

Church News Ireland



**Image of the day – Contribution of Jewish refugees in
County Down recalled**

Image of the day



Contribution of Jewish refugees in Co Down recalled

**Steven Jaffe
(Centre above)
of the Jewish
community
comments that**



June 3, 2024

“In challenging times, it was a huge honour to be asked to speak to the people of Shrigley, Co Down, last Monday night about the contribution Jewish refugees made to their village during and after the War.

“Last night descendants of those refugees and of former workers at the United Chrome Tannery came together to remember - it was an absolute pleasure to be there.

News



Canon Lloyd is still at it for Christian Aid Ireland

June 3, 2024

Retired rector Cannon Stuart Lloyd completed a 72 hour fast in aid of Christian Aid Ireland.

He was outside Mc Neill's of Broughshane all day Friday and all day Saturday of last weekend. Apart from fasts and sponsored walks he surely must hold the all-comers record for sponsored charity ascents of Slemish mountain.

If you wish to encourage him you can donate online at www.christianaid.ie



Celebrate Sea Sunday in Newcastle

“At St John's Parish Church we are ideally situated on the rock with the mountains behind us overlooking the bay to give thanks to God for the beauty of his creation. you are warmly invited to join us on Sunday 2nd June as we celebrate Sea Sunday.”

Sligo Bay RNLI volunteers attend Buckingham Palace garden party

Volunteers from Sligo Bay RNLI attended a garden party at Buckingham Palace recently in celebration of the charity's 200th anniversary.

The RNLI 200th Anniversary Garden Party was held by HRH The Princess Royal, accompanied by Vice Admiral Sir Tim Laurence, and HRH The Duke of Kent.

The Duke of Kent has been President of the RNLI since 1969. Sir Tim Laurence is also a Vice President of the RNLI and former Deputy Chair.

The garden party brought together around 2,500 of the RNLI's long-serving volunteers, staff and their families and also featured an Atlantic 85 inshore lifeboat in the palace grounds.

Among those attending from across the charity were Sherlyn Hunter, Carole Hayes, Martin Reilly, Trish Pawlowski, Lisa Gillen, Pat Cater and Brendan Healy from Sligo Bay RNLI.

Speaking ahead of the garden party, RNLI Chief Executive Mark Dowie said: 'We are incredibly honoured that His Majesty The King has granted permission for the RNLI 200th Anniversary Garden Party to take place at Buckingham Palace in celebration of 200 years of saving lives at sea.'



Sligo Bay RNLI volunteers at Buckingham Palace

‘Our hosts, The Princess Royal, The Duke of Kent and Vice Admiral Sir Tim Laurence, have been hugely supportive of our charity over many decades and it will be a huge honour and privilege for many of our volunteers and staff to meet them.

‘Volunteers are the lifeblood of the RNLI and I am looking forward to being able to thank them personally, along with their equally dedicated families and our long-serving staff members, for their courage and commitment to saving lives.’ Head of Volunteering at the RNLI Donna McReath said: ‘I would like to thank each and every one of our incredible volunteers.

‘We couldn’t do what we do without their vital support and the time and effort they generously dedicate in a wide variety of roles, from lifesaving crew to fundraisers and

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those who volunteer in our shops, museums or by sharing our water safety messaging.

‘They are all lifesavers, and this special Garden Party is a wonderful opportunity to recognise and celebrate the joy and impact of volunteering for the RNLI. We are always looking for new volunteers to join our charity to help us continue saving lives at sea.’ Since the RNLI was founded on 4 March 1824, the charity has saved more than 146,277 lives – this equates to an average of two lives saved every day for 200 years.



The Confirmation class from Scoil Iosagain CBS Primary School, Sexton St, are pictured with Bishop Brendan Leahy and Fr Leo McDonnell PP St Michael's Church, Denmark St, after their Confirmation ceremony.

Ballymore rectors meet in Portrush

One of the loveliest encounters in Portrush Parish after their Patronal Eucharist on Sunday was when Bishop Patrick Rooke met Canon Bob Wilkinson.

Bishop Patrick succeeded Canon Bob as Rector of Ballymore (Tandragee) in the Diocese of Armagh when Canon Bob retired in 1987. It is fantastic to see both looking so well in retirement.

And for those without resort to the Clerical Directory the current rector of Ballymore is Rev Colin Darling and another former rector is Very Rev Shane Forster, Dean of Armagh.



Retreat, dialogue and worship - A mission of hope as Dublin diocese hosts diocese of Jerusalem



Clergy from the Diocese of Jerusalem with the Palestinian Ambassador Dr Jilan Wahba Abdalmajid in St Ann's Church

Archbishop Hosam Naoum, Archbishop of Jerusalem, and a number of his clergy were in Dublin and Glendalough last week.

The primary purpose of their visit was to engage in a joint retreat with clergy from Dublin and Glendalough.



Archbishop Jackson with the visitors to St Ann's Church

There were a number of opportunities for people from the dioceses and beyond to meet and hear from the guests from the link diocese.

The theme of the retreat was 'Then feed my sheep...' (St John 21:17) and the focus over the two days was on the Second Letter of Peter. Sessions will be led by the Archbishop of Dublin and the Archbishop of Jerusalem as well as clergy of the dioceses. This follows on from a joint retreat in Jordan last year where the text was the First Letter of Peter.

A service for clergy and laity was held in St Ann's Parish Church in Dawson Street. Scott Hayes (photo next page) commented afterwards, "It was lovely to attend the "Shine a



Light for the Diocese of Jerusalem” service this evening at St Ann’s. A wonderful event - hymns, prayers and readings followed by refreshments and fellowship.”

On the evening of Tuesday May 28 there was a facilitated discussion with a panel which included Archbishop Hosam and a number of his clergy. Areas which were covered include the experience of Christians living in the Holy Land, how life has changed for the people of the diocese in the past months and an update on Al Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza City which is run by the diocese.

The discussion took place in CITI . See photos next page...



Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Join Derry on Lough Derg

Lough Derg is a sacred place apart to bring burdens and leave them behind, to seek healing for wounds and to ask for them to be healed.

The Diocese of Derry Three Day Pilgrimage led by Bishop McKeown starts on Friday, 26th and concludes on Sunday, the 28th July.

Details of the Diocese of Derry pilgrimage to Lough Derg can be viewed at: <https://www.derrydiocese.org/news/lough-derg-three-day-pilgrimage>

Churches around the Anglican Communion are adopting the Anglican Communion Safe Church Guidelines.

‘If you are from a province or diocese that is relatively new to Safe Church work, I recommend you study this resource. It draws on the experiences of implementing Safe Church work in different provinces across the Anglican Communion. It sets out the core principles of Safe Church and yet is sufficiently flexible to adapt to suit different contexts.’



Daphne Audsley (Above), Assistant Provincial Safeguarding Officer at the Scottish Episcopal Church (SEC) and member of the Safe Church Commission, explains how committing to the principles of Safe Church can help to ensure the safety of people in Anglican churches.

Read Daphne's article here: <https://bit.ly/44XY5Sy>

A guide has been created to help provincial or diocesan teams understand and begin the important work of creating safer church communities. Download the guide here: <https://bit.ly/3yEynqo>

Perspective

‘Dig deep to develop a climate of respect’ the Archbishop of Dublin ... from the present to the future ...

Over a period of ten days, I will have had the opportunity to associate with people I know and love in The Middle East on three successive occasions.

The first was my invitation to attend the annual gathering of The Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem (comprising Israel, The West Bank and Gaza, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon) in Amman, Jordan.

The second was my invitation to attend the Inauguration Ceremony of Rabbi Yoni Wieder as Chief Rabbi of Ireland in Dublin.

The third is the invitation that has been issued to the Archbishop of Jerusalem and a number of the clergy to spend a time of retreat with me and a number of my clergy in Dublin and which they as a group are about to take up.

On both earlier occasions, I was treated with utmost respect and warmth as a friend and I hope that I, along with others, can reciprocate such a response to the presence of visitors with us from the Middle East in the coming days.

Since October 7th 2023, I have sought to be even handed in expressing sorrow and sadness, compassion and care for

those who have become victims of war and hostilities in what I, and countless others, call The Land of the Holy One.

We do this not to insult anyone but to respect its pivotal position in the self–understanding of people belonging to three World Faiths with whom I have daily dealings at home and abroad. I have found that all three groupings have in common the fact that they are people of faith and people of welcome.

I therefore appeal to all of us to respect those who are different from one another and different from us, whoever ‘we’ are at any given moment. It is a neighbourhood principle. It is a global principle. It is a human principle.

War brings the strongest increase and accentuation of difference that is humanly possible. It takes difference to the point of untold and irreversible tragedy and destruction of lives and the sustenance of life. All of us are free to hold personal views and convictions on societal matters both local and global.

I appeal to you, at the same time, to dig deep within yourselves in order to develop a climate of respect and reciprocal dignity across all social and community groupings and faiths, not least when matters are so tense and torn between Israel and Palestine most widely understood. I do so because of the friendship that I have received from every quarter over decades of engagement and visits.

Hate speech, anti– and pro– language perpetuate and embed negativities. They enable caricature to morph into definition and definition to settle into identity. They create the

filters of default through which we see others and understand ourselves. This is why they are so dangerous for everyone involved, whether we discern it or not.

The value in which we hold one another is expressed in the language we use. Not only does it shape the discourse. It also shapes the psyche. Sooner or later, we will all meet one another through what we have done, what we have allowed to happen and what we have not contradicted when contradicting it was the right thing to do. Once again, I appeal for a spirit of truth that is a spirit of love and a spirit of peace.

The Most Reverend Dr Michael Jackson is Archbishop of Dublin and bishop of Glendalough

In the media

Belfast Telegraph - Church roles in schools to be cherished: minister

Minister Paul Given backs Boards of Governors in choosing external visitors, Mark Bain writes.

The Education Minister (for Northern Ireland) has said he will continue to support the freedom of boards of governors to invite who they wish into their schools.

It comes after it was revealed last week by Parents for Inclusive Education NI that only 13 of 11,500 visits to primary schools last year from outside organisations

focusing on religious matters were from outside the main Christian faiths. That's despite more children than ever registering as no faith or other.

The group also claimed that significant numbers of schools don't proactively inform parents about the right to withdraw their children from religious practices and fail to inform parents of visits from religious organisations.

But Paul Givan said the role churches play in education is something to be cherished.

“The beauty of our school system is that the boards of governors have local autonomy,” he said.

“Therefore, when it comes to bringing in external organisations, that's something that within the school ethos they are able to do. As Education Minister, I give them freedom to be able to do that. These are decisions that are very much taken in that local context.

“I do think it is something that we should cherish and value that we have a strong Christian ethos within our school system.

“It was the churches who established a lot of our schools and they have a very clear interest in helping to educate young people.

“They provide so many boards of governors through the transferor representatives from the various Protestant denominations and also within the Catholic sector.”

Mr Givan added that he values the contribution Christian and church organisations make to schools here.

“I think that's important to recognise, but I also say to boards of governors, you have the power to decide who comes in to your school and how you promote the ethos of your school,” he said.

“That's a freedom I will continue to maintain and support for our schools.”

Mr Givan was visiting Bangor Central Integrated Primary School where he announced a further £80m in new schemes to be financed by additional capital funding allocated to the Department of Education.

He said the schemes show what can be done when an Executive works together to drive projects forward.

Funding will see 15 new school building projects proceed to construction, with a message that getting on with the job of being a minister is vital to progress.

“Every department faces financial challenges,” Mr Givan added, as Health Minister Robin Swann was preparing to vote against Stormont's budget in the Assembly.

“But I still get on with the job. I'm out there making a difference. That's what I'm going to continue to do as Education Minister.”

Crawfordsburn Primary, Edendork Primary, Glenwood Primary, Mary Queen of Peace Primary in Ballymena,

Millennium Integrated Primary near Saintfield and Scoil an Droichid in Belfast are also set to benefit from the latest funding boost.

Eight further schools will receive their funding for major extensions and refurbishment.

Abbey Community College, Carniny Primary, Kilronan Special School, Lurgan Model Integrated Primary, St John's Primary in Kingsisland Coalisland, St Malachy's College in Belfast, St Mary's Primary in Barr, Newry and St Kevin's College in Lisnaskea will progress to tender and construction.

“This is a day where we deliver for Northern Ireland a £254m cash injection into the school estate,” Mr Givan said. “We will continue with those projects that are in construction and today we bring online 15 new projects.

“We have eight new builds and seven schools which will get their enhancement programme.

“I'm also announcing a £10m curriculum-led capital programme to allow schools to make application. Potential schemes in this area will include specialist curriculum accommodation at post-primary; outdoor play and PE in the primary phase and curriculum resources and equipment more widely.

“It is my priority to ensure the educational experiences of as many children and young people as possible across Northern Ireland are impacted positively by capital investment.

“I have also stepped in to provide that security for Bangor Central Primary and Millennium Integrated, the protection they had under Fresh Start funding were removed by the Secretary of State.

“I gave them assurances I would bring them in to my department and today we're seeing the outworking of that.” One of the schools to receive new build funding is Glenwood on Belfast's Shankill Road — the first school the minister visited after taking up office.

“Glenwood had water leaking through the roof, condensation on the windows and you could feel the damp as I went through the school,” he said.

“I injected some urgency to that one. They will get a new school.

“I have delivered across all sectors. I want Northern Ireland to work for everybody across all of our society. We have a balanced announcement today that covers all sectors of our education system.”

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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