

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – St Peter's Cathedral, Belfast

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The majestic spires and towers of Saint Peter's Cathedral are an outstanding feature of the Belfast skyline.

The site for the building was donated by the famous baker Bernard Hughes of Belfast and it was designed by Fr Jeremiah Ryan Macaulay who had trained as an architect before he became a priest of this Diocese.. St Peter's is built of Scrabo sandstone with Scottish sandstone dressings. It is a less ornate and smaller version of the great French medieval cathedrals. The exterior is quite simple in design, the most intricate detail being found on the twin spires. They are a majestic addition to the towers and are an outstanding feature of the Belfast skyline. The towers contain a carillon of nine bells. Above the West Door in the tympanum is a depiction of the 'Liberation of Saint Peter'.

Internally the Cathedral has few original furnishings, having undergone several refurbishments in 1950, 1986 and 2003-2005. This most recent work has restored the Cathedral much nearer to its original appearance, especially in the use of strong and vibrant colours, on the fine hammer-beam ceiling. Detailed research has revealed the 19th century colours and stencil work inspired by A.W.N. Pugin, the celebrated Gothic Revival architect. The sanctuary ceiling is a different design, with coffered panels and arches

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that flank the windows below the IHS monogram and angels carrying emblems of the Passion.

In the Blessed Sacrament Chapel hangs the silver sanctuary lamp, an intricate piece of late Celtic Revival work by Eagan's of Cork. This was presented in the 1920s by the McGowan family, who were members of this parish.

In the Lady Chapel is a copy of a 15th century statue of the Madonna and Child. The original of this statue is in a Cistercian Abbey in Normandy in France. It was Saint Malachy, the patron of this diocese, in his friendship with Saint Bernard of Clairvaux, who introduced the Cistercian Order into Ireland.

The Altar and the Ambo are both of limestone and were carved by Ken Thompson of Cork. The floor of the sanctuary is of artistic mosaic created by Sergio Bendetti.

Near the narthex is the baptismal font by the artist Ken Thompson. It is located near the entrance to the Cathedral to represent the fact that it is the Sacrament of Baptism by which Christians enter the life of the church. The shape of the font follows the ancient custom of being octagonal to remind us that it was on the eighth day that Christ rose from the dead. The font is adorned with geometric carvings and portrays the baptism of Christ in the river Jordan.

It is the cathedral of the diocese of Down and Connor.
[<https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/church/st-peters-cathedral-belfast>]

[<https://www.stpetersbelfast.ie/>]

People and places



Most Rev David Chillingworth, the Archbishop of Canterbury and First Minister Sturgeon

Former Primus enjoyed his contacts with Scotland's First Minister

Most Rev David Chillingworth a C of I cleric who became Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church met with Nicola Sturgeon' on her first day in office as First Minister.

Bishop Chillingworth said " I always enjoyed my contacts with her. She was a leader worthy of respect - honest,

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passionate about Scotland and her leadership, human and approachable.

“She was respectful of faith and faith leaders. I still remember the day when she invited Scotland’s faith leaders to meet in Bute House for a day. She was present throughout and chaired the meeting herself.

“She has obviously found her leadership costly - but I hope she carries away with her a quiet sense of satisfaction about the quality of leadership she has modelled in difficult times.”



Congratulations to well-known musician

All Souls Church and the Charles Wood Festival were among those who sent warmest congratulations to Mr Richard Yarr MBE, on his recent investiture by His Majesty

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King Charles III at Windsor Castle. Richard is Director of Music at First Church in Rosemary Street, Belfast. He received the honour for Services to Music in Northern Ireland.



Third Mark of Mission at Anglican Consultative Council

ACC-18 - is currently taking place in Accra, Ghana.

The Revd Canon Natalie Simons-Arendse, from the Diocese of Cape Town, is representing the Anglican Church of Southern Africa.

She spoke during the Bible Study on the Third Mark of Mission on Day 3, 14th February 2023.



“I went home and told my husband I was starting a business. I was able to send all my six children to school.”

Buy a Gift of Perseverance this Mothering Sunday

This Mothering Sunday, buy a Gift of Perseverance, which could help a woman like Aquiline learn literacy and numeracy.

After taking part in a Mothers' Union project, Aquiline was then able to take control of the family finances and grow her business to support her family.

<https://makeamothersday.org/shop/>



International Day of Celtic Art

David McGovern will be one of the speakers at the forthcoming 2nd International Day of Celtic Art Conference, at the St Patrick Centre, Downpatrick (8-11 June 2023), Martina Purdy writes.

He is the first speaker of many we will be profiling between now and St Patrick's Day

(when things get lively around here!), all taking part in the conference in June, where tickets will be £15 per day, and £40 if attending all 3 days (8-10 June), plus £20 for the optional local tour of Early Christian sites on 11 June.

David is a Pictish stone-carver, living and working in Angus, Scotland. Through his carving business, Monikie Rock Art, he produces faithful historical replicas, museum pieces, reconstructed Pictish sculpture and new monumental relief work in sandstone and bronze as well as running a popular summer carving school in his native Angus. David is Vice President of the Pictish Arts Society and a fellow of The



Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. In 2017 he designed and carved the first new-design, full size Pictish cross erected in Scotland in over a thousand years at Forteviot in Perthshire. His public art can be seen at Forteviot, St Vigeans and Brechin.

He's currently working on a full-sized replica of the Conon Bridge Pictish cross-slab, designing a new Pictish monument and working on academic projects for Edinburgh University and University College Cork.

In 2017 David set out to carve incredible new Pictish monumental sculpture. Having worked on historical replicas for years he felt it was important to produce new work in the Pictish tradition to take their place in the landscape of modern Scotland and to pass on Pictish carving techniques to a new generation. In this talk at the conference, David will share his stone-carving work and his process for designing and carving new Pictish monuments.

We will be sharing more of David's carvings, and the inspiration behind his work on this page after St Patrick's Day.

New Lisburn Primary and Community Care Centre

**The South
Eastern Health
Trust has
expressed
delight that the
Lisburn Primary
and Community
Care Centre
(PCCC) will
open its doors
to patients on**



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Monday 20 February 2023.

The new PCCC, situated on the Lagan Valley Hospital site, is a 'one stop location' for the community's health and social care needs, all under one roof providing state of the art accommodation for seven GP Practices and a wide range of primary and community care services many of which will be relocated from the existing Lisburn Health Centre.

The transfer of services will be phased.

Read more here: <https://bit.ly/3K8oOUc>

For more info on the facilities click here: <https://bit.ly/3I2rD6K>

News reports

Hymn-writing couple to attend freedom of city after three-year delay

A Grammy-nominated Christian singing couple from Northern Ireland have agreed to attend a freedom of the city event in June following a three-year delay.

Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council had approved a motion in August 2019 to bestow its highest civic order to Keith and Kristyn Getty.

But due to a postponement of their attendance at a 2020 event to mark the occasion — due to the couple’s residence in the US and the Covid pandemic — items bought by the council for the occasion and costing just over £1,190 may now need to be “chucked”, a council meeting was told.

Lisburn UUP councillor Nicholas Trimble said: “Hopefully we finally have a date now set in stone. Is there any way we can repurpose any of the items from the postponed freedom of the city event?”

“I know it’s not a huge amount, but it is considerable. Could they be reused in some way or do they need to be chucked?”

The items listed include a digital printed scroll, Burgess book entries, framing, a tree plaque and a granite stone.

Courtesy Belfast Telegraph. Report by Donal McMahon,
Local Democracy Reporter

World's oldest Hebrew Bible expected to fetch £40m

A Hebrew Bible is likely to become the world's most expensive book after it was revealed that it is the oldest surviving scripture of its kind.

Carbon dating has proved that the Jewish Bible is more than 1,000 years old. It has been called "one of the most important" books in human history.

The most complete Hebrew Bible known to exist, the volume, known as the Codex Sassoon after a previous owner, Rabbi David Solomon Sassoon, is expected to sell for about £40 million when it is auctioned by Sotheby's New York in May. The record is held by a first print of the US Constitution that was bought for £28 million in 2021.

The scripture, which contains the Pentateuch, Prophets and Writings texts that form the Hebrew Bible, is held in the vault of Jacqui Safra, a Swiss collector. Richard Austin, Sotheby's global head of books and manuscripts, said the codex held "a fabled place in the pantheon of surviving historic manuscripts and is one of the most important texts in human history.

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“It has been definitively dated as the earliest, most complete text of its kind ... a critical link from the ancient Hebrew oral tradition to the modern, accepted form of the Hebrew Bible ... used today,” he added.

Archbishop Welby visits former British slave castle



The Archbishop of Canterbury writes - It was profoundly moving to visit the former British slave castle on Ghana's Cape Coast today, with my brothers the Primates of West Africa and the West Indies.

Originally built by the Swedish in the 1650s, Cape Coast Castle passed into Danish, Dutch and then English



possession by the 1660s, when it became the headquarters of British colonial administration for the Gold Coast colony.

Over the course of the 18th century, most of Cape Coast Castle's trade was in African captives bound for the Americas where they were enslaved. Throughout the 18th century, the Castle served as a "grand emporium" of the British slave trade.

On our tour of the castle today we visited the basement cells – known as "slave holes" – where Africans, taken from their homes sometimes hundreds of miles away, were held with little ventilation and no windows before being transported across the Atlantic. Above the dungeon cells there was a church, which today is now a children's library.

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We also visited the former women's cells, the place where enslaved men and women were branded, and the Gate of No Return through which people passed before boarding ships bound for the Americas.

It was a reminder that the abomination of transatlantic chattel slavery was blasphemous: those who imprisoned men and women in those dungeons saw them as less than human.

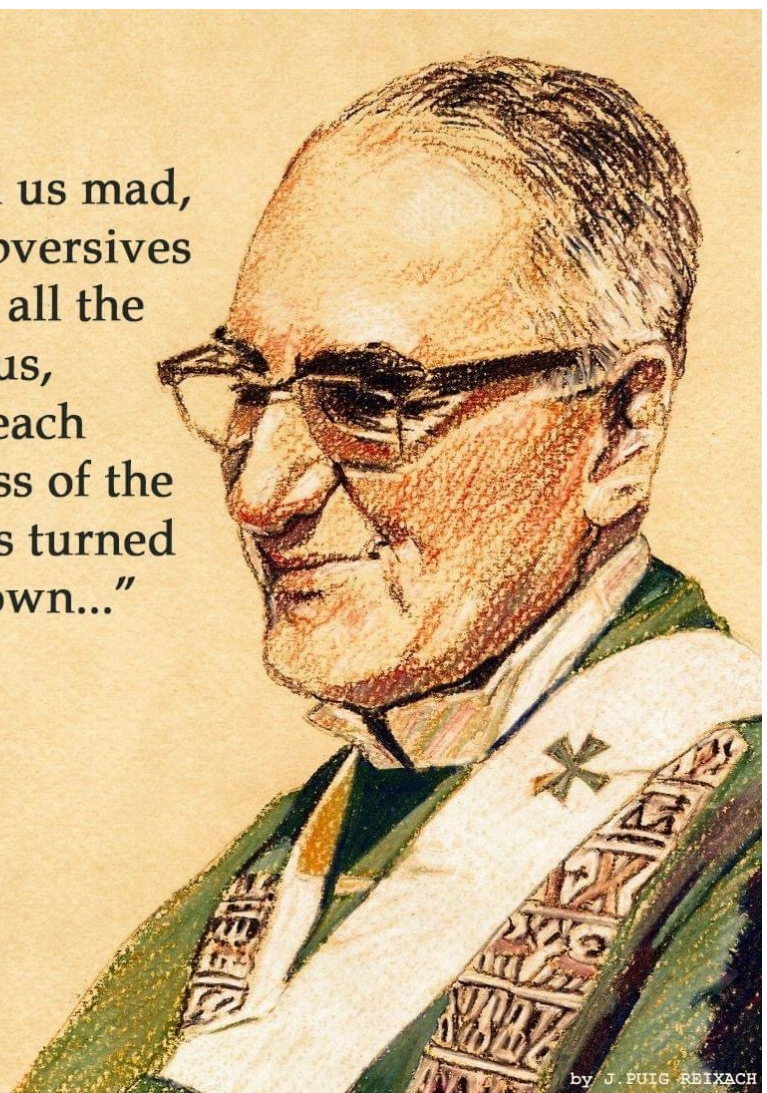
It is a stain on the wider church that some Christians did not see their brothers and sisters as created in the image of God, but as objects to be exploited. And it is to the Church

“Even when they call us mad, when they call us subversives and communists and all the epithets they put on us, we know we only preach the subversive witness of the Beatitudes, which has turned everything upside down...”

St. Óscar Romero



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by J. PUIG REIXACH

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of England's eternal shame that it did not always follow Christ's teaching to give life.

Transatlantic slavery was blasphemy; the Gospel calls us to repentance, and to striving for freedom and justice for all.

Read more about our visit:

<https://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/news/news-and-statementsarchbishop-canterbury-visits-former-british-slave-castle-ghana/>

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

A Lenten journey for children

Today we'd like to share with you a perennial favourite from our seasonal resource bank: a Lenten journey for children.

Each week, children decorate a teardrop shape with symbols that reflect Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. Put together, these

ROOTS



A Lenten journey for children

Transforming a road of tears to a flower of joy on Easter Sunday

rootsontheweb.com/tryROOTS

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teardrops form a road of tears - that transform into a flower of joy on Easter Sunday.

You can download this Lenten journey free as part of a Seasonal and themed resources bundle that we've put together for you. Find out more here:

rootsontheweb.com/tryROOTS

C of E Lent reflections start next week

The 2023 Dust and Glory daily reflections start on Ash Wednesday (22 February) and end on Easter Sunday.

Dust and Glory encourages us to take a fresh look at the frustrations and failings that every day brings, seek to learn from them and grow closer to God through them.

An accompanying children's version is also available to help children and their families explore how we can live well together, offering a simple daily activity designed to explore the weekly themes.

You can sign up to receive the reflections via email. There are other ways to read or listen to the reflections:

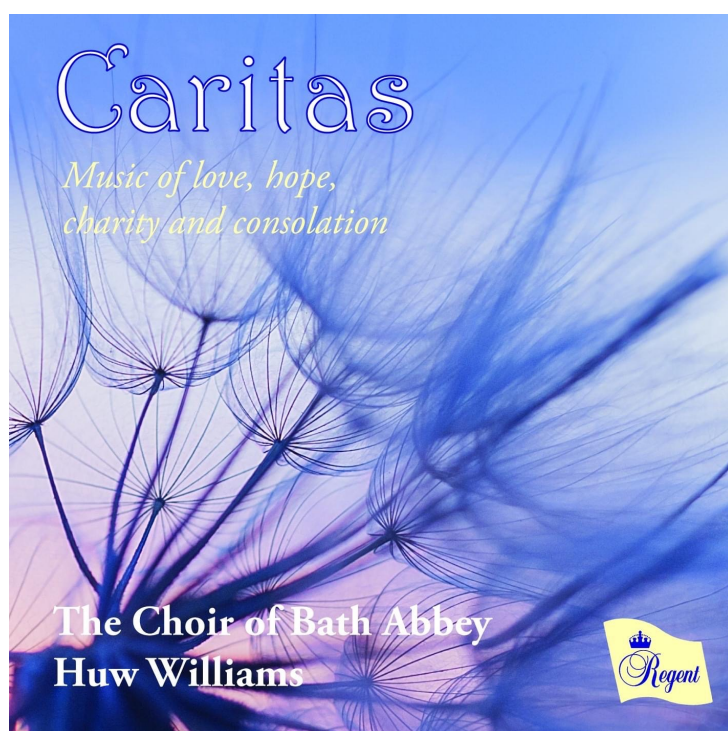
Smart speaker: tell your smart speaker to "Ask the Church of England for today's Lent reflection"

DailyHope: available 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044

The app is available to download now for free.

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<https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/what-we-believe/lent-holy-week-and-easter/dust-and-glory-lent-reflections>



Caritas, the latest CD from Bath Abbey choirs

Received a  review from Choir & Organ Magazine!

You can read it here: <http://ow.ly/nfQK50MSUKk>

Poem for today

When You Are Old by W.B. Yeats

When you are old and grey and full of sleep,
And nodding by the fire, take down this book,
And slowly read, and dream of the soft look
Your eyes had once, and of their shadows deep;

How many loved your moments of glad grace,
And loved your beauty with love false or true,
But one man loved the pilgrim soul in you,
And loved the sorrows of your changing face;

And bending down beside the glowing bars,
Murmur, a little sadly, how Love fled
And paced upon the mountains overhead
And hid his face amid a crowd of stars.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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