

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Pray for Ukraine  
on first anniversary of war**

## Image of the day

### Pray for Ukraine on first anniversary of war

**Churches and Christians are invited to pray together one year on after the Russian invasion of Ukraine on Sunday 26 February.**

Christian Aid is inviting churches from across Britain and Ireland to join together in an act of witness to pray for Ukraine on Sunday 26 February, for an end to the conflict and for all those affected by the terrible impact of war.

This act of witness will stand in solidarity with national services being organised with Churches Together in Britain & Ireland, Churches Together in England and the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church on Friday 24 February. (See London acts of witness below)

A special prayer has been written by Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church which we invite you to pray in your churches and communities on Sunday 26.

### Prayer for Ukraine

Almighty and Great God, accept our gratitude for your boundless mercy towards us.

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Hear the supplication of our afflicted hearts for the land and people of Ukraine, as they confront foreign aggression and invasion.

Open the eyes of those who have been overtaken by a spirit of deception and violence, that they be horrified by their works.

Grant victory over the powers of evil that have arisen and bless Ukraine with your gifts of liberty, peace, tranquility, and good fortune.

We implore you, O Merciful God, look with grace upon those who courageously defend their land.

Remember the mothers and fathers, the innocent children, widows and orphans, the disabled and helpless, those seeking shelter and refuge, who reach out to you and to their fellow human beings looking for mercy and compassion.

Bless the hearts of those who have already shown great generosity and solidarity, and those who prepare to receive their Ukrainian brothers and sisters in Ukraine's greatest time of need.

Bring us together as your children, your creation, and instill in us your strength, wisdom and understanding. May you be praised and glorified, now and forever, and to the ages of ages.  
Amen.

## Downloads

A copy of the prayer, a placard/image of the event can be downloaded at -

[\[https://cte.org.uk/ukraine-anniversary-prayers/?utm\\_source=Churches+Together+in+England&utm\\_campaign=2d9d63aa4f-CTe\]](https://cte.org.uk/ukraine-anniversary-prayers/?utm_source=Churches+Together+in+England&utm_campaign=2d9d63aa4f-CTe)

Please share your acts of witness on social media with the hashtag: #WePrayForUkraine.

## People and places

### New All Ireland Mothers' Union Chaplain

**Archdeacon Stephen McBride, vicar of Antrim, pictured with his wife Helen, is the new All Ireland Mothers' Union Chaplain.**

The Archdeacon of Connor, the Ven Dr Stephen McBride, vicar of Antrim, has been appointed All Ireland Chaplain to the Mothers' Union.

Announcing the appointment, the Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, the Most Rev John McDowell, said: "The Mothers' Union has been at the heart of the worship and witness of the Church of Ireland for more than a century, and under the enthusiastic guidance of June Butler and the present leadership team continues to serve the Church with cheerfulness, modesty and devotion.



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“I can think of no better person than Dr Stephen McBride to support and nurture this spirit of involvement and dedication (and fun) at the heart of the Church, so well supported by his wife Helen. I know too that their very much grown up children Rachael and Alex and their families will relish and support Stephen in his new role.



***Dr Stephen and Mrs Helen McBride***

“Stephen was my training rector and, in those curacy years, impressed on me the importance of human relationships, especially the central relationship of marriage and family life, which are at the heart of our witness to the world.”

Stephen said he was honoured to be considered as Canon Robert Deane’s successor as All Ireland Chaplain and he looks forward to working alongside June Butler and the All Ireland Trustees and to meeting, worshipping with and supporting Mothers’ Union members across Ireland.

Stephen McBride is the current Connor Diocesan Mothers’ Union Chaplain and has had a long association with the Mothers’ Union, first through his mother Claire who was a former chairperson of the Holy Trinity and Immanuel Parish, Belfast, branch. His mother-in-law, the late Jean Clyde, held several diocesan posts in Connor and Armagh at executive level.

Stephen’s wife Helen has been a member of the Mothers’ Union from 1987 and was branch chairperson in Antrim Parish from 1996-2002.

## **First post-covid Ministry of Healing Quiet Day in Dublin & Glendalough**

The first Dublin & Glendalough Church’s Ministry of Healing Quiet Day since the onset of Covid–19 will take place in Newcastle, County Wicklow, on Saturday March 4. This time of restful contemplation and reflection will be happening adjacent to the tranquil setting of Newcastle Parish Church with its beautiful grounds and woodland pathways.

The speaker will be the Revd David Bowles who will be relating what he has learned through several years as a hospital chaplain. He will share how his experiences in a healthcare setting can be applied to shape and to transform our understanding of healing and how we pray.

The day will start with registration and coffee at 10:30am and will conclude with a celebration of Holy Communion with the opportunity to receive prayers for healing at 2:30pm.

Soup, tea and coffee will be provided but attendees are requested to bring their own snack for lunch.

There will be no charge for admission but donations towards the Ministry's work will be gratefully accepted.

Though booking is not essential you are encouraged to register your interest/enquiries with Jeanne at [healing.dgdc@gmail.com](mailto:healing.dgdc@gmail.com). All are welcome.

Location: Newcastle Church Parish Centre, Church Lane, Newcastle, Greystones, Co. Wicklow, A63X782

## **MLA concerned at North Belfast church break-ins**

**Brian Kingston MLA for North Belfast in social media said** - "Very sorry to hear that there were break-ins at two churches in Lower North Belfast last weekend - Crosscollyer

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Evangelical Presbyterian Church and St Paul's Church of Ireland - with low-value items taken.

“A sad indication of the lack of respect by those responsible.

“Most of our churches are struggling to stay afloat and the cost of repairing the break-in, which exceeds the cost of items taken, is a difficult extra burden.

I would urge that the community rallies round in support of its churches and that there be no further such disgraceful and despicable break-ins. Also that any relevant information be passed on to the PSNI.”

## **Peregryne to sing series of complines and a concert**

**Peregryne will sing three offices of compline and a concert in four different churches in Dublin between 17 and 24 February 2023.**

Compline will take place in Ss Augustine and John, better known as John's Lane church on Thomas Street on Friday 17; then St Ann's church on Dawson Street on Saturday 18, and in the Lady chapel of St Patrick's cathedral on Sunday 19 February, all at 17.30.

The project concludes with a concert on Saturday 25 February at 12.30 in Sandford church. Music will include liturgical settings by Thomas Tallis (c.1505-85), the popular 'Angeli archangeli' by Heinrich Isaac (c.1450-1517) and two settings of 'Gaude Virgo Mater Christi', one by Josquin des Prez (c.1450/5-1521) and the other by William Horwood



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(c.1430-84) from the Eton choirbook (c.1500), performed here for the first time since its missing parts were reconstructed by Michael Winter, who joins us singing bass.

Admission is free, but donations are welcome at the concert towards work on the organ.



## New visitor centre at Belfast City Cemetery opened

The building includes:

- ➡ a free interpretive exhibition documenting the history of the cemetery
- ➡ digital touchscreens

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➡ interactive features for children

➡ genealogy research workstations, and

➡ indoor and outdoor educational space for schools and youth groups.

The centre is a key element of a £2.8 million project which aims to transform how people view and use the cemetery.



Interpretive signage is also being installed throughout the cemetery and free events, talks and guided tours will be delivered regularly. Visitors can also download a free app so they can take self-guided tours.

The final key elements of the project will see the restoration of several historic B1-listed monuments, including the cemetery's central steps and vaults and Victorian fountains.





The project is funded by us, National Lottery Heritage Fund Northern Ireland and the Department for Communities.

Initially, the new visitor centre will be open five days a week, from Tuesday to Saturday from 9.30am to 1.30pm.

Find out more at [belfastcity.gov.uk/citycemeteryheritage](https://belfastcity.gov.uk/citycemeteryheritage)

## **Organ date at Belfast's St Peter's Cathedral**

Aaron Voderholzer - Bavaria and Bogdan Reincke - Hungary will be giving a fabulous recital of organ music at Belfast's St Peter's Cathedral on Sunday May 7 afternoon.



Aaron and Bogdan

Programme to follow. Many were unable to attend the autumn recital last year Francesco Botti (Italian) and Ondrej Smolik (Czech). Don't miss this one! It will be a pure delight!

## News reports

### Practical celebration of Autism Sunday in Glasgow

**A project to create church for the autistic community received almost £7000 towards its work as it celebrated Autism Sunday at the weekend.**

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Partick South Parish Church in Glasgow hosted the special service of thanksgiving and celebration for Autism Sunday, which is marked on the second Sunday of February.

The service also provided an opportunity to celebrate the gift of £6,831 from Netherlee and Stamperland Church to St Thorlak's Community. This will be used to help develop services for autistic worshippers and their families.

St Thorlak's Community is a pioneer initiative developed by a group led by Steven Owens, a ministry candidate in the Church of Scotland who has also worked for Autism Scotland.

Together with Rev Andy McIntyre, minister of Partick South Parish Church, he aims to support churches in Scotland become more accessible to people with autism.

To achieve this aim, St Thorlak's Community will develop a range of activities in consultation with the autistic community.

Mr Owens said: "St Thorlak's Community is in the very early stages of development but will aim to offer activity that will benefit autistic people. The community will provide an opportunity to provide support to autistic people and their families from a Christian community.

"We anticipate that a new worshipping community will develop over time as a result of this."



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St Thorlak is the Patron Saint of Iceland and in recent years an autistic group in the United States has called for the recognition of Thorlak as patron saint of autistic people.

The donation from the Netherlee and Stamperland congregation followed the sale of the contents of Stamperland Kirk in Clarkston, which closed last summer after the congregation united with Netherlee Church.

Both congregations have well established links with the Isobel Mair School in Newton Means which supports children with autism and other special educational needs and is named after the wife of a former Netherlee minister.

Rev Scott Blythe, the current minister of Netherlee and Stamperland Parish Church, said: "The idea to support the development of St Thorlak's Community came from the people of Stamperland.

"We are pleased that a new community will be enabled to grow following the sale of items from the former Stamperland Church building."

The St Thorlak team will be developing a website in the coming months as well as a social media presence.

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# Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



## ACC18 papers and reports online

The agenda, papers and reports of the ACC18 - Anglican Consultative Council are available at <https://acc18.org>

## Presbyterian Podcast 70 – Disciple-shaped Lives, Disciple-shaped Church

In Matthew 4:19, Jesus calls his first disciples: “follow me, and I will make you fishers of men”. Since this first invitation to follow, be transformed and commissioned into the mission of Christ, billions more people have sought to follow Jesus.

Featuring Rachael Gamble (Discipleship Facilitator, Sloan Street Presbyterian Church ), Colin Neill (Waringstown Presbyterian Church ) and Trevor Reaney (First Holywood Presbyterian), this podcast explores key principles and



practices that can help both individuals and local congregations towards living a life of faithful discipleship in the 21st century.

This episode also highlights a number of Discipleship resources from PCI for use personally and in small groups, including:

Inspirations – a resource for women’s ministry filled with engaging, relevant and thought-provoking content.

Essentials – a multi-session small group or midweek course that aims to help followers of Jesus reflect on and live out the essentials of discipleship.

Expressions – an eight session film series that seeks to connect themes from Scripture with the real lives of church

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members to open up conversations on how their faith expresses itself in everyday life and witness.

Proximity – these three booklets exploring relevant and challenging content on “Seasons of Life”, “Life in God’s Story” and “Habits of a Lifetime” are ideally suited for one-to-one discipleship or small groups.

Tides – a daily devotional delivered straight to your inbox containing a section of God’s word to read, a short reflection sharing what this could mean for your life, and a simple way for you to respond.

Listen wherever you get your podcasts from or via

<https://audioboom.com/channels/5019668>





## Summer Madness 2023 early bird tickets

Time is running out for you to grab your early bird tickets for Summer Madness 2023. Knock a chunk off your ticket price by grabbing this deal before the start of April.

You don't want to miss out!



## Patrick and The Pagan Hills walk

Martina Purdy invites you to walk through the by-ways of Saint Patrick's Country exploring a landscape of ancient monuments and saintly connections including one of the area's oldest churches.

from £65.00 (running from 28th April – 15th Sept)

<https://www.saintpatrickcentre.com/experience-pagan-hills/>



## Poem for today

### The Wild Swans at Coole by William Butler Yeats

The trees are in their autumn beauty,  
The woodland paths are dry,  
Under the October twilight the water  
Mirrors a still sky;  
Upon the brimming water among the stones  
Are nine-and-fifty swans.

The nineteenth autumn has come upon me  
Since I first made my count;  
I saw, before I had well finished,  
All suddenly mount  
And scatter wheeling in great broken rings  
Upon their clamorous wings.

I have looked upon those brilliant creatures,  
And now my heart is sore.  
All's changed since I, hearing at twilight,  
The first time on this shore,  
The bell-beat of their wings above my head,  
Trode with a lighter tread.

Unwearied still, lover by lover,  
They paddle in the cold  
Companionable streams or climb the air;

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Their hearts have not grown old;  
Passion or conquest, wander where they will,  
Attend upon them still.

But now they drift on the still water,  
Mysterious, beautiful;  
Among what rushes will they build,  
By what lake's edge or pool  
Delight men's eyes when I awake some day  
To find they have flown away?

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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## 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](mailto:houstonmckelvey@mac.com)

