

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Solidarity with Ukraine

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Solidarity with Ukraine

Marking Ukraine independence day

People and places



Tamlaghtfinlagan takes its Remembrance target

The team says - "We have done it! 8000+ Poppies what a fantastic achievement by everyone involved. You can now put away them knitting needles!"

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The team at Tamlaghtfinlagan Parish in Derry & Raphoe Diocese said, “We are putting the finishing touches to our main display, so if you have any poppies that you have already made then can you please bring them to the church hall by the Friday 2nd of September, Any spare poppies after we finish our main display will be used in our other inside displays.

“Again the support from parishioners, friends, the wider community, community groups and other churches has been fantastic so a huge Thank you. We couldn’t have done this without you all.

“Plans are well in underway for our upcoming festival of Remembrance. Were you can see the poppy net and many other displays of our parish and country’s wartime story, every one is most welcome to the festival more details closer to the time”.

Presbyterian Youth Impact

Young people from Galway to Magherafelt were serving on mission in three congregations in Belfast as part of PCI’s Impact Teams during August.

Team members gathered each morning for worship and Bible teaching before going to serve in the afternoon and evenings with West Kirk, Fitzroy and Christchurch congregations. Through a mixture of children’s clubs and youth activities, participants were able to show and share the love of Christ, impacting local communities and growing in their faith.





PCI's Impact Teams at work

The Revd Ken Rue appointed Rector of Narraghmore Union

The Revd Ken Rue has been appointed Rector of the Narraghmore Union of Parishes in the Diocese of Glendalough. Ken is currently Assistant Priest in Wicklow and Killiskey.



Ken is married to Lesley, who worked in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, for 30 years. They have one son, Richard. Brought up in Crumlin and Terenure, Ken attended St Andrew's NS in Rialto and Wesley College before studying for a Bachelor of Business Studies in Trinity College,

Dublin. He is an Associate of the Institute of Taxation and a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants. He attained his FdA Th at the University of Chester. Prior to ordination Ken had a career in business. He was Audit Manager for Ernst & Young, Finance Director and Company Secretary for DCC plc, Managing Director of Fodhla Printing, and Financial Controller of Messenger Publications and the Pioneer Association.

He was an ordinand at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute from 2007 to 2010. He was ordained a Deacon in 2010 and a Priest in 2011. He served as Curate in Powerscourt and Kilbride for a year before being appointed Assistant Priest of Wicklow and Killiskey and Pastor of Killiskey in 2011.

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Ken has been involved in a number of General Synod committees including Literature, the Liturgical Advisory Committee and the Commission for Christian Dialogue and Unity. He was chair of the Diocesan Council for Mission and a member of the Diocesan Board of Education until 2021.

He is also a Canon of St Peter's Cathedral, Shyogwe, Rwanda; coordinator of Ordained Local Ministry; director of Secondary Education Committee; compiler of the Church of Ireland's yearly lectionary; treasurer of Mother's Union in

Be in and with our church,
as we grapple with the need for change,
and the reality of a future that is going to be
very different from our past.
Help us to recognise You at work
already in our community, and to be
listening for Your whispers of new possibilities
and ways of living out our faith.
God of wisdom, guide our paths.



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Ireland; treasurer of the Church's Ministry of Healing: Ireland; and co-chair of Ecumenical Bible Week. His interests include sport (particularly rugby), current affairs, history, chess and poetry.

Ken said he is looking forward to serving in Narraghmore, Timolin, Castledermot and Kinneagh but would miss the people of Killiskey.

“I feel like a schoolboy about to leave national school and move on to secondary school. I have enjoyed my time so much with the wonderful parishioners of Killiskey parish for the past 11 years. They have been so supportive and kind that it will be hard to say goodbye to the parish, even though I know I will continue to see many of the parishioners regularly. I am grateful to the Archbishop for giving me a new challenge in Narraghmore, Timolin, Castledermot and Kinneagh with its four lovely churches.

It is a fine parish with committed people with whom I look forward to ministering with great anticipation,” he commented.

Dublin diocese in solidarity with Ramallah

The Archbishop of Dublin, Dr Michael Jackson, has expressed his sorrow and solidarity with the Rector and parishioners of St Andrew's Anglican church in Ramallah and with the Archbishop of Jerusalem, following damage caused to the church.

The church is located in the Diocese of Jerusalem with which the United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough has had a partnership link since 2016.

The Diocese of Jerusalem reported that St Andrew's church was damaged when Israeli forces occupied the church complex. In a statement the diocese said that Israeli forces made an "unannounced and unwarranted raid" on the St Andrew's complex which included the church, parish hall, church offices, rectory and the Arab Episcopal Medical Center. The diocese stated that, while there was no justification for the incursion into church premises, the Israeli forces later said that the raid was on Al-Haq, a West Bank human rights group, to whom St Andrew's rents and office which is accessed via a separate entrance.

Dr Jackson, commenting on the incident, said "For a significant number of years, we in the United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough have had a partnership relationship with the Diocese of Jerusalem.

This relationship enriches our understanding of life as lived by Christians in the Land of the Holy One and inspires us in our own daily witness to God and neighbour through knowing of their selflessness and service."

Archbishop Jackson added: "It is, therefore, with intense sadness and alarm that we learn of the attack on St Andrew's Church, Ramallah. St Andrew's is a church which I have visited and in which I have worshipped. It is also a church where we have assisted in the installation of a medical centre which is open to all the residents of

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Ramallah irrespective of culture or religion. St Andrew's is a place of grace and of healing.”

He concluded: “Sacred buildings and sacred sites are not only historical places, they are also living places where communities are formed and from which communities of faith serve their neighbours as well as their members. We share the international sense of condemnation and outrage at what has been done to St Andrew's Church, its structure and its contents. We stand in sorrow with the rector and parishioners. We hold the whole community of Ramallah in our prayers. We pray for peace with justice and respect. We assure the parishioners of St Andrew's of our love in these dark and dangerous days and express our solidarity to Archbishop Hosam Naoum, a dear friend of our diocese.”

Lisburn in harmony

Earlybirds Choir is back!

We run alternate Mondays from 10:30-11:30, pay as you go £5, at Derryvolgie Church of Ireland, Belsize Road, Lisburn.

We sing anything and everything in a Natural Voice style- no pressure, no auditions, and good craic.

Start your week the best way. First rehearsal Monday 12th September.

Email kirstyormusic@gmail.com

Dublin lunchtime recital

In St Ann's church, Dawson Street, Dublin on Thursday there will be a lunchtime recital.

Eamon Sweeney, Roisin O'Grady, Anita Vedres, and Malachy Robinson will perform works by women composers of the Baroque Era. The Recital starts at 1:20pm and there will be a 10 euro entrance charge.

Vacancy

Girlguiding Ulster - "We are looking for a Development Officer".

"This is a really exciting time to join Girlguiding Ulster. We have much to be proud of in our one hundred years of history, but we know that to remain vibrant and relevant to young people we must continually evolve.

"We're looking for a collaborative and innovative Development Officer, covering the Western Counties of Northern Ireland, Armagh, Fermanagh, Tyrone and Derry/Londonderry. We're looking for someone who can build strong relationships quickly and who is comfortable operating independently with external stakeholders, as well as working as part of a national project team.

Click this link to apply -

<https://girlguidingulster.org.uk/news/were-recruiting-2-2>

World news

More young people than elders turn to prayer in troubled times

Younger people are far more likely to pray than older generations because the rising popularity of mindfulness, meditation and spirituality has encouraged increasing numbers to connect with faith, the Church of England has found.

A survey published today found that a third of 18 to 34-year-olds have prayed in the last month, compared to just 25 per cent of people aged 55 and over. The younger generation was also more likely to have said a prayer at any time, with 56 per cent saying that they had ever prayed compared to 41 per cent of the over-55s, according to the poll by Savanta ComRes.

The Archbishop of York, the Most Rev Stephen Cottrell, said that the figures indicate that “people are longing for connection” during “this time of uncertainty”, and cited global warming, the cost of living crisis and the war in Ukraine as reasons.

Other senior clergy said that young people were more than “simply being interested in spirituality – they are already exploring it in practice, to a greater extent than their elders”.

The Archbishop commented, “As Christians, prayer is the bedrock of our faith and deepens our relationship and understanding of God.

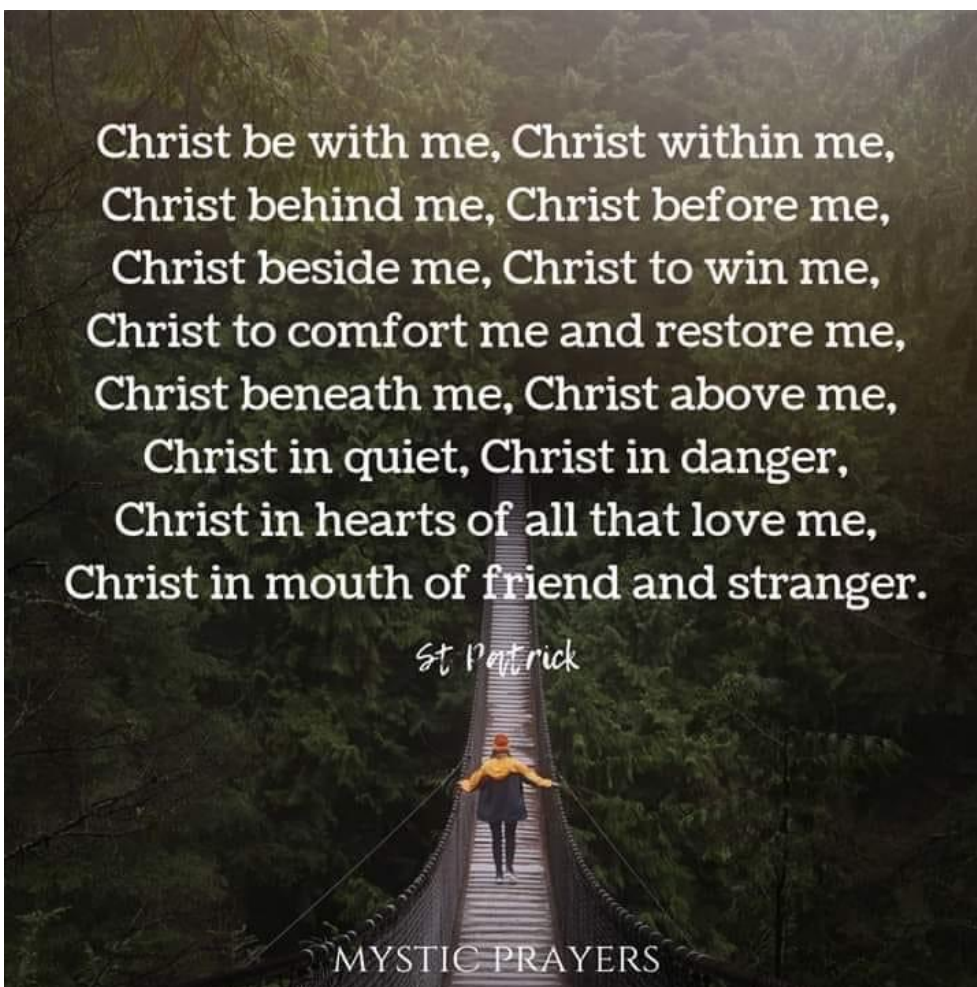
“The results of the survey on prayer show us that many people still long for that connection with something and someone beyond themselves.

“At this time of uncertainty in our world where we face many pressing issues such as the climate emergency, wars, famine, the cost of living, reaching out in prayer to the God who loves us and longs to be known to us can bring peace and transform lives.

“As a church we need to be a community of women and men who follow Jesus and offer spaces where the many people growing up in our world today who do not yet know Christ – can learn and receive from him and follow in his

way,
growing
ever closer
to God
through
daily prayer
and reading
of the
scriptures.

“If younger
people want
to pray, then
let our
churches be
places
where
prayer is



taught and experienced.”

The figures come despite the rise of secularism in society, and despite hundreds of church buildings shutting in the last decade. Analysis of Church of England data by this newspaper earlier this year found that 423 churches were closed between 2010 and 2019.

The Very Revd Dr Stephen Hance, the Church of England’s national lead for evangelism and witness, added that the survey’s findings “really challenge the all-too-common assumption that young people are not interested in faith or spiritual things”.

Pope to new Cardinals: 'May we bring fire of God's love to all'

In his homily during the Consistory, Pope Francis encourages 20 newly-created Cardinals to embrace apostolic zeal and bear witness to God's boundless love, and asks everyone to pray for new Cardinal Richard Kuuia Baawobr, Bishop of Wa, Ghana, who was hospitalized Friday after arriving in Rome.

Quoting a passage from Luke's Gospel when Jesus says, “I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!”, Pope Francis focused his homily on the image of fire, the "powerful flame of the Spirit of God," reflecting "a passionate love that purifies, regenerates and transfigures all things."

He looked at two examples of this "fire": the "consuming fire" of God's love, and the "quiet and gentle" charcoal fire that

Jesus started at the shore when cooking fish for the disciples, as recounted in John's Gospel.

The Pope was speaking on Saturday at the Ordinary Public Consistory for the creation of Cardinals held in St. Peter's Basilica. This was Pope Francis' eighth Consistory, and he created 20 new Cardinals, 16 of whom are under the age of 80, thus electors in a future Conclave, and four non-electors, over the age of 80. He also asked everyone to pray for Ghanaian Cardinal Richard Kuuia Baawobr, the Bishop of Wa, Ghana, who fell ill upon his arrival in Italy on Friday and spent Saturday in hospital.

After the Consistory, Pope Francis and the new Cardinals present visited Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI in the Mater Ecclesiae Monastery in the Vatican Gardens, praying together the Salve Regina.

Fire of God's boundless love

In his homily during the Consistory, the Pope noted that for those who have been given a ministry of particular service, "it is as if Jesus is handing us a lighted torch and telling us: 'Take this; as the Father has sent me so I now send you'." In this way, he said, the Lord gives us His own "apostolic courage" and zeal for the salvation of every human being, without exception.

“He wants to share with us His magnanimity, His boundless and unconditional love, for His heart is afire with the mercy of the Father.”



Within this fire, the Pope explained, there exists a "mysterious tension" of His mission in reaching out in fidelity to His people, but with "openness to all peoples, to the horizons of the world, to peripheries as yet unknown."

"This," he said, "is the fire that Jesus came to 'bring to the earth', a fire that the Holy Spirit kindles in the hearts, hands and feet of all those who follow Him."

Charcoal fire of tenderness

The charcoal fire, the Pope explained, reflects Jesus' "meekness, fidelity, closeness and tenderness," and how to "savour the presence of Jesus alive in our midst."

“Like that charcoal fire, His presence becomes warmth and nourishment for our daily life.”



After the Consistory on Saturday, Pope Francis and the new Cardinals visited Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI in the Mater Ecclesiae Monastery in the Vatican Gardens, praying together the Salve Regina.

The Pope cited the example of Saint Charles de Foucauld, "who lived for years in a non-Christian environment, in the solitude of the desert, staking everything on presence: the presence of the living Jesus, in the word and in the Eucharist, and his own presence, fraternal, amicable and charitable."

He mentioned other examples of religious and priests "who persevere in selfless and unassuming ministry," as well as married couples who keep the flame of God's love alive through their humble service and raising of children. He

mentioned the fire to which the elderly witness through their memory and experience shared with family and community, uniting and moving forward people of different generations.

“Dear brother Cardinals, by the light and in the strength of this fire walk the holy and faithful people from whom we were taken and to whom we have been sent as ministers of Christ the Lord.”

Examples of God's living fire

Pope Francis encouraged the 20 new Cardinals to reflect on how the twofold fire of Jesus is experienced in their own lives and to see how "a man of apostolic zeal is impelled by the fire of the Spirit to be concerned, courageously, with things great and small."

Recalling two particular testimonies, the Pope spoke of Italian Cardinal Agostino Casaroli, known for his openness to promoting farsighted dialogue to respond to the new hopes that opened up in Europe following the Cold War. While he focused on this large issues, he also humbly and quietly carried out regular visits to inmates in his pastoral outreach through prison ministry.

He also recalled late Vietnamese Cardinal Van Thuân, who during the twentieth century "was led by the fire of his love for Christ to care for the soul of the prison guards who watched over him at the door of his prison cell."

In conclusion, Pope Francis encouraged everyone to contemplate Jesus, who shows us "this lowly grandeur, this unassuming power, this universal vision ever attentive to

particulars." Speaking metaphorically, he said the secret of God's fire brightens the sky and slowly cooks the food of poor families, migrant and homeless persons.

“Today, too, Jesus wants to bring this fire to the earth. He wants to light it anew on the shores of our daily lives. Jesus calls us by name; He looks us in the eye and He asks: Can I count on you?”

Poem for today

The Land of Counterpane by Robert Louis Stevenson

When I was sick and lay a-bed,
I had two pillows at my head,
And all my toys beside me lay
To keep me happy all the day.

And sometimes for an hour or so
I watched my leaden soldiers go,
With different uniforms and drills,
Among the bed-clothes, through the hills;

And sometimes sent my ships in fleets
All up and down among the sheets;
Or brought my trees and houses out,
And planted cities all about.

I was the giant great and still
That sits upon the pillow-hill,

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And sees before him, dale and plain,
The pleasant land of counterpane.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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