

Church News Ireland



**Image of the
day –
on the
Wild Atlantic
Way**

Image of the day

On the Wild Atlantic Way

Saint Columba's Church of Ireland, Glencolmcille, Co Donegal, on the Wild Atlantic Way. Saint Columba's Church is located on Gannew Road, Straid, Glencolmcille. It was built in 1828. It was renovated between 1875 and 1876. A new chancel and buttresses were added in 1890 and were designed by Samuel Patrick Close. The tower was added in 1914 and was designed by Richard Mills Close. This church is one of five churches in the Ardara Union of Parishes in the Diocese of Derry and Raphoe.

The Wild Atlantic Way, 1600 miles (2600 km) in length, is one of the longest defined coastal routes in the world. It winds its way all along the Irish west coast from the Inishowen Peninsula in the north down to the picturesque town of Kinsale, County Cork, in the south.

[\[https://www.thewildatlanticway.com/\]](https://www.thewildatlanticway.com/)

People and places

Insight from Asbury at DHM service

David Legge will be with Divine Healing Ministries at St. Finnian's, Belfast, on Tuesday 28th February.

February 25, 2023

David teaches on revival and he will include his experience and thoughts about his recent and unexpected visit to Asbury University where there has been continuous worship, prayer, repentance, salvations and healings. This was prompted after students felt compelled and convicted to continue worshipping, repenting and seeking God following a regularly scheduled chapel service on 8 Feb. 2023.

Methodist President responds to Omagh shooting

A statement from the President of the Methodist Church in Ireland in light of the shooting of Detective Chief Inspector John Caldwell -

“The attack on Detective Chief Inspector John Caldwell was an appalling act of evil. My prayers and the prayers of the Methodist people on this island are with his family.

I am also mindful of the effect of this shooting on those who, in the past or currently, faithfully serve their communities as part of the security forces. They and their families have our support and prayers at this time.

All people of good will share an on-going responsibility to stand against violence whatever its source and to work for a society marked by peace, in which children never again are forced to witness acts of horrendous violence.”

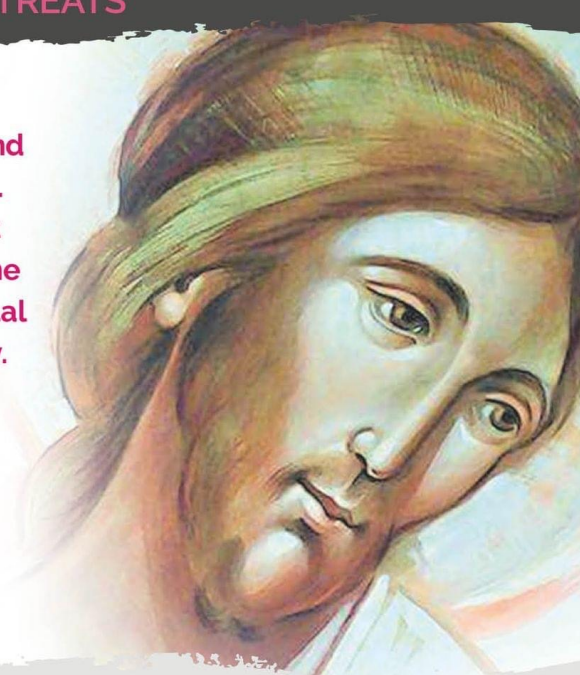
Rev David Nixon
President of the Methodist Church in Ireland

A Journey of Love

LENTEN SUNDAY RETREATS

Five Sundays to get beyond the guilt and into the love. Opening with a brief input to start you off, there's time to be quiet, to seek spiritual guidance, to write, to pray.

We end with the 6pm Candlelight Sunday Mass at St Patrick's.
(Offering optional)



BELFAST JESUIT CENTRE

Venue: The Belfast Jesuit Centre, 193-195 Donegall Street, Belfast BT1 2FL

Dates: Sundays Feb 26th, Mar 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th

Time: 13.00 Light lunch | 14.00 Retreat | 18.00 Mass at St Patrick's

To register email: belfastjesuitcentre@gmail.com

A Journey in Love - Sundays in Lent series at Belfast Jesuit Centre

The Belfast Jesuit Centre reports - Following the success of our Advent series we are offering a similar programme each Sunday in Lent.

February 25, 2023

Once again the focus will be on the Scriptures read on each Sunday of Lent, seeking inspiration and wisdom for the journey toward Holy Week and Easter.

The afternoon begins with a warm lunch at 13.00 followed by some creative input to help us consider the mysteries of the Gospel.

Then there is time to be quiet, to seek spiritual guidance, to write, to pray.

Usually listening to each other's lived experience helps us focus and ground our time in life as it is really lived.



“LETTING GOD COME CLOSE”
Reflections for Lent
each Wednesday, beginning March 1st
7.30pm in the Oak Room at
Nano Nagle Birthplace, Ballygriffin
We would love you to join us.

February 25, 2023

We end with the 6pm Candlelight Sunday Mass at St Patrick's (next door to the Jesuit Centre).

An offering of between £0-£50 is recommended for the series.

Shakespeare at Westminster Abbey

Celebrate the plays and poetry of William Shakespeare at Westminster Abbey as the Abbey community welcomes back their friends from The Globe for six special promenade performances from 29 - 31 March.



Photo by Marc

Brenner Booking is open now via the Shakespeare's Globe box office: www.shakespearesglobe.com/whats-on/shakespeare-in-the-abbey-2023



“I spent the morning in Kilkenny College with the pupils and staff. We had two celebrations of the Eucharist with the whole school community, as well as the distribution of ash. It was great to see some of the positive work being done by the chaplains and staff on Ash Wednesday”- Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory, RT Rev Clive Atkinson

Kilkenny's famous 16th century school

One of the most famous schools of 16th century Ireland was the Grammar School founded by Piers Butler, 8th earl of Ormond, in c. 1538 within the Cathedral Close of St Canice's.

The school was at the vanguard of the transformation of Kilkenny from a medieval town to a Renaissance city.

One of the masters of the school was Peter White who taught humanism, classical Renaissance thought and had progressive ideas about how to educate children, including that the beating of children in schools should be banned!

Much of the building still survives today in the library and residence in the south-west corner of the Close and incorporates a tower on the town wall of Irishtown known as Black Rath castle. In c. 1585 it was used as a public lecture room and in 1615 it became a public school. The Cromwellian attack in March 1650 led to its closure but it was re-established in c. 1666. In 1684 it was transferred to a new premises on John Street and became Kilkenny College. Its site is now the Kilkenny County Council offices. Thanks to Kilkenny Archaeology.

Clogher appointments

The Bishop of Clogher, the Right Revd Dr Ian Ellis, has announced appointments to the Chapter of the Cathedral Church of St Macartan, Clogher and of the Cathedral Church of St Macartin, Enniskillen.

The Revd Canon Paul Thompson, Rector of Derryvullen North and Castle Archdale, to be also Prebendary of Donaghmore in the National Cathedral of St Patrick, Dublin.

February 25, 2023

The Revd John Woods, Rector of Donacavey and Barr and Rural Dean of Kilskeery, to be also Prebendary of Donacavey.

The Revd Canon Alan Irwin, Rector of Colaghty (Lack) and Rural Dean of Kesh, to be also Prebendary of Kilskeery.

The Revd John McClenaghan, Rector of Aghalurcher (Colebrooke), Cooneen and Mullaghfad and Diocesan Registrar, to be also Prebendary of Tyholland.

Other diocesan appointments also announced include the appointment of the Revd William Jeffrey, Rector of Lisbellaw with Coolbuck, to be also Rural Dean of Enniskillen, and the Revd Rebecca Guilda, Rector of Garrison, Slavin, Belleek and Kiltyclogher to be also the Clogher Diocesan Representative on the Church of Ireland Children's Ministry Network.

Revd Canon Paul Thompson

The Bishop of Clogher, the Rt Revd Dr Ian Ellis has appointed the Revd Canon Paul Thompson, Rector of Derryvullen North and Castle Archdale in the Diocese of Clogher, as the Prebendary of Donaghmore in the National Cathedral of St. Patrick, Dublin.

Canon Paul was ordained in 1989 and served as curate and incumbent in the diocese of Down and Dromore. Following a career in Prison Chaplaincy in England he was appointed Rector of Derryvullen North and Castle Archdale in 2017. In Clogher Diocese he holds additional roles as Warden of Readers and Coordinator of Lay Ministry.

The Bishop said: “I am delighted that Canon Paul Thompson has agreed to become the Clogher Representative Canon on the Chapter of St Patrick’s Dublin. He has extensive experience of both the Church of Ireland and the Church of England. I know that he will make a thoughtful and positive contribution to the life of the National Cathedral of St. Patrick and will represent the Diocese of Clogher with commitment and enthusiasm.”

Revd John Woods

The Bishop of Clogher has appointed Revd John Woods, Rector of Donacavey and Barr, in the Diocese of Clogher, to become Prebendary of Donacavey. In addition to being the incumbent of Donacavey and Barr he has, since 2019, been Rural Dean of Kilskeery. Revd John has also in recent years been acting Rural Dean of Enniskillen where he has overseen a considerable number of vacant parishes.

Bishop Ellis stated: 'I am delighted he has accepted the appointment as Prebendary of Donacavey on the Chapter of the Cathedrals which in some way acknowledges his dedicated work and care of parishes in the diocese.'

Revd Canon Alan Irwin

Revd Canon Alan Irwin is currently one of the ‘Canons without stall’ in the Chapter and now moves to hold the Prebendary stall of Kilskeery in recognition of his very effective and consistent work as Rural Dean of Kesh.

Revd John McClenaghan

The Bishop of Clogher has appointed Revd John McClenaghan, Rector of Aghalurcher to the Prebendary of Tyholland. The Bishop commented: 'I am very pleased Revd John has accepted my appointment to this position to acknowledge his work as Diocesan Registrar and also as co-ordinator of the Diocesan Ministry of Healing Committee.'

The date for the Service of Installation of the new Prebendaries is yet to be fixed.

Other appointments

The Bishop announced: "I am delighted that the Revd William Jeffrey has accepted the appointment as Rural Dean of Enniskillen in addition to his role as Rector of Lisbellaw. Revd William has an engaging personality and has plentiful gifts of administration having spent over 30 years in the Civil Service prior to ordination. He has much to bring to this role in overseeing Glebe inspections and caring for vacant parishes in the Enniskillen Rural Deanery".

Bishop Ian has appointed Revd Rebecca Guildea, Rector of the Garrison Group of Parishes, as Clogher Representative to the Children's Ministry Network. The Bishop commented: "Revd Rebecca has great interest and skill in working with children and young families and I know that her experience and passion for this ministry will be of great assistance to the wider work of the Church of Ireland Children's Ministry Network".

News reports

Global South archbishops reject Welby's leadership role, vow to 're-set' Anglican Communion

Conservative archbishops who lead 10 of the Anglican Communion's 42 provinces issued a letter Feb. 20 rejecting the continuation of the archbishop of Canterbury's historic leadership role in the worldwide communion, part of what the archbishops called a structural "re-set" over the Church of England's decision to allow blessings of same-sex unions, David Paulsen of Episcopal News Service writes.

The archbishops, through an alliance that calls itself the Global South Fellowship of Anglican Churches, mostly from Africa and Asia, said they can no longer recognize Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby as the "first among equals," citing their conservative interpretations of Bible passages that they say forbid homosexuality.

With Welby "no longer the 'leader' of the Communion," they said, they will "expeditiously meet, consult and work with other orthodox primates in the Anglican Church across the nations to re-set the Communion on its biblical foundation." The 10 archbishops who signed the statement were joined by two archbishops from breakaway provinces that are not recognized as part of the Anglican Communion, the Anglican Church in North America and the Anglican Church in Brazil. Their endorsement reflects a large slice, but not the entire swath, of Global South leadership. The leaders of at least



South Sudan Archbishop Justin Badi, left, and Indian Ocean Archbishop James Wong speak July 29 at a news conference organized by the Global South Fellowship of Anglican Churches at Kent University in Canterbury, England, during the Lambeth Conference of Anglican bishops.

10 other Global South provinces did not sign the statement and are no longer listed as full members of the Global South Fellowship on its website.

Earlier this month the Church of England's General Synod endorsed a plan to offer blessings for same-sex unions while stopping short of condoning same-sex marriage in the province's churches. Same-sex marriage has been legal by civil law in England since 2014. The archbishop of Canterbury is the head of the Church of England, though Welby has said he himself will not conduct the blessings.

The conservative archbishops' statement also follows the conclusion of the weeklong meeting in Accra, Ghana, of the 18th Anglican Consultative Council, one of four Anglican Instruments of Communion. The others are the Primates' Meeting, the Lambeth Conference of Anglican bishops and the archbishop of Canterbury, who is also known as the "focus of unity."

Impaired relations between some provinces were made plain by the absence of three Anglican provinces at ACC-18. Leaders of the provinces of Nigeria, Uganda and Rwanda have not participated in the Instruments of Communion for at least 15 years because of their objections to some provinces' ordination of openly gay and lesbian clergy and adoption of marriage rites and blessings for same-sex couples.

On Feb. 14, The Episcopal Church's three delegates to the ACC joined about 110 other members from 38 other provinces in approving a resolution on "good differentiation" that "affirms the importance of seeking to walk together to the highest degree possible and learning from our ecumenical conversations how to accommodate differentiation patiently and respectfully." It tasked an Anglican commission to develop proposals for possible changes to the Instruments of Communion.

Some Global South Fellowship leaders raised similar issues at last summer's Lambeth Conference, where they pursued ongoing criticisms of The Episcopal Church and other provinces that have welcomed LGBTQ+ people more fully into the life of their churches.

At that time, South Sudan Archbishop Justin Badi, chair of the Global South Fellowship, suggested the “degree of communion” between provinces may vary depending on how inclusive they are toward LGBTQ+ individuals. “We find that if there is no authentic repentance by the revisionist provinces, then we will sadly accept a state of ‘impaired community’ with them.”

The signatories of the Feb. 20 letter amplified those sentiments, saying, “we do not accept the view that we can still ‘walk together’ with the revisionist provinces.” The archbishops did not say they intended to split or leave the Anglican Communion – “we will not walk away,” they stated – though their position poses renewed uncertainty about what degree of unity, if any, can be maintained among all 42 provinces.

“As much as the GSFA primates also want to keep the unity of the visible church and the fabric of the Anglican Communion, our calling to be ‘a holy remnant’ does not allow us be ‘in communion’ with those provinces that have departed from the historic faith and taken the path of false teaching,” they said.

Anglican Communion Secretary General Anthony Poggo, a bishop from South Sudan, issued a written statement in response, expressing his “sadness” while also thanking the conservative leaders for their “frankness and candor.”

“The commitment to walk together was made by the primates at their meeting in 2016,” Poggo said. “It was a commitment to walk together, albeit at a distance with some provinces whose doctrine of marriage had changed. The

commitment was reiterated at subsequent Primates' Meetings, at last year's Lambeth Conference, and last week's meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council."

Poggo also underscored the conservative archbishops' pledge to "not walk away from the Communion," adding, "I pray that these true words can inspire the whole Communion to commit to the work of faithful reform and renewal of our shared faith and order in the coming years."

Upon Welby's request, Poggo said he will arrange a Primates' Meeting in the new future to include discussions of "the role of the Archbishop of Canterbury in the Communion."

– David Paulsen is an editor and reporter for Episcopal News Service.

Perspective

Only by supporting Ukraine can we hope to build a lasting peace

Archbishop Justin Welby

One year ago today, the president of Ukraine was dressing in the middle of the night. His wife asked what was happening. Volodymyr Zelensky replied: "It's begun."

It had indeed begun. The Russian decision to invade Ukraine was a monumental act of evil. It was a sentence of

exile to 18 million Ukrainians – eight million of whom are still refugees. It was also a death sentence for thousands of civilians: 200,000 Russians and more than 100,000 Ukrainians.

I saw it with my own eyes just before Christmas, when I visited Christian communities in Kyiv. The site of the mass grave in Bucha, where innocent Ukrainians murdered by Russian troops and left in the streets had been hurriedly buried by the brutalised community. The “Bridge of Hope” where desperate people scrambled to escape the oncoming onslaught. The extraordinary courage of Ukrainians facing winter with no electricity or uncertain journeys across Europe – an echo of Europe’s darkest moments.

Today, the war is in a state of attrition. We see trenches like in the First World War, cities destroyed as they were on the eastern front during the Second World War. In the face of this, as Christians, we have to think deeply about what the gospel of Jesus Christ would mean in practical terms.

The Ukrainian defence is one of the most heroic examples of courage and improvisation since the British at Dunkirk. Ukraine has paid with the lives of its soldiers and civilians for the security of Europe.

What then should we do that is ethical and wise? Our support for Ukraine must continue. The potential failure of international support was the greatest fear when I visited Kyiv.

The UK and others in Nato have helped Ukraine, taking in refugees and providing ammunition and other supplies. We

are not at war and do not desire war with Russia. Our commitment to Ukraine's defence is in money, not the lives of our soldiers, and is necessary and right if we want to avoid harder choices. The pathway we are now on – a war of attrition – will continue until one side seeks a negotiated settlement. What can military planners, policymakers and leaders do to create other choices leading to sustainable peace?

First, by continuing to invest in defence for Ukraine to pursue its campaign, we must show there is no impunity for wars of aggression. But we must also match this with investment in peacebuilding engagement and strategy.

Second, Ukraine cannot be forced into a Munich Agreement-like compromise. Ukrainians must not be pressured into an unjust peace.

Third, preparations must begin to rebuild when the time comes.

Provided a just peace between Russia and Ukraine can be achieved, there must be a security structure that makes another war unlikely. Russia cannot end up like Germany after 1919; it must be able to recover and be secure without being allowed to repeat its aggression. The great powers must find ways, ideally through a conference, to design the conditions for long-term security, as was done in 1945. Today it must be done for a new century, including UN reform, while the cost of conflict is fading from most European memories.

The words used here are almost all from the Christian tradition that still guides European ethics. Justice is the call of Old Testament and New: peace, swords – or tanks – into ploughshares is the vision of Isaiah. Everyone eating the grapes from the vines they planted and living in the house they built is the promise of the prophet Micah.

At the heart of Christian faith is the vision of God who so loved the world that he sacrificed himself for it, so there may be peace and reconciliation.

In times of peace, we dream of such things. In times of war, we must strain every sinew to bring peace with justice, and start the generational process of healing hatred and rebuilding community among nations.

The Most Revd Justin Welby is the Archbishop of Canterbury

Poem for today

Inniskeen Road: July Evening by Patrick Kavanagh

The bicycles go by in twos and threes -
There's a dance in Billy Brennan's barn tonight,
And there's the half-talk code of mysteries
And the wink-and-elbow language of delight.
Half-past eight and there is not a spot
Upon a mile of road, no shadow thrown

February 25, 2023

That might turn out a man or woman, not
A footfall tapping secrecies of stone.

I have what every poet hates in spite
Of all the solemn talk of contemplation.
Oh, Alexander Selkirk knew the plight
Of being king and government and nation.
A road, a mile of kingdom. I am king
Of banks and stones and every blooming thing.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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