

Church News Ireland



**Image of the day – St George's Anglican Cathedral,
Jerusalem**

Image of the day

St George's Anglican Cathedral, Jerusalem

CNI series of images of the cross during Holy Week brings readers to this photograph of the Rising Paschal Moon at St George's Anglican Cathedral, Jerusalem. More on the cathedral at -

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/
St. George%27s Cathedral, Jerusalem](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._George%27s_Cathedral,_Jerusalem)

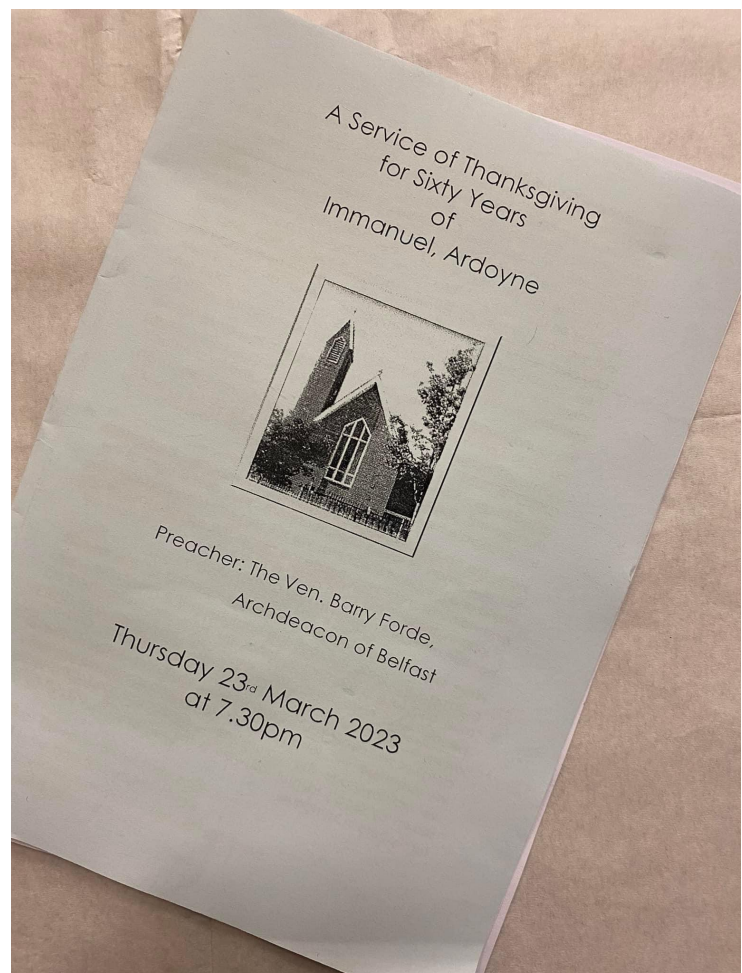
The Diocese of Jerusalem -

<https://j-diocese.org/wordpress/cathedral/>

People and places

60 years of C of I worship and witness at Ardoyne

**A Special Service of
Thanksgiving was
held last month
marking Immanuel
Parish Church's 60**



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years at Ardoyne, Belfast

The service was conducted by the Archdeacon of Belfast, Ben Barry Ford who also preached.



Mr & Mrs James Patterson from St Mark's Ligoniel

The parish maintained the witness of the church during difficult times. Past clergy include the late Canon Warren Jones and the late Canon Noel Wilkinson.

During a period when the area around the church was severely affected by unrest, the then Archbishop of Canterbury, Most Rev. Dr. Michael Ramsey visited the parish during a midweek visit to the city and province.



Don McBride (centre) with two of the West Belfast District Scout Team members

Amongst those who attended the service were Mr & Mrs James Patterson from St Mark's Ligoniel, Mr & Mrs Don McBride from Holy Trinity Parish and members of North West Belfast Scouts District Team headed by their chairman, Mr William Humphries.

Mr McBride, a legend of a teacher at Belfast Model School, was known to many of the young people of the parish.



Parish Sunday School Holy Week crafts

Sharing some of the lovely crafts made for Easter by Lisbellaw Parish Sunday School children during Holy Week.



“Many thanks to them ... and of course to the SS teachers for helping to make the church so beautiful” said an appreciation on the parish Facebook site



Connor MU member at King's first Maundy Money distribution



Joyce Bond and her husband Dean John Bond of Connor diocese travelled to the Maundy Thursday Service in York Minster for the service.

The King distributed his first Maundy Money in York Minster on Thursday. The King, who attended the service of the Royal Maundy with the Queen Consort, gave the specially minted coins to 74 men and 74 women, the number referring to his age.

Joyce, a long-serving member of Mothers' Union, was nominated for the honour by the Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev George Davison. She is one of 74 women and 74 men to receive the Maundy Purse this year.

Joyce recalled how she learned about her nomination. "The post normally brings bills to our home, but one envelope addressed to me had a special seal – the Royal Almonry, Buckingham Palace. I was so shocked when I read the letter, I nearly fell off the chair. I said to myself, 'why me?' There are so many other deserving people."

The visit to York Minister was not the couple's first Royal engagement. John was rector in the Parish of Skerry and Rathcavan, Broughshane, for 17 years, and Dean of Connor for 15 years before retiring in 2016.

Shortly before John retired, he was asked by Standing Committee to represent the Church of Ireland at the Inauguration of the 10th General Synod of the Church of England, to robe for the Inauguration Holy Communion Service in Westminster Abbey, and to attend the Synod proceedings in Church House Westminster.

Joyce said: "We both attended the service. John was seated almost directly opposite Her Majesty. After the service, Queen Elizabeth and The Duke of Edinburgh attended the Synod in the Circular Hall in Church House where I was in the Visitors' Gallery. We heard HM Queen Elizabeth II give her Inauguration speech to General Synod (2015) following a welcome from the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev and Right Hon Justin Welby. It was a memorable and special occasion."

Maundy Thursday focus for bishops, clergy and ministers



Archbishop Michael Jackson delivers his sermon during the Chrism Eucharist

Renewal of Commitment to Ministry: Chrism Eucharist in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin

Clergy and lay ministers from across Dublin & Glendalough gathered with the Archbishop in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, on the morning of April 6 for the traditional Chrism Eucharist for Maundy Thursday.

The service was sung by the Cathedral Choir and during it lay ministers, deacons, priests and the Archbishop renewed their commitment to ministry.



The washing of feet by the Archbishop

With the focus of the service on Maundy Thursday on service, Archbishop Michael Jackson washed the feet of a number of clergy and in turn had his feet washed. Oils were also consecrated.

In his sermon the focus on service continued as Archbishop Jackson talked of the Footwashing and how it contributed to our understanding of the last days and hours of Jesus Christ as he concentrated the minds of the disciples on what lay ahead of them.

In reading St John 13, the Archbishop identified what he termed “the deliberate singling out of” the towel: Jesus got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Jesus began to wash the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him.

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He said: “On Maundy Thursday, God invites us to be clothed in the towel of service, the towel of righteousness and the towel of generosity. While it may indeed be a step too far for some of us, and understandably, others of us may like to give it a try it is the first step of these Three Days leading to Easter Day.”

Clergy and Lay Readers from across Connor Diocese gathered at Belfast Cathedral...

... on the morning of Maundy Thursday, April 6, at the invitation of Bishop George Davison for a service in which they renewed their ordination vows.

Welcoming all present, Bishop George said: “It is a very real privilege to share with you today in the middle of this busy season and to pause for a short time. As we share the Lord’s Supper, we take time to reflect on the call God has placed on our lives and to give thanks for the privilege that has been given us to share in the work of Christ’s Church.”

The Service of Holy Communion was led by the Bishop, who also preached, describing the service as a celebration of the ministry each person present was called to exercise, and a celebration of individual gifts. “I want to acknowledge the gifts you bring and the commitment you show,” said Bishop George.

“I want to thank you for hearing God’s call to service, to thank you for the ministry you offer out of that sense of calling, and to thank you for all that you give of yourselves as you seek to serve Christ and this Church in the particular context of the Diocese of Connor.”

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Bishop Adrian Wilkinson on his first Maundy Thursday service in St Janice's Cathedral with the clergy of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory. A short video of the service is available on the diocesan web site and Facebook site [\[https://www.facebook.com/stcanicescathedral?locale=en_GB\]](https://www.facebook.com/stcanicescathedral?locale=en_GB)



Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

New Braemor study launched: ‘Discipling on Church Street’

Ten years of the Braemor Studies, publishing the best dissertations from MTh students of the Church of Ireland Theological Institute, were marked last Wednesday (29th March) as Number 14 in the series was launched.

Discipling on Church Street: The Lukan Saviour, His First Disciples and Discipleship in a Modern Irish Context was written by the Revd Andy Hay, who currently serves as curate at St Finnian’s, Cregagh, in the Diocese of Down and Dromore.

The study considers what it means to be a disciple of Jesus, by looking at the writings of Luke in the Gospel which carries his name, and the Acts of Apostles. It begins with Jesus’ announcement of his work (Luke 4:16–17) – a “jubilee’ task” setting the context for the Saviour’s words and deeds and those of his first disciples – “freedom for the oppressed, good news for the prisoners, opening of sight for the blind.” The idea of jubilee links back to principles of freedom and release set out in the law given to Israel in the Old Testament.



From left: the Revd Dr Paddy McGlinchey, Dr Raymond Refaüssé (Church of Ireland Publishing), the Revd Andy Hay, Canon Jonathan Pierce, and Canon Dr Maurice Elliott.

Through informal interviews with a range of local church leaders in Belfast, this dissertation seeks to understand how discipleship is understood today and to compare this with discipleship as it is set out in Luke and Acts. Introducing the book, Mr Hay noted that salvation appears six times, and Saviour twice in Luke's Gospel compared to once each in John's Gospel and no references in the Gospels of Matthew or Mark.

“This led me to explore Luke's idea of Jesus the Master as primarily Saviour. Luke uses those words for a reason,” he remarked. Jesus himself used the word salvation in Luke's Gospel, in his encounter with Zacchaeus, whose “turnaround in repentance” decreased his status and wealth

while that of the community around him “is now being lifted and there’s an equalling.”

The Revd Andy Hay speaks at the launch of *Discipling in Church Street*.

Just before this happened, Jesus had asked a blind man calling out for mercy to come forward; the opening of his physical eyes led to praise for God by him and “in the crowds that until that moment had been shunning him.”

Salvation is ultimately seen in the Cross through which Jesus redeems the world. In Acts, we see disciples “praying for and bringing healing to people ... proclaiming the name of their Master ... reordering society in a way that is much more fair.” How discipleship is lived out will vary according to circumstances in each local context but “there will be people where we live who are downtrodden, who are oppressed, and with eyes on our Master we look to what they need.”

Discipling in Church Street on sale at its launch at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute, Braemor Park, Dublin.

One of the most important themes taken up in the study is that discipleship involves suffering. “This will cost,” he continued.

“It cost Zacchaeus, it cost Stephen, it cost Jesus, and it will cost us so that’s something we would look to take seriously as disciples as we understand Luke–Acts as best as we can and we primarily look to our Master.”

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In his words of gratitude, Mr Hay thanked the Revd Dr Paddy McGlinchey, his dissertation supervisor, for his “incredibly diligent” guidance and the other lecturers at CITI, Dr Katie Heffelfinger, Dr Bridget Nichols and Canon Dr Maurice Elliott for informing the dissertation through their classes and conversations. Mr Hay also acknowledged Church of Ireland Publishing and his rector, Canon Jonathan Pierce, for his kind words of introduction.

Discipling on Church Street is on sale for £5.00/€6.00 from the Church of Ireland’s online bookstore:

<https://store.ireland.anglican.org>

Perspective

The Footwashing on Maundy Thursday by Archbishop Michael Jackson

The predictable character of The Footwashing can easily enable us to switch off at precisely the moment when we hear it or indeed read it. The good thing is the clear and obvious sense of what it contributes to our understanding of the last days and hours of Jesus Christ as he concentrates the minds of the disciples on what lies ahead of them.

It is memorable also for the combination of foreboding and compassion and, for the theologically minded among us, the way in which all of this issues in glorification and how this is both a lucid revelation and a perpetual challenge. At precisely the same moment our faith makes greatest sense

and also makes no real sense but somehow we feel it must make best sense. There is no avoiding the impact of St John 13.31b: Then Jesus said, Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him ...

I encourage you who are here as priests, deacons and lay ministers to read this story again each day during this period of The Triduum, the three days of suffering and of sanctity, that lead us to Easter Day; I also encourage you who are here as people of God, what the ordained quaintly call lay people as if we too are not part of the laos that is the people of God, to read it also because it is a gift of discipleship in the heart of Jesus long before it is a claim of clericalism. It is one of those passages of Holy Scripture that binds us all together is what I can only call our Christ-ism. And on Maundy Thursday this matters.

There is something in this long Gospel Reading from St John 13 that sprung out at me and that is the deliberate singling out of, the focusing on, the towel:

Jesus got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself.

Jesus began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him.

This same Jesus is now clothed with glory and so is his Father; well of course they are, because The Gospel of St John presupposes an early but sophisticated understanding of God as Trinity. Let us, in the reflective resonance of this cathedral space which is ours today during the daytime in a very special way, think of how Jesus has been clothed.

Jesus was first clothed in swaddling clothes by his mother Mary, and with a little help from the shepherds. The tight wrapping of the limbs of the special lamb for sacrifice

applied to the child ensured that this tiny creature would be and would remain unblemished for perfect sacrifice. On Christmas Eve this pointed us towards atonement, the restoration of right relationship between us and God brought about in a way that is not a transaction but a grace on which we have no entitlement to place any limitations.

There is, of course, a long journey from The Stable of Bethlehem to The Upper Room in Jerusalem. There are, so to speak, many changes of clothing for the Son of God and the Son of Man. Throughout his public ministry, Jesus is clothed in the service of healing, teaching and preaching, wearing the everyday clothing of a Palestinian man of his day; The Scriptures are clear that he seeks to include and to incorporate others in all of these gifts of service, these Godly normalities; this must be the inspiration of us all on Maundy Thursday too. Entering Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, Jesus is clothed in majesty as he lives out in graphic and pictorial form the Hymn of His Mother Mary whose soul magnified the Lord; he does this by accepting and proclaiming publicly the kingship of the marginalized and their robing him in anoraks and fleeces and t-shirts and hoodies and the like as he enters Jerusalem on a donkey. Jesus is yet again to be clothed by Roman soldiers, with the connivance of the Jewish High Priests, in purple robes and in a crown not of gold but of thorns as a royal pretender deserving penetrating pain rather than glittering gems. And, finally, in what we call Good Friday, Jesus is clothed in a loin cloth as he carries his own cross and as he hangs on his own cross for the atonement and the redemption of the world. The swaddling clothes have gone full circle. Sacrifice is offered. Salvation assured. The clothes carry the story and are the clue to each step.

Each of us will single out something special to us in this towel-service on Maundy Thursday. The elasticity of Maundy Thursday rightly speaks to each one of us as we settle and centre our journey here in Christ Church Cathedral this morning. There is one final suggestion that I have to make. Not only has Simon Peter gone into overdrive; Judas Iscariot has not left the room. This gives everyone hope. Jesus Christ has the instinct to serve both the patron of elated exuberance and the patron of cunning concealment. Commitment and collusion are both cleansed by The Son of Man and The Son of God using a towel. In this act of extraordinary service, there is healing, teaching and preaching. It never was in the power of Jesus to force anyone to receive any of these or indeed to be thanked. The healing, teaching and preaching have not changed but Lordship has changed. While it is the same Lord in whose name the prophets in The Old Testament spoke up for the excluded, the Incarnate Lord includes the evil and the enthusiastic in something the prophets could not directly offer, namely salvation. This too is part of what it is to be clothed in glory on Maundy Thursday – for us to be clothed in glory.

None of us is perfect. This is a truism of truisms. On Maundy Thursday, God invites us to be clothed in the towel of service, the towel of righteousness and the towel of generosity. While it may indeed be a step too far for some of us, and understandably, others of us may like to give it a try it is the first step of these Three Days leading to Easter Day.

Address to clergy at Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin on Maundy Thursday 2023

Poem for today

Old Woman Of The Roads by Padraic Colum

O, to have a little house!
To own the hearth and stool and all!
The heaped up sods against the fire,
The pile of turf against the wall!
To have a clock with weights and chains
And pendulum swinging up and down!
A dresser filled with shining delph,
Speckled and white and blue and brown!
I could be busy all the day
Clearing and sweeping hearth and floor,
And fixing on their shelf again
My white and blue and speckled store!
I could be quiet there at night
Beside the fire and by myself,
Sure of a bed and loth to leave
The ticking clock and the shining delph!
Och! but I'm weary of mist and dark,
And roads where there's never a house nor bush,
And tired I am of bog and road,
And the crying wind and the lonesome hush!
And I am praying to God on high,
And I am praying Him night and day,
For a little house - a house of my own
Out of the wind's and the rain's way.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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