

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Belfast Cathedral

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Belfast Cathedral

The Celtic Cross on the exterior of the North Transept is the largest in Ireland. The Transept hosts the Chapel of Remembrance of the Royal Irish Regiment and its antecedent regiments.

The first regiment was raised in Enniskillen in 1689. In 1811 the Regiment's motto "Faugh a Ballagh" (Clear the way) was born at the Battle of Barrosa in 1811. In 1815 the 27th (Inniskillings) Regiment held the centre of Wellington's line at the Battle of Waterloo.

In 1916 29 battalions of antecedent regiments fought at the Somme where every Irish man was a volunteer. In 1944 the Royal Ulster Rifles on D-Day had a battalion airborne and a battalion on the beaches into Normandy.

In 2006 The Royal Irish Regiment was awarded the Conspicuous Gallantry Cross by the Queen.

People and places

When the Church stops listening

The Church stops listening to the voice of the Lord when it follows cultural changes and ceases "to be a stone in society's shoe", according to Bishop Donal McKeown of the Diocese of Derry.

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He continued, “The world will not be changed by a Church whose standards are merely human. The world will be transformed by grace when people of faith seek the narrow gate and God’s priorities.”



Thanksgiving service for Dorinda, Lady Dunleath

A Service of Thanksgiving to celebrate the Life and Interests of Dorinda, Lady Dunleath, will be held at Down Cathedral, Downpatrick on Wednesday 28th September 2022 at 4pm.

All are most welcome. Bright colours please.

It will be followed by refreshments, and a short organ recital at 7pm by Professor Desmond Hunter with the Balligan Consort celebrating the life and work of the late Lord and Lady Dunleath through the influential Music in May festival (1970-1980).

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Enquiries to Mrs Suzie Scott at suzie@woburnlodge.com or
Tel: 07587 750 551



History of Belfast doors

Every door tells a story.. discover the history behind some of Belfast's most famous front doors at upcoming Open Heritage Belfast events from 5-11 September.

Ulster Architectural Heritage have selected 30 entrances across the city for this

year's programme, with each one offering an insight into Belfast's development.

Enjoy guided walking tours of buildings in the Cathedral Quarter, Great Victoria Street, May Street and other key streets, as well as oral history and photography workshops.

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There's also an activity trail for children to get involved, plus an online guided tour for those who can't take part in person.

More info at <http://ow.ly/YL3t50Kt7wQ>

Irish churches to take part in World Council of Churches Assembly

From 31st August until 8th September 4000 delegates including several from Ireland will be attending the 11th World Council of Churches Assembly in the City of Karlsruhe in South West Germany.

The theme of the Synod is Christ's love moves the world to reconciliation and unity".

I thank thee, O God, for the day which thou has made. I will rejoice and be glad in it. Whether it be bright or dark, I will accept it without fear or complaint. Whatever it brings, I will try to meet it as well as I can. And knowing that all things work together for good to them that love thee, I shall go about my work in quietness and in confidence. Tomorrow I cannot see, but today is mine because it is thine. ~ Theodore Parker Ferris 1908-1972



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The theme of the Synod is Christ's love moves the world to reconciliation and unity".

The WCC Assembly is the highest governing body of the World Council of Churches (WCC), and normally meets every eight years. It is the only time when the entire fellowship of member churches comes together in one place for prayer and celebration.

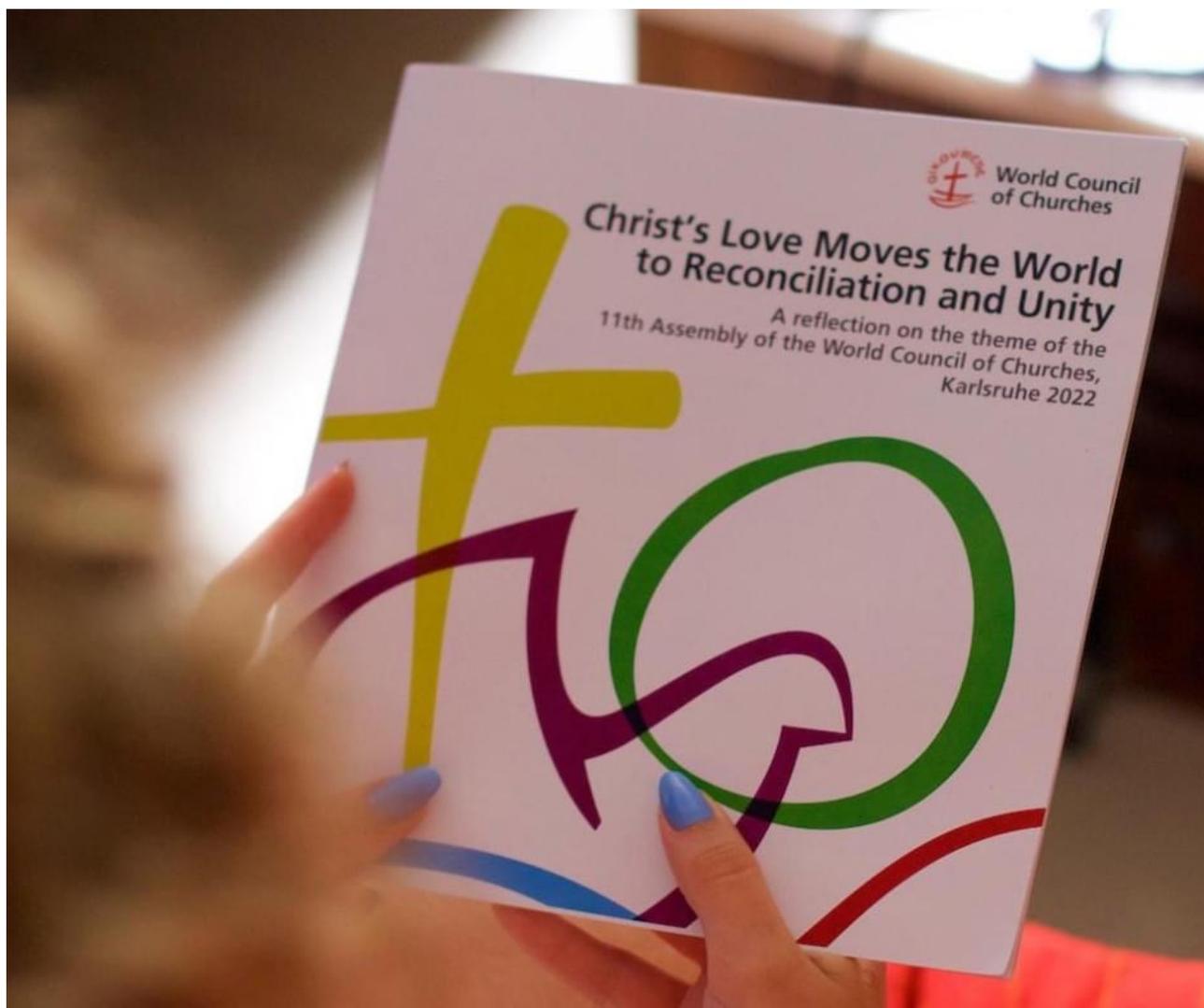
A WCC Assembly is a special time in the lives of member churches, ecumenical partners, and other churches, as it brings together more than 4000 participants, from all over the world. It is a unique opportunity for the churches to deepen their commitment to visible unity and common witness. This makes a WCC Assembly the most diverse Christian gathering of its size in the world.

The WCC 11th Assembly will take place in Karlsruhe, Germany, at the joint invitation of the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD), the Protestant Church in Baden, the Council of Churches in Germany, the Union of Protestant Churches in Alsace and Lorraine (UEPAL), and the Protestant Church in Switzerland.

A WCC Assembly in Germany

The WCC accepted the invitation of the member churches in Germany to hold the 11th assembly in Karlsruhe, Germany. The last assembly in Europe took place in Uppsala, Sweden, in 1968.

The city of Karlsruhe is in Baden in south-west Germany, an historical and cultural "trans-border-region". Karlsruhe is the



second-largest city of the state of Baden-Württemberg. The main venue for the assembly will be the Messe-Karlsruhe (www.messe-karlsruhe.de/en), located in the heart of the city.

The local hosting church, the Protestant Church in Baden, became a united church by petition of the people in 1821. The 200 year anniversary of the unification of the church was celebrated in 2021.

A WCC Assembly in Europe

After World War II and with the changes in the geo-political situation brought about by decolonization a new reality of a

mainly western European entity developed. At the same time, the opposition between the Soviet Union and the western powers caused the division of the continent in East and West, which lasted until the fall of the Berlin wall in 1989. The European churches in the ecumenical movement and the WCC have always endeavoured to maintain and to nurture a sense of unity across the divide of the Cold War. This was also one of the main functions of the regional ecumenical organization created by the churches of Europe in 1959, the Conference of European Churches (CEC).

The geographical spread of the European region in the WCC and the ecumenical movement coincides for the most part with the political understanding of Europe stretching from the Urals to the Atlantic. On the southern side the countries of the Caucasus are included but not Cyprus which is grouped with the Middle East. Sub-regional affinities are fairly strong: the Nordic region (the Scandinavian countries plus Finland and the Baltics), Central Europe, Eastern Europe, the Balkans, Southern Europe.

The Protestant churches in western and southern Europe have formed a sub-regional conference. To some extent, there is also a sub-regional confessional pattern: the large churches of the Reformation (Protestant and Anglican) are mostly in the west and north, the Catholic Church is in a majority position in the south (and in Poland), the Orthodox churches form the majority in the central and eastern parts of Europe. The churches of the Protestant Reformation (Lutheran, Reformed, Methodist) are in full communion through the Leuenberg Agreement and have formed the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe. The Anglican

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and (episcopal) Lutheran churches in Great Britain and the Nordic countries (with the exception of Denmark) have also signed an agreement of full communion (Porvoo). There are 81 WCC member churches in Europe.

Vacancies

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THE METHODIST CHURCH IN IRELAND

WE ARE HIRING!

'Aspire' Children's Worker (22 hours)
Fixed term contract, funded until March 2025

'Aspire' Lead youth worker (25 hours)
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“Aspire is entering an exciting period where we are now able to extend our work with our children and youth in East Belfast Mission! “

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If you have passion and heart for working with children or youth in a community setting, have the same values as East Belfast Mission 'sharing Hope, Love and Leadership' in East Belfast then these jobs could be perfect for you!

Come join our Church and Community team!

World news

Calls from students for Churches 'to be honest' with their welcome of LGBTQ+ Christians

The Student Christian Movement (SCM) have launched a campaign at this weekend's Greenbelt Festival, called 'Honest Church.'

Their campaign is calling on churches to be transparent about their welcome that LGBTQ + people will receive in their church.

The movement is asking church leaders to reflect on what they teach, imply and model with regard to LGBTQ + people.

Tom Packer-Stucki, a PhD candidate and chair of trustees at SCM said, "Churches often say that they are open and welcoming to everyone but then it turns out that the welcome is conditional.

"If that's the case, then they need to say so. Otherwise, it can lead to hurt and rejection, and that's how people end up walking away from church."

Concert

**IN SOLIDARTY WITH UKRAINE
IN AID OF KINGSTON COLLEGE RESTORATION**

**Sunday 18th September, 8pm
at The Church of Our Lady Conceived
without Sin, Mitchelstown, Co. Cork**

by kind permission of
The Very Revd Canon Michael Leamy, PP.

Featuring

COR COIS ABHANN

Cork City, dir., Ian Sexton

BEL CANTO

Mitchelstown, dir., Audrey Robinson

RYAN MORGAN Tenor

MAJELLA CULLEN Soprano

GRACE HERNAN Cello

Adults: €20.00 - Children under 12 free admission.

**Tickets will be available
on www.eventbrite.ie**

Tickets will be on sale locally in the following locations:

Kitchen Garden Veg Shop, George Street, Mitchelstown. 025-85280

The Favourite & Scullery, Lower Cork Street, Mitchelstown. 025-2449

CMU Properties, Lower Cork Street, Mitchelstown. 025-41129

The Parish Office, Mitchelstown.

Charles Daly and Co. Solicitors, 2 Westbourne Place, Cobh, Co. Cork.

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Revd Naomi Nixon, CEO of SCM said: "At SCM we hear real horror stories resulting from churches passively pretending they are more welcoming than they really are.

"At the same time, we know people who would try out a church if they said anything about LGBTQ+ people at all. We are needlessly letting young people down. Let's just be honest."

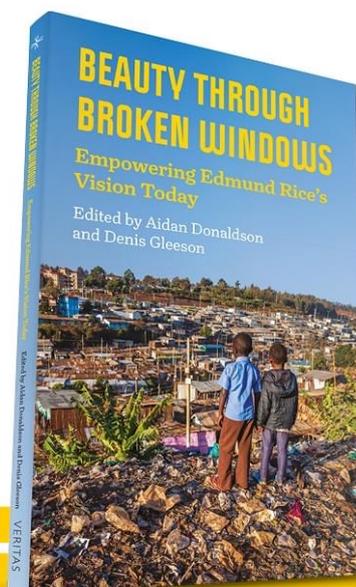
SCM wants to encourage greater honesty about the true welcome that LGBTQ+ people receive in a church.

VERITAS Publications invites you to the launch of

BEAUTY THROUGH BROKEN WINDOWS

Empowering Edmund Rice's Vision Today

Edited by Aidan Donaldson
and Denis Gleeson



Launched by
Dr Eamon Phoenix, Head of Lifelong
Learning at Stranmillis University College
on **Thursday, 15 September 2022**
at **6.00 p.m.**

Holy Family Parish,
226-228 Limestone Road,
Belfast, BT15 3AP

'This book has the potential to transform lives. A most engaging and inspiring book, it challenges us to stop and reflect and look at the world with new eyes and a new heart opened to be transformed in the deepest Christian sense.'

Sr STANISLAUS KENNEDY

Pre-order at www.veritas.ie

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SCM wants to encourage greater honesty about the true welcome that LGBTQ+ people receive in a church.

The aim is to go beyond the Church's official stance on LGBTQ+ issues and to consider how it feels for people to be part of that Church community.

A toolkit has been published that Churches can use to help them examine themselves, and also provide suggestions for how to communicate what their welcome is like in their publicity and when students, graduates and others come and ask questions about the inclusiveness of the welcome.

Students, graduates and anyone looking for a new church can use the Honest Church questions from the toolkit to get to the heart of what kind of church it is for LGBTQ+ people and their allies.

Four Church of Scotland ministers installed as chaplains to the Queen

The Chapel Royal in Scotland has four new members.

During an evening service at Corstorphine Old Parish Church in Edinburgh, Reverend Dr Grant Barclay, Reverend Moira McDonald, Reverend Dr Marjory MacLean and Reverend Professor John Swinton FRSE FBA were all installed as Chaplains in Ordinary to Her Majesty the Queen.



Members of the Chapel Royal take part in formal state occasions and conduct services at significant national events.

Chaplains might also serve HM the Queen as her personal spiritual advisers when she is in Scotland.

There are 10 chaplains to the Queen in Scotland and each normally holds office until the age of 70.

The service, attended by congregation members included a rousing rendition of God Save the Queen and concluded with music composed for Corstorphine Old's minister Rev Moira McDonald by Dr Archibald Ewing.

All chaplains are all personally chosen by the Queen and are people in whom she has placed her trust.

In the media

Report won't change the church says Father D'Arcy

A landmark report on the views of tens of thousands of Irish Catholics has called for equal treatment of women in terms of leadership and decision-making, and that their ordination to the priesthood is essential – just don't expect change to happen any time soon, John Carney reports in the Fermanagh Herald

That was Fermanagh priest Fr Brian D'Arcy's response to findings in the National Synthesis report, which is the result of consultations that began in 2021 throughout the Irish Church's 26 dioceses.

In the extensive report, the role of women in the Church was mentioned in almost every submission and the exclusion of women from the diaconate was described "as particularly hurtful".

The report quotes one submission which stated: "Women have a special place in the Church but not an equal place."

Many of the women consulted remarked that they are not prepared to be considered second-class citizens anymore and many are leaving the Church.

"They feel that even though their contribution over the years has been invaluable, it has been taken for granted," the report said.

It was nothing new to Fr D'Arcy, who maintained that women priests and married priests had been "obvious changes to make" for years.

"For close to 20 years, I have been saying for these changes to be made. Authoritarian methods do not work anymore, in any organisation. It has got to be a community-minded decision from the ground up," he explained.

"At least the report recognises this is the way the people are thinking, but you won't be seeing any change in the immediate future. It will still be a long time before there's any definitive change at all. As long as there is a clerically dominated church it won't happen."

Many of the young participants were critical of the Church regarding the role of women, clerical celibacy, and the handling of the abuse crisis. A significant number disagreed with the Church's position on sex which was considered a barrier to participation by some young people.

"Now the more conservatives in the clergy are saying that we have got to finally do something to make it more inclusive, particularly when it comes to the LGBTQ community," Fr D'Arcy said.

"It's quite unchristian to act so rigidly towards these people and others. Our job is not to condemn people, but to embrace them as part of our community.

"The same goes for the priesthood and that it has to be male celibate only. If male celibates want to join that's fine

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but if they are the only ones that can be a priest then that's ridiculous.

“We need a societal rejig and to move on from these outdated institutions.”

Courtesy - Fermanagh Herald August 27, 2022

Poem for today

Remembering Seamus Heaney

Yesterday was the ninth anniversary of Heaney's death and to mark it, here is an extract from the poem, 'The Ministry of Fear,' which Heaney dedicated to fellow alumnus of St. Columb's College, Seamus Deane

Well, as Kavanagh said, we have lived
In important places. The lonely scarp
Of St Columb's College, where I billeted
For six years, overlooked your Bogside.
I gazed into new worlds: the inflamed throat
Of Brandywell, its floodlit dogtrack,
The throttle of the hare. In the first week
I was so homesick I couldn't even eat
The biscuits left to sweeten my exile.
I threw them over the fence one night
In September 1951
When the lights of houses in the Lecky Road
Were amber in the fog. It was an act
Of stealth.

Then Belfast, and then Berkeley.
Here's two on's are sophisticated,
Dabbling in verses till they have become
A life: from bulky envelopes arriving
In vacation time to slim volumes
Despatched `with the author's compliments'.
Those poems in longhand, ripped from the wire spine
Of your exercise book, bewildered me—
Vowels and ideas bandied free
As the seed-pods blowing off our sycamores.
I tried to write about the sycamores
And innovated a South Derry rhyme
With hushed and lulled full chimes for pushed and pulled.
Those hobnailed boots from beyond the mountain
Were walking, by God, all over the fine
Lawns of elocution.

Have our accents
Changed? 'Catholics, in general, don't speak
As well as students from the Protestant schools.'
Remember that stuff? Inferiority
Complexes, stuff that dreams were made on.
'What's your name, Heaney?'

'Heaney, Father.'

'Fair

Enough.'

On my first day, the leather strap
Went epileptic in the Big Study,
Its echoes plashing over our bowed heads,
But I still wrote home that a boarder's life
Was not so bad, shying as usual

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

The publication of Church News Ireland is overseen by Very Rev Dr Houston McKelvey OBE, QVRM, TD. He may be contacted at houstonmckelvey@mac.com