

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Wells Cathedral**

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## Image of the day

### Wells Cathedral

The Cathedral web site has several excellent features - Singing through the Centuries, an interactive Virtual Tour. And Texts of talks and sermons.

<https://www.wellscathedral.org.uk/>

## People and places



### Eglantine parishioner's centenary



**A very happy birthday to Mrs Anna Martin who celebrated her 100th birthday this week.**

Anna has been a faithful member of All Saints' Eglantine since she moved to Lisburn in 1959, and her rector, the Rev Jason Kernohan, and the Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev George Davison, called in to say hello on her big day. Last Sunday morning the congregation at All Saints was recorded singing "Happy birthday to you" which was delivered via the parish's Facebook site.

## **Thank you from the Dean of St Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen**

**The Dean, Very Reverend Kenneth Hall has expressed a sincere thank you to all who supported his pre-Christmas 'Sit Out'.**

The Dean especially thanked the members of the Select Vestry, Air Ambulance Volunteers and the choir who sang periodically throughout the day and into the final hour amidst the cold and mist! Thanks also to all who carried food and hot drinks (of all strengths) and to all who gave so generously raising a total of £18,007.90.

## **Army Chaplains' new museum**

**The Royal Army Chaplains' Department have a new and very good museum at Shrivenham.**

It includes a section on Market Garden, the Second World War airborne assault on the occupied Netherlands in which

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three C of I chaplains accompanied their units. Archbishop Alan Buchanan is featured in the exhibition.

## **Kilternan Parish's Gathering Grounds Cafe seeks Support Worker**

**Kilternan Parish, Church of Ireland seeks to appoint a part time Support Worker to expand the work of the Gathering Grounds Café.**

The Gathering Grounds Café is an outreach project of Kilternan Parish Church of Ireland. It provides a focal point for a variety of programmes and community services, as well as offering quality coffee and a place to stop and chat. At the core of the Gathering Grounds Cafe is the desire to facilitate community, belonging, growth, and healing.

The role is initially scoped for up to 16 hours a week (initially a 12-month contract).

The normal hours of operation will be Saturday and one other day per week. Additional hours can change weekly depending on need, so some degree of flexibility will be required. Salary negotiable.

Contact

[rector@kilternanparish.ie](mailto:rector@kilternanparish.ie) for a full job description.

C.V and cover letter to Rev Rob Clements at [office@kilternanparish.ie](mailto:office@kilternanparish.ie) by 20 January 2023

## News reports

### Geneva Bible valued at up to £10k going under the hammer in Belfast

**A 400-year-old Bible which was taken to the New World by the founder of a town in Massachusetts is set to go under the hammer in east Belfast.**

The copy of the Geneva Bible is valued at between £5,000 and £10,000 by Bloomfield Auctions.

It was printed in 1615 and was taken to what is now the United States in 1633 by Elizabeth Pole.

The Geneva Bible was the first mechanically printed, mass-produced Bible available to the public.

It was first published in 1560 - half a century before the King James Bible.

The edition being sold on Tuesday was owned by Elizabeth Pole, who travelled with her brother on the Speedwell to the Plymouth Colony.

Originally from Devon, she went on to found the town of Taunton in Massachusetts and is believed to be the first woman to establish a town in North America.

The copy was printed by Robert Baker, printer to Elizabeth I and James I and VI.



## Bloomfield Auctions managing director Karl Bennet expects international interest

Bloomfield Auctions managing director Karl Bennett said he expected worldwide interest in it because of its historical significance and its connection to the modern US.

The Bible was presented to Elizabeth's father Sir William Pole by the Archbishop of Canterbury in recognition of his services to the Church and the poor of Devon.

When Elizabeth died the Bible was returned to her family in Devon and it remained in the possession of the Pole-Carew family until the mid-20th century when it was sold to a collector from Northern Ireland.

It is being sold as part of a private collection from a gentleman's residence.

Other items up for auction include a watercolour from 1853 and an oil painting from 1895 - both by the Victorian artist Thomas Sidney Cooper.

## **Catholic Church in Scotland faces 'crisis of closures' if members spend more on Netflix than tithes**

**Catholics in Scotland would much rather spend their extra cash on streaming and football matches than support their local parishes, which could ultimately lead to their demise, according to a new report.**

A spokesman for the Scottish Catholic Church told The Times U.K. that a wave of impending church closures might be the only hope of helping to "wake up" Catholics, particularly in lower-income communities.

The Catholic Church in Scotland faces what he called a "perfect storm" of financial challenges, including declining attendance, a rise in expenses, and the ongoing impact from the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to the Times, the Archdiocese of Glasgow saw its income plunge from about £26.5 million, or approximately \$32.3 million, in 2018 down to just £10.8 million, or \$13.1 million in 2021.

While the Archdiocese of Glasgow is Scotland's largest, each of the nation's dioceses has seen a drop in revenue since 2018, while Glasgow and two others run a deficit, the Times reported.

"With a few exceptions, attendance and income in every diocese are down significantly following the pandemic. The reduced income has started to bite," the spokesman said.

While a priest in the Glasgow archdiocese was quoted as warning of a "crisis of closures" if the decline in attendance continues through 2023, an Edinburgh priest told the Times the church has always faced a problem with financial stewardship.

"Catholics have never been good with money and that includes us priests. I wasn't taught anything about the economics of running a parish while I was at seminary," he said.

The Scottish Catholic Church is warning parishes in neighborhoods already struggling with lower incomes and higher unemployment could feel the most pain, as many can hardly keep up with routine maintenance and others face "spiraling" insurance costs.

Any sustained drop in attendance could mean even more closures, the spokesman said.



"If the situation does not change then the next few years will be a really stressful test of the financial viability of parishes and sadly many may fail," he said.

He also called on Scottish Catholics to "examine their financial priorities," pointing to their contributions to the church compared with other spending.

"If someone is spending more on Netflix subscriptions, football season tickets each month than they donate to their parish, then a financial reality check is probably in order," he added.

## **On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, church members can participate in these virtual and in-person celebrations**

**Dioceses and parishes across The Episcopal Church will honour the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. on the holiday weekend of his birthday, Jan. 14-16, with services and other events both in-person and online.**

King, who would have turned 94 this year, spearheaded the national movement for racial justice and civil rights as a Baptist preacher in Montgomery, Alabama, and Atlanta, Georgia. In the last years of his life, he focused more on economic injustice and the Vietnam War. He was assassinated on April 4, 1968, during a trip to Memphis, Tennessee, to support city sanitation workers who were striking for better pay and working conditions. He is



Martin Luther King Jr. speaks to a crowd of about 5,000 outside Sproul Hall at the University of California, Berkley, on May 17, 1967.

honoured in The Episcopal Church's Lesser Feasts and Fasts calendar on April 4.

Here are a few events Episcopalians can participate in. All times are local.

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry will visit Los Angeles, California, to give the keynote address at a "Power of Love" service – connecting King's message with the Way of Love Curry has promoted – at 3 p.m. on Jan. 15 at Christ the Good Shepherd Episcopal Church. The service will feature music by the Episcopal Chorale and a liturgy planned by the diocesan Program Group on Black Ministries.

In nearby Pasadena, All Saints Episcopal Church will continue its tradition of doing a continuous reading, over eight hours, of King's speeches, sermons and writings. The event, "Let Freedom Ring," will be held in the church's nave on Jan. 16 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Texts will be available in English and in Spanish.

Another tradition continues in Boston, Massachusetts, where the 53rd Annual MLK Jr. Memorial Breakfast will be held on Jan. 16 at 9 a.m. at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center. In 2020, Curry delivered the keynote address at the event, a collaboration between St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church and Union United Methodist Church. This year's keynote speaker is Jelani Cobb, a writer for The New Yorker magazine and the new dean of the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.

In Washington, D.C., the National Cathedral will host a special morning Eucharist at 11:15 a.m. on Jan. 15 in honor of King, featuring a sermon from the Rev. Paul Smith, a civil rights veteran and associate of King's. The service includes music from the Washington Performing Arts' Children of the Gospel Choir joining cathedral musicians. King preached his last Sunday sermon at the cathedral on March 31, 1968.

Grace Cathedral, seat of the Diocese of California in San Francisco, will host an interfaith evensong service at 3 p.m. on Jan. 15, gathering local and national interfaith leaders around the theme "Freedom, Justice, and Beloved Community."

The Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City will host a "Spiritual Sing for Martin Luther King Jr." on Jan. 15

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at 12:30 p.m. Recognizing the power of African American spirituals in King's life and work, choral conductor Alice Parker will lead participants in an hour of singing.

In Detroit, Michigan, the city's largest event honoring King – a celebration, rally and march – starts at St. Matthew's-St. Joseph's Episcopal Church at noon on Jan. 16. After two years of virtual events, the celebration returns in person with cultural presentations from social justice advocates, a march and a late afternoon meal. This year's theme is "Six Decades of Mass Movements: The Struggle Continues."

Trinity Church Wall Street's Trinity Retreat Center will host a virtual retreat exploring the themes of King's final sermon, "Remaining Awake Through a Great Revolution." The free retreat will take place over five half-hour sessions via the Trinity Retreat Center Facebook page on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The retreat is free and pre-registration is not required.

## **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.



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.

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

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

### Back to school resources with CAFOD

**Do you work with children and young people in school, in your parish or in your community?**

CAFOD has a range of resources, ideas and activities for



the new academic year. There are Lent resources and online assemblies for primary schools. Fratelli Tutti resources, films and animations for primary and secondary schools to explore ways to put Pope Francis' encyclical Fratelli Tutti into action by being a global neighbour.

There are also liturgies, assemblies, illustrated scripture, reflection videos and prayers for use throughout the liturgical year. Pupil-led liturgical prayer resources for primary schools include a simple planning template and guide, plus loads more ideas for children to plan their own prayers.

Discover ideas to revive your curriculum and enhance the Catholic life of the school with CAFOD's free CPD training courses. They will help your pupils understand Catholic Social Teaching and inspire them to find ways of responding locally, nationally and globally.

Set up a CAFOD Club in your school - CAFOD clubs are a great way to join with other Catholic primary schools to help build a brighter world and support your pupils to live out their faith.

Book a school visit. Fully trained school volunteers are ready to offer engaging assemblies, workshops on Catholic Social Teaching and sessions to give children and young people an insight into CAFOD's work.

CAFOD also offers KS3 and GCSE homework resources. Their new GCSE film and activity sheet to help Y10-11 students to revise poverty, sustainability and the work of CAFOD, whatever exam board your school uses.

For more information see:

<https://cafod.org.uk/News/UK-news/Back-to-school>

## Poem for today

### The Magi by Malcolm Guite

It might have been just someone else's story;  
Some chosen people get a special king,  
We leave them to their own peculiar glory,  
We don't belong, it doesn't mean a thing.  
But when these three arrive they bring us with them,  
Gentiles like us, their wisdom might be ours;  
A steady step that finds an inner rhythm,  
A pilgrim's eye that sees beyond the stars.  
They did not know his name but still they sought him



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They came from elsewhere but still they found;  
In palaces they found those who sold and bought him,  
But in the filthy stable, hallowed ground.  
Their courage gives our questing hearts a voice  
To seek, to find, to worship, to rejoice.



Malcolm Guite is a poet, priest and singer-songwriter who writes a weekly column in the Church Times. For more of his poetry and other writing, go to Malcolm's website. The poem

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is taken from Sounding the Seasons (Canterbury Press 2012) and is used with the author's permission. Cut & paste [<http://www.malcolmguite.com/>]

## 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)

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