

# Church News Ireland



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## Image of the day

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## News

### Tullow Branch of Mothers' Union 120th Anniversary

**Members, Diocesan Trustees and supporters joined in 120th Anniversary Tea for Tullow Branch**



**of Mothers' Union in St. Columba's School on Sunday 10th November.**



## **St Patrick's Pontifical University Graduation 2024**

**This was the highlight of the Academic Year at St Patrick's Pontifical University, Maynooth.**

It was a fantastic day on this beautiful campus for graduates, family and friends to share in a joyous occasion.

## **All Ireland meeting of MU in Kilternan**

**Bev Jullien, CEO of Mothers' Union recently was given a super welcome at a meeting of the Board of Mothers Union Ireland in Kilternan Parish Centre.**

Reports were presented on what is happening in the Units in Ireland.

Bev gave a report on projects that are currently being planned in Mary Sumner House with a special emphasis on the literacy programme.

## **School choir on right notes in Killowen Coleraine parish**

**“Great to see 270 people at church this morning for our Harvest Service. Everyone loved hearing Killowen Primary School Choir sing for us! “**

Listen back to the service on the church website:  
[killowenparishcoleraine.co.uk](http://killowenparishcoleraine.co.uk)





## Methody's day at Taj Mahal

**Recently  
pupils from  
Methodist  
College  
Belfast  
embarked on a  
visit to Agra Fort.**



Then after lunch, they ended the day on a once in a lifetime visit to the Taj Mahal as the sun was setting.



## Moderator meets Fane Street: A unique and diverse school



**Having opened his weeklong tour of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland's (PCI) Presbytery of South Belfast at Lowe Memorial Presbyterian in Finaghy on Sunday - where he worshipped with his family from the 1970s - PCI's Moderator, Right Reverend Dr Richard Murray, paid a visit to Fane Street Primary School, where, by coincidence, his late mother attended. He described the school as "one of the most diverse and unique schools in the city."**

Dr Murray spent the morning with the principal and chair of the school governors, where 89% of the children attending the primary school come from overseas speaking 47 languages (including English) and 75% of those are classified as 'Newcomers'. Situated off the Lisburn Road,

the Moderator was welcomed on his arrival by a choir who sung two songs for him.

Speaking about his visit, Dr Murray said, “I had a wonderful and very special welcome from one of the most diverse and unique schools in the city. In our resolutions to our General Assembly over the years, we have often praised the work of schools and encouraged their teachers and governors across this island, especially during and after Covid. The dedication and care of the staff at Fane Street for the children, many of whom, through no fault of their own, have been uprooted from their homes and all that which was once familiar to them to come to Northern Ireland, was a joy to see.

“It was a very happy place, but not without the problems and issues that other schools face, and some that are unique to it. I was astounded to discover that in any one year, there is roughly a 50% turnover in children due to the transitional nature of their families’ circumstances.”

During his visit, Dr Murray was accompanied by Cecil Graham OBE, LVO, Fane Street’s chair of governors for the past six years, who like the Moderator’s late mother, was a pupil at the school in the early 1940s. The principal, Hilary Cunningham also gave him a tour of the school where he met teachers and children in a number of classes.

Mrs Cunningham, who has been principal for the past 10 years thanked the Moderator for coming and explained that at the moment the school had 296 children, a figure which can fluctuate depending on the status and circumstances of the children’s families.





She also explained that the figure could go down to 200 or up to 350, due to a number of factors, from parents leaving Queen's University where they had been studying, or working, to return home with their children, to families who are seeking asylum being moved to other accommodation, or Roma families whose lives are traditionally transient. "While we face many of the challenges that other schools face, in many respects we are a very unique school, with unique challenges.

"We have a long tradition of educational excellence here at Fane Street and our vision is not just to care for our children, but to care pastorally for the families as much as we can. Every morning myself and the vice principal, Mr Nicholl, meet the children at the front door, as we want them to arrive happy and leave happy. In the teaching of English, we are very strategic and have a synchronised approach, which we try to make fun. For example, the children who have limited or no English, are taught separately during the time their friends in class, who are more advanced, are

being taught, and it works. Afterwards they all come back together again.”

Talking about the school’s pastoral approach, Mrs Cunningham said that they try to support the whole family, and one important support mechanism is the recently appointed Family Co-ordinator who supports families to get others to listen, be it the immigration service, or health service, or directing them to clothing and foodbanks. “Some of the children have experienced considerable trauma in their journeys here and need additional, patient support. It hasn’t been an easy year, and I am very proud of my staff team who are resilient, and our children too, especially after what happened during the summer,” Mrs Cunningham said.

As a controlled school, Mrs Cunningham told Dr Murray that they were open to all, and welcome children of all faiths and none. “We are a richly diverse and inclusive school, with a Christian ethos, which is important. Like other schools, we have just had an assembly for the Hindu festival of Diwali, we had one for Muslim festival of Eid, and we are looking forward to celebrating Christmas with a whole range of activities.”

Thanking Mrs Cunningham and her staff for their warm welcome, the Moderator said, “Today has been a great experience. I sit on the board of two schools near Ballymoney as a governor, and the challenges that we face are similar, but at the same time, worlds apart. I really want to commend the work, not just the teaching that is being done at Fane Street, but the Christian heart of the school in being so welcoming, supporting and nurturing of the children, and their families, in such a diverse environment.”

## **Methodist concerns relating to the General Election to the 34th Dáil**

**The Methodist Church in Ireland, through its Council on Social Responsibility, has produced a document for use in the run up to the forthcoming Election for the 34th Dáil.**

“The document is designed to help Christians especially have conversations with candidates and canvassers as well as their own friends that are less self-centred and bring in alternative narratives, particularly those that bear the marginalised in mind.

“While it is being actively shared to get into the hands of every Methodist voter, we feel that it may be of wider interest and use”.

As Methodists we pray and act for the Kingdom of God to be made known on earth. We always seek to be engaged with the wider decisions and concerns in our society and so it is our responsibility to engage well with the political processes. As followers of Jesus seeking the transformation of the world, a General Election is an opportunity to speak to the concerns of those most easily sidelined in our society.

Please use this document to:

+ Alert us to act on our own social responsibility in these areas



- + Help your engagement with prospective politicians and their representatives
- + Help you with differently-toned conversations with others about the election
- + Encourage you in your praying

This document contains many of our concerns, but is certainly not exhaustive and we can't go into a lot of detail here about each area.

The document was compiled by the Council on Social Responsibility, Southern Executive, of the Methodist Church in Ireland, with input from our World Development & Relief and Youth & Children's Work teams. See -

[https://static1.squarespace.com/static/604f6c4cbaa61721597a264b/t/6729e81c8c43a64cb4f48529/1730799645106/Election\\_Concerns\\_Final.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/604f6c4cbaa61721597a264b/t/6729e81c8c43a64cb4f48529/1730799645106/Election_Concerns_Final.pdf)

## **Dáil vote on assisted dying far from conclusive**

**Responding to the recent vote in the Dáil on the final report of the *Joint Oireachtas Committee on Assisted Dying*, the Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI) has said that 'the vote was far from conclusive demonstrating that there remains a clear divide on this fundamental issue.'**

In a joint statement, Rev Daniel Kane, PCI's Convener of the Council for Public Affairs, and Rev William Hayes,

convener of the Council's panel that advises the Church on social, political and economic matters in the State, noted that the vote (76 for and 53 against) was far from conclusive.

"As we have said before as a Church on this issue, 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 at all, human life, its preservation, its dignity, and its protection, are moral and precious values, which society casts off at its peril," they said.

"The fact that two reports, a majority report and a minority report, were published by the Joint Committee in March was a clear demonstration of the deep divisions that exist over this fundamental and sensitive issue. With less than 60 per cent of TDs backing the report on Wednesday, there is a sizeable body of opinion in the Dáil, that opposes the introduction of assisted suicide and euthanasia, whose views need to be listened to. In short, the vote was far from conclusive demonstrating that there remains a clear divide on this fundamental issue."

The two ministers concluded by saying, "While the vote does not mean that legislation is imminent, it is indicative of what a new government may do. As a General Election will be called soon, when the time comes, we would encourage all candidates to make clear their position, so that the electorate know exactly where their potential representatives stand on his literal life and death issue."

# Cathedral Calls



## Remembrance Sunday Service in Saint Patrick's Cathedral

**“Today we remember those who took responsibility for their world, opposing evil, and prepared to give their lives for the sake of making shalom,” Canon David Oxley told the congregation of the annual Remembrance Sunday Service in Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin (Sunday November 10).**

Shalom, he said, meant more than an absence of conflict but included positive wholeness, prosperity, restored relationships, the world being put to rights. However, he referred to another version of the peace from Tacitus –



“solitudinem faciunt, pacem appellant: they make a desolation, and call it peace”. It was these words that had come to Canon Oxley’s mind over the past year.

Canon Oxley was preaching to a cathedral filled with representatives of the Defence Forces, ex–service people, An Garda Siochana and representatives of public and civic life. President Michael D Higgins and his wife Sabina were in attendance along with the Lord Mayor of Dublin James Geoghegan. Minister Darragh O’Brien represented the Government along with representatives of the main political parties and members of the diplomatic corps.

The congregation was welcomed by the Dean of St Patrick’s, the Very Revd Dr William Morton and the service was introduced by the Dean’s Vicar, Canon Charles Mullen. The readings [Micah 4: 1–5 and John 15: 12–17](#) were read by Colonel Sean Grant, Defence Attache of the United Kingdom and David Gibson Brabazon, Midlands Branch of the Royal British Legion Republic of Ireland. The service was sung by the Cathedral Choir. Wreaths were laid at the war memorial in the north transept by President Higgins and Lt Col Ken Martin, President of the RBL Republic of Ireland.

See also <https://dublin.anglican.org/news/2024/11/11/vision-of-world-where-people>

## Clergy and ministry

### New Director for the Anglican Centre in Rome is appointed

**The Board of Governors of the Anglican Centre in Rome has announced the appointment of Bishop Anthony Ball as its new Director. He will assume the role when Archbishop Ian Ernest steps down at the end of January 2025.**

As the Director of the ACR, Bishop Anthony will serve as the Archbishop of Canterbury's Representative to the Holy See, fostering Anglican-Catholic relations and leading the Centre's mission of Christian unity. Currently serving at Westminster Abbey, he brings extensive experience in diplomacy, ecumenism, and interfaith engagement.

**Bishop Michael Burrows Chair of Governors for the Anglican Centre in Rome said:**

“Bishop Anthony Ball is someone of energy, vision and rich experience whose many gifts will be a source of blessing to the ACR.



Ecumenism, diplomacy, administration and liturgy are examples of areas where he is proficient. In particular he knows how to network fruitfully, to be given to hospitality and to deepen dialogue.

The Governors of the ACR, rejoicing at the news of his appointment, know that he will be a worthy successor to Archbishop Ian Ernest, who over the last five years has developed the profile and agenda of the Centre, in and beyond Rome, quite immeasurably.”

Read the full story here: <https://bit.ly/3AFJlfR>

## **Appointment to Magherally and Annacloy**

**The Revd Karen Salmon, currently Bishop's Curate in the Parish of Magherally and Annacloy, has been appointed as Rector.**

Following significant growth, the parish has been raised to full parochial status, permitting a Board of Nomination to be called.

A date for the Service of Institution will be announced in due course.

## **Tobar Mhuire tribute to Fr Myles Kavanagh CP**

**We were informed that after some weeks of illness, Fr Myles Kavanagh CP died peacefully on Sunday 10th November 2024.**

May he now enter into the fullness of life in the Lord.RIP



Fr. Myles was a larger-than-life character who dedicated his life for over sixty years to the people of Belfast particularly economic and social improvement through the Flax Trust. A gifted team leader and fundraiser, Fr. Myles left no stone unturned in his mission to help the people practically and culturally, building houses, providing flats, creating a nursing home, providing music scholarships to name but a few projects.

In the sixties Fr. Myles was Director of the students in Tobar Mhuire and Vocation Director for before moving to Holy Cross, becoming Rector and residing most of the time in &. He was a keen supporter of Tobar Mhuire and our ministry here and was a great benefactor. He will be greatly missed.

"Ar dheis Dé go Raibh a AnamNew Director for the Anglican Centre in Rome is appointed.

## Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

### Church of Ireland Youth Department Prayer journal gives support for young people

**The Prayer journal gives support for young people in their walk with God**

A resource for the church's Day of Prayer for Young People and Youth Ministry

The Church of Ireland Youth Department (CIYD) is delighted to announce that a new version of its prayer journal is now available ahead of the Church of Ireland's Day of Prayer for Young People and Youth Ministry, coming up on Sunday, 24th November.

This day is marked each year on the Sunday before Advent and is an opportunity for all parishes to thank God for their young people and their families, and to bring before Him their dreams, needs and everyday lives.

The prayer journal gives space to capture how God is speaking to young people and encourage them to think about why they pray, their own prayer requests, what helps them pray and what stops them from praying, and to pray for the world. With 18 pages, the journal helps readers record reasons for gratitude, be creative and reflective, and seek God's help for challenging situations.

National Youth Officer Simon Henry, remarks: "Each year, it is so encouraging to hear stories of parishes and dioceses engaging in the Day of Prayer for Young People and Youth Ministry – prayer works!

"Can I encourage every congregation to be praying for young people on this special Sunday and to use a variety of methods and ideas to engage young people in rhythms of prayer, and highlight prayer as a cornerstone of our Christian Faith in developing a close relationship with God."

To order a copy of the journal, please contact your Diocesan Youth Officer or Diocesan Youth Council representative.

CIYD's prayer booklet for leaders, with interactive ideas to engage young people in prayer as well as seasonal prayers is available for download on its website – [www.ciyd.org](http://www.ciyd.org).

They also have an updated PDF resource with prayers and collects to be used in services on the Day of Prayer, which is also available at [www.ciyd.org](http://www.ciyd.org)

## **Podcast - Bringing encouragement from Burundi**

**Many members of the Church of Ireland have had the opportunity to meet with the Revd Arsene Mafurebe during his six-week visit to Ireland earlier this year.**

Arsene trained for ordination at Bujumbura Christian University and was supported in his studies by several Church of Ireland parishes. His visit was itself sponsored by the C of I's Council for Mission.

In this interview, recorded at General Synod 2024, he talks through his call and journey to ordination from a reluctant beginning to starting to study theology in 2017, and the kindness and support of his family and neighbours. He has ministered in the Diocese of Gitega, which has recently signed a partnership agreement with the Diocese of Armagh – facilitated through CMS Ireland – and is a rector and community development co-ordinator with his diocese.

Almost one in five of the population of Burundi is Anglican and the economy mainly relies on agriculture, especially coffee and tea. The diocese's approach to ministry is that it

has to be holistic: “We need to care for the spiritual needs of people but also the physical and material needs of the people we are going to serve.”

Missional project priorities include food security, access to clean water, education and empowering women with assistance from CMS Ireland. The Church of Burundi invests heavily in church planting and Gitega has created two new dioceses through its growth over the last 15 years.

“I’ll take back many ideas and new ways of doing things to grow the ministry in Burundi,” he reflects on Ireland, as he encourages more initiatives here to enable and empower young people to bring the Gospel to their fellow young people. Our historic buildings, he notes, can also be used as great assets for ministry to tourists.

Arsene’s interview, which forms part of the Council for Mission’s Mission Matters series, is available to play back at <https://tinyurl.com/2fhdrx7w>. Please listen in for an encouraging and joyful conversation between two brothers in Christ.

The C of I mission body has expressed thanks to Stephen Fletcher, Diocesan Communications Officer for Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe, for production and planning for this and the other podcasts in the series.

## In the media

**Unexpected Swiss pilgrimage by St Gallen football fans to seaside town of Bangor - News Letter**



Last week, some 2,000 Swiss football fans visited Belfast, to watch St Gallen play Larne in the UEFA Conference League.

Many of these supporters made an unforeseen pilgrimage to Bangor, which confused the locals, but turned out to have a perfectly rational explanation.

<https://app.newsletter.co.uk/story/editorial-unexpected-swiss-pilgrimage-by-st-gallen-football-fans-to-seaside-town-of-bangor/content.html>

### **The Irish-language history hidden in Belfast's attics - BBC Ni News**

They are the homes behind the modern revival of the Irish language in Belfast and they have opened their doors - and attics - to school pupils searching for living history.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cx27pv5l97zo>

### **Derry secondary schools spent over £10 million on temporary teachers over the last five years - Derry Now**

Derry secondary schools spent over £10 million on temporary teachers over the last five years - Since the school year 2019-20, there has been over £10.2 million spent on staff cover and shortages to substitute or temporary teachers across eight Derry schools. More at -

<https://www.derrynow.com/news/derry-news/1649769/derry-secondary-school-spent-over-10-million-on-temporary-teachers-over-the-last-five-years.html>

## **‘Catfish killer used my photo to trap other girls’ - BBC News**

A teenager blackmailed into sending explicit images to catfish killer Alexander McCartney has told of her anger that he used her photograph to trap other young girls.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c7897plqy3zo>

## **3,000 medics warn against assisted dying - Daily Telegraph**

NHS staff sign letter to PM saying policy cannot be introduced safely while health service is ‘broken’

More than 3,400 doctors, nurses, and health care professionals have written to the Prime Minister to warn that assisted dying cannot be introduced safely while the NHS is “broken”.

Thousands of NHS clinicians have signed the open letter to Sir Keir Starmer, cautioning that plans to legalise assisted dying are “remarkably out of touch” given the health care crisis.

Kim Leadbeater, the Labour MP behind a private members’ Bill to legalise the practice, will publish draft legislation in the coming days.

A free vote is scheduled for Nov 29, the first time MPs have debated the issue since 2015. Janet Eastham writes -

<http://digitaleditions.telegraph.co.uk/data/1876/reader/reader.html?social#!preferred/0/package/1876/pub/1876/page/18/article/NaN>

## **The Church of England has lost its way – there is only one route back - Daily Telegraph**

When moral leadership is the purpose of an institution, or an institution has stepped beyond its remit to condemn others, but has been found to be hypocritical, the failure is all the greater. Unfortunately, so it is with the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Justin Welby says he “considered resigning” over an independent report, published last Thursday, which detailed how a leading Anglican evangelical had physically and sexually abused at least 115 children and young men, unchallenged, over decades. The Church of England had identified abuse by John Smyth, a barrister who ran Christian youth camps, but covered it up in the 1980s. More at -

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/11/10/should-justin-welby-resign-church-of-england/>

## **Trump triumphs and returns to the White House with a Catholic vice president - Catholic Herald Editorial**

The US election has turned out to be not quite as close-run as the pundits and the pollsters predicted. The results are in, and they are decisive. In January Donald Trump will return to the White House as the next president; JD Vance, a Catholic convert, will be his vice president.

This is a momentous result, not least for Catholics and indeed for all who hold dear the protection of life in the womb. Kamala Harris's only clear policy – there really were not many – was that she was pro-abortion in all circumstances, although this was usually expressed euphemistically in terms of her support for “women's health” and “women's reproductive rights”.

<https://catholicherald.co.uk/trump-triumphs-and-returns-to-the-white-house-with-a-catholic-vice-president/>

## **Mystery as installation of Plymouth bishop cancelled for second time in under a year - Catholic Herald**

The installation of a new Bishop of Plymouth has been mysteriously suspended for the second time in under a year.

Auxiliary Bishop Philip Moger of Southwark was due to be installed as the 10th bishop of the diocese tomorrow.

But in a shock statement the bishop-elect has announced that the installation will not go ahead as planned.

<https://catholicherald.co.uk/mystery-as-installation-of-plymouth-bishop-cancelled-for-second-time-in-under-a-year/>

## **Poem for today**

### **The Long Vacation**

**by Katharine Tynan to Amy Wainwright**

This is the time the boys come home from school,



Filling the house with gay and happy noise,  
Never at rest from morn till evening cool --  
All the roads of the world bring home the boys.

This is the time -- but still they are not come;  
The mothers stand in the doorway listening long;  
Long, long they shall wait ere the boys come home.  
Where do they tarry, the dear, the light-heart throng?

Their feet are heavy as lead and deep their rest.  
The mothers watch the road till set of sun;  
But nevermore the birds fly back to the nest.  
The roads of the world run Heavenward every one.

Over 200,000 Irishmen fought in the first world war and tens of thousands never came home. Katharine Tynan, born at Whitehall dairy farm in Clondalkin West Dublin uses the simple domestic image of boys returning home from school to highlight the sadness created by the absence of the young men who had gone to fight in the war.

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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## 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

November 13, 2024

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# Church News Ireland

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**Posted early Monday to Saturday**

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