

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Day camp at Christ Church Cathedral creates ‘Birds with Wishes’ for Aleppo

Image of the day



The Revd Abigail Sines with volunteers Nargis and Razan.

Day camp at Christ Church Cathedral creates ‘Birds with Wishes’ for Aleppo

Last year, the ‘Homing Pigeons: Birds with Wishes’ project captured imaginations! Good wishes arrived to Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, on the wings of fanciful works of art, created by school children in Aleppo, Syria.

This year the joy continued, as the cathedral welcomed children from two direct provision centres in Dublin and from the local community to participate in a ‘Birds with Wishes’–themed creativity camp.

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Archbishop Michael Jackson with Adrian Cristae of Dublin City Interfaith Forum and one of the camp volunteers, Sammy.



Archbishop Jackson admires some of the work at the camp.

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Volunteers
Sammy and
Nargis with
Muhammad and
workshop
facilitator Timi
Tenczler

The day camp ran from 4–8 July, and was co-organised by the Dean's Vicar, the Revd Abigail Sines, with Muhammad Achour, Director of Places of ARcture, who was one of the curators of the 'Homing Pigeons: Birds with Wishes' exhibition in 2021.

Campers got to experience a variety of art, architecture and storytelling workshops. They toured the cathedral, had a private organ recital, and enjoyed time outdoors each day visiting different parks and green spaces in the local area. By the end of the week, the group had created new 'Birds

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with Wishes' to be sent back to the original project artists in Aleppo.

People and places

About 62,000 children in Ireland living in poverty

About 62,000 children in the Republic of Ireland live in consistent poverty, a children's group has said.

Tanya Ward from the Children's Rights Alliance told RTÉ children who have lived through poverty up to the age of six were the most affected.

Consistent poverty means they are probably going to bed hungry, their family cannot afford new clothes and family outings to the zoo or cinema are not a possibility, Ms Ward said.

The alliance is launching a new Child Poverty monitor report.

It is the first in a series of reports that will analyse of child poverty across the country.

Root causes of poverty will be explored and and solutions will be drawn up to address issues.

These will include
Educational disadvantage
Social exclusion

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Accessing healthcare
Homelessness
Food poverty
Income inadequacy

Ms Ward told RTÉ's Morning Ireland that children living in consistent poverty are very aware of their situation and that has lifelong consequences for them.

"Barnardos that have told us of stories where children in early years programmes have not eaten food and brought it home to feed their siblings.

"So children are very aware of this. If children lived through this, particularly if they live through it persistently, it has lifelong consequences for them."

She said there was a lack of national leadership on child poverty.

She said the Irish Department of Children does not have a dedicated unit working on child poverty.

She said this was something that would be beneficial to address the issues that exist.

She also pointed to Ireland's policy on hot school meals free meal scheme.

She said Ireland was "out of step" with the rest of Europe on hot school meals and that every school should benefit from a free meal scheme.

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She said a free school meal encourages students to come into school and enables them to concentrate better in the classroom.

Church Music Association meets

The Irish Church Music Association is holding its 53rd summer school in Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth, today and tomorrow (14 and 15 July), following a three-year break since 2019 due to Covid-19 restrictions.

The theme for this year is 'When Jesus saw the Crowds'.

The ICMA is expecting 150 participants to gather from the four corners of Ireland for this year's gathering. Choir directors, choir members, organists, instrumentalists and teachers involved in liturgical music in parish and school will avail of the summer school as an ideal opportunity to refresh their ministry and to learn new music in a relaxed environment.

According to the ICMA chairperson Mary Dee, "this year's summer school will involve two action-packed days of singing, prayer, learning and fun! Delegates will meet with other musicians from Ireland and abroad and will share and participate together in the liturgy."

The need for Church Action on Poverty has never been greater

Director of Church Action on Poverty, Niall Cooper, reflects on the charity's 40th anniversary.

All of us would say we want to see an end to poverty. None of us is happy seeing our neighbours, our fellow citizens, suffering. Made in the image and likeness of God, all human beings surely deserve to live with dignity, agency and power over our own lives.


So what are we as Christians doing to challenge and put an end to poverty in the UK? How can we move from reacting to crises to finding long-term solutions?

Those are the questions that led to Church Action on Poverty being launched, 40 years ago this month. Our founding members knew it was not enough to keep pulling people out of the river, nor simply to pray and hope for change. They knew that we had to go upstream, find what was sweeping people into poverty in the first place, and act accordingly. What's more, they knew it was no good to speak for people in poverty. Our challenge is to work alongside people with firsthand experience of poverty and to enable them to speak for themselves.

To mark our 40th anniversary, we have published *Dignity, Agency, Power*, an anthology of poetry, prayers and prose, looking back on often-pioneering work, and with immense gratitude for countless activists, supporters and partners that have brought about change in the lives of households, communities and at a national level. We can look back proudly on major successes in tackling high-cost lending, campaigning for the Living Wage, in convening the powerful End Hunger UK campaign which put food poverty and hunger firmly on the national agenda.

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True to this vision, this year we are launching a new Speaking Truth To Power programme, which will support people with experience of poverty to press effectively for meaningful change. Our Your Local Pantry network has enabled churches and community partners to open member-run food hubs in 75 neighbourhoods across the UK. These are improving access to good food and building dignity, choice and hope for over 15,000 households. Through a new partnership with the Cooperative, we are hoping to grow this to over 200 Local Pantries by 2025. And



Our Gracious Heavenly Father,
in rare moments of insight
we try to grasp the beauty and the
expansive nature of Your love.
No words can describe it,
no melody contain it,
no human being can explain it.

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our Church On The Margins programme works alongside a range of partner churches and denominations to put into practice the Gospel priority for the poorest and most marginalised in society.

As the cost of living crisis deepens, the need for Church Action on Poverty, and for a social movement committed to building dignity, agency and power with people and communities struggling to make ends meet has never been greater. Join us in this challenging and exciting task!

News briefs

Ignite 2022

CMSI's annual conference returns to Dromantine Conference Centre on Saturday 17th September (with Friday Extra on 16th) for an in-person event. Join up for a programme of worship, seminars and fun.

Heritage programme for children and teenagers at St Canice's

“We have lots of free heritage week events for children and teenagers from 18th to 21st August. Message our page, email explore@stcanicescathedral.com or get in touch on 0879398821 for more information or to book.”

<https://www.heritageweek.ie/event-listings/st-canices-cathedrals-monk-tour-2>

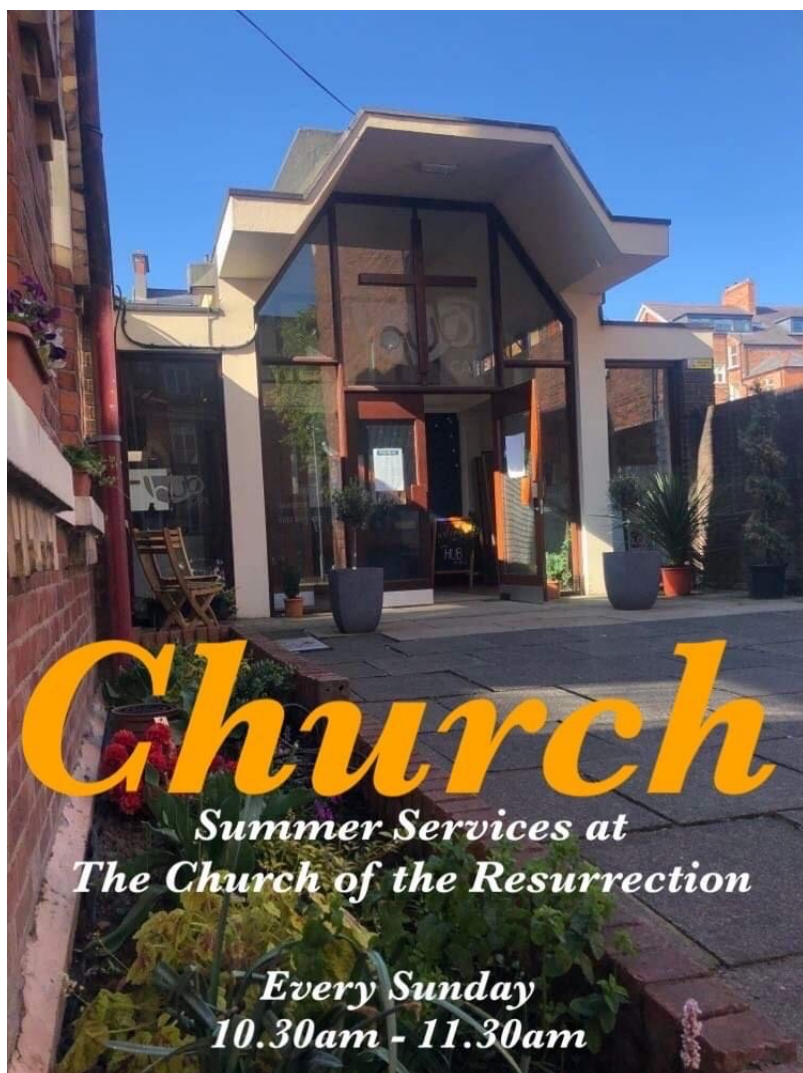
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First Lambeth plenary is on Mission and Evangelism

At the Lambeth Conference, bishops will take part in plenary sessions on some of the major conference themes.

Mission and Evangelism are the focus of the first plenary. The session will be chaired by Elizabeth Oldfield, Speaker, Writer and Podcast Host, and she will be joined by The Most Revd Stephen Cottrell, Primate of England and Metropolitan and The Most Revd Héctor Tito Zavala Muñoz, Primate of Chile.

The organisers look forward to welcoming and hearing from the content contributors at the event.



Prepare for the Lambeth Conference with the event delegate guide: <https://bit.ly/3bRqTEU>

Summer at The Church of the Resurrection QUB

This July & August the C of I & Methodist chaplaincy at Queen's University are preaching and praying through the

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Psalms and would love you to join us as different members of our Church family bring us God's word.

If you would like to know more about Church, speak to a ministry leader or be involved in any events during the summer email connect@thehubbelfast.org

News reports

Principal Officer for Ecumenical Development and Relations appointed

Churches Together in England (CTE) has announced the appointment of Doral Hayes to the role of Principal Officer for Ecumenical Development and Relations, commencing in September 2022.

Doral's focus will be to inspire and encourage ecumenical work at a local, intermediate (county or city) and national level.

Doral is currently Ecumenical Facilitator for Churches Together in Hertfordshire working with both local and regional church leaders to support worship and service together across the county. For the last nine years, Doral has been Executive Development Officer for the Association of Interchurch Families, working in the UK and internationally to support and advocate for interchurch couples and be a voice in the churches for the opportunity they present. Formerly both a former Trustee of Churches Together in England and the Chair of CTBI/CTE Bodies in Association, Doral is currently a member of the English and

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Welsh Anglican Roman Catholic Committee and the CTBI Writers Group for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

“I am both delighted and humbled to have the opportunity to serve the churches in this way as they journey together towards greater unity. I look forward to working with the great team at CTE, as well as colleagues across England, and I am grateful for all the different experiences that God has used to bring me to this place of service,” she said.

Chair of Churches Together Hertfordshire, Rev Dr David Chapman said “Regional church leaders in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire greatly enjoy working with Doral. However, we have always recognised her potential to fulfil a senior role in ecumenism... I am confident that she has the necessary gifts, skills and experience to be an effective representative of Churches Together in England.”

Doral will take up her post in the autumn and succeed CTE’s current Principal Officer for Intermediate Ecumenism, Governance Support and Resources, Jenny Bond, who is taking early retirement.

CTE Leaders welcome Doral’s appointment

CTE Chair of Trustees, Rowena Loverance said “It is with a deep sense of thankfulness that we welcome Doral Hayes joining Churches Together in England. As well as her personal gifts of warmth, thoughtfulness and sensitivity, Doral brings a passion for relationship-building and practical ecumenism honed through a wide variety of ecumenical experience. One of our most fervent hopes at CTE is for the deepening and reimagining of regional ecumenism at the

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city and county level and we look forward to the prayerful leadership which Doral will bring to this work.”

“I could not be more delighted to appoint Doral Hayes as Principal Officer for Ecumenical Development and Relations at Churches Together in England. Doral has a strong track record of delivery; combining wisdom and experience with relational currency. Doral is everything CTE desires to be right now,” said CTE General Secretary, Bishop Mike Royal.

More about Doral

Doral is a committed ecumenist who, having been raised in an interchurch family, brings a wide range of personal and professional ecumenical experience. Prior to working ecumenically, Doral held roles in health education and learning and development. Holding a MA in Contemporary Christian Theology, Doral is currently completing a Doctorate in Practical Theology at Roehampton University, her research focuses on what the churches can learn from the lived experience of interchurch families as they journey towards greater unity.

A licenced lay minister in the Oxford Diocese of the Church of England, Doral regularly preaches and leads worship in her local parish. Doral is married to Declan, a musician, and has two teenage children, she also enjoys singing and walking Seamus, a crazy whippet.

CNI

Pope Francis addresses abortion, mass shootings and resignation rumors

While Pope Francis said he has "no intention of resigning," he laid out a broad view of what it would look like if he stepped down as pontiff in a long interview published on Tuesday (July 12). Francis also weighed in on many hot button topics in America, from abortion to mass shootings and drug trafficking.

The pope told the Mexican media outlet TelevisaUnivision that his knee troubles, which forced him to use a wheelchair for a short time, raised concerns he might not be able to perform his papal duties. "It's getting better. Now I can walk," he said. "But it never occurred to me to quit."

Francis admitted his health struggles have "certainly limited" him in his role recently, namely in leading him to postpone a planned trip to two countries in Africa, but he insisted he has no intention of stepping down at the moment.

He did say that if he were no longer able to perform his duties, or if "I become a hindrance," he would follow in the example of his predecessor Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI, who in 2013 became the first pope to resign in 600 years.

"I hope that the strength of that example will help me make the decision," he said. Pope Francis spoke highly of Benedict, who having added the title emeritus to his name continues to wear the white clothing of the pontiffs and lives



in a monastery in the Vatican. "That man is supporting the church with his kindness and with his retirement," he said.

According to Francis, the precedent set by Benedict does open the door for popes to resign — but with that possibility comes the need "to delineate things more" and create explicit guidelines for the role of the emeritus pope, he said, calling the initial framework created by Benedict a "first step."

But Francis said if he were to retire, he would not remain at the Vatican but would instead return to the retirement plan he'd laid out before being elected pope, spending the rest of his days as bishop emeritus in a home for priests in a Roman parish, living "in service to the people."

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"If I survive, I would like something like this: Confess and go see the sick," Francis said.

In the two-hour interview, Francis also touched on a number of pressing issues concerning the United States, especially abortion, which has taken center stage after the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* in June, handing decisions around legalizing abortion back to the states.

While admitting he's not knowledgeable on the U.S. legal system, Francis asked: "Is it fair to take a human life to solve a problem? Whatever it is? Is it fair to hire a hit man to eliminate a human life?" The pope referenced scientific research he said shows that "one month after conception, the DNA is already there," while adding his position on this issue is "nonnegotiable."

But the pontiff noted how polarizing the issue is and the risk of losing sight of the pastoral and human dimension, especially when clergy turn it into a "political problem." Some conservative bishops in the United States have denied Communion to Catholic politicians who support abortion rights, including President Joe Biden and Speaker Nancy Pelosi, while encouraging others to follow their lead.

Concerning whether a politician supporting abortion rights should take Communion, Francis said he leaves it "to your conscience," and a politician should "speak with his bishop, with his pastor, with his parish priest, about that inconsistency." The pope added that faithful are more confused by the political attitude of bishops who are "so focused on an issue they can't see past their own nose."

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The pope also addressed the recent mass shootings in the United States, including the Independence Day parade shooting near Chicago, pointing to the "serious social problem" that led these young men to commit such acts of violence. Francis called such actions "diabolical" and questioned why "young people are so dissatisfied that they feel fulfilled only by destroying."

The proliferation of weapons is tied to the culture of war, the pope said, and raises the question of how to monitor the sale of weapons. This culture of violence permeates all societies, he added, including the drug cartels in Mexico where many priests are killed every year.

While the war in Ukraine has garnered global attention, the pope said, "for years we have been living the Third World War in bits, in chapters, with wars everywhere." Asked why he didn't directly condemn Russia and its leader, President Vladimir Putin, for the aggression, the pope said he prefers "to talk about the victims rather than the perpetrators."

Accusing Russia "is not a way to keep the door open to someone's conscience," he continued, adding that he "laughs" when detractors accuse him of being pro-Putin. "People's ability to express their opinion has no limit," he said, adding such pronouncements are more often than not a response to the latest message they saw on Twitter.

The pope said he still plans to visit the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv "soon" and plans to meet with the Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill during a religious meeting in Kazakhstan in September. Francis also said he plans to apologize to the Indigenous peoples when he visits Canada July 24-31 for

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the "cruelty" of those who tried to eliminate their culture, including Catholic clergy.

On the question of the inclusion of women in the Vatican offices that make up the Roman Curia, Francis said "the door is open" for a woman to one day occupy the second highest position at the Vatican as secretary of state. Francis' new apostolic constitution, "Praedicate Evangelium" (Preach the Gospel), allows for lay individuals to lead Vatican offices and departments.

The pope also said "the pot has been uncovered" concerning the sexual abuse of minors and vulnerable adults in the Catholic Church, but the problem will persist as long as we live in a society where people continue to be physically and psychologically abused.

Francis also touched on the subject of human trafficking and migration, urging people to show compassion and avoid generalizations. "Human dramas have a face," the pope said. "Let's make decisions by looking at the faces of those people."

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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