

# Church News Ireland



**Image of the day – First ordination**



January 10, 2023

## Image of the day



### First ordination

A day of joy and celebration in St Iberius Church, Wexford as Revd Ciaran Kavanagh is ordained priest. He will continue to serve in





January 10, 2023

Wexford and Kilsoran Union. This was the first ordination conducted by Bishop of Cashel. Ferns and Ossory, Rt Rev. Adrian Wilkinson

## People and places



### Rector re-visits Lisbellaw

On Sunday past parishioners welcomed back to church Canon Eric McGirr and his wife Sheila. Appreciation was expressed for Canon McGirr's excellent teaching on Mary, the mother of Jesus, and belated congratulations were expressed by the Clogher parish on the occasion of his eightieth birthday.

January 10, 2023

## Birthday in Belleek

Mrs Edith Kirkpatrick attended the parish church in Belleek on Sunday with her sons Alan and Rev. Nigel and her daughter Carol. Edith is very much looking forward to celebrating her 89th birthday on 3rd February.



## The good news, and the bad news

The Pastor stood before the congregation and said, “I have bad news, I have good news, and I have more bad news.”

The congregation got quiet.

“The bad news is: the Church needs a new roof!”, the Pastor said.

The congregation groaned.

“The good news is: we have enough money for the new roof.”

A sigh of relief was heard rippling through the gathered group.

“The more bad news: it’s still in your pockets!”





## **Magheragall MU 80th anniversary service**

The Magheragall branch of Mothers' Union, Connor diocese, celebrated 80 years since its foundation at a special service on Sunday January 8.

At the Magheragall MU 80th anniversary service are, from left: John Williams, Lay Reader; Bronwen Dark, Magheragall Branch Leader; Sally Cotter, Connor MU President; the Rev Nicholas Dark, rector; and Doreen Lindsey.

The Magheragall branch of Mothers' Union celebrated 80 years since its foundation at a special service on Sunday January 8.

Photos by Norman Briggs. Copy and paste -

[\[https://connor.anglican.org/2023/01/09/mu-in-magheragall-celebrates-80-years/\]](https://connor.anglican.org/2023/01/09/mu-in-magheragall-celebrates-80-years/)

## News reports

### Ecumenical service to mark 50th anniversary of Ballymascanlon talks

**An ecumenical joint service of thanksgiving will be held in Saint Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, on 22 January at 3.30 pm with Archbishop Eamon Martin and Rev Harold Good preaching.**

The Irish Inter-Church Meeting gathers for an annual conference and the Inter-Church Meeting, made up of Church leaders, meets four times a year.

The recent annual conference with participants from various Churches across the island was entitled 'Creatively reconfiguring our post-pandemic understanding of church'.

### Prince Harry is damaged and needs help says Christian Major-General retired

**A retired Major-General in the British Army says we need to 'cut Prince Harry some slack' as he is a damaged man who needs help.**

Tim Cross who has seen active service in many parts of the world and who has commanded forces at every level, has been speaking to Premier News as the Prince continues to do media rounds to promote his memoir Spare. Among

January 10, 2023

some of the headlines are his comments about his time as an Apache helicopter pilot in Afghanistan.


Prince Harry says he killed 25 Taliban insurgents and described it as 'removing chess pieces from a board.'

Major-General Cross who is a Christian, says while his comments are disappointing, we need to have some sympathy for the Prince :


"I've got a lot of time for Prince Harry and I know he was a very good Apache pilot. I think he was very happy in his time in the army and he was much liked and respected.

# The President's Diary

REV DAVID NIXON, JANUARY 2023



10TH	EDGEHILL HOUSE, HOLY COMMUNION, 9:40AM
11TH	DUNGANNON MEN'S FELLOWSHIP
14TH	FAITH & ORDER, EDGEHILL HOUSE, 11AM
15TH	GALWAY, 11AM
18TH	NE DISTRICT GATHERING - 'RESILIENCE IN MINISTRY'
19TH	GOVERNANCE BOARD, BELFAST
22ND	TANDRAGEE, 9:30AM
	RICHILL, 11AM
	ICC & IICM ANNIVERSARY, ST. ANNES, BELFAST, 3:30PM
23RD	CONFERENCE WORKING PARTY, 3PM
24TH	HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL, BELFAST CITY HALL, 7PM
25TH	MINISTRY OF HEALING, ZOOM
26TH	CONNEXIONAL TEAM MEETING, ZOOM
26TH	METHODY BOARD MEETING
27TH	CHURCH LEADERS GROUP MEETING, ARMAGH
29TH	SYDENHAM
30TH	VISIT MRS JEAN HAMILTON, 100TH BIRTHDAY





“We also need to give him great credit for his work in establishing the Invictus Games.

“I’m therefore very disappointed and sad that we are now going through this phase of his life with all these revelations. But I would want to cut him some slack in terms of recognising what he's done in the past.

“I don’t think this business about Afghanistan is helpful and alongside all the other revelations, I think he's damaging himself. I worry for him, I worry for his children. I worry for the royal family. I don't like the fact that the royal family is in some sense being undermined by all of this.

“I’m quite surprised at the specific revelations in Afghanistan and I don’t think they're very helpful. I don't know why he's come up with his figure. On any battlefield, there are always sadly, casualties. But being able to know what damage you've caused, and the specifics of who's been killed, who's

*- Celtic Holy week -  
on Holy Island*

**Spend this sacred week in a sacred place with a Celtic focus**

Starting on Palm Sunday\* and ending on Maundy Thursday (so you can be home for the Easter weekend) Brother Cassian (David Cole), author of 'Celtic Lent' (BRF) leads this retreat with Celtic inspired teaching and stories relating to Lent and Holy Week

**Saturday April 1<sup>st</sup> – Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>**

\*Arrivals on Saturday evening for an early start on Palm Sunday

For cost and to book a place contact [bookings@waymarkministries.com](mailto:bookings@waymarkministries.com)



been wounded, and the consequences that flow from that is virtually impossible.

“It’s very unusual for anybody in my experience, and I’ve been on a number of operations around the world, to be counting. So I’m surprised at these statistics. I’m not convinced that they’re worth much to be honest, and I’m not quite sure why he thinks he needs to talk about it. It is very, very unusual. And it is not something that the British military would, in any sense want anybody to be doing. We talk about a strong moral component in the British military, which may sound procuring in the context of a battlefield, but understanding the laws of armed conflict, understanding the Geneva Conventions, and complying with them, and doing what needs to be done, but nonetheless, in a controlled way, without being vainglorious.



Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.



“I think it's a reflection of his state of mind. I think he is damaged. I think he's going through a very difficult period. All these things taken together made me very sad, because I think he's a damaged man, and he needs help and all these revelations are not doing him any good.”

“I hesitate to say that he's suffering from PTSD and most of the military comments I've heard about this come from a position of sadness, not from a position of wanting to ‘dump’ on him. So I think as Christians, we need to be praying for him. We need to pray for forgiveness. We need to pray for reconciliation within the family. We need to be forgiving. We need to recognise the situation that he's in. We do need to understand, obviously, he had a very difficult childhood. We do need to pray that he can emerge from this somehow stronger and be able to move on.”

Prince Harry served in the British Army for ten years rising to the rank of Captain and undertaking two tours of Afghanistan.

## **Resting place: Public can see Benedict's tomb after burial of the former Pope**

**The tomb of Pope Benedict XVI under St Peter's Basilica can now be visited by the public.**

The pontiff was buried on January 5, immediately following a funeral in St Peter's Square, and his tomb lies in the grottos under the basilica's main floor.



January 10,2023

The Vatican announced on Saturday that the public could visit the tomb from Sunday morning.

Benedict had lived since 2013 as pope emeritus, following his retirement from the papacy, the first pontiff to do so in 600 years.

He died on December 31 at the age of 95, in the Vatican monastery where he spent his last years.

On Thursday, his long-time secretary Archbishop Georg Gaenswein imparted a final blessing after Benedict's body, contained inside three coffins — the cypress one displayed in the square during the funeral presided over by Pope Francis, a zinc one, and an outer one hewn from oak — were lowered into a space in the floor.

The remains were placed in the former tomb of Benedict's predecessor, St John Paul II.

John Paul's remains were moved up to a chapel on the main floor of the basilica following his 2011 beatification.

Some 50,000 people attended Benedict's funeral, following three days of his body lying in state in the basilica, an event which drew nearly 200,000 viewers.

The name of Benedict, the Catholic church's 265th pontiff, was engraved on a white marble slab, the Vatican said.

The Vatican did not say whether Pope Francis had privately visited the completed tomb of Benedict before public viewing was permitted, or might do so at some other time.

January 10,2023

On Sunday morning, Francis led a ceremony for the baptism of 13 babies in the Sistine Chapel.



Professor Mark Sheridan QVRM, HM Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Belfast, is greeted by Archbishop Noel Treanor following the Mass at St Peters Cathedral Belfast for the repose of the soul of the Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

Later, greeting pilgrims and tourists gathered in St Peter's Square for his noon blessing, Francis quoted from a 2008 homily by Benedict, in which the late pontiff spoke about salvation.

Drawing inspiration from his predecessor's words, Francis said that the faithful when judging others, including in the Catholic church, should apply not harshness but mercy,



“sharing the wounds and the fragilities” and avoiding divisions.

Francis has been criticised in some quarters by those who favoured Benedict's more conservative stances because his funeral homily made only a mere mention of the late pontiff.

While Benedict and Francis had openly spoken of each other with respect, tensions festered for years between loyalists of both men.

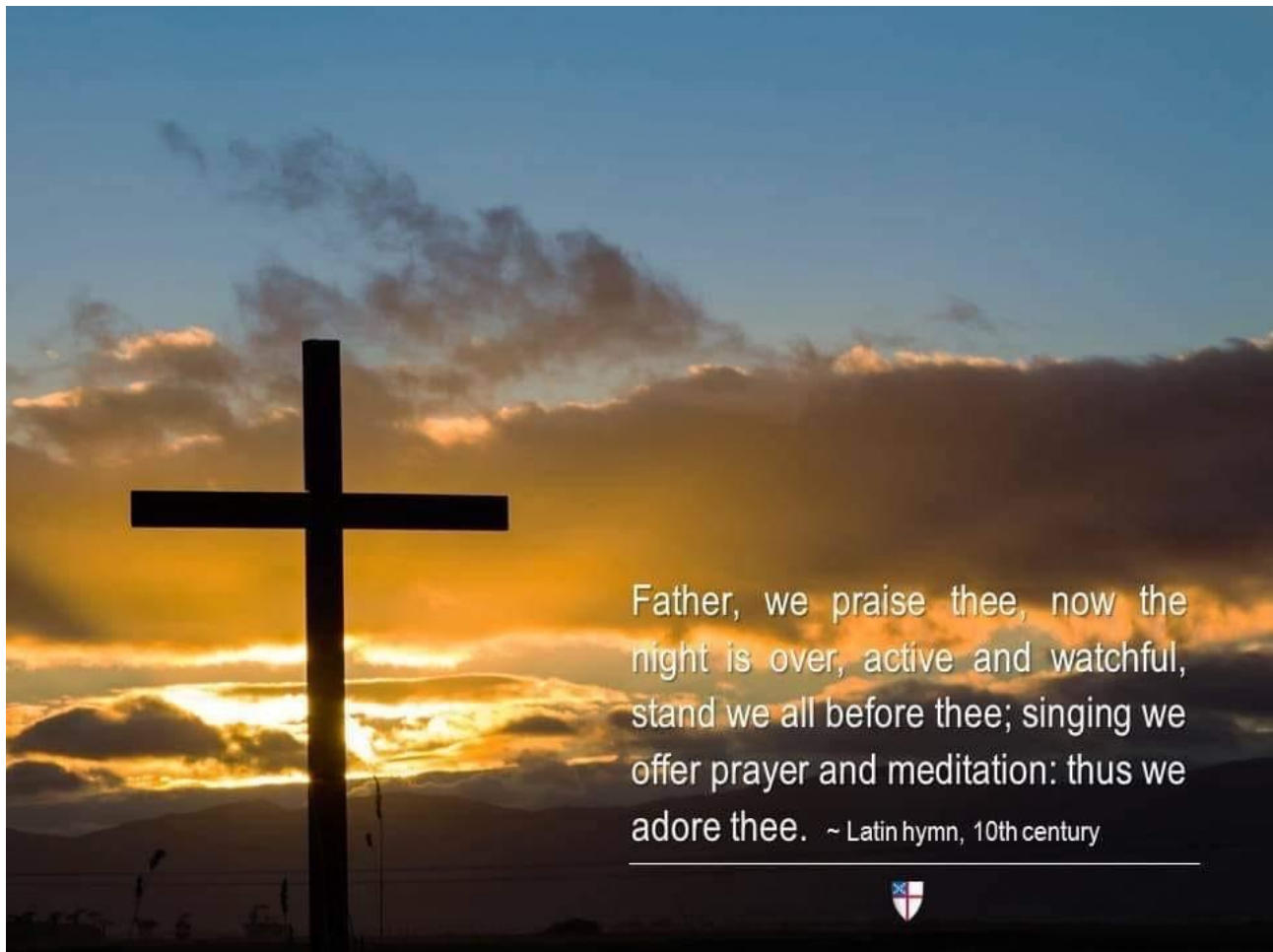
## Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

### Free 2023 Healthy Ageing Calendar

**Together with the Public Health Agency and the Age Friendly Network NI, Age NI have launched a healthy ageing calendar for 2023.**

This year's focus is on moving more to live more, emphasising the importance of physical activity for both physical and mental wellbeing.

If you or a loved one aged 65+ would like to request a copy from Age NI, visit <https://www.ageni.org/forms/healthy-ageing-calendar-2023>.



## Perspective

**What a year, has there been one like it for two or three generations?**

**Rt Rev Dr Iain Greenshields, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland**

**The death of Queen Elizabeth, three different Prime Ministers, political and economic chaos, the war in Ukraine, the worst inflation for decades, soaring energy prices and unbelievable floods in Pakistan. The list could go on, adding your own personal narrative to national and international events.**



The poorest in society are in distress, fearing the inability to cope through this winter, but churches and other charities are stepping up to the plate to help with food, finance and warm spaces. Local councils are digging deep to make a difference where they can.

Are those of us who have something to spare being generous? Yet, the truth is that we, in world terms, still live in one of the most prosperous parts of planet earth.

I wonder how often we stop and simply express our thanks for all of the things that we take for granted?

There is an old hymn that says, 'count your blessings, name them one by one and it will surprise you what the Lord has done'.

I wonder if you have passed some churches with banners outside them saying 'Try Praying'. Did you ever wonder what that means?

How would I sum up the year that has closed?

Gratitude for all of the good experiences, good people and good opportunities in my life. Thankfulness for the gift of life, family and faith in Jesus.

***“I wonder if you have passed some churches with banners outside them saying ‘Try Praying’. Did you ever wonder what that means?”***

But what about the year to come?

January 10, 2023

Well, of course, we will bring into 2023 many of the unresolved issues and challenges we have had to face in 2022, but how we face them is as important as what we have to face.

It is obvious to me that we need to re-prioritise our political and social thinking and hold those who lead us more to account.

Close the gap between the haves and the have nots, make the environment our number one priority and insist on an end to spending on nuclear weapons in order to spend more on health, in particular.

At a personal level, learn to be more content and less complaining, more caring towards others than self-indulgent towards ourselves; recovering a sense of society where people matter more than possessions and where all are inspired to thrive and serve at the same time.

Spiritually, it is obvious to me that there is a huge gap in society. I remember standing at the beginning of 1977 feeling that self-same spiritual emptiness, something I sense in so many across all ages today.

I suppose praying is reaching out beyond yourself, in my experience, to Jesus. Remember, you are speaking to a person who understands you.

What are you expected to say? Just say what is in your heart – what you feel is the deepest sense of need in your life. It may be for forgiveness, hope, peace, meaning in life or even the fear of death.

Simply, try praying and see where that journey might take you.

## Poem for today

### Woods in Winter

by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

When winter winds are piercing chill,  
And through the hawthorn blows the gale,  
With solemn feet I tread the hill,  
That overbrows the lonely vale.

O'er the bare upland, and away  
Through the long reach of desert woods,  
The embracing sunbeams chastely play,  
And gladden these deep solitudes.

Where, twisted round the barren oak,  
The summer vine in beauty clung,  
And summer winds the stillness broke,  
The crystal icicle is hung.

Where, from their frozen urns, mute springs  
Pour out the river's gradual tide,  
Shrilly the skater's iron rings,  
And voices fill the woodland side.

Alas! how changed from the fair scene,  
When birds sang out their mellow lay,



January 10,2023

And winds were soft, and woods were green,  
And the song ceased not with the day!

But still wild music is abroad,  
Pale, desert woods! within your crowd;  
And gathering winds, in hoarse accord,  
Amid the vocal reeds pipe loud.

Chill airs and wintry winds! my ear  
Has grown familiar with your song;  
I hear it in the opening year,  
I listen, and it cheers me long.

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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# Church News Ireland

January 10,2023

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