

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Queen's Chaplaincy Choir meet with Pope Francis**



June 25, 2024

## Image of the day



### Queen's Chaplaincy Choir meet with Pope Francis



**“What a start to our Choir tour to Italy! Members of Canticle Sacred Music Society and the Chaplaincy team (of QUB) met with Pope Francis and enjoyed some graced time and**





**conversation with the Holy Father. We move onwards now to Loppiano with papal approval!”**

## News

### **Down & Dromore parishes raise £36.7K for bikes for Maridi Diocese**

**At the recent Down & Dromore Diocesan Synod it was announced that the dioceses had successfully reached their fundraising target and will be able to buy 100 bicycles and 10 motorbikes for clergy and archdeacons in Maridi Diocese!**

The total was a fantastic £36,782.32 raised by 63 parishes and it will make such a difference in their link diocese in South Sudan.



Pictured above from left to right: Revd Jeremiah Hakim, the diocesan cashier, Archdeacon Ruben Gian and Revd Rose Joseph, pastor for MU.

Indeed, Bishop Moses has described a lack of suitable transport as the biggest obstacle to ministry faced by his clergy.

Maridi Diocese has 92 priests and 5 deacons plus lay readers, evangelists and Mothers' Union workers serving 75 parishes. These are scattered across a wide area, largely inaccessible by car, meaning that to reach their congregations clergy must walk long distances for many hours.

Archdeacons visit multiple parishes, hence the need for motorbikes.

Down & Dromore look forward to sharing some photos of the new bikes and motorbikes which will be purchased in the country itself.





## Ballymena parishioner's exhibition on the history of the High Sheriff role

**Last week Mrs Patricia Perry, High Sheriff of County Antrim and parishioner of Ballymena, launched an exhibition on the history of the High Sheriff role.**

Patricia, a dedicated and highly valued Parishioner, put together this exhibition within the town to share the heritage and history of the High Sheriff.

She was joined by her husband James Perry DL, and their daughter Sarah, along with friends and dignitaries from across Northern Ireland.

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The exhibition at Midtown Makers on Church Street, our very own runs for the next few weeks. Have a look, it's well worth a visit!

## Down & Dromore Synod overview



**The Diocesan Synod was held in the beautiful surroundings of St Mark's, Dundela.**

The day began with a service of Holy Communion and the preacher this year was the Rt Revd Leo Paul, Bishop of Multan in Pakistan. The soloist was Jenny Bourke.

After a coffee break, Bishop David McClay gave his Presidential Address during the first session. Fields of Life





[Rt Revd Leo Paul, Bishop of Multan in Pakistan.](#)

CEO Tony Gaston also gave an excellent presentation on their work in Maridi, South Sudan.

Back to business for the afternoon session and an excellent Report of the Diocesan Council was adopted. Many folk contributed and a very positive and encouraging meeting concluded on time.

The session included presentations from Tim Burns who leads The Suitcase Project, June Butler from All-Ireland Mothers' Union who raised awareness of the problem of domestic violence and Ian Bingham, head of Care in NI.

Thanks were expressed to St Mark's, Dundela for being wonderful hosts.



## **Eighty years since flying bomb hit Guards' Chapel in worst V-1 attack on London**

**Eighty years ago a German V-1 flying bomb hit the chapel in Wellington Barracks in London, leaving 262 people dead or injured.**

On 18 June 1944, a mixed military and civilian congregation had gathered for the Sunday service at The Royal Military Chapel, which is better known as The Guards' Chapel.

Shortly after 11am, the V-1 flying bomb nose-dived into the roof of the building.



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The direct hit caused huge damage, destroying the roof, its supporting walls and concrete pillars.

Tons of rubble fell onto the congregation, with 121 people reported to have been killed and 141 injured.

The operation to free all of those trapped took 48 hours.

The only person not to be hurt was the Bishop of Maidstone, who was conducting the service. He was at the altar which was covered by a portico which sheltered him from the blast.

The explosion was so big that nearby buildings were also damaged – the incident was the most serious V-1 attack on London of the Second World War.

The V-1, which had the official designation Fieseler Fi 103, was a type of early cruise missile used by the Nazis.

The chapel was eventually rebuilt after the war, with the new one incorporating elements of the original structure that survived the blast.

It serves as a memorial to those who lost their lives in the attack.

## **From Causeway Methodists to Zimbabwe**

**On Sunday lunchtime Causeway Methodists gathered to say goodbye to Nyasha and to give her help with her new project.**



During the service, Nyasha brought folk up to date about what she has been doing in the 5 years since she was here working for the Surf Project and the work she's doing now in Zimbabwe among rural pastors.

“It was lovely to have Nyasha with us again and wish her all the best as she and her family continue their mission for Gods work back home” a member said.



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# Cathedral Calls



## Cathedral Music Trust - “Wishing our Royal Patron, HRH The Duchess of Gloucester, a very happy birthday

“Thank you for your continued support of our cherished choral and organ tradition”



## Diocesan Outreach Evensong raises the roof

**Last Sunday Southwark Cathedral welcomed over 220 singers from 14 parish choirs from across The Diocese of Southwark to join forces with our Southwark Cathedral Choir to sing a special Festival Evensong.**

The service was part of the Cathedral's new Music Outreach Project. Read more: <https://bit.ly/3KOXQ33>

## Ministry





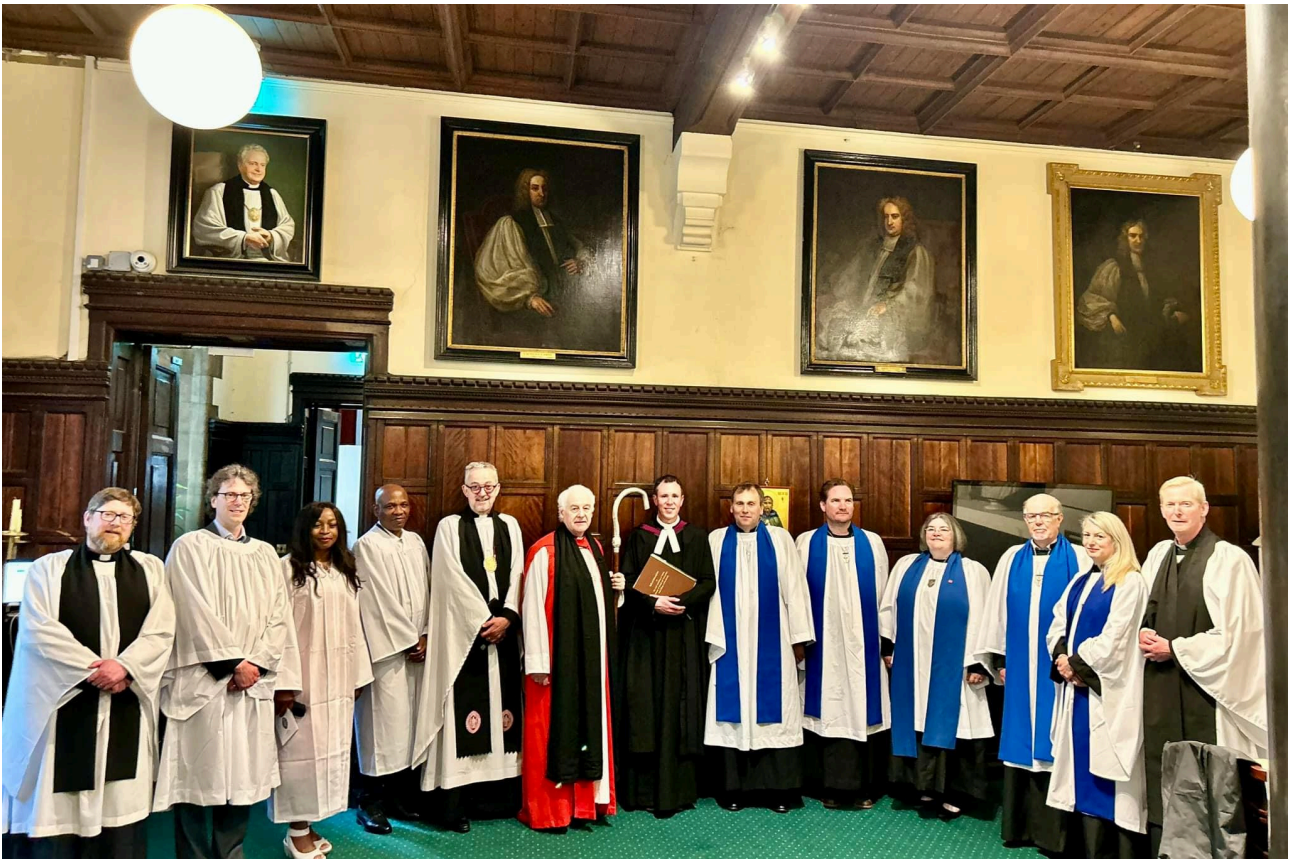
## Portstewart celebrates anniversary

**On 21st June, 60 years ago, much loved Fr. Barney McAleer was ordained to the priesthood.**

The parishioners of St. Mary's Star of the Sea Church, Portstewart have thanked Fr. Barney, for 60 wonderful years of faithful service, commitment and dedication to the Lord and for his fantastic work in South Africa and at home.

To mark this remarkable milestone, Fr. Barney celebrated Mass in St. Mary's Star of the Sea Church, Portstewart on Sunday 23rd June at 10am Mass.

There were light refreshments for everyone afterwards in the Marian Hall to the side of the Church. There they again celebrated this wonderful milestone.



## **Lay Ministers and Parish Readers commissioned in Dublin**

**In Christ Church Cathedral Dublin eight people were commissioned as Diocesan Lay Ministers and Parish Readers by Archbishop Michael Jackson.**

There were five Diocesan Lay Ministers- Olive Good (from Castleknock Parish), Philip Middleton (from Rathfarnham Parish), Ziva Newman (from Clontarf Parish), David Snow (from Swords Parish), and Daniel Stanford (from Dun Laoghaire Parish).

The three Parish Readers commissioned were- Femi Atoyebi for Castleknock Parish,



Niall Minto for Swords and Donabate Parishes, and Blessing Obioha for Clonsilla Parish.

## **Ordination to the Priesthood**

**On Sunday, June 23, the Revd Mathew McCauley, the Revd Caroline Brennan and the Revd Mike Buchanan were ordained to the priesthood in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin.**

Archbishop Michael Jackson presided and the preacher was Dean Dermot Dunne.

The Revd Mathew McCauley was ordained for Curacy in St Bartholomew's (Self Supporting Ministry). The Revd Caroline Brennan was ordained for Curacy in Kilternan. The Revd Mike Buchanan was ordained for Curacy in Rathfarnham.

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

### **World Refugee Day: Church of Ireland video promotes support for Refugees**

**Members of the Church of Ireland share stories on how refugees are welcomed and integrated in their churches in a new video released to mark World Refugee Day on Thursday last June 20.**



The film includes interviews with Helen Livingstone and David Maganda from All Nations Ministries in Belfast, and the Revd Abigail Sines and Dr Naomi Masheti from the Carraig Centre and Cork Migrant Centre. It seeks to inspire and encourage local churches to support refugees not only in this year's Refugee Week but at any time throughout the year.

Produced by Pelumi Adewuyi for the Primate's Reference Group on Ethnic Diversity, Inclusion and Racial Justice, the project was funded by the Church of Ireland Priorities Fund. The Primate's Reference Group is an initiative of Archbishop John McDowell, chaired by him with Dr Lucy Michael as the group's secretary.

In a motion proposed by Dr Michael and seconded by Stella Obe at the General Synod's 2023 meeting in Wexford, the General Synod acknowledged 'the impact of anti-refugee and migrant hatred in our communities' and sought suggestions from the Church's dioceses 'regarding ways in



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which the Church can counter the language of anti-refugee and migrant hatred at the local level and communicate a strong message of Christian welcome to all.'

The video can be viewed below or on any of the Church of Ireland's social media channels.

## 2024 General Assembly video

**A video showing worship and business sessions from the 2024 General Assembly which saw the installation of the new Moderator, Dr Richard Murray**

Download here:

<https://vimeo.com/965216765>



## Maghera Parish Caring Association

# Vintage Rally

All Usual Vintage & Classic Vehicles Welcome!

**Saturday 29th June**  
12pm-4pm  
in St Lurach's Rectory Grounds  
(beside Maghera Walled Garden)



Kids Crafts, Face Painting, Ice Cream,  
Toys, Bouncy Castle & Obstacle Course, Teas,  
Sandwiches, Tray Bakes, BBQ & more!

**ENTERTAINMENT**

\*Kenny Paul  
\*Grace Montgomery  
\*Eden Accordion Band  
\*Sollus Highland Dancers

**Stalls still available! Gates open at 8am for stallholders.**  
For more information contact  
07779599132 or 07307859336

St Columba's Parish Church, Knock, Belfast



# SUMMER CONCERT

Saint Columba's Cantors & Guests

Graeme McCullough *Organ*

Joe McKee *Choral Director*

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 7.00pm

Retiring collection for Parish Music funds.

*There will be light refreshments after the concert.*



## In the media

### **'I deny it completely': Church of Ireland minister says £10k theft charge a 'set-up' - Belfast Telegraph**

**A Church of Ireland minister accused of defrauding more than £10,000 from his parish has declared to a jury that he is “not a dishonest person”, Paul Higgins reports.**

Giving evidence for the second day at his trial at Craigavon Crown Court, Reverend Adrian McLaughlin (45) maintained that a £10,000 cheque which the prosecution claims he wrote to himself was reimbursement for money he had spent out of his own pocket.

Part of the Crown case is that Mr McLaughlin was given £200 after a funeral. The cash was handed to him in an envelope by the deceased man's daughter, witnessed by her friend.

The Crown case also claims that £345 and a £50 cheque had been collected in donations for the Royal Victoria Hospital Liver Unit Group after a separate funeral.

During the court sitting yesterday, Mr McLaughlin denied being paid for a funeral, labelling the two witnesses who claim they gave him the cash as liars, and explaining to

prosecuting counsel Joseph Murphy that “I never took payment for a funeral... it would be immoral”.

In relation to the donations for the Royal Victoria Hospital, he suggested that, having put the envelope away, he forgot about it.

It was found with £20 and the cheque still inside, with Mr McLaughlin suggesting that someone else had taken the cash.

“It has nothing to do with me,” he told trial Judge Patrick Lynch KC.

When the judge put to him that he believed “you are being set up”, Mr McLaughlin agreed: “I'm being set up quite a bit.”

Mr Murphy suggested to the defendant that despite the funeral money, “you simply helped yourself” to cash payments from a Slimming World meeting and donations being intended and designated to the church and the RVH Liver Unit Group.

“That is an absolute lie and I deny it completely and I am insulted,” declared Mr McLaughlin, who repeated claims that his “ex-wife and her lovers have brought this campaign against me and they're trying to get me a prison sentence, get my children taken off me and get me out of my house”.

Mr McLaughlin, with an address at Church Avenue in Dunmurry, faces a total of six charges of committing fraud by abuse of position on dates between October 15, 2016, and October 1, 2018, with five of the offences relating to St



Colman's Parish Church and the sixth charge relating to his role as a “constructive trustee” with the RVH Liver Unit Group.

The particulars of the offences accuse Mr McLaughlin of: ÷  
Writing out a £10,000 cheque to himself;  
÷ Taking a £1,000 donation for himself;  
÷ Taking £520 from two parishioners relating to funerals and one who paid to use the church hall for Slimming World;  
÷ Taking donations from a funeral held at the church but which were intended to go to RVH Liver Unit Group at a time when he was a “constructive trustee of the said monies for the benefit of the RVH Liver Unit Group”.

According to the Crown case, the offences do not have a potential explanation of bad bookkeeping but rather “is about downright dishonesty” where the central theme is that the defendant “abused his position as rector in order to serve his own personal interests”.

The reverend has claimed, however, that in the aftermath of a fire which completely gutted the church in January 2016, he paid thousands of pounds out of his pocket.

Those items allegedly included a replacement organ for £5,000, a wooden hut, used to house the Sunday school, for £3,500, and spending more than £10,000 on the church gardens.

Mr McLaughlin further claimed that all his efforts were directed towards the “beautification and betterment” of St Colman's Parish Church and was done with “a pure heart”.

In cross-examination yesterday, Mr McLaughlin agreed with Mr Murphy that in the minutes of vestry committee meetings, it was recorded there had been discussions and agreement about people being reimbursed for things they had bought for the church and to buy certain items.

Mr Murphy highlighted, however, that there were no such discussions or agreement about Mr McLaughlin being reimbursed to the tune of £10,000.

However, the defendant claimed that that had not been raised at a formal vestry meeting but rather at a dinner party attended by him, his then wife, the treasurer Lynne Williams and her husband John.

The prosecutor suggested to the alleged fraudster that the discussion at the dinner party, which turned into an “ad hoc” vestry meeting, “never took place... that simply did not happen”.

But Mr McLaughlin told him “that is completely incorrect”, labelling testimony from other witnesses as “complete nonsense and total lies”.

The jury have also heard how the payee was Adrian McLaughlin and that when he filled in the cheque stub he wrote the cheque had been paid to NI Organs Ltd. The jury also heard that there had been no church treasurer at the time.

Mr Murphy put to McLaughlin that as there had been no discussion about him being the recipient of the £10,000, and because the cheque stub had been filled in as NI Organs



Ltd, the other members of the vestry would not have known their reverend was to be the beneficiary of that large sum of money.

He maintained the money “would have been discussed and agreed at the AGM”.

Mr McLaughlin claimed he did not write his name in the stub because he had been “in the middle of a party” and trusted that others “would be able to fill in the blanks and details”.

Prosecuting counsel concluded his cross-examination by suggesting to the reverend he had written out the cheque and stub “at a time the church had no treasurer because you hoped you would not be found out”.

“No, I am not a dishonest person,” claimed Mr McLaughlin.

Discharging the jury, Judge Lynch said they would hear closing speeches from Mr Murphy and defence KC Richard McConkey on Monday morning.

## 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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