

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – The Cross – Good Friday

Image of the day

The cross - Good Friday

Draping the cross for Good Friday is surely a challenging obligation at St. John's Episcopal Church, New Braunfels, Texas. There is insight and inspiration in the parish's history over the past sixty or so years. See - [\[https://www.stjohnsnb.com/history/\]](https://www.stjohnsnb.com/history/)

People and places

Archbishops of Dublin to lead Good Friday Walk of Witness this evening

The Church of Ireland and Catholic Archbishops of Dublin, Archbishop Michael Jackson and Archbishop Dermot Farrell, will lead the Ecumenical Walk of Witness through the streets of Dublin this Good Friday Evening.

The walk will begin with prayer in St Mary's Pro-Cathedral at 7.15pm. The Archbishops will then carry the cross through the city centre to finish at Christ Church Cathedral where there will be a short service concluding with prayers led by the Archbishops.

April 7, 2023



Archbishop Michael Jackson and Archbishop Dermot Farrell leading the Walk of Witness last year.

All are very welcome to join the Archbishops on this public witness.

Please note that this year the walk begins from St Mary's Pro-Cathedral.

Clergy renew ordination vows

The wind and the rain did not dampen the joy and celebration of this years Mass of Chrism in Down & Connor Diocese

Bishop Donal McKeown, Apostolic Administrator for Down & Connor, joined with the priests and religious of the diocese



to lead the celebration. The diocese was well represented as parishioners from across the diocese joined with schools, representatives of diocesan organisations and diocesan staff in a time of prayer and thanksgiving.

From Bishop Donal's homily - "Over the last decades, in our traditional parish structures, we have been failing to bring our young people to Jesus. Today Jesus asks us, as a diocesan family, whether we're ready to examine with our parishes how we all minister in Jesus' service. The age of the lone ranger is over."

Bishop Donal blessed and consecrated the holy oils. The priests present renewed their ordination promises. The liturgy was sewn together with beautiful music and chant. Musical Director James McConnell led the St Peter's Cathedral Choir and the Down and Connor Schola Cantorum. A special word of thanks was expressed to Fr

April 7, 2023



Bishop Donal McKeown with some representatives from the parishes

Martin Graham and the Cathedral team for their warm welcome and organisation.

Cashel, Ferns and Ossory

On Maundy Thursday, April 6, the clergy from across the Diocese of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory came together at the invitation of the Bishop for the Chrism Eucharist during which they renewed their commitment to ministry and received the oils which were blessed to be used in the pastoral and sacramental aspects of their ministry in the coming year.

April 7, 2023

The Chrism Eucharist was held in The Cathedral Church of St Canice, Kilkenny and was led by the Right Reverend Adrian Wilkinson the Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory.



MAUNDY *Thursday*

Reflecting on some words in John Chapter 15, in his sermon the Bishop reminded the

congregation that Jesus says to his disciples, 'I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.'

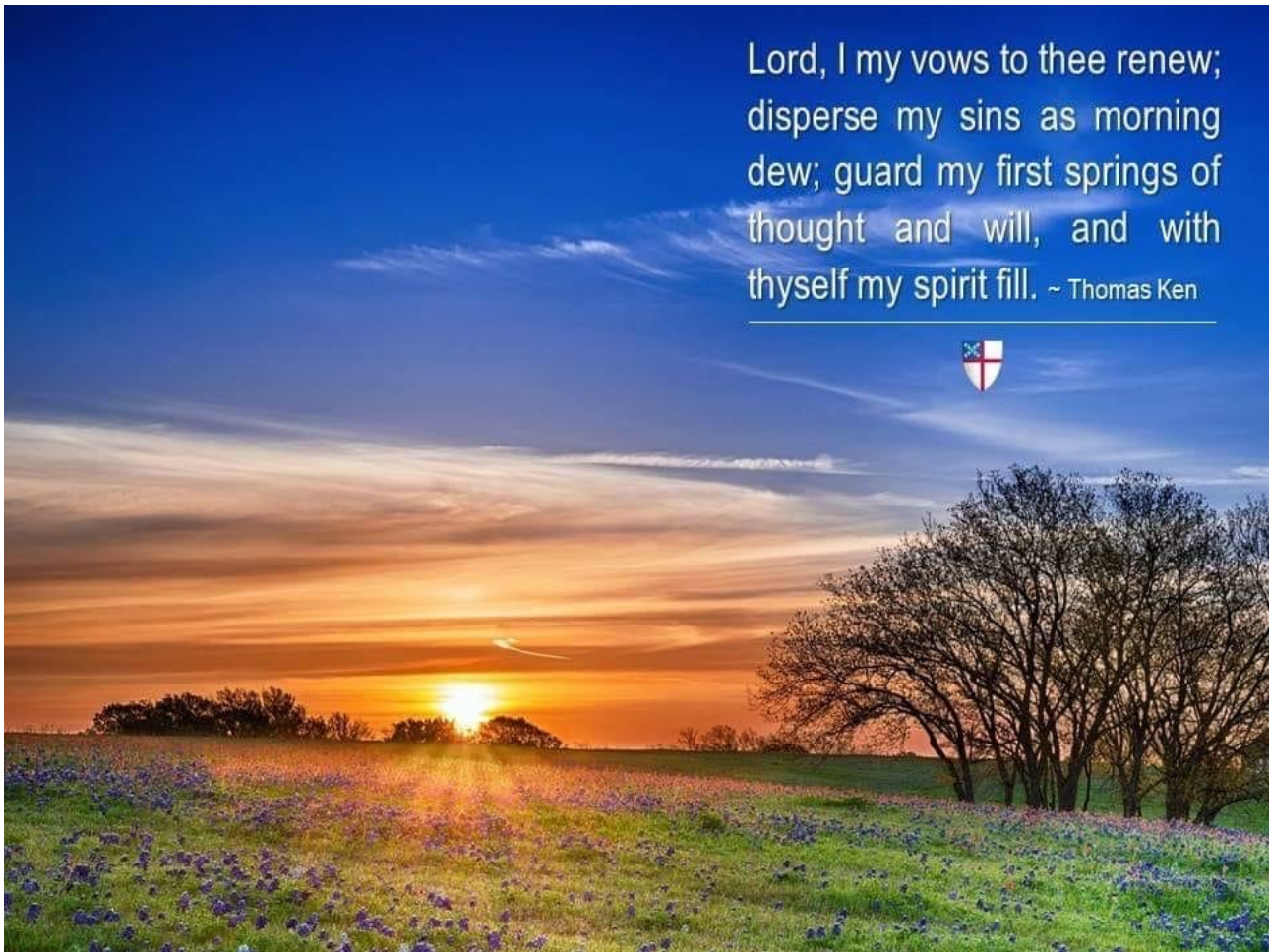
Deep human friendship is a wonderful gift, enriching our lives, a relationship in which there is trust, affection, mutuality, and permission to be vulnerable and honest. This is the relationship Jesus offers us when he says, 'You are my friends.'

Readings were from 1 Samuel 3:1-10, Revelation 1:5-8 and the Gospel reading was taken from Luke 7: 36-50.

Following the celebration of the Eucharist the clergy were invited by Bishop Adrian and Jacqui Wilkinson to enjoy lunch together at the Bishop's House, before heading back

April 7, 2023

to their own parishes to begin the most solemn three days – known as the Triduum – in the Church’s calendar.



Lord, I my vows to thee renew;
disperse my sins as morning
dew; guard my first springs of
thought and will, and with
thyself my spirit fill. ~ Thomas Ken



April 7, 2023



Cork, Cloyne and Ross

Young people from Rosscarbery who will be confirmed later in the year were on hand to help their Bishop, Rt Rev Dr Paul Colton, by assembling his crozier at the Chrism Eucharist this Maundy Thursday. Also in the photo are the Dean of Ross and Hilda the Diocesan Youth Officer in Church of Ireland in Cork, Cloyne and Ross

Church News Ireland

PASSION+

fringe festival **Monday 10th April**

PEACEBUILDING + TRAUMA + FAITH TODAY

PASSION+ Peacebuilding 10:00am

Venue: **St Augustine's**

Michael Doherty MBE and Brian Dougherty MBE will explore the themes of Peacebuilding in WALLED CITY PASSION as two respected peacebuilders.

The event will include the opportunity to sign up for free capacity-building workshop, 'Facilitating Good Relations Work,' with Michael Doherty MBE

PASSION+ Faith Today 12:00noon

Venue: **First Derry Presbyterian**

Bishop Andrew Forster, Rev Canon Judi McGaffin, and Tony Macaulay will explore WALLED CITY PASSION as the narrative at the heart of Christianity and consider its message for the world today.

PASSION+ Trauma 2:00pm

Venue: **Aras Choluncille/St Columba Heritage Centre**

Prof Paul Miller and Prof Derek Farrell MBE, Paul and Derek will bring their experience in addressing trauma globally to reflect on WALLED CITY PASSION and explore the importance of addressing trauma on an individual and societal level.

The event will include the opportunity to sign up for free training, 'Trauma Capacity Building Leading to Peacebuilding' with Prof Paul Miller and Prof Derek Farrell MBE.

PASSION+ Symposium 4:00pm

Venue: **Derry & Raphoe Diocesan Centre, London Street**

Join the writer Jonathan Burgess FRSA and creator Archdeacon Robert Miller FRSA to explore this year's performance and have an opportunity to ask any questions about WALLED CITY PASSION.

Derry's Walled City Passion Monday, April 10

April 7, 2023



Chaplaincy team wins Western Health Trust Chair's Award

The Chaplaincy Service in the Western Health and Social Care Trust area has won the Chair's Award at the Trust's awards for 2022/2023.

Included in the Chaplaincy team are Dean Kenneth Hall and Monsignor Peter O'Reilly from Enniskillen, who represent the local South-West Acute Hospital team.

The awards ceremony in the Silver Birch Hotel, Omagh on Tuesday, were compered by Barra Best with speakers including Sam Pollock, Chairman and Neil Guckian, Chief

April 7, 2023

Executive of the Western Trust and Peter May, Permanent Secretary of the Department of Health.

These were the first awards handed out since the last ceremony four years ago and there were many names included in the successive video clips of individual nominations.

The Chaplaincy Team in the Western Area was highly-commended for the ‘Championing Our Health and Wellbeing Award’ and the final award was the Chair’s Award which was given to the Chaplaincy Team across all the Trust’s hospitals. The Chairman made reference to the work of chaplains and the appreciation of staff for what they did and particularly during the pandemic.

Working visit to Burundi

Keith and Lyn Scott visited the CMSI office last week to finalise preparations for Rev Keith's visit to Burundi after Easter for six weeks.



Please pray for Keith as he evaluates how to best support Bujumbura Christian University during his time in Burundi and for God's protection over him as he immerses himself back into African culture and ministry there.



WE ARE HIRING

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Applications are invited for the role of Chief Executive Officer of Mission Africa, based in Belfast.

This role is responsible for the leadership of the work of Mission Africa through its Belfast office, the field missionaries in Africa and development of relationships with African project partners and churches currently located in Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Chad and Kenya.

Application information is available by contacting Robert Kennedy (Board member)

✉ robert.kennedy@missionafrica.org.uk

Closing date:
26th May

Chief Executive Officer for Mission Africa (The Qua Iboe Fellowship)

For more information or an application pack, please contact Robert Kennedy (Board member) on robert.kennedy@missionafrica.org.uk

Closing date is 26th May.

Please note that applicants must have the legal right to reside and work in the UK.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Easter Day Choral Eucharist from St John's, Malone

BBC Radio Ulster's Morning Service on Easter Day will be Choral Eucharist broadcast from St John's Parish Church, Malone on April 9 from 10:00 am - 11:00 am

The celebrant will be the rector, the Rev Canon Stephen Fielding, and you will find the service on BBC Radio Ulster and BBC Radio Foyle at 10.15am on Easter Day, Sunday April 6. It will be available on the BBC iPlayer after broadcast.

Methodist Church's Reflections for Holy Week

Join the Revd Graham Thompson, President of the Conference and Anthony Boateng, Vice-President of the Conference, in a short video reflection released each day at 9am, from Palm Sunday (2 April) to Easter Day (9 April).

Watch a video at

[<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X81oROVCvkg>]

Find out more about these daily Holy Week reflections on the website at <http://methodist.org.uk/HolyWeek2023>.

Hosanna and Emmanuel - sermon from Trinity Cathedral Portland

"Hosanna and Emmanuel." Sermon by The Very Rev'd Peter Elliott, former Dean of Vancouver, recorded live at the 10:00am service on Sunday, April 2, 2023.

View the video archive of this sermon on their YouTube channel's Sermon Playlist. Like them on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter & TikTok, and learn more about this open and welcoming community, including upcoming events, at trinity-episcopal.org.

[<https://www.podbean.com/ew/pb-bng6c-13d178b>]

[<https://trinitycathpdx.podbean.com/>]

Perspective

Easter: A challenging & comforting truth - Moderator Presbyterian Church in Ireland

The Easter story is almost unbelievable - Jesus rising from the dead, affirming all the things that He said and promised. But I want to look briefly at this from outside the Christian world. Consider the Roman historian Tacitus, Right Reverend Dr John Kirkpatrick writes.

In The Annals, finished around the year 117 AD, Tacitus writes, "Nero fastened the guilt on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace. Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme

penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of ... Pontius Pilatus, and a most mischievous superstition, thus checked for the moment, again broke out not only in Judaea, the first source of the evil, but even in Rome...”

Claiming both the existence of Christ, and the means of his death, calling it the “extreme penalty” referring to the crucifixion, Tacitus further dates Christ’s death to the time of Pontius Pilate - as the gospel records also state.

The First Century Jewish historian, Josephus, in his Antiquities of the Jews, written around 20 years before Tacitus, also writes about Jesus saying that He “...wrought surprising feats...He was the Christ. When Pilate...condemned him to be crucified, those who had... come to love him did not give up their affection for him. On the third day he appeared... restored to life...”

Once again we have events affirmed, as recorded in the gospels, including the claim that Jesus was clearly resurrected. Admittedly these are but two examples from contemporary historians, yet we have no reason to doubt them, as they have no reason to write in support of the Christian faith. What they do is help to confirm the very extensive record we have in the gospels and the gospels give us a picture of the facts.

Let’s consider just four of them (1) That Jesus was truly dead (2) the tomb was truly empty (3) Jesus was truly resurrected and (4) the disciples were truly changed as a result.



From John 19:28-42, we know that the mission of the religious leaders and the professional execution team was to achieve Jesus' death. The gospel record affirms that He was dead, as they did not break his legs to speed up the process. They also thrust a spear up into his heart causing "blood and water" to come out - a medical sign of death.

We also know that the tomb was empty, a cause of grief for the women, and deep concern for the authorities (Matthew 27:62-66 and 28:11-15.) We can also read the record in 1 Corinthians 15:3-8 of the 550 people on 11 different occasions, over 6 weeks, who testify to having seen and encountered the risen Lord Jesus, which can be established to 35 AD.

April 7, 2023

Finally the 11 disciples, and many others, each were changed people, pointing later to the resurrection as a key cause to this change. This answers their willingness to embrace martyrdom in all but one of them, as John lived to be an old man, still proclaiming this message.

And the point of it all, you say? The point is that there is sufficient reason for us to examine closely for ourselves and enjoy the amazing promises that we can have about our own eternal future.

Apart from this wonderful truth claim by Jesus, I believe that there is no other genuine reason to have hope. Yet believing and embracing this hope is what makes Easter so amazing, for it declares that Grace Works, even in the extremity of death. It is my prayer that you may believe this wonderful, yet challenging, but comforting truth, and come to share in the hope that Jesus offers us all.

Poem for today

What Then? By W B Yeats

His chosen comrades thought at school
He must grow a famous man;
He thought the same and lived by rule,
All his twenties crammed with toil;
'What then?' sang Plato's ghost. 'What then?'

Everything he wrote was read,
After certain years he won
Sufficient money for his need,

April 7, 2023

Friends that have been friends indeed;
'What then?' sang Plato's ghost. 'What then?'

All his happier dreams came true—
A small old house, wife, daughter, son,
Grounds where plum and cabbage grew,
poets and Wits about him drew;
'What then.?' sang Plato's ghost. 'What then?'

The work is done, 'grown old he thought,
'According to my boyish plan;
Let the fools rage, I swerved in naught,
Something to perfection brought';
But louder sang that ghost, 'What then?'

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

