

# Church News Ireland

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## Image of the day – The Cross in Holy Week 2 Hexham Abbey

April 4, 2023

# Image of the day

## The Cross in Holy Week 2

### Hexham Abbey

Hexham Abbey is one of the earliest seats of Christianity in England.

Since its beginning, it has witnessed periods of immense turmoil and

change, across the region and within the English Church itself.

Many of these are reflected in the very fabric of the building we see today. Work began in 673-674

[<https://www.hexhamabbey.org.uk/contact>]



# People and places

## Palm Sunday processions in Clogher



The Palm Sunday procession to St Macartin's Cathedral Enniskillen.

**Palm Sunday was marked in parishes throughout Clogher Diocese today with special services and hymns being sung.**

In Enniskillen, the traditional Palm Sunday procession took place from the Cathedral Hall to St. Macartin's Cathedral, led by Tom the donkey.

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Dean Kenneth Hall accompanied by Revd. Colin Brownsmith and Mr Scott Elliott, Parish Reader, followed by members of the choir and congregation waved palm branches as they recited the prayer, Hosanna.

In several parishes, a Palm Sunday procession took place to the church.



Lisbellaw was exemplary - more photos on the parish Facebook site





## **C of I Ethnic Diversity, Inclusion and Racial Justice Group meets in person**

**On Friday (31 March), the Primate’s Ethnic Diversity, Inclusion and Racial Justice Reference Group met in Dublin for their first in–person meeting.**

The Archbishop of Armagh, the Most Revd John McDowell, chaired the meeting which discussed actions for the year ahead including education on racial equality and justice, equitable representation within Church structures and events to promote inclusiveness within the Church of Ireland.

## **Mental Health Talks and Walks of Wellbeing in Dublin**

**A series of events to encourage and support positive mental health will take place in the dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough this spring.**

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Organised by the Revd Garth Bunting, Rural Dean of St

# What is Mental Ill-Health?

Signs, Symptoms & What To Do About Them



**Two free Talks aimed at resourcing those struggling with their own mental health or supporting others who are.**

**Wednesday 8th February, 8pm:**  
St. John the Baptist Parish Centre, Seafield Road, Clontarf, Dublin 3. D03 VW22

**Friday 10th March, 8pm:**  
Castleknock Parish Centre, Castleknock Road, Dublin 15. D15 DK54

*Speaker: Caríosa Walsh, ICP accredited individual and group therapist.*



**Doras Oscailte**

**MindMatters COI**

- Reducing Stigma
- Promoting Connections
- Clergy Training and Supports
- Mental Health and Faith

## Walks of Wellbeing

Gentle, guided walks with a focus on friendship and mindfulness

### Sunday 2nd April

St. Anne's Park, Raheny  
(meet at the Red Stables)  
3-5pm

Led by Rev. David White

### Sunday 7th May

Phoenix Park  
(meet at Papal Cross)  
3-5pm  
Led. by Rev. Ruth Noble

### Saturday 27th May

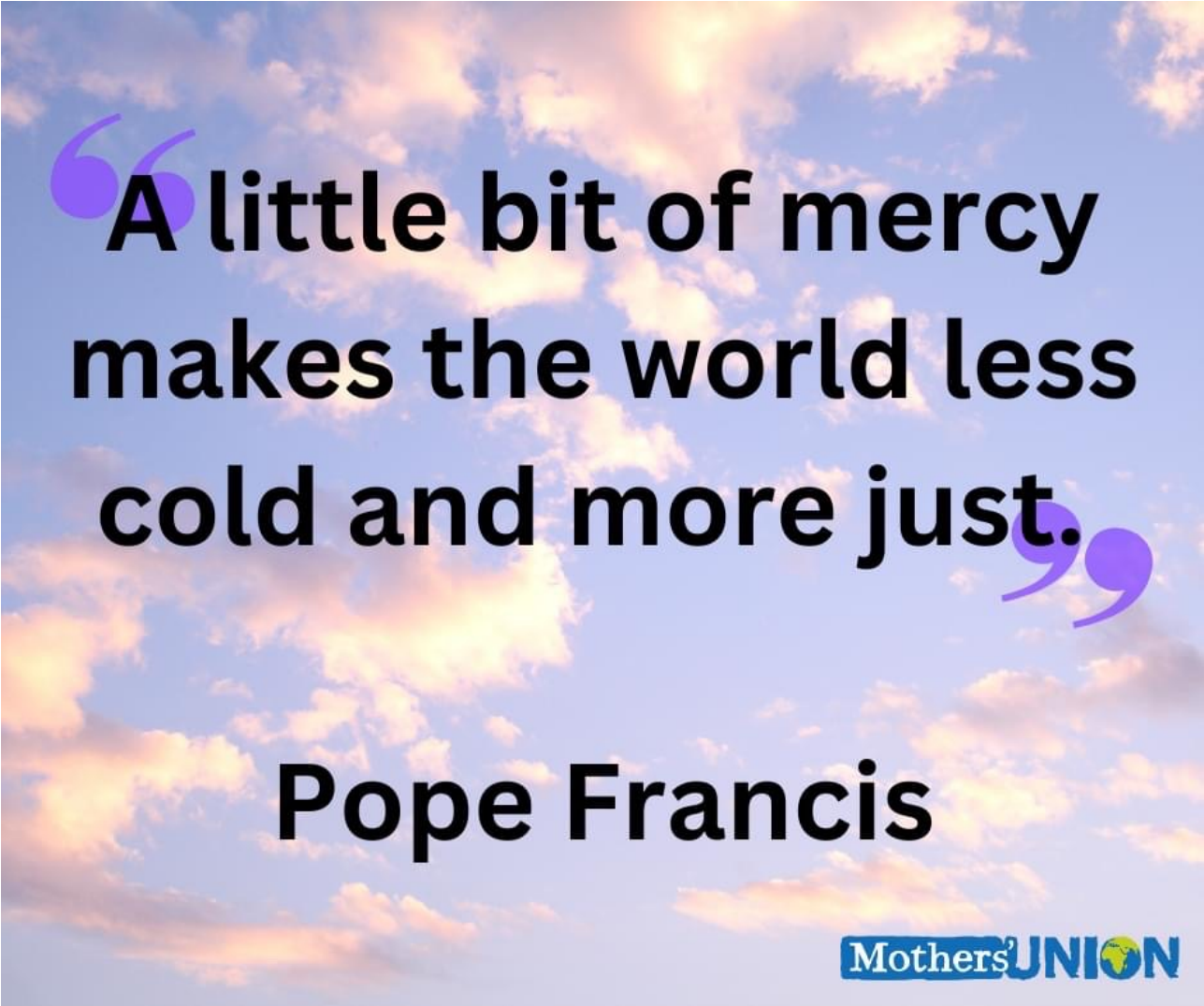
Glendalough  
(meet at St. John's Church, Laragh)  
11am-4pm  
Led by Rev. Brian O'Reilly  
(please bring water and a packed lunch)

More information on any of these events at  
086 0386415  
087 9091561

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Organised by the Revd Garth Bunting, Rural Dean of St Mary and Canon Lesley Robinson, Rural Dean of Fingal, the events are part of the Church of Ireland's MindMatters project.

Free talks, entitled 'What is Mental Ill-Health? Signs, symptoms and what to do about them', will take place in each Rural Deanery. The first, on Wednesday February 8 at 8pm, will take place in St John the Baptist Parish Centre, Seafield Road, Clontarf, Dublin 3. The second will be on Friday March 10 at 8pm in Castleknock Parish Centre, Castleknock Road, Dublin 15. The speaker will be Cariosa Walsh, ICP accredited individual and group therapist and



**“A little bit of mercy  
makes the world less  
cold and more just.”**

**Pope Francis**

**Mothers' UNION**

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the talks are aimed at resourcing those struggling with their own mental health or who are supporting others who are.

Walks of Wellbeing – gentle guided walks with a focus on friendship and mindfulness, will take place in three different locations in April and May. On Sunday April 2 the Revd David White will lead a walk in St Anne’s Park in Raheny (meet at the Red Stables) from 3pm to 5pm. On Sunday May 7 the Revd Ruth Noble will lead a walk in the Phoenix Park (meet at the Papal Cross) from 3pm to 5pm. On Saturday May 27 the Revd Brian O’Reilly will lead a walk in Glendalough (meet at St John’s Church, Laragh) from 11am to 4pm. Walkers in Glendalough are asked to bring water and a packed lunch.

For more information on any of these events contact 086–0386415/087–9091561.

## **Rector of Muckamore and Killead**

**The Rev Derek Harrington has been appointed Priest-in-Charge of the Grouped Parishes of Muckamore and Killead, Antrim.**

Derek, 39, is currently curate of Christ Church Parish in Lisburn. He and his wife Anne-Marie have a young daughter and are expecting their second child in July.

Derek grew up in Co Tyrone and worked as a maths teacher for seven years before entering full-time training for the ministry. He was ordained deacon in 2017 and served his deacon internship in the Grouped Parishes of Derg and



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Killeter, Diocese of Derry and Raphoe.

Derek and Anne-Marie moved to Lisburn in 2018 when he was ordained priest/presbyter to begin his curacy.



The Rev Derek and Mrs. Harrington

Anne-Marie is from Lille, France, and is fluent in French, English and German.

Derek said the family are excited to begin this next chapter of their life and ministry among the people of Muckamore and Killead.

“We are really looking forward to meeting everyone and getting to know the people not only in the churches, but in the local community,” he said.

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“We are excited by this opportunity to be a part of the work that God is doing in and through the people of St Jude’s and St Catherine’s.”

A date for the Service of Introduction is to be confirmed.

## Stepping down after 50 years as church treasurer

**The work of David Scholes OBE, who has stepped down after 50 years as treasurer in All Saints’ Parish Church, Belfast, was described by the Bishop of Connor as ‘the fruit of a sincere Christian faith.’**

This achievement was marked at the first Easter General Vestry of the new United Parish of St Nicholas and All Saints. David has served alongside four rectors, beginning with the Rev Canon Sydney Smart in 1973.

The present rector, the Rev Trevor Johnston, commended David on this notable attainment. “David has that rare combination of gifts in church treasurers of carefully accounting for every penny but was also a visionary who didn’t want us to be a ‘rich church’ but rather spend for the glory of Christ and the spread of his gospel,” Trevor said.

“He didn’t let money be the determining factor as to whether the church should do something or not. Rather, he let the money follow the ministry.



David Scholes OBE, (centre) who has stood down after 50 years as treasurer, with the Rev Trevor Johnston, rector, St Nicholas and All Saints (left); and the Rev Peter Blair, curate, St Nicholas and All Saints.

“I am grateful for his being a very good friend, encourager, confidant and giving wise counsel over my almost 10 years as rector.”

David said it had been ‘an honour’ to serve in All Saints. “Fifty years may seem a long time, but there was always lots to do, which, with hindsight, made time fly,” he commented.

“It has been a privilege to be a part of the transformational journey of All Saints, from a normal city parish to one where it is now able to contend for Christ in a modern multicultural and diverse inner-city area.

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“Many churches did not survive the enormous upheaval of the Troubles and the social change in the seventies and eighties. I am convinced All Saints has been preserved, by the Lord, for a reason – to act as a stimulus to spiritual regeneration in the city of Belfast.”

David continued: “This is a real-life challenge and one which the new St Nicholas and All Saints’ Church is uniquely placed to meet by staying focused on the truth of the Bible and looking to the Lord for his provision. It also has a constructive blend of the ‘energy of youth’ and the ‘temperance of age’ to help address the problems that will arise.”

The Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev George Davison, in noting David’s achievement over half a century, said: “I want to add my words of thanks to those of the people of St Nicholas and All Saints as David Scholes completes 50 years in the role of treasurer of All Saints’, Belfast. It seems remarkable that one who still looks so fresh could have held that office for such a long time!”

The Bishop continued: “David’s commitment to serve the Church is the fruit of a sincere Christian faith and I thank him for all his work in managing the financial resources of his parish to promote the work of the gospel in South Belfast.”

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## News reports

### Erasing UK's Christian history would be a constitutional and spiritual 'disaster', says MP

**A Christian MP has warned against attempts to erase the influence of Christianity from the UK's history.**

Speaking during a debate in Westminster Hall on the importance of Christianity in society, Nick Fletcher, Conservative MP for Don Valley, questioned why the UK seemed so reluctant to celebrate its Christian heritage.

He expressed regret that "fewer and fewer people understand even the most basic claims of the Christian faith" and suggested that the UK should instead be "proud" of its heritage.

"Some want to rewrite history, but everywhere we look, we see our Christian heritage, and nowhere more than in this place," he said.

"It matters to our national life, it is the air we breathe. Although many deride and want to misrepresent it, the reality is that it has been a source of great benefit.

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"Much of what makes Britain great stems from this heritage, and many others from around the world recognise that, so why don't we?"

"We should be proud of our Christian history and our Christian values. It would be a constitutional disaster to try and erase it, but even worse, it would be a spiritual disaster."

Speaking during the debate, housing minister Felicity Buchan noted the impact of Christianity not only on the nation's history but in local communities, despite the recent Census showing falling numbers of believers.

She said that the UK's Christian history should be celebrated.



Almighty and everliving God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



"The latest Census tells us that the number of Christians living in this country has decreased; however, Christianity remains the most prominent religion," she said.

"Christianity has shaped this country's history, and we should recognise and celebrate that. We can all be proud of our Christian heritage and values."

## **Lambeth Palace appoints new Advisor for Anglican Communion Affairs**

**The Archbishop of Canterbury has looked again to Africa in selecting his new adviser on the Anglican Communion. The Very Rev. Sammy Wainaina, provost of All Saints' Cathedral in Nairobi, will succeed Bishop Anthony Poggo of South Sudan.**

Poggo, who became the Anglican Communion's secretary general in September, succeeded a Nigerian archbishop, the Most Rev. Josiah Idowu-Fearon, who had served in the role since 2015.

"Provost Sammy has been a dedicated and faithful priest for many years, and a creative and evangelistic Provost of All Saints Cathedral in Kenya," Archbishop Justin Welby said in a brief statement released by Lambeth Palace.

"I'm grateful that he will be joining the diverse team at Lambeth Palace, supporting us in our ministry to and with the global Anglican Communion. His ministry in parish and cathedral life, combined with his experience across different

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Anglican traditions, will be a valuable contribution to the senior team at Lambeth.”

Wainaina will work in a less visible manner than he has at the cathedral. He has been a regular critic of Kenya’s political leaders, from rejecting state-sanctioned prayers to challenging President William Ruto to declare his wealth. But he also urged Kenyans not to heckle the nation’s departing president, Uhuru Kenyatta, in September 2022.

As described in Lambeth Palace’s statement, Wainaina will “support and advise the Archbishop of Canterbury in his role in the Anglican Communion,” and will spend time on administrative tasks, such as “coordinating the Archbishop’s visits within the Anglican Communion, and managing correspondence from and about the Anglican Communion that comes to Lambeth Palace.”

Wainaina has studied in African schools (St. Paul’s Theological College, Kapsabet, and St. Paul’s University, Limuru) and the United Kingdom (Reading University). He earned a Doctor of Ministry from Asbury Theological Seminary in Kentucky.

GAFCON, a frequent critic of Archbishop Welby, has shown an interest in Wainaina’s ministry as the dean of All Saints’ Cathedral. He was featured in a podcast interview in June 2021, and he wrote a reflection (“Why GAFCON?”) in 2018.

Paul Kurgat of Kenyans.co.ke quoted Bishop Joseph Galgalo, assistant bishop of the Diocese of All Saints, as saying Lambeth Palace had approached Wainaina about the role in June 2022. He said Wainaina agreed to accept the



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role by November, with the blessing of the Most Rev. Jackson Ole Sapit, Archbishop of Kenya.

“I am delighted to be appointed as the Advisor for Anglican Communion Affairs,” Wainaina said in a statement released by Lambeth Palace. “It is my hope that my experience in serving the Church of Kenya, especially the All Saints’ Cathedral, Nairobi, will contribute positively to the Anglican Communion. I thank Archbishop Jackson Ole Sapit for his trust and blessing.”

Sapit is among the Global South archbishops who have denounced the Church of England’s decision to authorize blessings for same-sex couples. Like several other African archbishops, he has said the next meeting of GAFCON will discuss the future of the Anglican Communion’s leadership.

## In the media

### **Sunak can still bring the DUP round to his Protocol plans - Arlene Foster**

**Much of the analysis around the Democratic Unionist Party’s (DUP) views on the Windsor Framework is misleading at best. While the party did not vote for Rishi Sunak’s motion on Wednesday, it is simply not true that it opposed his plans outright. The debate was after all on one element of the Framework: the Stormont brake.**

In truth, the DUP has been open to Mr Sunak’s proposals. As Sir Jeffrey Donaldson indicated when the deal was first announced, significant progress has been made in certain

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areas. It was therefore worthwhile for Mr Sunak to seek to renegotiate the Northern Ireland Protocol and alleviate some of the serious challenges faced under its implementation.

The DUP's outstanding complaints need not torpedo the Framework. They are about the need for clarification in some key areas. If these clarifications are made, either in UK law or through some other domestic mechanism, then there is still a pathway for restoring Stormont.

One example of the need for clarification is how the Framework relates to the Act of Union. The first of seven DUP tests for Mr Sunak's deal is that it should fulfil Article 6 of the Act, which states that all parts of the United Kingdom shall have the same allowances, encouragements and draw-backs, and be under the same prohibitions, restrictions and regulations of trade, and liable to the same customs, duties, imports and exports.

It is not yet clear to me that No 10 is guaranteeing these obligations. The Framework's legal position claims to "respect" the Act of Union by protecting the economic rights of people in Northern Ireland. Mr Sunak's view seems to be that, by dealing with practical issues, he is working towards a de facto harmonisation of trade between GB and NI, and therefore fulfilling Article 6 in a roundabout way. If this is indeed his intention, it might help if he sets it out clearly and outlines safeguards in law.

Mr Sunak would also have to find a way to diminish the practical issues caused by the bearing of EU regulations on Northern Ireland's manufacturers. While it is good progress that people in Northern Ireland will, under the Framework,

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be unimpeded in buying sausages from other parts of the UK, it remains the case that sausages made in Northern Ireland, which is part of the UK, have to be made to EU standards because EU law applies to all of our manufactured goods. This applies even if our sausages are sold into the UK market, as most of our products are.

Then there are the concerns over the Stormont brake. Analysis published this week by the European Research Group showed just how convoluted the process is, and how difficult it will be to use in practice. Since the EU has already conceded that the brake must be built on the principle of consent, this is an issue that London can address directly.

As a member of the DUP's panel of eight consulting on the Windsor Framework, I do not doubt that important practical steps have been taken, and that trade will be easier with the Framework than before. But now, to restore devolution in Northern Ireland, the Prime Minister should know that it is eminently possible to meet the DUP's remaining concerns. This is not a zero-sum game – we all care about the Union.

Arlene Foster is a former first minister of Northern Ireland and a non-affiliated peer. This article was first published by The Daily Telegraph on 24 March 2023

## Poem for today

### See it through by Edgar A. Guest

When you're up against a trouble,  
Meet it squarely, face to face;

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Lift your chin and set your shoulders,  
Plant your feet and take a brace.  
When it's vain to try to dodge it,  
Do the best that you can do;  
You may fail, but you may conquer,  
See it through!

Black may be the clouds about you  
And your future may seem grim,  
But don't let your nerve desert you;  
Keep yourself in fighting trim.  
If the worst is bound to happen,  
Spite of all that you can do,  
Running from it will not save you,  
See it through!

Even hope may seem but futile,  
When with troubles you're beset,  
But remember you are facing  
Just what other men have met.  
You may fail, but fall still fighting;  
Don't give up, whate'er you do;  
Eyes front, head high to the finish.  
See it through!

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## Church News Ireland

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