

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Pepper Cannister's 200th

January 27, 2024

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Pepper Cannister's 200th



On a wonderful evening in Dublin city centre the 200th anniversary of St Stephen's Church was celebrated.



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The City's new Lord Mayor James Geoghan and Romanian Orthodox priests were part of a truly great 200 celebration at Pepper Cannister church.

News



A wonderful two weeks of Pakistan in Down & Dromore

Down & Dromore diocese have had a wonderful two weeks with Bishop Leo Paul and his delightful wife and co-worker, Honey.

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They joined the staff meeting at the Diocesan Offices. “We heard more about the work of the diocese of Multan and discussed how we could best partner with them”.

Bishop David was presented with a Multani Ajrak in diocesan blue and a golden

jubilee badge marking 50 years of the Church of Pakistan. “Leo and Honey go with our love and prayers. What a privilege to meet them”.



Coffee in Bandon for Christian Aid Week

The wonderful supporters in Bandon, west Cork have been ‘bandon’ together to raise funds for the Christian Aid Week appeal.



The Gateway Centre (Gateway Fellowship Bandon), which belongs to the town's Methodist Church, was the venue for a coffee morning that raised €400 for our work.

Christian Aid is grateful to Ksenia Hodakovska, Olive Jennings and all the organisers, as well as everyone who supported the event with their donations.

Organisers Ksenia Hodakovska (left) and Olive Jennings (right) are pictured with CAI's Bandon-based Church and Community Officer Andrew Coleman and his wife Caroline.

Dunfanaghy church's 150th anniversary

Holy Trinity Parish Church in Dunfanaghy was an oasis of calm on Sunday afternoon (23rd June) as a Service of Thanksgiving was held to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the church's consecration.

While many Donegal people's eyes were fixed on the closing stages of the international motor rally, the



congregation were being invited instead to raise their eyes upwards and to cast their minds back in time.





The service was led by the Group's Rector, Rev David Skuce, and the sermon was preached by Bishop Andrew Forster.

The Bishop remarked on the faith and courage of the parishioners who built the church a century and a half ago on a site given by Stewarts of Arts. Designed by the celebrated engineer and architect John Lanyon, the work was completed in 1873 and the church was consecrated the following year.

Bishop Andrew described this as a time of uncertainty and fragility for the Church of Ireland, which had been disestablished three years earlier. He praised the confidence of those early parishioners, and others elsewhere in the Diocese, who – freed by disestablishment – embarked on the construction of church buildings,

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focusing on what they were really called to be – the people of God.

The Bishop invited the congregation to visualise five picture postcards of what the New Testament said the church could be like – the people of God; the body of Christ; the family of God; the Holy Temple; and the bride of Christ – using the themes to illustrate our calling to be good followers of Jesus and our responsibility to leave a good legacy for future generations. (Photos courtesy of Moses Alcorn)



Kilkenny service marks International Widows Day

A Service of Remembrance for all who are bereaved was held on Sunday afternoon in St. Johns Church, Kilkenny

Eco Congregation Ireland launches Small Grant scheme

Eco Congregation Ireland (ECI) has launched a new small grant scheme for churches and congregations. Thanks to generous sponsorship from church supplies companies RPD Ltd and Logos Publications, churches across Ireland can apply for a grant to support biodiversity or energy conservation projects.

The grants will be between €100/£90 and €500/£450, and the ECI committee will be looking for small scale practical projects which are either already running or will begin before the end of 2024. The church or congregation must have already registered with ECI (a very simple process) and begun their Eco Congregation journey. The closing date for applications is 31st July 2024.

Andrew Orr, Chair of ECI said, “ we are delighted to receive the generous sponsorship from RPD and Logos Publications, and we are looking forward to helping congregations north and south to put the care of God’s world into practical action”.

Tom Clements, CEO of RPD Ltd and Logos Publications said, “We are very grateful for the support we have received from Irish churches over the last fifty years and we are delighted to be able to give something back by helping support the mission of Eco Congregation Ireland.”

The criteria for the grants and an application form can be found [here](#).

The successful applicants will be announced during the Season of Creation which runs from 1st September to 4th October.

Cathedral Calls

Cathedral dean withdraws from Palestine rally

The Dean of Peterborough Cathedral has withdrawn his appearance from a Free Palestine march held last Sunday, stating he "would not want to appear to endorse the view that Israel has no right to exist".

The Very Rev Chris Dalliston was scheduled to speak at the rally alongside other speakers, including Rabbi Elhanan Beck, Louise Regan from the National Education Union, and Dr Wijid Jawaaid, a surgeon from Cambridge.

However, in a Facebook post on Saturday, Rev Chris expressed his regret for pulling out of the event. He emphasised that his decision should not be interpreted as support for the ongoing conflict in Gaza.

Clergy



25 years as Rector of Tallaght Parish

Congratulations to Canon William Deverell who this week celebrated 25 years as Rector of St Maelruains, Tallaght Parish.

Immediately after the Family Service on Sunday 23rd June the parishioners celebrated 25 years of Rev. William Deverell in St.Maelruain's Church of Ireland in Tallaght. Not only did they present him with a big chocolate cake, 25 in balloons and a book of thank you messages from the individual parishioners but also a television on which to watch the new You Tube broadcasts in addition to Facebook.

Canon William says he would be afraid to leave Tallaght as he came for the Ordinairiness of the people many of whom moved out from Crumlin and is staying for the Exoticness of

the Immigrants initially from Africa and latterly from India. But in reality is staying for the Ordinairiness of the people.

A youth asked him what did he enjoy most of the last 25 years and he immediately replied preaching to the children whom he invited up to the front post Covid.

Rev. William thanked his wife Valerie and their recently married daughter for all their support and his son who was unfortunately absent due to work for his videoing of over 750 services on Facbook live.

He not only thanked the parishioners for their generosity but also for all their work down through the 25 years.

Cork ordinands on retreat at Mirfield Community

On Sunday next, 30th June, at 3.30 pm in St. Fin Barre's Cathedral, Bishop Paul Colton will ordain Andrew Coleman and Eoghan Healy to the diaconate to serve in the Church of Ireland in Cork, Cloyne and Ross.

Please pray for them.

They are currently on retreat at the Community of the Resurrection, Mirfield, led by the Archdeacon, Andrew Orr and accompanied by their training incumbents Susan Green and Denis Mac Carthy. Photo below.



Three Priests ordained in Dublin and Glendalough

Three people who have responded to God's call were ordained to the priesthood in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, on Sunday June 23.

The Revd Caroline Brennan was ordained to serve as Curate in Kilternan Parish. The Revd Mike Buchanan was ordained to serve as Curate in Rathfarnham Parish. The Revd Mathew McCauley was ordained to the Self-Supporting Ministry and will serve as Curate in St Bartholomew's, Clyde Road.

The Service of Ordination was celebrated by Archbishop Michael Jackson and sung by the Cathedral Choir. It was the second celebration of new ministry of the weekend in



Dublin and Glendalough as eight diocesan and parish readers were commissioned the previous evening. As with the previous evening, family, friends and parishioners filled Christ Church to support the newly ordained priests and they embarked on this new stage of their journeys.

Introducing the service, Archbishop Michael Jackson noted that ordination was done in consort with God's people. "God has called Caroline, Mathew and Mike in a distinct way and my hope is that as they continue to respond to that call, the church will continue to support them, the parishes in which they will serve and their family members to have travelled this journey of faith, hope and love with them," he said.

The sermon was preached by the Dean Dermot Dunne, who led the pre-ordination retreat the previous day. The Dean

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has just celebrated the 40th anniversary of his ordination and he said ministry was a great privilege. Referring to his own background, Dean Dunne said he was an Anglican by conviction rather than birth and the insights he had gained over the years reflected his experience.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Organ masterclasses on offer

A promotional poster for a masterclass. It features a portrait of Thomas Trotter, a middle-aged man with grey hair, wearing a dark suit and a patterned tie. He is standing in front of an organ. The background is slightly blurred, showing the organ's pipes and console. A yellow circular badge in the upper right corner says "6 PLACES AVAILABLE". The main title "MASTERCLASS WITH THOMAS TROTTER" is in large, bold, white capital letters. Below the title, the text "Join the internationally-acclaimed organist Thomas Trotter for a masterclass in - St. Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral, Armagh Tuesday 13 August, 7pm" is written in a smaller white font. At the bottom, there is a logo for the "NORTHERN IRELAND INTERNATIONAL ORGAN COMPETITION" which includes a stylized graphic of organ pipes.

Join the internationally-acclaimed organist Thomas Trotter for a masterclass in St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh on Tuesday 13 August, at 7pm

6 places are available to work with the winner of the Queen's Medal for Music, 2020. Audience observation is also welcome. Email: info@niioc.com

Entries for all NIIOC Competitions close Wednesday 10 July at 12 noon. Full information is at www.niioc.com

£8000 in prize awards and recitals in venues such as:

Saint Thomas Church, Westminster Abbey, St Paul's Cathedral, St George's Hanover Square, New College, Oxford, Glasgow Cathedral, Christ Church Cathedral Dublin, The Portico of Ards, Dún Laoghaire Summer Organ Concerts and at our partner Festival, the St Albans International Organ Festival.

Psalm settings by Charter Choir of Homerton College

Settings of the treasured words of the Book of Psalms, performed by The Charter Choir of Homerton College, Cambridge conducted by Daniel Trocmé-Latter, with organists Shanna Hart and Lorenzo Bennett.

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Available on CD (with free UK shipping) or digital download from £5.99

Buy online at <https://conviviumrecords.co.uk/product/psalms-stars-and-light> and <https://music.apple.com/gb/album/psalms-stars-light/1746010015>

BBC Radio 3 Choral Evensong from St Patrick's Dublin

From 1999, an excellent Choral Evensong broadcast live on BBC Radio 3.

John Dexter / David Leigh and the choir at their best.

<https://youtu.be/eB-HsExA3kQ?si=dpCKOeUiJyOTisWA>

In the media

Irish bishops decry assisted suicide proposal as ‘a failure of hope’- EWTN

The Catholic bishops of Ireland on Monday issued a statement laying out the Church's teaching on end-of-life issues and advocating for palliative care amid a push by Irish politicians to introduce legislation to legalize assisted suicide - Jonah McKeown writes.

“We believe that every person who is seriously ill, together with all those who are concerned with his or her care,

however difficult the circumstances, is held in the unconditional love of God,” the bishops noted.

“By legislating for assisted suicide or euthanasia, the State would contribute to undermining the confidence of people who are terminally ill, who want to be cared for and want to live life as fully as possible until death naturally comes.”

The Catholic Church has long supported, in the face of terminal illness, palliative care, which involves the holistic management of a person’s suffering. Assisted suicide and euthanasia — which both involve the intentional taking of life — are never permissible under Catholic teaching, though the withholding “extraordinary means” of medical treatment and allowing death to occur naturally can be morally permissible.

Noting that patient “autonomy” is often cited as a reason to pass assisted suicide legislation, the Irish bishops said taking a patient’s life also takes away their autonomy and “cuts off any prospect of growth or healing and represents a failure of hope.” Instead of assisted suicide, palliative care services need to be made more widely available in hospitals and hospices and in the community, the bishops recommended.

A March 2024 report produced by a committee of the Oireachtas, or Irish Parliament, recommended that the government introduce legislation to legalize assisted suicide “in certain restricted circumstances” and with safeguards in place to avoid coercion. Under the recommendations, adults suffering with an “incurable and irreversible” condition with between six and 12 months to live could request assisted

suicide, which would be done in the presence of a medical professional.

In response to the report, the country's bishops reiterated that "whatever the circumstances, the deliberate taking of human life, especially by those whose vocation is to care for it, undermines a fundamental principle of civilized society, namely that no person can lawfully take the life of another."

In addition, the intellectually disabled would be particularly vulnerable under such a law, the bishops warned, pointing to countries such as Canada where serious efforts are being made to expand the provision of assisted suicide to those who are mentally ill.

Asking medical professionals to oversee assisted suicides would "radically undermine the ethos of health care."

"Whenever we place health care professionals under pressure to participate, either directly or by referral, in an act that they themselves believe to be fundamentally immoral, we treat them as mindless functionaries. This does untold damage to the integrity of health care in Ireland and removes the human person as its primary focus," the bishops concluded.

"In our culture, we rightly hold doctors and nurses in high esteem because they are presumed always to be at the service of life, for as long as their patient lives. We call on Catholics to stand firmly in support of nurses and doctors who stand for life. One day it may be your life."

Pope Francis has said that “authentic palliative care is radically different from euthanasia, which is never a source of hope or genuine concern for the sick and dying.”

Assisted suicide and euthanasia have been legalized in recent decades countries such as Canada, Australia, Spain, Belgium, and in multiple U.S. states, permitting patients to take their own lives or allowing doctors to kill them outright. In some of those countries, patients can request assisted suicide even if they are not suffering from a fatal affliction.

Ireland’s bishops have spoken out against assisted suicide proposals before. In 2021, they described a proposal to legalize assisted suicide, the Dying with Dignity Bill, as being “at odds with the common good” and “fundamentally flawed.”

The Royal College of Physicians of Ireland — the largest doctor’s group in the country — in 2023 also came out against assisted suicide, with a group representative saying the practice was “contrary to best medical practice” and that “the potential harms outweigh the arguments that can be made in favor” of it.

In the nearby U.K., proposals to legalize assisted suicide in recent years have been consistently rejected by lawmakers.

The practice is illegal in England and Wales, and doctors who assist a suicide can be jailed up to 14 years under the Suicide Act 1961.

In October 2022 a bill to legalize assisted suicide in England and Wales was ultimately not taken to a vote after seven

hours of debate and impassioned opposition in the House of Lords.

Minister found guilty of putting £1k donation in his own pocket - Belfast Telegraph

The reputation of a Church of Ireland rector has been irrevocably tarnished after a jury convicted him of taking a £1,000 donation from a grieving widow to line his own pockets, Paul Higgins reports.

The Craigavon Crown Court jury deliberated for just short of three and a half hours before returning with a unanimously guilty verdict against Rev Adrian McLaughlin on count two — convicting the 50-year-old of abusing his position at St Colman's Parish Church, Dunmurry, to commit fraud.

The particulars of the offence outline that having accepted a £1,000 cheque, he “failed to give or declare the said donation to the treasurer of Church Vestry and made the cheque payable to yourself personally”.

While the jury of 10 men and two women returned a guilty verdict on that charge, they unanimously acquitted the minister of four other similar offences of fraud by abuse of position.

Standing in the dock wearing a three-piece tweed suit, McLaughlin turned to relatives in the public gallery as the jury announced the first guilty verdict.

He appeared to shrug his shoulders before turning back to face the judge as the jury foreman continued to announce the four acquittals.

On the final charge — accusing McLaughlin of a £10,000 fraud by writing a cheque out to himself — Judge Patrick Lynch KC told the jury he could accept a majority verdict on which at least 10 of them agreed, before asking them to retire again.

An hour later, he sent them home for the evening and they are expected to return to court today to continue their deliberations on the last count.

While the minister claims there had been an agreement at an ad hoc vestry meeting that he should be reimbursed for thousands he had spent out of his own pocket, the prosecution contend that “the defendant abused his position as rector in order to serve his own personal interests”.

The jury earlier heard evidence from Mrs Elizabeth Fletcher that, following the death of her husband, she had attended church one Sunday morning and gave a cheque for £1,000 to McLaughlin with the payee line blank.

She testified that the cheque was a donation for the church and — as she did not know how the cheque would be used or where it should be lodged — she had left the payee line blank of her own volition.

Giving evidence on his own behalf, the clergyman claimed he told Mrs Fletcher he would use the money to reimburse himself for two antique, ornate candle sticks he had

purchased from a shop in Saintfield for £800, further claiming she was “more than happy with that”.

He outlined to the jury how he had to withdraw extra cash from an ATM to pay for them and that his now ex-wife was with him at the time.

Mrs Fletcher told the jury, however, there had been “no such conversation” that Sunday morning and McLaughlin had told her he “had no idea what he was going to do with the money”.

Prosecuting counsel Joseph Murphy also said in his closing speech that there was no corresponding cash withdrawal from the defendant's bank account.

He also told the court McLaughlin's former wife Dr Christine Burns had said in her evidence that she had not been in any Saintfield antique shop with him and, in any event, she was a chemistry teacher and this supposed transaction was, according to the defendant, completed on what would have been the middle of a school day.

“He may giveth,” said the lawyer, “but he also taketh away.”

McLaughlin had claimed that Mrs Fletcher was “mistaken” and that she had come under the “nefarious influence” of others involved in the case — a version of events rejected by the jury in their guilty verdict on that charge.

In court, McLaughlin had labelled others who gave evidence against him as liars whose evidence was nonsense and part of a conspiracy to have him convicted. The court heard that despite his ex-wife maintaining she was faithful during their

marriage, McLaughlin testified that he believed that she “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”.

According to the Crown case, the minister received £775 in donations and collections from three funerals, £345 of which had been destined for the Royal Victoria Hospital's Liver Support Unit — but which ended up in the defendant's pocket.

The prosecution further contended that in the space of just over a year, he had received more than £5,000 from a lady who ran a weekly Slimming World class in the halls of St Colman's.

During police interviews and while giving sworn evidence on his own behalf however, McLaughlin emphasised that much of the evidence against him had come from his ex-wife and those who had stayed friends with her following their “messy” break up.

Denying that he had ever been paid for a funeral, believing that to do so “would be immoral”, the minister told the jury that any money he received did not find its way into his coffers but rather was spent on the “beautification and betterment” of St Colman's Parish Church and was done with “a pure heart”.

During his closing speech, defence KC Richard McConkey submitted that in relation to the £10,000 cheque, McLaughlin “was not acting dishonestly; he was getting reimbursed for money he had spent in the church”.

Directing the jurors, Judge Lynch told them “there could be no reconciliation” between the defence and prosecution claims, and “there has to be one side that cannot be right”.

Reminding the jurors it was solely their decision, the judge told them “one of them is telling lies — it comes down to as brutal an issue as that”.

The trial continues. BelfastTelegraph 25/06/2024

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

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