

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Holy Week in Gaza



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Holy Week in Gaza

The Roman Catholic community in Gaza continues to show the world an incredible testimony of faith.



On Palm Sunday, despite the war and its dangers, the Holy Family Parish celebrated Palm Sunday in the most solemn way.

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May their courage be an example to everyone.

A blessed Holy Week to us all.



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News

Larne church Piecemakers' civic exhibition

St Cedma's Parish Piecemakers have been busy again and are delighted to have been asked to hang an exhibition of the members' work in the Carnegie Museum and Arts Centre in Larne from Good Friday 29th March until the 27th April.



The centre is open weekdays from 10am - 4pm including Easter Monday and Tuesday and Saturday 30th March, 6th and 27th April.

On Saturday 6th April you can have a full quilting day out - St Cedma's church will be open between 10.30am and 12 noon for visitors to see the Easter Quilts created for the church in 2019 and then move on to the Carnegie where they are holding a special celebration for Carnegie Day and



in addition to the quilt display there will be a range of events for both adults and children between 1pm and 3pm.

The display will show individual pieces from the current members together with a number of group projects stitched specially for this event. These include examples of the beautiful Victorian encaustic tiles as seen below with Eleanor Ellison and Eleanor McSeveney - stalwarts not only of the Parish but also of the Piecemakers group.

Give volunteering a go - Archbishop of Canterbury

“Millions of us embraced the spirit of service through “The Big Help Out” to mark the King’s Coronation.



“A year on, I urge everyone to give volunteering a go. When we befriend an elderly neighbour, make a meal for someone who would otherwise be hungry, or pack up nappies and babygrows to help a new parent, we make a meaningful difference and are changed ourselves in the process.

“There are countless ways, both big and small, that we can give our time and talents, loving our neighbour as Jesus calls us to do.

Whatever you do as part of “The Big Help Out 24” this year, I hope and pray that you experience the joy of being part of something bigger than yourself, contributing to your community, and witnessing the transformational impact it can have in the world.

Carlow campanologist rings her 90th



On Palm Sunday Carlow parishioners had a very special moment at the end of service.

They took the opportunity to wish Rowan Stanley a happy 90th birthday.

“Rowan is one of our brilliant campanologists, our bell ringers. Rowan has taught herself to play the carillon / chime bells and hops

up and down the ladder to the tower every week. She’s an inspiration to us all!”

Canon Bob’s 103rd birthday

It was a joyful Palm Sunday morning as Portrush parishioners greeted Canon Bob Wilkinson on his 103rd birthday, and they enjoyed sharing a fabulous birthday cake with him.

As (probably) the longest ordained deacon in the Church of Ireland (ordained in June 1947 to serve as curate of

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Limerick), it was appropriate that one of the most recent deacons, Shona Bell (ordained 2023) welcomed him to church.

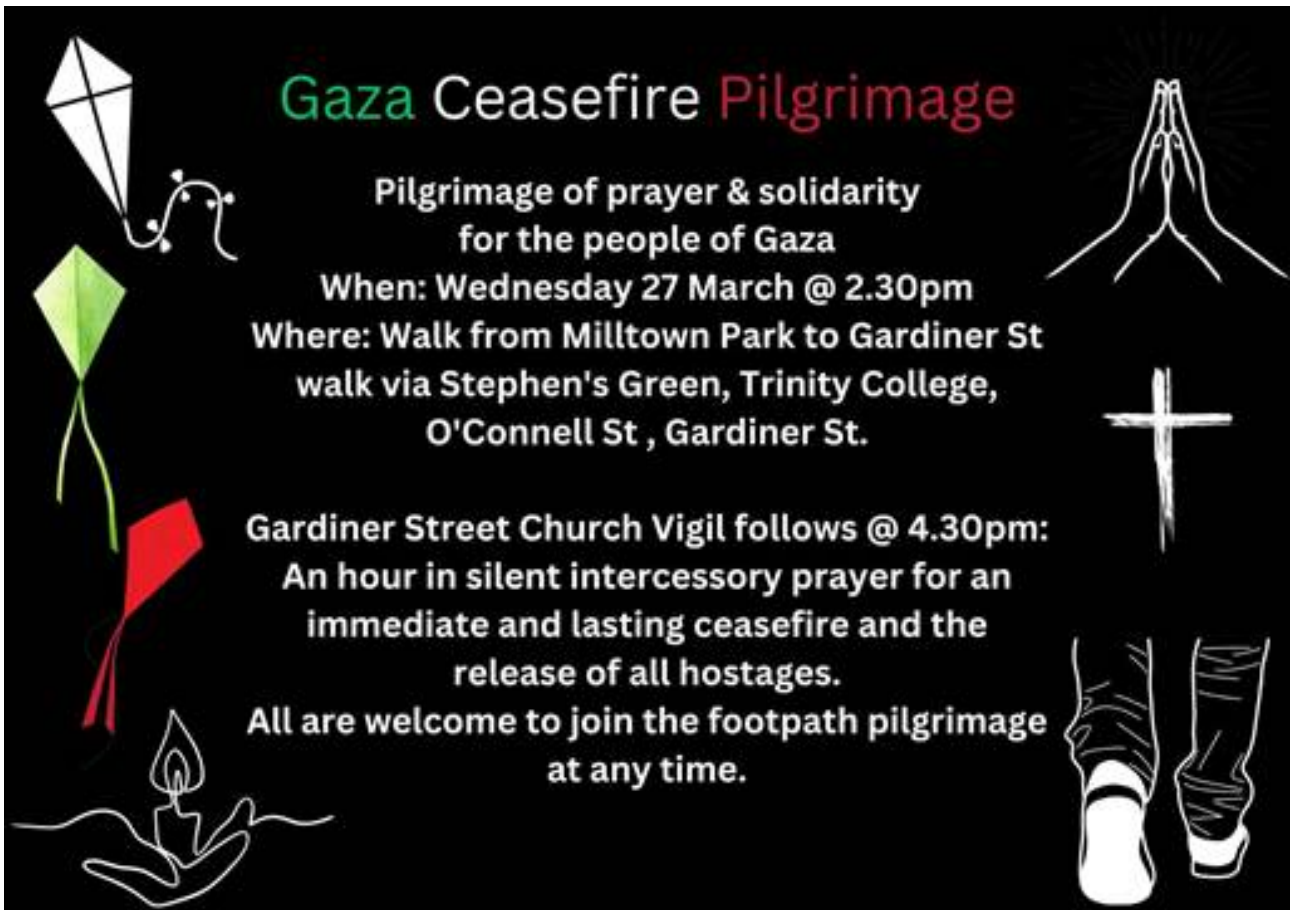


Chaplaincy recognition

HRH The Princess Royal presents the MBE award to the Reverend Derek James Johnston Lead Chaplain, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust.

“For services to chaplaincy and well-being during COVID-19”.





Dublin Pilgrimage in Solidarity with People of Gaza: Wednesday March 27

A pilgrimage of prayer and solidarity for the people of Gaza will take place in Dublin today Wednesday, March 27 2024.

The Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage is being led by Brendan McManus SJ.

Starting at the Jesuits' Provincialate at Milltown Park, Dublin 6, at 2.30pm, the pilgrimage will proceed to Gardiner Street Church where there will be a vigil for an immediate and lasting ceasefire and the release of all hostages starting at 4.30pm.

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Participants will walk to Gardiner Street via St Stephen's Green, Trinity College and O'Connell Street and people are welcome to join at any point on the route.

The pilgrimage is being organised in response to a Lenten appeal from Christian Churches in the Holy Land to the people of the world, calling on them to walk in solidarity with them during Lent. [Click here for more information on that appeal](#).

Church leaders 'shocked and saddened' by Moscow attack

The Archbishop of Canterbury has taken to social media to share his “shock” and “sadness” at the attack in Moscow, which has left at least 133 people dead and 140 injured.

In a post on X, Most Rev Justin Welby said he is praying for the “families of those who have lost loved ones” and “those who seek to bring comfort, healing and hope to those in need”.

The Islamic State Group claimed responsibility for the attack at Crocus City Hall on Friday, with the US saying the claim is credible.

Vladimir Putin has called the attack “a barbaric terrorist act” and has announced 24th March as a national day of mourning. All four gunmen who carried out the attack have been arrested.

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Russia's Catholic bishop, Paolo Pezzi, who heads the Moscow-based Mother of God Archdiocese, also condemned the attack and urged Russians to "exercise due care and discretion" for their "personal and public safety".

"Our hearts are filled with horror and pain. But we ... (should) not forget our lives are in God's hands.

"Trusting in him, I ask you to pray for the salvation of all whose lives are still in danger, peace for the dead, help and healing for the injured, and courage and patience for all called to help them."

Rector quits Church over race, gender and sex discrimination

The Rector of Liverpool has quit the Church of England over "race, gender and sexuality discrimination".

The Rev Canon Dr Crispin Pailing, who was made an MBE for services to the community, strongly advocates for same-sex marriage to be treated in the same way as marriage of heterosexual couples.

Dr Pailing blamed "institutional validation of homophobic and misogynistic views in the Church" for his decision.

He said: "I cannot, in good conscience, continue to have a representative role in an organisation which perpetuates bias and discrimination against sections of society on the grounds of sexuality, race, and gender.

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“In the last few years, I have seen the institutional validation of homophobic and misogynistic views in the Church, and I cannot endorse this.



Dr Pailing (photo above with HRH The Princess Royal) added: “In contrast to the institutional actions which show such disregard for so many human beings, it seems to me that the majority of individuals and communities across the Church of England speak with the voice of inclusion. I am proud that Liverpool Parish Church continues to make a public declaration of the dignity of all people, in the knowledge that we are all made in God’s image.”

Last year, the General Synod, the Church’s lawmaking body, approved blessings for same-sex couples and the move was backed by both archbishops.

But debate has continued to rage within the institution over how the radical update aligns with doctrine which still forbids gay marriage, and the ban on clergy entering same-sex civil marriages. In November, the archbishops of Canterbury and

York announced their support for proposals for standalone same-sex blessing ceremonies, which could pave the way for churches hosting gay weddings in all but name.

The issue has divided progressives and traditionalists within the Church for decades, and reached a critical point following the landmark move to introduce blessings for gay couples last year. Dr Pailing was the youngest rector of the Church since 1945 when he was appointed in 2014.

When the House of Bishops proposed to offer blessings for same-sex couples last year, he told the Liverpool Echo that his own church wanted to bring “clarity and simplicity” to an issue he described as “messy and complicated”.

A spokesperson for the Diocese of Liverpool said: “Naturally, we are saddened that Father Crispin has decided to leave Liverpool Parish Church and parish ministry. His departure will be the loss of a fine priest who has had many achievements whilst in Liverpool and we thank him for all the work he has done.

“We are grateful that he acknowledges what a good diocese Liverpool is. We take safeguarding extremely seriously and have full confidence in our diocesan safeguarding team which carries out difficult and demanding work with professional excellence and pastoral sensitivity.

“We wish Father Crispin all the best in his new career which we are sure he will excel at.”

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



Sir Charles Villiers Stanford anniversary

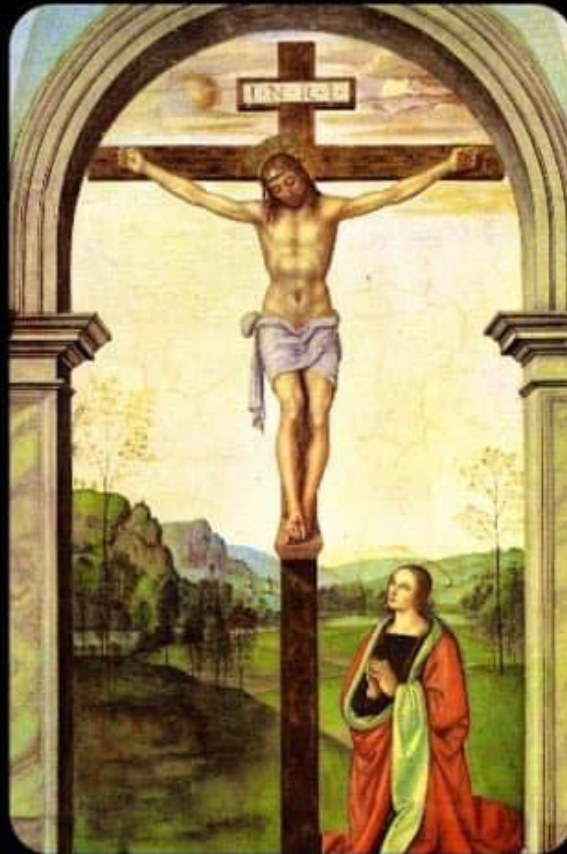
This coming Friday 29th March marks the 100th anniversary of the death of Sir Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924).

An illustrious composer, performer, conductor and teacher, Stanford was organist and Director of Music at Trinity College, Cambridge from 1874-1892. During this decisive period of his career, Stanford also travelled and studied in Leipzig and Berlin, conducted the Cambridge University Musical Society (where he successfully campaigned for the introduction of women to the choir and organised the

St Ann's Church, Dawson Street

Good Friday Sacred Concert

CHARLES VILLIERS STANFORD STABAT MATER
JOHN SANDERS THE REPROACHES



Midday Good Friday March 29th

ST ANN'S CHURCH CHOIR

Retiring collection in aid of Shine a Light for the Diocese of Jerusalem appeal & Music ministry at St Ann's Church

This Project is Supported by Ecclesiastical and the Little Museum of Dublin



The Little
MUSEUM of
DUBLIN

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English premiere of Brahms's First Symphony), composed operas, symphonies and songs, and acted as an unofficial University of Cambridge ambassador to the contemporary music scene, notably securing an honorary Cambridge doctorate (and a visit to Trinity for Evensong) in 1891 for Antonin Dvorak.

In 1883, Stanford became a founding professor at the newly-launched Royal College of Music. Over the years, his composition pupils would include Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Gustav Holst, Ralph Vaughan Williams, John Ireland, Herbert Howells, Rebecca Clarke, Frank Bridge and Arthur Bliss.

A suite of new videos will be released to the Choir's YouTube channel on Friday to mark the centenary, including films of performances by the Choir, Trinity College Choir Association, Britten Sinfonia, and chamber instrumentalists from the College student body and fellowship. Also released will be a short documentary, 'Stanford at Trinity', narrated and presented by former Trinity Choral Scholar and Durham University Professor Jeremy Dibble, author of the newly-expanded 'Charles Villiers Stanford: Man and Musician' on Boydell Press.

In the meantime, fans of Stanford's choral music are warmly encouraged to re-acquaint themselves with the Choir's critically-lauded 2017 recording on Hyperion Records: <https://trinitycollegechoir.com/recordings/stanford-choral-music/>

Stanford is also the subject of a week's special programming by BBC Radio 3 - tune in at 12pm daily for

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Composer of the Week with Donald Macleod and listen again on BBC Sounds:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001xdqv>

Image of Stanford kindly provided by Trinity College Library, Cambridge

Stabat Mater marks Stanford link with St Ann's Dawson Street

St Ann's, Dawson Street on Good Friday, 29th March, at 12 noon will present a sacred concert of Sir Charles Villiers Stanford's setting of Stabat Mater.

Good Friday coincides with the 100th anniversary of Stanford's death. In his youth, Stanford was a parishioner of St Stephen's, Mount Street which is one of the churches of this parish.

Admission is free and immediately after the concert in St Ann's, there will be a service of Litany and Ante Communion.

RSCM Stanford Singing Break in Cambridge

RSCM Enterprises, as executors of Charles Villiers Stanford's estate, are proud to announce a unique opportunity to sing some of Stanford's best known (and lesser known) works in glorious Cambridge

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surroundings, in the year which marks the centenary of his death.

This course (Friday 12 July – Sunday 14 July 2024) will particularly focus on the wonderful inheritance of Anglican Choral music, with RSCM Director Hugh Morris as conductor.

Stanford was organ scholar at Queens' College, whose chapel will be our base. Later, he was organist of Trinity College, and we will sing in the chapel as part of the weekend's events.

There will be services of Evensong and Holy Communion, including the opportunity to sing the glorious Stanford in A Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis.

The RSCM holds a number of Stanford manuscripts, and there will be an exclusive session for members of the course to view them, along with an informative lecture on the life and works of the composer given by Stanford expert Jeremy Dibble on the Saturday evening.

More info at -

[\[https://www.rscmshop.com/features/stanford-singing-break\]](https://www.rscmshop.com/features/stanford-singing-break)

Perspective

Easter Message from the Archbishop of Dublin

“What does it mean for us to say: I have seen the Lord?” asks Most Rev Dr Michael Jackson.

The story of Easter unfolds rather rapidly on the first Easter Morning. We are greeted by the exuberance of Mary of Magdala who tells the other disciples: I have seen the Lord (St John 20.18). Mary has come directly from the graveyard. There she has been greeted by the friend and teacher of The Disciples of whom she is one. Her grief has been turned to joy by the fact that Jesus calls her by name. She glows with confidence as someone who is known to the Risen Lord by name.

Recognition is part and parcel of resurrection. This is good for us to learn at Easter 2024. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is an investment by God in the good order of relationships and in the good order of society. Such gracious recognition travels wherever Christians are and go. They are its ambassadors and its practitioners. The direction of travel of the sorrowing disciples brings them into a realm where they are not unknown to the person who still inspires them and who has conquered death and sin to share new life.

The world to which we waken up on Easter Morning is spattered with the blood of warfare and the detritus of community. It is also spattered with the incapacity of states and religions to make peace, to keep peace and to give peace. The human irrelevance of people to one another right across the inhabited world asks of us, who are Christians today, carrying the responsibility for Godly peace: What does it mean for us to say: I have seen the Lord?



Pope Francis - “Holy Week is a time of grace that the Lord gives us to encounter Jesus, as well as to show others the light and joy of our faith. May we do so with love and God's tenderness, in respect and patience, knowing that it is He who guides us”

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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