

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Mayor's tribute to St John's

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Outgoing Mayor of Ards and North Down's tribute to St John's Ambulance

Councillor Jennifer Gilmour said, “On Volunteers week and my last evening as Mayor of Ards and North Down Borough Council, this evening I hosted a reception for SJA Ards & North Down Ambulance Unit.

“I have been so impressed this year as Mayor by the great work the volunteers in St John Ambulance do at so many events across the Borough, always ready to assist. The green army, an ever reassuring presence”.

News

Archbishop of Canterbury moved beyond words by Saint Oscar Romero

“We saw Saint Oscar Romero’s blood-stained clothes, preserved in his house which is now a museum.

“We looked at pictures of his still-warm body, just after he was shot dead. We listened to audio of his last words, followed by the gunshot. We prayed at his tomb.

“It was moving beyond words. May we all draw inspiration from the life of Oscar Romero, whose love of God inspired



Archbishop of Canterbury and the Anglican delegation visit the chapel at Hospitalito La Divina Providencia in San Salvador where Saint Oscar Romero was murdered.

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his love of people and his hunger for justice which ultimately cost him his life.

“May the church of this generation be equally courageous, equally faithful, equally humble. Lord, help us to turn away from the temptations of power and comfort and walk in the way of Christ, which is always towards the poor.”

The Archbishop of Canterbury and the Anglican delegation visited the chapel at Hospitalito La Divina Providencia in San Salvador where Saint Oscar Romero was murdered.

Fantastic start to 75th Anniversary Celebrations for Servite Order at Benburb



Prior Provincial Fr. Colm McGlynn OSM accompanied by Cardinal Sean Brady and Fr Sean Moore celebrated



morning Mass in the Priory on Wednesday 5th June 2024, leading off on a period of celebrations and events to mark the presence of the Servite Order here. Thanks were expressed to all who attended and made this emotional day very special for Fr. McGlynn, and for all associated with the Priory over the years.

Alan Peek becomes a (hybrid) Methodist Minister

“Today was a significant day. I become a (hybrid) Methodist Minister as well as Anglican, as I'm named as stationed at Movilla Abbey Church from the end of this month.

“Honoured, excited and slightly daunted! But thankful for our amazing Leadership Team”.

Remembering a tragic Sunday School Excursion



Armagh Rail Disaster
Remembered

Sunday 9 June 2024
9.45am

Rail Disaster Memorial, The Mall, Armagh

A short act of remembrance for those who lost
their lives following the rail disaster of 12 June 1889

<https://www.armaghmethodist.org/railway-disaster-1889>

The congregation of Armagh Methodist Church remembers the Armagh Railway Disaster of 1889 when the annual Armagh Methodist Church Sunday School Excursion was on its way by train from Armagh to Warrenpoint.

Check out our new webpage!

The Green Girl, is a beautifully written story by Karl O'Neill about the little girl on the railway disaster monument situated on The Mall in Armagh.



<https://www.armaghmethodist.org/thegreengirlstory>

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Anglican Secretary General's visit to Armenian Apostolic Patriarchate of Jerusalem

Bishop Anthony Poggo, Secretary

General of the Anglican Communion, has visited the Armenian Apostolic Patriarchate of Jerusalem



This visit was at the invitation of Archbishop Hosam Naoum, the Anglican Primate in Jerusalem for the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East.

As Diocesan Bishop, Archbishop Hosam oversees the 28 parishes scattered across five political regions: Israel, Palestine, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon.

At the Patriarchate, they received a warm welcome from Patriarch Nourhan Manougian and Fr. Aghan Gogchyan. Following this, they were given tours of St. James' Cathedral and the Armenian sections of the Holy Sepulchre, which included the rarely visited Chapel of St. Vartan.

Elvis Presley's personal Bible has sold at auction for \$120,000

The Bible was one of three found on the singer's bedside table the night he died in 1977 at his home Graceland. He was 42.

Elvis' faith was very important to him and he often turned to the Bible for comfort and inspiration. He was known to say a prayer before every performance and his Bible is considered to be a significant piece of musical history. It contains underlined passages and bookmarked pages, including one from the book of Job, 31:24-28:

"If I have put my trust in gold or said to pure gold, 'You are my security,' if I have rejoiced over my great wealth, the fortune my hands had gained, if I have regarded the sun in its radiance or the moon moving in splendour, so that my heart was secretly enticed and my hand offered them a kiss of homage, then these also would be sins to be judged, for I would have been unfaithful to God on high."

The Bible which is embossed in gold with the singer's name, was discovered by Elvis's cousin, Patsy Presley and his father, Vernon as they sorted through his personal belongings. A letter written by Patsy accompanies the Bible : "Shortly after Elvis' passing, my uncle Vernon (Elvis' dad) and I went up into Elvis' bedroom at Graceland to organise and pack many of his personal belongings. This Holy Bible was one of three that Elvis had on his night table. After packing them, Uncle Vernon had me take them home for safekeeping and eventually gave them to me."



As a child Elvis' parents took him to church where he sang Gospel and in a 1977 interview he said:

"I've always liked music. My mother and dad both loved to sing. And they did tell me that when I was about three or four years old I got away from them in church and walked in front of the choir and started beating time...When I got

old enough, I started to sing in church. That is one of the ways I got into singing... It's just part of you. You don't even think about it.

"And when we get through work, what we have to do, we usually end up doing gospel," he added. "Because we wanna do it. We do two shows a lot of times and afterward we will go upstairs and sing gospel songs, until daylight."

His stepbrother, Billy Stanley told Faithwire: "He was a Christian, and most people don't know that...When I say 'Christian,' he was a Bible-carrying Christian...wherever he went, he took the Bible with him."

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Stanley told Arkansas Democrat-Gazette that when fans described him as 'the King' he would say: "No, no, I'm sorry. There's only one true king, and that's Jesus."

The Bible received 23 bids before being bought by an anonymous bidder at Kruse GWS Auctions.

Cathedral Calls



York Minster Fire Walk

Walk the very paths that firefighters took to tackle the blaze in our south transept roof 40 years ago.

Stand on the very spot where the fire was raging the fiercest and marvel at the restoration to create the building you see today.



Can you imagine the sights and sounds of that night as the call was made to target the burning beams, sending the roof crashing to the floor below?

Discover these things and more on a tower tour at York Minster. Book your tickets at:

yorkminster.org/visit/plan-your-visit

Archive photo used with the kind permission of B Grayson.

ECI Climate Justice Candle Visits the Cathedral of Saint Patrick and Saint Felim, Cavan

Bishop Martin Hayes and the Kilmore Care of Creation Group were delighted to host the Eco-Congregation

Ireland Climate Justice Candle on Sunday 26th May, 2024 at the celebratory Mass of the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity.

During the week, Catholics from all over the world celebrated the ninth anniversary of the publication of Pope Francis' Encyclical letter, *Laudato Si'* on Care for our Common Home. At the beginning of Mass, the Eco-Congregation candle was lit acknowledging the need to shine a light on climate justice and sow seeds of hope. You can read their report in full here -

<https://tinyurl.com/y5uzutk6>

Armagh Cathedral's Partnership annual outing

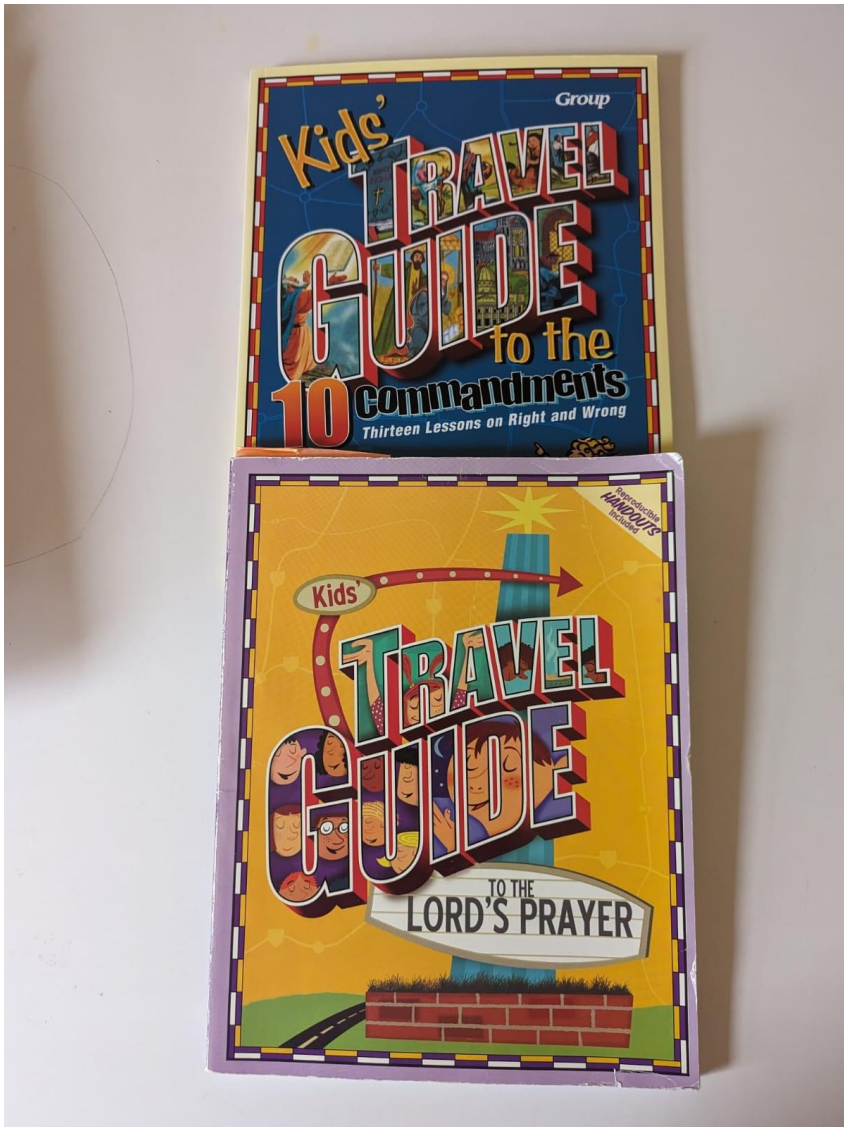
This year's outing will be to Derry/Londonderry on Friday 21st June.

The outing will include a visit to St Columb's Cathedral and the Museum of free Derry with a lunch of soup and sandwiches at The Bishop Gate Hotel. The cost is £37.50pp.

Bookings can be made with Lorraine on (028)3752 3142.

The coach will leave the Moy Road car park entrance to St Patrick's R.C. Cathedral at 9.30am sharp and return at approximately 6pm.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



PCI free resources for children's ministry

We have very generously been gifted resources that are free for any church that would like any of them. They include Holiday Bible Club books as well as some other resources for drama, storytelling, etc.

If you would like any of these they can be collected from Assembly Buildings (and would be available during the General Assembly for any ministers or others to collect from me).

Simply either message this page with your name and congregation and the resource/s you would like kept, along

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with who would collect them and when!) or comment under the photo. Please only request resources that you will actually use.

I will try and keep a track of what is reserved and what is available!

I'll remove photos of requested books to make it easier

Organ Podcast from Blackpool Tower Ballroom

In the latest episode of The Organ Podcast, theatre organ legend Phil Kelsall demonstrates the world-famous Wurlitzer organ at The Blackpool Tower Ballroom.

Listen here: <https://bit.ly/3KoNvdY>

DHM Team Retreat Day
10am - 3pm Saturday 15th June
at St John's Church of Ireland
10 Fort Rd, Helen's Bay
BT19 1LA



To register:
email: office@divinehealingministries.org



University of Aberdeen



UNIVERSITY OF
ABERDEEN



Chamber Choir Concert

Fisherwick Presbyterian Church
Belfast

Tuesday 11th June | 7.30pm

St Patrick's COI Cathedral
Armagh

Wednesday 12th June | 2pm

Mixed music programme suitable for all
Approx. 1 hour



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INTERNATIONAL
ORGAN
COMPETITION

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The Dame Gillian Weir Medal

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Mon 12 - Wed 14
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To book a place(s), please contact Drumalis on 028 28276455/28272196 during office hours (Mon-Fri, 9 am-5 pm). ***Please let us know your choice of main course as well as any special dietary requirements at time of booking. Early booking is advisable as places are limited to 50 each day***



DRUMALIS
An Oasis On The Journey Of Life

In the media

Irish News - Meeting Pope Francis was a great and a moving event - Archbishop John McDowell

The Church of Ireland Archbishop of Armagh's meeting with the Pope reminded him of a lifetime of friendships with Catholics but also the cost of division in Northern Ireland

The meeting between the primates of the worldwide Anglican Communion and Pope Francis which took place on May 2 has been described as a significant event in the life of the Communion.

While continuing to acknowledge our many differences, the warmth of the relationship between the Anglican Communion and the Roman Catholic Church has deepened in every way and the meeting with Pope Francis was another example of the strengthening of that relationship.

A theological commission involving Anglicans and Roman Catholics has been in more or less continuous session since the 1970s and has produced regular reports which have been considered by the faithful in both traditions. All across the world parishes meet in groups and ecumenical fellowships to study and to worship together.



The same is true of Anglican and Catholic bishops. Here in Ireland we meet semi-formally each autumn to discuss matters of common concern.

At national level the friendship and fellowship in the gospel which I enjoy with Archbishop Eamon Martin has been a tremendous encouragement to me. I know too, for instance, from his own comments to Pope Francis, that my friend Azad Marshall, the senior Anglican bishop in Pakistan, derives great heart from his cooperation with his Catholic counterpart in a country where Christians of every tradition face the daily challenges of a persecuted minority.

I don't suppose we'll ever manage to find anything like complete convergence on the details of The Faith, although by careful listening we can at least ensure that we don't misunderstand or misrepresent each other.

My early years were marked by close friendships with Catholic neighbours... The wax of our personalities was still soft and the impression went very deep – the impression of warmth and affection and of great fun and of love

However, we can work towards a deepening relationship in terms of faith, hope and love. Faith in the sense of standing outside the shelter of our own limitations and depending solely on the Lord of the Church with all the trust and expectancy of the earliest disciples. Hope, not in the sense of a false optimism that all is well, but in the conviction that the Lord of History is drawing us closer together in the building of the Kingdom to look just a little bit more like a new heaven and a new earth. And the deepening of our bonds of love and affection – actively caring for one another in a world where the challenges of the day are so vast and so complicated that no-one can carry this moment alone. Church of Ireland Archbishop of Armagh John McDowell was among the group of Anglican leaders to meet Pope Francis

However, speaking personally for a moment, the meeting with Pope Francis went deeper for me than even these great things.

Our attitudes and character are formed much more by early impressions and relationships than they are by almost everything else in later years.



On Thursday 2 May Archbishop John McDowell met Pope Francis in an audience with colleagues as part of the 2024 Anglican Primates Meeting in Rome.

My early years were marked by close friendships with Catholic neighbours and I can assure you that as children and adolescents we weren't talking about the Petrine Primacy or the doctrine of the Real Presence. The wax of our personalities was still soft and the impression went very deep – the impression of warmth and affection and of great fun and of love. We shared our dreams and lived a common reality which the investment in division which has marked the ordinary experience of Northern Ireland has no power to erase. Much friendship; much laughter; great happiness.

Meeting Pope Francis was a great and a moving event. In part because of the personal warmth and geniality that he radiates, only half obscuring a profound mind and an iron will. But also because it was simply a continuation of all those years of happy meetings and happy memories which I have experienced since my childhood and which, I believe, every child has a right to have on offer and to enjoy.

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
