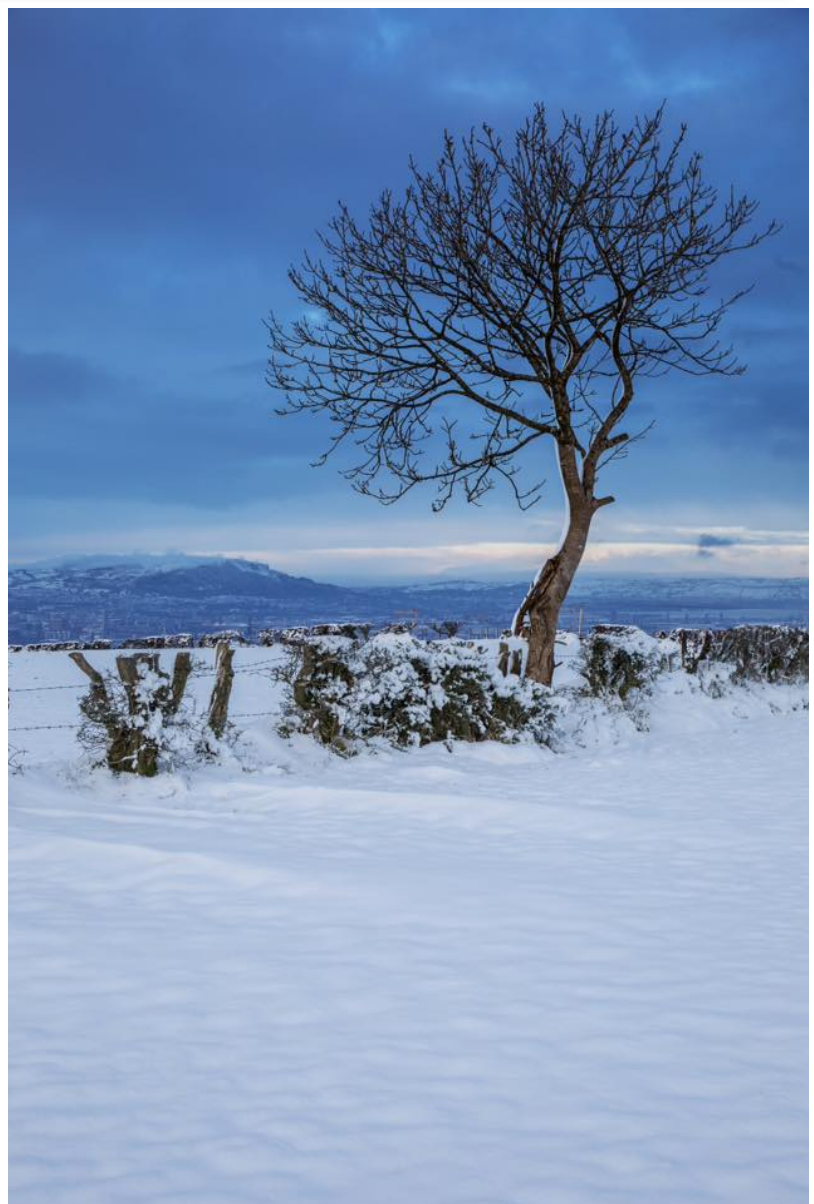




Moderator urges prayer for farmers

As farmers across Ireland continue to face increased pressures as a result of the above average wet winter weather, the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Rt. Rev. Dr. Noble McNeely, has written to ministers yesterday (12 April) asking them to remember farming communities in prayer at this Sunday's church services.

In his letter, Dr. McNeely said, "On travelling around the country over the past few months I have been made acutely aware of the critical situation farmers have been



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experiencing. The above average wet weather has been particularly prolonged and has led to grave circumstances for farmers.

“Currently farmers are feeling the pressure due to the livestock difficulties and the crisis related to the resulting fodder situation. The weather over the next few weeks, or even days will affect the availability of fodder and whether the situation improves, or becomes more critical.



“Having been in contact with farmers’ representatives and others, they tell me that the prolonged period of wet weather has put major pressure on farmers. For example, cattle have been housed for much longer than expected, silage making last autumn was difficult and a period of low temperatures has also been a contributory factor to slow growing conditions for grass. At the same time, livestock feed bills have increased and the growth of winter crops has been affected, which in turn has meant a delay in the planting of spring crops.”

The Moderator concluded his letter by saying that he recognised the serious situation facing farmers and families across Ireland and

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asked the Church's ministers to **pray specifically for the following this Sunday:**

- For improved weather and the drying out of water saturated land
- For the conditions that will improve fodder and enable the sowing of spring crops
- For farmers and their families currently coping with the physical and mental demands
- For farmers and their families in our congregations to be steadfast in faith and know the assurance and enabling of the Holy Spirit.



REVOLECTIONARY

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Young voices’ for Christ Church Cathedral Bible event

‘A Lectionary Revolution: Young Voices speaking Old Words’ is the title for the Biblical Association for the Church of Ireland’s Spring Lecture by UCD chaplain Scott Evans on April 29th.

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The leader of the RevoLectionary group, which has been posting young people's reflections on the Sunday readings on line since September 2016, will be accompanied by colleague Emma Rothwell, the Diocesan Youth Officer for Meath and Kildare and chaplain to Wilson's Hospital School.

Their presentation will take place in Christ Church Cathedral's Chapter Room after 3.30pm evensong on Sunday, April 29th. Tea at 4.30pm, courtesy of the Dean. Start at 4.45pm. All welcome. (No charge for BACI members, token admission for others.)



Biblical Association for the Church of Ireland

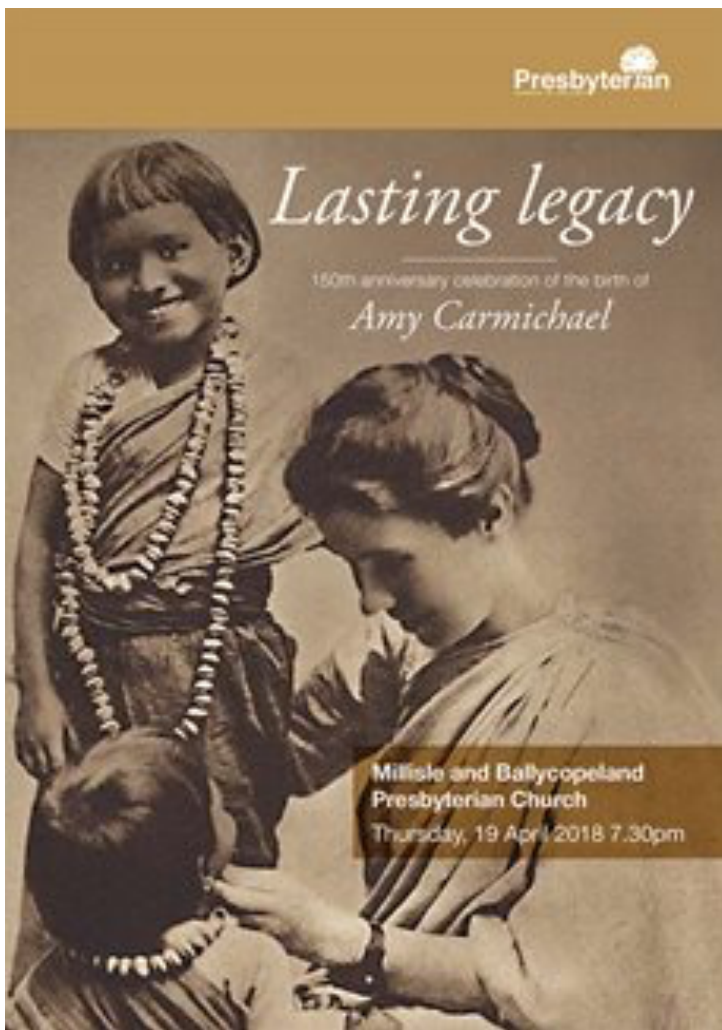
BACI exists to serve as a 'bridge' between clerical and lay, academic and faith-based approaches to the Bible within the Church of Ireland and in conversation with ecumenical partners.

The Honorary Patrons of BACI are their Graces, the Archbishop of Armagh, the Most Reverend Richard Clarke and the Archbishop of Dublin, the Most Reverend Michael Jackson.

Biblical Association for the Church of Ireland -
bibliahibernica.wordpress.com

Special event to celebrate the lasting legacy of missionary Amy Carmichael

Amy Carmichael, one of the world's best known and inspirational missionaries, who was born in Millisle, County Down 150 years ago, will be remembered and her legacy celebrated by the Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI) at a special event on 19 April.



‘Lasting Legacy - 150th anniversary celebration of the birth of Amy Carmichael’ will take place in Millisle and Ballycopeland Presbyterian Church in Millisle, where she worshiped with her family as a child. The evening, which starts at 7.30pm, will also look at the issue of slavery today, a subject that was important to her.

“Amy’s life and dedicated service to the Lord, both at home and overseas, was truly inspirational,” Rev. Uel Marrs, PCI’s Global Mission Secretary said. “As a young adult living in Belfast in the late 1880’s, Amy’s

heart went out to the ‘shawlies’, the women who worked in the mills.

“Often impoverished and unable to afford hats, they covered their heads with shawls. As part of her outreach, Amy opened a hall known as ‘The Welcome’ and down through the years this became the Welcome Evangelical Church, which is still going strong in Cambrai Street in north Belfast today.”

Having left Ireland, Uel Marrs explained that after a period of time in Manchester and Japan, Amy devoted the greater part of her life to mission in southern India. “In 1901 she founded the Dohnavur Fellowship in what is now the state of Tamil Nadu, an organisation devoted to rescuing girls and young women from slavery and poverty, providing them with a safe home.

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“Known as ‘Amma’, or ‘Mother’ to those she rescued for over 50 years, she died in 1951 aged 83 and is buried in Dohnavur. The Fellowship is still in operation today and provides care and education for around 120 children and 60 senior citizens.

“During her life Amy also wrote numerous books which continue to inspire many in their Christian life and service – she has an incredible and far-reaching legacy,” Uel Marrs said.

During the evening, Uel Marrs along with Ruth Cooke of the International Justice Mission, will talk about the challenge of slavery today. Those attending will also hear Jacky Woolcock, a former missionary to Dohnavur talk about the history and ongoing work of the Dohnavur Fellowship, while Jonathan Clarke, pastor of the Welcome Church in Belfast, which Amy founded, will talk about her early years.

Rev. John Flaherty, minister of Millisle and Ballycopeland Presbyterian Church, who will talk about her life in Millisle said, “Amy Carmichael’s life and legacy means a great deal to people in the Millisle area. It is very fitting that this 150th anniversary celebration of her birth is taking place in her childhood congregation.

“We are hoping that many people, both local and from across the country, will join us for the event, which will not only look at her life and legacy, but also look at the issue of slavery today – a subject which was so dear to Amy’s heart.”

“There will also be a small exhibition, bookstall and refreshments, and everyone who comes along will be given a warm welcome,” he said.

The special event ‘Lasting Legacy - 150th anniversary celebration of the birth of Amy Carmichael’ will take place on Thursday 19 April at 7.30pm at Millisle and Ballycopeland Presbyterian Church, Main Street, Millisle. For further information contact the Mission Department of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, +44 (0)28 9032 2284 or email: global@presbyterianireland.org.

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JP McManus funded All-Ireland scholarship reopens for Northern Ireland students

Students from Northern Ireland are being invited to apply for an All-Ireland Scholarship Scheme which would provide them with financial assistance at undergraduate level.

The initiative, which is funded by multi-millionaire businessman JP McManus, is now in its ninth year in Northern Ireland.



The aim is provide financial assistance to top-performing students from low income households who intend to take up full-time undergraduate courses from September 2018.

The value of each scholarship is £5,500 per annum for the undergraduate degree course duration.

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The 25 Northern Ireland scholarships will be awarded to the top 19 performing 'A' level students in grant aided post primary schools and the top six performing Level 3 Extended Diploma students in the further education colleges.

Applicants must be in receipt of the Educational Maintenance Allowance at the time of application and due to start an undergraduate degree at university in September or October 2018.

For further information on eligibility and details on how to apply [visit this website](#) .

The closing date for receipt of application forms is June 29, 2018.

New edition of Eco–Congregation Ireland newsletter

The new edition of the Eco–Congregation Ireland newsletter highlights events and suggested activities to help parishes take a greater interest in the environment.

This features plans for a forthcoming Eco–Service with Church of Ireland involvement in Cloughjordan, Co. Tipperary, and a suggestion on reducing plastic waste from Nun's Cross, Killiskey, Co. Wicklow.

Eco–Congregation Ireland is an initiative of the Irish Inter Church Meeting, and includes members from the Roman Catholic Church, Church of Ireland, Presbyterian Church, Methodist Church and Religious Society of Friends.

For more information, contact: info@ecocongregationireland.com

Archbishop of Canterbury: Journalists are 'indispensable' to modern Britain

The archbishop of Canterbury has said 'there is nothing more important' than a free press holding people to account.

Justin Welby said journalists are 'indispensable' as he spoke to students at Canterbury Christ Church University.

churchnewsireland@gmail.org



'In most of the countries where Anglicans live... there is no freedom of the press, or the press is corrupted in one way or another. In many places people will be tortured, threatened, bribed – all of the above,' he said in an [interview with journalism](#)

[students.](#)

'For all the irritations of the press, and I can get as cross with reading a paper as anyone, what they do is hold people to account and make sure we have a free society – there is nothing more important.'

Welby was speaking ahead of his lecture on Tuesday night on 'Reimagining Britain', the title of his book looking at reasons for hope for the UK.

The editor of the Kent Messenger, Denise Eaton, agreed with the Archbishop's comments, saying the role of the journalist was 'indispensable', according to the [Press Gazette](#).

She said: 'One of the main duties of the press is to hold power to account. We scrutinise and challenge much of the work conducted on behalf of the public and I'd be concerned if such a key component of local democracy was to be lost.'

'I'm very much an advocate of holding authority to account, and long may this role – served by local media for hundreds of years – continue.'

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‘Remember your Baptism date and celebrate it’ – Pope Francis at General Audience



During his General Audience on Wednesday 11 April, Pope Francis focused his catechism on the link between Easter and Sacrament of Baptism. The Holy Father invited the faithful to remember their Baptism date and celebrate it, saying ‘it is our second birthday, our rebirth’.

In his catechism Pope Francis said, ‘Baptism is the door to the other sacraments, whereby we grow in the life of grace until we come at last to our true homeland in heaven. Our Christian life, as a journey of faith and union with the Lord, is sustained by prayer and by our daily efforts to grow in the imitation of Christ.’

The Holy Father said, ‘The Sacrament assumes a journey of faith, which we call the catechumenate, which is most evident when an adult asks to be baptised’, but ‘even children, from antiquity onwards are baptised into the faith of their parents.’

Appealing to parents, Pope Francis said, ‘don’t put off baptising your children with the excuse that ‘he or she is unable to understand’, this attitude he said indicates that ‘you do not trust in the Holy Spirit’.

Pope Francis encouraged all present to seek out the date of their Baptism and to celebrate it as they would their birthday, ‘why not celebrate – or at least remember – the date of our baptism as well?’ The Holy Father highlighted that Baptism is ‘the day the Holy Spirit entered into our lives ... it is our second birthday, our rebirth’.

In Jesus, Pope Francis said, ‘all sons of Adam are called to a new life,’ and ‘immersing us in Christ, baptism also makes us members

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of his body, which is the Church, and participants in its mission in the world.'

The Pope concluded his catechesis saying that the baptismal promises that we renew every year in the Easter Vigil have to be reaffirmed every day, so that baptism 'Christifies' whoever has received it, rendering us truly another Christ.

