193424886?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88193424886?pwd=biJ7beLi3acCy4qNtxVmXdzno7CyRH.1)

[pwd=biJ7beLi3acCy4qNtxVmXdzno7CyRH.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88193424886?pwd=biJ7beLi3acCy4qNtxVmXdzno7CyRH.1)

Meeting ID: 881 9342 4886

Passcode: 225366

## **Royal College of Organists - Calling all teenage organists, grade 7 level and above**



**RCO's unique TOSE (The Organ Student Experience) week takes place from 23 to 28 July in Oxford, and**



FEBRUARY 23, 2024

**you've only a few days left to enjoy our early bird discount.**

Using some of Oxford's finest organs, you will: receive tuition from our expert and inspiring teaching team; sing, direct and accompany choral music in our supportive classes and in choral evensongs in Oxford University college chapels; gain insights into university and conservatoire organ auditions; attend concerts by Erwan Le Prado; and so much more.

Don't miss out! Find out more details and book your place here: <https://bit.ly/3QIRBrg>



## **The Organ Podcast second episode**

**Episode 2 of The Organ Podcast uncovers the secrets of the remarkable 1688 'Father' Smith organ at Auckland**

Castle, and explores out how the English organ tradition survived (but only just!) the political & religious upheavals of the 16th & 17th centuries.

Find us wherever you get your podcasts, or visit <https://theorganpodcast.buzzsprout.com/> to listen. And don't forget to subscribe to make sure you never miss an episode!

## Heritage



### A very special wedding gift

A stunning illustrated address in a bible given by the Bishop, Dean and Chapter to the Marquis, and Marchioness of Ormonde on the occasion of their wedding.

The intricate detail on the address shows that the Ormonde Family were held in very high regard with the Cathedral.



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Find out more about the history of the Cathedral on the website here:

<https://www.stcanicescathedral.ie/cathedral-history>

Visit Kilkenny -Kilkenny Parish Union -Ireland's Ancient East

## Perspective

### God of this continuing journey - Corrymeela

‘God of this continuing journey,  
God of this next right step:  
bring us to a space  
where reassuring kindness  
and uncluttered honesty meet,  
where we name what is broken  
without doing more harm;  
where we hold ourselves to account  
and are held to account by others,  
without fear of being let go.  
May our courage come  
not in protecting,  
but in exposing  
our true selves,  
so that beneath it all we may find  
the child you continue to love.  
Amen.

# Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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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)

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