

# Church News Ireland



## Image of the day – Dublin light shines in Gaza

Part of the grounds of Al Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza City – Photo from the World Health Organisation Media Centre in December. The hospital's solar panels can just be seen on the roof.

## Image of the day

### Dublin light shines in Gaza

**Thursday February 22nd 2024 provided a rare and precious opportunity for some Dublin clergy and people to hear first-hand from Archbishop Hosam Naoum and The Reverend Canon Donald Binder of the Diocese of Jerusalem what life is like there right now.**

Archbishop Naoum began by thanking the people and clergy of Dublin and Glendalough for their long-term support and for the current Shine a Light Campaign and Appeal (Contacts below). He spoke courageously and compassionately of how the institutions and communities of his diocese continue in their ministries. He spoke also of how the ministries of reconciliation and peacebuilding were now the most unpopular in the current climate of warfare and mistrust.

The shift in relationships in both Jerusalem and The West Bank had happened immediately on October 8th 2023, one day after the Hamas incursion and the beginning of the Israeli military response. The Archbishop further drew attention to the ways in which the retreat shared between all his clergy and a number of the Dublin clergy in Amman, Jordan in Lent 2023, where together they studied The First Letter of St Peter, with its emphasis on a living hope for those experiencing persecution, continues to inspire all who participated in it and shared that common experience. Now

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## Archbishop nahum at a recent confirmation in Acre

there is enmity between peoples as never before in the universities, in the workplace and freedom of speech



effectively has gone. Christians dig deep in the tradition for grace to continue.

Moving to the current situation, he spoke of a river of people streaming to Southern Gaza and predicted that hundreds of thousands of people would now suffer and that disease would inflict deadly consequences where war had as yet failed. The Al Ahli Arab Hospital is still open and he described these days as the most difficult days. He spoke again of how the shared study of Holy Scripture with us had kept them going, built resilience and enabled them to hold strong. The solar energy system [supported by Dublin and Glendalough's 2014 appeal] functions at 20% capacity when there are no clouds but otherwise there is no fuel and the power is gone. Operations regularly have to be cancelled. They urgently need our financial support for the

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reconstruction and the reviving of the medical capacity of the Diocese of Jerusalem.

Archbishop Michael Jackson of Dublin said, “The meeting on–line gave an unique insight into the spirit of the people of The Holy Land who have long been called The Living Stones (again a reference to 1 Peter). Today we were planning the reciprocal retreat here in late spring. We expect twelve clergy together with Archbishop Naoum and Canon Binder. Plans are taking shape with two days to be spent on retreat, one day visiting a project and schools and one half–day for free time at the end. Before Covid–19 we shared a retreat here and this is the second visit, including some of the original participants with a number of new faces.

**“Please continue to pray for the Diocese of Jerusalem and all the peoples they serve ... people like us”.**

Dublin and Glendalough’s Shine a Light for Al Ahli Hospital appeal has now raised over €130,000. At the request of the Diocese of Jerusalem, the funds will go towards the repair or replacement of the solar panels to ensure energy supply, towards the repair of the hospital’s cancer unit, and towards the rehabilitation of children who have been traumatised, both physically and psychologically. You can donate via our GoFundMe or 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: IE50BOFI 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.



## News

### 149 wool hats knitted by Muckamore Presbyterian Women for Port Missionary

**This week Jaeguan Bae, the SCFS Dublin Port Missionary, came to collect the 149 wool hats knitted by the members and friends of Muckamore Presbyterian Women for our Christmas Tree Festival.**

These hats will be given to seafarers who come into Dublin port and an opening for Jae to share the gospel with them.



Please pray for Jaeguan as he hands out these hats and for the seafarers who will wear the hats.

### Newtownbreda's Stewards of creation

**Last Sunday St John's Newtownbreda Presbyterian Church were joined by their Guiding and Scouting organisations as they considered what it**

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**means to be a good steward of creation.**

Inspired by John Giono's classic story "The Man Who Planted Trees", Paul Lutton challenged his listeners to consider what good thing they might plant in the world to bring heaven and earth a little bit closer. A veteran Scout from the congregation John Lyons got everyone off to a good start by planting a new rowan tree in the church grounds.... "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it!" (Psalm 24:1)



## **CMSI Anniversary visit from mission partners to Kiwoko Hospital, Uganda**

**Jim and Margaret went as mission partners to Kiwoko Hospital, Uganda, with CMSI 20 years ago.**

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Since then they have continued to support the work of churches through Christianity Explored, training local church leaders in Bible study and practical ministry.

## **Anglican Alliance Adviser sharing with the Episcopal Church of the Philippines**

**Dr. Paulo Ueti, Anglican Alliance Theological Adviser, has arrived in the Philippines to spend time with the Episcopal Church of the Philippines.**

Here he is meeting the Alliance's Asia Facilitator, Revd Dr Gay Manodon.

Paulo will be sharing with students at St Andrew's Seminary.

He will use the "Re-imagining Our World Together" contextual bible studies on the Anglican Marks of Mission, which can be found here:

<https://files.anglicanalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/05100502/Re-imagining-our-World-Together-Contextual-Bible-Studies.pdf>

Please pray for Dr. Paulo, Dr Gay and the Episcopal Church of the Philippines, for good learning and sharing that deepens church engagement with communities across the Communion.



# “Live Issue” in Concert

(Country Gospel Group)

*Carnmoney Parish Church Hall,  
75 Church Road, Glengormley BT36 6DJ*

*on*

*Saturday 9th March @ 7.30pm*

**Tickets: £10**

*(to include refreshments and biscuits)*



## Church of England General Synod meets

**The General Synod is the national assembly of the Church of England, and its first meeting of 2024 begins today, in London.**



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With more than 400 members, it considers and approves legislation affecting the whole of the Church of England.

Find out more at [cofe.io/GeneralSynod](https://cofe.io/GeneralSynod).



## Ahoghill and Portglenone Parishes plan summer visit to South Sudan

**A small team from the Grouped Parishes of Ahoghill and Portglenone will visit the Diocese of Ibba in South Sudan later this year.**

This is a new partnership for the parishes, but the rector, the Rev Dennis Christie, has an established connection with Ibba. “I was part of a short-term mission trip in 2012 as a

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parishioner of St John's in Moira," Dennis said. "That trip kicked off a mission partnership between St John's Parish and Ibba Diocese that is now over 12 years old."

Dennis will be accompanied by parishioners Stephen McCallion and Niall Campbell. The two-week stay in early August will be Stephen and Niall's first time in Ibba.

The main purpose of the visit will be to help build the relationship between the communities in Ahoghill and Portglenone and Ibba, and to help establish a long-term mission partnership between both.

"In partnership with Bishop Wilson Kamani, who oversees Ibba Diocese, and with the help of CMSI (Church Mission Society Ireland), we will hope to support future key projects in the area," Dennis said.

"Our itinerary for this trip is not yet established, but a key element will be visiting the local community including churches, schools, local health clinic, local vocational training centre etc, building relationships and establishing the needs.

"Given the makeup of our team, with Stephen and Niall both skilled engineers, there may be opportunities to do some practical training while we are there, for example at the local Vocational Training College doing carpentry, electrical, mechanical and welding."

The team is hoping to take items with them, depending on the needs and what would be most efficient to travel with, but this is likely to include some medical equipment,



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clothing, tools, sporting equipment etc that would bless the community.

Dennis said some parishioners with sewing skills are currently working with 'Days for Girls.' This is a charity that works to eliminate the stigma and limitations associated with menstruation so that women and girls have improved health, education and livelihoods. Those who are doing the sewing are working to produce effective life-changing menstrual



**BBNI**  
THE NORTHERN IRELAND BOYS' BRIGADE

**PRAY  
WHERE  
YOU ARE  
24 FEB**

**We're praying...**

For over 11,500 children and young people who attend BB each week

For over 2,400 leaders who faithfully serve

That God will continue to be faithful as we seek to honour Him

That children and young people will give their lives to our Lord as we advance His kingdom through BB in NI and Donegal



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health packs with sanitary products, which the team will bring to Ibba in August.

Mission trips like this can be expensive as they include the need for both international and internal MAF flights, and bring high insurance costs.

And so the parishes have planned a number of fundraisers which aim to include different groups across both churches: These are:

Big Breakfast Fundraiser (Portglenone) – Saturday March 9

Tractor Run (St Colmanell's) – Saturday March 16

Kidzone 'Steps to Ibba' Challenge (St Colmanell's Sunday School) – the children will collectively walk distance from Ahoghill and Portglenone to Ibba in South Sudan.

PGKidz Smarties tube coin collection (Portglenone Sunday School)

Quiz and Desserts night (St Colmanell's) – Friday April 19

LIFT (Ladies fellowship in St Colmanell's) – fundraiser event April – date TBC

'Couch to 10k' for the rector – Dennis will be running at the Glenarm Castle Challenge Run – Saturday May 18

## **An agent of change in Papua New Guinea**

**"Now I am a deacon in my church," declares Theodora an agent of change in Papua New Guinea.**

In communities where women's voices are often silenced, Theodora is championing the rights of mothers and women alike.



By empowering women to take leadership roles, Theodora witnessed a ripple effect of positive change.

Together, they addressed issues like alcoholism and domestic violence, paving the way for a future where everyone thrives.

Your gift of dignity could amplify Theodora's mission, empowering more women to break barriers and create lasting change.



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Make a Gift of Dignity today. Go to <https://mueshop.org/collections/make-a-mothers-day-2024>

## Methodist Church's Day of Fasting



**As part of their Lenten journey, the President of the Methodist Church in Ireland, is inviting church members to join with him in a Connexional Day of Fasting next Friday 1st March.**

“We are encouraging you to follow the Wesleyan model, beginning your fast at sundown on Thursday and fasting through to 3:00pm on Friday”. Learn more: [irishmethodist.org/seek](http://irishmethodist.org/seek)

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

## Special weekend to launch Hollywood's rebuilt Elgar Organ



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**In addition to the Saturday evening concert there will also an afternoon demonstration recital on Sunday 3rd March.**



As well as hearing the organ you will benefit from the insights of Paul

Hale who will share about the technical as well as musical aspects of the rebuilding programme. Paul is a renowned organist in his own right and has helped the parish invaluable as an expert consultant in this project. Copies of a book which Paul has prepared on the organ will also be on sale.

Following the demonstration recital which begins at 3.00pm those attending will move into worship at a Festival Choral Evensong at the normal time of 5.30pm. The parish hopes you will make plans to join them.

## **This is Alpha NI**

**Join special guests Nicky and Pippa Gumbel for a day of inspiration, ministry, stories and training.**

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This celebration of evangelism in the local church and gathering for Alpha teams and leaders is coming to Belfast on Saturday 1st June!

Keep seats for your team: <https://alpha.org.uk/this-is-alpha>

NOW RECRUITING FOR

# ST PETER'S CATHEDRAL GIRLS' CHOIR

St Peter's Cathedral are now holding auditions  
for the newly formed Girls' Choir.

**NEWLY ESTABLISHED**

Rehearsals, Thursday 4.30-6:00pm

St Peter's  
Catholic Cathedral, Belfast

## Introducing St Peter's Girls' Choir

St Peter's is thrilled to announce the first-ever girls' choir in the Diocese and they are calling talented girls aged 11-18 to join them on this musical journey.



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Open Auditions: Thursday, 7th March 2024, 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM in St Peter's Parish Hall

"Bring your passion for singing, and let's create something beautiful together!" For more details, contact - [cathedralmusic@downandconnor.org](mailto:cathedralmusic@downandconnor.org)

## RCO Organ Playing Competition 2024

The entry closing date for the IAO-RCO Organ Playing Competition 2024 is just around the corner.

### Christian Aid Ireland Supporter Conference

*"The Spirituality of Fundraising"*

**Ruth Cooke**

Head of Fundraising  
& Supporter Engagement

 **Carnmoney  
Presbyterian Church**

**Saturday 9 March 2024**

**10am - 1.30pm**

\*lunch provided

register for free at  
**[christianaid.ie](http://christianaid.ie)**





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## **The entry closing date for the IAO-RCO Organ Playing Competition 2024 is just around the corner.**

If you're a young organist aged between 18 and 26 years then you only have until 29 Feb to enter.

Under the joint artistic direction of Sarah MacDonald and Robert Sharpe, 2024 RCO and IAO Presidents respectively, the finals will be held during the IAO Music Festival in York from 25-29 July.

With a first prize of £1000, with £500 and £200 awarded to the second and third places respectively, as well as prize recital opportunities at St Chad's Cathedral in Birmingham and Bridlington Priory, what are you waiting for?

Find out more and enter here: <https://bit.ly/3QMnSXg>

## **Stanford 100 at Queens' College Cambridge**

2024 marks the centenary of the death of seminal Irish composer Charles Villiers Stanford.

RSCM Enterprises is delighted to announce that booking is now open for a very special singing weekend in his honour, to be held 12-14th July at Queens' College Cambridge, where Stanford was organ scholar.

“We hope you can join us for an unforgettable weekend of choral music, lectures and recitals!”

Find out more at: <https://ow.ly/RTcF50QGFkp>

# Upcoming Children and Youth Events in Connor Diocese

<b>MARCH 16</b> 11AM-3PM <i>St Patrick's Family Day Ballyclare</i>	<b>APRIL 13</b> 10:00AM-5:00PM <i>Building Blocks Children's Ministry Conference Venue TBC</i>	<b>APRIL 25</b> 11:30AM-2:00PM <i>Parents &amp; Toddler group training St Columba's Parish Whiterock</i>	<b>JUNE 11</b> 6:00PM-9:00PM <i>Special Educational Needs Training Derryvolgie Parish</i>
<b>JUNE 12</b> 6:00PM-9:00PM <i>Special Educational Needs Training St John's Parish Ballyclare</i>	<b>JUNE 23</b> 11AM-3PM <i>Journey to Rathlin Island - Sunday School outing</i>	<b>JUNE JULY 28 - 2</b> <i>Summer Madness Portglenone</i>	<b>JULY 2-5</b> <i>Streetreach North Coast</i>
<b>SEPTEMBER 7</b> 9:00AM-12:00PM <i>Launch: Kids and Youth Leader Training Broughshane Parish</i>	<b>OCTOBER 4-6</b> <i>Connor Takes The Castle</i>	<b>DECEMBER 6</b> 7PM - 9PM <i>Diocesan Youth Christmas Party Church of the Good Shepherd, Monkstown</i>	



Christina and Victoria are busy planning for the next season of Children's and Youth Ministry in the Diocese. Pop these dates in your diary and keep an eye on your emails and social media for more information!



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## New College Oxford seeking two singers

**New College Oxford is looking to appoint two singers to the position of lay clerk, beginning in September 2024.**

They are welcoming applications from tenors and basses. Applications close on Friday 9 March, with interviews on Tuesday 19 March.

Further particulars can be accessed via the choir website: <https://www.newcollegechoir.com/blog/?pid=0&nid=2&storyid=145>

## 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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