

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Dublin BB



Image of the day

BB Climbing for Charlie raises €500 euro for charity

On 2nd April, the 7th Dublin Co. Boys' Brigade joined the Nationwide Challenge put out by TV presenter and journalist Charlie Bird to "Climb a Mountain of whatever kind" with him. Charlie, of course, was climbing Croagh Patrick in Co. Mayo, but they settled for the Great Sugar Loaf in Co. Wicklow. There were 30 Young People, Leaders, parents and friends of the 7th Dublin Company that took part. To date they have raised €500 euro for Charlie's specified Charities, Irish Motor Neurone Disease Research (MND) and Pieta House. Well done to all for "Climbing the Mountain".

People and places



New Area Dean for Loughview

Bishop David McClay of Down & Dromore has appointed the rector of St Mark's Dundela, Canon Helene Steed, as Area Dean for Loughview in Down Diocese.

Helene is Swedish by birth and trained and began her ministry there. She arrived in the Diocese of Cork in 2004 and later became a rector and Archdeacon in Clogher Diocese. She was instituted as rector of St Mark's in September 2016 and was installed as a Canon in Down Cathedral in July 2020.

Helene said of her appointment:

April 25,2022

“I was delighted to be asked by Bishop David to be Area Dean. Deanery meetings, for me, have always been beneficial and encouraging as it is an opportunity to learn from colleagues, develop friendship and find prayerful support. During my years in the Diocese of Clogher, I had the privileged as rural dean to work closely with parishes, readers and clergy in the Clones Rural Deanery. I bring with me insights from those years. Can I also take this opportunity to express my thanks to Canon Gareth Harron for his leadership in the Loughview Deanery.”

110th commemoration of Titanic tragedy

The Rev. Canon Paul Arbuthnot, and Fr Paul Bennett (Cobh Cathedral) who led the act of worship at the annual Titanic commemoration.

On 10th April, the Rector of Cobh & Glanmire Union of Parishes, the Rev. Canon Paul Arbuthnot, attended the



April 25,2022

annual commemoration for those who perished on the RMS Titanic. The Titanic's last port of call was Queenstown / Cobh 110 years ago.

The commemoration took place in Cobh town centre and began with an act of worship and remembrance at the Titanic memorial in Pearse Square. The Rector led the prayers alongside the Roman Catholic clergy from Cobh Cathedral. After this, there was a wreath laying ceremony at the town's Promenade for those who died in the tragedy.

The Revd Canon Paul Arbuthnot commented: This tragedy is woven into the consciousness of Cobh and the commemoration of it is an important event in the town's civic calendar. It is a day when we remember before God not only those who died on that terrible day, but all who risk their lives in their work on the sea.

Wicklow Male Voice Choir to hold concert for Ukraine in St Patrick's Church

Wicklow Male Voice Choir aim to help local Wicklow town efforts to assist the people of Ukraine by holding a concert in St Patrick's Church near the end of May.

The choir is back rehearsing in preparation for the Ukraine concert, while they will also be singing in St Patrick's Church for Easter Sunday mass.

Choir member Eamonn Sheridan said: "We haven't been able to sing together for close to two and a half years now, and we had a concert planned for May 29. Once the war

April 25,2022

broke out in Ukraine, we decided that the concert should be in aid of Ukraine.

“We want to ensure that any funds raised are kept local as there is a fair bit of work taking place in Wicklow town in preparation for the arrival of refugees from Ukraine. I know the old library in Wicklow town is going to become a Ukraine hub and we just want to be able to help out in any way we can. It’s a worthy cause that we want to support.”

Tickets will be on sale shortly and can be purchased for €15, with the performance taking place on Sunday, May 29. The choir will also gather for their first live performance in over two years at St Patrick’s Church on Easter Sunday.

“It will be our first time singing live in a long time so everyone is looking forward to it. Now that the choir are back in regular training we would always welcome new members and anybody interested should get in touch with any member who will make them most welcome,” added Eamonn. Courtesy - Wicklow People

Mayor’s reception marks Rathfriland Church’s 360th Anniversary

First Rathfriland Elders and their wives attended a Mayor's Reception, hosted by Alderman Glenn Barr, Lord Mayor of Armagh, Banbridge and Down Council, to commemorate the 360th Anniversary of the Congregation. Also in attendance was the Vacancy Convenor Rev. Colin Harris and his wife Cathy.



Clerk of Session, David Scott, presented the Lord Mayor with a KJV Bible to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen.



Following a finger buffet, the Elders and wives were given a tour of the Civic Centre. Pictures by Gary Gardiner.

News reports



Irish monsignor appointed to high level Vatican role

Pope Francis has named a priest from the Archdiocese of Dublin as one of the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith's two secretaries.

April 25,2022

The body is divided into doctrinal and disciplinary sections, each overseen by a Secretary who assists the Prefect in his area of expertise.

Monsignor John Kennedy has been named Secretary in charge of discipline.

The appointment comes after the Vatican issued *Praedicate Evangelium*, a document on the Roman Curia and its service to the Church and the World.

The Dicastery for the Doctrine of Faith's mission, according to the document, is to assist the Roman Pontiff and bishops in proclaiming the gospel throughout the world.

It also aims to promote and defend "the integrity of Catholic doctrine on faith and morals, drawing on the deposit of faith while also seeking a deeper understanding of it in light of new questions."

In 1993, Msgr Kennedy received his ordination as a priest of the Archdiocese of Dublin.

Cardinal Desmond Connell invited him to study Canon Law at the Gregorian University in Rome in 1998.

In January 2003, he started working at the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, and in 2008, he was appointed as a Chaplain of Honour to the Pope, with the title of Monsignor.

Msgr Kennedy was congratulated on his new position by the Archdiocese of Dublin, who wished him "every blessing in

April 25,2022

this important leadership role in the Church, contributing significantly to the proclamation of the gospel throughout the world."

Church of Ireland prepares for its annual general synod

A service of holy communion in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast on Wednesday May 4 will precede the annual general synod of the Church of Ireland, Billy Kennedy writes in the News Letter.

The service will be conducted by the Dean of Belfast the Rev Stephen Forde and the presidential address will be given by the church primate Archbishop John McDowell.

Amongst the congregation, with representatives of other Christian churches and civic leaders, will be 649 synod delegates from the 11 dioceses in Ireland - 216 clerical and 432 lay members.

Following the service, the synod delegates will then move to the nearby Presbyterian Assembly Buildings in Belfast city centre, where the three-day business of the church will be administered.

An Anglican synod conducting its business in the spacious Presbyterian Assembly buildings is unprecedented in Irish church history.

This will be the first in-person general synod since May, 2019 when the church met in Londonderry. The covid



St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast

pandemic in 2020 and 2021 prevented the general synod meeting in full session.

The general synod first met in 1871 in Dublin following the disestablishment of the Church of Ireland. Over recent years, the synod has located in different cities around Ireland.

The primary purpose of the synod is to enact legislation for the whole Church of Ireland. Bills, which are proposals for legislation, are considered and become acts or statutes if approved.

Less formal proposals are submitted as motions which, if approved, become resolutions.

The synod also receives reports from various committees and boards, which are debated by its members. Synod committees are normally elected for a three-year term of office.

The Church of Ireland operates in two constitutional jurisdictions - Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic, with church headquarters and administration based in Dublin.

Over the three days, the general synod will consider faith, education, health and social matters directly affecting its membership at diocese and parish levels.

The Church of Ireland is estimated to have a total membership of 375,000, with 249,000 in Northern Ireland parishes, and 126,000 in the Irish Republic. There are 1,100 Col places of worship in 450 parishes.

In the media

Why Boris Johnson may legislate to breach NI Protocol
RTE.ie:

Jacob Rees-Mogg, Britain's Brexit Opportunities minister, made the startling announcement last Wednesday that the UK had only signed the Northern Ireland Protocol on the basis that it would be reformed.

<https://www.rte.ie/news/analysis-and-comment/2022/0422/1293789-ni-protocol-latest/>

April 25,2022

The Hare Krishna movement on a remote Irish island

BBC

The Hare Krishna religion is a branch of Hinduism closely associated with India, where it has one of its largest followings.

The religion's profile increased in the 1970s when The Beatles' George Harrison developed an interest in Indian spirituality.

Now a Hare Krishna community that calls a remote Irish island its home is beginning to grow.

The International Society for Krishna Consciousness have had members on Inish Rath in County Fermanagh since 1986.

But a new generation of people from the Indian community based in Belfast have been discovering what locals call “Krishna Island”, for the first time.

[<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-northern-ireland-61187112>]

See also -

<http://lordbelmontinnorthernireland.blogspot.com/2017/06/lanesborough-lodge.html>

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

The Tablet Reflection Programme 2022: New perspectives on the mother of Jesus

April 25,2022

New perspectives are healing centuries of division between Catholics and Protestants on the mother of Jesus, as Catholics place more emphasis on biblical study, Protestants ordain women, and everyone aims for more diversity. Join Margaret Hebblethwaite for a three part Tablet reflective programme.

Options are available to sign up to the whole programme over the three weeks or to sign up to individual sessions.

These events will be recorded and ticket holders can be sent, on request, a copy of the webinars' to watch again at a time that suits them

To purchase a season ticket for £30 or to purchase a ticket to an individual event £12.50 click on the link next to their listing at -

[[] <https://www.thetablet.co.uk/events/153/the-tablet-reflection-programme-2022-new-perspectives-on-the-mother-of-jesus>]

The Tablet Reflection Programme 2022: New perspectives on the mother of Jesus

Webinar 1: What's in a name? Mary, Maria, Mariam, Miriam
Wednesday 27 April 2022 6.00-7.00pm BST

Webinar 2: Courageous, unorthodox prophet of liberation
Wednesday 4 May 2022 6.00-7.00pm BST

Webinar 3: Spirit-filled teacher, theologian, priest
Wednesday 11 May 2022 6.00-7.00pm BST

Margaret Hebblethwaite is a British writer who is currently researching women in the gospels. For the last 15 years she has been running an educational charity in rural Paraguay, which she founded: the Santa Maria Education Fund.

Margaret Hebblethwaite was educated at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, and the Gregorian University in Rome, and has written many books of theology for a general readership. From 1991 to 2000 she was Assistant Editor at The Tablet, until she gave up her job in 2000 to go and live in Santa María de Fe, Paraguay, as a sort of freelance missionary. She is still there today. For many years she wrote a monthly column, “From the South” in The Tablet about the life of the poor in Santa María (2000-2010), extracts from which were subsequently published as a book. In Paraguay she organises a programme of English teaching to the rural poor, and teaches Bible studies, at the Institute in Santa María, where students from poor families receive a free tertiary-level education.

Her principal areas of writing are Ignatian spirituality, feminist theology, biblical theology, liberation theology and travel-guide writing.

She has contributed to many programmes on radio and television (including a BBC Radio 4 programme for Good Friday 2003 from Santa María, called “Room of the Passion”; a BBC television documentary about the 2005 conclave “White Smoke”; BBC Radio 4 “Excess Baggage” 18 September 2010; “Heart and Soul” BBC World Service

April 25,2022

radio 16 March 2013; a BBC Radio 3 programme “The Baroque and Beyond” 17 March 2013).

Perspective

Easter is the celebration of the victory of God

**Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop and Primate
Michael B. Curry**

“The earth, like an egg, has been cracked open, and Jesus has been raised alive and new, and love is victorious.”

The following is the text of the Presiding Bishop’s Easter 2022 Message:

In Matthew’s gospel, the resurrection of Jesus is introduced this way: “After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord had descended from heaven, came and rolled back the stone before the tomb until it was open.”

A number of years ago, when I was serving as the bishop of North Carolina, one of our clergy, the Rev. James Melnyk, offered a workshop on the Saturday before Palm Sunday on how to design, and color, and make Easter eggs.

April 25,2022

I attended the workshop with a number of other people from around the Raleigh area and did my best to make an Easter egg. But Jim was a master at doing so. You see, Jim's family hailed from Ukraine, and he had been making those Easter eggs from childhood, and spoke of his grandmother and the family tradition that hailed from Ukraine, the making of those Easter eggs. I knew the significance of the Easter egg and Easter. I knew the stories and the truth and the teachings about the coming of new life into the world, and the connection of life emerging from an egg, and Jesus rising from the dead, bringing new life and hope into our world.

But it became clear to me, in the last month or so, in this time when the people of the Ukraine are struggling for their freedom, struggling to be what God intends for all people to be, free people, that, that egg, which is deeply embedded in the life and the consciousness of the people of Ukraine, that those Easter eggs are not just mere symbols, but reminders of the reality of the resurrection of Jesus. Think back. On Palm Sunday, Jesus entered Jerusalem, as we know, riding on a donkey. That was a deliberate act on his part.

He entered Jerusalem at about same time that Pontius Pilate, the governor of Rome, would've been entering the city from the other side, from the other gate. Pilate would've been riding a war horse, accompanied by a cavalry and infantry. He would've been riding in the streets of Jerusalem at this, the dawn of the Passover, which was a celebration of Jewish freedom. Harking back to the days of Moses and the Exodus, Pilate knew that the people would remember that God decreed freedom for all people, and that the Roman empire, which held Judea as a colony, would need to put

April 25,2022

down, by brute force, any attempt to strike a blow for their freedom.

So, Pilate entered Jerusalem on a war horse, and Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey. The way of humility, the way of the love that we know from the God who is love, the way of truth, the way of compassion, the way of justice, the way of God, the way of love. That way faced the way of the world, brute force, totalitarian power, injustice, bigotry, violence, embodied in Pontius Pilate, governor of Rome. And the rest of the week was a conflict between the way of the empire and the way of the kingdom or the reign of God's love.

On Friday, the empire struck. Jesus was executed on the orders of the governor of Rome. He was killed, and hope seemed to die with him. His followers fled, save those few women who stood by the cross, and save old Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, who provided a tomb for the body of Jesus. The Scripture says they placed his body in the tomb and rolled the stone in front of the tomb. And there he lay dead, lifeless. There their hopes dashed on the altars of reality, their truth was crushed to earth. Their love itself seemed to die.

Then early Sunday morning, Mary Magdalene, and at least one other, and maybe a few other women, went to the tomb to anoint his body, to do the rites of burial that were customary. But when they got there, they realized that there had been an earthquake, that the earth, if you will, had been cracked open, and that the tomb was empty. The tomb was open and empty. The earth had been cracked open, and they would soon discover that Jesus had been raised from

April 25,2022

the dead. The earth cracking open, the tomb opening like an egg cracked open, and new life emerging from it.

That is the victory of life. That is the victory of love. That is the victory of God. The resurrection of Jesus is the victory that we can believe in and live by.

Many years before South Africa ever saw its new day of freedom, I heard Desmond Tutu in Columbus, Ohio. This was in the mid-1980s. This was while Nelson Mandela was still in prison, while there was no hope of deliverance. I heard him say in his speech that I believe that one day my beloved South Africa will be free for all of her children, Black, white, colored, Asian, Indian, all of her children.

I believe it, because I believe that God has a dream for South Africa, and nothing can stop God's dream. And I believe that because I believe that God raised Jesus from the dead, and nothing can stop God. Easter is the celebration of the victory of God. The earth, like an egg, has been cracked open, and Jesus has been raised alive and new, and love is victorious.

In the year 2020, in that first Easter during the pandemic, when our church buildings were closed, we broadcast an Easter service from the National Cathedral, and members of our communication team organized for, what may have been the first time in our church's history, organized an online choir.

And they sang an ancient Easter hymn. And they will sing it for you now. It sings of this victory, this victory of love of God. The strife is o'er, the battle done. The victory of life is

April 25,2022

won. The sound of triumph has begun. Alleluia, alleluia. The victory is won. Our task is to live in that victory, to live out that love until the prayer that Jesus taught us, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. And so this Easter, behold, the Ukrainian Easter egg, for the victory of love and life is one.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The strife is o'er, the battle done,
the victory of life is won;
the song of triumph has begun.
Alleluia!

The powers of death have done their worst,
but Christ their legions has dispersed:
let shout of holy joy outburst.
Alleluia!

The three sad days are quickly sped,
he rises glorious from the dead:
all glory to our risen Head!
Alleluia!

He closed the yawning gates of hell,
the bars from heaven's high portals fell;
let hymns of praise his triumph tell!
Alleluia!

Lord! by the stripes which wounded thee,
from death's dread sting thy servants free,
that we may live and sing to thee.
Alleluia!

Poem for today

Ode on Solitude by Alexander Pope

Happy the man, whose wish and care
A few paternal acres bound,
Content to breathe his native air,
In his own ground.

Whose herds with milk, whose fields with bread,
Whose flocks supply him with attire,
Whose trees in summer yield him shade,
In winter fire.

Blest! who can unconcern'dly find
Hours, days, and years slide soft away,
In health of body, peace of mind,
Quiet by day,

Sound sleep by night; study and ease
Together mix'd; sweet recreation,
And innocence, which most does please,
With meditation.

Thus let me live, unseen, unknown;
Thus unlamented let me die;
Steal from the world, and not a stone
Tell where I lie.

April 25,2022

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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 houstonmckelvey@mac.com