

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Daddy's home from work

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Image of the day

Daddy's home from work

An irresistible photograph of an Irishman who has kept his roots and values. He also played a round with his father this week.



News

Surprise for rector at Mullingar school anniversary

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Past and Current staff of All Saints School in Mullingar gathered together on Sunday March 3 to celebrate 60 years of the current building standing on the site where it stands today.

They surprised Canon Graham and his wife Olive with a lovely celebration of their time in the parish and their connection with the school .



Inst Medallion Shield winner from St Mary's Ballybeen

The parish posted congratulations to one of their youth, Ethan Edwards on lifting the Medallion Shield after winning with RBAI

against Sullivan Upper School this week.

Fermoy welcomes new Rector



The Rev. Clodagh Yambasu was instituted on Sunday evening, 03/03/2024, as the new Rector of Fermoy Union of Parishes by the Bishop, the Right Rev. Dr Paul Colton, at Christ Church, Fermoy. Christ Church, Fermoy.

More at https://churchofirelandcork.com/2024/03/06/fermoy-union-of-parishes-welcomes-their-new-rector/?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=facebook

Bangor FC announces expansion of their chaplaincy team

Gary Faulkner remains as the first team chaplain, a role he has held since 2017. Leah Emberson continues as Bangor FC Ladies chaplain and James Crothers comes on board as academy chaplain.



Gary Faulkner said: “The Bangor FC chaplaincy team is trained and fully supported by Sports Chaplaincy UK. Our central objective is to provide pastoral support, help, care and encouragement to everyone involved with Bangor FC. This includes players, management, volunteers and supporters.

“We are here to serve everyone at the club, regardless of faith or beliefs. Tough times and struggles are part and parcel of football and life in general, and the chaplaincy team is always available to provide support and to ensure people don’t forget that you are loved and cared for.”

Gary continued: “I have an amazing team to work with at the club. Leah has already four years experience working with

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the ladies team. She provides support and shows love, kindness and empathy in all she does. James is new to the team and will be there for those that may need a little guidance. In his day job he works with young adults with mental health, drugs and alcohol issues.”

Bangor FC Chaplains can be contacted by emailing gfaulkner@sportschaplaincy.org.uk

Bangor FC Chairman Graham Bailie said: “We benefit enormously from having Gary and his team at Bangor, especially as they have an impressive amount of pastoral knowledge and experience.

“As the club continues to grow, and reach out further into the community, it is important to us that we have the expertise and support in place to offer a chaplaincy service to all.

“Everyone involved with the Seasideers can contact any of our chaplains, confidentially, when in need of a listening ear, pastoral care or spiritual support.”

Methodist bishops on study tour and pilgrimage in Rome

This week 10 bishops from the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, and The United Methodist Church are on a study tour and pilgrimage in Rome.

They seek to witness to the churches’ ongoing pilgrimage of reconciliation and to learn about Christian unity.

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The program is organized by the Methodist Ecumenical Office with the generous support of the Magee Christian Education Foundation.

Proposed racial justice unit evokes criticism in C of E

The Church of England is in the process of hiring a "deconstructing whiteness" officer as part of an 11-person "racial justice unit," aimed at addressing racial injustice across the West Midlands.

The role, which comes with an annual salary of £36,000, is a response to a motion passed by the General Synod, the

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Church's legislative body, urging all parishes to develop "race action plans."

This move follows a statement from the Rt Rev Rose Hudson-Wilkin, the Bishop of Dover, during the Synod on February 25, emphasizing the need for Anglicans to "further embed racial justice" and not shy away from being labeled "woke."

However, critics of the newly proposed racial justice unit, which will operate across the dioceses of Birmingham, Coventry, Gloucester, Hereford, Lichfield, and Worcester, have accused the Church of "drinking the critical race Kool Aid" and engaging in what they perceive as "student politics."

C of E's £1bn target to help heal slave trade injustice

The Church of England has accepted a £1bn target to address historical financial links to the slave trade as recommended by an oversight group led by descendants of enslaved Africans which said the initial 100 million pounds was too low.

The group said on Monday that the fund was not enough when compared to the scale of the racial disadvantage caused by its past investments, and that the Church Commissioners, who manage the Church's £10bn investment arm today, in partnership with others, should aim for a bigger pot.

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"The Church Commissioners have ... embraced a target of £1bn for a broader healing, repair and justice initiative with the fund at its centre," the oversight group's report said.

It did not contain details about the new pledge, and the Church of England did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury and the spiritual leader of the worldwide Anglican Communion of about 85 million Christians, said in a statement accompanying the report that the group's work was the beginning of "a multi-generational response to the appalling evil of transatlantic chattel enslavement".



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Bishop of Croydon Rosemarie Mallett, chair of the oversight group and a descendant of slavery herself, said implementing the report's recommendations would demonstrate commitment to the process of healing and justice.

"No amount of money can fully atone for or fully redress the centuries long impact of African chattel enslavement, the effects of which are still felt around the world," she added.

The body was set up in July by the Church Commissioners after revelations that its predecessor, called Queen Anne's Bounty, invested significant amounts in the slave-trading South Sea Company in the 18th century.

The Church made the previous pledge in January 2023 after a review of early ledgers and other documents instigated by the Church Commissioners themselves showed the scale of the investment and donations from individuals who were likely to have profited from transatlantic slavery.

The Church said at the time it wanted to address "shameful" wrongs and the money was aimed at building a fairer future for all, particularly for communities affected by past slavery. No money has yet been disbursed.

Major British institutions, from the royal family to the Bank of England, have been linked to the transatlantic slave trade, but the country has resisted calls for reparations.

The oversight group recommended that the Church fund be used to invest in Black-led businesses focusing on education, economic empowerment and health outcomes,

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as well as to provide grants to address issues in communities impacted by the legacies of slavery.

It also urged the timeline of delivery of the funds to be accelerated.

The Church Commissioners, who are due to comment on the report, have welcomed and accepted the report in full while also acknowledging that no amount of money can make up for the past, it had to be done, the report said.

Cathedral call

St Patrick's Day Service from Ireland's National Cathedral on BBC Radio 4 and Radio Ulster

Radio listeners around Britain, Ireland and further afield will join in worship with the Choristers and Clergy of St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, on St Patrick's Day (Sunday, 17th March).

The BBC's weekly Sunday service will come from the Church of Ireland's National Cathedral – a place of worship for over eight hundred years – and will be broadcast on BBC Radio 4 from 8.10am and BBC Radio Ulster from 10.03am.

This Service of Matins, a traditional form of Anglican worship in mornings, will be introduced by the **Dean of St Patrick's**, the Very Revd Dr William Morton, and led by the **Dean's Vicar**, Canon Charles Mullen. The preacher will be **Canon**

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Simon Doogan, who is rector of Ballyholme parish in Bangor, County Down.

Music will be led by Stuart Nicholson, as Master of the Music, and the organist will be Dr Harry Meehan. The service will include an anthem by the Dublin-born composer Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924), who had connections with St Patrick's in his early years while growing up in the city.

The programme will be available to play back after broadcast at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001xcgx>

Clogher Diocese parishioner to attend Maundy Service at Worcester Cathedral

A parishioner from Clogher Diocese will be among the 150 recipients of Maundy Money at this year's Maundy Thursday Service in Worcester Cathedral attended by a member of the Royal Family.

This year the service will be attended by Her Majesty, Queen Camilla, taking the place of King Charles.

Mrs Ethne McCord, wife of Dr. David McCord, is the nominee from Clogher Diocese to receive Maundy Money at this year's service on Thursday, 28 March.

She is a parishioner of St. Salvator's Church, Glaslough in the Donagh Group of Parishes which also includes Tyholland with Errigal Truagh in Co, Monaghan.



Ethne is described as an extraordinary woman whose compassion, concern and dedication to efforts that enhance and augment the lives of others through volunteering and charity work in communities on both sides of the border are “exceptional.”

She is a regular volunteer in the McCague Day Centre in Aughnacloy which she has done for many years.

The Bishop of Clogher, the Right Revd. Dr. Ian Ellis, nominating her, described Ethne as “an extraordinary person whose compassion, and dedication enhances the lives of others through her voluntary and charity work.”

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At the service in Worcester Cathedral, ceremonial coins will be presented to 75 men and 75 women from around the country, in recognition of their exemplary Christian service to church and community over many years. More about Ethne's voluntary service at -

[https://clogher.anglican.org/News/newsevent.php?id=1311&utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=facebook]



Sound as a Salisbury bell

“Sound as a bell. We recently had our biannual service of the clock bells in the Cathedral’s Tower.

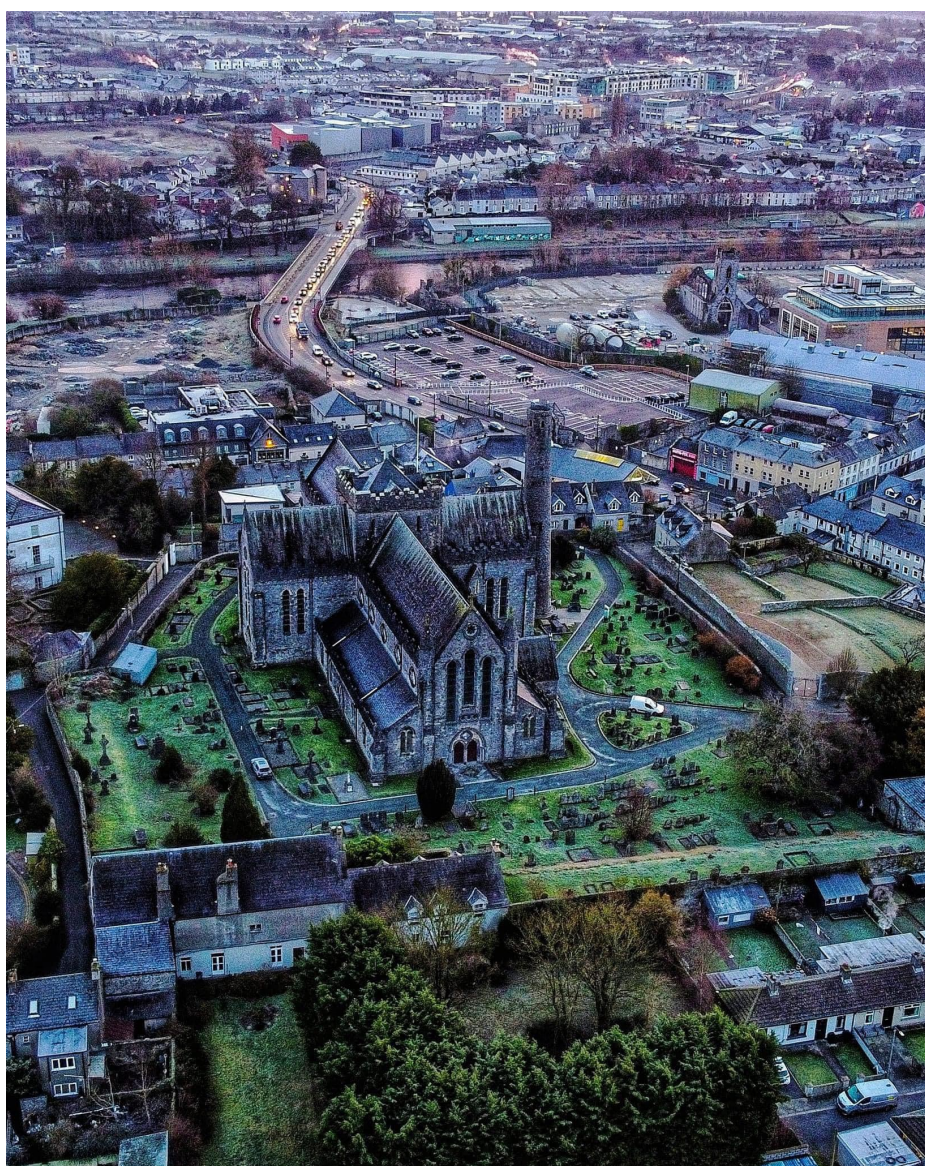
“As part of our routine maintenance programme, the bell hangers from Whites of Appleton Ltd checked the bells to make sure they're still in good condition.

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“The largest bell is the ‘Hour Bell’, which once hung in a separate Bell Tower before the structure was demolished in 1790. Weighing a whopping 1.25 tons, it was lifted into the Cathedral Tower where it remains today. It has clapper, which strikes the inside of the bell to make it ring, rather than the bell swinging. According to the experts from Whites of Appleton, this is probably because the bell is so heavy that, were it to be swung, it would destabilise the Tower and Spire!” Photo courtesy of Zach Culpin/BNPS

Saint Canice's Cathedral Library was school for Vicars Choral in 1234

There was a meeting. In Dublin this week of the Governors of the Incorporated Society, the Patron body of Dundalk Grammar, Sligo Grammar, Brandon Grammar and Kilkenny College.



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The photo shows the rear view of the Saint Canice's Cathedral Library where Kilkenny College was founded as a school for the Vicars Choral in 1234. Photo courtesy: Jays Photography,



Festival win for Schola Cantorum

Congratulations to Gavin Duffy, a member of the Down and Connor Schola Cantorum, at St Peter's Cathedral who received First Place in the Sacred Solo category at Ballymena Festival of Music Speech & Dance. Well done Gavin. ✨

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Distinctive 'Romantic' sound of organ at Bristol Cathedral's

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Listen to episode 3 of The Organ Podcast for one last chance to enjoy the distinctive 'Romantic' sound of Bristol Cathedral's 1907 Walker organ before it is taken away by Harrison and Harrison for major restoration project.

Listen now wherever you get your podcasts, or visit www.rco.org.uk/podcast for more information.



New youth work audit for parishes

The Church of Ireland Youth Department (CIYD) is undertaking a research audit of youth work over the coming months to find updated numbers and information about young people and youth work in parishes and dioceses...

Every parish will be contacted by email shortly and provided with a link to a Google form to complete before Saturday, 12th July 2024.

<http://dlvr.it/T3hLSL>

Heritage

George Herbert writer of devotional poems

George Herbert is one England's great devotional poets, but perhaps not as widely known as he deserves to be. He was born in 1593 in Wales and died in Bemerton, Wiltshire at the age of 39 as a Rector. While at Bemerton he wrote *The Country Parson*, which is still held up as an ideal of pastoral ministry.

Throughout his life he wrote poems, though they were not published until after his death by his friend Nicholas Ferrar, founder of the community at Little Gidding.

Influenced by the metaphysical poets, he rather fell from literary favour until a revival of interest in his poetry in the last century. The metaphysical poets blended emotion and intellectual ingenuity, often by pairing of apparently unconnected ideas in novel and startling ways.

He described his poems as a "picture of the many spiritual conflicts that have passed between God and [his] soul." In one of his most famous poems, *Love bade me welcome*, Herbert describes God as "quick-eyed love" who invites him to sit and eat and asks if he lacks anything and who eventually persuades the reluctant poet "to sit and eat".

In his short life Herbert was able to influence many others through his work as an Anglican priest and before that as an Orator at Cambridge and, briefly as an MP, but in his

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devotional poems and writings, he continues to speak to us across the centuries with profound insight and deep compassion of God's love for our human race.

Perspective

God of the peacemakers

God of the peacemakers;
God of those who flight
to grow a peace for others:
be with all those who do not lash out,
who do not return evil for evil,
who look into eyes of those
who would harm them,
and see a fellow child of God.
It is wearying work, this fight:
a battle against the urge to give in.
It is constant at times,
this labour of heroes.
Blessed be the children of God.
Amen.

'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.' (Matthew 5:9)

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In the media

Belfast Telegraph - Charity climb: Son of late Lord Lieutenant to scale Kilimanjaro in her memory

A Coleraine man who has already conquered some of the UK's highest peaks is to scale Mount Kilimanjaro for Air Ambulance NI in memory of his late mother, Christopher Leebody writes.

Marcus Christie completed the Three Peaks Challenge last summer and will now take on Africa's highest mountain in October.

Mr Christie will also be organising a gala ball to commemorate what would have been his mum's 80th birthday.

Joan Christie was the former Lord Lieutenant of Co Antrim, welcoming members of the royal family and world leaders to Northern Ireland over the years.

Marcus said: "I am profoundly inspired by my mother and all her achievements. It seems fitting to honour her memory by embodying the values of service, kindness and dedication that she exemplified throughout her life.

"Having seen first-hand the Air Ambulance medical team at scene, I want to support the incredible work of the charity

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and I hope this will make a difference to people who need their critical care in future.”

The Gala Ball is scheduled to take place at the Royal Court Hotel Portrush on July 5.

Ian Crowe, Lord Lieutenant of the Co Borough of Londonderry and trustee of Air Ambulance NI, said: “As we reflect on Joan Christie's remarkable life, it is lovely that Marcus has chosen to honour her memory in this way.

“We are immensely grateful for Marcus's dedication and determination to support. His endeavours exemplify the spirit of community and compassion and we are honoured to have his support and enthusiasm.”

Air Ambulance NI offers advanced critical care across the region through the Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS), which is delivered via a unique third-sector and public-sector partnership between Air Ambulance NI charity and the NI Ambulance Service.

Health fears: Pontiff seeks assistance at Vatican address

Lingering respiratory and mobility problems are continuing to take their toll on the Pope.

Francis again asked an aide to read his remarks and was unable to get back onto his popemobile yesterday after his weekly general audience in the Vatican, as lingering

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respiratory and mobility problems continue to affect the 87-year-old pontiff.

The event was held outside for the first time this year in a chilly St Peter's Square. Francis had an aide read his catechism lesson, as he has done for the past several days.

Last Wednesday, Francis went to hospital in Rome for unspecified diagnostic tests, the results of which have not been released.

He has been suffering on and off this winter from what he and the Vatican have said was a cold, bouts of bronchitis and the flu.

The pontiff had cancelled appointments last month due to the persistent but “mild flu”, but appeared as usual for a recent Sunday blessing from a window overlooking St Peter's Square.

Late last year, Francis underwent a CAT scan that ruled out pneumonia, but the Pope was still forced to call off a trip to the Gulf because of acute, infectious bronchitis.

Francis has also been suffering from a fracture in the knee and inflammation of its ligaments that, starting in 2022, led to him using a wheelchair.

But he has usually managed to get around with a cane or walker and the help of aides to get him to a standing position.

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Yesterday, however, Francis appeared unable to climb up the few steps to board his popemobile at the end of his audience, even while grasping onto the handrails.

Aides quickly brought back his wheelchair and he sat back down. He then greeted the crowd before being wheeled out of the piazza.

The Argentine Pope had part of one lung removed as a young man because of a respiratory infection and he often speaks in a whisper even when he is not ill.

In 2021, he had a chunk of his colon removed and last year had surgery to repair an abdominal hernia and remove intestinal scar tissue.

Speaking to the soul

Go

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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