

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Lift high the Cross

March 23, 2024

Image of the day



Lift high the Cross

Canterbury Cathedral prepares for Holy Week and Easter





Glendermott Parish marks Albert's 55 years service

This year's Easter General Vestry meeting in the Canon Kelly Hall in Londonderry marked the end of an era in Glendermott, as Parish Secretary Albert Smallwoods stepped down after 55 years' service in a variety of roles in the parish.

To mark the occasion, the Rector, Rev Canon Robert Boyd – flanked by Curate, Rev Johnny Lowden and Rev Arthur Burns – made a presentation to Mr Smallwoods before the meeting began.



Mr Smallwoods' involvement with the Vestry began in 1969, when he accepted the role of auditor. For the last 20 years, though, he has served as Parish Secretary.

The octogenarian grandfather has given a lifetime of service to church and charitable causes, including the Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal, the Scouting Association and St John Ambulance.

Events to highlight Churches in NI Schools

Clergy and members of local Church of Ireland, Presbyterian and Methodist congregations are invited to take part in a series of events, in early April, to discuss the role of the Church and local schools. The



three Churches in Schools events are organised by the Transferor Representatives' Council.

Each will be an opportunity to share the current issues in the relationship between faith and education, and churches and schools, and for TRC to support churches in their role in nominating school governors. The three events will take place as follows:

Lisburn: Tuesday, 9th April

10.30am – 12.30pm

Venue: Vic-Ryn, T3 Conference Centre, 5 Rathdown Walk, Lisburn BT28 2RE

Coleraine: Wednesday, 10th April

2.00pm – 4.00pm

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Photos from previous event

Venue: New Row Presbyterian Church, New Row, Coleraine
BT52 1LA

Enniskillen: Thursday, 11th April

10.30am – 12.30pm

Venue: St Macartin's Cathedral Halls, Hall's Lane,
Enniskillen BT74 7DR

Please indicate which event you wish to attend at
<https://forms.gle/e53s1EVd3zKjyR4HA>

Refreshments will be provided with special dietary
requirements accommodated.

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The Transferor Representatives' Council oversees the appointment of over 1,500 governors, nominated by member churches, for controlled schools. The controlled school sector is open to all pupils, and includes over 500 schools, 148,000 pupils and 8,000 teachers across Northern Ireland.



Leinster House remembrance of Lord Trimble

Left to right, with the bust of Lord Trimble in the background: Vicky Trimble, Eoghan Harris, Lady Daphne Trimble and Gwen Halley.

Ceann Comhairle, Seán Ó Fearghaíl took time out of his busy schedule on Thursday to host a small lively lunch in Leinster House in honour of the late David Trimble.

Cruciform

The Cross Shaped Life

Holy Week and Easter 2024

Mornings

Monday-Friday 8.00am Communion

Evenings

Monday-Friday 7.30pm Service

Maundy Thursday

Agape Meal in parish centre 6.30pm

Good Friday

Cross to Crown 11.00am 

Walk of Witness 12.00noon

Meet at Redburn Community Centre

Hour at the Cross 1.00pm

Easter Sunday

Dawn Communion 6.00am

Holy Communion 8.00am

Easter Celebration 11.00am

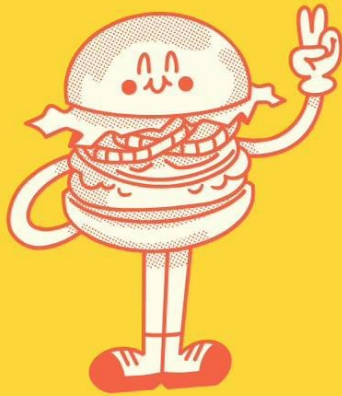
Resurrection Hope 5.30pm

A Service of Wholeness and Healing

Easter Praise 7.00pm



www.hollywoodparishchurch.co.uk



ST SAVIOURS
**PALM
SUNDAY**
Fun Day

Sunday 24 March . 12:30-2pm

You'd be so welcome to drop in at our Palm Sunday Fun Day, and why not join us for church at 11am!

Free BBQ, Petting Zoo, Donkeys, Easter Crafts, Easter Story Trail, Games & More!

St Saviour's Craigavon
Drumgor West Road, BT654AH
07592529385, stsaviourscraigavon@gmail.com
Find us on Facebook & Instagram

Cathedral call

Services this Sunday

Armagh -The Cathedral Church of St Patrick (PALM SUNDAY). Services are at 10am Holy Communion (said; no sermon or hymns - traditional form), 11am Sung Eucharist (contemporary form) and 3:15pm Choral Evensong (sung). HOLY WEEK, Mon to Wed at 9:30am (Holy Communion). Maundy Thursday at 10.30am (Sung Eucharist and Renewal of Commitment to Ministry), GOOD FRIDAY at 10am (Ante Communion) and 5pm (Choral Evensong). EASTER EVE at 9:30am (Ante Communion) and 5pm (Easter Vigil). OPENING TIMES for visitors are 9am to 4pm (Nov- March) and until 5pm (April- Oct). Group tours must be pre-arranged with the Cathedral Steward. YOU WILL BE most welcome to join us at any of our Sunday or daily services; or just to spend time either in quiet reflection or looking at the beautiful architecture. The Very Rev Shane Forster, Dean of St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral, Armagh City - Further information is available by, visiting our website at: www.stpatricks-cathedral.org

Belfast - Cathedral Church of St. Anne. On Sundays, the Cathedral is open for Choral Eucharist at 11am and Choral Evensong at 3.30pm. It is open for Afternoon Prayers from 1pm- 1:15pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. The Cathedral also hosts a Ministry of Healing service on a Friday at 1pm in the Hall. Visitors to St. Annes Cathedral are welcome from Tuesday to Saturday from 10am to 4pm. (It will be closed to cultural visitors during services). People of

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all traditions and all faiths are welcome to join us, Dean Stephen Forde. Visit: www.belfastcathedral.org

Cork City - St Finn Barres. Palm Sunday at 9:15am (Blessing of Palms, Procession, Dramatic Reading of the Gospel and Choral Eucharist). Regular Sunday Services are 11:15am (Choral Eucharist) and 3:30pm (Choral Evensong). Weekday and Saturday Services are at 12 noon (Said Eucharist in the Deans Chapel) and Choral Evensong is on Fridays at 6:15pm, The Cathedral is also open to visitors

23 MAR	Palm Sunday Vigil 5:30 PM
24 MAR	Palm Sunday 11:00 AM
27 MAR	Mass of Chrisim 11:00 AM
28 MAR	Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:30 PM
29 MAR	Good Friday 3:00 PM
30 MAR	Easter Vigil 9:00 PM
31 MAR	Easter Sunday 11:00 AM

St Peter's
Catholic Cathedral, Belfast

EASTER EVENTS

St Peters Cathedral Musical Services

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from 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 5:30pm from Monday to Saturday. Very Rev. Nigel Dunne (Dean of Cork). For more information, visit: www.corkcathedral.com

Derry/Londonderry - Saint Columbs Cathedral. Palm Sunday, 24th March. Services are at 8am (Holy Communion (Order One) in the Bishop William Alexander Chapel) 11am (The Passion of our Lord -a Liturgy of Readings, Hymns and Anthems for Palm Sunday), and 4pm (Choral Evensong). Maundy Thursday at 10:30am (Holy Communion) and

Holy Week 2024

March 24



Palm Sunday

Commemoration of the Lord's Triumphant entry to Jerusalem.

March 28



Maundy Thursday

Commemoration of the Lord's institution of the Priesthood and the Holy Eucharist.

March 29



Good Friday

Commemoration of the Lord's Passion and Death on the Cross.



March 30



Black Saturday

Great silence in the Church and the Great Easter Vigil of the Holy Night.

March 31



Easter Sunday

Commemoration of the Lord's Resurrection.

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7:30pm (Choral Eucharist of the Last Supper). GOOD FRIDAY at 10am, 2pm, 3:30pm and 7:30pm (See Church Magazine for further details). Easter Eve at 10:30am (Ante Communion in BWA Chapel). For any changes to our regular services, please check the magazine online. www.stcolumbscathedral.org The Very Reverend Raymond Stewart, Dean

Downpatrick - Down Cathedral - Cathedral Church of the Holy Trinity. PALM SUNDAY at half past eleven (Morning Prayer). Maundy Thursday 28th March at 8pm (Holy Communion). GOOD FRIDAY at 5pm (Evening Prayer. Evening Prayer is generally Monday to Friday at five o'clock. YOU ARE VERY WELCOME to visit Down Cathedral - Monday to Saturday, between ten o'clock and half past four, and on Sundays between one o'clock and four o'clock. It is situated within a short walk from Downpatrick town centre, and is adjacent to The Saint Patrick Centre. DOWN CATHEDRAL is first and foremost a place for prayer and worship - not only for the local congregation and people of the Church of Ireland Diocese - but for all those in Ireland, and beyond, who cherish the faith of Patrick. It is, in effect, a house of prayer for all nations. VISIT downcathedral.org for further information. Very Rev Henry Hull, Dean

Enniskillen - St. Macartin's Cathedral. Palm Sunday. Services are at 9am and 11am (Holy Communion on 1st and 3rd Sundays and Morning Prayer on 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays). Family Service is on 4th Sunday). Weekday services are at 11am on Thursdays (Holy Communion) and other services are as announced. The Very Rev Kenneth R J Hall, Dean of St. Macartin's Cathedral. For further information, visit www.enniskillencathedral.com

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Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Celtic Psalms in Derry on Monday

The 'Wee Church on the Walls', St Augustine's, Londonderry will provide the venue for a special Candlelight Concert, on Monday evening 25th March, in which Kiran Young Wimberly & The McGraths will perform some of their acclaimed Celtic Psalms.

Celtic Psalms music allows a space for the ancient words of the Psalms, combined with soulful Celtic melodies, to bring people together in shared humanity, across community divides.

Kiran Young Wimberly & The McGraths have performed in Ireland and North America and their music has featured on BBC and RTÉ television and radio. They will be joined on Monday evening by a special guest who is familiar to local audiences, Eilidh Patterson.

The doors will open at 6.45pm on Monday evening and the music will begin at 7.30pm.

Tickets are available at www.eventbrite.com/e/celtic-psalms-derry-tickets-797220276307



The graphic features a purple-to-blue gradient background with a white hexagonal logo at the top left containing a stylized figure of a person holding a child. To the right of the logo, the text 'MADNESS 2024' is written in large, bold, white capital letters, with 'MAINSTAGE SPEAKERS' in smaller white capital letters below it. Below the text are two portrait photographs. The first is of Lauren Windle, a woman with blonde hair in a bun, wearing a red top, smiling. The second is of Stuart Hawthorne, a man with a beard and short brown hair, wearing a dark blue shirt, smiling. Below each photo is their name in white, lowercase letters. At the bottom center, the event details are listed in white capital letters: 'MADNESS 2024', '28 JUNE - 2 JULY 2024', and 'PORTGLENONE'.

MADNESS 2024
MAINSTAGE SPEAKERS

Lauren Windle

Stuart Hawthorne

MADNESS 2024
28 JUNE - 2 JULY 2024
PORTGLENONE

Main Stage speakers at Madness 2024

The organisers are “super stoked” to have Lauren Windle and Stuart Hawthorne with them at the festival this summer.

Lauren Windle is a author, journalist, presenter and public speaker. She is the proud owner of a Blue Peter badge, is really good at ice skating and is an advocate for warm-water

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teeth brushing. Despite the teeth thing, she is deeply passionate about faith, recovery and love.

Stuart Hawthorne is the leader of Carnmoney Church. He used to be a teacher before becoming a youth pastor and then church leader. Stuart has deep passion to see the church passing on the faith to the next generation. He is also a massive Liverpool fan but we can't hold that against him.

”Join us at the festival for the best summer of your life!”
Get your tickets here: <https://www.summermadness.co.uk/>

New singers wanted for Malahide based Cór Fingal



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Cór Fingal is an award winning mixed chamber choir singing a wide range of classical and contemporary choral music.

“We are very excited to be returning to Malahide, and to welcome new singers to this friendly group. We are looking for singers in all parts, tenors and basses in particular. Sight reading is an advantage but not essential. We rehearse in St Andrews church, Malahide, less than 5 minutes walk from the DART, just a short trip from the city, on Mondays at 7-9pm. For further details please contact corfingalauditions@gmail.com

Keynote speaker profile for EMERGE

Introducing the keynote speaker for the Emerge young leader's residential in June:

Phil Knox is an evangelist and missiologist at the Evangelical Alliance. He is passionate about making Jesus known and the power of friendship. He loves learning and has degrees in law and mission and evangelism. Phil is married to Dani and they have two sons, Caleb and Jos. He is an avid runner, enthusiastic waterskier and once broke the world record for the longest five-a-side football match. He is also an award winning performance poet and author of Story Bearer and The Best of Friends.

Friday 14 June, 6pm – Saturday 15 June, 6pm
Derryvolgie Halls, Presbyterian Chaplaincy, Belfast
£30 (or Euro equivalent) to include food and overnight stay

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Book your space or why not encourage young people in your church to attend:

www.presbyterianireland.org/Emerge

Scientists explain just what makes a chorister's voice so special

BBC Music Magazine

<https://www.classical-music.com/features/articles/what-makes-choristers-voice-distinctive/>

In the media

Belfast Telegraph - Assisted dying not hallmark of caring society, says Presbyterian Church

Assisted dying is “not, in anyway, the hallmark of a mature, caring and compassionate society”, the Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI) has said, Steven. Alexander writes.

The church's Convener of the Council for Public Affairs, Rev Daniel Kane, was speaking after a report prepared for the Irish government recommended the introduction of legislation allowing for assisted dying in certain restricted circumstances.

The Special Oireachtas Joint Committee on Assisted Dying was set up last year to consider and make recommendations for legislative and policy changes relating to a legal right to assist a person to end their life and a legal right to receive such assistance.

It recommends that assisted dying should be allowed in restricted circumstances, limiting it to those with six months to live, or 12 months in the case of a person with a neurodegenerative disease, illness or condition.

The committee also recommended that the right to conscientious objection of all doctors and health workers directly involved in the provision of assisted dying should be protected in law. It also stated that any potential legislation on assisted dying uses clear and unambiguous terms and definitions, to avoid scope for uncertainty, and that any person inquiring about assisted dying, following a terminal diagnosis, should be informed of accessing all end-of-life care options.

The report also states that palliative care and the operation of assisted dying should operate completely separately and independently of each other and that resources and funding for palliative care services should be substantially increased.

It recommended that anyone who coerces a person into assisted dying will be guilty of a criminal offence under the legislation.

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Rev Kane said changing the law “to permit assisted suicide and euthanasia raises the most fundamental of questions about the value that we place as a society on human life”.

“For people of faith, and indeed no faith, human life, its preservation, its dignity, and its protection, are moral and precious values, which society casts off at its peril.”

Mr Kane added: “While we need to process the detail of both the report and the minority report, the fact that two reports were published is a clear demonstration of the deep divisions that exist over this fundamental and sensitive issue.

“The mainstreaming, investing in and strengthening of palliative care services to support those who are nearing the end of their lives must be the focus and priority. The current direction of travel, that will impact on some of the most vulnerable people in our society is not, in any way, the hallmark of a mature, caring and compassionate society,” he said.

Catholic Herald - Labour leader Keir Starmer ‘commits’ to assisted suicide vote if Prime Minister

The leader of the UK’s Labour Party has stated his personal commitment to changing the law on assisted suicide and promised to bring forward a Bill to legalise the practice if he is elected Prime Minister in the forthcoming General Election, Simon Caldwell writes.



Photo: Screenshot of ITV interview with Sir Keir Starmer taken from www.itv.com.

Sir Keir Starmer made his pledge in a telephone conversation with Dame Esther Rantzen, a celebrity with lung cancer who is campaigning for a change in the law, which was filmed by ITV.

In the news report, Starmer is heard telling Rantzen: “I’m personally in favour of changing the law; I think we need time,” he says. “I will make time [for debate on a vote] if I am Prime Minister,” adding that he would “definitely” commit to a vote in the next Parliament:

“We will make that commitment. Esther, I can give you that commitment right now.”

Starmer indicates that he would not impose a Party whip on the Bill as he “doesn’t want to make this a Party political issue, it needs to be cross Party”.

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A General Election is expected to be called as early as May 2024 and opinion polls predict a landslide victory for the Labour Party.

Campaigners for “assisted dying” – a euphemism for assisted suicide and euthanasia – have made 12 attempts to change the law since 1997. Each time, draft Bills have been dismissed by either the House of Commons or the House of Lords after issues of public safety were raised by opponents.

In the ITV interview, Starmer only refers directly to “the law” and doesn’t actually say either “assisted dying” or “assisted suicide”, though he responds to a question from the interviewer who uses the phrase “assisted suicide”.

In the last decade, euthanasia or assisted suicide has been legalised in a rising number of countries across the world, including Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Spain, some parts of the United States and in some Latin American countries.

Last week, President Emmanuel Macron of France also unveiled his plans for an assisted suicide Bill which will be introduced in May 2024.

Bishop Philip Egan of Portsmouth told the Catholic Herald that he was “very disappointed” by the announcement by Starmer, who is likely to become Britain’s first avowedly atheist Prime Minister; his tenure would also be the first time a potential change to the law would be debated under a Prime Minister who personally favours assisted dying/assisted suicide being legal.

“Assisted dying is a euphemism,” the bishop said. “What it means is assisting people (to die) by lethal injection or otherwise to commit suicide. This runs against our deepest instincts.

“How can a doctor or nurse, committed to saving life, be expected to kill someone? Moreover, even with the best will in the world, the legislation will show itself to be fluid and in time will expand to cover more and more categories of people, such as infants or the mentally ill as has happened already in Belgium and Canada.”

Bishop Egan added: “Assisted suicide is a red-line issue. If crossed, we will be entering a very different – and frightening – world.”

Assisted suicide involves a patient ingesting a lethal cocktail prescribed by a doctor or other medical practitioner, whereas euthanasia involves a doctor directly injecting deadly drugs into patients to cause death by asphyxia. The drugs most commonly used are paralysing agents manufactured partly to execute Death Row prisoners.

Last month, a report into “assisted dying” by the parliamentary Health and Social Care Committee was criticised as “inaccurate” by the Oxford-based Ancombe Bioethics Centre, a Catholic institute, because it refused to heed widespread abuses wherever euthanasia and assisted suicide have been legalised.

Widespread evidence of the ineffectiveness of safeguards and the existence of an inevitable “slippery slope” to every

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increasing numbers of deaths by euthanasia and ever broadening criteria for eligibility have been well-documented in all countries which allow the practice.

In Canada, for example, doctors Ellen Wiebe and Stephanie Green declared that their combined killings of 700 patients was “the most rewarding work we have ever done”.

Nor did the parliamentary report heed evidence that palliative care services have suffered in jurisdictions where assisted suicide and euthanasia have been legalised, even though doctors from Oregon, Belgium and Canada have testified to the UK Parliament that such services have been adversely impacted.

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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