

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Christians at Belfast Pride**

August 1, 2022

## Image of the day

**Christians at Belfast Pride - pages 6 to 8**

## People and places



### **St Columb's Cathedral Choirmen sing in the National Youth Choir NI**

Congratulations to Leo and Lukas, two of the younger Gentlemen of St Columb's Cathedral Choir, Derry, who were singing with the National Youth Choir NI last week in a fantastic performance of Durufle's Requiem in St George's Church, Belfast. Well done.

## Methodist Ireland - Hungary link

**The Irish Methodist World Development & Relief** has supported The United Methodist Church in Hungary as it continues to bring humanitarian aid to both the UMC in Ukraine and to a refugee camp near Debrecen, where more than 170 people are living.



The Irish Methodist World Mission Partnership has a new Partnership Coordinator, David Nesbitt!

## Education across the island of Ireland debate

**You are invited to the Feile an Phobail on Tuesday 09 August from 11am-12.30pm at St Mary's University College Belfast for a Discussion & Debate event on 'Education across the island of Ireland'.**

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Taking part will be Stephen Roulston (Ulster University) and Martin Brown (Dublin City University) who will explore the differences and similarities between the two education systems.

To register for your free place, please visit:

<https://educationacrosstheislandofireland.eventbrite.co.uk>

For more information and to submit a question for the speakers, please email: [jessica@ief.org.uk](mailto:jessica@ief.org.uk).

## **Global church leaders will come to Ireland following Lambeth Conference**

**Next week CMSI, along with SAMS Ireland, will host 36 global church leaders from Africa, South America and Nepal for a one-week programme, following the Lambeth Conference.**

In addition to spending time with link parishes and supporters, the global guests will contribute to three events that CMSI and SAMS Ireland are jointly hosting:

1. On Wednesday 10th August, a day conference for Church Of Ireland leaders.

Kingdom Voices: Learning From The Global Church, the main aims of the event are:

- To provide an opportunity for engaging together as leaders within the worldwide Church.
- To hear from and learn from the practical experiences of our Global Partners.





# Kingdom Voices

- To explore God's Word together as we consider our shared calling to mission and to seeing God's Kingdom Come in our own communities.

The event will take place between 10am and 4pm in St Donard's, Belfast. Booking essential at; <https://cmsirelandforms.wufoo.com/forms/s1ibev9m1nncolf/>

2. Friday 12th August, a Multicultural Evening Celebration Service in St Anne's Cathedral, 7.30pm. An open event for all who want to join with our global visitors for a time of worship and sharing. An opportunity to celebrate the richness in our worldwide family of faith.

3. Saturday 13th August, a Family Fun Day in Lady Dixon Park, 2-4.30pm. An informal afternoon to meet the global

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guests with activities for all ages. African Warriors acrobatics troupe, bouncy castle, barbecue, Irish dancing and more!



## Christians at Belfast Pride

There was a significant expression of 'Christians at Pride' on Saturday past.

The first parade in three years received the greatest degree









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of support  
from  
walkers  
and  
spectators.





## **Latest road fatalities figures “shocking” – Bishop Fintan Monahan**

### **Bishop Fintan Monahan shocked and saddened at serious surge in road traffic accidents with road deaths and injuries**

“I am thinking of the parable of the ‘Good Samaritan’ which encourages us to act responsibly and care for the stranger” – Bishop Monahan

Road users called to “Summer Safely” following 95 road deaths and 673 serious injuries

Bishop Monahan offered the 10.00am Mass for the protection of all road users from the summit of Croagh Patrick on Reek Sunday

With the August long weekend approaching, Bishop Fintan Monahan, Bishop of Killaloe, joined with the Road Safety Authority, and An Garda Síochána, to call on road users to “Summer Safely” as the peak holiday season begins. Last month, the June long weekend recorded eight people dying in road collisions.

Bishop Monahan said, “I am shocked and saddened to hear this week about the number of road deaths and accidents. This loss of life is devastating for the families and loved ones of the deceased and a tragedy for our society. While the highest number of monthly fatalities in ten years was recorded in August 2021 – with an alarming total of 22



### **Bishop Fintan Monohan (left) at The Reek**

deaths – this year already has seen a 42% increase in fatalities over the same period for 2021.

“So far this year there has been a serious surge in road traffic accidents with 95 people dying on our roads, as well as 673 people being seriously injured. Regardless of how each of us use our road network – pedestrian, cyclist, scooter, motorcycle or vehicle – we each have a responsibility to stop this rise in road traffic accidents. I am thinking here of the parable of the ‘Good Samaritan’ which encourages us to act responsibly and care for the stranger. Human life is sacred and, especially at this time of year, we need to be alert that there are higher traffic volumes which means a greater degree of danger when on the road.”



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Bishop Monahan continued, “We should heed the advice of the professionals, the RSA and the Gardaí, namely, not to speed, don’t hold a mobile phone, always wear a seatbelt and to expect the unexpected when using the road network.

“I encourage parishes to pray for the lives we have lost on our roads, for their families and to encourage safe driving this August long weekend.

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## **John Moores Foundation: Grants for Northern Ireland**

**Funding for core running costs, volunteer expenses education & training, venue & travel cost, one-off projects & small items of equipment**

New applicants need to contact them first

<https://bit.ly/3oC9ljp>



**THE BAND OF HER MAJESTY'S  
ROYAL MARINES SCOTLAND**

**PLATINUM  
JUBILEE  
CONCERT**

**ST ANNE'S CATHEDRAL  
BELFAST  
21 SEPTEMBER 2022  
7:30PM**

**FOR TICKETS AND CONCERT  
INFORMATION  
[WWW.EVENTBRITE.CO.UK](http://WWW.EVENTBRITE.CO.UK)**





## World News


### Ron Sider, Evangelical who pushed for social action

**For nearly 50 years, Sider called evangelicals to care about the poor and see poverty as a moral issue.**

He argued for an expanded understanding of sin to include social structures that perpetuate inequality and injustice, and urged Christians to see how their salvation should compel them to care for their neighbors.

“Salvation is a lot more than just a new right relationship with God through forgiveness of sins. It’s a new, transformed lifestyle that you can see visible in the body of believers,” he said. “Sin is a biblical category. Given a careful reading of the world and the Bible and our giving patterns, how can we come to any other conclusion than to say that we are flatly disobeying what the God of the Bible says about the way he wants his people to care for the poor?”

Sider was a key facilitator of the born-again left that emerged in the 1970s. But he lived to see American evangelicals largely turn away from concerns about war, racism, and inequality. He continued to speak out, however, and became, as a Christianity Today writer once described it, the “burr in the ethical saddle” of the white evangelical horse.



Eternal God,  
we may only see our small corner of this earth,  
You will see the whole expanse  
of countless universes,  
yet we are called to bring our prayers  
not only for ourselves,  
but for those around us.

His landmark book, *Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger*, inspired generations of young Christians, selling 400,000 copies in nine languages. CT ranked it as one of the most influential evangelical titles of the 20th century, right after J. I. Packer's *Knowing God* and Kenneth Taylor's *The Living Bible*.

Rich Stearns, president emeritus of World Vision, called Sider "a great Christian soul and a passionate justice warrior." Adam Russell Taylor, the president of Sojourners,



said he was “was a longtime friend and ally” and “a tireless proponent of peace and justice.” Both referenced the impact of Sider’s book on their lives.

Sider was born in Fort Erie, Ontario, in September 1939. Raised on a 275-acre farm, his father was a farmer and a pastor in the Brethren in Christ Church, an Anabaptist and Wesleyan tradition that combined concern for holiness, a commitment to peace, and a literalist reading of the Sermon on the Mount.

Sider was the first in his family to pursue higher education, but he carried with him the conviction that Christian faith was not merely intellectual assent: True faith should shape your whole life.

## Pope’s visit to Canada

**Pope Francis expressed his “sorrow, indignation and shame” as he apologised for the Catholic Church’s role in the abuse of more than 150,000 Canadian Indigenous children who were taken from their families and packed off to boarding schools.**

Francis, the first pontiff from the Americas, offered an apology to around 2,000 survivors gathered at the site of one of the biggest of the former residential schools, where children were starved, beaten and sexually abused in a system that Canada’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission called “cultural genocide”.



The Pope went even further, apologising for Christian support of the overall “colonising mentality” of the times and calling for a “serious investigation” of the schools to assist survivors and descendants in healing.

Among those gathered in the town of Maskwacis in Alberta were tribal chiefs, some of them in beaded shirts and feathered headdresses, others beating traditional drums.

The pontiff said he felt “a deep sense of pain and remorse” having heard of the “devastating experiences” suffered by children at the schools, a decades-long system which he



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described as a “deplorable evil” and “catastrophic” for Indigenous people.

“I humbly beg forgiveness ... for the evil committed by so many Christians,” he said.

Around 4,000 children died from disease, neglect and other causes, with many buried in mass graves, which have come to light in recent years.

Find out more: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2022-07/pope-francis-canada-homily-mass-indigenous-edmonton-stadium.html>

## In the media

### David Trimble, ‘He went to church every Sunday – no matter where in world he was’

**The Presbyterian cleric who ministered to David Trimble through the most pressured years of his political career has described him as “a serious Christian” who never failed to attend church on Sunday – no matter where he was in the world, the News Letter reports**

Rev David Knox was minister of Harmony Hill Presbyterian Church in Lisburn from 1992-2017, which the Trimble family still attends and which is the venue for Lord Trimble’s funeral today Monday at 12.30pm.

Asked about the peer's faith, Rev Knox told the News Letter: "He was very dedicated, he never missed a Sunday. He might have been all over the world but he would still try and make it on Sunday.

"He would bring me orders of service from all over the world. And he would send me things that he thought I would be interested in. So he was a serious Christian man."

As he travelled so much he was not involved in midweek life of the church, Rev Knox said, however his wife Daphne "was very involved and still is". All four of their children – Richard, Victoria, Nicholas and Sarah – became communicant members of the church, completing formal classes on the meaning of taking communion.

Asked if Lord Trimble's faith went further than his exceptional intellect, Rev Knox said: "I think very much he was a serious Christian. He believed in reconciliation, I mean there was a growth in his politics and his understanding and so on, so he grew."

When in London on Sundays he attended the Crown Court Church of Scotland and when in Washington DC he attended the National Presbyterian Church, he said. Rev Knox recalled how David was an enthusiastic participant in annual joint services with the neighbouring St Coleman's Catholic Church in Lisburn.

"He would have been supportive of all that. He was regarded slightly askance by the more conservative people [within the wider church], of which there were quite a few. But his faith was a reconciling faith, most definitely."



Rev Knox noted that David was also a member of the Orange Order, but suggested that he had not taken an active role for some 20-30 years.

When David and John Hume were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for securing the Good Friday Agreement, Rev Knox decided they had to mark the occasion. “David came in about 10 minutes early as he usually did on Sunday and everybody clapped for him. He was clearly embarrassed, but you had to do something.”

He noted that David had a very egalitarian approach to church and actively mixed with people from all walks of life every week in church. The cleric saw him at Harmony Hill as recently as six weeks ago. “He was still a very regular attender.”

He also noted that while David had voted against LGBT legislation as an MP, he then amended his views and publicly supported his daughter Vicky when she entered a same-sex marriage in 2017. “If you love your family that is what you do, I think. I respect his decision.”

Just before Covid, he recalled a special worship service at Harmony Hill attended by Catholics and Protestants. “And David chose a modern version of Psalm 1, ‘Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the ungodly’.

“It sort of sums up his beliefs in many ways because he was a man of great integrity, I always found. He stood up and talked about it and I remember he said he wished we sang it more often. In my view he was the greatest Ulsterman who ever lived.”

## Poem for today

### The Harbour by Eavan Boland

This harbour was made by art and force.  
And called Kingstown and afterwards Dun Laoghaire.  
And holds the sea behind its barrier  
less than five miles from my house.

Lord be with us say the makers of a nation.  
Lord look down say the builders of a harbour.  
They came and cut a shape out of ocean  
and left stone to close around their labour.

Officers and their wives promenaded  
on this spot once and saw with their own eyes  
the opulent horizon and obedient skies  
which nine tenths of the law provided.

And frigates with thirty-six guns, cruising  
the outer edges of influence, could idle  
and enter here and catch the tide of  
empire and arrogance and the Irish Sea rising

and rising through a century of storms  
and cormorants and moonlight the whole length of this  
coast,  
while an ocean forgot an empire and the armed  
ships under it changed: to slime weed and cold salt and  
rust.



City of shadows and of the gradual  
capitulations to the last invader  
this is the final one: signed in water  
and witnessed in granite and ugly bronze and gun-metal.

And by me. I am your citizen: composed of  
your fictions, your compromise, I am  
a part of your story and its outcome.  
And ready to record its contradictions.

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this sit

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## Church News Ireland

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