Church News Ireland



Image of the day - Prayer for peace

News reports

C of I church to be a hub and cultural centre for Ukrainian refugees

A church in Dublin city centre will be made available for use as a hub and cultural centre for Ukrainian refugees by the Church of Ireland.

It is part of an initiative that has been launched by its United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough to help Ukrainian people arriving in Ireland.

Permission has been received through the Representative Body Executive Committee and Diocesan Councils to make the Church of St George and St Thomas in Dublin's city centre available for use as a hub and cultural centre.

The well known church, located on Cathal Brugha Street just off O'Connell Street, will become a centre of warmth, welcome and activity for those arriving in Ireland from Ukraine.

Dublin and Glendalough are now issuing a "call to action for Ukraine" and all parishes in the United Dioceses have been urged to focus the fundraising drive throughout Holy Week and Easter.

Funds are required to upgrade kitchen and restroom facilities in St George and St Thomas's to ensure they are fit for use by members of the Ukrainian community.

In a statement it said the United Dioceses has committed to working closely with the Ukrainian community leaders in Ireland to identify practical ways to support and meet the needs of those arriving in the country.

Over the next year, the Church of Ireland intends to sponsor a priest in the Ukrainian Orthodox tradition to provide pastoral and liturgical ministry to Ukrainians who have come to Ireland as displaced people.



Church of Ireland Archbishop of Dublin, Revd Dr Michael Jackson said it was time for the dioceses to pull together and take action.

"Over the past six weeks we have watched in despair as war in Ukraine has unfolded on our screens and in our newspapers. Now it is time to put that despair aside and take action to welcome and support those Ukrainians who have come to Ireland having had no choice but to flee their homes," he said.

Noting President Volodymyr Zelensky's historic address to the Houses of the Oireachtas he said that as Christians "we cannot be morally neutral".

Latest Ukraine news

"As we approach Holy Week I urge you to pray for all people who have been displaced and take action to serve them".

He has asked people to support the U&Ukraine initiative "to enable Ukrainian people arriving in Ireland to feel welcome," he added.

St George and St Thomas's which is located on Cathal Brugha Street in Dublin 1 replaced St. Thomas's Church on Marlborough Street, which was destroyed following a fire during the Irish Civil War in 1922.

In the 1960s the parish of St. Thomas merged with the parish of St. George.

In 1990, St George's Church, Dublin, and the church was renamed the Church of St Thomas and St George.

It has been closed for a number of years.

Courtesy RTE news. Report by Ailbhe Conneely, Social Affairs & Religion Correspondent

Donations to this diocesan project would be welcome - https://dublin.anglican.org/news/2022/04/07/uukraine-dublin-glendalough-call-to

Belfast March of Life

March of Life is an annual march in cities across the world to commemorate the Holocaust, celebrate Jewish life and make a visible stand against antisemitism.

After a gap of two years caused by COVID, the March of Life with the support of Northern Ireland Friends of Israel is coming back to Belfast city centre. It starts at the Jaffe Fountain and ends at City Hall.

The following message is from Mike and Lynn of NIFI: "Dear friends

We are very pleased to be able to invite you to attend this year's March of Life Yom HaShoah commemoration on Sunday 24 April at 3.15pm.

Due to the current climate, we felt to limit this year's commemoration to an outdoor event only (please see flyer below).

MARCH OF LIFE SUN 24th APRIL 2022 - 3.15PM

@ Jaffe Fountain Belfast

TO COMMEMORATE YOM HASHOAH HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

REMEMBER — RECONCILE — TAKE A STAND!

Hatred of Jews and antisemitism have reached alarming levels. Antisemitism is moving back into everyday life, and many remain indifferent. Ronald Lauder, president of the World Jewish Congress made a strong call to action in one of his recent speeches, "Who will speak up? Who dares to come forward?"

The Covid-19 pandemic has been like an accelerant for antisemitism and hatred of Jews. According to a study by the World Zionist Organisation and the Jewish Agency, 2021 was the most antisemitic year world-wide in the last decade. Ten antisemitic incidents of physical and verbal violence occurred on average every day. At the same time, conspiracy theories based on age old antisemitic prejudices flooded social media. Many see Jews as the authors and profiteers of the pandemic. Education and enlightenment are only of limited help. But if we let the truth about antisemitism in our own family, our own city and our own country touch us and we speak about it publicly, then we move hearts and can bring about change.

Join us and send a clear message of support for Jewish life and against antisemitism!

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DUE TO THE NATURE OF THE EVENT AND AS A MARK OF RESPECT WE WOULD LIKE TO ASK ALL PARTICIPANTS TO KINDLY REFRAIN FROM THE USE OF FLAGS OR BANNERS OTHER THAN THOSE ISSUED AND PROVIDED BY THE ORGANISERS. THANK YOU.

PLANNED MEETING POINT - JAFFE FOUNTAIN, VICTORIA SQUARE BELFAST. FINISHING POINT - BELFAST CITY HALL.

IN ORDER TO HELP THE ORGANISERS WITH PLANNING AND TO KEEP YOU INFORMED WE WOULD ASK YOU TO REGISTER BY EMAIL OR FACEBOOK ADDRESSES BELOW.

E-MAIL:- marchoflifeuk@outlook.com

FACEBOOK:- March of Life - U.K. TEL:- +44 (0)28 90998952

March of Life UK UNITED TO BE A LIGHT

It would be great to have your support this year and if you feel you would be able to attend, we would appreciate a brief confirmation email to help us gage numbers for planning.

marchoflifeuk@outlook.com

Bishop's support for Belfast Multicultural Association

The Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev George Davison, has voiced his support for the members of the Belfast Multicultural Association following a suspected arson attack on their centre on April 8.

A fire broke out at the centre in the early hours of the morning and the police are treating it as suspected arson and a hate crime.

Bishop Davison said: "Everyone in our society has a right to live peacefully, and it is a matter of great regret that the actions of a few can cause such distress to the people who meet in these facilities.

"I would also appeal for anyone who has information about this incident to bring that forward to the PSNI."

Installation of Dean of Waterford

The Very Reverend Bruce Hayes was installed as Dean of Waterford and Rector of Waterford Union of Parishes at a special service in Christ Church Cathedral, Waterford on Wednesday, April 6th 2022 at 7 p.m.



He succeeds the Very Reverend Maria Jansson who retired last August.

The new dean is from Dublin and was Rector of Abbeystrewry Union in Cork (Skibbereen) for nine years before becoming Rector of St. Patrick's Church, Dalkey. Married to Samantha, the couple have three teenage sons. Mr Hayes graduated with an Economics and Philosophy degree before training for the priesthood and being ordained in 2002.

The preacher at the service of institution and installation was The Right Reverend Michael Burrows who was

officiating at his last service before leaving to become Bishop of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe on April 14th.

Bishop Burrows welcomed the new Dean and his family to Waterford and wished Mr Hayes well in this new chapter of his life in the city that has been named the 'best place to live in Ireland'.

"This is a joyful and hopeful occasion as Bruce embarks on his new ministry," he said.

In his swansong sermon he went on to speak of the six Deans of Waterford that he has known personally and used one word to sum up each of their ministries – liturgist, thinker, restorer, spirituality, person of business and passion (Deans Brian Mayne, John Neill, Ben Neill, Peter Barrett, Trevor Lester and Maria Jansson respectively). He added that a Dean needs many abilities and he had no doubt but that Dean Bruce Hayes would add his own characteristic strengths to that list in due course.

Mayor of Waterford, Councillor Joe Kelly, welcomed him to the oldest city in Ireland on behalf of the people of Waterford city and county.

Father John Harris, Administrator of the Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity welcomed him on behalf of Bishop Cullinan and the wider community of Waterford, praying God's blessing on his ministry and looking forward to getting to know him and working with him over the coming years.

April 9, 2022

He was also welcomed by Mr Lucas Vandi who represented the Reverend Sahr Yambasu of St Patrick's Methodist Church in Waterford.

Completing the greetings, the Dean's churchwarden, Martin Hourigan, welcomed him to the Union of Parishes that includes Christ Church Cathedral, Waterford, St Andrew's Church, Dunmore East (Killea), Christ Church, Tramore (Drumcannon) and St John the Baptist Church, Annestown (Dunhill)

"We hope you will be very happy here... We welcome you into our hearts," he said.

In reply Dean Bruce thanked everyone for the warm civic and ecumenical welcome he had received at 'this most special service'.

He also thanked those who had organised it and those who prepared the Deanery for his arrival and mentioned, in particular, The Reverend Christine Smyth O'Dowd, curate, who looked after the parishes and cathedral during the vacancy.

"I look forward to getting to know you all...and I will do my best to ensure that your trust in not misplaced," he added.

The Director of Music and organist at the service was Simon Harden and the service was sung by members of the Christ Church Cathedral Choir.

99th Annual Meeting of the Irish Council of Churches

The 99th Annual Meeting of the Irish Council of Churches took place in East Belfast Mission Methodist Church on 31st March 2022, writes Damian Jackson.

The meeting was the context for the election of Bishop Andrew Forster as ICC President for 2022–2024, replacing the Very Rev Ivan Patterson whose term came to an end. Bishop Sarah Groves of the Moravian Church was elected Vice President for 2022–2024 and will serve as President from 2024–2026. The 2021 Annual Report was shared with AGM delegates and is also available here on the ICC website.

The theme of the meeting was "The Unfinished Work of Peace", based on a consultation document prepared by ICC last year. This document examines the role of the national ecumenical bodies in peacebuilding and reconciliation work, the various methods by which they have pursued this calling in the past, and seeks to stimulate discussion of a new vision for a shared future that can guide and inspire this work in future years.

Rev Dr Tony Davidson, a former president of ICC gave the keynote address, reflecting on this document and challenging the churches in Ireland to collaborate in articulating such a vision, inspired by the Christ who takes the inevitability out of history, set free from the seeming inertia of the status quo.



ICC Officers 2022–2024. Very Rev Ivan Patterson (Immediate Past President), Bishop Andrew Forster (President), Bishop Sarah Groves (Vice President)

In a panel discussion on local inter–church reconciliation work, the meeting heard from Gladys Ganiel, who spoke about her involvement in the 4 Corners Festival, Hedley Abernethy of Corrymeela; Rev Tracey McRoberts, rector at St Matthew's on the Shankill; and Ed Petersen of Clonard Monastery.

In his remarks as outgoing ICC President, Rev Patterson also reflected on the churches calling to peacebuilding, pointing out that God chose us in Christ and made peace in Christ so that we would be reconciled to him. He is a God of peace. However, peacemaking is a difficult path to take, especially when it challenges old loyalties and thought patterns. We need to have the humility to unlearn prejudices. For this to happen we need spaces for people to

speak and listen to one another. That is part of what ICC tries to do.

Bishop Forster, in his reflection as incoming ICC President, recalled the origins of the ICC 99 years ago and the Irish Inter—Church Meeting (through which ICC collaborates with the Catholic Bishops Conference) 49 years ago. Continuing the thoughts from Rev Davidson on the importance of vision, he noted how far the vision that inspired those courageous initiatives has carried us. This was illustrated by prayer walk around the walls of Derry/Londonderry that he and Bishop Donal McKeown undertook in January during the week of prayer for Christian Unity. Fifty years ago that walk would have been impossible, but now is regarded as obvious, and almost mundane. He closed with a call for continuing this journey of engagement:

As we continue to journey together and move into a year of reflection, we should be really thankful for the journey we have travelled. We are still quick to see disagreements and the still standing walls of division and the hurt of being misunderstood. But we are called to a journey of engagement and understanding and that has become a journey of love. God made us in all our diversity to bless his world and be lights in his world. This is the vision we have – that the church can be a light of hope that can shine on our communities. The journey of the church has been guided by a vision of something better: a reconciled community and reconciled family of God.

Church News Ireland



Fabulous finish to NI wide organ recitals

Last Wednesday night's 10th birthday gala at Belfast Cathedral rounded off 10 spectacular days of music-making with some of the world's finest young organists.

Each of them have been brilliant ambassadors at every stage: careers that will be forever linked to Northern Ireland.

Thank you to the great numbers who came along to support them. The organisers were especially honoured to have Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Belfast, Mrs Fionnuala Jay-O'Boyle, her husband Richard, and the Deputy Lord Mayor of Belfast, Alderman Tom Haire present.



"From presenters to funders, sponsors, the regional churches, composer Grace-Evangeline Mason and everyone else who worked alongside us, we say thank you! Arts Council of Northern Ireland Commission for Victims and Survivors"

Cycling for Africa in Drumbeg

Wonderful to see Rev Willie Nixon (Drumbeg Parish, linked to the Diocese of Egypt) employing pedal power to raise funds for Mission at the parish "Daily Lent Cycle at the Coop" Photos next page.

CMSI shouted out a big thank you to Willie, all the parishioners taking part, and to all who are supporting the effort.





Linda Abwa (CMSI), Rev Willie Nixon, Nigel Quinn (Lay Reader), Sandy Wood & Keith Steele (Mission Committee)

Pop along for a coffee at the Coop beside the parish church and pop something in the bucket for the church in Egypt'

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



Family videos for Easter

If you're looking for a cool and interesting family engaging way to explain why the story of easter is so important look no further than NUA - featuring @buildingblocks by Darren

There are 3 video episodes you can download and alongside the videos is a downloadable resource pack with quizzes and reflection activities formatted for youth groups, classroom delivery and home learning.

Check it all out here: http://ow.ly/mzRZ50IARyP

Lego Easter video

Another great video for Palm Sunday and Easter weekend -. This is a really well made Lego video from the team at Go Chatter. There are a number of lego videos circulating but



this one is well produced and appropriate for all ages in the family.

You can purchase the downloadable full version for less than €10 and you can adapt it to your church or club ready to play - or just for your little ones at home to encourage them to chatter about Jesus. http://ow.ly/njiw50IEGWT

Reflections-on-transgender-experience

The concepts of transgender and gender dysphoria have often been misunderstood and maligned within the church. Yet behind the experiences are real people, created and loved by God, who are often wrestling with suffering and their sense of self. How can Christians engage compassionately and faithfully with those who identify as transgender or who experience gender dysphoria?

https://grovebooks.co.uk/products/p-166-people-not-pronouns-reflections-on-transgender-experience

Perspective

Large sections of Whitehall seem to be sleepwalking towards catastrophe on the Northern Ireland Protocol by Lord Dodds

Brexit may seem the least of our concerns right now, Nigel Dodds writes...

However, the unfinished business of Northern Ireland threatens a major crisis for the UK government on top of everything else it is dealing with.

The collapse in the necessary cross-community consensus for the political institutions in Belfast portends serious longlasting problems for Downing Street.

Yet large sections of Whitehall seem to be sleepwalking towards catastrophe.

The infamous Northern Ireland Protocol which was hastily agreed 'to get Brexit done' is now rubbished by its own authors, including Boris Johnson.

And no wonder.

It is destroying the very Belfast Agreement it is said to protect.

That's because it tears up the principle of consent which is at its heart. Not a single MLA or MP of any unionist party supports the protocol.

It trashes the East/West relationship (Strand Three of the Belfast Agreement) by erecting barriers between Northern Ireland the rest of the UK in order to elevate and safeguard North/South relations (Strand Two).

Full text at -

[https://app.newsletter.co.uk/full_page_image/ page-16-1275/content.html]

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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