

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – St. John's, Glynn**

## Image of the day

### St. John's, Glynn

St. John's, Glynn, Connor diocese, looking beautiful in the evening sunshine. Thank you to Carol Milligan for her photo.

## People and places

### Larne parish organ recital for Ukraine via Bishops Appeal

**St Cedma's Parish Church, Larne, hosted a musical afternoon to raise funds for the Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal for the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Ukraine.**

The parish's Lenten Recital, the first in over two years, was held on Friday April 8. Church Organist and Director of Music, Dr Mark McKinty, took to the bench of the 1881 Conacher pipe organ to offer a programme of contemplative music to reflect on Lent and prepare for Holy Week.

During the event, attendees enjoyed music from a range of periods and composers, including works by Lefébure-Wély and Pachelbel. Given the event's fundraising purpose, a special inclusion in the programme was a rendition of the Ukrainian National Anthem.





Dr Mark McKinty, Organist at St Cedma's, with the Rev Heather Cooke, Curate.

An enjoyable lunch was held in the church hall following the service which allowed for a time of fellowship and catch up.

The total raised to date is £567.

## **C of I Historical Society Spring Meeting**

**The Spring meeting of the Church of Ireland Historical Society will be held online on Saturday 7 May at 11am.**

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In the first paper Professor Colm Lennon, Emeritus Professor of History in Maynooth University, will discuss 'The late medieval Irish colleges and the Reformation', and at 12 noon Mr James Frazer, a doctoral student in Queen's University, Belfast, will deliver a research paper on 'The 3rd Earl of Roden, Churchmanship, and the Second Reformation in Dundalk, c. 1820–54'.

After lunch, at 2pm, Dr Joan Redmond, Lecturer in Early Modern History in King's College, London, will speak on 'Writing and Remembering Religious Conflict in Early Modern Ireland', and at 3pm the final paper will be given by Professor Christopher Fauske, Professor of Media and Communications in Salem State University in the USA, on 'Jonathan Swift the church–man'.

The conference will be on held via Zoom Video Conferencing. If you wish to attend, you can register via the Society's website [here](#). You do not need to be a member to join. Members can sign up for free. Non–members are asked to subscribe a day rate of €10. If you wish to become a member the annual subscription is fixed at €40 or £40. This includes admission to the Society's conferences, book discounts, and exclusive access to the Society's thirty–five podcasts. Queries may be addressed to the honorary secretaries, Professor Alan Ford or Dr Miriam Moffitt, by email ([secretary.coihs@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.coihs@gmail.com)). Alternatively, you can visit the society's website for further details about the conference (and more!).

The Church of Ireland Historical Society meets twice a year. It exists to promote scholarly interest in the history of the Church, and to facilitate publication.



## Armenian Genocide remembered at Christ Church Cathedral

Armenian Honorary Consul Mr Ohan Yergainharsian, Archbishop Michael Jackson and Dean Dermot Dunne at the khachkar in the grounds of Christ Church Cathedral.

On Sunday afternoon, April 24, a large congregation gathered in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, to remember the 107th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

Members of the Armenian community in Ireland joined with members of the cathedral community to keep silence and to voice both the pain and the resilience of the Armenian people worldwide.

Archbishop Michael Jackson was joined by the Armenian Honorary Consul in Ireland Mr Ohan Yergainharsian and by Dean Dermot Dunne.



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Children were given a special opportunity to express the sorrow and the hopes of the Armenian people and their faith in God.

The service concluded at the khachkar which was dedicated in the grounds of the cathedral in 2015, on the Centenary of the Genocide.

## General Synod Service to take place in Belfast Cathedral

**The General Synod Service of Holy Communion will be this year take place in St Anne's Cathedral, Donegall Street, on Wednesday, 4th May, at 10.30am.**

The preacher will be the Rt Revd George Davison, Bishop of Connor. The members of General Synod will then gather at Assembly Buildings to begin their three-day meeting.

Each day of General





Synod begins with a short act of worship and the General Synod Service precedes the formal start of business on its first day.

As the official guidebook for the Cathedral recalls, the idea of a cathedral for Belfast arose in 1888 when the then town of Belfast was granted city status by Queen Victoria. The foundation stone was laid in 1899 and the new building then took shape around the old parish church of St Anne's, dating from 1776. The Cathedral was opened for public worship in



1904 although many of its architectural features are more recent, such as the Baptistry (1924), the West Front (1927), the South Transept (1974), the North Transept (1981) and the Spire of Hope (2007).

More information about the Cathedral's worship, history and role in the city of Belfast can be found on its website:  
[www.belfastcathedral.org](http://www.belfastcathedral.org)

## **Eco–Congregation Ireland's latest newsletter on line**

Eco–Congregation Ireland's latest newsletter (available at [www.ecocongregationireland.com](http://www.ecocongregationireland.com)) is now available, highlighting examples of environmental projects undertaken by churches across the island of Ireland. This edition includes the group's annual review for 2021, reports on the recent Irish Churches Creation Care Conference, participation in a St Patrick's Day parade in Westport, and the sharing of a Tree of Life mosaic between churches in Cloughjordan which was originally presented by the Jordanian Ambassador.

## **Presbyterian mission at work in Zambia**

The CCAP Synod of Zambia is holding a spiritual retreat this week for all serving ministers, which Diane has been involved in organising.

Pray that it would be a time of renewal for all. Pray too for Rev Stephen McCracken (First Ballymoney) who is the main speaker.





Diane Cusick is a Presbyterian Church in Ireland global mission worker in Zambia

## News reports

### Church of Scotland and Catholic Church make historic Declaration of Friendship

**Ecumenical relations between the Church of Scotland and Catholic Church in Scotland are entering a new phase with the agreement of a historic Declaration of Friendship.**



Lord Jim Wallace, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, and Most Reverend Leo Cushley, Archbishop and Metropolitan of St Andrews and Edinburgh.

The Churches have called the declaration "a decisive and irrevocable statement of our friendship with one another, based on our shared faith in Christ".

It is the fruit of over a hundred years of ecumenical relationship-building between the two Churches and speaks of their shared beliefs and heritage as Christians in Scotland.

"We recall with gratitude to God the earliest missionaries, our forebears in the faith, who lived and preached the Christian faith to our land," it says.



"We recall those from that time who led and formed the Church, nurturing a society inspired by Christian values, including St Ninian, St Columba and St Margaret."

The declaration also recognises the ongoing need for healing and reconciliation, saying, "We repent and ask forgiveness of one other."

"We recognise each other as brothers and sisters in Christ, and we wish to express our friendship and respect for one another as fellow Christians, citizens and partners in announcing the kingdom of God in our land," it says.

"Since the World Missionary Conference (Edinburgh, 1910), and the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) much has been done ecumenically to repair what was broken and to restore mutual respect and friendship.

"A great deal has been achieved spiritually, practically and affectively, through joint prayer among our parishes, various joint commissions, and the growing knowledge and appreciation of each other as Christian friends and fellow pilgrims."

The statement concludes with a pledge by the Churches to work together and be "an ever more united Christian voice in the land" in spite of their differences.

"We therefore pledge ourselves to live as sisters and brothers in Christ, in public and in private, in life and in mission; to pray with each other and for each other; to be good neighbours, both to each other and to all people among whom we live, of all faiths and none; and to work

together for the common good of the nation, as it is given to us to see it," they say.

The declaration has already been approved by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Scotland and is set to receive the approval of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland when it meets in Edinburgh next month.

Catholic Metropolitan of St Andrews and Edinburgh, the Most Rev Leo Cushley, said that both Churches had come a long way "along the path of friendship" in recent decades

## **Church of England Evangelical Council launches human sexuality resources**

**The Church of England Evangelical Council (CEEC) has created a series of films to help churches engage with issues around human sexuality.**

The series, called God's Beautiful Story, is being launched as Living in Love and Faith (LLF), the Church of England's consultation on marriage, sexuality, gender identity and relationships, draws to a close at the end of this month.

In addition to human sexuality, the films explore possible changes to liturgy, doctrine and practice within the Church of England that may come about as a result of the LLF process.

The films are between five and seven minutes long and are accompanied by a set of study notes designed to help congregations think through the issues.



"During the Church of England's Living in Love and Faith process, we learned that many evangelical churches have not engaged with LLF for a variety of reasons," said Rev Canon John Dunnett, CEEC's Director of Strategy and Operations.

"The Bible offers a beautiful and inspiring narrative as to what it is to be made 'in the image of God' – a narrative which covers every part of our experience including human sexuality.

"Through this new collection of short films, we hope to encourage local churches and their leaders to engage with this biblical narrative and the implications of any departure from it by the Church of England."

Ed Shaw, Ministry Director at Living Out and Co-chair of CEEC, said, "Our culture is not silent when it comes to different experiences of sexuality, but sadly many of our evangelical churches still are.

"This silence causes confusion, pain and isolation for many – most especially those in sexual minority groups.

"These two short films explore the reasons for the silence and help equip us to share God's better story that brings life to all."

The CEEC is also launching a regular e-bulletin to keep evangelicals across the country up-to-date about developments affecting them in the Church of England.

"We would love to see many, many people across the country receiving these updates – and we need local church leaders to encourage people to sign up", Dunnett added.

## **Madeleine Albright honoured at Washington National Cathedral funeral, with eulogies by Biden, Clintons**

**President Joe Biden, as well as former President Bill Clinton and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, were among those who paid tribute to Madeleine Albright, the former secretary of state, during her funeral held April 27 at Washington National Cathedral in the nation's capital.**

Albright, who first served in the Clinton administration as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations in the Clinton administration before later becoming the first female secretary of state in 1997, died of cancer on March 23 at age 84. She regularly attended St. John's Episcopal Church in Washington's Georgetown neighborhood and was serving on Washington National Cathedral's governing body at the time of her death.

"She was loved and admired by all who knew her," Washington National Cathedral Dean Randy Hollerith said in welcoming the funeral's invitation-only guests. "We say goodbye today to a remarkable human being. Madeleine was a leader, mentor, trailblazer, reconciler and patriot. She was a person of deep faith who always held firm to the highest ideals of her faith and her country."





## Madeleine Albright's funeral was held April 27 at Washington National Cathedral

Albright joined The Episcopal Church as a young adult when she married Joseph Medill Patterson Albright in 1959. She had been born into a Jewish family in Czechoslovakia in 1937 but said she was never told about her Jewish heritage until a Washington Post reporter uncovered it in 1997.

After concluding her time as secretary of state in 2001, Albright remained active in the church, including by participating in various cathedral events focused on religion and politics. In November 2021, she gave the eulogy there at the funeral of Colin Powell, one of her successors as secretary of state and a fellow Episcopalian.

Biden described how his mention of Albright elicited cheers during his visit to Poland in late March after Russia's invasion of neighboring Ukraine. "Her name is still synonymous with America as a force for good in the world,"

Biden said in his eulogy. “Madeleine never minced words or wasted time when she saw something that needed fixing or someone who needed helping. She just got to work.”

Clinton said he last spoke with Albright two weeks before her death. He asked her how she was feeling as she received treatment for cancer, and she rebuffed the question.

“Let’s don’t waste any time on that,” Clinton recalled her saying. “The only thing that really matters is what kind of world are we going to leave to our grandchildren.”

“I will never forget that conversation as long as I live. It was so perfectly Madeleine,” Clinton said. “The thing that really matters is what’s going to happen to our grandchildren’s generation. ... And so, Madeleine made a decision that, with her last breath, she would go out with her boots on, in this case supporting President Biden and all of America’s efforts to help Ukraine.”

A month before her death, Albright wrote an opinion essay for the New York Times. It described Russian President Vladimir Putin’s then-impending attack on Ukraine as a “historic error.”

“Ukraine is entitled to its sovereignty, no matter who its neighbors happen to be,” Albright wrote. “In the modern era, great countries accept that, and so must Mr. Putin. That is the message undergirding recent Western diplomacy. It defines the difference between a world governed by the rule of law and one answerable to no rules at all.”



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Former President Barack Obama and former First Lady Michelle Obama and former Vice President Al Gore also attended Albright's funeral. Other past and present lawmakers and government officials who reportedly were present included Secretary of State Anthony Blinken, former secretaries Condoleezza Rice and John Kerry, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell.

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton filled her eulogy with personal anecdotes of time she spent with Albright before concluding by calling on Americans to follow in Albright's principled footsteps.

"The Bible tells us that, 'to everything, there is a season and a time and purpose under heaven, a time to weep and a time to laugh.'" Clinton said, quoting from Ecclesiastes. "If Madeleine were here with us today, she would also remind us this must be a season of action. And yes, once again we must heed the wisdom of her life and the cause of her public service. ... Defend democracy at home just as vigorously as we do abroad."

– David Paulsen of Episcopal News Service

## In the media

**A pastoral reflection by the Catholic Bishops of Northern Ireland on the NI Assembly Elections on 5 May**

addressing: Importance of voting; Poverty in society; Rights and dignity of unborn children; Effectively responding to



refugees fleeing war in Ukraine; Committing to safeguarding creation and sustaining our environment; Respect for religious freedom and faith in the public square including for Catholic and other faith-based schools; and, Political stability serving the common good.

## Make Your Voices Heard

Politics, lived with integrity, and in a true spirit of service to the common good, is a noble vocation. The freedom to vote is a hard won and precious freedom. For Christians it is also part of our call to shape society in accordance with God's plan for human dignity, freedom and happiness.

Make your voices heard.

In this short statement, we offer some reflections on the importance of voting in the forthcoming Assembly election in Northern Ireland. We encourage all citizens to make their voices heard. We do so, not as politicians or political commentators, but as pastors, inspired and motivated by the Gospel of Jesus Christ and guided by the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, which have the well-being and dignity of every person at their core.

The responsibility of politics is to develop laws and policies that serve, protect and promote human dignity and the common good, in the particular circumstances of the society in which we live. We do not seek to endorse any political party or candidate. The hard work of weighing up who to vote for lies with each individual before God and in the privacy and primacy of their own conscience. We urge people to come out and vote, even though some are expressing a lack of confidence in the ability of politics to deliver meaningful change. More at -

[[] <https://www.catholicbishops.ie/2022/04/28/make-your-voices-heard-catholic-bishops-of-northern-ireland/> ]

## Poem for today

### Home-Thoughts, from Abroad by Robert Browning

Oh, to be in England  
Now that April's there,  
And whoever wakes in England



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Sees, some morning, unaware,  
That the lowest boughs and the brushwood sheaf  
Round the elm-tree bole are in tiny leaf,  
While the chaffinch sings on the orchard bough  
In England—now!

And after April, when May follows,  
And the whitethroat builds, and all the swallows!  
Hark, where my blossomed pear-tree in the hedge  
Leans to the field and scatters on the clover  
Blossoms and dewdrops—at the bent spray's edge—  
That's the wise thrush; he sings each song twice over,  
Lest you should think he never could recapture  
The first fine careless rapture!  
And though the fields look rough with hoary dew,  
All will be gay when noontide wakes anew  
The buttercups, the little children's dower  
—Far brighter than this gaudy melon-flower!

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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## Church News Ireland

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