



**Image of the day -
Ballintoy Parish Church
and Rathlin Island**



Future of Catholic Church ‘must be different’, says new Archbishop of Dublin

Dublin’s new Catholic Archbishop Dermot Farrell has said the future of the Catholic Church must be different.

“If I may turn LP Hartley’s famous phrase on its head: ‘the future is a different country, we must do things differently there!’”, Patsy McGarry writes in the Irish Times.

This was “not to forget the past, and especially not the painful past where so many were hurt because our church lost its hunger for the Kingdom and its justice. We must never again put what we consider the needs of the church before the needs of the little ones ,” he said.

Archbishop Farrell was speaking at a Mass live-streamed from the Pro Cathedral on Tuesday morning to formally mark his installation as Archbishop of Dublin. Attendance was limited due to pandemic restrictions but included his

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predecessor Archbishop Diarmuid Martin and papal nuncio Archbishop Jude Okolo.

In the future to which he had referred, Archbishop Farrell said “the active participation of the laity becomes essential. They constitute the vast majority of the people of God. Indeed, as St John Henry Newman, remarked perceptively, ‘The church would seem foolish without them’.”

In that light “leadership in the church is not about telling people what to do; rather it is about promoting co-responsibility and overcoming the mindset which runs the risk of relegating the baptised to a subordinate role, effectively keeping them on the edges of Church life.

“That is what we mean by a synodal church – a church on the way with each other. The very first place synodality is expressed is at parish level. If it doesn’t happen in the parish, it will not happen at all,”he said.

Warmly welcomed

“I come to Dublin knowing very few of you,” he said, and that “there is no pre-packaged plan to address the reality in which we find ourselves. There is a direction, there are way markers,” he said, “they call us to build, or to re-build parishes marked by welcome, openness, forgiveness, resilience, and courage”

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**“Today, I stand before you more than aware of my own inadequacies. But you and I also stand before God, the giver of gifts ... faith asks us to see life’s difficulties as a time of grace”
- Archbishop Dermot Farrell**

@catholicbishops

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[Learn more](#)

He thanked papal nuncio Archbishop Okolo for “his kindness, his humanity, and his infectious spirit of joy” and Archbishop Martin who, he said, “provided forceful and

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unambiguous leadership, especially in the safeguarding of children where you took courageous positions. The Church and wider society owe you a profound debt of gratitude. We must do everything ‘never to slip back’.”

**Church of
Ireland
Archbishop
of Dublin
Michael
Jackson
has warmly
welcomed
Archbishop
Farrell.**



Archbishop Michael Jackson has welcomed Archbishop Dermot Farrell following his installation as Archbishop of Dublin he stated “As Archbishop Dermot Farrell takes office as Archbishop of Dublin in the Roman Catholic tradition, I welcome him to this work and this service most warmly.

“Archbishop Farrell takes up office in circumstances that challenge the pastoral heart of every Christian. For almost a year now, we have been working hard to stay together by staying apart. For all religious traditions this imposes particular challenges and limitations. Our instinct and our calling are to corporate gathering and shared worship as well as to individual prayer and public discipleship.

“As we move towards Lent in continuing and, for many people, deepening isolation, I personally look forward to the revival of the Good Friday Walk of Witness in a shared way

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and on the streets of Dublin. This walk bears visible witness to the faith in Jesus Christ that the Church of Ireland and Roman Catholic traditions share and to the care for all the people of the city that flows from it. Together both archbishops carry The Taize Cross from Christ Church Cathedral to St Mary's Pro Cathedral.

“Archbishop Farrell and I have already corresponded warmly. He will continue in my prayers. I assure him of a heartfelt welcome on my own part and on the part of the clergy and people of Dublin and Glendalough. I wish him everything that is best in an arduous task for which I have every confidence that God will give him the strength and the compassion.



**Church
voices
concern
for safety
and
freedom
in
Myanmar**

The Church of Scotland has voiced concerns about the safety and freedom of people in Myanmar after the country's military seized power early on Monday. The army's commander-in-chief took charge of the country, declared a one-year state of emergency and has shut down communications channels and imprisoned democratically

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elected leaders, including Aung San Suu Kyi, whose party won the election last November.

**Very Rev Dr
Susan
Brown,
convener of
the Church
of Scotland's
Faith Impact
Forum said:**



“We were saddened

when news broke on Sunday night of the military coup in Myanmar. State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, President Win Myint and other senior members of the National League for Democracy (NLD) party have been detained in the capital, Naypyidaw.

“Along with others of goodwill we want all communities in Myanmar to be able to live in safety and freedom.

“The military have declared a state of emergency that will be in place for a year, and handed power to Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, commander-in-chief of the armed forces. They say that elections will be held in due course.

“Myanmar was under military rule for nearly 50 years from 1962-2011 and no-one wants to see a return to those days.

“Our concern is that the intervention of the Myanmar military goes against the will of the people of Myanmar. That will

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was expressed in last November's election where the NLD won a landslide victory, the issue that seems to have prompted the coup.

“The Church of Scotland has a strong partnership with Presbyterian Church in Myanmar, a small church of some 35,000 members mainly found in Chin State. Communication is difficult at this time but we understand travel and communications are curtailed at the moment.””

Taoiseach urged to retract part of apology given to mother and baby home survivors

Cap - The daughter of a mother and baby home survivor has asked Taoiseach Micheál Martin to retract part of the apology he gave to all survivors in January.

The daughter of a mother and baby home survivor has asked Taoiseach Micheál Martin to retract part of the apology he gave to all survivors in January, Neill Michael writes in the Irish Examiner.

The section she wants retracted is where Mr Martin said that what happened was a result of how “society” had acted at the time.

Laura Murphy, a marketing executive whose mother Mary gave birth at St Patrick’s on Navan Rd, Dublin, says this is wrong.

The retraction she is asking for is, she says, being made “on behalf of Mná na hÉireann”, the women of Ireland.

Her mother, now aged 63, was told by her family's parish priest when she fell pregnant at 17 that she had to leave home before she "contaminates the morals of other girls".

The family's GP also told her parents that the teenager would bring shame on her entire family if anybody was to find out she was going to give birth outside marriage.

As a result, her parents — much to their lifelong regret — felt they had no choice but to send her away to St Patrick's.

In his apology after the publication of the Mother and Baby Homes Commission Report in early January, Mr Martin said the appalling treatment of women and children was the direct result of how society had acted.

**The Church must be attractive.
Wake up the world!
Be witnesses of a different way
of doing things,
of acting, of living. It is possible to live
differently in the world.
We are speaking of an
eschatological outlook, of the values of the
Kingdom incarnate here on this earth.
It is a question of leaving everything
to follow the Lord.**

Pope Francis



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He said “we”, both State and society, had also “embraced a perverse religious morality and control, judgmentalism and moral certainty, but shunned our daughters”.

“We honoured piety, but failed to show even basic kindness to those who needed it most," he said.

“We had a completely warped attitude to sexuality and intimacy, and young mothers and their sons and daughters were forced to pay a terrible price for that dysfunction.”

In her open letter, Ms Murphy tells the Taoiseach: “These are the words that turned what should have been a watershed moment of healing into a whitewashing of trauma.

“An expounding of truth became a distortion of history. An unequivocal assumption of responsibility descended into a dispersal of blame.

“The society you speak of was the remnants of one invasion after another from the beginning of our history.”

She writes that while women played a key role in both the Easter Rising and the War of Independence, they ended up “largely excluded from political, economic and societal life”.

Church and State were merged, she writes, and “a terrible beauty was born”.

“Under the constitution, women had no autonomy over their own bodies,” she writes. “Marital rape was not a crime, contraception was.

“Women were prevented from working after marriage, banned from divorce, access to information was censored and there was little support from the State.

“Our ‘representative’ government was dominated by the male-led Catholic Church. The Church and State colluded to write the constitution.

“Therefore responsibility for the ‘perversion of society’ lies with the Church and State regime, and not the Irish people.

“We, as a society, were coercively controlled by Church and State. (The) perverse religious morality of the Church meant the men who impregnated women out of wedlock got off scot-free whilst women were shunned and shamed.

“We call on you, as Taoiseach, to retract these sentences from the State apology.”

Report courtesy the Irish Examiner, 31.01.2021

Make St Brigid’s Day a bank holiday, Minister urges

Cap - Martin Heydon said a February bank holiday would be a welcome boost for the tourism sector during a quiet time for visitors.

Ireland has nine bank holidays a year and a call has been made to introduce a tenth one to mark the first day of spring and bridge the gap between the January slump after New



Minister of State for New Market Development Martin Heydon

Year's Day and St Patrick's Day on March 17th, Marie O'Halloran reports in The Irish Times.

Minister of State for New Market Development Martin Heydon has submitted a proposal to Government to make St Brigid's Day on February 1st a new public holiday, which he said could in some way recognise the enormous sacrifices made by Irish people during the Covid pandemic and highlight better times ahead.

Minister Heydon, who represents Kildare South, said: "We all remember the annual making of St Brigid crosses from our school days.

"Her feast day on February 1st marks the first day of spring and it is the season when we celebrate hope and new life on Earth."

Mr Heydon's call echoes that of the Tourism Taskforce which in a report last October said there should be a discussion about whether a new public holiday should be introduced during the off-peak holiday season.

Its tourism recovery plan for 2020-2023 points out that Ireland has fewer bank holidays than countries such as Spain (12) and France (13) and suggested that an increase in bank holidays would create additional domestic high spending short break demand and would extend the tourism season.

February, July and September are the only months without a public holiday.

In his submission to the Taoiseach Micheál Martin, Tánaiste Leo Varadkar, and Minister for Tourism Catherine Martin – Mr Heydon said it would be a welcome boost for the tourism sector during a quiet time for visitors and a bank holiday on February 1st “would bridge the considerable length of time between existing public holidays on January 1st and March 17th”.

The Fine Gael parliamentary party chairman said, “Brigid, considered a patron saint of Ireland, held a unique position in the early Irish church. Scholars tell us that she presided over the local church of Kildare and was head of a double monastery for men and women.

“She challenged both men and women today to create a church and a society where man and women are equally respected. At a time when all sectors of our society are

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working together to ensure equality for all in our country, St Brigid was ahead of her time in this regard.”

The Minister said visitors already come to Kildare from all over the world seeking to walk in Brigid’s footsteps.

“From this perspective, I see many opportunities for increased tourism opportunities linked with an increase in the celebration of St Brigid in Ireland and around the world, focused around a new public holiday.”

He added: “I believe this would also be a very fitting way to recognise the sacrifices of the Irish people during the Covid pandemic and highlight the hope ahead made more significant by confirming a new annual public holiday on February 1st.”

Report courtesy The Irish Times 01.02.2021

Bello Duo sing at All Saints’, Antrim service

Singer Victoria McClements, daughter of All Saints’, Antrim, parish administrator Audrey, sang at All Saints’ Service of Morning Prayer on January 31, along with her boyfriend Conor Taggart.

The talented couple have recently formed Bello Duo and their version of Danny Boy hit No.1 on the iTunes vocal chart in South Africa!

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The duo began singing together during the Clap for Carers initiative in last year's lockdown, and Victoria, who suffers



from a rare life-threatening illness, was shortlisted in Urban Jungles Heroes 2020, a national competition to find young adults who have helped in their communities during the pandemic.

During each Thursday's Clap for the NHS last year, they sang a new song, and this was the impetus for their album 'Out of Darkness.'

On January 31 Victoria and Conor led the hymns during the Morning Service in Antrim, and also sang some songs from 'Out of Darkness.'

Victoria has been making a name for herself for many years, having been selected to sing in St Paul's Cathedral, London, for Her Majesty the Queen at her Diamond Jubilee Service in 2012, when she was just 11-years-old (related story). In 2019, she played the lead role of Kim in Miss Saigon in the Grand Opera House, Belfast, and in 2020 she starred in

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Grounding, a short film about young people and mental health which was shortlisted for a global prize by the World Health Organisation.

You can access the service in All Saints' here – scroll to recordings of past events, 10.00am Morning Service January 31 2021.

[[] <https://connor.anglican.org/2021/02/02/bello-duo-sing-at-morning-service-in-all-saints-antrim/>]

Tributes paid to one of the great characters of Church of Ireland

Tributes have been paid following the passing of former Offaly Church of Ireland minister in Clara, Rev Martha Gray Stack.

The union of parishes of Tullamore, Clara, Tyrrellspass and Rahan said Rev Gray Stack will be remembered with love and affection by parishioners in Clara where she ministered for a number of years.

Bishop Paul Colton, Church of Ireland Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross said everyone in the diocese were very sad to receive the news of the death.

Ordained in the Diocese of Limerick and Killaloe, Martha, having served in a number of parishes in the Church of Ireland, came to Kingston College in Mitchelstown, to serve as Chaplain and then to retire.



“She was truly one of the great characters of the Church of Ireland. May she rest in God’s peace,” said Bishop Colton.

Martha Mary Gray Stack (née Stewart-Clarke), of 16, Kingston College, Mitchelstown, Cork passed away peacefully on January 21 last at St Finbarr’s Hospital, Cork.

She was the beloved wife of the late Very Reverend Charles Gray Stack, former Dean of Ardfert.

Rev Gray Stack will be sadly missed by her warden, chaplain, trustees, fellow residents, past parishioners, neighbours and many friends.

Courtesy the Offaly Express.
churchnewsireland@gmail.org

Broadcasts, resources and webinars



Cuppa with a Key Worker is back for 2021 - Church Army writes - Join Church Army's monthly live video chat, giving you a chance to hear directly from some of our frontline staff at 7pm on Wednesday 3 February on Zoom or live on Facebook!

This time, we'll be joined by Karen Webb and Stephen Whitten from the **North Belfast Centre of Mission**, as well as Gill Martin who is a Prison Chaplain at HMP Eastwood Park, a women's prison in Gloucestershire.

So join us on Wednesday 3 February at 7pm, and don't forget your cuppa! To receive the Zoom link and password, fill in your details at [\[k \]ChurchArmy.org/Cuppa](https://www.ChurchArmy.org/Cuppa)

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Watch – Lessons in Applying Wisdom: A Reflection for the Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

Archbishop Michael Jackson has concluded his four week series of reflections based on the Gospel readings for each Sunday in Epiphany.

In the fourth of his reflections he looks at St Mark 1: 21–28. “Jesus and his disciples went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught.” [St Mark 1.21]

The reading and Collect are read this week by Geoffrey McMaster, Diocesan Reader based in Celbridge and Straffan with Newcastle–Lyons.

Recording is by the Revd Nigel Pierpoint and Geoffrey McMaster.

You can watch the video here: <https://dublin.anglican.org/news/2021/01/31/watch-lessons-in-applying-wisdom>]

St Canices Cathedral - The Music Department is delighted to run these two weekly events in February.

Virtual Hymnal - sing like nobody is listening

Between the Neumes - basics of reading chant notation

Both sessions are with the Director of Music and to register email: music@stcanicescathedral.com

Scotland Inspires - The latest edition of Inspires Online is now available featuring news from around the Scottish Episcopal Church, including the latest plans for online worship and the SEC’s position on church closures and

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vaccinations. us3.campaign-archive.com/?u=8570812f89e...

Scam awareness - Next Tuesday is #SaferInternetDay !
Join Supporting Communities for a #ScamAwareness session online with @UlsterBankNI to learn how to stay safe online. Contact @Stef_SuppCom to sign up!
Read more: supportingcommunities.org/latest-events/...

The Church of Ireland Gazette Digital Archive - is now complete. All editions of the newspaper from its foundation in 1856 up to and including 2009 are freely available to everybody electronically here: [@dfatirl @COIGazette](https://esearch.informa.ie/rcb)

Zoom promise - Live broadcast of Family Holy Communion for the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple from St Ann's Church, Dublin at 11am. All welcome. Zoom coffee following the service ☕

Pointers for prayer

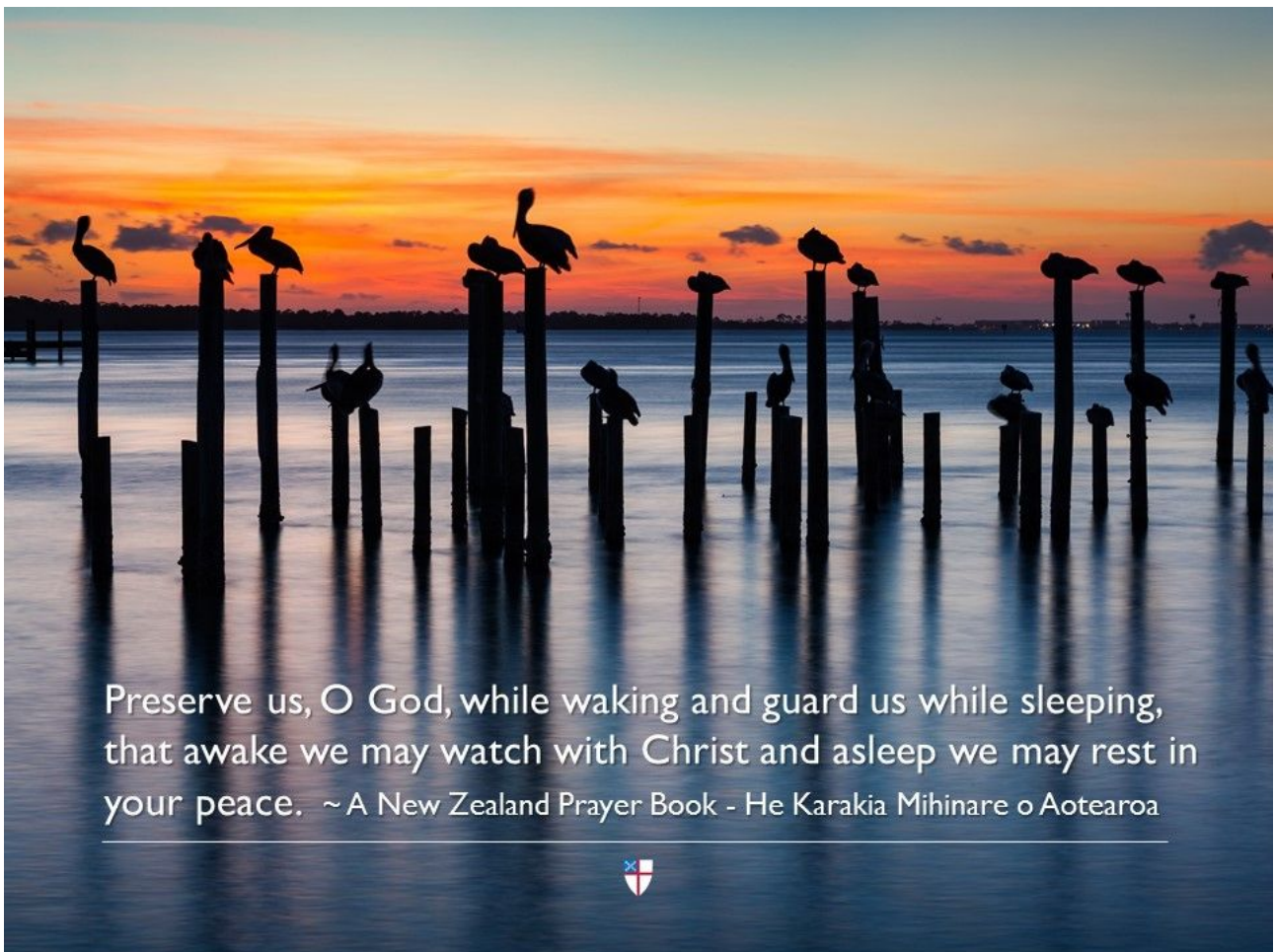
We think today of families who are struggling to cope with the ongoing restrictions to normal life, especially those who live in small homes with no outside space. We pray for an abundance of tolerance to help ease their less than ideal circumstances.

Today we give thanks for young climate activists. A UN survey shows that demand for green business and jobs is particularly high among young people, who have been a

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driving force behind getting the issue onto the political agenda.

Pray for the Moderator as he seeks to give a lead to the Church at the start of 2021, and for plans being put in place for the General Assembly later this year and also as he seeks to provide encouragement and pastoral care for PCI's ministers.



We remember with thanks the numerous Mothers' Union members who, over the years, have used their God-given gifts to change the world. We pray that, in our day, we'll also be willing to use our gifts to help transform lives and communities

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Today we pray for Mozambique. A cholera outbreak combined with a growing humanitarian crisis after fighting in a northern province displaced more than 500,000 people last year has led to the UN calling for help in the region.

Today we give thanks for those raising awareness of leprosy around the world. It's World Leprosy Day next week, when advocates challenge myths and spread awareness about leprosy, which is totally curable, globally.

We pray today for the church across the world, especially in places where they are experiencing hardship and persecution. We stand together with our sisters and brothers and pray for God to bring relief from their circumstances.

Lord Jesus, you prayed that we would all be united together so the world would believe and experience your love. Help us to put aside that which keeps us apart and work together to share your love through our actions and our lives.

“As we pray, so we breathe. I commend the many calls to prayer being made as a new month starts, that God would help us in our time of need as a people, a nation and across the world. Thank God for what has been achieved, and pray for what remains to be done,” Moderator PCI.

Speaking to the Soul

My child, never forget the things I have taught you. Store my commands in your heart. If you do this, you will live many years, and your life will be satisfying.

Proverbs 3:1-2 NLT

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What's your memory like? Time and again I trudge upstairs to get something and haven't a clue what I'm looking for by the time I get there! Pathetically, I try to find something else useful to do whilst I'm there to justify the journey! I would love to think that you have never had such an experience, but I have reason to believe that I might not be alone.

Forgetting things is part of the human condition and always has been, and the writer of Proverbs addresses the issue repeatedly. He urges us not to forget what we've been taught, whether it was by our parents or our spiritual teachers. This involves planning. We need to pepper our lives with reminders of the essential truths. We need to evolve a rhythm to our lives so that we are repeatedly reminded of what matters most.

From earliest times Jews had a variety of articles which gave them a constant reminder of the law. Phylacteries are small leather boxes which contain the Hebrew texts on vellum and are worn by some Jewish men at morning prayer as a reminder to keep the law. And on the door frame of their homes they affix a mezuzah, a decorative case containing the Jewish prayer, "Hear O Israel. The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."

It's good for us all to build into our lives reminders of God's love and faithfulness. Triggers that will keep us on track and prevent us from forgetting about God. It doesn't matter how we do this. Some people have Bible verses on their walls or on fridge magnets or receive verses by email or app. What matters is that we don't forget. Supremely we have the Communion Service or Eucharist which Jesus gave to us as

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a way of ensuring that we would not forget his sacrificial death Facts and Faith for us on the Cross.

QUESTION

What do you find the most effective way of reminding you of God's love?

PRAYER

Loving Father, help me never to forget your perfect love for me and for this needy world. Amen.

