

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Ballycastle's ARK

June 14, 2024



Image of the day

Ballycastle's ARK

A.R.K. (Active Ramoan Kids) had a great end of year outing to Trench Farm on Saturday. Brilliant fun for young and old!

Great imagination and vision from Ramoan Parish, Ballycastle





Rathmichael Parish Pavement

Rathmichael Parishioners were delighted to dedicate their newly paved outdoor area at the Erck Hall.

“As well as giving us a place to enjoy fellowship together, the area provides disabled access to the hall. This work was made possible through the generosity of a much-loved and fondly-remembered parishioner.”



Judith in the Christian Aid t-shirt stands alongside fellow coffee morning organisers Irene Hurst (left), Elizabeth Kennedy and Myra Doherty (right).

Rossnowlagh octogenarian raises more than €1,000 for Christian Aid

Christian Aid Ireland says - Please join us in saying well 'done-gals' to Judith Hinchliff and all our supporters at St John's Church of Ireland in Rossnowlagh, County Donegal who held a Christian Aid week fundraiser on Tuesday 21 May at their church hall.

This stoical octogenarian raised more than €1,000 with her coffee event, despite being in constant pain as she waits for hip replacement surgery.

Helping Judith bake scones and cakes as well as pour the coffee were several of her fellow parishioners, assisted by members of St Anne's in Ballyshannon and Drumholm

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Parish Church in Ballintra. All three churches are part of the Diocese of Derry and Raphoe.

Almost 50 visitors enjoyed a coffee and sweet treat in exchange for a donation to support our work. There was also the opportunity to buy home-made jam and marmalade to take home.

Among those supporting the event were members of the Rossnowlagh Ramblers Walking Club, as well as members of the religious community of the nearby Franciscan friary wearing their signature long brown robes.

Now in her mid-80s, Judith is a former Anglican nun whose twenty years of service with the Yorkshire-based Order of the Holy Paraclete included spells nursing in the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe and doing pastoral work in Johannesburg, South Africa. She left the order in 1983 and later married, settling with her husband in Donegal where she has lived since 1988.

Please join us in thanking Judith for her lifetime of service to help those in need.

North West Belfast Scouts are keenly supported

William Humphrey commented - “Pleased and honoured to Chair my first meeting of North West Belfast District Scout Council , following my appointment as Chairman last year.



“ A very positive and well attended meeting, with many young Leaders present. The Annual Report and the contributions from the floor were very encouraging and point to a bright future.

“Thanks to our District Commissioner, William Mills and his Team, who have worked extremely hard. As District Chairman, I would like to thank my fellow Officers, who do a first class job - Naomi Thompson (Secretary), Mary Morrison (Treasurer) and Canon Tracey McRoberts MBE (Chaplain). Thank You All! “

Killowen Mothers' Union celebrates 120th Anniversary

Congratulations to Killowen Mothers' Union, Coleraine, on the occasion of their 120th Anniversary.



They had a wonderful celebration. Thankfulness for their prayerful engagement, support, creativity and witness, alongside fun and fellowship over 120 years.

Archbishop of Canterbury commends Carers Week

Archbishop Justin Welby said - Caring is at the very heart of what it means to be human. It goes beyond what we do for one another to who we are and were created to be.

By attending to the needs of their relatives, neighbours or friends, unpaid carers point us towards the great aspiration of a society marked by service as love-in-action. I know from my own experience of life and ministry that caring is both hard and life-giving. Children and young people are also often carers and need special support.

When unpaid carers speak about the physical, mental and economic circumstances they face, we must do more than listen; we must act. We must honour their service with a society-wide shift in how we celebrate and support unpaid carers, which requires legislation from Government, flexibility from employers, and a renewed commitment from all of us as actively engaged citizens in our communities.

Carers Week commented, - 62% of those who care, or previously provided care, said they had 'no choice' in taking on the role because no other options were available.

We launch our 'No choice but to care' report, covering the impact of caring on unpaid carers.

<https://go.carersuk.org/CW24report>

International Anglican Women's Network

This week, the International Anglican Women's Network (IAWN) Steering Group is meeting at the Anglican Communion Office.

They are discussing issues affecting women throughout the Anglican Communion. IAWN is strategizing and planning during this week to equip and encourage collaboration with both men and women in each province to address these issues.

IAWN serves as a bold and prophetic voice for all women in the Anglican Communion. Their work is dedicated to upholding the God-given dignity of women and girls,



eradicating gender-based inequality and violence, and promoting just relationships among all people.

“It may surprise some members of our global Anglican Communion that there is still a need for an International Anglican Women's Network, yet as we meet we are very aware of the injustices, inequality and violence against women and girls that is taking place in each country. In an increasing environment and push back on women's justice we need to continue to work towards full equality of women and girls to ensure that every person made in the image of God can flourish into all that they came be. There is still a lot of work to be done and I call on each one of us to prioritise, fund, encourage and support the work on gender equality and justice in every parish, diocese and Province”.

- The Ven. Carole Hughes, Chair of the International Anglican Women's Network Steering Group

Irish comedians to meet Pope Francis during special Vatican event today

Three Irish comedians will be among the 100 entertainers to meet with Pope Francis at the Apostolic Palace on June 14.

Irish comedians Ardal O'Hanlon, Patrick Kielty, and Tommy Tiernan are among 100 entertainers who are set to meet with Pope Francis at The Vatican this Friday, June 14.

O'Hanlon, from Co Monaghan, is perhaps most famous for his role as Father Dougal McGuire on the beloved comedy "Father Ted," while Kielty, from Co Down, took over as host of RTÉ's "The Late Late Show" last year.

Meanwhile, Tiernan, who was born in Co Donegal and later lived in Co Meath, has featured in the smash hit "Derry Girls" and also has his own talk show on RTÉ.

The trio of Irish comedians will be joined by several Irish American comedians as well - Conan O'Brien, Jimmy Fallon, Stephen Colbert, and Jim Gaffigan are also set to attend the event on Friday, according to Vatican News.

Jointly organized by the Vatican's Dicastery for Culture and Education and Dicastery for Communication, Friday's event in the Apostolic Palace is intended to "establish a link"

between the Catholic Church and such artists, a June 8 press release from the Holy See said.

The meeting aims to "celebrate the beauty of human diversity ... [and] promote a message of peace, love and solidarity" and "promises to be a moment of meaningful intercultural dialogue and sharing of joy and hope."

Reuters notes that the press release from the Vatican said Pope Francis "recognizes the significant impact that the art of comedy has on the world of contemporary culture."

"Through the humorous talent and the unifying value of laughter, unique reflections on the human condition and the historical situation are offered today," the Vatican statement said, saying comedy can also "contribute to a more empathetic and supportive world."

Vatican News reports that the statement from the Holy See recalled Pope Francis during an interview with Italian TV channel TV2000 when he said that he prays daily in the words of St. Thomas More, asking the Lord to grant him a sense of humor.

In the past, Pope Francis has acknowledged the power the art of comedy has to contribute to a more empathetic and sympathetic world. He also observed, during his June 2023 encounter with artists in the Sistine Chapel, that, after all, Scripture itself is rich in moments of irony.

On that occasion, the Pope likewise expressed to the artists gathered under Michelangelo's frescoes, his belief that humorists, including actors, artists, cartoonists, and writers,

have "the ability to dream up new versions of the world," and often do so "with irony, which is a wonderful virtue."

Clergy appointments

Donegal nun appointed to the Dicastery for Evangelisation

Manorcunningham's Sr. Mary Barron has been appointed as a member of the Dicastery for Evangelisation specifically in the Section for First Evangelisation and New Particular Churches. Donegal News reports.

The wonderful news was shared by Pope Francis on June 8, 2024.

Sr. Mary Barron, who is a Galdonagh native, has dedicated her life to evangelisation.

Her missionary work in Nigeria and Tanzania has been profound, involving diverse pastoral activities, youth work, women's empowerment, and coordination of HIV and AIDS projects.

With fifteen years of leadership experience within the Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Apostles congregation, Sr. Mary has passionately promoted inter-congregational initiatives, fostering collaboration and unity among us.

In addition to her work within her congregation, Sr. Mary has served as a joint coordinator of a mission animation project in Ireland and has held key roles in SEDOS (Service of Documentation and Study on Global Mission) in Rome, where she currently serves as President.

In 2019, she was elected to the Executive Board of the International Union of Superiors General (UISG), becoming its President in September 2023.

This appointment is particularly meaningful as the Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Apostles prepare to celebrate their 150th anniversary, reflecting on their rich history closely linked to Propaganda Fide.

It also aligns with the Church's journey towards a more synodal expression, highlighting the central role of women in the authentic expression of the Church today.

New Moderator of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church

The Right Reverend Alister Bell has been installed as the new Moderator of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland for the year 2024-25.

Right Reverend Alister Bell is committed to bringing our congregations and churches together, fostering unity and collaboration within our community. His moderatorial motto, "Sharing God's Love Together," perfectly encapsulates his vision for the coming year.

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Congratulations

FROM ALL SOULS CHURCH

New Clerk of Synod of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church

Rev. Lynda Kane of Ballyclare, Cairncastle, and Ballymoney has been duly elected as the Clerk of Synod.

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The new Moderator and Clerk are pictured with Elders Charles Stewart and Alan Kirk, of All Souls who attended the Synod service in Banbridge on behalf of their church.

Chaplaincy team member at Letterkenny University Hospital



The Rev Sean McClafferty was formally welcomed to Letterkenny University Hospital by its General Manager, Sean Murphy, as the clergyman took up his new role as Church of Ireland chaplain.

Mr Murphy said that he and all at LUH valued the high level of pastoral care and support given by the chaplaincy team and welcomed Rev McClafferty to the Hospital; he wished the new chaplain well as he began his new and highly valued ministry role.

Rev McClafferty said, "I have always felt led to chaplaincy, especially healthcare chaplaincy, and feel extremely humbled and privileged to serve God and His people in this

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wonderful ministry role. I am extremely grateful to Bishop Andrew for his faith and trust in me"

Rev McClafferty, succeeds Rev Heather Houlton who stepped down recently after serving for six and a half years in the role of chaplain.

Cathedral Calls



St Paul's learning library

Looking for learning resources? Our learning library holds hundreds of films, podcasts and written resources for adults and children.

Many of the films are also available to listen to as podcasts on our

Soundcloud channel.

Below, you will find highlights from our extensive collection of films, podcasts and written resources. Search keywords in our library to find exactly what you're looking for – or use the filters to find resources by audience, theme and type.

[\[https://www.stpauls.co.uk/our-learning-library\]](https://www.stpauls.co.uk/our-learning-library)



Family
FUN DAY

Special Performance by:
MALACHI CUSH

The Archdiocese of Armagh with St. Patrick's Parish Dundalk and K. Allen Events will host a family fun day as part of its St. Brigid 1500, celebrations.

 **SUNDAY**
16.6.2024

 **EVENT TIME**
3pm - 6pm

 **ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH DUNDALK**
Roden Place, Dundalk.

For trade stand or entertainment enquiries contact:
kallenevents@hotmail.com

Webinars,
music,
resources,
broadcasts,
and books

**St. Brigid
1500 – Family
Fun Day,
Dundalk 16th
June**

**The Archdiocese
of Armagh in**

**partnership with the Dundalk parishes, will host a
Family Fun Day in the grounds of St. Patrick's Church,
Dundalk, on the 16th June 2024 from 3pm – 6pm.**

The family fun day will be followed by a procession to St. Nicholas' Church, Dundalk, for a special prayer service dedicated to St. Brigid.

The event is part of the Archdiocese of Armagh's year long celebrations to mark the life and legacy of St. Brigid on this

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the 1500th anniversary year of her death. All are invited to attend.

Weekend of Prayer & Healing

Weekend of Prayer & Healing with Fr Pat Collins at Benburb Priory on Saturday 15th June & Sunday 16th June 2024. Registration at 9.30 am (registration fee £20 per day payable on the day) Complimentary tea and coffee and lunch available to purchase. All welcome to attend



In the media

Presbyterians to debate assisted dying as palliative care deemed 'better way'

Church's General Assembly to hear of 'assault on the value of human life, Amy Cochrane writes in the Belfast Telegraph

Euthanasia and assisted dying will be discussed at the Presbyterian Church's General Assembly next week.

The event, which begins on June 20 at Assembly Buildings in Belfast, is one of the largest annual church gatherings on the island of Ireland.

Ministers and elders from the Presbyterian Church in Ireland's 500-plus congregations will attend.

Rev Trevor Gribben, the clerk of the General Assembly, has said the three-day event will include discussion on the reconfiguration of ministry due to declining attendance numbers at weekly services, and resolutions concerning assisted dying and euthanasia.

Assisted dying is illegal in Northern Ireland, but calls have been made in the UK and the Republic of Ireland to bring in legislation on the issue.

Rev Gribben outlined the Presbyterian Church's stance on the issue and explained how, at both the 2015 and 2018

General Assemblies, members voted to “strongly oppose any legislation which allows assisted suicide or euthanasia”. Members also called on the governments in Northern Ireland and the Republic “to ensure the adequate resourcing of both research and delivery in this important area”.

Rev Gribben said: “Since then, the issue has become more prevalent.

“While we presented our concerns in December to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on assisted dying, there have been moves since 2018, and more recently than that, to legislate for it in Scotland, the Isle of Man and Jersey.

“This year, new resolutions will be debated on what seems to be a concerted and ongoing assault on the innate dignity and value of human life in these islands.”

He suggested that more needs to be done by the Government to fund palliative care for patients.

“We believe all life is sacred, it is the gift of God, and at the Presbyterian Church we are very concerned with issues surrounding abortion and the start of life, but also in issues towards the end of life,” he said.

“We are against legislation for assisted suicide and euthanasia. We believe that is wrong.

“We also want to say that there is a better way; it's not the only way.

“And in our report, with some experts in palliative care, including leading academics and physicians, we are calling

on the Government to prioritise that better way — and that better way is palliative care.

“In both the north and south of this island, the vast majority of the hospice movement, for instance, is funded by private donations and fundraising and the Government don't really invest in palliative care, which is the better way.

“Last year, we gave evidence to the Oireachtas Committee on assisted dying, where two of my colleagues gave evidence and promoted what we believe is a Biblical case that life is a gift of God and sacred, where we shouldn't be going down the road where people will feel pressured to end their lives because they see themselves as an inconvenience to society.

“I think sometimes in what appears to be well-meaning legislative changes, there are unforeseen consequences. And in this area of either people taking life, euthanasia or assisting people to take their own lives, this is something which will make a huge historical change in our society.

“It's not something we should rush into, because it is the latest issue people feel they need to deal with in a modern society.”

Courtesy the Belfast Telegraph 12/06/2024

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



