

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – New Zealand vista**

## Image of the day

### New Zealand vista - Church of the Good Shepherd

Lake Tekapo is a township in the South Island, New Zealand. Lake Takapō is about three hours drive south-west of Christchurch in the Mackenzie Basin. The township faces north across the remarkable turquoise coloured lake to the mountainous drama of the Southern Alps. Lake Takapō gets its intense milky-turquoise colour from the fine rock-flour (ground by glaciers) which is suspended in the water. On the shores on the lake you'll see the beautiful Church of the Good Shepherd, where the altar window frames a perfect view of the Southern Alps beyond the lake. The church was built in 1935 for the pioneer families of the Mackenzie district and is still used as a place of worship. The church is a popular photo spot for visitors.

[<https://www.newzealand.com/uk/lake-tekapo/>]

## People and places

### Irish sister in South Sudan undertakes 400km trip for Pope's ecumenical visit

**Loreto Sister Orla Treacy from Co. Wicklow is accompanying 60 students and pilgrims on a 405km pilgrimage from the diocese of Rumbek to South Sudan's capital, Juba for the Pope's upcoming ecumenical visit.**





Loreto Sister Orla Treacy, principal of Loreto Girls Secondary School in Rumbek, South Sudan, walks outside the school with children in this April 20, 2017, file photo. Photo: CNS/Paul Jeffrey

Pope Francis is scheduled to make an ecumenical pilgrimage to Juba, South Sudan, February 3-5.

Sr Treacy said that “people are really excited about this,” and that it’s “fantastic to engage in it and it’s a privilege to be part of it”.

## Archdeacon of Armagh retires

**It was a poignant evening in Church House Armagh on 26th January marking the retirement of Archdeacon Terry Scott after 35 years as Rector of St Swithin’s Magherafelt.**



Warm tributes were paid to Terry and his wife Alyson by Archbishop John McDowell, Canon Bill Adair and Mrs Jane Leighton, highlighting the major and many contributions Terry has made to the life of the Armagh Diocese and the wider Church of Ireland in his various roles, particularly in recent years as Archdeacon of Armagh.

Yesterday, Sunday 29th January, was Terry and Alyson's final Sunday in St Swithin's Magherafelt when further thanks were expressed to them for their much valued ministry over so many years.

## **Preaching the Passion - Shankill parish book launch**

**The former Rector of St Matthew's Canon Gregory Dunstan has written a book called 'Preaching the Passion - Interpreting the Evangelists'.**



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It is based on sermons that he preached while Rector in St Matthew's in Holy Week between the years 2000 and 2005.

The Right Revd George Davison, Bishop of Connor, will be launching the book in St Matthew's church on this Thursday, February 2 at 11.00 am

## **Delight at visitors to St Brigid's**



The Reverend Philip McKinley said “It was a great delight to welcome An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar and Minister Martin Heydon TD to St Brigid's Cathedral, Kildare in advance of Ireland's newest Public Holiday to mark St Brigid's Day”.

A St Brigid's Tide Patronal Festival commenced yesterday and continues until next Sunday

## Deaths of committed organists

**The death has occurred of Ms Hilda Trueman B.E.M in her 103rd year.**

For many years Hilda was organist of Tartaraghan Parish Church. She was also a teacher in Birches Primary School, Portadown and inspired many pupils during her time there. In 2013, Hilda was awarded the British Empire Medal for services to Drumcree Girls' Brigade.

The funeral service will take place in Tartaraghan Parish Church today, Monday 30th January at 11.00am followed by interment in Drumcree Parish Churchyard.

Hilda Trueman was. a longstanding member of the Ulster Society of Organists & Choirmasters.

**Mr William (Billy) Adair (1921–2023) also died last week in hospital.**

He was in his 102nd year, and would have been 102 in February. He was a former Treasurer, Auditor, Secretary, and President of The Ulster Society of Organists & Choirmasters., and the author of its Constitution.

He had been organist of various Belfast churches, including St John's Malone and St James's, and latterly served as an informal Assistant at St Mark's Dundela.



Billy was first and foremost a committed Anglican and a person of generous and practical spirituality. He was a fount of accurate knowledge and source of wisdom and ideas.

Billy was the oldest member and a former President of the USOC, The Ulster Society of Organists & Choirmasters.

Mr Billy Adair's funeral will be held at 1.00pm on Friday 10th February 2023 at St. George's Church, High St, Belfast.

## **Remembering Brigadier-General Ambrose Ricardo of Sion Mills**

**Have you ever wondered the significance of the tomb in front of the Church of the Good Shepherd in Sion Mills?**



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Ambrose Ricardo was buried with full military honours and laid to rest in this tomb in his adopted home of Sion Mills on 13 July 1923. The following account from the Northern Whig newsletter records how the entire village came to a standstill:

"The funeral of Brigadier-General Ricardo... in the beautiful little village of Sion Mills, was one of the most remarkable demonstrations of admiration, respect and sympathy every witness in Tyrone. From all parts of Ulster representative men joined in the tribute to his memory, and hundreds of messages of sincere regret and deep sympathy with the sorrowing widow and relatives gave further expression to

# Healing Service

*"Living Hope in 2023"*



**7.30pm Tuesday 31st January**

**St. Finnian's Parish Church  
Cregagh Park  
Belfast**



**Bishop Harold Miller**



**Prayer Ministry and Anointing with Oil**



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the esteem in which he was so deservedly held." Photo of Ambrose Ricardo's funeral - by the graveside.

In the Heritage Education Centre, the Stables, Sion Mills on Tuesday 31st January at 7.30 pm you may learn more about Ambrose Ricardo from his great-niece Mrs Celia Ferguson (nee Herdman).



## Old St. Anne's

The old St. Anne's in Belfast. The new St. Anne's Cathedral was built over it and opened in 1901. Edward McCormick, buried in Derriaghy, was Sexton at this church from 1819 to 1844. Courtesy and copyright of the Welch collection National Museums of Northern Ireland.

## News reports

### NI hymn writing duo prepare for first Grammy Awards ceremony

#### Keith and Kristyn Getty will make Grammy debut on Sunday February 5

The Gettys will travel to the Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles for the 65th Grammy Awards 2023, having been nominated for their album *Confessio – Irish American Roots*.

A landmark moment in the pair's career, which has seen them rise to fame as the world's most successful hymn writing duo, the local couple are nominated alongside world-renowned artists such as Willie Nelson, the Gaither Vocal Band and Karen Peck & New River.

They are nominated in the Best Roots Gospel Album Category which is for albums that feature more than 50% playing time of newly recorded, vocal, traditional gospel music, including country, Southern gospel, bluegrass, and Americana recordings.

Described by the couple as their "love letter to Northern Ireland", *Confessio* showcases 15 modern and timeless hymns including renditions of *Be Thou My Vision*, *Amazing Grace* and *It Is Well With My Soul*, as well as their own *In Christ Alone* and *Immigrant's Song*.

Recorded on the North Coast as the Gettys spent time at home during the pandemic, *Confessio* traces their journey back to Northern Ireland to explore the connection between

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the island's enduring faith music heritage and its legacy in America, from St Patrick and Be Thou My Vision to their own work and Kristyn's duet version of In Christ Alone with Alison Krauss.

It highlights traditional Irish melodies and instrumentation and features performances from an array of guests including multiple Grammy-award winning artists Alison Krauss, Ricky Skaggs and Kirk Whalum, as well as their daughters making an appearance.



**ST. CANICE'S  
CATHEDRAL**  
— AND ROUND TOWER —

*St Brigid's Cross*

**Workshop**

01 February 2023  
12noon - 4pm

Come and learn the art of weaving and how to make your own St Brigid's Cross and the history behind it.

**No booking necessary and open to all!**



The couple's Grammy nomination comes ahead of the Sing! World Tour which will kickstart at Belfast's SSE Arena before shows in the Star Theatre, Singapore and the Sydney Opera House, Australia.

Speaking ahead of the 65th Grammy Awards, Keith Getty OBE said: "We are honoured to be nominated for our first Grammy Award, especially for an album that is dedicated to our home, the place that gave the origins and meaning to why we write hymns. We made this album during the pandemic when we were home with our daughters in Northern Ireland. It started one day as I was at Ballycastle harbour looking out to sea, reflecting on our heritage and the gift it is to be from here. We were not expecting a Grammy nomination for a project which in many ways is a love letter to our home, and we are so grateful to have contributions from the likes of Ricky Skaggs, Alison Krauss, and Kirk Whalum as well as many of our own team. Our desire for this album was to shine light on the hope of the Gospel, the Christian heritage of the West, the importance of hymn singing, and ultimately the beauty of Christ. The Grammys are a once in a lifetime opportunity, so whatever the outcome on Sunday, we are proud to be able to put Northern Ireland on the map in the presence of so many legendary artists and musicians."

## **Churches need state aid for repairs, says charity**

**Churches need public funding as they provide more than just worship, half of UK adults believe, according to research.**



**If we held one minutes  
silence for every victim of  
the holocaust... We would  
be silent for eleven and a  
half years**

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The National Churches Trust found that 50 per cent agreed that help should be given for repairs to keep the 39,000 buildings open. Only 22 per cent disagreed, with 25 per cent not having a view.

A total of 75 per cent of adults said churches, chapels and meeting houses are important as they provide a space for activities, and support people. A similar proportion (73 per cent) believe they are an important part of the UK's heritage and history.

On funding, 45 per cent agreed that repairs should be supported out of local taxes while 40 per cent favoured national taxes.

Claire Walker, of the NCT said the buildings "have the overwhelming backing of the UK public".

## **Christian Aid appoints Osai Ojigho as Policy and Campaigns Director**

**International development and humanitarian charity Christian Aid has appointed Osai Ojigho as its new Policy and Campaigns Director.**

She will be responsible for leading the organisation's advocacy and public campaigning, and its research, policy, and learning.

Osai, who starts on March 6, comes to Christian Aid from Amnesty International, where she has been the Nigeria country director since 2017. In that position she has





spearheaded influential human rights campaigns challenging the conduct of the military and the police.

Prior to that, Osai was Oxfam’s pan-Africa programme manager, based in Nairobi, and has worked in a number of other pan-African advocacy roles, including as coordinator of the State of the Union campaign, and as deputy director of Alliances for Africa.

During that time, she was also a human rights observer for the AU mission to Mali and the Sahel. Osai has a legal background, having studied in Nigeria and the UK.

Chief Executive of Christian Aid, Patrick Watt said:

“I am delighted by this appointment. Osai demonstrated strong strategic insight and energy, and she brings valuable national and international experience of campaigning on complex human rights issues, and of navigating sensitive political contexts.

“Beyond Africa, her advocacy experience has taken her to the US, Asia, Latin America and the Hague. This experience will be an asset as she leads a diverse department located across five countries. We look forward to Osai starting with us.”

Incoming Policy and Campaigns Director Osai Ojigho said:

“I am thrilled to be joining Christian Aid as it leads a campaign for a just world where every person is treated with dignity, and where equality is the norm. It is an honour to be a part of a team dedicated to serving communities that have been most impacted by the climate crisis, structural social and economic inequalities, and gender injustice.

“I am looking forward to increasing our reach, mobilising engagement, and contributing to a rights-led development practice.”

## **Bishop accuses C of E of 'seeing off' abuse survivors**

**The former Bishop of Willesden has strongly criticised the Church of England's attitude towards survivors of abuse.**

In a lecture for the Ecclesiastical Law Society which has been printed in the January edition of its Journal, Rt Rev Pete Broadbent said there had been an attempt to keep questions about the church's safeguarding practice “off the floor of General Synod”.

The Bishop, who retired in 2021 said : “Attempts to inquisite (sic) the shortcomings of the National Safeguarding Team, the past failures of Bishops and the various ‘lessons learned reviews’ from which we never seem to learn very much, have been seen off and resisted, leaving victims, survivors and those campaigning on their behalf with the sense that justice will never be done or seen to be done. I suspect that this is one area of our national church life where we need to set up better ways of processing these concerns. They won’t go away.”

It comes as survivors say the issue of safeguarding has been pushed down the agenda of February's Synod meeting to make way for discussion about the church’s response to same sex marriage.


Martin Sewell who is a member of General Synod and a former child protection lawyer has been giving his reaction to Premier News :



“The ‘Living in Love and Faith’ matter has completely overwhelmed the February Synod. Whilst it's entirely proper that we should be discussing these things, to be perfectly honest, the safeguarding has been put on Thursday afternoon. There's a couple of hours to discuss it, but heavens, a couple of hours to discuss the problems for the Church of England? Safeguarding doesn't get anywhere near close does it?”

Asked about Bishop Broadbent's comments in the Ecclesiastical Law Journal, Martin Sewell said : ‘I

“I



May the Christ of the makeshift manger-bed,  
the Christ of the rushed refugee bundled to Egypt for  
safety,  
the Christ who summoned fishermen on Galilee's  
shore to leave all and follow:  
be present with you in all that you face  
and call you always to faithful companionship  
in your journey throughout life.

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have huge respect for Bishop Pete on this. Some of us have recently written to the Charity Commission, saying we have no confidence in the leadership of the Church of England on the safeguarding issue, because these matters are not being properly discussed, analysed and debated.”

## In the media



**Despite the hope from 25 years ago, politics here is still more deeply divided than ever**

Belfast Telegraph - Just a third of unionists backing the Good Friday Agreement isn't a statistic that will warm the cockles of the hearts of those in high places planning elaborate celebrations to mark its 25th anniversary.

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While nationalist support for the Good Friday Agreement grows, unionist backing is waning

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/opinion/columnists/suzanne-breen/despite-the-hope-from-25-years-ago-politics-here-is-still-more-deeply-divided-than-ever/697419493.html>

## **Reports: Rights of children in NI undermined by religion**

National Secular Society - New reports to the United Nations have detailed the widespread detrimental influence of religion on the rights of children in Northern Ireland.

The Children's Law Centre (CLC), a Northern Ireland based child rights advocacy group, submitted three reports to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) last week. They demonstrate "how rights and protections for children have regressed" in schools and society more broadly.

[<https://www.secularism.org.uk/news/2023/01/reports-rights-of-children-in-ni-undermined-by-religion>]

## **Speaking to the soul**

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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## **Church News Ireland**

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