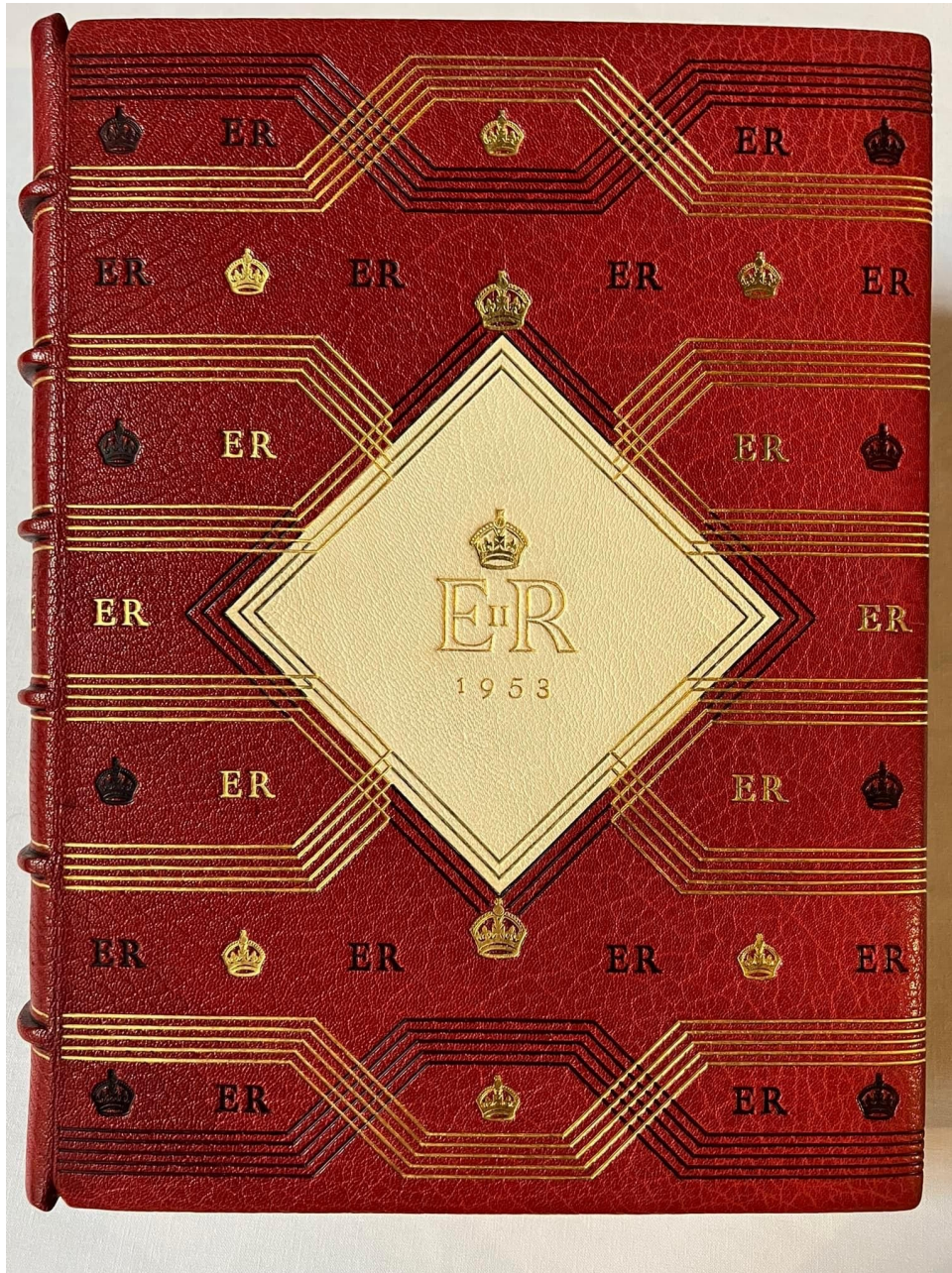


Church News Ireland



**Image of the day – Queen Elizabeth's
Coronation Bible**

Image of the day



Queen Elizabeth's Coronation Bible

With the Coronation of Their Majesties coming up, and on what would have been Her Late Majesty's 97th birthday, HM



Chapel Royal Hampton Court was particularly delighted to have on the Altar a copy of the Coronation Bible from 1953

People and places

Church leaders to attend Coronation

Along with the archbishops of Armagh and the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland the Rev David Nixon President of the Methodist Church in Ireland will join other guests at the Coronation of King Charles III and Camilla, Queen Consort at Westminster Abbey on Saturday 6th May 2023.



All of these Church Leaders will be making history in that they will have attended the funeral of the late Queen Elizabeth II and now the coronation of her successor.

The Rev Nixon has said, "I am honoured to have been invited to the Coronation Ceremony and pray God's blessing on the King and his Queen Consort."



Archbishop John has announced the appointment of Revd Sarah Parkinson (left) as his Chaplain with immediate effect. Sarah is Curate Assistant in the Parish of St Mark's, Armagh.

Revd Sarah commented on her appointment "It was a privilege to be asked by Archbishop John to serve as his Chaplain and I

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am very much looking forward to commencing this role on 2nd May at the Coronation Service in St Patrick's Cathedral Armagh”



Lurgan Methodist Church rededicated

Many congratulations to High St Lurgan who rededicated their significantly refurbished church building on Sunday. It was a great afternoon giving thanks to God and focusing on using these premises for the glory of God and reaching many more with the Good News.



All Souls Church preserving its history

After some exploring in the church tower, some congregants were delighted to stumble across a beautiful painting of the church building on Elmwood Avenue, Belfast.

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The painting shows a Laburnum (Golden rain tree) in the foreground which was planted in memory of Maurice Wilks, a church member and member of the Royal Ulster Academy. His ashes were placed below the tree.

It is a timely reminder of the rich heritage of this historic church, and how important it is that these memories are preserved for future generations.

The photograph shows the painting with Church Elders, Charles Stewart and Alan Kirk.

Madness 2023 calling all artists

Are you a budding singer songwriter that would love to play at a festival? Have you played at Madness before? Have you been slugging away in the rehearsal room and fancy getting out for a live show?

We are on the look out for artists to perform at Summer Madness this summer in Portglenone from 30th June to 4th July 2023.

If you would like the opportunity to play, please drop Billy an e-mail at billyfyffe@summermadness.co.uk

New Rector of Stillorgan and Blackrock

The Revd Kevin Conroy has been appointed as the new Rector of the grouped parishes of Stillorgan and Blackrock in the Diocese of Dublin.



Kevin is currently providing pastoral cover during a vacancy in the same parishes as a Self-Supporting Minister (SSM).

Kevin served as deacon–intern in Stillorgan and Blackrock and then as curate (SSM) in Dalkey parish. Following the completion of his training, Kevin provided pastoral cover during vacancies in Arklow, Inch and Kilbride parish group, and then in Whitechurch.

Since his ordination, Kevin has balanced work in a multinational IT company with his pastoral responsibilities. This work has given him the opportunity to travel widely, across Europe, the USA, Africa and Asia.

Kevin is married to Olive, and they have three adult children, Shane, Cathal and Cian. Shane lives at home in Wicklow, Cathal in Dublin and Cian in Maastricht. Kevin and Olive are frequently seen walking the family dog, Buddy, who has

already become a hit with the children of St Brigid's and All Saints' National Schools.

Looking forward to beginning this next phase of ministry Kevin said: "Olive and I are delighted to return to Stillorgan and Blackrock where I spent two years for my deacon internship. We've kept a close connection since then, returning for the annual Mayfair and the productions of the Stillorgan Players. Covering during the vacancy has given me a wonderful opportunity to settle in with the rhythm of the parishes before the big day."

Kevin's institution will take place on June 23.

Diocesan visits promote Pioneer Ministry

Following the formal launch of Pioneer Ministry in the Church of Ireland, the National Director, the Rev Rob Jones has begun to visit each diocese, to pass on the candle which was lit by representatives of each diocese as part of the launch service, as a sign of Pioneer Ministry spreading across the island.

During the visits, Rob has been speaking with each bishop about the vision of Pioneer Ministry, how it will work, and how to it can serve in each diocese.

Pioneer Ministry will serve and grow in all settings and will be contextualised for north, south, east and west. In each visit, he has emphasised the importance of how Pioneer Ministry will help to create new opportunities in both rural and urban contexts and the huge potential for reaching out

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and trying new things in each situation. For more information, please email Rob at rob@pioneerministry.org or go to www.pioneerministry.org where you can also sign up for the new Pioneer Ministry newsletter.



Lunchtime Concerts April/May 2023, 1.15pm

Tuesday 18th April

Gina Engela (mezzo-soprano), Irina Dernova (piano)

Tuesday 25th April

Shannon Golf Club Choir

Tuesday 9th May

Tamasine Plowman and Christoforos Karanthis (violin)

Tuesday 16th May

Hains Tooming (violin)

Tuesday 23rd May

Celia Donoghue (clarinet) and Ethna Tinney (piano)

For details on all of the musical events held in Saint Mary's Cathedral please log onto www.saintmaryscathedral.ie

Admission to the concerts is free (with a retiring collection)

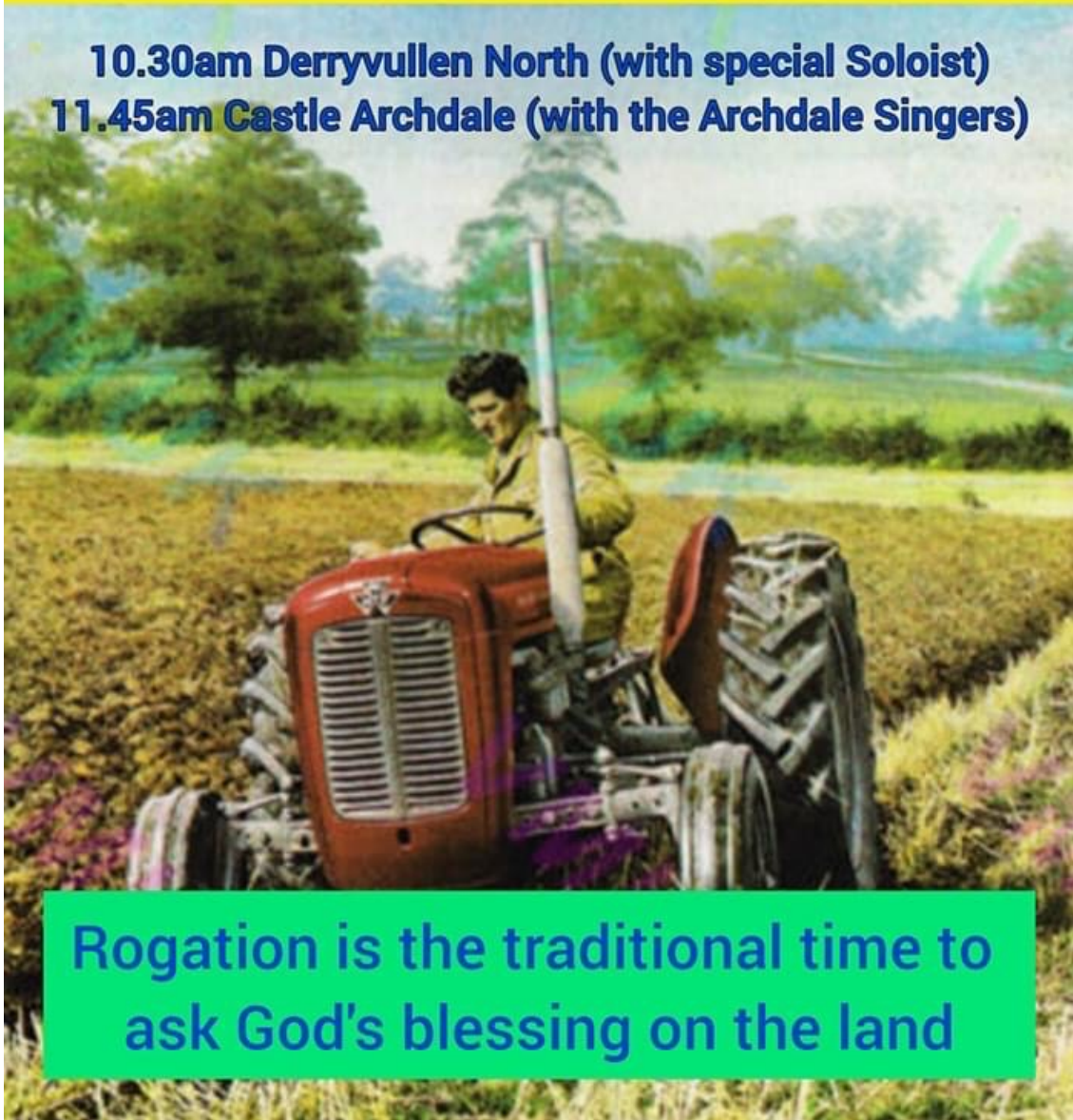
Tractor @ Church Day

Rogation Sunday, 14th May

Children are invited to bring along a toy farm item or wellie boots or anything related to the outdoors

10.30am Derryvullen North (with special Soloist)

11.45am Castle Archdale (with the Archdale Singers)



Rogation is the traditional time to ask God's blessing on the land

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News reports

British public don't want a secular coronation, poll finds

A new poll commissioned by Bible Society has found little appetite for a secular or multi-faith coronation among members of the British public.

In the poll of 3,000 people across England and Wales, just 15% agreed that state royal events should be wholly secular.

Support for a multi-faith state royal event was similarly low at 16%.

Asked whether it should be wholly Christian, nearly a third agreed (31%). Only a fifth (21%) disagreed and nearly half (48%) said they didn't know.

Support for the presence of Christianity at the late Queen's funeral was even higher, with over three quarters of respondents (79%) saying it was appropriate because of her personal Christian faith, while a majority (72%) agreed that it was appropriate for a British royal event.

Over half (55%) were happy that the funeral events were wholly Christian. Only 12% found it alienating.



Over a third (37%) were supportive of the Bible being part of a state royal event, compared to just 14% who disagreed.

The poll was carried out by YouGov on behalf of Bible Society and the findings are published in the charity's new report, Mourning Elizabeth: Christianity and the Bible in the funeral of the Queen.

Commenting on the findings, the report's co-author, Dr Rhiannon McAleer said: "The latest census revealed that less than half the population of England and Wales now identify as Christian, but this doesn't translate to a desire to see Christianity banished from the public sphere."

The results have been published just weeks before the coronation of King Charles III where he will take his oath using a special edition of the King James Bible in Westminster Abbey.

Other findings in the survey revealed strong support for the Queen (68%) and Britain remaining a monarchy (62%), compared to only 27% who want a republic - although support for the monarchy falls considerably among 18 to 24 year olds at 43%.

Over a quarter of those surveyed (29%) said they heard parts of the Bible they had never heard before during the Queen's funeral, rising to 40% among 18 to 24 year olds.

A third said they had found the passages moving, although a quarter said they were boring and the same proportion of young people and people of other faiths said the Bible was hard to understand.

Dr McAleer said, "Even many people who might not practise Christian faith themselves appear to recognise it as part of the social fabric expressed by the institution of monarchy. Many are also receptive to the Bible, which was quoted extensively during the funeral events.

"Far from people finding the presence of Christianity alienating at royal events, it is widely regarded as appropriate."

She added: "These are indications that Christianity is still regarded as a significant factor in public life, and isn't to be dismissed as irrelevant or outdated. There are also challenges for the Church, though, in engaging those who

did feel that the Bible readings and rituals didn't speak to them."

In the media

Stone of Scone from Holy Land? Don't let facts get in way of a legend

Historian pours cold water on exotic claims that Scots' symbol of sacred royalty has a biblical connection

A decades-long row about the origins of the Stone of Scone has been reignited after an eminent historian said it was "highly doubtful" the stone being used in the Coronation is the original, Simon Johnson writes in the Daily Telegraph

The chair containing the rock is used in the coronation of monarchs

Ian Bradley, emeritus professor of cultural and spiritual history at the University of St Andrews, poured cold water on claims that the stone originated in the Holy Land. He noted that the 350 lb rock, also known as the Stone of Destiny, was made of a type of sandstone that is "relatively common" around Scone in Perthshire but "unknown" in the Middle East.

Writing in the new issue of the Church of Scotland's Life and Work magazine, he also said it was unlikely the stone was the same one that was moved in AD 840 to Scone, the

capital of the new united kingdom of Picts and Scots established by Kenneth MacAlpin.

Prof Bradley argued that people should “perhaps not let hard facts get in the way of legend and myth” .

He said: “The Stone of Destiny symbolises the sacred character and history of monarchy in the British Isles and illustrates the considerable efforts which have been made to connect it with Old Testament kingship and biblical narratives.”

For centuries, the stone was kept at the now ruined Scone Abbey near Perth, where it was used as the seat for the inauguration of Scotland’s kings.

In 1296, the England’s Edward I seized it as the spoils of war against the Scots and incorporated it into the Coronation Chair in Westminster Abbey. It has since been used in the Coronation ceremonies for every British monarch.

The stone made headlines on Christmas Day 1950, when four Scottish nationalist students removed it from the abbey. It was found three months later at the high altar of Arbroath Abbey.

However, it was eventually returned to Scotland legally in 1996 and is now usually housed in Edinburgh Castle but will be temporarily moved to London for the Coronation on May 6.

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A study in 1998 by the British Geological Survey said the artefact was indistinguishable from sandstone found in the area around Scone Palace. However, Prof Bradley wrote that the “relatively insignificant” rock, which is decorated only with a simple cross, “carries a huge weight of religious symbolism”.

Among the myths about the stone is that it was smuggled out of Israel in 580BC so that it would not fall into the hands of Babylonian invaders, before eventually being taken to Ireland.

It was said to have been sited at Tara, the holy hill on which Ireland’s high kings were crowned.

Prof Bradley said: “It is in fact highly doubtful whether the stone on which Charles III will sit while being crowned is the one which MacAlpin brought to Scone, let alone whether it originally came from the Holy Land.”

However, he said Scotland could “take pride” in claims that it hosted “the very first Christian inauguration ceremony for a monarch anywhere in Europe”, said to have taken place in 574.

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Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



On May 4th C of I parishes are being invited to look at ways to help reignite Children and Families ministry in the parish. This event is specifically for Church of Ireland parishes, if you are a Children and Families Volunteer / Paid Staff or Clergy and you want to start, re-start or re-imagine Children

and Families ministry in your context then please join in on May 4th at 7pm. Sign up here: <https://bit.ly/3KLmktu>

Poem for today

On Malvern Hill by John Masefield

A wind is brushing down the clover,
It sweeps the tossing branches bare,
Blowing the poising kestrel over
The crumbling ramparts of the Caer.

It whirls the scattered leaves before us
Along the dusty road to home,
Once it awakened into chorus
The heart-strings in the ranks of Rome.

There by the gusty coppice border
The shrilling trumpets broke the halt,
The Roman line, the Roman order,
Swayed forward to the blind assault.

Spearman and charioteer and bowman
Charged and were scattered into spray,
Savage and taciturn the Roman
Hewed upwards in the Roman way.

There — in the twilight — where the cattle
Are lowing home across the fields,
The beaten warriors left the battle
Dead on the clansmen's wicker shields.

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The leaves whirl in the wind's riot
Beneath the Beacon's jutting spur,
Quiet are clan and chief, and quiet
Centurion and signifer.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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