

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – St Patrick's bluebells

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St Patrick's bluebells

Photographs
- Thanks to
Scott Hayes



People and places

London marathon effort for Christian Aid

A huge pat on the back to County Down's Wendy Thompson who completed the London Marathon on Sunday to raise funds for Christian Aid's work.

It was Wendy's first marathon and she completed the course in just over 6 hours.

Wendy told us: "It was some experience. The crowds were amazing but it was tough and I was relieved to get round."

April 27, 2023

Wendy, who lives in Newtownards, is a member of Greenwell Street Presbyterian Church and Scrabo Striders Running Club.

She has two teenage children and works as the Finance Director for the South Eastern Health Trust.

There's still time to sponsor Wendy's 'wend-urance'

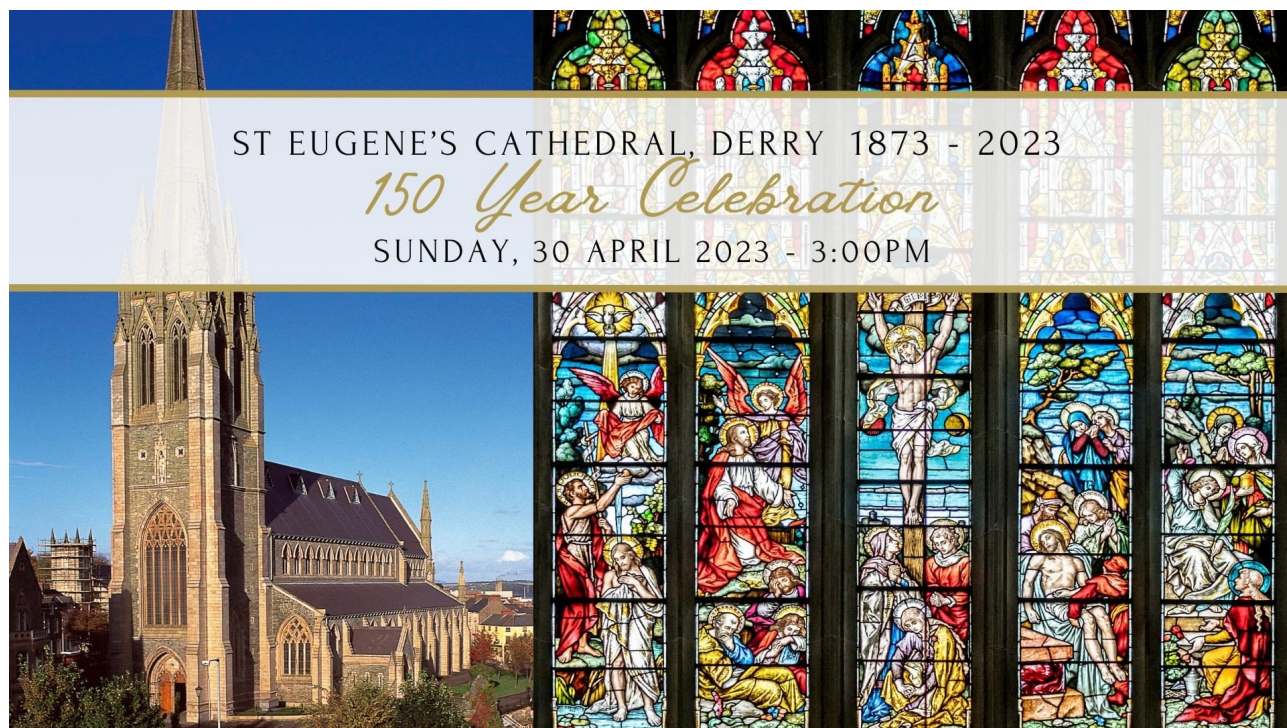
challenge and you can do so here:

<https://bigpeachallenge.christianaid.org.uk/fundraising/Wendy-Thompson32>



Celebrating 150 years of St. Eugene's Cathedral

On the 4th May 1873 St. Eugene's Cathedral was solemnly opened by Bishop Francis Kelly (1849-1889), in the presence of Cardinal McGettigan and 'all the Catholic Bishops of the North' - Derry Journal, May 1873.



“On Sunday, 30th April 2023, as a Diocese and as a Parish, we will be celebrating generations of faith coming to Saint Eugene's Cathedral, a house of God for 150 years. Bishop McKeown will celebrate a Diocesan Mass on Sunday, 30th April at 3.00pm. All are welcome. To mark the 150th Anniversary as a Parish, Bishop McKeown will celebrate a Parish Mass on Thursday, 4th May 2023 at 7.30pm. All are welcome.



Book online:

www.belfastphilharmonic.org.uk/BMinorMass or 07985 200 265
Glenmachan Church of God, Glenmachan Road, Belfast BT4 2NL



April 27, 2023



Members of St Paul's MU Lisburn and Knit Whits have supplied 85 Wash Bags which went to Lagan Valley, RVH, Musgrave Hospitals and Women's Aid. They also knitted items for Neo Natal Wards In Belfast hospitals.



ANZAC Day Service at St Ann's Dublin

On 25th April the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Charlie Flanagan TD, the Ambassadors of Australia, New Zealand, and The Netherlands and a representative from the Turkish Embassy gathered in St Ann's, Dawson Street. They were welcomed by the rector, Canon Paul Arbuthnot.



Concert of Chamber Music

Lisburn Cathedral
Saturday 29th April, 2023
7.30pm

Violin/Soprano - Hayley Howe
Flute - Drew Rowan
Cello - Scott Heron
Piano - Rodney Spence

Programme to include works by:
Brahms
Schubert
Saint-Saëns

Tickets £10 (Under 18s £5) and can be purchased at the door
or from Hayley on hayleyhowe21@btinternet.com

Proceeds in aid of Abaana
'Changing lives - one child at a time'



Maurice Curran - Church Lads' Brigade stalwart

Maurice Curran gave his life to the CLB. He was a member of St Simon's Company in Belfast, becoming its Captain for many years.

He also held the position as 1st Battalion Commanding Officer for two four year terms, from 1979 to 1987. Maurice was one of a select few Officers, who had not held the position of Regimental CO, to be awarded the Brigade Cross, our organisation's highest award.

Maurice was a warm, caring, sincere, gentle-natured man. He had a great sense of humour and could always bring a lot of fun to an otherwise tedious meeting. He cared deeply about his Brigade lads and made sure that his Company took part in all Battalion and Regimental activities. He was also a great Church man and a devoted family man.

A fellow CLB leader commented, "Maurice was the sort of Brigade leader that one would try to aspire to be. I remember being a young Captain, in amongst some more senior Captains, and Maurice was very supportive and encouraging of my role. Now and again, he would slip me £10 - worth very much more back then - to help with my own company's expenses".

Well done thou good and faithful servant.

Maurice's funeral service will be in St Simon's Church, Donegal Road, this Friday 28th April, at 11.30am.



Christ
Church
Cathedral
Dublin

Organ Recital Series Spring 2023 Mondays at 6PM

Free entry, with retiring collection

1st May

James Short

Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin

8th May

David Adams

Royal Irish Academy of Music

15th May

Arthur Greene

Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin

22nd May

Harry Meehan

St Canice's Cathedral, Kilkenny

29th May

George de Voil

St James's Sussex Gardens, London

5th June

Tom Little

Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin

19th June

Bláithín Cotter

Trinity College, Dublin

26th June

Simon Hogan

Southwark Cathedral, London

News reports

Evangelisation and Vocation theme at Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth

Archbishop Rino Fisichella's, Pro-Prefect of the Vatican Dicastery for Evangelisation, was the keynote speaker who addressed an audience of over 100 people committed to vocations to the diocesan priesthood, including seminarians, clergy, mothers, fathers and other members of the lay faithful.

The theme of the conference was 'Evangelisation and Vocation' and it was hosted by the National Vocations Office of the Irish Bishops' Conference.

In his address entitled, Priesthood in a Synodal Church, Archbishop Fisichella said, "The encounter with Christ must be personal: the Master's eyes must be on mine, and only then does the encounter become a vocation. A good priest is always a miracle of grace ... Let us not forget the sacramental grace of the priestly office. It helps one to break out of one's self ... let us pray for priests." Archbishop Rino continued, "Jesus proclaims 'good news' that consists of the 'nearness' of God – that God is 'in our midst'. The use of the term 'news' should not be overlooked; it is of paramount importance. Without the mission, there is no Church; we will always have to be very radical about this." See the link below for the full text of the address by Archbishop Fisichella.

Listening to Archbishop Rino Fisichella the keynote speaker at the Conference on Evangelisation and Vocation. The Archbishop is speaking specifically on diocesan priesthood in a synodal Church.

Opening the conference, Bishop Alphonsus Cullinan, Bishop of Waterford and chair of the Council for Vocations, said “I am delighted to welcome Archbishop Rino Fisichella and all the speakers for our conference today which formally launches the Year for Vocation to the Diocesan Priesthood on the theme ‘Take the Risk for Christ’.”

Bishop Cullinan continued, “In my life I have known great priests, both diocesan and religious. I think that most people have known good, hard-working priests. These men have inspired and helped countless people. The priesthood was instituted by Christ himself to follow in his steps and will always be essential in the mission of Christ’s Church on





earth to serve and sanctify the people so that the world may be sanctified and that we human beings will find the way in life that leads to eternal happiness. Right now in Ireland we need more priests. In spite of all the distractions of modern life God is still calling men to follow him in this way, of that we can be sure. Pope Francis has written a message to us for this Year for Vocation, and the Holy Father encourages us to propose priesthood to the men of this generation with faith and confidence. I am really looking forward to the whole year and all the events which are planned. I ask people all around the country, and indeed wherever this message is heard, to pray throughout this year, especially,

that there will be a particular focus on priesthood so that seeds will be planted in young men's hearts and that – with God's help – this special year will produce a lot of priestly vocations.”

Speaking at the conference, Father Willie Purcell, National Diocesan Vocations Coordinator, said, “This year marks the 60th anniversary of the initiation of the annual World Day of Prayer for Vocations, instituted by Saint Pope Paul VI in 1963 during the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council. The World day of prayer for Vocations is also referred to as Good Shepherd Sunday. We see in Jesus, the Good Shepherd, the heart of every calling. As we launch this Year for Vocation to the Diocesan Priesthood, on the theme ‘Take the Risk for Christ’, our televised Mass this Sunday at 11.00am on RTÉ One unites us in prayer for vocations to the priesthood, consecrated life, and permanent diaconate. I am grateful to RTÉ for providing this opportunity for us to join with the world through the media of television, and the internet, as one family praying for vocations as we walk the synodal pathway in hope.”

Archbishop of Dublin takes part in The Majma in Jordan

The Most Rev Dr Michael Jackson took part in The Majma (Synod) in Jordan on Monday and Tuesday of this week.

Dr Jackson writes of his experiences - The Majma (Synod) began on Monday with a service of Holy Communion in The Church of The Redeemer, Amman, Jordan.



Members of the diocese gathered from Jordan, Israel–Palestine, Lebanon and Syria to worship God and to give thanks for another year of shared witness.

There was great rejoicing that a delegate from Syria was able to attend this year.

They were joined by invited guests from across The Anglican Communion, from sister churches and from key Anglican Institutions worldwide. The Diocese lists as its four key aims the following: a church that has a pastoral heart; a church that offers a Christian witness to all people through the Diocese's health and educational institutions; a church that promotes friendship, understanding and mutual respect between people of different religious traditions by advancing ecumenical and interfaith initiatives; and a church that

exercises a ministry of hospitality towards the many pilgrims and travellers who visit the Holy Land each year.

The theme of The Majma 2023 is Built Together, based in The Letter to The Ephesians. In the sermon, the archbishop developed the twin themes of the commonwealth (citizenship) and the foundation of our faith in the apostles in Ephesians 2.22. In this way, he led the participants into reflection on our belonging to the kingdom of heaven and the kingdoms of this world together with shared responsibility and celebration of church life in everyday life. This was a powerful message of hope to hear in a geographical and political context where many experience pressures of which we in The Church of Ireland know little if anything. The service of Holy Communion was followed by hospitality in the church hall and courtyard.

The First Day of The Majma began with a celebration of Holy Communion. Three phrases in The Intercessions struck me powerfully: that we be renewed in purpose, faithful in witness and empowered in mission.

I was invited to bring greetings from The Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough. Along with expressing our good wishes and prayers for flourishing in the faith together with gratitude for the shared retreat during Lent which incorporated a pilgrimage to Mount Nebo and to The Baptismal Site at The River Jordan, I presented the archbishop with a medal specially struck to mark the Beatification of Father John Sullivan SJ on May 13th 2017. I did so as an expression of our shared hope that religious and social traditions which for much of their history have been at enmity or maintained an

uneasy and fractured truce can move together in shared public witness and personal solidarity.

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin and I had been jointly involved in the petition to Pope Francis in the cause for the beatification not least on the grounds that John Sullivan had spent half of his life as an Anglican and half as a Roman Catholic – with a strong and consistent sense that he should not leave behind the best of the Anglican tradition when he became a Roman Catholic and a Member of The Society of Jesus.

In his address, the archbishop drew on pivotal texts in the New Testament: St John 2.19; 1, Corinthians 12.27; Ephesians 2.21; 1 Peter 2.5; St Luke 14.28 to expound the idea of spiritual building. Fundamental to being ‘built together’ the archbishop argued is the following: ‘The New Testament teaches us that the concept of the Church, from a spiritual point of view, emanates from the principle of the one body, whose head is Christ, and we, the believers, are members of this body. The idea of a composite building and one body, even the temple (as a building), are figurative expressions that refer to the Church both from a spiritual and organizational perspective. Just as the one body has members, such as the head and the hands, etc., the Church also has roles, talents, and orders.’

The rest of that day was spent in discussion of and response to the archbishop’s address. The financial reports on the year past and the budgetary provisions for the year to come were also discussed. The afternoon concluded with Evening Prayer.

Moderator in first of two Westminster visits

The Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Right Reverend Dr John Kirkpatrick, was in Westminster on Tuesday (25 April) for the first of two separate visits that will take place over the next two weeks.

Accompanied by his wife Joan, he follows in the footsteps of successive Moderators who have undertaken annual visits to the Palace of Westminster to meet with Members of Parliament from constituencies across Northern Ireland.

“Throughout their time in office Moderators have various opportunities to meet with our elected representatives from across the island and since last June, when I took office, I have met a number of our MLAs and MPs, TDs and Senators,” Dr Kirkpatrick said.

“While very much a pastoral visit, it is also an important opportunity to listen and talk privately, and to encourage our MPs in the role and the calling that they have in serving their constituents, while holding the government of the day to account. As Christians we have a biblical call and responsibility to pray for those in authority, regardless of party or politics. It is something we should take seriously, and I hope I will have the opportunity to pray with them,” the Moderator said.



Dr Kirkpatrick's visit began at the House of Commons on Tuesday where he will meet the leader of the DUP, Sir Jeffrey Donaldson MP, and other members of the DUP Parliamentary Party. Over the course of his two-day visit he is also scheduled to meet with the SDLP Members of Parliament for Foyle and South Belfast, party leader Colum Eastwood and Clare Hanna; Stephen Farry, the Alliance Party deputy leader and Member of Parliament for North Down, and Sinn Féin representatives, including Fermanagh and South Tyrone MP, Michelle Gildernew. The Moderator will also take time to meet with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Rt Hon Chris Heaton-Harris MP.

Dr Kirkpatrick will return to London a week on Saturday, this time to Westminster Abbey, when he will attend the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III on 6 May.

Poem for today

The Charge of the Light Brigade by Alfred, Lord Tennyson

I

Half a league, half a league,
Half a league onward,
All in the valley of Death
 Rode the six hundred.
“Forward, the Light Brigade!
Charge for the guns!” he said.
Into the valley of Death
 Rode the six hundred.

II

“Forward, the Light Brigade!”
Was there a man dismayed?
Not though the soldier knew
 Someone had blundered.
Theirs not to make reply,
Theirs not to reason why,
Theirs but to do and die.
Into the valley of Death
 Rode the six hundred.

III

Cannon to right of them,
Cannon to left of them,
Cannon in front of them
 Volleyed and thundered;



Stormed at with shot and shell,
Boldly they rode and well,
Into the jaws of Death,
Into the mouth of hell
Rode the six hundred.

IV
Flashed all their sabres bare,
Flashed as they turned in air
Sabring the gunners there,
Charging an army, while
All the world wondered.
Plunged in the battery-smoke
Right through the line they broke;
Cossack and Russian
Reeled from the sabre stroke
Shattered and sundered.
Then they rode back, but not
Not the six hundred.

V

April 27, 2023

Cannon to right of them,
Cannon to left of them,
Cannon behind them
 Volleyed and thundered;
Stormed at with shot and shell,
While horse and hero fell.
They that had fought so well
Came through the jaws of Death,
Back from the mouth of hell,
All that was left of them,
 Left of six hundred.

VI
When can their glory fade?
O the wild charge they made!
 All the world wondered.
Honour the charge they made!
Honour the Light Brigade,
 Noble six hundred!

Church News Ireland

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