



Image of the day - RTE Service with Christian Aid

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“What’s God wish and what’s his plan for the Diocese of Clogher?”- Archbishop Eames at consecration of Bishop Ellis



The new Church of Ireland Bishop of Clogher, the Right Revd Dr Ian Ellis (centre), at his Service of Consecration in St Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen, on Monday, 26th April, with the Right Revd Lord Eames, former Archbishop of Armagh, who preached and Archbishop John McDowell, who led the service.

The Church of Ireland Diocese of Clogher now has a new bishop in place.

The Right Revd Dr Ian William Ellis was consecrated as Bishop of Clogher at a service on the Feast Day of St Mark on Monday, 26th April, in St Macartin’s Cathedral, Enniskillen. He was previously Rector of Rossorry Parish in Clogher Diocese.

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While the numbers attending were restricted due to the Covid–19 guidelines, many people watched the service at home as it was live–streamed on the Enniskillen Cathedral website.

The Right Revd Dr Ian Ellis, who was elected following a meeting of the Episcopal Electoral College held on Monday, 9th November, an election which was subsequently approved by the House of Bishops, was ordained Bishop by the Archbishop of Armagh, the Most Revd John McDowell, assisted by consecrating bishops, the Most Revd Pat Storey, Bishop of Meath and Kildare; the Right Revd George Davison, Bishop of Connor; and the Right Revd Lord Eames, OM, former Archbishop of Armagh.

The Dean of Clogher, the Very Revd Kenneth Hall, took part as the Archbishop of Armagh’s Chaplain and the Archdeacon of Clogher, the Venerable Brian Harper, also took part as the Bishop–elect of Clogher’s Chaplain.

The main Churches were represented at the service. Representing the Methodist Church was the Revd Dr Heather Morris, Past President of the Methodist Church in Ireland, General Secretary of the Methodist Church in Ireland and Secretary of the Conference, and also the Revd Lorna Dreaning, Minister of Enniskillen Methodist Church. Representing the Roman Catholic Church was the Most Revd Larry Duffy, Bishop of Clogher, and the Rt Revd Monsignor Peter O’Reilly VG, Dean and Parish Priest of Enniskillen.

Representing the Presbyterian Church was the Revd David Cupples, Minister of Enniskillen Presbyterian Church.

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A number of civic guests attended including the Viscount Brookeborough KG, the Lord Lieutenant of Fermanagh, and the Viscountess Brookeborough; the Rt Hon Arlene Foster MLA, First Minister of Northern Ireland; Mrs Rosemary Barton MLA and Councillor Diana Armstrong, Chair of Fermanagh and Omagh District Council.

The organist was Mr Glenn Moore who was joined by the Choir of St Macartin's Cathedral directed by Mr David Baxter.

The ceremony of ordination and consecration of the new bishop took place within the context of the Eucharist. The Bishop-elect was presented for ordination and consecration by his sponsors, Mr Sam Morrow and Mrs Ethne McCord.

The Archbishop, during his address to the congregation, emphasised a bishop's role not only in serving and caring for the people of God, but also working with them in the oversight of the Church.

The Bishop-elect affirmed the questions put by the Archbishop and the Litany, and the Archbishop prayed for the gifts of the Holy Spirit and for the grace necessary for the office of a bishop in the Church of God. The Archbishop and other bishops present laid their hands on the head of the Bishop-elect who was then vested in his episcopal habit.

The sermon was preached by the Right Revd Lord Eames, former Archbishop of Armagh, who has known Bishop Ian since before his training for ordination.



Bishop Ian Ellis and his wife Heather greet Archdeacon Cecil Pringle and his wife Hilary.

He said Bishop Ian's pilgrimage which began at his ordination as a deacon, then as a priest, through his responsibility for parish life and the incumbencies he has had was now continuing in a new role.

"Ian is answering the call of God," he said.

Lord Eames said Bishop Ian was already familiar with Clogher Diocese, familiar with the clergy but he was about to become familiar on a different level with them and their families, their needs, their strengths and weaknesses and how they would work together as a family of God.

But he said he would get to know his colleagues and the diocese in new ways – he would reach out to them when they sought his help and guidance, to listen to them when a listening ear was all they needed.

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“You will be to them the Father in God, a father figure,” he said.

Lord Eames said Bishop Ian was coming to this role and ministry at a time when the diocese like all other dioceses was facing such change.

“As we come out of lockdown and as we come out of restrictions of lockdown, as we look at the Church and parish life through which we have all come in the last few months, we do wonder what will survive in the structures of the Church.

“What have we learned in the period of what we can do without and what have we learned what we have missed most?”

But he said it was an exciting time to take up leadership of the diocese and while there will be problems, discussions and plans to be decided upon, at the end of the day the one question Bishop Ian would face would be: “What’s God’s wish and what’s his plan for the Diocese of Clogher?”

Lord Eames said Bishop Ian would also be a figurehead in wider society and will be asked to represent his people. He asked the people of Clogher Diocese to offer their prayers for their new Bishop and his wife Heather.

Following the consecration, the new Bishop of Clogher took his place with the other bishops present. At the end of the service Bishop Ian and his wife, Heather, processed to the back of the Cathedral and greeted the congregation outside as they left.

PCI welcomes NI Assembly call for better end of life provision

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI) has welcomed the unanimous support given to the cross-party motion in the Northern Ireland Assembly yesterday (27 April) around end of life issues, which emphasised ‘a good end of life experience for people in Northern Ireland’ and greater investment in palliative care services.

Speaking after the debate, PCI’s Moderator, Right Reverend Dr David Bruce said, “While it can be all too easy to focus on what divides us politically, it is heartening to see MLA’s come together to call for better end of life outcomes to be included in the Executive’s forthcoming Programme for Government (PfG).

“The true measure of any society is how it treats its most vulnerable. Our submission to the PfG consultation noted that access to good, well-resourced palliative care affords dignity to those reaching the end of their lives and provides necessary support to their families.

It is important to realise that many of the organisations, which provide this care outside of formal healthcare settings, rely on charitable donations to sustain their operations. We therefore echo the calls of others for a greater focus on palliative and end of life care within the Programme for Government, which needs to be adequately resourced. I trust that the Executive, and Health Minister take note of today’s debate.

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“Our ministers and pastoral care teams, along with chaplains working in hospitals and hospices, count it a real privilege to support and journey with families who are caring for a loved one coming towards the end of their life. Our experience from sitting beside countless bedsides is that social, emotional, financial and spiritual factors are all important components which can contribute to a peaceful and dignified death.

“It goes without saying that restrictions placed on all of society over the past year to combat Covid-19 have been particularly difficult for clergy of all denominations to care for and support those experiencing bereavement. In these difficult times, it is our prayer that those who have lost loved ones know the peace of God that transcends all understanding, and the compassion of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is new every morning.”

Bray Parishioner Elected Chair of CMSI Board

On Saturday last, April 24, the Annual General Meeting of the Church Mission Society Ireland saw the appointment of a new chair of the society’s board, as well as the election of a number of new trustees.

David Reynolds, a parishioner of Christ Church, Bray and a Diocesan Reader in the United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough, was elected as chair of the CMSI Board of Trustees. He succeeds the Revd Adrian Dorrian (Lecale Area Mission Partnership; Down & Dromore), whose six-year term as chair came to an end at the AGM.



David Reynolds (right), a parishioner of Christ Church, Bray and a Diocesan Reader in the United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough, was elected as chair of the CMSI Board of Trustees.

David has been as a CMSI trustee for the past nine years and has served as company secretary since 2017. He has visited and hosted some of CMSIs' Global Partners during this time and was instrumental in helping develop the society's current strategic plan. For the past nine years, David has worked as the CEO of Dublin Central Mission's Services to the Older Person.

In addition to David's appointment as chair, the CMSI AGM elected five trustees – four of whom are joining the board for the first time:

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- The Revd Canon Patrick Bamber – Rector of Calry Parish, Sligo
- The Right Revd Richard Clarke – former Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland
- Mrs Hilda Connolly – Diocesan Youth Officer for the United Diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross
- Mrs Joanne Quill – former CMSI Mission Partner (Kenya and Uganda)

Prof Frank Dobbs (Agherton Parish; Derry & Raphoe) was re-elected to the board for a new three-year term.

Speaking about the change in leadership of the board, CMSI's Mission Director, Jenny Smyth said: "It has been a real privilege to have Adrian as chair of CMSI over the past six years. Adrian has been exceedingly generous with his time and skills and endlessly supportive to me and the staff team. I am delighted that David will now lead the society onwards. He has worked with great dedication as a trustee and he brings a wealth of experience of both the Church of Ireland and the charitable sector.

"I am thankful for the faithful service of the trustees whose terms have come to an end, and full of hopeful expectation for what God has in store for the CMSI family over the next few years with our new trustees under David's leadership," she continued.

CMSI Board of Trustees

David Reynolds (Chair)

Revd Canon Patrick Bamber

Maureen Clarke

Right Revd Richard Clarke

churchnewsireland@gmail.org

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Hilda Connolly
Prof Frank Dobbs
Will Grier
Ruth Mann Gracious Nyamupachitu
Joanne Quill
Louise Talbot Beirne
Revd Capt Geoffrey Walmsley
Very Revd Geoff Wilson

Past Connor Youth Streetreach participants to join in online discussion

Due to ongoing Covid-19 restrictions, Connor Youth Council has taken the decision to postpone this year's Streetreach until 2022.

But 2021's event will not go unmarked, and past participants are invited to join an online discussion to decide how best to do this.

Diocesan Youth Officer Christina Baillie said: "Streetreach is a very special event in the Connor Youth calendar. While Covid-19 restrictions are easing, we believe that in early July we will not be in a place to deliver the event as we would wish. Therefore, we have chosen to postpone Streetreach to 2022.

"We want to be in a place where we can truly bless the community of Mossley Parish and provide a great experience for each leader and young person who takes part." "In addition, we sadly won't have our friends from Christ In Youth visiting in 2021, so are hoping that this can resume in 2022 and deeply bless our time."



Christina said Engage Connor Youth did not envisage running Streetreach Online as in 2020, but still wanted to mark the event in some way this summer.

“We are inviting any past Streetreach participants to join us for an online discussion on **Thursday May 27 at 7.30pm** to discuss ideas and suggestions for this,” Christina said.

Anyone wishing to attend should complete the Google form at <https://connor.anglican.org/2021/04/27/invite-to-discuss-how-to-mark-streetreach-2021/>

Young people under 18 will need to ask a parent/guardian to complete the form on their behalf.

Online conversations mark start of bishops' journeys to the Lambeth Conference in 2022



Bishops at Lambeth 2008

A series of online “Bishops’ Conversations” will be held to prepare bishops for the once-a-decade gathering of Anglican bishops in 2022.

The journey to the 2022 Lambeth Conference of Anglican bishops will begin in July this year with the start of a series of online “Bishop’s Conversations”.

The Lambeth Conference is a once-a-decade gathering to which all bishops in the Anglican Communion around the world are invited by the Archbishop of Canterbury. It was to have been held at Canterbury Cathedral and the University

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of Kent in Canterbury in July and August 2020 but was postponed until 2022 because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Bishops are now being invited to a series of pre-Lambeth Conference online meetings. During the “Bishops’ Conversations” they will begin to explore the Lambeth Conference theme – “God’s Church for God’s World”. During the meetings, bishops will reflect on the biblical book of 1 Peter, which is the chosen biblical theme for the conference.

The “Bishops’ Conversations” will include time for prayer and Bible study, the sharing of ministry experiences and stories, and discussions about how the Anglican Communion can respond to the needs of a fast-changing world.

Organisers say that the “Bishops’ Conversations” will “help to discern shared priorities and hopes in advance of the face-to-face conference” and will also “shape and enrich the conference programme planning”.

“The Lambeth Conference provides a once-a-decade opportunity for Anglican bishops worldwide to meet with one another for prayer, fellowship and dialogue”, the Lambeth Conference Working Group Chair, Bishop Emma Ineson, said. “With the conference now meeting in 2022, meeting online in advance provides a special opportunity for bishops to start to prepare, meet one another and discuss conference themes. We know that the life of a bishop is hugely busy, but hope that bishops will take the opportunity to join in the pre-event conversations.”

Phil George, the Chief Executive of the Lambeth Conference, said: “The Anglican Communion is diverse, with

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a wide range of languages spoken. The conference team is working hard to set up groups that enable bishops from different provinces to meet together, catering to different time zone and language / interpretation considerations. We are really looking forward to the pre-event Bishops' Conversations getting underway."

Books, Broadcasts, Resources and Webinars

Church Leaders' Group (Ireland) - 100 years: reflecting on the past – building a future together - service broadcast on BBC Radio 4 and BBC Radio Ulster

The members of the Church Leaders' Group (Ireland) will lead a service broadcast on BBC Radio 4 and BBC Radio Ulster this Sunday morning, 2nd May, to mark the centenary of the partition of the island of Ireland and the formation of Northern Ireland.

The Radio 4 Sunday Worship service will begin at 8.10am and the Radio Ulster Morning Service will run from 10.15am. The programme will be available afterwards on the Sunday Worship website
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000vnzx>

and Morning Service website
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b007cphq>

The Church Leaders Group - comprises the Church of Ireland and Roman Catholic Primate of All Ireland, the



Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, the President of the Methodist Church in Ireland, and the President of the Irish Council of Churches.

RTÉ Service with Christian Aid

A service with Christian Aid Ireland will be broadcast at 11.00am on RTÉ Radio 1 Extra / LW252 and 11.10am on RTÉ One television this Sunday, 2nd May, in advance of Christian Aid Week. Christian Aid Ireland's Chief Executive, Rosamond Bennett, will lead the service and the sermon will be delivered by its Chairperson, the Revd Dr Liz Hughes. Music will be provided by Ballysillan Presbyterian Church's worship team.

The theme of the service will be 'A new song to sing' with a focus on climate change, which is causing a hunger crisis and driving millions more into poverty in the global south. The service will include the Christian Aid Week video, telling the story of Florence Muthiani from the Kitui region of Kenya. Here is her story:

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Christian Aid's local partner built a sand dam for Florence and her community, just a short distance from her village in Kenya. With easy access to water, Florence has been able to grow tomatoes, onions, papayas and chillies on her farm. She also manages 10 beehives and sells the honey for cash at the market. Before the sand dam, she would spend eight hours a day collecting water but now she has time to develop her farm business. She has a cow, a donkey, two turkeys as well as some goats and sheep. Florence told us: "I am very happy now. I have strength and power. I have learned to depend on myself."

Media review

Jim Wells claims DUP pressure over gay conversion therapy vote amid party 'mass rebellion'

Belfast Telegraph

Last week the Assembly passed a UUP motion calling on the communities minister to ban gay conversion therapy in Northern Ireland. A defeated DUP ...

[[] <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/jim-wells-claims-dup-pressure-over-gay-conversion-therapy-vote-amid-party-mass-rebellion-40357155.html>]

Mass confusion: Up to 50 people allowed at mass from mid-May, but not for weddings or funerals

Independent.ie

There will be no further increase in the number allowed to attend a funeral mass, which rises from just 10 to 25 from today, the Irish Independent has ...

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[[] <https://www.independent.ie/world-news/coronavirus/mass-confusion-up-to-50-people-allowed-at-mass-from-mid-may-but-not-for-weddings-or-funerals-40354914.html>]

Post office scandal: Ex-boss quits director jobs and clergy role after scandal

BBC Business news

Revd Paula Vennells, former Chief Executive of the Post Office, is stepping back from her regular parochial duties as a priest in the Diocese of St Albans.

[[] <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-56882496?>]



Pointers for prayer

Mighty God,
in whom we know the power of redemption,
you stand among us in the shadows of our time.
As we move through every sorrow and trial of this life,
uphold us with knowledge of the final morning
when, in the glorious presence of your risen Son,
we will share in his resurrection,
redeemed and restored to the fullness of life
and forever freed to be your people. Amen.

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Living God,
long ago, faithful women
proclaimed the good news
of Jesus' resurrection,
and the world was changed forever.
Teach us to keep faith with them,
that our witness may be as bold,
our love as deep,
and our faith as true. Amen.

Creator of the universe,
you made the world in beauty,
and restore all things in glory
through the victory of Jesus Christ.

We pray that, wherever your image is still disfigured
by poverty, sickness, selfishness, war and greed,
the new creation in Jesus Christ may appear in justice, love,
and peace, to the glory of your name. Amen.

O God, your Son remained with his disciples after his
resurrection, teaching them to love all people as neighbours.
As his disciples in this age,
we offer our prayers on behalf of the universe
in which we are privileged to live
and our neighbours with whom we share it...

...Intercessions

Open our hearts to your power moving
around us and between us and within us,
until your glory is revealed in our love of both friend and
enemy,
in communities transformed by justice and compassion,
and in the healing of all that is broken. Amen.

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Holy God,
you have called us to follow in the way of your risen Son,
and to care for those who are our companions,
not only with words of comfort, but with acts of love.
Seeking to be true friends of all,
we offer our prayers on behalf of the church and the
world....

...Intercessions

Guide us in the path of discipleship,
so that, as you have blessed us,
we may be a blessing for others,
bringing the promise of the kingdom near
by our words and deeds. Amen.

Speaking to the Soul

For the lips of an immoral woman are as sweet as honey, and her mouth is smoother than oil. But in the end she is as bitter as poison, as dangerous as a double-edged sword. Her feet go down to death; her steps lead straight to the grave.

Proverbs 5:3-5 NLT

When you first hear that the Bible is a holy book you might expect that it would steer well clear of subjects such as murder, adultery and abuse. However, in fact the Bible confronts all of these issues on many occasions. Here in Proverbs the writer comments in detail about the temptations of immoral women. He speaks of the way in which they ply their trade and he wants to warn his son of the threat that they pose. They come across as attractive

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and welcoming. Their words are flattering and enticing. They know how to lure the unsuspecting into their trap. But be warned! The outcome will be a disaster because in fact the path they are offering is as bitter as poison and as dangerous as a double-edged sword. They will lure their victims to death.

The writer of Proverbs wants his readers to know that there is another woman who they can turn to and she is called Wisdom. In chapter 9 we learn that she also offers an invitation to her house. Her house is solidly constructed being built on seven pillars. She offers food and wine to those who are willing to receive it. She offers wisdom and truth and opens the door to life for all who will give up their simple ways and walk in the way of understanding. In the New Testament we hear about someone else making a similar offer of life to all who will follow him. His name is Jesus and all the blessings which are offered by Wisdom are the experience of those who decide to follow him.

QUESTION

How do you handle the temptations that you face day by day?

PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, give me strength to stand up to the temptations which could wreck my life. Help me to hear your wise voice and to follow in your footsteps. Amen

