

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – School uniform initiative in Ballyclare church**

# People and places

## Ballyclare church initiative on school uniforms

**This week Ballyclare and District school uniform recycling scheme was open for clients at St John's Parish.**

The organisers had a super selection of quality pre-worn uniforms and PE Kit for Fairview, Ballyclare Primary, Secondary and High, plus all the other local primary schools. Every item had been carefully selected and quality checked to make sure they're good to go, and better still they were free to any local family that needed them.

The organisers stated that "by choosing the pre-worn option, you're not only saving some hard earned cash, you're also helping reduce the amount of perfectly good clothing that sadly ends up being sent to landfill every year.

"Call in to St John's Church Hall on the Doagh Road this morning between 10am and 12pm. You'll be more than welcome and you can even grab a wee cup of tea or coffee and a chat while you're there."

This year they're particularly looking for donations of blazers and PE Kit from Ballyclare High School and Ballyclare Secondary School, so if you've anything you don't need, and it's in good condition, please bring it along this morning. It'll be much appreciated.

## **Irish Methodist initiative in Ibiza**

**Irish Methodist mission associate Stephen McCann and the 247Ibiza team are active this summer**

Check out this short video as Stephen shares their plans and points for prayer.

[<https://vimeo.com/715482989>]

## **New Jersey choir to present concert in Kildare church**

**A choir hailing from New Jersey in the US will present a concert in St. Mary's Church of Ireland church in Maynooth.**

The Summit Chorale is one of New Jersey's oldest active choral organisations, celebrating their 109th year during the 2017-2018 season.

Led by Artistic Director, Dr. Thomas Juneau, the chorale performs choral literature as well as music from contemporary composers and explores varied musical styles.

Recently performed works include Brahms's Ein Deutsches Requiem and Liebeslieder Waltzes, Whitacre's Lux Aurumque, Lauridsen's O Magnum Mysterium and new works by Dr. Juneau, including Festival Magnificat and Gaudete.





Summit Chorale is a volunteer chorus: membership is a blend of recent college graduates, well-qualified amateurs, and active professional soloists.

Soloists are also encouraged to audition, as Summit Chorale's philosophy is to provide solo opportunities to its members.

Admission €10, at the door, in aid of Parish Funds. The event will take place at St. Mary's Church of Ireland, Parson Street, Maynooth on Wednesday, July 27 at 8pm. Report courtesy of Kildare.ie

## **Perygrene Compline and compliments**

**Perygrene sang Compline in Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin and later expressed their deep thanks to the dean for the use of the cathedral, to Canon Charles**



**Mullen for intoning compline and to the vergers who facilitated access to the east end of the choir during a busy cathedral evening.**

Peregryne have given a number of memorably musical performances over the last fortnight in both Dublin and Galway. Mariusz Szóstak, generously described the Galway cathedral concert as 'breathtaking' and Muireann Conway thanked Peregryne for 'Beautiful music, beautifully sung' at compline yesterday. The group said, "We gratefully appreciate all the well wishes. Until next time everyone."

## **New Dean of Ross installed**

**On Sunday past the Very Rev. Cliff Jeffers was instituted as Incumbent of Ross Union of Parishes and subsequently installed as Dean of Ross by the Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, the Right Rev. Dr Paul Colton.**

The new Dean of Ross was supported by his wife Eunice and their two sons Andy and Simon. Also present at the





service were parishioners of both Fanlobbus Union, Cliff's previous parish, and Ross Union. The chapter of Ross Cathedral was represented and many of



the diocesan clergy and Lay Readers were also at the service to support him. The Rev. Canon Alan Marley,





Prebendary of Island, gave the sermon and Peter Stobart, Director of Music at St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork played the organ.

## **Grandparents and the elderly need to know they are valued and cherished by our parishes and by the wider society – Bishop Denis Nulty**

**Bishop Denis Nulty, chair of the Bishops' Council for Marriage and the Family, is inviting parishes to reach out to grandparents and the elderly on this the second World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, which will be celebrated around the world next Sunday 24 July.**

Bishop Nulty said, “Grandparents and the elderly need to know they are valued and cherished by us – in our families, in our parishes and by the wider society. The World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly offers us a new opportunity to celebrate them and to let them know how much they mean to us. We need them. They have much to offer us and we have much to learn from them.

“Pope Francis’ message for this year’s World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly very much makes this point. He encourages the elderly to persevere in hope, to embrace the power they have to transform the world through prayer and a revolution of tenderness.

“The theme chosen by Pope Francis for this year’s celebration is from the Psalms ‘In old age they still bring forth fruit’ (Ps 92:14). Pope Francis says that old age is no time to give up and lower the sails, but a season of enduring fruitfulness in which a new mission awaits us.”

Bishop Nulty continued, “I am very encouraged by Pope Francis’ words as I look around our Church and see the long and faithful service offered by our older priests and religious and the decades long commitment of so many lay faithful to our parishes. Grandparents and the elderly are at the heart of our parishes.

“My favourite line from the Pope’s message is when he invites us to be poets of prayer:

‘Let us too become, as it were, poets of prayer: let us develop a taste for finding our own words, let us once again take up those taught by the word of God. Our trustful prayer



can do a great deal: it can accompany the cry of pain of those who suffer, and it can help change hearts. We can be “the enduring ‘chorus’ of a great spiritual sanctuary, where prayers of supplication and songs of praise sustain the community that toils and struggles in the field of life.’

“What a wonderfully uplifting challenge to all of us to become poets of prayer!

“I invite parishes across the country to celebrate grandparents and elders, not forgetting our more senior priests and religious. I would also encourage parishes to ensure that their local nursing care home is included in this important annual celebration.”

## World News

### **‘Choir Churches’ to be funded as part of projects to spread the Christian faith**

**Children are to get a chance to learn music in the English choral tradition as part of plans by the Church of England to inspire young people to learn about the Christian faith, it was announced this week.**

A total of £249,530 has been awarded to The Church of England in Lancashire to invest in up to 24 ‘Choir Churches’ where children will be taught hymns and anthems from the English choral tradition, meeting as a new congregation of parents, teachers and the wider community.



The Choir Church initiative in the Diocese of Blackburn will include regular worship and will be formed following similar projects in east London parishes and schools, led by Tom Daggett of the Choir Church Foundation.

The Bishop of Burnley, Philip North said: “This is a fantastic initiative; we are delighted to be pioneering Choir Church in our Diocese on a scale never before attempted.

“With our Choir Church Project we aim to connect home, church and school in a fresh approach to outreach; providing opportunities in places where they may not be available otherwise.”

Innovation Funding is aimed at helping parishes explore new ways of sharing the Christian message alongside tried and tested approaches.

Dioceses are encouraged to apply for funding for projects lasting up to three years that could act as blueprints for future mission and growth across the country,

**A total of £1.7 million been awarded in Innovation Funding round for the following projects:**

- Birmingham, Safe Spaces— helping churches in disadvantaged neighbourhoods, particularly inner city and outer estates, to nurture the faith and ensure they can welcome young people who have had no previous contact with Christianity - £239,775
- Blackburn – Choir Church, up to 24 Choir Churches working with schools in parishes across the diocese - £249,530
- Bristol – Swindon New Town for a project to adapt successful outreach approach, into a traditional Catholic parish - £249,690
- London – Youth Ministry in Communion, to expand on a youth network in the Anglo Catholic tradition, started last year (currently involving nine parishes in London) - £250,000
- Royal School of Church Music – Hymnpact – to help fund a programme to nurture faith through singing and appreciation of hymns and spiritual songs in schools in partnership with a range of churches - £230,000
- Southwark – Bubble Church- funding to expand Sunday worship that is friendly for parents and children with no previous contact with the church - £250,000
- St Hild College – Seedbed - training for lay people to evangelise and plant churches - £223,666





## **Pope John Paul I beatification set for 4 September**

**The Holy See Press Office has announced plans for the beatification of Pope John Paul I, who was born as Albino Luciani in the northern Italian town of Forno di Canale (now Canale d'Agordo) on 17 October 1912.**

Pope Francis will preside over the beatification Mass in Saint Peter's Square on Sunday 4 September 2022.

Bishop Renato Marangoni will read the Rite of Beatification at the Mass, together with the Cardinal Beniamino Stella, postulator for the Cause of Canonization, and Dr. Stefania Falasca, the Deputy Postulator.

“During the beatification, the team of postulators will gift the Holy Father with a reliquary containing the relics of the new Blessed,” according to a statement from the Press Office.

Tickets for the Mass can be requested from the Prefecture of the Papal Household.

## **Events surrounding the beatification**

Ahead of the beatification, Cardinal Angelo De Donatis will preside over a prayer vigil in the Basilica of St. John Lateran on the evening of Saturday, 3 September.

The Pope’s Vicar General for the Diocese of Rome will celebrate the vigil in the Basilica which houses the Chair of the Bishop of Rome, of which John Paul I took possession on 23 September 1978.

Following the beatification, Mass will be celebrated on 11 September in the hometown of the new Blessed, which lies in the territory of the Diocese of Belluno-Feltre.

‘The Smiling Pope’

Pope John Paul I’s was the shortest papacy in modern history, reigning over the See of Peter for on 33 days.

He was first Pope to choose a double name, saying he did so in honor of his two predecessors: John XXIII and Paul VI.

He was also the last in the long line of Italian-born Popes which began with Clement VII in 1523.

His successors – John Paul II, Benedict XVI, and Francis – have all praised the man known as “The Smiling Pope”.

## In the media

### **Social attitudes reflect gap between Church of Ireland members north and south of the Border**

**Lambeth Conference highlights divisions among Anglicans, chiefly over the issue of gay clergy, Patsy McGarry writes in the Irish Times**

The world’s Anglican bishops meet for the 15th Lambeth Conference this year in Canterbury. In recent years the gathering has highlighted divisions among conservative and liberal Anglicans, chiefly over the issue of gay clergy. This has extended to include bishops within the Church of Ireland.

The Church of Ireland is the major Protestant church on the island of Ireland, though about 65 per cent — or about 249,000 of its 375, 000 members — live in Northern Ireland. By contrast, 95 per cent of all of the 204,000 Presbyterians on the island live in the North.

Both churches are experiencing tensions between the two jurisdictions, with a liberal southern wing and a more conservative northern cohort, where, as a rule, leaders and members in the Republic are decidedly of a more liberal outlook than is the case among counterparts in Northern Ireland.



Where there may be a blurring of those lines in the Republic, it is frequently due to the influence of a Northern Ireland clergyman who is stationed in a southern diocese, but reflects the social attitudes of northern members more so than the views of those south of the Border.

In 2018, for example, Rev Alastair Donaldson of Derrylin, Co Fermanagh, told the Church of Ireland Gazette that the passage of the abortion referendum “was yet another sign of the spiritual malaise in that country and a determination among many to deny God’s word”.

Today, the Church of Ireland has 11 bishops on the island. Three are members of Gafcon, the Global Anglican Future Conference, that was set up by church conservatives in 2008 following the appointment of a gay bishop in the United States.

The appointment then of Gene Robinson as Bishop of New Hampshire in the US Episcopal (Anglican) Church led to a boycott of the 2008 Lambeth gathering by about a third of world Anglican leaders, including from Nigeria, Rwanda, Kenya and Uganda, as well as bishops from North America and Australasia.

There have been women priests in the Church of Ireland since 1990, and the church has had a woman bishop since 2013 with the appointment then of Bishop Pat Storey to Meath and Kildare diocese.

Many in the Church of Ireland believed she would be joined last month by another woman in the Church of Ireland House of Bishops, with speculation that a woman would win

out to take over as the new Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory.

However, the Archdeacon of Cork, Cloyne and Ross Adrian Wilkinson was elected. It has been suggested his election — and it is a popular appointment — may have been influenced by the growth of the fundamentalist Gafcon group among the church's 11 bishops.

In April 2018, Gafcon opened a Northern Ireland branch. Last April a Belfast conference was attended by three current Church of Ireland bishops: George Davison of Connor, David McClay of Down and Dromore diocese, and Ferran Glenfield of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh.

Retired bishop of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh Ken Clarke also attended.

In November 2019, Bishop McClay's appointment as Bishop of Down and Dromore led to 36 senior Church of Ireland clergy in the Republic putting their names to an open letter objecting to the promotion due to his membership of Gafcon.

Describing Gafcon policies as “antithetical” to the principles a Church of Ireland bishop must commit to at the rite of consecration, the group said such principles include “fostering unity, care for the oppressed and building up the people of God in all their spiritual and sexual diversity”.

Pointing to Gafcon's objections to women priests and bishops, they also pointed out that a Gafcon taskforce in June 2019 had recommended that “the provinces of Gafcon

should retain the historic practice of the consecration only of men as bishops”.

How then could Archdeacon McClay possibly accept Bishop Storey as his colleague in the House of Bishops or uphold the doctrine of the Church of Ireland on women in the episcopacy given that she is a woman, they asked.

The more liberal of the Church of Ireland bishops are the Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross Paul Colton and Bishop of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe Michael Burrows, with both voting “yes” in the 2018 referendum to repeal the Eighth Amendment.

Both have also opposed the church’s affirmation of the traditional definition of marriage as between a man and a woman at its 2012 general synod. Bishop Storey, though of a more conservative theological outlook generally, clearly believes in women priests.

Just now the overwhelming question within the Church of Ireland is whether its three Gafcon bishops — George Davison of Connor, David McClay and Ferran Glenfield — will go to the Lambeth gathering in Canterbury at the end of July.

Gafcon members from Africa and elsewhere, who boycotted the Lambeth Conference in 2008, have already indicated that they will not attend, even ahead of news that three bishops in same-sex unions had been invited.

“I will not be at the Lambeth Conference ... God’s plan of marriage is between a man and woman for procreation,”



July 21, 2022

said the Archbishop of Kenya, Jackson Ole Sapit, reflecting the conservative views of others.

It is estimated that of the approximately 100 million Anglicans worldwide, more than half are African. Of these, 22 million are in Nigeria, 14 million in Uganda, five million in Kenya, and 1.4 million in Rwanda according to most recent (2015) figures.

Such views on gay marriage, abortion and other social issues are supported by some in the Church of Ireland, especially in Northern Ireland, as was shown after the Eighth Amendment on abortion was repealed in 2018.

Gafcon points to the 1998 Lambeth Conference whereby 526 to 70 votes delegates approved a resolution affirming “the teaching of Jesus” that there are only two expressions of faithful sexuality: lifelong marriage between a man and a woman or abstinence.

“The resolution rightly called for pastoral care for same sex attracted persons,” said Gafcon, adding that homosexual practice is “incompatible with scripture” and rejecting “same-sex unions and the ordination of those in same-sex unions”.

Patsy McGarry, Irish Times 20/07/2022

**CNI**

## Perspective

### They never met, but they impacted on each other - Jim Rea

**This is the amazing story of two men. One well known to me, the other I only met once.**

Ted Edwards was a Methodist Minister. Brought up in the North of England he was influenced by the Salvation Army. He eventually trained to become an officer and was sent to Cork. However things led him in different direction and he eventually became a minister with the Methodist Church in Ireland.

To me Ted was a great encourager and I got to know him well. As he grew older he continued to have a great enthusiasm for the gospel. The last years before his "promotion to Glory," as the Salvation Army would say, Ted helped at the Newtownabbey Methodist Mission in Rathcoole.

So what's the link with another man who worked with the Church Army in England? Unlike Ted I only met him once, He is Terry Waite, who was in captivity in the Middle East for 1763 days. Last Christmas a friend bought me the latest edition of Terry's book, "Taken on Trust." Terry tells how eventually after some time being held hostage he is given a small radio by his captors. For the first time he connects with the outside world. One day he recalls picking up a church service, on the BBC World Service, from Belfast. He hears the voice of an elderly man praying. Suddenly the

man prays, "We pray for all captives and here in Belfast we especially remember Terry Waite and his family." Terry can hardly believe it! "Thank you, old man, whoever you are - I pray for you also..."

I found the story deeply moving. The elderly man was my friend Ted and the Church was the Newtownabbey Methodist Mission. It made me think of the prayers I lead at times in Church and and say privately, and wonder have they any effect. More often than not, I will never know. For the many people I pray for, I do not know. But then God knows.

Ultimately that prayer was answered when Terry Waite was released.

What is not recorded in the book is that after his release, he made enquires and found out the name of the man who made the prayer. To his surprise Ted Edwards got a letter from Terry thanking him for the prayer that brought hope and encouragement on that dark day in Beirut.

We can never underestimate the value and effectiveness of our prayers, even when unlike Ted, we may not ever know the ultimate outcome.

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site



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# Church News Ireland

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