



**Image of the day - Centenary marked of founder of Mothers' Union in Ireland**

## People and places

### Centenary marked of founder of Mothers' Union in Ireland

**On the centenary of the death of Mrs Annabella Hayes, founder of Mothers' Union in Ireland, Archbishop Michael Jackson rededicated the refurbished grave in her honour on Saturday, the last day of Heritage Week.**



The grave is in St Fintan's Cemetery in Sutton, Howth, Co Dublin.





The Deputy Mayor of Fingal Daniel Whooley, the President of All Ireland Mothers' Union June Butler, Canon Robert Deane All Ireland Chaplain, Karen Nelson Diocesan President of Dublin & Glendalough Mothers' Union were in attendance.



This refurbishment has been completed by All Ireland Mothers' Union, with grant aid from the Heritage Council. Annabella Hayes set up the first Mothers' Union branch in Ireland in the parish of Raheny, where a memorial service took place on Saturday afternoon.

## **Christian Aid calls for urgent humanitarian support for those fearing for their lives in Afghanistan**

**Christian Aid is calling for the UK Government and wider international community to help the people of Afghanistan.**

Around 550,000 people in Afghanistan have been displaced this year, 80% of these are women and children, and these numbers continue to increase rapidly. Christian Aid is concerned by the impact the continuing conflict will have on all Afghan people regardless of gender, faith or ethnicity.

Humanitarian access is vital so that affected communities can be reached and so far, Christian Aid partners have been able to continue with some food and hygiene kit distributions. The Organisation for Coordination and Humanitarian Relief (OCHR), for example, has been working on a UK-funded project in Kunduz - an indication that programmes with a clear humanitarian focus are allowed to continue.

Christian Aid is already supporting thousands of Afghan internally displaced people (IDPs) in regions where famine is likely, through a hunger appeal launched in July.

Subrata De, Christian Aid's country manager in Afghanistan, said: "The situation is dire and more support will be required for poor and marginalised communities in the coming days. Christian Aid has been working in Afghanistan for 30 years and we will not desert now. We're doing all we can to continue distributions of food and emergency supplies to the most affected communities. We hope that humanitarian access will remain, especially access to women and girls in the communities as we are very concerned about their safety.

"As an Indian national, I have been lucky enough to evacuate safely but our staff, their families and the thousands of people we support, are living with uncertainty and insecurity."

Fionna Smyth, head of global advocacy & policy at Christian Aid, said: "We urge the UK Government to take action on four key areas; to work closely with the United Nations and wider donor community, to ensure that humanitarian assistance is provided to those most in need in the face of a rapidly worsening humanitarian crisis, to immediately suspend all deportations from the UK of Afghan asylum seekers and refugees and open safe and legal routes for those fearing persecution.

"The UK government should use its influence to encourage and support neighbouring states including with funding to allow refugees to flee without fear of being sent back; and finally, to do everything in its power to protect Afghan women, including human rights defenders, and civil society

actors who have been encouraged to take leadership positions and who are now at grave risk.

“The impact of decades of conflict and displacement has recently been compounded by increasing climate shocks, rising food insecurity and COVID-19, which has left almost half of Afghanistan’s population in need of emergency humanitarian assistance.”

To donate to the hunger appeal, please visit  
[ [www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/emergencies/global-hunger-emergency-appeal](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/emergencies/global-hunger-emergency-appeal) ]

## News briefs

### Irish priest to be saint

A priest described as a “simple son of Ireland” may be moving closer to being declared a saint with news that Church authorities are investigating a potential miracle attributed to his intercession. Tipperary man The Servant of God Fr Patrick Ryan ministered to those suffering with yellow fever in the US state of Tennessee

### German minister criticizes Vatican stance on gay couples

Germany’s health minister has criticized the Roman Catholic Church for its refusal to bless same-sex unions but says his religious faith remains strong.



## **Support for clergy of Chinese origin in the Church of England**

Guardian reports that hundreds of churches have committed to welcoming people from Hong Kong into their church communities and a new group called The Teahouse is formed to support clergy of Chinese origin in the Church of England.

## **600 UK churches sign up to welcome Christian arrivals from Hong Kong**

[[] [https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/aug/14/600-uk-churches-sign-up-to-welcome-christian-arrivals-from-hong-kong?utm\\_](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/aug/14/600-uk-churches-sign-up-to-welcome-christian-arrivals-from-hong-kong?utm_)]

## **Pope hopes for open-air Mass in Glasgow Cop26**

The Times reports that during his first visit to Scotland the Pope is hoping to hold an open-air mass in Glasgow during the Cop26 climate summit later this year.

Any service is likely to draw huge crowds of worshippers for the first papal address in the country since tens of thousands attended a Mass by Pope Benedict XVI at Bellahouston Park in Glasgow in 2010.

## **First woman elected to lead US Black Baptist organization**

Gina Stewart, the senior pastor of a church in Memphis, Tennessee, previously served in vice presidential roles of the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Society for six years.

## Reports

### New Zealand bishops pause in-person worship as country enters lockdown

**Anglican churches and whare karakia across Aotearoa New Zealand remained closed to in-person services this weekend as bishops up and down the country direct clergy to move worship online and undertake ministry via phone or other non-contact interactions.**

The country is entering its strictest level of lockdown due to its first report of a locally transmitted COVID-19 case since February.

Two significant in-person Anglican events scheduled for this week have already been postponed, including 'The Abbey 2021: A house without walls' youth leadership festival that was due to happen in Waikanae this past weekend, and the

**Loving Lord**

**We lift up the country of Afghanistan to you, at this time of peril.  
We put our trust in you that you have a plan for the nation,  
As you do for each of us.**

**May you guide the international leaders in their decision making.  
We pray for the right decisions to be made for the refugees,  
We ask you to protect them.**

**May the Holy Spirit flow over the mountains, across the deserts,  
And into the cities, like a river in full force.**

**Defend the vulnerable against all evil.**

**We ask this in your name.**

**Amen**



Pākehā Deans' conference that was due to take place in Otepōti Dunedin from Thursday-Sunday this week.

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Bishop of Auckland Ross Bay encouraged his people to go back to virtual services this weekend and to plan for online worship again next week, as experience now proves that a slow reduction in alert levels is more likely than a quick return to the “almost normal” of Level 1

## **New network launched to support Church of England ordinands from minority ethnic backgrounds**

**An independent network for people training for ordained ministry in the Church of England who are from minority ethnic backgrounds has been launched.**

The UKME (U.K. Minority Ethnic) Ordinands and Curates group hopes to meet every three months to provide a voice and support for a growing number of UKME ordinands and curates.

The group has been set up by former junior doctor Angela Sheard, who is training at Queen's Foundation theological education institution in Birmingham and former biomedical scientist Tariro Matsveru, who was ordained in June and is now a curate in King's Heath, Birmingham.

Tariro, who was born in Zimbabwe and trained at Cranmer Hall in Durham, said the group aims to support ordinands and curates across the country.

“We want to encourage and support the vocations of ordinands and curates of UKME/Global Majority Heritage in the Church of England within dioceses and theological colleges,” she said.

## **Refugee aid groups criticize Biden for stumbles in evacuating ‘desperate’ Afghans**

**Krish O’Mara Vignarajah, head of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, described President Biden's claim that Afghans did not want to leave the country as 'misleading at best.'**

As most Americans absorbed the shock of the Taliban’s full takeover of Afghanistan over the weekend, officials at Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service followed the rapidly deteriorating situation with resignation, knowing it could have gone differently.

In May, leaders at LIRS, one of several faith-based agencies contracted with the U.S. government to resettle refugees in the United States, sent a letter to the Biden administration requesting it remove Afghan civilians (and their families) who have worked with the U.S. before its planned troop withdrawal.

Anyone familiar with the “bureaucratic maze” that is the country’s Special Immigrant Visa process knew the State Department visa office wouldn’t be agile enough to respond to the urgent need for evacuations, said Krish O’Mara Vignarajah, president and CEO of LIRS.

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“We’ve been screaming from the rooftops for months now that we need to get these allies to Guam or another U.S. territory,” Vignarajah said.

The White House did not immediately respond to requests for comment from Religion News Service.

LIRS is just one of the faith-based agencies that have been calling for the evacuation of Afghan allies as a moral imperative and are working now to help bring those people to the U.S. amid the takeover of the country by the Taliban, the militant group that previously ran Afghanistan under a harsh interpretation of Islamic law.

“We feel strongly that these Afghan allies fought side by side with us for 20 years, and surely we can leave side by side,” Vignarajah said.

## **Books, Broadcasts, Resources and Webinars**

### **Film: Nowhere Special**

Set in Belfast, and based on real events, this touching film tells the story of John, a 35 year-old window cleaner who has devoted his life to raising his four year-old son Michael, after the child's mother walked out on them soon after the birth.

Their life is a simple one, made up of daily domestic rituals. They have an understated but very strong father - son relationship. But we soon learn that John has incurable



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brain cancer and only has a few months to live. With no family to turn to, John will spend the short time left to him looking for a new and perfect one to adopt Michael.

Nowhere Special was written, directed, and produced by Uberto Pasolini (whose work includes *The Killing Fields*, *The Full Monty* and *The Mission*). James Norton gives a finely tuned performance as John. Daniel Lamont from Ballymena steals the show in his debut performance as little Michael.



There is quite a profound message here about learning to achieve what you can in the moment and for making peace with a situation you are unable to change.

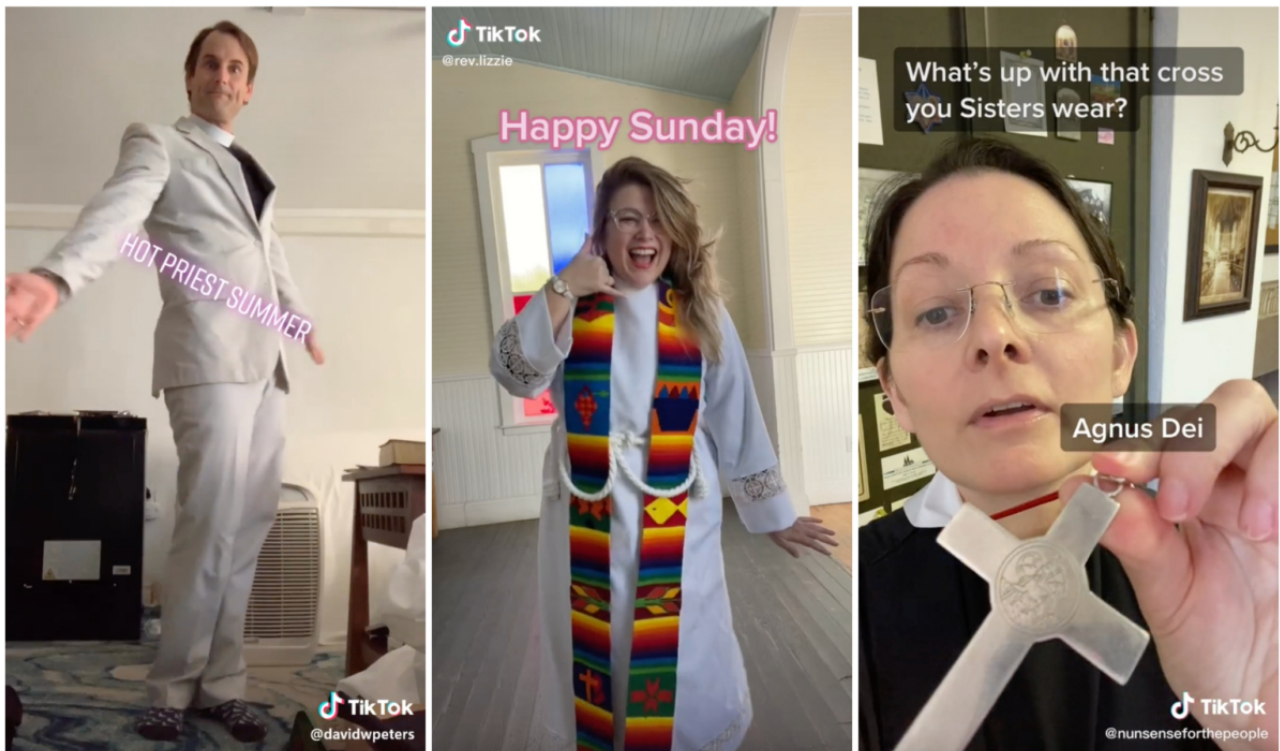
One of the best films of 2021.

Nowhere Special had its world premiere at the Venice Film Festival last September and has recently been released in UK cinemas. It is available for streaming from today.

See the official trailer:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=hLTQxSyT3mc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hLTQxSyT3mc) .

## Episcopal clergy entertain and evangelize in the virtual 'town square' of TikTok



The Rev. David Peters, the Rev. Lizzie McManus-Dail and Sister Monica Clare are a few of the members of Episcopal clergy and religious orders who maintain a presence on TikTok.

TikTok, the video editing and streaming app on which mostly millennials and Generation Z share funny dance challenges, viral moments and memes, might be the last place you'd expect to find a 45-year-old priest evangelizing. But the Rev. David Peters isn't your average priest, and his

style of evangelism is less about preaching and more about laughter.

“It’s just another way of relating. It’s also the town square,” said Peters, a church planter in Pflugerville, Texas, near Austin. Peters became perhaps the first priest to go viral on the app when his videos – including “Outfits I’m Afraid to Wear” and “Anglican Priest Problems” – unexpectedly took off in the summer of 2019, garnering international media coverage. He and other Episcopal clergy have made a ministry out of providing an affirming alternative to harmful variants of Christianity and explaining what they love about their faith, often through the offbeat language of memes.

[[] <https://www.episcopalnewsservice.org/2021/08/20/episcopal-clergy-entertain-and-evangelize-in-the-virtual-town-square-of-tiktok/> ]

## **The Getty Music Children's Leadership Forum**

Now in its fourth year, The Getty Music Children's Leadership Forum is a pre-conference for educators, children's ministry leaders, parents, pastors, and anyone involved in helping inspire the next generation of worshippers to sing the glories of Christ.

This year’s theme will focus on how the great hymns of the faith help our children think Biblically about the difficult issues facing them such as life, death, eternity, and hope in Christ during unsettling times.





This free event is provided in partnership with the Virginia Martin Howard Foundation, and everyone who attends will receive a free copy of the Gettys' new kids album, "Hymns from Home," along with many other helpful resources for your school, family and church.

Schedule and speakers at -

[[] <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/childrens-leadership-forum-pre-conference-tickets-166704530739> ]

## Poem for today

### I am of Ireland by William Butler Yeats

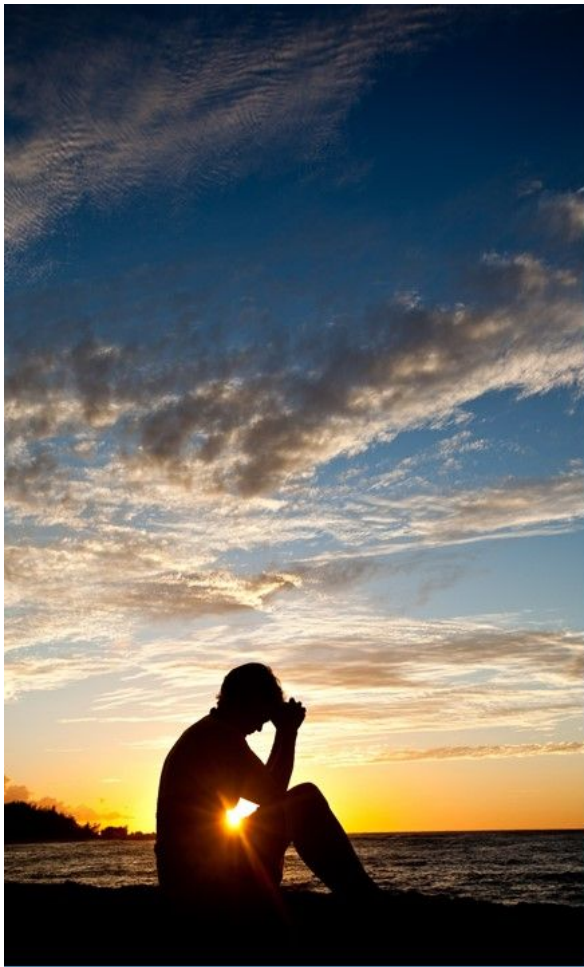
'I am of Ireland,  
And the Holy Land of Ireland,  
And time runs on,' cried she.  
'Come out of charity,  
Come dance with me in Ireland.'

One man, one man alone  
In that outlandish gear,  
One solitary man  
Of all that rambled there  
Had turned his stately head.  
That is a long way off,  
And time runs on,' he said,  
'And the night grows rough.'

'I am of Ireland,  
And the Holy Land of Ireland,  
And time runs on,' cried she.  
'Come out of charity  
And dance with me in Ireland.'

'The fiddlers are all thumbs,  
Or the fiddle-string accursed,  
The drums and the kettledrums  
And the trumpets all are burst,  
And the trombone,' cried he,  
'The trumpet and trombone,'  
And cocked a malicious eye,  
'But time runs on, runs on.'

I am of Ireland,  
And the Holy Land of Ireland,  
And time runs on,' cried she.  
"Come out of charity  
And dance with me in Ireland.'



**IN THE BUSYNESS  
OF THIS DAY  
GRANT ME A  
STILLNESS OF  
SEEING, O GOD.**

*~ Celtic Benediction, J. Philip Newell*

THE *Episcopal* CHURCH 

## Pointers for prayer

Holy Wisdom,  
you granted Solomon's request  
for an understanding mind  
and the knowledge to discern good from evil.  
Fill us with such understanding and knowledge  
that we may act as instruments  
of your loving desire for creation,  
working with you to transform  
our conceit into concern for others,  
our fear into love,  
our violence into peace,  
and our brokenness into wholeness. Amen.



Friends in Christ,  
God invites us to hold the needs of our sisters and brothers  
as dear to us as our own needs.  
Loving our neighbours as ourselves,  
we offer our thanksgivings and our petitions  
on behalf of the church and the world.  
Hear our prayers, God of power,  
and through the ministry of your Son  
free us from the grip of the tomb,  
that we may desire you as the fullness of life  
and proclaim your saving deeds to all the world. Amen.

As you heard the prayer of Isaac and Rebekah, O God,  
and guided them in the way of your love,  
so listen now to those who call upon you.  
Move us to praise your gracious will,  
for in Christ Jesus you have saved us from the deeds of  
death  
and opened for us the hidden ways of your love.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord God, friend of those in need,  
your Son Jesus has untied our burdens  
and healed our spirits.  
We lift up the prayers of our hearts for those still burdened,  
those seeking healing,  
those in need within the church and the world.  
Hear our prayers  
that we may love you with our whole being  
and willingly share the concerns of our neighbours. Amen.

## Speaking to the Soul

**“O Lord, please hear my prayer! Listen to the prayers of those of us who delight in honouring you. Please grant me success today by making the king favourable to me. Put it into his heart to be kind to me.”**

Nehemiah 1:11 NLT

Nehemiah is on the verge of taking the boldest step of his life. He is going to ask King Artaxerxes, the mighty ruler of Persia, a question which might well land him in a lot of trouble. It could so very easily go wrong. In view of this, he brings his majestic and humble prayer to an end by making the bold request that God should grant him success.

I think we often feel rather coy about the idea of asking God for success, but we needn't feel that way because God loves to hear our prayers. He wants us to be completely honest as we address him and in a situation like Nehemiah's it was absolutely right for him to make such a bold request. This wasn't a selfish prayer. He was asking for success so that he could bless his Jewish brothers and sisters by restoring Jerusalem. If the King granted his request it was going to give him a great deal of hard work and difficulty.

In the letter of James we read, “You don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it.” (James 4.2) Asking God is a natural thing for us to do as his children and he encourages us to do so, so long as our motives are right. The problem with the people that James was writing to was that they had the wrong motives. They were just looking to

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please themselves. Selfish prayers will never work and we should be deeply grateful that they don't. But when we follow the example of Nehemiah and pray out of a desire to serve God and bless his people we can be sure that he will hear our prayers.

## QUESTION

In what situation are you asking God for success at the moment?

## PRAYER

Lord I thank you that you are such a generous God and that you love to hear our requests. Amen

