

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Cathedral Call – Limerick

March 1, 2024

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Cathedral Call - Limerick

For the first of a series - Cathedral Call is delighted to share the good news that Saint Mary's Cathedral, Limerick has launched its Conservation Plan.

The framework is in place. And thankfully Scott Hayes was there to share these photographs.

Photo above is of Dean Sloane welcoming those present.



Below Bishop Michael and conservation architect Margaret Quinlan (author of the Conservation Plan).

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Conservation
Plan was
launched by
Bishop Michael
and C of I
hospitality was
in abundance



Food Bank and Samaritans benefit from Naas parishes Christmas Circle of Light

What a joy it was for the Naas Union of Parishes to present The Main Street Food Bank in Naas and Newbridge/Kildare Samaritans with a cheque for €2000

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each as a result of the amazing support and donations from our Circle of Light at Christmas.

“Thank you once again to all our sponsors, donators and helpers who made the Circle of Light such an amazing success”.



Inland Lighthouse is a beautiful thing done by God

“It’s a beautiful thing that God’s doing here in Glendermott Parish,” Bishop Andrew Forster said on Wednesday evening (28th February 2024), during a service to mark the opening of the parish’s new outreach centre, The Lighthouse.

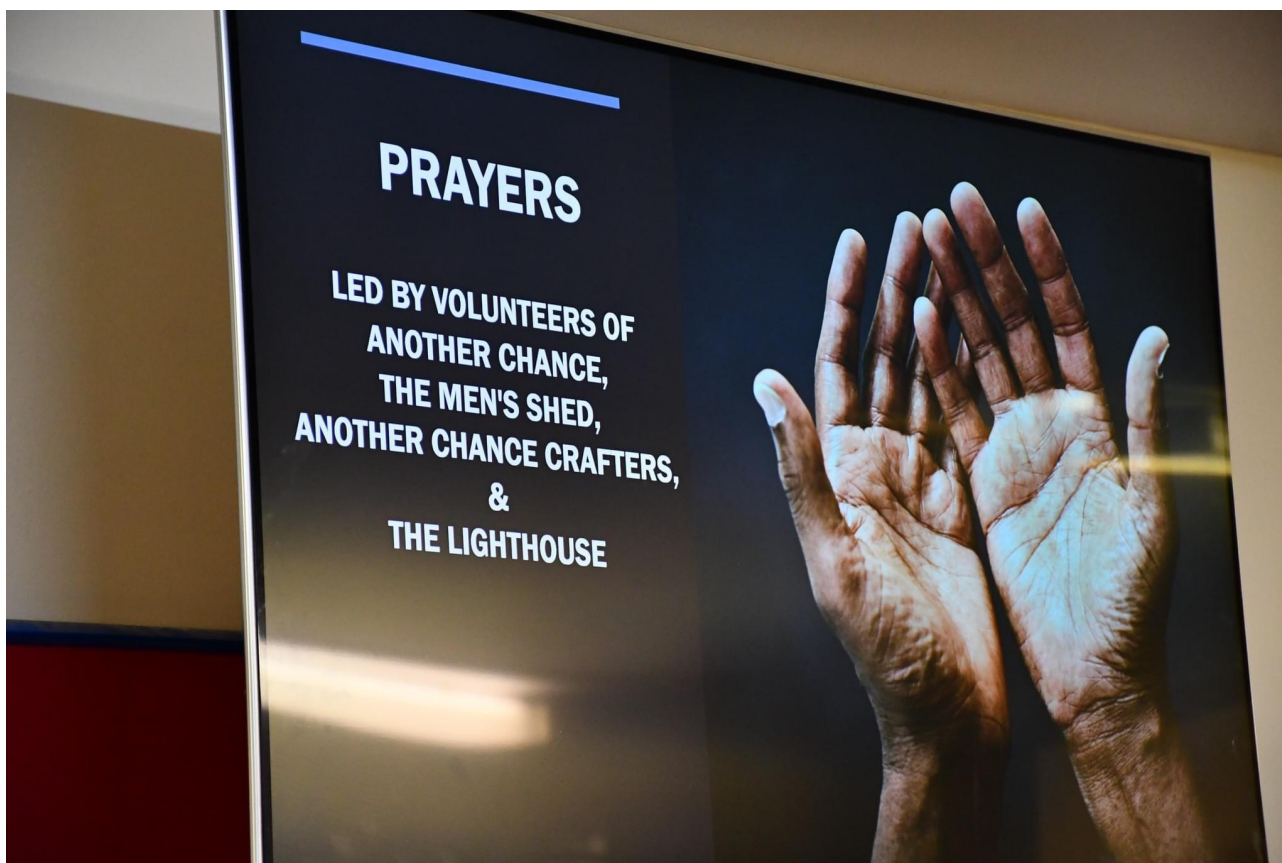
Minutes earlier, Bishop Andrew had cut a red ribbon to officially open the new centre, which is located next door to



the Another Chance building in Glendermott Valley Business Park in Tullyally, just off the main Belfast road, on the edge of Londonderry.

The Lighthouse was an appropriate name for the centre, the Bishop said, since lighthouses were originally built to stop ships crashing onto the rocks. The new outreach centre will help people cope with challenges such as financial hardship, unemployment, mental ill health, loneliness, addiction, sickness and bereavement.

Local parishioners turned out in strength to support their clergy on what was an auspicious evening in the life of Glendermott and New Buildings Church of Ireland. Tributes were paid to the driving force behind the venture, Church Army evangelist Joanne Miller.



The celebratory mood was captured fittingly by the cutting of a cake - shaped like a lighthouse - and baked specially for the occasion by parishioner Catherine Boyd. And a special memento was presented to Bishop Andrew – a small crystal lighthouse to remind him of the launch.

Before he left the new centre, the Bishop was shown a new suite of offices that the parish plans to make available to other groups to help them do outreach work in the local community.

Good news - Banana fritters from Mothers Union Literacy Programme

“Before, I just did business anyhow, but I wasn't getting any money for my family. I am widowed and have three children, so I have to be active by myself.



“I couldn't count very well. But because of this literacy, I've been able to buy two plots of land. Now I have this business – banana fritters - and I can pay the school fees for my three children.”

The MU literacy programme isn't just about learning to read and write –it's about

transformation.

Yozonia's story is proof. She's become self-reliant, growing her businesses to expand into cocoa and as a result, she's securing her family's future.

Now, she shares she wants to “continue reading and writing and to know the Bible better.”



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Be encouraged – together, we are making an impact to millions around the world like Yozonia.

+The Rev George Beattie

The death has taken place of the Rev George Beattie on February 25.

George served much of his ministry in Connor Diocese, as a curate-assistant in Holy Trinity and St Silas with Ardoyne, Belfast, from June 2004 until July 2009, and as curate-assistant in Whitehouse and St Ninian from September 2009 until April 2010. He continued to serve as a retired clergyman in Connor from August 2010.

A Service of Thanksgiving for George's life will be held in St Patrick's, Jordanstown, on Monday March 4 at 12 noon.

George is survived by his wife Marjorie, daughters Ruth and Alison, sons-in-law Niklaus and Alastair, five grandchildren and the wider family circle.

Diagnostic tests: Pope taken to hospital in Rome following weekly audience

The Pope was taken to hospital in central Rome for diagnostic tests after the papal audience on Wednesday having been suffering from the effects of mild flu in recent days.

The 87-year-old arrived at the Gemelli Hospital on Tiber Island in a small white Fiat 500 and left again under escort after a short period.



Francis was pushed in a wheelchair into the audience hall at the Vatican earlier in the day, appearing weary.

At the end of the audience, the pope spent about an hour greeting the faithful from his wheelchair, stopping to talk, bless babies and exchange gifts.

Francis also cancelled appointments on Saturday and Monday due to the flu, but appeared as usual for the Sunday blessing from a window overlooking St Peter's Square.

The Pope used his brief words at the end of the audience to mark the 25th anniversary of the ratification of the Anti-Personnel Mines Convention, expressing his “closeness to the numerous victims of these insidious devices that remind us of the dramatic cruelty of war”.

He also appealed for peace in the Middle East, Ukraine and prayed for the victims of attacks in Burkina Faso and Haiti.

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Last week, Francis coughed repeatedly during Ash Wednesday services that he presided over at a Roman church, and opted not to participate in the procession that inaugurates the church's Lenten season.

At this time of year in 2020, just as the coronavirus pandemic was starting to hit Italy, Francis also suffered a bad cold that forced him to cancel several days of official audiences.

The Argentine Pope had part of one lung removed as a young man because of a respiratory infection, and in 2021 had a chunk of his colon removed because of an intestinal inflammation.

He has been using a wheelchair and cane since last year because of strained knee ligaments and a small knee fracture that have made walking and standing difficult.

Russian invasion of Ukraine unprovoked and illegal - Archbishop of Canterbury

The Archbishop of Canterbury commented - “Russia’s unprovoked and illegal invasion of Ukraine is an act of great evil that cannot be allowed to stand”.

He continued - That’s what the Archbishop of York and I said in February 2022. Having visited the country twice over the last 2 years, and having met scores of Ukrainian families displaced by the conflict, I am strengthened in this conviction - and in the belief that justice must prevail.



There can be no religious justification for Russia's invasion. All those in religious office have a responsibility and duty to call out evil by its name and to work with others for a just and durable peace that provides for the security and flourishing of everyone in Europe.

I pray that all those who have lost loved ones, because of this needless war, might find comfort; that those who have lost their homes might find sanctuary; and that those experiencing the trauma of war might find healing.

The generosity of all those who contributed to the humanitarian relief effort, whether by charitable giving or by opening their homes to refugees, was truly remarkable. It gives hope that goodness will prevail.

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‘The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.’ – John 1:5

This support will be needed in the critical months ahead and long into the future as the horrors of this war become fully known.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



Armagh welcomes the world for Home of St Patrick Festival this month

Armagh City’s Home of St Patrick Festival returns for nine spectacular days next month, promising a unique programme of history, heritage and place in his chosen home from March 10 – 18.

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Featuring the best of music, art, theatre, film and dance across multiple venues, the Home of St Patrick Festival promises visitors from across the world an outstanding opportunity to reflect on his life, legacy and impact in a thrilling showcase of culture, entertainment and hospitality.

The Home of St Patrick Festival's unique distinction – what sets it apart from every other world-wide celebration – is the relationship between programme and place and the resonance that this important city, its two cathedrals named after him, its landscape and the stunning Georgian backdrop it is famous for.



Navan Fort Armagh

Firmly established as one of the UK and Ireland's most authentic events to mark St Patrick's enduring impact on the

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island of Ireland and the world, Armagh was Patrick's chosen place where he began his Christian mission and his legacy lives on in this ancient, unique and beautiful place.

During the Festival, visitors can also explore Armagh County Museum and Armagh Robinson Library which house artefacts, collections, rare books and illuminated manuscripts which reflect the city's leading role in early Christian Ireland. When he visited Armagh, Saint Patrick called it his 'sweet hill', and founded his first large stone church in 445AD.

Welcoming the launch of this year's festival, Lord Mayor of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, Alderman Margaret Tinsley said: "Celebrating a deep and historic link with St Patrick, Armagh City is home to some of Northern Ireland's most iconic places, including two stunning Cathedrals both named in his honour, the mystical Navan Fort ~&~ Centre and the iconic Armagh Robinson Library, Palace Demesne and Marketplace Theatre which play host to many of this year's enthralling events.

"In a city that has always looked to the stars at the Armagh Planetarium and Observatory, bringing people together through art, literature, science and a sense that this is a place apart, Armagh City enjoys a creative spirit, drawing visitors every year through its ancient traditions. A home to artists, libraries, poets and scientists, it's a place of innovation and mindfulness in equal measure and this year's Home of St Patrick Festival reflects every element of these with plenty of family fun too.

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“There are walks, talks, tours, music, song, comedy, dance and unlimited festival fun to entertain everyone, every day.”

Highlights from this year’s festival include:

Phil Coulter – St Patrick’s Cathedral Armagh – Sunday 10 March

Renowned, award-winning musician, songwriter and recording artist Phil Coulter will be joined by exceptional guests to launch the start of the Home of St Patrick Festival in the inspiring surroundings of St Patrick’s Cathedral, sharing some of his much-loved repertoire and introducing some of his more recent works.

Bishops to discuss St Patrick - Market Place Theatre, Armagh - Tuesday, 12 March

Armagh Cathedrals’ Partnership is inviting attendees to a special evening, at the Market Place Theatre, Armagh, on Tuesday, 12 March, from 7.30pm, to celebrate Saint Patrick bringing Christianity to our island.

The guest speakers are **Bishop Pat Storey**, Church of Ireland Bishop of Meath and Kildare and **Bishop Dónal McKeown**, Catholic Bishop of Derry and the music will be provided by The Royal School and Saint Catherine’s College. During the evening, the two bishops will reflect on their faith journeys and the saint who guides them in service.

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The Cathedrals' Partnership was set up between the city's two Cathedrals as an expression of their common life in Christ. The aim of the Partnership is to strengthen and extend the bonds of unity between



both communities, including other faith communities, to make the Cathedrals symbols of mutual understanding and reconciliation. Light refreshments will be served following the event, which is free to attend.

St Patrick's Poetry Reading

– Armagh Robinson Library – Thursday 14 March

Armagh City Chapter and the John Hewitt Society presents 'A Festival Poetry Reading with Moyra Donaldson, Noel Monahan and Kate Newmann'. An opportunity to celebrate and explore contemporary poetry read by acclaimed Irish poets. Moyra Donaldson, from Co Down, has published ten collections of poetry including a Selected Poems. Her work is widely anthologised, and she has read at festivals in Europe, Canada and America.

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Sandy Kelly: Leaving it all behind

– The Marketplace Theatre – Thursday 14 March

After the October 2023 release of her new album ‘Leaving it all behind’ and autobiography ‘In my own words’, country music star Sandy Kelly embarks on an island-wide tour of Ireland, celebrating in Armagh City as part of the Home of St Patrick Festival. With a full live band, Sandy will perform songs from her new album and some of her best-loved while recounting some of the stories from her book in an up close and personal setting.

A Musical Celebration of St Patrick

– St Patrick’s Church of Ireland Cathedral -15th March

This bespoke musical event will honour our patron Saint through the island’s rich music and literature. The showcase event will feature some of Ireland’s internationally renowned musicians from the classical and traditional worlds.

Song, Storytelling and Stew

– Charlemont Arms Hotel – Friday 15 March

Ireland is synonymous with stories and welcome. The Seancaithe (the Aged) and Scéalaí (the Narrator) were the bearers of Irish traditional stories. Important characters in Ireland’s cultural past, they passed the old stories down through the generations. This special evening recounts some of these stories, told by local award-winning Bard Jimmy Rafferty. Relax and as you listen to these tales, enjoy the experience even more with some great locally made Irish stew on arrival. Followed by Traditional Musicians, the Hughes Family.

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The Great Irish Songbook

– The Market Place Theatre – Friday 15 March

Following last year's sell-out event, Malachi Cush and Kal McGuckin return with their musical ensemble to present an evening of Ireland's favourite songs and melodies. Karl and Malachi are two of our best-loved singers, with Malachi's natural tenor voice and Karl's booming resonant baritone voice creating a combination that has been described as 'breathtaking'.

Stained Glass Treasures Walking Tour – 16 March

Join Dr David Caron on a journey learning more about the stained-glass treasures in a range of churches and the Cathedrals in Armagh.

St Patrick's Stained Glass Workshop – 16 March

If the morning tour has inspired you, why not take part in the workshop and create 2 pieces of stained glass. The workshop will take in St Patrick's RC Cathedral Synod Hall and inspiration can be gleaned from the beautiful cathedral windows.

St Patrick's Festival cupcakes for kids

– The Marketplace Theatre – Saturday 16 March

Calling all junior star bakers and sweet treat lovers! This celebration cupcake decorating workshop will introduce you to the skills and techniques for creating amazing cupcakes every time. You'll get hands-on experience decorating a box of 12 cupcakes to take home.

Granny's Griddle Bread Making

– Long Meadow Cider- Saturday 16 March

Enjoy the taste of bread, freshly made and hot from the griddle in this demo at Long Meadow. Learn about life in the orchard and enjoy tasty samples.

St Patrick's Day Session

Navan Fort & Centre – 16 March

Experience the electrifying energy of 'An Fuaim', a rising star on the Irish music scene as they take to the stage at the Navan Centre & Fort at 2.30pm for the Saturday Session of music and spoken word. A whirlwind of talented young musicians from Portmór who have been winning competitions and captivating audiences throughout 2023, the band featured at the Lovestock and Lughnasadh festivals and have been featured on BBC Radio Ulster, BBC Newsline and on RTE.

Death Before Dishonour with Pistols at Dawn

– Armagh County Club – 16 March

Armagh County Club, the event setting was used as a meeting house in Patrick's time to heal arguments within the community. Living history characters will present a historical case. But if there is no successful outcome, there could be a duel! Your help is needed!

Home of St Patrick Vigil Walk

– St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral – Saturday 16 March

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This event has become an annual activity in the city's Home of St Patrick's Festival. The Vigil walk by torchlight is led by the representatives of the city's two Cathedrals, both called St Patrick's. Join them in prayer and conversation as the Vigil starts from the Church of Ireland Cathedral and moves to the Roman Catholic Cathedral, a symbolic reflection of St Patrick's own journey to unite through Christianity.

Sunrise with Patrick – Ritual & Renewal

– Navan Centre & Fort – Sunday 17 March

Celebrate the first light of St Patrick's morning with St Patrick himself and the ancient people of Ulster. Through the first rays of the morning sun cast an eye back to what life and faith may have been like before the arrival of St. Patrick and with our patron saint envisage the new future that Christianity had in store for our land. And afterwards, have breakfast with us, to the sound of live music.

St Patrick's Festival Walking Tours

– Departing from The Johnston Building, Shambles Yard – Saturday 16 until Monday 18 March

Jump into the history of St Patrick and his connection with both Cathedrals while appreciating the wonderful panoramic views of the city, the ecclesiastical and spiritual capital of Ireland. You will hear why St Patrick chose this as the location to build his first Stone Church in 445 AD and be regaled with myths, legends as well as some unusual and quirky facts surrounding St Patrick.

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St Patrick's Day Mass Times at the Roman Catholic Cathedral

11:00am - Festival Mass of St Patrick. 12:30pm - Mass for the Feast Day. 5:30pm; Young Adult Mass of St Patrick

St Patrick's Day Service at St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral

10:00am - 11:00am with Archbishop McDowell - 3.15pm. Please see St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral website for further information.

[<https://www.stpatricks-cathedral.org/>]

Ukulele Trad Workshop

– Armagh City Hotel – Monday 18 March

Unleash your inner jig and strum your way to Irish folk mastery with our Ukulele and Traditional Irish Music Workshop!

For more information on the full range of bookable and free events,

<https://visitarmagh.com/festivals/st-patricks/home-of-st-patricks-events-2024/>

Perspective

God of the Samaritan

God of the Samaritan,
God of our neighbour:
be with us on this road

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as we follow a sense of duty
and answer our calling.
Lead us not with ambition
or self-preservation.
But drive us with compassion,
so that both our attention
and our commitment
are to the one in need.
For there, with the wounded
beyond the boundary of our kind
we discover our limits
and receive your healing:
Amen.

Inspired by the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:37)

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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