

Church News Ireland



**Image of the day – at the other St Patrick's
in NY**

Image of the day



At the other St Patrick's in NY

On Friday last the choristers of St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, presented a programme at St Patrick's Cathedral, New York, led by Stuart Nicholson, Master of the Music and David Leigh, organist.

The choristers of Saint Patrick's have been singing in their Cathedral in Dublin for nearly 600 years...

... and on Tuesday 14th March they are holding another **Be a Chorister event** for children to experience for themselves what life is like in the stalls.



So if your son or daughter is in either 2nd or 3rd class and they enjoy singing or making music then come and join in on the 14th and they can become a Cathedral Chorister for an afternoon.

See -
[<https://www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/be-a-chorister/>]



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Saint Patrick's Cathedral Choir School was founded in 1432 by Archbishop Richard Talbot to provide for the education of the choristers. Nearly 600 years on, it is unique in being the only choir school in the country, as well as being the oldest school in Ireland. The choristers perform on live on RTÉ TV and Radio, at the events with the presence of the President of Ireland , in theatres and the National Concert Hall and record commercial CDs.

News

Three Canons installed in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin



L–R: Metropolitan Archbishop Joseph, Annie Fletcher and Canon Tom O'Brien.

Three new Canons were installed during Choral Evensong at Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, yesterday Sunday, February 24. One Ecumenical Canon, one Lay

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Canon and a new Canon Treasurer were installed and took their places on the Cathedral Chapter.

The Romanian Orthodox Archbishop of Western and Central Europe, Metropolitan Archbishop Joseph, was installed as Ecumenical Canon. He succeeds the Revd Lorraine Kennedy Ritchie of Clontarf Presbyterian Church and joins Fr Tom Laden SJ.

Annie Fletcher, Director of IMMA, the Irish Museum of Modern Art, became the new Lay Canon. She succeeds



School Boards event in Cork - Bishop Paul Colton hosts Dinner and Training Event for School Boards of Management in Cork, Cloyne and Ross: As in previous years, Bishop Paul Colton invited all members of Primary School Boards of Management to a dinner and training event at... <https://churchofirelandcork.com/2024/02/21/bis>



former President of Ireland Mary McAleese who retired last year and joins Professor Jim Lucey, Inspector of Mental Health Services at the Mental Health Commission. Canon Tom O'Brien was installed as Canon Treasurer having been appointed 12th Canon last year. Tom is Minister in Charge of St James's Church in Crincken, Dublin.

The new Canons were appointed by the Archbishop of Dublin, the Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson. He said: "I am pleased that the three new Canons of Christ Church will have a voice in the work and direction of the cathedral. Each brings something special to our community and to the mother church of our United Dioceses".

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The Dean of Christ Church Cathedral, the Very Revd Dermot Dunne, said that all three new Canons bring different perspectives to the life of the Cathedral.

“I am delighted to welcome three new Canons to the cathedral. Both our Ecumenical and Lay Canons bring a different perspective to the life of the cathedral and its chapter,” Dean Dunne commented.

“Coming from differing and varying experiences and fields of work, the Ecumenical and Lay Canons will bring a richness to the life and mission of the cathedral in embodying its charitable role of Worship, Welcome and Witness. Canon Tom O’Brien will bring a new and different experience to the Chapter in his role as Canon Treasurer. Given his vast experience in his previous work in the Civil Service, Tom will bring to the role a freshness of approach that will ground the cathedral in the life of the city and further afield. Such experience is welcome in a time of change when charity governance is under scrutiny and where accountability is vital to the continual existence of the cathedral foundation,” he added.

Metropolitan Archbishop Joseph

Metropolitan Archbishop Joseph was born in Romania. He was ordained in 1994 at the monastery of the Cathedral of Alba Iulia. He went to France in the summer of 1994 to study at the Saint–Sergius Institute of Orthodox Theology in Paris. Since arriving in France he provided the liturgical and spiritual service of the monastery of monastics Notre–Dame–de–Toute–Protection in Bussy–en–Othe, in Yonne. He was elected Archbishop in November 1997 by the

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Assembly of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese of Western and Central Europe.

Annie Fletcher

Annie Fletcher is the Director of IMMA, the Irish Museum of Modern Art. A noted International Curator, Annie joined IMMA from the Van Abbemuseum in the Netherlands where she was Chief Curator. Annie has extensive leadership experience in the contemporary arts. In addition to her role as Chief Curator at Van Abbemuseum she is a tutor at de Appel, Amsterdam, the Dutch Art Institute (DAI) and the Design Academy Eindhoven, and regularly worked with art institutions around the world including the SALT Istanbul, New Museum, New York, and L'Internationale network and De Appel Art Centre, Amsterdam. In 2012 she was Curator of Ireland's Contemporary Art biennale EVA International and is regularly called upon to sit on major international juries, including the Turner Prize in 2014 and the selection committee for the Irish Pavilion at Venice in 2016. Born in Ireland Fletcher studied in Trinity College Dublin and started her career in the Douglas Hyde Gallery in 1994.

As a curator she is particularly interested in how an encounter with art can generate a shared civic space and how, in today's world, contemporary art can address complex ideas of time, space and participation in order to achieve resonance with the public.

Canon Tom O'Brien

Canon Tom O'Brien has been Minister in Charge of Crinken in south Dublin since August 2023. Prior to that he was a

Self Supporting Minister in the United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough and had supported ministry in a number of parishes including his home parish of Holmpatrick, St Mary's in Howth, Kill O' the Grange, and Raheny and Coolock. While engaged in Self Supporting Ministry, Tom held senior positions within the HSE.

About Ecumenical and Lay Canons

The Ecumenical and Lay Canons is an enterprise agreed by General Synod of the Church of Ireland which enables the cathedral to reach out into the wider community in an effort to open the cathedral to the city of Dublin and its people.

Ecumenical Canons are drawn from the different Christian traditions on this island. Currently, Fr Tom Layden SJ is from the Roman Catholic tradition whilst the cathedral's new Ecumenical Canon is from the Romanian Orthodox tradition.

Christ Church's existing Lay Canon, Professor Jim Lucey, will remain in place whilst the new Lay Canon, Ms Annie Fletcher, CEO of the Irish Museum of Modern Art will replace Mary McAleese who retired as Canon last year.

The difference between the Lay and Ecumenical Canons and the other members of the Chapter is that the Lay and Ecumenical Canons are on a fixed term of office whilst all the rest of the Chapter remain in office until they do not have a freehold incumbency or Archbishop's licence to officiate. Other than that the Lay and Ecumenical Canons have all the rights and appurtenances associated with members of the cathedral Chapter.

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Canon Tom O'Brien installed as Canon Treasurer of the cathedral. Canon Treasurer is one of the four senior dignitaries of the cathedral and holds an ex officio position on the cathedral Board.

Methodist Ecumenical Canon chosen for St Anne's, Belfast

The Reverend Dr Janet Unsworth has been chosen to be the next Methodist Ecumenical Canon in the Cathedral Chapter of St Anne's, Belfast.

Janet is currently Director of the Ministries Team of the Methodist Church in Ireland, and is based at Edgehill House, the Methodist Church's administrative centre in South Belfast. As Director of Ministries, Janet has responsibility for the leadership and oversight of ordained and lay ministries in the Methodist Church. She is also responsible for developing the policies and processes of governance for ministry in the Methodist Church in Ireland.

Janet studied at Oxford University. On graduating, she taught History and Religious Education at a school in London. She returned home to take up the post of Children's Ministry Co-ordinator for the Methodist Church in Ireland. After undertaking formation training, Janet was ordained as a Methodist minister in 2001 and served as Superintendent of the Newry and Bessbrook Methodist Circuit. She was appointed Director of Studies at Edgehill Theological College in 2009, and became Principal in 2017.

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In addition to her various roles within the Methodist Church, Janet has also served on national and international Methodist and Ecumenical bodies. She is a longstanding member of the Covenant Council. This Council has forged ever closer links between the Church of Ireland and Methodist Churches, so that interchangeability of ministries is now possible. Janet currently serves as Secretary to the Council.

Janet and her family have been members of the Church of the Resurrection Chaplaincy church at Queen's University, one of the first Church of Ireland congregations to embrace shared ministry between the Church of Ireland and Methodist Churches. Janet's husband John is currently the chair of the Board of Trustees of the Church of Ireland / Methodist Chaplaincy at Queen's. Janet herself is also the current Chair of the Board of Governors of Methodist College, Belfast, and recently guided the Board through the complex process of appointing a new Principal for Methody. Janet is mum to two young adults, each currently studying at university.

With her extensive background in ecumencial partnership with the Church of Ireland, and her wide set of academic and organisational skills, Janet made an obvious candidate to be the new Methodist Ecumenical Canon of Belfast Cathedral.

On accepting her appointment Janet said that she is delighted to have been asked to undertake this role at St Anne's, and is very much looking forward to contributing to the life of the Cathedral in this way. The Dean added "Janet not only brings a wealth of experience in church and

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academic partnerships between the Methodist Church and the Church of Ireland, but she also brings a warmth of personality and an enthusiasm to share in the life of St Anne's Cathedral. I very much look forward to welcoming Janet to the Chapter of Belfast Cathedral." "I also look forward to sharing cold winter days with her on the steps of the Cathedral, as she takes up the Canon's role in assisting with the annual Black Santa Sitout in the days before Christmas"

The Service of Installation for Janet Unsworth will be held at 3.30pm on Sunday afternoon 28th April, 2024. The preacher will be the Reverend Dr Heather Morris, General Secretary of the Methodist Church in Ireland, and Ecumenical of St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh. All are warmly invited to share this Service of Installation.



Scouts celebrate at annual Service of Thanksgiving

A National Scout Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving was held at Westminster Abbey at noon on Friday 23rd February 2024.

The service honoured long-serving volunteer leaders and supporters for their service and dedication to



the Scout Moment, whose founder, Robert Baden-Powell, is memorialised in the Abbey's nave.

Friday's service was conducted by the Dean of Westminster, the Very Reverend Dr David Hoyle, who gave the Welcome and pronounced the Blessing.

A testimony was given by Ayesha Karim, UK Youth Lead.

Francesca Thackray, Scout, Unsung Hero, read from The Scouter by Robert Baden-Powell; and Luke Paterson, UK Representative pool member, read Matthew 5: 1-9; 13-14.

The Address was given by the Right Reverend Stephen Lake, Bishop of Salisbury and Vice President of Dorset Scouts.

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The Renewal of Promises was given by Carl Hankinson, UK Chief Volunteer.

The prayers were led by the Reverend Robert Latham, Minor Canon and Sacrist, and said by Saim Raza, Scout Unsung Hero; and Georgina Horwich, Scout Unsung Hero.

The service was sung by the Westminster Abbey Special Service Choir, conducted by Andrew Nethsingha, Organist and Master of the Choristers. The organ was played by Peter Holder, Sub-Organist.

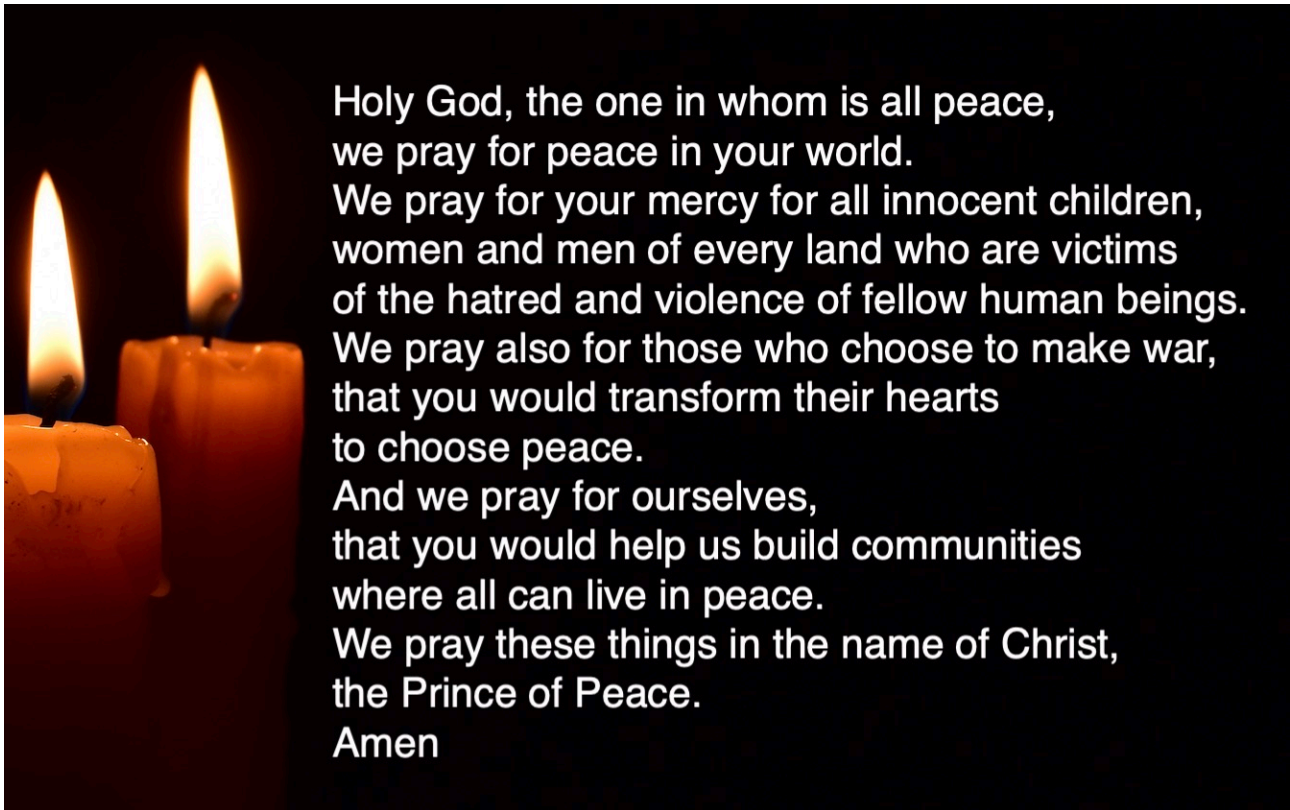
Ukraine War – Cathedrals Pray for Peace on the 2nd Anniversary

People were invited to join cathedrals and pray for peace for all people last weekend to mark the anniversary of the invasion of Ukraine.

Prayers for peace for all people as we mark second anniversary of invasion of Ukraine.

Saturday 24 February 2022 marked two years since Russian military forces launched a full-scale invasion, which has since left thousands of Ukrainians dead and millions displaced.

Carlisle Cathedral hosted an illustrated talk on the history of the city of Mariupol, one of the country's most devastated cities since the war began, and a special installation by a Ukrainian artist, Veronika Zolotoverkhawho has found refuge in Carlisle.



The Very Revd Jonathan Brewster, Dean of Carlisle said: “The plight of the people of Ukraine continues to be a focus of our prayers at the cathedral, and we are honoured to be hosting the illustrated talk and installation by Veronika this week. “We hope that our friends from the Ukrainian community, as well as all within the local area, will feel welcome at their cathedral and encouraged to offer prayers of sorrow and hope on the second anniversary of the invasion.”

York Minster and York City of Sanctuary hosted a vigil for peace on Saturday morning with music, readings and prayers for peace. In Hereford Cathedral there was a short act of remembrance at noon in the Lady Arbour chapel and prayer stations have been set up at the shrine of St Thomas of Hereford for the next seven days, inviting visitors and pilgrims to pray for the people of Ukraine.

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And a concert of hope was held on Friday evening in **St Edmundsbury Cathedral** as a fundraiser for the First Children's Hospice in Nadvirna, Ukraine which featured a lively programme of jazz and swing and soprano, Alina Rybina who began her musical odyssey at the Odessa Music Academy in Ukraine. The hospice is supported by the UK-based Hospices of Hope, the organisers of the concert and is the only UK charity dedicated to supporting the development of palliative and end-of-life care in South and East Europe.

Since the invasion, their work has been supported by hospice partners who have helped care for cancer patients leaving Ukraine, offered accommodation to refugees, donated medical supplies, helped fund an ambulance to transport patients out of Ukraine, a generator to keep the power, and some medicines that had run out.

The Rev'd Philip Banks, Canon Precentor at St Edmundsbury Cathedral, said, "It is our privilege at the Cathedral to support the Ukraine community in whatever practical ways we can. The anniversary of the Russian invasion is a reminder of the hardships that their nation is still having to endure."

Passing of former Judge Derek Rodgers

It is with deep regret CNI records the passing of retired Judge and former solicitor Derek Rodgers on 22nd February 2024.

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Judge Rodgers sat as a County Court Judge and was a District Judge prior to that before retiring.

He was also a member of the Legal Advisory Committee of the Church of Ireland and held positions with a number of voluntary organisations.

The Law Society of Northern Ireland has offered its condolences to his family at this very difficult time.

Funeral arrangements - His funeral will be on Wednesday 28th February 2024 at 12pm at St Patricks Church of Ireland, Jordanstown Rd, Newtownabbey BT37 0NT.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Three Big Hymn Sings in Derry diocese

Calling all who enjoy our wonderful hymns - North and South Sperrin Mothers' Union are hosting a Big Hymn Sing open to all on Thursday 7th March, at 8pm in Kilcronaghan Church, Tobermore.

Mothers' Union members, parishioners and the wider Diocesan community are warmly invited. All proceeds to the 2024 All Ireland MIM Fund.

The second Big Hymn Sing will take place in Lislimnaghan Church on Thursday 11th April at 8pm and finally, a Big Sing



Gospel Evening in St. Peter's / The Acorn Centre, Derry-Londonderry on Friday 24th May at 8pm.

Have you listened to The Organ Podcast yet?

Presented by Mark O'Brien, this fortnightly show is dedicated to the world of the organ, organists and organ music.

The first two episodes include interviews with Margaret Phillips, Tom Bell and Martin Baker, a visit to Manchester Town Hall to discuss the restoration of its 1877 Cavallé-Coll organ, a trip to Auckland Castle and so much more.

Find all episodes here: theorganpodcast.buzzsprout.com

Campbell College Spring Concert

The Campbell College Music Department Spring Concert will take place on Friday 15th March, commencing at 7.30pm.

Tickets for this event are priced at £10 each and can be purchased online via the Community Hub or in person by cash or credit/debit card at Front of House.

All parent, pupils and friends are invited to attend the concert, and as ever, your support would be greatly appreciated.

Buy your tickets now: <https://bit.ly/3I6RM4N>

Confident to care - New Pastoral Care Skills course

Delivered by Andrew Collins (Biblical Counselling UK), the training will take place on Tuesday evenings in May 2024 at Union Theological College, Belfast.

“We live in a fallen and broken world. Because of that, pastoral care is a vital ministry of the church. How, therefore can we confidently deliver pastoral care to those God has entrusted to us?”

Confident to Care is a three-week practical training course designed to help ministers, elders, pastoral visitors, and other church staff members gain the tools needed to build

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CONNECTION, hold CONVERSATION, and confidently bring biblical and prayerful CONTENT into your pastoral care.

www.presbyterianireland.org/confidenttocare

In the media

News Letter - Roman Catholics urged to oppose £20m city centre development by signing petition at mass this weekend

Roman Catholics worshipping at Newry Cathedral this (*last*) weekend are being urged to sign a petition against a major £20m investment in the city centre, Donal McMahon writes.

The planning objection to the new civic centre has erupted over the perceived loss of car parking spaces if Newry Mourne and Down District Council (NMDDC) goes ahead with building its new HQ close to the cathedral.

The city centre site for development at this time provides off-street parking including a multi-storey car park that the Catholic Church says is needed for mass-goers to its Grade A listed building.

However, the local authority said that its new designs will provide more spaces for parishioners following an engineer's survey of the car park.

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On its website this week Newry Cathedral Parish said:
“Newry, Mourne and Down Council has gone ahead seeking planning permission, despite our objections, for the new civic centre in close proximity to the cathedral.

“We encourage you to object as the parking behind the cathedral will be very limited.

“Parishioners will be available as you leave mass at the weekend to enable you to sign a petition in objection to the car park being taken away and the close proximity of this building to the cathedral, which is a Grade A listed building.”

This is not the first time the two bodies have been at loggerheads with a previous disagreement over NMDDC erecting a large-scale screen in 2015 outside the cathedral.

The Local Democracy Reporting Service contacted NMDDC to respond to the cathedral’s intended petition of objection.

A council spokesperson said: “As part of the design development for the civic and regional hub the impact of the project on parking at the Abbey Way site has been a key consideration, and a number of parking surveys have been completed by appointed traffic engineers on Thursday through to Sunday inclusive, with the maximum occupancy of these two car parks recorded at 116 spaces on Saturday afternoons.

“Following feedback received from key stakeholders the council amended the parking plans to provide 138 spaces at the site, this is above the maximum occupancy rates recorded during the surveys conducted.”

Daily Telegraph - Fake conversion fears trigger Church review of policy

The Church of England is reviewing its policies towards asylum seekers as a “matter of urgency” after it was accused of presiding over a “conveyor belt” of fake conversions, Tim Sigsworth writes.

British churches have faced criticism in recent weeks for being “duped” by asylum seekers who falsely claim to have converted to Christianity to boost their chances of staying in Britain.

Abdul Ezedi, the now-deceased Clapham chemical attacker who had two prior convictions for sex assault and exposure, was twice refused asylum before he was granted leave to remain when a Baptist minister vouched for his conversion from Islam.

The Church of England has since admitted it may have been “scammed” by some baptised asylum seekers but has insisted that the Home Office bears ultimate responsibility for approving or rejecting asylum applications.

Lord Carey, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, warned earlier this month that the Church was failing to provide sufficient advice to vicars on “how to discern whether these conversions are authentic, long-standing and life-changing”.

A representative of the Archbishops’ Council, one of the Church’s main executive bodies, told General Synod, the

Church's legislative body, yesterday that a review was being conducted as "a matter of urgency".

Mark Sheard said the review would be conducted by the Church's Faith and Public Life department and that bishops would contribute.

"We must give no individual, however, any opportunity to get in the way of this country providing safety for those whose lives are at risk because of their religious belief, nor must we in any way hinder the work of creating and baptising disciples," he said.

Mr Sheard did not disclose a timeframe for the review or say whether the Church would be compelled to abide by any of its recommendations.

He was responding to a question by Mark Townsend, a lay member, who asked if the Church would review the advice it gives priests on how to respond to asylum seekers who request baptism.

The Church of England has dismissed claims by Suella Braverman and Priti Patel that churches have routinely supported "bogus" asylum claims.

The Most Rev Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury, has accused critics of "mischaracterisation" and insisted "we simply follow the teaching of the Bible which is to care for the stranger". But court rulings unearthed by The Telegraph have revealed judges have repeatedly warned some "unquestioning" Church leaders are being "duped".

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Migrants can claim asylum based on a conversion to a new religion if they will face persecution because of their new faith.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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