

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Mothers' Union witness at Lambeth**

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At the Lambeth Conference the Mothers' Union highlighted its ongoing campaign against domestic violence

## **People and places**

### **Lambeth touch to BBC Radio Ulster's Morning Service**

**Morning Service will have a guest speaker from North Africa. Archbishop Samy Fawzy, Primate of the Anglican Province of Alexandria, will be the preacher for BBC Radio Ulster's Morning Service on Sunday, 14th August, from St Malachi's Church, Hillsborough.**

The Province of Alexandria forms part of the Anglican Communion and covers most of North Africa; it has experienced sustained growth in recent years.

The service will be led by the Rector of Hillsborough, Canon Bryan Follis, and will start at 10.15pm. You may listen in live on 92–95M or 1341MW or afterwards on the BBC website.

### **Bishop Daly a Man for all Seasons exhibition**

**Bishop Daly a Man for all Seasons exhibition will be held in St Eugene's Cathedral hall, Infirmary road, Derry**

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from Monday 8th to Saturday 13th August  
(10.30am-4.00pm), and on Sunday 14th  
August(10.30am-2.00pm)

Car parking will be available at the Cathedral



## Completing J.S. Bach's mysteriously unfinished Little Organ Book

**After more than 300 years, J.S. Bach's mysteriously unfinished Orgelbüchlein ('Little Organ Book') will finally receive a full UK premiere in London across 24 – 25 Sept.**

The Orgelbüchlein Project has involved the composition of 118 new pieces of music to complete the unfinished Orgelbüchlein – a manuscript which the composer intended to contain 164 chorales, but which he ultimately left

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unfinished with just 46 completed and only the titles penned in for the rest.

Over more than a decade, project director and organist William Whitehead has commissioned contemporary composers such as John Rutter, Judith Bingham, Sir Stephen Hough, Sally Beamish, Louis Andriessen, Daniel Kidane, Roxanna Panufnik and Nico Muhly to fill in these missing pieces and rise to the project's central challenge: if Bach were alive today, how might he go about writing a short chorale prelude in the Orgelbüchlein style?

Join the College of Organists for this weekend of celebration to mark the completion of Bach's unfinished organ manuscript. Admission is free.

Details: <https://bit.ly/3b4Kba4>

## Bright ordination in Down and Connor

**Father John O'Laverty was ordained to the Priesthood by Bishop Noel Treanor on Sunday 31 July, in Saint Patrick's Church, Legamaddy (Parish of Bright, Killough).**

Father John (30), a native of the parish of Bright, following his early studies in Saint Nicholas' Primary School, Ardglass and Saint Patrick's Grammar School, Downpatrick, completed a degree in accountancy at Queen's University Belfast in 2013.





Bishop Noel Treanor, newly Ordained Fr John O'Laverty and his parents Elizabeth and Martin

In 2015, John entered Saint Malachy's Seminary, Belfast where he commenced his formation and preparation for the priesthood, studying scholastic philosophy.

In 2017, John was sent to the Pontifical Irish College, Rome, to continue his priestly formation, where he completed a degree in theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University (2020) before continuing his training at the Venerable English College, Rome with post-graduate studies in the field of Canon Law.

Father John O'Laverty will return to Rome this September to complete his Licentiate studies in Canon Law. During the

course of his priestly formation, John has also assisted in various parishes across the Diocese of Down and Connor.

At his Ordination ceremony, addressing Father John O'Laverty, his parents Elizabeth and Martin, his sisters Edel and Marie, wider family and friends, along with diocesan clergy and parishioners from the parish of Bright (Killough), Bishop Treanor said:

“For us all, members of the Body of Christ, coming from many different lands and backgrounds, it is a great joy to gather here in this church in Legamaddy in the parish of Bright, dedicated to Saint Patrick, for the Ordination of John O'Laverty.

Mindful of that long and living tradition of Christian faith and heritage, we all join joyfully in prayer for you and with you, John, on this the day of your Ordination to the priesthood of Jesus Christ for service in this Diocese of Down and Connor.

To you, Martin and Elizabeth, Father John's parents: on behalf of the faithful of our diocese – thank you for the gift of your son. May God reward you and your family.

On behalf of our local Church, I wish to acknowledge and thank all of you who accompanied, guided, inspired and encouraged John throughout the years of his training, study and formation. Your work is demanding as you guide seminarians in the ways of personal, spiritual, academic and pastoral growth. Please know that we are grateful to you. We pray God's blessing on your vital service to the Church of tomorrow.

John, you have been called to priestly ministry as the Holy Spirit is stirring the Church with Pentecostal zephyrs, much like that first Pentecost experience in Jerusalem. Among the people of God many voices are to be heard. In this our time there is need for interpreters, for building of understanding and appreciation of the heart of faith in Christ. Rooted in the Word of God and in mystery of God incarnate in Jesus Christ may you ever listen to the heartbeat of all who meet you with Christlike empathy.

## World News

### Pope underscores need for a world free of nuclear weapons

**Pope Francis sent a tweet on Monday 1 August stressing that the world needs to move towards "real dialogue" for peace and stability rather than using nuclear weapons as a "balance of terror" that only provides a false sense of security. He stressed once again that the "use of nuclear weapons as well as their mere possession is immoral."**

'The use of #NuclearWeapons, as well as their mere possession, is immoral. Trying to defend and ensure stability and peace through a false sense of security and a "balance of terror" ends up poisoning relationships between peoples and obstructs real dialogue. #NPTRevCon' - Pope Francis

His tweet above made reference to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, or Non-Proliferation

Treaty (NPT), which is currently being reviewed in New York. The pandemic caused a delay in the review, which was previously scheduled for 2020.

The Non-Proliferation Treaty features three pillars of non-proliferation, disarmament, and peaceful uses of nuclear energy and is seen as a key international instrument for promoting nuclear non-proliferation. It came into force in 1970 and today has 191 States party to the treaty. The NPT has aimed to prevent other states from acquiring nuclear weapons as well as reductions in nuclear weapons stockpiles. Every five years a review process takes place, called RevCon, to review current progress and set future goals.

In June Pope Francis addressed a message read out at the First Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), when he renewed his call for an end to war and to the causes of conflict, and reaffirmed that the use, and even possession, of nuclear weapons is immoral. On that occasion, the Pope praised the "courageous vision" of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons saying it "appears ever more timely."

The TPNW aims at achieving and maintaining a nuclear-weapons-free world. It went into effect in January 2021. To date, 65 states have ratified or acceded to the Treaty, although no nuclear-armed countries have done so.







## The 'Aberdeen bishops' return to their roots

**Four bishops of The Episcopal Church in the United States who were ordained and consecrated in the early days of the Covid-19 pandemic, with small services and a minimum of three bishops attending, made a pilgrimage to the Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney in the Scottish Episcopal Church, in advance of the Lambeth Conference.**

Aberdeen holds special significance for them because that is where the first bishop of The Episcopal Church, Samuel Seabury, was ordained in 1784 in a similarly simple service with three bishops in attendance, prompting these four and three others ordained under early Covid restrictions to refer to themselves as the “Aberdeen bishops.” The four bishops who made the trip are Georgia Bishop Frank Logue, Minnesota Bishop Craig Loya, Alabama Minnesota Bishop



Bishop Glenda Curry, and Missouri Bishop Deon Johnson. They are pictured visiting the site of the 1784 consecration of Samuel Seabury in Aberdeen.

The visit was picked up on by the media, and an account of the visit of the 'Aberdeen bishops' was published by the Episcopal News Service.

In the report, Bishop Dean called the group's time in Aberdeen and Orkney "a reminder that The Episcopal Church was born out of graciousness and holy hospitality" and "of what the Anglican Communion at its best can be ... the future of the church is not in silos or solos, but in collaboration, connection and cooperation, and it all starts here."

## **Storytelling is the theme of Scottish Interfaith Week**

**To tie in with Scotland's Year Of Stories, the theme for Scottish Interfaith Week 2022 is to be Storytelling.**

"Over five million people live in Scotland and we each have a story to tell," say organisers. "As Scotland's only interfaith festival, we have the unique opportunity to explore how faith and belief impact our communities and offer resilience, connection and joy.

"Through storytelling we can step into each other's worlds for a moment – through a poem, a song or a photograph. Stories enable us to break down barriers, challenge stereotypes and start important conversations.

"Hold an event for this year's festival and share your stories. Through your exhibitions, conversations, and performances, we look forward to showcasing Scotland's diversity through the power of storytelling."

Scottish Interfaith Week takes place from 13 to 20 November 2022. More details are available here.  
[<https://scottishinterfaithweek.org/>]

## **York Minster installs solar tiles in historic first**

**A ceremony has been held at York Minster to mark the installation of solar tiles on the roof of its Refectory building.**



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Attended by City of York Council members, including Cllr Paula Widdowson, Executive Member for Environment and Climate Change, the ceremony included a dedication by Acting Dean, The Rvd Canon Michael Smith.

This signals the first time that solar tiles have been installed on a listed building in the city and follows extensive consultations between York Minster, City of York Council and Historic England.

Brought to site following a successful planning decision in December 2022, the Refectory, located at 2 Deangate, is the first major project in the recently adopted York Minster Neighbourhood Plan.

The former site of The Minster School, it is in the process of being transformed into a refectory-style restaurant café, and is set to open in 2023.

The Neighbourhood Plan forms part of York's statutory development plan and sets out a 15-year route map to create a sustainable future for the Minster and its surrounding Precinct. It is the first time that a Neighbourhood Plan has been used to map the future care of a cathedral or heritage estate.

The discreetly placed solar tiles will produce approximately 10,000 kilowatt-hours of power every year and will support the Minster's ambitions to achieve operational net zero carbon, as outlined in the Neighbourhood Plan.

Alex McCallion, Director of Works and Precinct at York Minster, said: "As with our recently ratified Neighbourhood



Plan, York Minster is leading the way and setting a new precedent for other heritage organisations to follow. Currently, the biggest external threat to the Minster's future is climate change, brought about by extreme weather events. The Neighbourhood Plan sets a policy-led approach to how we are going to address this as we move towards a low carbon estate. The installation of these solar tiles is an important milestone in delivering that pledge".

Rvd Canon Michael Smith, Acting Dean of York Minster, said: "We are very excited to have installed these new solar tiles, which signify a first not just for the Minster, but for the wider city. We want to thank both City of York Council and Historic England for their support up to this point, and we hope to continue our partnership working as we seek to deliver our Neighbourhood Plan over the next 15 years which has sustainability at its heart, while also being sensitive to the Precinct's historic architecture."

Cllr Paula Widdowson, Executive Member for Environment and Climate change at City of York Council, added: "I am delighted to see solar tiles installed on a listed building in the Minster Precinct. This has been delivered through City of York Council and the Minster working together to build a solution that satisfies both our climate ambition and our conservation requirements. I am looking forward to seeing many more of these projects delivered across the city in years to come."

For more information on the Neighbourhood Plan, please visit: <https://yorkminster.org/about-us/master-planning/>.



It is with great pleasure that I send my warm greetings as you continue your meeting in the fifteenth Lambeth Conference. As we all emerge from the pandemic, I know that the Conference is taking place at a time of great need for the love of God - both in word and deed.

I am reminded that this gathering was necessarily postponed two years ago, when you had hoped to mark the centenary of the Lambeth Conference that took place in 1920, in the aftermath of the First World War. Then, the bishops of the Anglican Communion set out a path for an ongoing commitment towards Christian unity in a changing world; a task that is, perhaps, even more important today, as together you look to the future and explore the role of the church in responding to the needs of the present age.

Now, as so often in the past, you have convened during a period of immense challenge for bishops, clergy and lay people around the world, with many of you serving in places of suffering, conflict and trauma. It is of comfort to me that you do so in the strength of God.

We also live in a time when the effects of climate change are threatening the lives and livelihoods of many people and communities, not least the poorest and those less able to adapt and adjust. I was interested to learn that the focus of your programme at Lambeth Palace today is reflection and dialogue on the theme of the environment, a cause close to the heart of my late husband, and carried on by The Prince of Wales and The Duke of Cambridge.

Throughout my life, the message and teachings of Christ have been my guide and in them I find hope. It is my heartfelt prayer that you will continue to be sustained by your faith in times of trial and encouraged by hope at times of despair.

I send my warmest good wishes to you all for a successful Conference and may God bless you in your ministry and service in his world.

ELIZABETH R.

3<sup>rd</sup> August, 2022.

## Lambeth focus

# This is a time of ‘great need for the love of God’ – Queen’s message to Lambeth Conference

**Her Majesty The Queen has spoken of the hope she finds in the teachings of Jesus Christ, in a message of ‘warmest good wishes’ to hundreds of Anglican bishops**

## **from around the world gathered in the UK for the Lambeth Conference.**

Her message was published as the bishops, gathered from around 165 countries at the Lambeth Conference, were meeting at Lambeth Palace in London for a day focused on the environment.

The day will include the launch of The Communion Forest, a worldwide environmental programme to include tree planting, the creation of wetlands and coastal restoration projects by Anglican provinces, dioceses and churches across the world.

“It is with great pleasure that I send my warm greetings as you continue your meeting in the fifteenth Lambeth Conference.

“As we all emerge from the pandemic, I know that the Conference is taking place at a time of great need for the love of God – both in word and deed,” the Queen, who is Supreme Governor of the Church of England, said in her message. Noting the theme of reflection and dialogue on the environment, the Queen said this was a cause ‘close to the heart’ of her late husband, the Duke of Edinburgh, and was being carried on by The Prince of Wales and The Duke of Cambridge.

## **The full text of the Queen’s message to the Lambeth Conference is below:**

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Conference. As we all emerge from the pandemic, I know that the Conference is taking place at a time of great need for the love of God – both in word and deed.

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ELIZABETH R.  
3rd August, 2022

## **Bishops from around the Anglican Communion affirm and celebrate LGBTQ+ people**

**Bishops from around the Anglican Communion signed a statement affirming and celebrating LGBTQ+ people.**

The signatories included -

Most Revd Mark Strange, Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church

Most Revd Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church of the United States

Most Revd Naudal Alves Gomes, Archbishop of Brazil

Most Revd Linda Nicholls, Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Canada

Most Revd Andy Johns, Archbishop of Wales

Full statement:

“So then, you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God.” - Ephesians 2:19

“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.”  
- John 13:34

God is Love! This love revealed by Jesus, described in the Scriptures and proclaimed by the Church, is Good News for all - without exception. That is why we believe that LGBT+ people are a precious part of God’s creation - for each of us is ‘fearfully and wonderfully made’ (Psalm 139:14), and all are equally loved.

We recognise that many LGBT+ people have historically been wounded by the Church and particularly hurt by the events of the last few weeks. We wish to affirm the holiness of their love wherever it is found in committed relationships.

We therefore commit to working with our siblings across the Communion to listen to their stories and understand their contexts, which vary greatly. However, we will never shy away from tackling discrimination and prejudice against those of differing sexualities and gender identities.

Together, we will speak healing and hope to our broken world and look forward to the day when all may feel truly welcomed, valued and affirmed.

Full list of signatories:

[www.bit.ly/InclusiveLambeth2022](http://www.bit.ly/InclusiveLambeth2022)

**CNI**

## Perspective

### Silence - The Good and the Bad by Brian Anderson

**I recently attended a moving service at St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, that included times of silence as part of the liturgy. It was arranged by Corrymeela and was entitled "Courage of Lament".**

After set prayers we were offered silence, to apply these prayers and let them sit and marinate into our souls. A little chime indicated we were moving on.

I'm contemplative in my spirituality; I appreciate the use of space, nature, environment, words, music, and silence to connect with God. This stillness, to enable us to be close to God is a treasure worth pursuing. I realize that it is not every believer's spiritual cup of tea, but there is a richness of God to be discovered.

We are naïve to think that we can completely change the rush of the world, in many ways the church has contributed to the spiritual 'hamster wheel' of exhausted Christians. Our Lord often took his disciples aside to teach, prayer and be present with him. Hey, doesn't it sound lovely to "be present just with him." We have a model to be examples of.

The practice of Centring Prayer helps me be silent. For 10 minutes each morning and evening (ok most), I sit in the

presence of God, the Lord looks at me, and I look at him and I am present with God and God is present with me. Inevitably my mind drifts to the more mundane, so I use the word “love” and I am centred again on God. The more I practice the more I’m aware of the Graces of God in my life and I am more thankful.

Then I had an epiphany in St Anne’s- while there is a good quietness, there is also a silence that is bad.

Corrymeela had given an opportunity to lament that churches were silent when they should have been more vocal in the quest of peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland. While the question was asked to God ...“where were you when the hatred started... where were you when neighbour turned on neighbour” really it was a rhetorical question. Where were we? We are upset by the answer but still there is time for the people of faith to speak up.

Psalm 85 is a one of lament, the writer asking God to respond and stop withholding, salvation, and settle from His anger. Then we find these lovely words - as paraphrased by the Message;

Love and truth meet in the street  
Right living and whole living embrace and Kiss  
Truth sprouts from the ground  
Right living pours down from the skies.

That the people of God can challenge the injustices of the day being equipped with righteousness from on high and them being faithful sounds good to me.



Have you noticed that we are surrounded constant crisis? There is the cost-of-living crisis, the health crisis, the homeless crisis, the war in Ukraine crisis, the industrial relations crisis, and the drugs crisis. Surely the church cannot be silent in the face of these local and international issues.

I think the church can respond in two ways.

1. Respond to the present needs. When the UK government withdrew the uplift of Universal credit of £20-00 per week it was clear that the people receiving it, still needed it (cost of essentials had risen) and the gap in a family's income would be met by the charity and faith sectors. Many churches have shopping trolleys for supplies to the local food bank, have taken in refugees to their homes and reached out to street sleepers to ensure that their basic needs are attended to - this all speaks of care.

2. To Challenge the Issues Causing Crises. To take Archbishop Desmond Tutu's phrase "we must also sail upriver to challenge the causes of the many crises". I am closest to the poverty crisis, and I am heartened that denominational leaders and parachurch groupings are bringing leaders together to challenge the causes of poverty. We recognise this is a complex issue, with many contributing factors and no quick fixes. We must not, and will not remain silent in the face of injustice.

It is so frustrating that we have no functioning Assembly at Stormont, mainly for reasons to do with relationships elsewhere. In the meanwhile, many families are struggling to put food on their tables, which could be addressed if the

NI Executive met and, inter alia, release monies into people's pockets. I suspect that support for staying out of the Assembly can only be sustained for a certain length of time, until people cannot cope with the choice between what is portrayed as a principled stance and their practical realities. And is this justice?

So, silence, is good sometimes and not good at other times. We must raise our voices to challenge and also demonstrate compassion to the injustices people are facing around us.

In Lamentations Chapter 3 we read these words: when life is heavy and hard to take go off by yourself. Enter the silence. Be in prayer. Don't ask questions. Wait for hope to appear. Don't run from trouble. Take it full face. (The Message)

*Rev. Brian Anderson is the Mission Superintendent East Belfast Mission, and Past President of the Irish Council of Churches.*

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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## Church News Ireland

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