

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Irish Methodist leader meets Pope

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Irish Methodist leader meets Pope Francis

Mrs. Gillian Kingston, vice president of the World Methodist Council and lay member of The Methodist Church in Ireland, and Director Matthew A. Laferty met Pope Francis on Friday past after the General Audience.

They were accompanied by Fr. Martin Browne OSB, the Vatican official for Methodist relations. Mrs. Kingston is visiting Rome for MEOR's annual Wesley Day celebrations. Photo by Vatican Media.

News

Traudi and Saint Bartholomew's Ballsbridge support for Christian Aid Week

Huge thanks were expressed by Christian Aid Ireland to the wonderful Traudi Ferguson of Saint Bartholomew's Church in the Ballsbridge area of Dublin who hosted a Christian Aid Week service and lunch.

For many years, Traudi has been the CAI representative at St Bart's in The United Dioceses of Dublin & Glendalough.



Each year, she organises a Christian Aid Week lunch which is enjoyed and generously supported by the parishioners.

CAI also thanked Rev Andrew McCroskery who led the service. He is a strong supporter of Christian Aid. 🙌

Addressing the service was Dublin native Mervyn McCullagh who works at Christian Aid's London office as its Director of Strategy and Global Change, on a well-timed trip

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home to visit family. Many of the parishioners remembered Mervyn and were delighted to see him again.

CMSI count of Lisbellaw Parish Church Lenten Appeal



The Rector of Lisbellaw was pleased to deliver the Lenten Appeal Mission Boxes to the CMSI Belfast Offices recently.

Pictured with Ann, CMSI Finance Officer - the 27 Mission Boxes from Lisbellaw with Coolbuck contained £640.32 which CMSI was grateful to receive in helping support Global Mission. A huge thank you to those who supported this year's Lenten Appeal.



Coffee Morning for Antrim/ Ballyclare mission to Spain

A date for your diaries. Youth from Antrim Parish and Ballyclare parish are travelling on mission to Spain this summer.

“We are holding a fundraising coffee

morning to support the ministries in Spain where we will be serving. Join us in St John's Ballyclare on 8th June from 10:30 - 1pm.” Alternatively you can support at <https://www.totalgiving.co.uk/mypage/team-26-2024>

Kilbride Watchmen enjoy audience with Bishop of Connor

The Kilbride Parish 'Watchmen' finished off their season on last week with an enjoyable evening in the company of the Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev George Davison.



Bishop George Davison during his visit to the Kilbride 'Watchmen,' along with the Rev John McClure who is looking after Kilbride Parish during the current vacancy.

Bishop George was interviewed by David Holmes, Kilbride Parish Reader, who put a number of questions to him relating to his early life in Belfast, his faith and his calling to become a minister.

Other questions related to his service in the Church of Ireland in general, the problems that all denominations have in falling numbers at church of both adults and children and the societal reasons for many of them, and his experience of meeting the King and Queen in St Anne's following the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

5,500 people greet relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis in Ardglass



Deacon Jackie Breen blessing 9-year-old Francis Smith of St Patrick's primary school, Legamaddy, Downpatrick. Photo Bill Smyth

On May 13, 2024, the relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis visited St Nichola's Church, Ardglass and St Mary's Church, Dunsford in Co. Down, and was greeted by an estimated 5,500 people.

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The relic has travelled to Ireland this weekend from Assisi's Sanctuary of the Renunciation, the church where Blessed Carlo Acutis' remains are housed and displayed.

The relic is a first-class relic, meaning it is a piece of the body of Blessed Carlo Acutis.

<https://www.irishcatholic.com/thousands-descend-on-co-down-for-carlo-acutis-relics/>

Week's events strengthen links between Dublin and Jerusalem dioceses

Archbishop Hosam Naoum, Archbishop of The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, and a number of his clergy were in Dublin and Glendalough this week.

The primary purpose of their visit was to engage in a joint retreat with clergy from Dublin and Glendalough. There were a number of opportunities for people from the dioceses and beyond to meet and hear from the guests from Dublin's link diocese.

The theme of the retreat is 'Then feed my sheep...' (St John 21:17) and the focus over two days is on the Second Letter of Peter. Sessions are being led by the Archbishop of Dublin and the Archbishop of Jerusalem as well as clergy of the dioceses. This follows on from a joint retreat in Jordan last year where the text was the First Letter of Peter.



The Archbishop of Dublin with Archbishop Hosam Naoum, Archbishop of The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

Those arriving early joined the Cathedral Eucharist at Christ Church Cathedral Dublin which celebrated its Patronal Festival yesterday, Sunday morning - Trinity Sunday.

St. Ann's Church, Dawson St. is the venue for the culmination of the Shine a Light appeal this Monday evening at 7pm.

On Tuesday there will be an evening of facilitated discussion on life in the Holy Land from CITI.



SHINE A LIGHT FOR THE DIOCESE OF JERUSALEM DIOCESAN APPEAL

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING SERVICE, FOLLOWED BY A RECEPTION,
AS WE CONCLUDE THE
SHINE A LIGHT DIOCESAN APPEAL.

MONDAY, 27TH MAY, 7PM,
ST ANN'S CHURCH, DAWSON STREET

RSVP at caoimhe.leppard@rcbcoi.org

On Wednesday morning there is a parish visit to St. Patrick's Church, Greystones and the clergy will join Choral Evensong at Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin in the evening.

"The Border Cleansing" in Belfast

**Glenmachan Church in Belfast on Saturday, May 8,
hosted a poignant event titled "The Border Cleansing,"**

aiming to give voice to the unheard victims of the Troubles.

The evening was marked by raw emotion, powerful testimonies, and a profound sense of community among attendees.

Renowned presenter George Jones conducted a series of interviews with individuals whose lives were deeply affected by the violence of the Troubles. Among the speakers were Norah Bradford, whose husband Rev. Robert Bradford MP was murdered; David Hearst, who represented his niece, a survivor of a harrowing attack at just three years old. saw her mum being murdered, then 3 years later David's father was murdered; and Danny Kennedy, standing in for Alan Black, the sole survivor of the Kingsmill massacre who was shot 18 times. Edith Kenny and her daughter Janet shared



Friday the 9th of August – Christ Church, Gorey at 7.30pm



With special guests:
Arklow Shipping Silver Band
Lir Female Ensemble

Ticket price €10 including entry into raffle

Doors open at 7pm – Bring a Cushion

their chilling experience of an IRA attack while they sang in the Mountain Lodge church.

The event drew a diverse audience, ranging from young adults to the elderly, including both victims and survivors. The "Heart & Soul" band provided a moving musical backdrop, playing and singing songs from the era, which resonated deeply with the audience and added to the evening's reflective atmosphere.

The primary goal of the event was to support the victims by giving them a platform to share their stories. This objective was poignantly achieved, as the personal testimonies brought many in the audience to tears. The emotional weight of the interviews underscored the lack of justice many of these individuals still face, highlighting the importance of such gatherings.

An important announcement was made regarding the production of a new book about the Ulster Defence Regiment (UDR), indicating ongoing efforts to document and honour these stories.

The audience's reaction was overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing a desire for more events like this. The raw and unfiltered nature of the interviews created a powerful and memorable experience for all who attended.

Looking ahead, the organisers are planning further events to accompany the release of the new book later in the year. These future gatherings will continue to provide a vital platform for the voices of those affected by the Troubles, ensuring their stories are heard and remembered.

For those who wish to learn more or participate in future events, please visit www.TruthRevealedSeries.com or www.MauriceWylieMedia.com and make contact.

Cathedral Calls

Belfast Cathedral will celebrate 120 years



Belfast Cathedral will celebrate 120 years of worship within its walls with two special services on June 2, and the Dean of Belfast has extended an invite to all clergy in the dioceses

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of Connor and Down and Dromore, along with members of every parish, to join the celebration.

In this way, the service will be reminiscent of the grand opening service which saw thousands gather inside and outside St Anne's on that day in 1904, including 198 clergy from the three dioceses. Full story at <https://rb.gy/ileohk>

Canon William Steacy welcomed into chapter of St Brigid's Cathedral



Canon William Steacy was installed as a member of the Cathedral chapter in St Brigid's Cathedral on the evening of 22 May. The Service was led by Bishop Storey, Dean Isobel Jackson, Rev Philip McKinley, as well as members of St Brigid's Cathedral chapter. Music was led by organist Charles Marshall.

In the media

Belfast Telegraph - Rector brands Stormont plans to list church 'a threat to our very existence'

He claims proposal is 'unrealistic ... a form of land grab by the state.

The rector of a 19th-century Belfast church has questioned Stormont plans to list the building, warning that the financial implications of this represent a “serious threat to our very existence”, Andrew Madden writes 25/05/2024.

All Saints' Church on Canterbury Street has been proposed for listing by the Department for Communities' Historic Environment Division (HED).

Buildings deemed to be of special architectural or historical interest are assessed by HED and proposed to local councils for listing.

Services at All Saints' were first held in a temporary iron building in the late 1800s. As the congregation grew, a permanent building, seating 1,000, was built.

Designed in the early English gothic style, the nave — the church's central aisle — was completed in 1898. The chancel of the church, which is the section reserved for the clergy and choir, was completed in 1906.

While the contemporary architectural journal The Irish Builder wrote at the time that the church was “one of the largest and most beautiful in the city”, others differed in their view.

The Irish Architecture Journal said the building was “quite grim and institutional”.

When a building is listed it is given a level of protection to prevent any changes that would result in the loss of its historical or cultural significance.

Trevor Johnston, rector of All Saints' Church, said the building is in need of major renovations and that to carry out these repairs, while keeping it in the late 1800s to early 1900s style, would cost far too much.

Mr Johnston said this is what listing would entail and the church “simply can't afford it. The roof alone will probably cost £100,000 to replace — that's just the reality with the age of building.

“Listing obviously hampers what can be done and there's very little government money that would be provided.

“Our church is not a very wealthy church. We are financially dependent on our congregation.

“The cost of renovating our property, while keeping it in the style of the time, is in the region of £3m. This has been formally calculated by a quantity surveyor.”

Mr Johnston said his parish, along with the diocese, made significant representations to the HED, yet these seem to have “fallen on deaf ears”.

“In a very real sense, our buildings are no longer our property. This is a form of land grab by the state, possibly impinging on our religious freedoms,” he said.

“Our building is not the building envisaged by the original architect. For example, it was to be white sandstone. Ours is redbrick. There isn't a tower or a spire, which were in the original plans, and many other elements.

“Listing is a statutory process and the criteria was set in the 2011 legislation.

“However, it is a process whereby the realities of a charitable entity's ability to sustain, even maintain, a safe building to the level required under listing conditions is well-nigh impossible.

“Even the principal baulks at our charitable nature and goes against our Christian mission — people, not property.”

Mr Johnston said listing the building would place “entirely unrealistic financial expectations on our church and would be a serious threat to our very existence”.

Instead of listing, the church leadership wants to demolish the current building and build a smaller space for church services and activities on the site, as well as 49 apartments.

The listing proposal is now out for consultation.

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Stormont's Department for Communities has been contacted for comment.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



Stories from St Mark's, the Lion on the Hill, begin this week

The new first Tuesday tours at Dundela Parish Church begin this week

Their team of parish volunteers eagerly await your visit and can't wait to share about the families who established the church, its important architecture and stained glass, and the many connections with C S Lewis.

Visit the parish website to learn more and book one of their upcoming tours on Tuesday 4th June or Tuesday 2 July:
<http://dundela.down.anglican.org/visit-us.html>

Poem for today

High Flight

By John Gillespie Magee

Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of earth,
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds, --and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of --Wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air...
Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace
Where never lark or even eagle flew --
And, while with silent lifting mind I've trod
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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