

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Church of South India says farewell to host rector at Drumbeg

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Rev'd Willie Nixon, Rector of St Patrick, Drumbeg and his wife Caroline and the St Thomas CSI Church Belfast members met for a special farewell Holy Communion Service on Saturday 15th June.

The Church of South India parish worships in Drumbeg Parish Church where the present rector Rev'd Willie Nixon is leaving shortly to become rector of Seapatricks Parish. In Banbridge.

St Thomas CSI Church posted on its web site - “It is with both a heavy heart and a deep sense of gratitude that the St Thomas CSI Church Belfast members gathered to bid a farewell to our Rev Willie Nixon. As Willie prepares to embark on a new chapter in his journey of serving our Lord, we are honoured to have this opportunity to express our appreciation and love for all that he has done for our Church of South India. It was indeed a farewell message from Rev'd Willie on the theme of discipleship to the congregation.

“St Thomas CSI Church is associated with the Drumbeg Parish Church and affiliated to the Diocese of Down & Dromore . It's a recognised and licensed overseas congregation of CSI Diocese of Madhya Kerala, India and a registered charity in Northern Ireland (NIC107503) and recognized by HMRC. Rev Willie Nixon who was instrumental in building the relationship with the CSI Church Belfast.”

Elsewhere on its web side St Thomas says, “We have come together to worship, experience and demonstrate the love of god and thereby spread the gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in our community and throughout the world. OUR VISION is to promote fellowship by encouraging one another, praying for each other, serving and bearing one another's burdens. We as a congregation with mission outreaches registered as a charity to carry our purpose by sharing the love of Jesus Christ though proclamation, community & charity development projects for the marginalized and disadvantaged sections of the people”.

[<https://www.csichurchbelfast.co.uk/>]

Rev William Nixon commented - "Caz and I had a lovely day with our brothers and sisters from the Church of South India (CSI) as we celebrated our shared fellowship over these past years since we first welcomed the CSI family at Drumbeg Parish in 2013

"At that time the CSI family was under the leadership of Rev'd Jacob Thomas..it has been a great blessing to get to know their present Pastor, Rev'd Sabi Mathew. It was so good to give a farewell Word to them on the theme of discipleship and to share in Holy Communion. CSI has been the source of some wonderful fellowship for us and reminds me of the fulfilment of Christ's words in Acts 1:8. Caz and I give thanks to the Lord for these brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus and will remember them with love and affection. We were blessed by lovely gifts today from the CSI Church family. Thank you!"

News

Vote for your favourite wedding hymn

St Paul's church of Ireland, Mountmellick, Co, Laois are planning a wonderful trip down memory lane,.

They are hoping to hold an exhibition of as many wedding dresses as possible from the brides of St Pauls over the last 100 years. The exhibition will tell the story of each dress. They hope to be able to highlight the changes that have taken place over the 100 years in styles and stories.

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The good folks of St Paul's are also planning to close the 4-day (5th September to 8th September) event with a service of praise and thanksgiving.

This is where you are invited to take part.

They are asking all members of the public to come on board and vote for their favourite wedding hymn. They would love to know why you have chosen the hymn and why it means so much to you. The top 6 hymns with the highest votes will be sung during the service which will take place on Sunday 8th September 2024 this will be an Ecumenical service. Last votes must be in before Friday 23rd August 2024.

How to vote

Email; chooseyourhymn@gmail.com

Please include the name of the hymn and also why you like it so much.

Post : choose your hymn, C/o Mrs Janet Stewart, The Rock House, Emo Road, Mountmellick, Laois. R32 XC6H

Alternatively if you prefer you may text 086 2737146

They look forward to hearing from everyone.

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Morocco's highest peak climbed for Manorcunningham church repairs

Raymochy parishioner, Marcus Doherty, has returned safely from his sponsored ascent of North Africa's highest mountain, Mount Toubkal in Morocco, having raised the outstanding sum of €17,325 in aid of Raymochy Parish Church.

At 4,167m, Toubkal – in the Atlas Mountains – is five times higher than Mount Errigal, and Marcus was accompanied on this high altitude climb by his brother-in-law, James Garvie.

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100% of the funds raised will go to the church since Marcus (pictured on left with parish treasurer Philip Browne, at last night's cheque presentation) paid all expenses himself. The money will be used in full for repairs to the roof and for the upkeep of this fine, historic church.

See - <http://cathedral.raphoe.anglican.org/raymochy/>



Silver Acorn Award for Cloughfern Parish Scout leader

A leader of Cloughfern Parish Scout Group, David Garland, was presented with Scouting's Silver Acorn Award for long service, at a ceremony at Ardnavally Scout Centre.

David is pictured here with (r) Stephen Donaldson, outgoing Chief Volunteer for NI Scouting, and (l) Cloughfern's

own Stephen Bell, who takes up the role of Chief Volunteer in September.

NSPCI's new Sunday School and Youth chair



Adele Johnston of First Dunmurry Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church' who was appointed Chair of the NSPCI Sunday School and Youth Committee at last week's Synod at Banbridge Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church.

Her service and work for the denomination was also honoured on the first night of the Synod when the outgoing Moderator, Rt Rev Lena Cockroft, presented Adele with one of the Moderator's Awards for all her work over the years.

King's birthday honours

Congratulations to Brian Lynas BEM, recognised in HM the King's birthday honours for services to the Boys' Brigade and to the community in County Antrim.



Valerie Adams, Librarian at the **Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland**, has been made an MBE for services to archives in the King's Birthday Honours. Before taking the helm at PHSI, Valerie worked at PRONI, the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland. Valerie is pictured here beside Joe Kennedy III at the launch of the Ulster-Scots and the Declaration of Independence Exhibition last year.

Everyone at **St Columba's Church Omagh** was delighted that parishioner **William Young** was honoured with an MBE by His Majesty.

Although this award is given in recognition of Williams professional achievements, many in the church and community can testify to his outstanding contribution to many church, civic and charitable organisations in Omagh and beyond.

St Columba's deeply appreciates everything that William and Noelle do to ensure that its Evergreen Club runs smoothly and successfully, as well as his steadfast commitment to the Tyrone Protestant Orphan Society

Sally, 67, breaks a cricketing record

The Dean of Gibraltar's wife is claiming a sporting record as the world's oldest international cricketer.

Sally Barton, 67, will strap on her leg pads to keep wicket at the match between Gibraltar and Croatia and Czechia in Prague on Friday. Ms Barton, a reader in the Church of England, is married to the Very Rev Ian Tarrant.

She has been an avid cricketer since school and said the sport offered a unique opportunity for fellowship and inclusivity between players of all ages, genders and abilities.

She told the Church Times the game could be seen to mimic life, adding: "Sometimes, it can seem like it's just plodding along, but there's actually a lot going on beneath the surface, and the game can switch in an instant."



Cathedral Calls

St Eugene's Cathedral Pilgrimage to Knock

Just back home to Derry from their Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine.

They said -

A truly blessed day spent with great people in a very special place.

Thanks to everyone who joined us for our Parish Pilgrimage.
Thanks to the pupils of our Parish Post Primary Schools for taking part in the Mass.

June 19, 2024

Thanks to Fr Colum Clerkin our Spiritual Director for his guidance.

Thanks to the staff at Knock Shrine for welcoming us and allowing us to sing at the Mass.

Congratulations to Kathleen and Eddie Mc Callion who renewed their Marriage Vows in the Apparition Chapel to celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

Congratulations and Happy Birthday to our Pilgrims Seamus Mc Intyre and Roisin Rice who celebrated their 50th Birthdays

Thanks to Michael from Catch Acoach and Kyle from Mc Gettigan Travel Ltd for driving us so safely and comfortably

Our Lady of Knock pray for us



Minister visits St Canice's Cathedral

St Canice's Kilkenny had a visit from Minister Malcolm Noonan to see their plans for its new interpretation project on The Tower & Cathedral Close.



“Thanks to funding we have received from the Community Monuments Fund, we can enhance our offering to the visitor. We were delighted to walk him and Regina Fitzpatrick around the Cathedral and Close grounds and show what is in store.”

Pictured in the photo is Regina Fitzpatrick- Heritage Officer- Kilkenny County Council; Malcolm Noonan, Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and Anne Marie Hallinan, Manager St Canice's Cathedral.



Choral Scholar opportunities in Belfast

Belfast Cathedral is seeking to fill vacancies for Alto, Tenor, and Baritone/Bass Choral Scholars starting this September 2024.

Available to approved applicants are University Choral Scholarships worth £2000 PA and Secondary School Choral Scholarships worth £1000 PA

The Choral Scholarships will enable young people to enjoy singing the great cathedral repertoire in a beautiful building with a superb acoustic, making friendships that will last a lifetime, receive training, and learning new skills as part of a committed team of musicians.

The Cathedral's Organist and Master of Music, Mr Jack Wilson, is always keen to hear from individuals interested in auditioning, and expressions of interest are most welcome.

What duties are involved as a Cathedral Choral Scholar?

- Singing the services of Choral Eucharist and Choral Evensong each Sunday, alongside one additional weekday evening service, as well as at the major Festivals of the Church, and frequent civic occasions.
- Attending the weekly choir rehearsal each Thursday evening.

What are the benefits?

- There is a scholarship grant of £2,000 for Choral Scholars who are university students, and £1000 for those who are still at school.
- Choral Scholars will receive free singing tuition.
- Choral Scholars applying for university choral scholarships or other musical positions will have an opportunity to receive special training that should be helpful in preparing for voice trials, auditions, and interviews, delivered by guests who are experts in their field.
- Receive additional payments for cantor duties, weddings, funerals, and extra services.

There are vacancies for Alto (male or female), Tenor, and Baritone/Bass Choral Scholars from September 2024.

Further information is available from Jack Wilson who will be delighted to hear from you, via:
jackwilson@belfastcathedral.org



45 years' service as a Sunday School teacher in St Columb's Cathedral

Bishop Andrew Forster has written to Templemore parishioner, Mrs Irene Hewitt, to congratulate her on completing 45 years' service as a teacher in St Columb's Cathedral Sunday School.

Irene began teaching there in May 1979 and has been the school's Superintendent since 1992.

The Bishop wrote that since her marriage to Malcom – and her move from St Augustine's, where she'd also previously been a Sunday School teacher – Irene had thrown herself into every aspect of life in Derry Cathedral. "However," his letter said, "one of the most important, if not the most

important [achievements] has been passing on the faith to the next generation.”

Irene was instrumental in getting the Cathedral’s ‘Adopt a grandparent’ project off the ground. The project – which was featured on the BBC’s Songs of Praise programme last year and is supported by the Church of Ireland Priorities Fund – connects young people with older members of the community. The children visit their adopted grandparents, some of whom might have few visitors otherwise, and bring them small treats.

In last month’s Cathedral Magazine, Irene reminisced about her early days with St Columb’s Cathedral Sunday School. “When I think back to those days, we had Beetle Drives, Christmas parties, and the most enjoyable excursions, with sandwiches and buns in a bag round the back of Barrys. Sadly those days are long gone and now a memory.”

The article gave some insight into the longevity of Irene’s association with the school, and her impact on the children she has taught. “It’s funny that I have now taught three generations of females in one family, and many mothers and daughters and fathers and sons. I was once told never to work with children – but you learn so much from them – some have no filters and tell all – I love it.”

In his letter to Irene, Bishop Andrew said, “I would like to sincerely thank you for your energy, commitment and love in such a strategic role, and I pray that God will richly bless you as you continue to serve him in such faithfulness.”

Clergy

Waterford Ordination

On June 16 the Revd Daniel Fleming was ordained to the priesthood in Christ Church Cathedral Waterford. He will serve as curate of Waterford Union. Pray for him, Dean Bruce Hayes and for the community in which they serve.

Rector of Helen's Bay

The Revd Peter Hilton has been appointed as Incumbent of the Parish of Helen's Bay in the Diocese of Down. Peter is currently Curate Assistant in the Parish of Newtownards. A date for the service of Institution will be announced in due course.

Rector of Dromore, Clogher

The Revd William (Bill) Boyce, Vicar of St Andrew's Church, Puerto Pollensa, Majorca in the Diocese of Europe has been appointed as the next rector of Holy Trinity Church, Dromore. A native of Derry and Raphoe, he has previously served in the dioceses of Connor, Down and Dromore.

The Bishop of Clogher, the Right Revd Dr. Ian Ellis, welcoming him to Clogher Diocese said; "I am delighted with the appointment of Revd William (Bill) Boyce to the parish of Dromore and wish him and his wife Eleanor every blessing on this new chapter of ministry as they move from Mallorca back to Northern Ireland".



Ordination Anniversaries

Congratulations to Rev Dr Ron Elsdon ordained at St Anne's Cathedral 25 years ago on Sunday 13th June, 1999.

To mark his anniversary, Dr Elsdon celebrated Holy Communion for St Barnabas' Day assisted by his wife Janice at the Wednesday lunchtime Communion service held in the cathedral's Chapel of Unity.

Members of the lunchtime congregation were joined by friends of Ron and Janice, including Stephen and Vera Lowry, and Tony and Daniel Jones.

Rev Dr Ron Elsdon (centre) with his wife and the Dean of Belfast

Others in Connor Diocese who share the same 25th anniversary of their Ordination include:

Revs P Jack, R Cooke and A J Heber.

Belated silver jubilee sermon

Bishop Paul Colton notes - The last occasion I preached to my cohort was in 1996 when they were just about to leave the Church of Ireland Theological College. I was delighted to preside and preach for them in St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh (at the invitation of our classmate, now the Archbishop) to mark, 3 years on, their silver jubilee which was postponed due to the pandemic.

Fr. Eddie Gallagher writes - Thanking God today for all who have supported me and continue to support me, today, on the 30th Anniversary of my Ordination to the Priesthood. May God continue to pour his blessings on you all.

Armagh Deacons

Rita Arthur, David Hawthorne, Rhonda Dempsey and Jackie Carson were ordained as Deacons in St Patrick's Cathedral Armagh earlier this month.

The preacher at the service was the Bishop of Cork, Cloyne & Ross - the Rt Revd Paul Colton

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



Book Launch at C of I Theological Institute

Dr Katie Heffelfinger's new publication, "Isaiah 40–66" (Cambridge University Press). Was launched by the C of I Theological Institute

A large number of guests gathered to celebrate this wonderful achievement. The main speakers were Prof David Shepherd, The Revd Dr Heather Morris, and Dr Heffelfinger herself as the author.

Anyone wishing to purchase a copy of this book, please visit www.cambridge.org/9781316617304 and enter the code ISAI AH23 for a 20% Discount.

C of I Theological Institute 2024 MTh Awards

Students were awarded prizes at the most recent Court of Examiners meeting.

The Weir Prize is awarded to the student in certain cohorts who attains the best overall result.



The Literature Committee Prize is for excellence in the dissertation and is awarded by the External Examiner. It leads to publication of the student's dissertation within the Braemor Series.

1. Non–Residential Taught Cohort: Jonny Watson
2. Residential Taught Cohort : Siobhan Wheeler

The COI Literature Committee Award for best dissertation was awarded to Rev Cameron Mack (above). This will lead to the publication of Cameron's dissertation within the "Braemor Series".

In the media

Kielty meets the Pope to celebrate the 'precious gift' of comedians - Irish Independent

Late Late Show host and Co Down man Patrick Kielty met the Pope in a private audience along with other comedians yesterday morning, Elmer McGovern reports.

Kielty and fellow entertainers Tommy Tiernan and Ardal O'Hanlon were among a group of around 100 comedians who met Pope Francis.

The “conclave of comedians” also included Whoopi Goldberg, Jimmy Fallon, Chris Rock, Stephen Colbert and Conan O'Brien.

The Vatican said the meeting was to “celebrate the beauty of human diversity... [and] promote a message of peace, love and solidarity”. It also said it promised “to be a moment of meaningful intercultural dialogue and sharing of joy and hope.”

The audience was organised by the Vatican's Dicastery for Culture and Education and Dicastery for Communication.

According to Vatican News, Pope Francis told the comedians they are in possession of “a precious gift” that can spread peace “within hearts and between peoples, helping us to overcome difficulties and cope with daily stress”.

The Holy Father went on to highlight another “miracle” of comedians, the ability to make people smile even when tackling serious issues. “You denounce the excesses of power, give voice to forgotten situations, highlight abuses, point out inappropriate behaviour... but without spreading alarm and terror, anxiety or fear,” he told them.

Pope Francis pointed out that in creation, “Divine Wisdom practised your art for the benefit of none other than God Himself, the first spectator in history”, with God delighting in the works that he had made.

“Remember this,” he told comedians. “When you manage to bring intelligent smiles to the lips of even a single spectator, you also make God smile.”

Thinking and speaking with a sense of humour helps us understand and get a sense of human nature, he said.

Humour “does not offend, does not humiliate, does not 'nail' people to their faults”, Pope Francis added. Unlike other forms of communication, he argued, humour is never 'against' anyone, but is always inclusive and proactive, and arouses openness, sympathy, and empathy.

In fact, the Pope said: “We can even laugh at God, just as we play and joke with those we love.”

But, he said, this must be done without offending the religious feelings of believers, especially the poor.

Pope Francis concluded his address by blessing those present and their art.

“Continue to cheer people up, especially those who find it hardest to look at life with hope,” he said.

“Help us, with a smile, to see reality with its contradictions, and to dream of a better world!”

The meeting took place before His Holiness headed to Puglia for the G7 leaders' summit.

O'Hanlon, who grew up in Carrickmacross, Co Monaghan, famously played Fr Dougal Maguire in Channel 4's cult classic Father Ted.

His character questioned the Catholic religion as a whole and at one point forgot he was a priest.

And in Tiernan's first appearance on The Late Late Show in 1997, his controversial routine based on the crucifixion caused hundreds of complaints to flood in for the Irish state broadcaster.

Some considered the stand-up performance by the man from Carndonagh, Co Donegal, to be blasphemous. He won the Perrier Prize at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 1998 with a routine largely based on his experiences following the broadcast.

Poem for today

In Bewley's Coffee House - A Poem for Bloomsday

By Malcolm Guite

I look up, hands around my coffee cup,
On Grafton street in Bewley's coffee shop,
Blue Mountain, Java and Colombian
The labels are a journey on their own
Then the aroma as they're ground by hand,
Beans broken open. Out of every land,
Separate savours float across this room
Of dark mahogany, to a softer bloom
Of stained glass windows, where I sit apart
Warming my hands, and waiting on my heart
To call me to adventure. I have found my voice,
Yeats in my pocket, backpack full of Joyce ,
I'm nineteen, it is nineteen seventy-seven
And Dublin is the very gate of heaven.

(A mere three days after Bloomsday!)

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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