

Church News Ireland

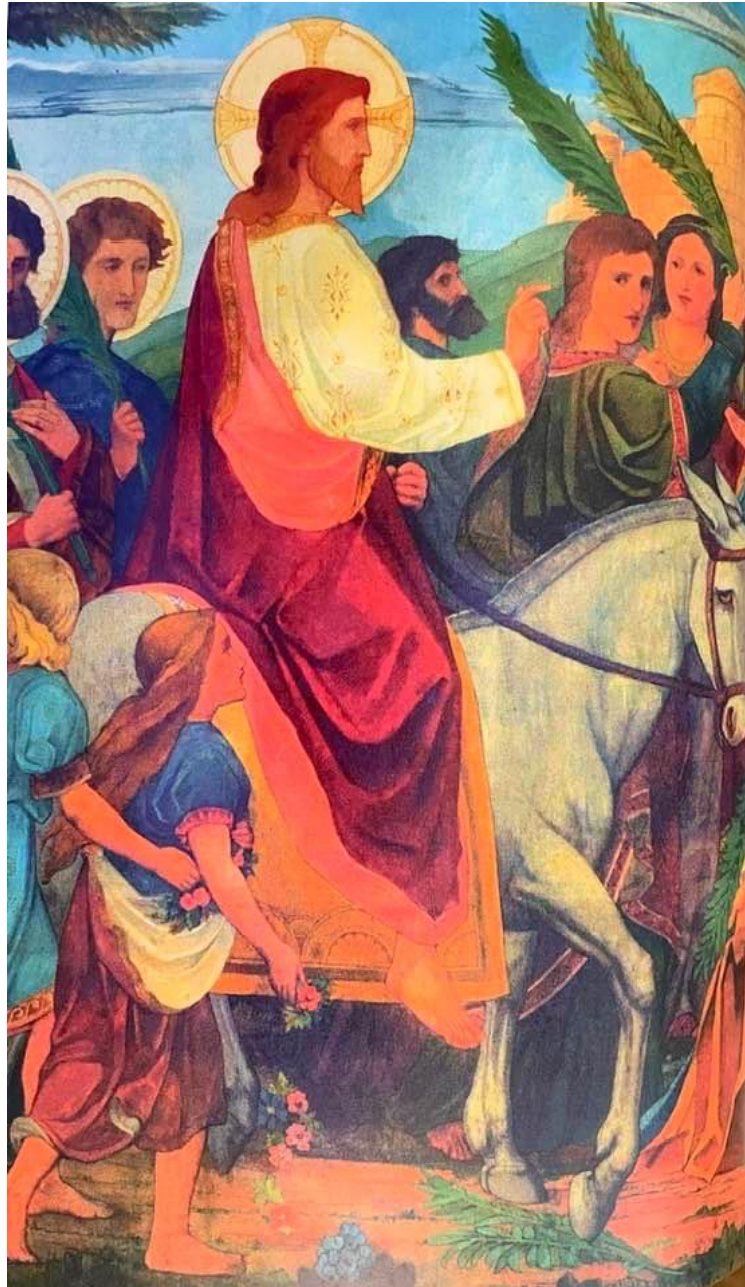


Image of the day – With palms and scattered garments

Image of the day

With palms and scattered garments

Hymn - Ride on! ride on in majesty! Author: Henry Hart Milman (1827). Published in 502 hymnals.

Photo - Parish Church of St George, Belfast, by Bentley Robinson. Past chorister

1. Ride on, ride on in majesty;
hark, all the tribes Hosanna cry.
O Saviour meek, pursue thy road
with palms and scattered garments strewed.

2. Ride on, ride on in majesty;
in lowly pomp ride on to die.
O Christ, thy triumphs now begin
o'er captive death and conquered sin.

3. Ride on, ride on in majesty;
the angel hosts beyond the sky
look down with sad and wondering eyes
to see the approaching sacrifice.

4. Ride on, ride on in majesty;
the last and fiercest strife is nigh.
Thy Father on the sapphire throne
expects thee, loved, anointed Son.

5. Ride on, ride on in majesty;
in lowly pomp ride on to die.
Bow thy meek head to mortal pain;
then take, O God, thy power and reign.

News

Archbishop of Canterbury's prayers with The Princess of Wales

Most Rev Justin Welby said - My prayers are with The Princess of Wales, The Prince of Wales and their children at this tremendously difficult time. I join the whole country, and the world, in praying for her full recovery.

I take this opportunity to praise her for her spirit of optimism in the face of such difficult news, and am pleased to hear that she is feeling stronger every day. Her bravery in sharing in this way and her continued commitment to supporting others speaks to her compassion and sense of service.

Please join with me in praying for The Royal Family as they deal with this private matter and I would urge people to respect their privacy at this time.

Ethnic diversity highlighted on Palm Sunday service on RTÉ One television

The Palm Sunday service on RTÉ One television yesterday was led by the Primate's Reference Group on Ethnic Diversity, Inclusion and Racial Justice.

This year, Palm Sunday shares the same week with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The service was led by Dr Maithrie



White–Dundas, with a sermon by Stella Obe, readings by members of the group, and music by the Discovery Gospel Choir.

Ballynahinch Rugby support for Fact-Find Tour with Fields Of Life Trust

Bruce Steele from Dromara and a keen supporter of Ballynahinch Rugby recently visited Uganda, East Africa on a Fact-Find Tour with Fields Of Life Trust.

He visited several water drilling operations as well as Schools and Colleges which Fields Of Life Trust have established across the country.

Bruce wishes to express his sincere thanks to the Club for so generously providing some player shirts and rugby balls



which Bruce is seen presenting to the teaching staff at the Vocational Training Institute in Gulu, North Uganda along with other sports equipment.

The gifts from Hinch rugby will be used to promote rugby at the Institute when new pitches are established later this year. Further information on the work and vision of Fields Of Life Northern Ireland team <https://fieldsoflife.org/northern-ireland/>

Larne parish bowlers night out

St. Cedma's Bowlers held their prize giving night in Cairndhu Golf Club last week.

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Great craic, the rector (photo left) and a lovely meal made for a very pleasant evening. Congratulations to all the prize winners. Bowls resume in September, newcomers will be very welcome. If you haven't bowled before but would like to give it a try please come along you will be sure of a very warm welcome.

Annual Patron's Day for Dublin school principals and chairs of boards

Primary school principals and chairs of boards of management from across the United Dioceses met for an inspiring morning at the annual Patron's Day gathering on March 15.

Three excellent speakers enabled participants to explore key areas of leadership, developing links between schools and parishes and wellbeing for school leaders.

Vice president of LinkedIn, Sue Duke, drew parallels between qualities of leadership in a global corporation and



school communities; Carolyn Good, principal of Carrigduff NS in Bunclody, shared practical ideas on developing



school/parish links; and author of 'Weaving Well-Being' Fiona Forman spoke on wellbeing for school leaders. The morning's programme was led by Jennie Kirwan, principal of Sandford Parish National School and



Andrea Black, principal of Zion Parish Primary School.

In his opening remarks, the patron Archbishop Michael Jackson welcomed principals, clergy and members of boards of management and thanked the organising committee for putting together a programme that was varied and relevant to teachers and clergy.

You can read about the interesting contributions on the morning on the diocesan website here: <https://dublin.anglican.org/news/2024/03/22/leadership-skills-parish-links-and>

Anniversary of Canterbury's Papal Ring

On March 23rd in 1966, Archbishop of Canterbury Michael Ramsey, representing the Anglican



Communion, and Pope Paul VI, the leader of the Roman Catholic Church, met in Rome.

It was the first time an Archbishop of Canterbury had formally visited the Vatican in 400 years. The Pope took off his episcopal ring and gave it to Ramsey, who wore it until the day he died.

The ring is now kept at Lambeth Palace in England and is worn by Archbishops of Canterbury whenever they visit the Vatican.

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Church of Ireland clergy from Down and Dromore diocese travel to South Sudan for six-day synod

Two senior Church of Ireland clergy have been to South Sudan this month to attend the six-day synod of the Anglican church there, Billy Kennedy writes in the News Letter

The African church's synod meets every three years and Bishop David McClay and Dean Geoff Wilson from Down and Dromore diocese were given a warm welcome. Down and Dromore diocese is linked to South Sudan church, whose primate Bishop Moses Zungo presided in the capital Maridi at a gathering of 225 clergy from across the country.

Bishop Zungo said that this synod had been "very special," and added that Bishop McClay and Dean Wilson from Northern Ireland "had given so much encouragement to the people of Maridi. We are so grateful."

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Maridi diocese has 75 parishes scattered across a wide area of South Sudan, some of it largely inaccessible by car. Bishop Zungo revealed his clergy walked long distances to reach their congregations, indeed spending time with just one parishioner might involve a six-hour round trip.

“This is the biggest challenge facing the work of God in Maridi,” he said. Bicycles and motorbikes for pastors are urgently needed to help our clergy get around..



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Responding to God's call to be ordained in Maridi diocese involves enormous sacrifice. Clergy do not receive a salary. Their expectation is only of somewhere to live (a semi-concrete one or two room structure with a sheet-iron roof) and the ability to cultivate food to feed their family.



The Church Lads Brigade from Aghalee at a sports night in Lisburn are reported to have eaten over their weight!

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Despite these challenges and with Christian mission and evangelism a high priority, the church in Maridi, South Sudan is growing rapidly.

As he participated in the South Sudan synod Bishop David McClay said he was struck by the depth of prayer he witnessed and by the high degree of participation. He was also struck by the high number of children in church and by the commitment to evangelism.

“The church only grows when it does the work of evangelism and see new people being added, and they are being added daily in Maridi,” he said.

Looking ahead to the future of the Down and Dromore/ South Sudan link, Bishop McClay said he now preferred to use the word friendship over partnership. His hope is for more frequent communication and active prayer for one another, as well as the practical provision of bicycles and motorbikes. The bishop would also like to see regular teams going out to South Sudan and for young people from Maridi to be able to join programmes in Down and Dromore diocese, whose 80-plus congregations are located across Co Down and east and south Belfast.

Bishop McClay added: “The blessing will be ours, not just all Maridi’s. We will learn how to pray more effectively we’ll learn more about worship and commitment and what it means to be a disciple. And I believe we will learn more about how to engage in spiritual warfare.”

The Episcopal Church of South Sudan, part of global Anglicanism, has around 3.5 million members, out of a

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national population of around 11 million. The bishop of South Sudan the Rev Moses Zungo has visited Down and Dromore diocese previously and his Maridi diocese is one of 61 in the country South Sudan became independent of Sudan in 2011, following a peace settlement ending 20 years of civil war.

Cathedral call



The Bronte sisters

For Women's History Month we remember the Bronte sisters, a trio of gifted writers who had links with Down & Dromore diocese

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Their most famous novels were Jane Eyre by Charlotte, Wuthering Heights by Emily, and Agnes Grey by Anne. Their memorial sits in Poets' Corner at Westminster Abbey.

Discover more at: www.westminster-abbey.org/abbey-commemorations/commemorations/charlotte-emily-and-anne-bronte

Perspective

A favourite hymn that slept for three centuries

Thousands will be moved in this week before Easter by the hymn “My song is love unknown”. What makes the hymn so touching? And why did it lie disregarded, as a sleeper for two-and-a-half centuries? Christopher Howse writes in the Daily Telegraph.

The next three lines set the context: “My Saviour’s love to me. / Love to the loveless shown, / That they might lovely be.” The author speaks of a personal love for Christ: “This is my Friend.”

The verse reads like that of George Herbert, but it was the work of Samuel Crossman (1623-1683), 30 years younger than Herbert, who died when he was 10. Crossman did not write his poem as a hymn. It appeared in 1664 in a tiny book, The Young Man’s Meditation, of 16mo (sextodecimo) format, with 17 pages of text. The title page quoted Herbert

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by name, from his collection *The Temple*, “A Verse may find him whom a Sermon flies, /And turn delight into a Sacrifice.”

The line “Never was grief like thine” adapted the refrain from “The Sacrifice”, one of Herbert’s poems in *The Temple*: “Was ever grief like mine?” This in turn was taken from the biblical Book of Lamentations: “Is any suffering like my suffering?”

There is much blundering misinformation online about Crossman and his work. It is said that the poem was published “as a hymn in *The Anglican Hymn Book* in 1686”. It wasn’t. The year 1686 is an error for 1868. No book could have been called *The Anglican Hymn Book* in 1686, when they didn’t have hymn books.

The Church of England had just scraped through the Reformation and Cromwell’s Commonwealth with music being revived in cathedrals at the Restoration. In churches the Psalms were recited or sung in metrical paraphrases.

When My song is love unknown (or rather the first, fourth, sixth and seventh of the seven stanzas) was published in *The Anglican Hymn Book* of 1868, edited by Robert Corbet Singleton and Edward George Monk, the suggested setting was the tune given by Henry Lawes to Psalm 47.

This was in the metrical version devised by George Sandys. The Psalm, which in the Book of Common Prayer begins “O clap your hands together, all ye people”, begins in Sandys’s paraphrase “Let all in sweet accord clap hands”.

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The music of Lawes, a contemporary of Herbert, suits Crossman's poem, in metre (syllabically 666688) and in feel. Crossman was happy as a Presbyterian under the Protectorate, having been made minister in 1647 by the seventh London classis or assembly. He also ministered to a Congregationalist church. Crossman attended the Savoy conference in 1658, which sought a Prayer Book acceptable to Presbyterians and Episcopalians.

Everything changed at the Restoration, with the re-establishment of the Church of England. Like many others, Crossman was ejected from his living. But by 1665 he was episcopally ordained at Norwich as deacon and priest and two years later was appointed a chaplain to the King. He died as Dean of Bristol.

As for My song is love unknown, it acquired a new life after it was set to a tune written by John Ireland. It was the only hymn tune he wrote.

The story is that the organist and composer Geoffrey Shaw took him out for lunch and presented him with the text, which Ireland set in 15 minutes, on the back of the menu. It was published in The Public School Hymn Book of 1919.

(A letter in The Telegraph in 1950 from Donald Ford, recalling an anecdote by Shaw, puts the meeting as in preparation for Song of Praise, published in 1925.) From there it was picked up by other hymn books. Many who hear it now assume it was always sung like this.

Christopher Howse writes in the Daily Telegraph each Saturday

In the media

Belfast Telegraph - Stormont permanent secretary Richard Pengelly appointed new Education Authority chief

The Minister of Education and the Education Authority have agreed to parachute Richard Pengelly - current permanent secretary at the Department of Justice - into the role of Chief Executive Officer at the body as it faces "unprecedented challenge, Eimear McGovern writes

It comes as current chief executive Sara Long departs to take up a role in the Health Service Executive in the Republic of Ireland after five years in her current position.

Mr Pengelly also previously held the role of permanent secretary for the Department of Health. He is married to Deputy First Minister Emma Little-Pengelly.

The education sector in Northern Ireland has in recent months been beleaguered by strike action with the Minister of Education also highlighting Covid as a significant challenge faced by the Education Authority over the past number of years.

In a statement to the Assembly, Minister Paul Givan said a "senior leader" with the necessary skills and experience is required in the role. It should be someone who can "build on

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progress to date and take forward transformation of the organisation".

He said: "Following careful consideration, we have agreed that the new Chief Executive should be an established and experienced senior leader with credibility in delivering transformational change in complex and multi-disciplinary organisations. An individual with the necessary skills and expertise to address the challenges currently faced by the EA, and a proven track record of working with public sector Boards and senior leaders to deliver front-line services."

Someone with the experience of Richard Pengelly is a "suitable and appropriate appointment" - and he will take up the role for three years from April 15 2024, said Mr Givan.

"The Education Authority is facing significant operational challenges, not least in terms of the delivery of Special Educational Needs provision. While I recognise that it will take time to address such issues, in the context of ever-increasing demand and constrained public finances, Mr Pengelly has the experience and skills, working with the EA Board, to deliver much needed change."

Mr Givan said he will work with Mr Pengelly to identify key priorities and discuss how they'll identify challenges, he said.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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