

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Free visits to St Patrick's

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Free Visits to Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin for Parish Groups

Whether it's your confirmation group, choir, MU, or your Vestry, you are welcome at Saint Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin.

The Cathedral's Education Department is offering free tours and workshops for organised groups from parish churches across the Church of Ireland. These can be focused on specific elements of the cathedral's history, worship tradition, or the role the cathedral plays in the Church today. Not only can you learn about the cathedral's story, but you can see how a living Cathedral operates, with two sung services every day, alongside one of the busiest tourist attractions in the country. Depending on your interests, the cathedral can also arrange bespoke behind-the-scenes tours.

Furthermore, the St Patrick's Cathedral community don't want distance to be a limiting factor. So they are pleased to be able to support the cost of travel to and from Dublin. Depending on the size of the group, they can arrange transport for free with the Cathedral Minibus or contribute towards the cost of coach hire.

For more information and to arrange a visit, please contact Clark Brydon (Education & Safeguarding Officer) at education@stpatrickscathedral.ie

News

Methodist Coffee initiative

**Attention
Coffee Shop
Operators!
Join Mallard
Community
Hub on Main
Street,
Ballinamallard.**

ATTENTION - Coffee Shop Operators

**We're seeking a passionate,
quality-driven operator to
lead our new coffee shop.**



“We're seeking a passionate, quality-driven operator to lead our coffee shop. Do you bring energy, catering expertise, and a commitment to community sourcing?”

“Benefit from main street location, refurbished space, daily Hub activities and local support. Initiated by Ballinamallard Methodist Church and supported by Methodist Church in Ireland, Ballinamallard Enterprise Company, Rank Trust, Benefact Trust, Severfield NI Ltd and Community Ownership Fund.

“Express your interest now by email -
hehubballinamallard@gmail.com

Mallard Community Charitable Hub Ltd Charity no. 109154



Retirement of Dean Tom Gordon

Last Sunday, a large congregation gathered at St. Laserian's Cathedral in Old Leighlin to bid farewell to Dean Tom Gordon.

Bishop Walton Empey, a close friend of long-standing, delivered a

sermon and extended warm wishes for Dean Gordon's retirement.

Following the service, parishioners, ecumenical guests, and Bishop Burrows (returning to his former diocese in a personal capacity) spoke of Dean Tom's remarkable dedication, enthusiasm, strength, and courage while wishing him well on his retirement.

Archbishop carries an alarm because of violent threats against him

Justin Welby has revealed that he carries an alarm because of threats made against him.

Interviewed by The Spectator magazine, the Archbishop of Canterbury said bishops, especially women, have had an

2024 Greater Shankill Saint Patrick's Festival



“Marching to the beat of St. Patrick”

PROGRAMME ITINERARY:

DAY ONE

Symbolism of Saint Patrick and The Military
Wednesday 13th March at 7.00 p.m.
in St. Matthews Parish Church
(tickets available on Eventbrite and at local outlets)

DAY TWO

Saint Patrick's Breakfast – Friday 15th March

DAY THREE

Marching to the Beat of Saint Patrick Parade
Saturday 16th March leaving Woodvale Park
at 1.00 p.m. sharp.
EVERYONE WELCOME (sporting organisations,
Somme societies, cultural organisations,
community groups, families)

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enormous increase in abusive language lately between members of the church and by members of parliament. He wasn't surprised the church was accused of being political, with bishops speaking against the Rwanda bill, but they were not left wing, they were just doing their job as members of the House of Lords. Rising abuse on social media showed that society had lost its moral compass and if churches followed the Bible imperative to be "salt and light", challenging worldly behaviour, they could strengthen boundaries of what is morally right in society. He admitted to feeling he couldn't do the job any more at times of intense pressure, but he didn't see any reason to go before he reached the retirement age of 70 next year.

Jewish students flee Exeter university after Israel stall attacked

Jewish students who set up a stall on Israel and antisemitism at Exeter university, were surrounded by 100 students, their leaflets were ripped up and red juice was split over them and the Israel flag.

One said they were broken by the experience. It was their first stall since 7 October and they wanted to put the other side to students who had been protesting for Palestine every week.

Since the incident, a student told the Jewish Chronicle that half the group have left campus to go home. A spokesperson for the University of Exeter told the Daily Mail that the University is committed to eradicating any instances of discrimination and harassment.

Criticism mounts over redundancy plans for Methodist Church overseas missionaries

Unite, the UK's faith workers union, has expressed significant concerns over the Methodist Church in Great Britain's plans to make all its non-ordained overseas missionaries redundant by this August.

These missionaries include essential personnel such as doctors, nurses, and teachers.

The union said it started receiving enquiries from the affected missionaries in January when the Church disclosed its redundancy proposals and the associated terms and conditions.

Unite said it is concerned that the redundancy process could potentially be discriminatory because ordained ministers have not been considered for return to the UK. The union also criticised the Church's attempt to "isolate lay missionaries by insisting on confidentiality during individual consultations".

It urged Church leaders to clarify that the missionaries are not prevented from discussing the consultation process with others and that their collective concerns will be addressed.

Unite said it is also alarmed about a lack of immigration planning or assistance for missionaries who have married overseas or have children born overseas.

Unite deputy regional secretary Sarah Cook said: “Unite is demanding that the Methodist Church enter collective consultations with the union before making any redundancy decisions. It is clear that the church’s current plan has not been thought through. It is potentially discriminatory and could leave its lay missionaries in an extremely vulnerable position. This is completely unacceptable and a dereliction of the church’s duty towards its lay missionaries.”

Businesses highlighted in Moderator’s week-long tour of Monaghan Presbytery

While pastoral visits to ministers, preaching in local congregations and encouraging the local church on the ground were high on the agenda, as Presbyterian Moderator, Right Reverend Sam Mawhinney, toured the Church's Presbytery of Monaghan last week, visits to the region’s leading businesses also formed an important part of the visit.

One of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland's (PCI) 19 regional bodies, the Presbytery doesn’t just take in County Monaghan, as it stretches from the Atlantic coast to the coast of the Irish Sea: from Dundalk in County Louth to Ballina in County Mayo and from Sligo City to Kells in County Meath. The vast majority of the congregations are found in counties Monaghan and Cavan.

Alongside a number of church-based activities, which included a service for the whole Presbytery in Clontibret



Presbyterian Church on Sunday evening, the Moderator had other wide-ranging engagements. These included visits to the new Monaghan Peace Campus, meetings with elected representatives, and a tour of Ballyhaise Agricultural College. Dr Mawhinney, a former trainee GP, also visited Cavan General Hospital, and schools under the patronage of the Presbytery.

On a visit to the award-winning multi-directional forklift truck manufacturer Combilift, which is based in Monaghan town, Dr Mawhinney, said, “As I have said before, one of the many



“One of the blessings of my role is that you get to see and do things that you wouldn’t normally, and that includes visiting impressive places like Combilift.”

Accompanied by his wife Karen, PCI’s Public Affairs Officer, Dr Rebecca Stevenson, and Rev Dr Gerry Clinton, minister of First and Second Ballybay, Drumkeen and Rockcorry Presbyterian Churches, they were shown round the 11-acre site which employs 900 people, many of whom come from the local Presbyterian community.

“To say that the operation was impressive, would be a considerable understatement. While I was struck by the size of the place, I was also impressed by company’s driving vision, ethos and obvious technical innovation, as they

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literally find solutions for lifting, moving and unloading all manner of different loads, and have been for over 25 years now. One such example we saw, was a recently completed truck designed specifically for a warehouse in Germany,” Dr Mawhinney said.

Co-founded by Robert Moffett, and current CEO, Martin McVicar in 1998, 97 per cent of what is produced is exported to 85 countries, which earned Combilift numerous manufacturing and innovation awards, culminating in Manufacturing Exporter of the Year at the 2022 Irish Exporters Association awards. The company’s history however goes back further with the Moffett family, who invented the first mountable forklift truck, ‘The Moffett Mounty’ in the 1980s. Today, Combilift is still a privately owned family business.

Talking about the Moderator’s visit, Combilift’s Phillip Condell, who led the tour of the facility, said, “We were delighted to welcome Dr Mawhinney, his wife Karen, and his colleagues to our global headquarters here in Monaghan, where they were able to see the process from design, build, and dispatch of our customised forklifts.

“It was a privilege to have Dr Mawhinney meet and encourage many of our 900 staff along the way. I hope he enjoyed his time with us, as we enjoyed showing him round. Thanks to Dr Gerry Clinton, and Andy Wylie, our long serving production manager for arranging the visit.”

During his week-long tour, Dr Mawhinney also visited another family-owned business producing a very different product – Carleton Cakes in Cootehill, County Cavan. The



journey for Doreen and Wilfred Carleton began when the husband and wife team opened a bakery in the town, baking fresh sodas, wheaten, cakes and pastries on their premises.

Celebrating their 30th anniversary this year, Wilfred Carleton explained that the original shop grew into a small coffee shop and then in the year 2000 they moved to a manufacturing facility, moving again in 2019 to their current site. Having started with one fulltime and one parttime member of staff in the coffee shop, the company now employs 150 people and supplies many of Ireland's and the UK's leading cafés and supermarkets.

“I’m not a baker, I’m a taster now,” Mr Carleton joked, who worships with his wife at Drumm Presbyterian Church. “Our two sons, Dylan and Richard, run the business and it was a

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pleasure to welcome the Moderator and his wife to Carletons. It was a very relaxed visit and they were very engaged as they were shown round.

“We have over 20 different lines and each week we would bake and distribute around 200,000 packs. We were very happy to show them the start of the production process to the finished product, including a great reliable, our caramel squares. We also gave them a small personalised, but edible gift, which I hope they enjoyed,” Mr Carleton said.

The ‘personalised but edible gift’ Mr Carleton spoke of was a white chocolate rice crispy bar with their names cut into the chocolate with a water jet cutter. Speaking about his visit, Dr Mawhinney said, “Like our visit to Combilift in Monaghan, Carleton Cakes is another of the outstanding businesses in the Presbytery that not only has close associations with the Church, but does so much for the local and regional economy. Both Dylan and Richard, who took us round, are engineers by profession and have brought that experience to bear in very innovative ways, like the water jet cutter that was used to cut out our names.”

Dr Mawhinney continued, “It was clear to me that the quality of their product, satisfied customers and a happy contented workforce were important to them both, as is running a business that is of benefit to the local community. We very much enjoyed our visit, and greatly appreciated the surprise gift! We wish them every blessing as they celebrate their 30th anniversary.”

The Moderator concluded by saying, “It is important that as a Church we lift our local businesses and those who lead

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them up in prayer, thanking God for the gifts and entrepreneurial spirit that He has given our businessmen and businesswomen. We very much enjoyed our visits to Combilift and Carleton Cakes, which were fascinating.”

Cathedral call



Bishops share insights at Armagh cathedrals' Market Place dialogue

There was a great turnout in the Market Place Theatre in Armagh for the annual St Patrick's Festival Cathedrals' Partnership event.

This year's guest speakers were Bishop Pat Storey and Bishop Donal McKeown.

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The bishops shared their individual stories of faith and their call to ordination, along with words of encouragement and hope for all who were present.

The musicians, singers and music teachers from St Catherine's College and The Royal School provided an excellent programme of music suitable for the occasion.



Heritage Skills Centre of Excellence at York Minster progresses

Work is well underway at York Minster's Heritage Quad and Works and Technology Hub.



The two sites will form part of the Minster's new Centre of Excellence for Heritage Craft Skills and Estate Management, which will see the establishment in the York Minster Precinct as a world class campus facility for research, education, and training in ancient craft skills. Both sites have had concrete laid by Simpson, who are delivering the project, and the steels are up at the Tech Hub!


Christ Church to celebrate the Centenary of Sir Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

To mark the centenary of the death of Sir Charles Villiers Stanford, the Festal Choral Evensong at Christ

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Church Cathedral, Dublin, on Easter Day will celebrate the music of one of Dublin's greatest composers:

Beati quorum via
Evening Service in A
Ye Choirs of New Jerusalem
Te Deum in Bb
Fantasia and Toccata in D Minor



HAPPY BIRTHDAY
J. S. BACH

A PIPEWORKS EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROJECT

Short recitals featuring famous works by the greatest organ composer of all, J. S. Bach (born 21st March 1685), performed by organist David O'Shea

19 MARCH

Star of the Sea, Sandymount, 7.30pm

21 MARCH

St Paul's, Glenageary, 1.15pm
Church of the Precious Blood, Cabra, 7.30pm

22 MARCH

Christ Church (Presbyterian), Rathgar, 12pm
St Columba's Church, Iona Rd, 3.30pm
Holy Trinity, Killiney, 7.30pm

pipeworks.ie

Perspective

Would the real St Patrick please stand up!- Brendan McManus SJ

With St Patrick's day around the corner, Sunday 17 March, lots of people are gearing up for the big day with 'forty shades of green' outfits, bunches of shamrocks, colourful parades and parties to celebrate all things Irish.

But I wonder do we actually know anything concrete about St Patrick and what it is that we are actually celebrating? I believe these 10 insights based on Patrick's own writings give us as a more accurate picture of the saint than some of the stories and legends about him that have accrued down the centuries.

Beannachtaí na fhéile Padraig oraibh. (Blessings of St Patrick's day to you).

St Patrick was:

1. An illegal alien, trafficked into the country against his will: "I was taken prisoner. I was about sixteen at the time... I did not know the true God. I was taken into captivity in Ireland, along with thousands of others.

2. A 'wild man', he lived initially on the mountainside and was out in all weathers (reputedly in the north of Ireland,

Slemish); “I prayed in the woods and on the mountain, even before dawn.”

3. A man who prayed through tough times of great difficulty: “I believe that I was helped by Christ the Lord, and that his spirit cried out for me. I trust that it will be like this whenever I am under stress, as the gospel says: ‘In that day, the Lord testifies, it will not be you will speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.’”

4. An escapee, who after being captured and brought to Ireland as a slave, managed to return home, trained as a priest (a bishop eventually) and heard a call to come back to work with the people who had captured and enslaved him: “I never had any other reason for returning to that nation from which I had earlier escaped, except the Gospel and God’s promises.”

5. A man who was lost only to be found; it was with great uncertainty and many wanderings that Patrick found his calling: “After three days we made it to land, and then for twenty eight days we travelled through a wilderness. Food ran out, and great hunger came over them.”

6. A person with a great sense of unworthiness, though he felt chosen by God “I was like a stone lying deep in the mud. Then He who is powerful came and in His mercy pulled me out, and lifted me up and placed me on the very top of the wall”.

7. A true pilgrim: continually on the road, coping with the unexpected and trusting in God for everything. “Turn in faith

with all your hearts to the Lord my God, because nothing is impossible for him.”

8. A man of imagination: Legend has it that Patrick used an everyday symbol, the shamrock to represent the Trinity as a community of relationships: “This is the one we acknowledge and adore – one God in a Trinity of the sacred name.”

9. A man with a profound sense of gratitude that God had kept him safe and kept him on track: “So I will never stop giving thanks to my God, who kept me faithful in the time of my temptation.”

10. Someone with an intimate sense of the presence and protection of Christ as evidenced in his famous ‘Breastplate’ prayer:

Christ with me, Christ before me,
Christ behind me,
Christ in me,
Christ beneath me,
Christ above me,
Christ on my right,
Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down,
Christ when I sit down,
Christ when I arise.”

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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