

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Irish bishops at Anglican and Catholic growing together event in Rome

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Rt Revd Adrian Wilkinson C of I Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory and Bishop Niall Coll of Ossory are both together in Rome as Irish delegates attending IARCCUM, a meeting of Anglican and Roman Catholic bishops from around the world asked to focus on our unity and mission. See News on pages 11 - 17

People and places

Ards Connect launches with special event

Ards Connect, a new outreach to the Ards Peninsula, officially launched by Down & Dromore diocese on Saturday 20 February in St Andrew's Church Hall, Ballyhalbert.

This exciting ministry for youth, young adults and young families is being led by Raymond McClure who is also the Pastoral Worker for the parish.

It was significant that the launch took place during Christian Unity Week as Ards Connect is intended as an outreach which will serve all denominations along the Peninsula.

Clergy from the Area Deanery took part in the worship which was led by Jim Marshall and band – Revd Sue Bell (Ballywalter) and Area Dean, Canon Gill Withers (Greyabbey & Kircubbin with Ballyphilip & Ardquin). Richard Borgonon, the founder of The Word One to One, gave a short address while Bishop David closed the evening with prayer and an exhortation to “Just go for it!”

Vision

The vision is that St Andrew's church hall will become a central hub – a welcoming and relaxed space for youth and those in their 20s and 30s to gather, belong and encounter God through worship, Bible teaching,



discussion and mentoring.

The shape of the outreach is based on research that Raymond conducted with young people in the area. He says:

“God has given us the vision to see the lives of young people, children and families transformed. By putting on worship events and services that are catered to their needs, we want to create an exciting environment where they can grow deeper in their faith and grow as a community of believers.

“We also want to be able to support young people, whatever path of life they are on. Whether that is working with children to develop social skills, working with young people to help them find direction and support, or working with adults to develop skills for employment.

“The overwhelming need for all age groups is a sense of connection. We want to develop small groups made up of people from different areas and backgrounds that will help encourage and develop the faith of that group.

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“All these plans and projects will be under the central hub of Ards Connect. The overarching vision here is not to grow one church or one project, but to grow all the parishes of the peninsula by enabling young people and developing their faith.”

If you would like to receive updates and pray or volunteer for Ards Connect, please email Raymond at ardsconnect@gmail.com

You can also give using THIS LINK (via CAF).

https://www.downanddromore.org/news/2024/01/ards-connect-launches-with-special-event?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=facebook

‘Numerous defaults’ in Medical Council’s Professional Conduct and Ethics guide - Bishop Doran

Bishop Kevin Doran, chairperson of the Council for Life of the Irish Catholic Bishops’ Conference, has written to the President of the Medical Council expressing concern about its latest, and ninth, edition of the Guide to Professional Conduct and Ethics.

Statement

The Irish Medical Council has recently issued a new 9th edition of the Guide to Professional Conduct and Ethics.

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[Bishop Kevin Doran, Bishop of Elphin, is chairperson of the Council for Life of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference](#)

This is a very important document for medical doctors, because it is against this Code that their professional conduct and practice is measured. Unfortunately, there are numerous defects in the new edition of the Guide.

Towards the end of the section on “End of Life Care” (no. 46), the previous (8th) edition (2016) states very clearly: “You must not take part in the deliberate killing of a patient.” This statement has been dropped from the 9th edition. I find myself wondering if this is an oversight, or is it the case that the Medical Council has now decided that it is acceptable for doctors to take part in the deliberate killing of a patient? Even if assisted suicide were to be legalised, for example, that of itself would never make the killing of patients ethical.

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The sections on Assisted Human Reproduction (47) and Abortion (48), which were in the 8th edition of the Guide, have disappeared from the 9th edition. This would seem to suggest that the Medical Council does not see these very significant areas of activity as involving any ethical questions or risks. Is this simply because the law in these areas has changed. Have actions which were previously unethical, and quite simply “bad medicine”, suddenly become ethical because they are now legal?

Under the heading of Conscientious Objection, I note that the Guide reflects recent legislation on Abortion, in that it requires doctors to “make such arrangements as may be necessary to enable the patient to obtain the required treatment.” I am not sure how it makes sense ethically to require a doctor to assist a patient to access a procedure which the doctor, herself or himself, regards as unethical.

These matters do not only affect doctors. These matters also impact the common good of our society by radically redefining what is “good” for us all. I have written to the President of the Medical Council seeking clarification, but my letter has received neither a reply nor even an acknowledgement.

Leading Egyptian Christian theologian Dr Anne Zaki to address Presbyterian event in Belfast

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland is to welcome a leading Egyptian Christian scholar to Belfast early next

month, as the church continues to explore the challenges and opportunities faced by Christian communities in the Middle East, particularly with the current violent upheavals in Israel and Palestine.

A special all-day conference in Presbyterian Assembly Buildings, Belfast on Friday February 2 is the latest in a series of held events over recent years, where Presbyterians have heard first hand from Christians living out their faith as disciples of Jesus Christ in the region where Christ was born.

Keynote speaker at the conference, titled 'God's Church in Egypt: Challenges, Calling and Creativity', will be Dr Anne Zaki, professor of preaching and practical theology at the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo.

The conference is organised by the the Presbyterian council for global mission and its secretary the Rev Uel Marr says this is an opportunity to hear from a renowned speaker who will reflect on what God is doing through the Reformed Evangelical Church in Egypt today.

"Given the context and various challenges, Professor Zaki will highlight how the Christian church is responding creatively to the call of God in Egypt, which has the largest Christian community in the Middle East.

"The conference will help us as a denomination to explore how best we can stand alongside our brothers and sisters in Christ in the Middle East in prayerful solidarity. It will also give us an insight into how we can support and learn from



Belmont District Churches marked Christian Unity week with an evening musical celebration. “ The different choirs praised God together and individually and we give thanks for the opportunity to pray and work together”.

hem, not least when they face persecution across the region, uncertainty and ongoing conflict,” said Rev Marr.

Those who have spoken at previous PCI events have included the academic dean of Nazareth Evangelical College and Presbyterians have also heard from the senior pastor of Baghdad Presbyterian church and general secretary of the Bible society of Lebanon, in conjunction with visits from Irish Presbyterian missionaries in the Middle East, based in Syria, Lebanon and Jordan.



Sion in snow

David Sinclair was out and around Sion Mills to take a couple of photos before the snow melted. The Church of the Good Shepherd was consecrated on 15th May 1909. It's architect, W.F Unsworth of Petersfield in Hampshire. Thank you David.



News

Anglican and Catholic bishops grow together in Rome and Canterbury



At the ecumenical summit 'Growing Together' Anglican and Catholic bishop pairs have started to discuss opportunities and challenges in their joint mission and witness in the world today.

The summit has heard a series of presentations, as the bishops share what ministry looks like in their home settings. Please pray for this important programme, which is taking place in Rome and Canterbury this week.

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Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Holy See Secretary of State, at the Anglican Centre in Rome with director Archbishop Ian Ernest, during the week of prayer for Christian unity.

The cardinal preached at a Eucharist service in the centre and said afterwards the experience had “touched him deeply”.

The pair are holding a picture of the 1966 meeting between Pope Paul VI and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael Ramsey.

Anglican and Catholic Bishop pairs have made a pilgrimage to St Peter’s Basilica for Anglican Choral Evensong today, as part of the ‘Growing Together’ Ecumenical Summit

In this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the bishops participated in Anglican Choral Evensong in the Choir Chapel of St Peter’s. This was an important occasion in ecumenical relations. Traditional Anglican Evensong was celebrated previously in St Peter’s in 2017.

As one of the most important Christian places of pilgrimage, St Peter’s is believed to have been built over the burial site of the Apostle Peter, the head of the twelve Apostles of Jesus and, according to tradition, the first Bishop of Antioch and later the first Bishop of Rome, thus the first Pope.

Read more about the opening of the service here:

<https://bit.ly/3HvBYs0>

Anglican and Catholic Bishops visit St Peter's Basilica for Evensong as part of Ecumenical Summit



In St Peter's Basilica on Tuesday after the Anglican office of Choral Evensong, which took place in the context of the second summit meeting of bishops of the International Anglican-Roman Catholic Commission for Unity and Mission. Two Irish bishops are participating: Bishops Adrian Wilkinson (CofI) of the Diocese of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory and Niall Coll (RC) of Ossory Diocese and. They are photographed here with Bishop Brian Farrell, Secretary of the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity, and your humble servant. Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference Church of Ireland

Pairs of Anglican and Catholic bishops from across the world have made a pilgrimage to St Peter's Basilica this week as part of a weeklong ecumenical summit called

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Growing Together, run by IARCCUM (International Anglican-Roman Catholic Commission for Unity and Mission).

It aims to strengthen bonds of friendship between Anglicans and Roman Catholics as they explore their joint witness and mission.

On the evening of January 23, set within the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the bishops participated in Anglican Choral Evensong in the Choir Chapel of St Peter's. This was an important occasion in ecumenical relations. Traditional Anglican Evensong was celebrated previously in St Peter's in 2017.

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The service was sung by a specially assembled choir drawn from the two Anglican churches in Rome, All Saints (Church of England) and St Paul's within the Walls (Episcopal Church). The Revd Canon Robert Warren, Chaplain of All Saints' Anglican Church in Rome, officiated.

Commenting on the service, Fr Martin Browne at the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity in Rome said:

“A big focus of the ‘Growing Together’ Summit is to celebrate the richness of our traditions and to strengthen our bonds. The rhythm of daily prayer based on the psalms and



other scriptural texts is a precious treasure which Catholics and Anglicans share. It's useful to recall that the Catholic Church's Ecumenical Directory says that the experience of

 **NEWS**

Anglican and Catholic bishops have taken part in Anglican Choral Evensong as part of a pilgrimage to St Peter's Basilica (IARCCUM)





participating in one another's liturgical celebrations helps Christians to share more deeply in traditions which often have developed from common roots.

Sharing in the service of Evening Prayer as it has traditionally been celebrated by Anglicans is an opportunity for Catholics to do just that and to give thanks for their shared tradition of prayer.

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Choral Evensong is a particularly beautiful expression of our shared tradition and we can be very grateful that we have this opportunity to experience it together in St Peter's."

Dr Christopher Wells, Director of Unity, Faith and Order at the Anglican Communion Office said:

"IARCCUM has, since its appearance in 2000, broken new ground on the ecumenical landscape, as it seeks to apply all that the theological dialogue between Anglicans and Catholics has achieved since 1967.

The pairs of bishops, as they commit to shared ministry in every way possible, serve as pioneers on the way to the fullness of unity in faith, order, and witness, which is the Lord's will. That both of our communions are investing in this practical, experimental work shows the depth of our commitment to the unflagging pursuit of full, visible unity in the body of Christ. As we pray, study, teach, and serve alongside other Christians, the Holy Spirit reshapes our hearts, and what seemed remote or unimaginable becomes real and normal. Unity is not as hard as we think. It begins and ends with love of God and one another and subsists in common prayer."

**Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts,
and books**

**Launch of Coalition of Christian Voices
Against Poverty**

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Many Christian organisations have come together to work for change in a more collaborative way. The Coalition of Christian Voices Against Poverty will be launched on 30th January and you are invited! Email Danielle McElhinney (d.mcelhinney@eauk.org) or lynda.gould@nicva.org

All Saints', Aghade

R93 XD79

Peace concert

Friday 23rd February 2024 at 8pm



With Carlow Cathedral Choir

Director Marian Gaynor

Admission €5, in support of UNICEF IRELAND

Enquires Rev. Dr. Lester Scott - 087 2504322

Really Free In Christ?

Reading St Paul's Letter to the Romans together today.

With insights from Augustinian priest Kieran O'Mahony, Scripture scholar and Ecumenical Canon of Christ Church 2012-2017.

Listening, thinking, growing through Lent with the help of St Paul's greatest letter.

Scripture Tuesdays in Lent

- **6pm (optional Dinner)**
- **7-9pm Lecture and discussion**

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Starts 13th February (Shrove Tuesday)

and continues on Tuesdays in Lent:

February 13th, 20th, 27th and March 5th, 12th, 19th

Book your place on **Eventbrite**

(Find the link on our Belfast Jesuit Centre Facebook page

or website **www.belfastjesuitcentre.org**)

Suggested offering for the whole course £80

(Concessions available)



St Patrick's community pilgrimage walk

Monday 18th March - St Patrick's Walk, a community pilgrimage walk on Bank Holiday Monday starting at 11am from St.Salvator's Church, Glaslough to Glennan Presbyterian Church and St. Mary's Church concluding with a lunch of homemade soup and bread in Donagh Parochial Hall on Main Street, Glaslough. Donations for The Arch Club and Donagh Girls' Brigade. Everyone welcome.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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