

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – First Consecration in Bahrain

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The consecration service was held at St Christopher's Cathedral in Manama on May 24 and it was the first consecration of an Anglican bishop to take place in Bahrain. See report in Cathedral Calls on page 12.

News

First Farsi service at St George's Belfast

On Sunday afternoon Fr Omid Moludy, conducted the first ever Eucharist in St George's in Farsi.

He also preached at the morning service. Fr Omid is based in Manchester and travelled over to join in St George's last weekend.





Ring home a trophy to Carrickfergus

Well done the St. Nicholas' Church bell ringing team from Carrickfergus who won the all Ireland Murphy Cup on 25.5.24 at Drumbo. The last time they won this cup was 1978.

Catholic Portuguese speakers church in the heart of Dublin

Located in Smithfield, a vibrant community of Catholic Portuguese speakers have found their home away from home in St Mary of the Angels church in the heart of Dublin.



At St Patrick's Cathedral Dublin on Sunday last at Evensong "we said goodbye and thank you to 3 leaving members of Schola, Bianca, Etienne and Ira. We wish them all the very best with their forthcoming Leaving Cert exams which are imminent and of course for whatever the future holds....."

Católicos Em Dublin (Catholics in Dublin) was founded in 2009 when a small group of Brazilian youth missed their country and felt the need to attend Mass in Portuguese. They did not have an official chapel or regular Mass until 2019, when the first and current chaplain, Fr Severino Pinheiro da Silva Neto arrived. Fr Neto believes Brazilians have a particular way of living their Catholic faith, and that attracts them to the community.

<https://www.irishcatholic.com/brazilian-catholics-find-a-home-in-smithfield/>

Retirement blessings on Rev Bridget Spain

On Sunday 26th May, Rev Bridget Spain led her last service as Minister in Dublin Unitarian Church before her retirement.

Bridget is retiring after 12 years as Minister of St Stephen's Green Unitarian church. "Thank you Paul for letting us have her. We love you both" were the sentiments of the congregation at her last service in Dublin



Benburb Priory to celebrate 75 years

June 2024 will be a month of Celebration for 75 Years of The Order of The Servants of Mary at Benburb Priory.

"We warmly invite you to join us at the following:

On Monday 3rd June at 3.00 pm, St Peregrine Relic will be available in the Chapel for private and quiet veneration. St Peregrine Mass at 8pm on Monday 3rd June will be celebrated by Fr Collie McGlynn.



On Tuesday 4th June morning Mass at 10.00 am will be celebrated by Fr Collie McGlynn with Lectio Divina at 8.00 pm on this evening also.

On Wednesday 5th June at 10.00 am, there will be a Mass of Celebration of 75 Years of The Order of The Servants of Mary. Refreshments will follow after Mass.

All very welcome to attend".



Boutique selling women's pre-loved wedding and occasion wear for Christian Aid Ireland

Christian Aid Ireland is enormously grateful to the wonderful Jennifer Cairnduff and to everyone at Newtownbreda (St John's) Presbyterian Church who organised a pop-up boutique selling women's pre-loved wedding and occasion wear.

The sale was held during Christian Aid Week at First Avenue Coffee Company on Belfast's Ormeau Road, to raise funds for our work.

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The clothes, shoes, bags and accessories were kindly donated by members of St John's Church.

Here, Jennifer and her volunteer 'shop assistants' model some of the items that were offered for sale.

Jennifer, for example is wearing a Karen Millen dress in perfect condition, priced at just £12.

CAI also wish to thank everyone who donated clothing or supported the event with their purchases.

L-R, Margaret Robinson, Helen Pallin, Jennifer Cairnduff, Heather Moore, Maggie Crawford, Lynn Orr.

Burundi and Derry CMSI link

**Rev Arsène
Mafurebe
was the
guest of
honour at a
special
Burundi
Focus Event
hosted by
Glendermott
and New
Buildings
Parish, Derry/**





Londonderry.

He shared about his ministry in Gitega Diocese, while Roger from CMSI brought greetings and updates from Bishop Seth and Rev Yvette Ndayirukiye (Matana Diocese). Rev Robert Boyd introduced the evening, and Rev Johnny Lowden gave feedback on the Matana/Glendermott partnership plan which is currently being put together.

C of I Rector lead speaker at neighbouring parish's latest Novena

On Wednesday May 22, the Ven Dr Stephen McBride, vicar of Antrim and Archdeacon of Connor, was the first speaker at St Comgall's and St Joseph's Novena in Antrim.



He first preached in St Comgall's in 2004 and said he was delighted to be invited to take part in the parish's latest Novena.

Archdeacon McBride and the Very Rev Sean Emerson, parish administrator (photo above), first worked together in 1990 when Stephen was rector of St Peter's Parish in Belfast and Sean was parish priest in the Holy Family group of parishes.

In his address to this year's Novena, Archdeacon McBride gave a resume of the progress that has been made in Antrim over the past 20 years through the input and encouragement of the local churches.

He said that in 2004, following a spate of sectarian attacks on Catholic families in Antrim, some of the town's clergy visited the PSNI District Commander to see what could be done to lower the tension in some of the local housing estates.

That initial meeting was the catalyst which led to the formation of Antrim Community Safety Partnership, the first such partnership in Northern Ireland. It had representatives from the Borough Council, PSNI, churches, Housing Executive and community activists. The churches also formed a Civic Forum which helped to reduce the number of flags being flown in public places and outside churches and schools.

As chaplain to the Antrim branch of the Royal British Legion, Archdeacon McBride encouraged a reorganisation of the town's annual Remembrance Service and now the clergy from Antrim Parish are made welcome and take part in the service.

In 2004, the first Antrim Churches Good Friday Walk of Witness took place. The walk begins in Antrim Methodist, proceeds to All Saints', Antrim, then on to Antrim Christian Fellowship Church, St Comgall's, ending up in High Street Presbyterian Church.

The Archdeacon said that after 19 walks (one was missed due to Covid), it is testimony to the good relationships within Antrim's churches that more than 250 people take part in the walk.

Archdeacon McBride said that he was delighted with the warmth of the welcome he received from the parishioners at the Novena.

Cathedral Calls

First Consecration service in Bahrain at St Christopher's Cathedral



Left to right: Dr Richard Fermer (Dean of St Christopher's Cathedral), Bishop Anthony Poggo (Secretary General of the Anglican Communion), Archbishop Hosam Naoum (Primate of the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East), Bishop Sean Semple (bishop-elect for the Dioceses of Cyprus and the Gulf), and Revd Canon Donald Binder, Chaplain to the Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem gather ahead of the consecration.

The consecration service was held at St Christopher's Cathedral in Manama on May 24 and it was the first consecration of an Anglican bishop to take place in Bahrain.

The Anglican Secretary General, Bishop Anthony Poggo has attended the consecration of the Right Revd Sean Semple, who has become the sixth bishop of the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf.

Bishop Poggo said: "It was a joy to join with Anglican brothers and sisters for the Consecration of Bishop Sean Semple. We pray for him as he prepares for this ministry and give thanks for the important work that the Anglican Church is doing in this region."

The Consecration service was presided over by The Most Rev'd Dr Hosam Naoum, the Archbishop and Primate of the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East, of which the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf is a part. The new bishop was welcomed by the Dean and Bahraini dignitaries.

The two principal co-consecrating bishops were The Right Rev'd Dr Robert Innes, Bishop in Europe and Bishop Richard Jackson, the Bishop of Hereford in the Church of England, where the Rev'd Sean Semple is currently a parish priest.

Bishop Sean Semple said: "The Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf has been deeply honoured and encouraged by the bishops' participation in the service," said Bishop Sean. "Their presence indicates something of the significance in

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which our Diocese held in the wider Anglican Communion, and further enhances these relationships.”

Fr Richard Fermer, Dean of St Christopher’s said: “We are very excited, because it is the first time that someone will be consecrated an Anglican bishop in Bahrain.”

Minor Canon of St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast



Congratulations to Rev Mark Reid, NI Chaplain to the Mission to Seafarers, who was installed on Sunday as a Minor Canon of St Anne's Cathedral.

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Mark is pictured with members of his family and friends, along with Canon Mark Taylor of Whitehead (right) who introduced him and Dean Stephen Forde who conducted the Installation.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



Archaeology by Queen's University at Carrickfergus

The CCA's Ruairi O Baoill took time out from the Balmoral Show on Saturday morning to appear on **BBC Radio Ulster's "Your Place and Mine"** with Shirin Murphy (Collections Access Officer, Carrickfergus Museum and Civic Centre) to highlight the commencement of the community excavation in Shaftesbury Park in the town this forthcoming week.

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The excavation is being undertaken as part of the Community Archaeology Programme Northern Ireland (CAPNI), supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, thanks to National Lottery players.

The National Lottery Heritage Fund Northern Ireland
Queen's University Belfast Public Engagement
Heritage Carrickfergus

The interview can be accessed on BBC Sounds at:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001zfjk>

Dún Laoghaire Summer Organ Concerts

The opening recital will occur in two weeks time with founder of the series Professor Gerard Gillen. More information of the series can be found on website
<https://www.dunlaoghaireorganconcerts.ie>

In the media

Belfast Telegraph - Beginner's luck: Rev's '70km in May' for Christian Aid weeks after taking up running

A 'ROOKIE' running reverend from Co Antrim is nearing the end of a 70km running challenge to raise funds for an overseas aid agency, only three months after taking up running for the first time, Sarah Henderson writes.

Rev Gareth McFadden, minister of Kilbride Presbyterian Church in Doagh near Ballyclare, has completed a number of runs to hit the 70km mark.

He took part in his first 5k event on May 11 when he completed the Ballyclare Parkrun in a time of 30 minutes.

Christian Aid's '70k in May' was a new initiative for Christian Aid Week. The charity challenged its supporters to cover '70k your way', whether by walking, running, cycling or swimming, in order to raise money to help some of the poorest people across the world.

Christian Aid Week began in the 1950s and is thought to be the UK and Ireland's longest-running fundraising campaign. Each year, tens of thousands of people across the UK and Ireland get involved in raising funds to support the charity's work to reach people living in poverty and crisis around the world.

Writing on the Kilbride Presbyterian Church Facebook page, Rev Gareth explained why running appealed to him. "This might come as a surprise to some, me included, but I've started running and I quite like the benefits for my physical and mental health," he wrote.

Rev Gareth (51) explained that the 70k in May had come along at an important time for him.

"Earlier this year, I received the news that I had silently developed very high blood pressure and I was advised to improve my fitness. I began training in February to learn how to run and by the time May came along, I was able to consider a 70k challenge. I've always had a heart for helping

others in need so I'm glad to be able to raise funds for a good cause.”

So far, his challenge has raised more than £1,000 with donations still coming in.

Christian Aid Ireland chief executive, Rosamond Bennett, thanked Rev McFadden for his fundraising efforts: “Every year during Christian Aid Week, people across the UK and Ireland raise funds, act and pray for their global neighbours in a celebration of hope for a fairer world. Christian Aid Week brings people together to put our faith into action. Every prayer, every gift, every action makes a difference.”

This year's Christian Aid Week appeal focuses on the charity's work in Burundi, one of the most densely populated and poorest countries in Africa.

Christian Aid has been working in Burundi since 1995 when it first offered humanitarian assistance to people surviving the civil war. Now, alongside local partners, the organisation helps establish Village Savings and Loans Associations.
money

These community-led groups mean people can save and borrow money, making small businesses possible, offering reliable incomes so families can eat regularly, get medicine when they need it, and build safer homes.

One of those supported by Christian Aid and its local partner is 35-year-old Aline Nibogora.

A survivor of both domestic violence and homelessness, thanks to a small start-up loan, Aline was able to begin

trading avocados and peanuts locally. With her profits, she bought a bicycle to transport greater quantities of goods to markets further afield and now has the money she needs to support herself and her children.

- To support Rev McFadden's challenge, visit <https://fundraise.christianaid.ie/challenge-2024/kilbride-presbyterian-70k-may>
- To sign up for your own 70k in May, visit caweek.ie/70k

Poem for Today

Invictus

by William Ernest Henley

Out of the night that covers me,
 Black as the pit from pole to pole,
I thank whatever gods may be
 For my unconquerable soul.

In the fell clutch of circumstance
 I have not winced nor cried aloud.
Under the bludgeonings of chance
 My head is bloody, but unbowed.

Beyond this place of wrath and tears
 Looms but the Horror of the shade,
And yet the menace of the years
 Finds and shall find me unafraid.

It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments the scroll,
I am the master of my fate,
I am the captain of my soul.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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