

Church News Ireland



**Image of the day – Dromara Mothers' Union
living link with MU Nigeria**

People and places



Dromara Mothers' Union living link with MU Nigeria

Dromara Parish Mothers' Union reports that “a tree planting in commemoration of Queen Elizabeth’s Platinum Jubilee celebration was a big success.

“Many thanks to all who have worked hard to make the event a huge success.

“Thanks to Mrs Kathleen Heenan for helping to plant the tree (the Rector remarked - “for doing the business!!”).

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“A certificate of 65 years membership was also presented to Mrs Vera Jess.

“Thanks to our Rector and his lovely wife for attending and presenting a special Mothers’ Union scarf from Nigeria to all ladies present”.

Icon of St. Olga finds home in Howth

St Mary's side chapel has been set aside as a place for prayer and solace for Ukrainian friends.

There is an icon of St. Olga, patron Saint of Ukraine and suitably coloured candles that can be lit as a symbol of prayer. The Chapel is





open on Friday afternoons, Sunday mornings and anytime that the "free shop" is open.

“Our prayer is that it will be a place of quietness, remembrance and hope”.

QUB medicine graduate joins Sisters of Life in New York

Great news from New York. Recent QUB medicine graduate and Chaplaincy member, Anna McKinley, completed her postulancy with the Sisters of Life and has been admitted to their novitiate.



Last week, Anna received the Order's habit and a new religious name, Sr Rosa Goretti Immaculata (in honour of

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Our Lady of the Rosary, St Therese the Little Flower, St Maria Goretti, and the Immaculate Heart of Mary).

The Chaplaincy team said, “We are so proud of you Anna and wish you all God's blessings.”

[<https://sistersoflife.org/news/new-novices-2/>]

New Minister at Killead and Loanends Presbyterian Churches

Everyone at Killead Presbyterian and Loanends Presbyterian Churches are looking forward to welcoming Rev David Morrison to the pulpit as their new Minister.

Thirty-three-year-old David, who grew up on a farm in Cloughmills, was a member of Ballyweaney Presbyterian Church and has now been married to Barbara for ten years. The couple are loving parents to four girls, Hannah (8), Grace (5), Chloe (4) and Phoebe, who is ten months old.

His testimony is a simple story of God's grace.

He said: “Although I was brought up to go to church and was actively involved in church activities, it wasn't until I was 17 years old that I came to saving faith in Christ.

“It was through the Scripture Union at school in which I became friends with a Christian from my rugby team. Through talking with him that I realised that I needed to have what he had. I came to the realisation that I needed Jesus to forgive my sins and be my Saviour and Lord of my



Rev David Morrison, new minister at Killead and Loanends Presbyterian Churches, with his wife Barbara and children Hannah (8), Grace (5), Chloe (4) and Phoebe, who is ten months old.

life. Ever since His grace has sustained and strengthened me as I seek to follow Him.”

David’s education began at Knockahollet Primary School, and he then attended Cambridge House Grammar School in

Ballymena. Initially, he studied Medicinal chemistry at Queen's University, Belfast but after feeling God's calling, he changed to do a Bachelor of Theology at Queens through Union Theological College.

After graduating, David was employed as the Community Outreach Worker in First Donaghadee for five years before pursuing the path to ordained ministry within the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

Currently, he is serving as the assistant minister in Scrabo Presbyterian Church in the West Winds in Newtownards.

Talking about his experiences there, David said: "My time in Scrabo Presbyterian church has been such a blessing to myself and my family. Through the past five years I have had the privilege of walking alongside a number of people both through the ups and the downs of life. It has been so encouraging to see how Jesus has not only given people the strength to preserve through hardships but that through such time I have seen how they were formed and shaped more and more into the image of Christ."

He added: "My time in Scrabo only went to grow my heart for discipleship for not only did I see it's importance but I was able to see people who were transformed by God's grace through the means of grace. Although we are ready for the new challenge that the Lord has prepared for us in Killead and Loanends Presbyterian churches we will miss our brothers and sisters in Christ in Scrabo."

As he looked forward to the next stage of his ministry, David went on to say: "There is nothing that gives me more joy

than seeing believers engage in God's Word. I have been humbled to see a number of people grow in their love of God's Word and subsequently their love of the Lord Himself during my time in Scrabo. It would be my prayer that we would see many grow in their zeal for God's Word and through that that people may grow in Christian maturity."

In his spare time, David enjoys watching all sports and keenly follows Ulster Rugby. He also enjoys listening to audiobooks and exploring the beautiful Northern Irish countryside on foot. Courtesy The Churches Page.

A Journey in Hope: National Novena at Knock Shrine from 14 – 22 August

The National Novena to Our Lady of Knock will take place from Sunday 14th – Monday 22nd August, offering nine days of reflection and prayer and a chance to connect with your faith in the unique and sacred space of Knock Shrine. This year's theme is 'A Journey in Hope'.

Following a two-year break due to the pandemic, Fr Richard Gibbons hopes to make this year extra special for all who will be travelling to the Shrine to take part.

He said, "The purpose of the Novena is to recognise the unique role that Knock, as an International Eucharistic and Marian Shrine, has to play in the life of the Irish Church and to honour Our Lady. So many of the people who joined us online over the course of the pandemic are now coming back to visit the Shrine which is great to see. The Novena is

always a very special highlight of the year, and we are delighted to be able to proceed with it this year.

“We look to the future with the hope of renewal, for God’s guidance and pray that this Novena will offer pilgrims the chance for thought-provoking reflection and discussion.”

Ceremonies will take place at Knock Basilica at 3.00pm and 8.00pm over the course of the nine days with guest speakers present during each ceremony. There will also be the special candlelight procession, a traditional feature of the Novena at Knock, which takes place following the 8.00pm ceremony (weather permitting).

On Thursday 18 August, Knock Shrine will hold a special Day of Prayer for Peace in Ukraine and are inviting people from the Ukrainian community in Ireland and host families to attend.

Family Day

Sunday 21 August is the Anniversary of the Apparition which will coincide with the Family Day. Taking place from 11am-3pm in the beautiful grounds of the Shrine, the Family Day is a lovely opportunity for families to get together to enjoy a range of fun activities. All events and activities are free of charge and will take place on the beautiful grounds of Knock Shrine, close to the award-winning Knock Museum and Café Le Chéile. There will be outdoor activities taking place on the green (weather permitting) and marquees with indoor workshops, games and more.

Engaging with the Synod

A unique feature of this year's Novena will be the 'Synod Tent', where members of the public will be invited to learn more about the Synod and what it means for all of us. It will also provide an opportunity for us to listen to what you think Knock Shrine has to offer you and the Church in Ireland at this critical juncture in our history.

Novena Programme: Guest Speakers & Homilists

Sunday 14 August

3.00pm: Most Rev Tom Deenihan, Bishop of Meath – What is Christian Hope?

8.00pm: Cormac Henry, former Youth Volunteer at Knock Shrine – What Gives me Hope Today?

Monday 15 August

3.00pm & 8.00pm: Roseanna Ruane, mother of Saoirse Ruane – The Power of Prayer in Difficult Times

Tuesday 16 August

3.00pm & 8.00pm: Dr Nicola Brady, Chair of the Synodal Pathway Steering Group – The Synodal Pathway: What have we learned and what will we do?

Wednesday 17 August

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3.00pm & 8.00pm: Fr Terence Harrington OFM Cap – How Can I Have Hope in my Brokenness?

Thursday 18 August

3.00pm & 8.00pm: Halyna Teslyuk, Ukrainian Catholic University, Lviv, Ukraine – A Hope that Inspires

Friday 19 August

3.00pm & 8.00pm: Lauren Conroy, Student – My Faith Story

Saturday 20 August

3.00pm: Fr Michael McKeever, Diocesan Secretary, Diocese of Raphoe – Eucharist: a Sign of Hope

8.00pm: Professor John Feehan, Geologist, Botanist, Author and Broadcaster – God in Everything that Lives: A Reflection on Laudato Si

Sunday 21 August, the Anniversary of the Apparition

3.00pm: Most Rev Kevin Doran, Bishop of Elphin – They will take their place at the Feast

8.00pm: Fr Richard Gibbons, PP and Rector, Knock Shrine 'Knock – the Vision of Hope'

Monday 22 August

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3.00pm & 8.00pm: Most Rev Francis Duffy, Archbishop of Tuam – The Call of the Lord

For more information see www.knockshrine.ie

Vacancies

C of I Vacancy: Clerical - Incumbent – Naas Union of Parishes (Diocese of Kildare)

Applications are invited for the above incumbency which is now vacant.

The parish is seeking an enthusiastic person who will guide them in working towards a united and evangelical parish of growth, embracing both the challenges and rewards that this will bring.

There are three churches, Naas, Kill and Rathmore, a modern national school along with a modern Rectory, situated in the town of Naas, less than twenty miles from Dublin.

Further particulars from: Karen Seaman, Bishop's P.A., Diocesan Centre, Moyglare, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.

Email: office@meath.anglican.org

Applications/expressions of interest by Friday, 26th August, 2022.

World News

Greek Church protests baptism for celebrity same-sex parents

Greece's Orthodox Church says it will send a letter of protest to the archbishop who heads the church in the United States after he baptised the children of celebrity fashion designer Peter Dundas and his partner Evangelo Bousis.

Archbishop Elpidophoros of America presided at the July 9 ceremony near Athens while in Greece on a private visit. Dundas and Bousis have a son and a daughter born via surrogacy.

Dundas, who has designed red-carpet and performance outfits for leading artists including Beyoncé, Ciara and Mary J Blige, agreed to have his children baptised as Orthodox, the religion of his partner. Bousis is of Greek heritage.

In a statement published on its website on Tuesday, the governing Holy Synod of the Greek Orthodox Church said it would send letters of complaint to the US church leader as well as to the spiritual leader of the world's Orthodox Christians, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, who is based in Istanbul, Turkey.

The Greek Orthodox Church does not recognise same-sex unions. Greece allows same-sex couples to enter into legal

cohabitation agreements but does not allow same-sex marriages.

Archbishop Elpidophoros did not immediately respond to the Greek church's objection. His official Twitter account featured an excerpt from a July 2 speech in New York in which he spoke out about the need for religion to heal divisions in society.

“Every person, no matter who they are, or what they have done – for better or for worse – is worthy of God's love. And



It is very important to bring together the wisdom of the elderly and the enthusiasm of the young. The encounter between grandparents and grandchildren is key, especially in this moment of economic and social crisis that humanity is undergoing.

- Pope Francis

@catholicbishops

“Every person, no matter who they are, or what they have done – for better or for worse – is worthy of God’s love. And if they are worthy of God’s love, then they are worthy of our love, too,” Elpidophoros said. “The Church will never reject anyone on the basis of their personhood.”

The Holy Synod complaint was made in response to a letter to the church leadership from Metropolitan Bishop Antonios of Glyfada.

He granted permission for the baptism of Dundas and Evangelo Bousis’ children but said he did not know the ceremony involved a same-sex couple.

“His eminence the Archbishop of America acted unilaterally, on his own initiative and in an improper manner, in the full knowledge that these children (of God) do not belong to our (religious) family,” Antonios wrote.

The Vatican vows not to invest in porn or guns

The Vatican will not invest in porn or weapons under an ethical investment policy that is part of Pope Francis’s efforts to clean up the Catholic Church from a series of scandals.

While there is no suggestion the Vatican currently has money in porn or other unholy industries, the new rules are an attempt to establish tougher principles and oversight in Vatican finances.

The Church recently made headlines over a botched real estate deal in central London at the heart of a corruption trial involving a cardinal.

According to the 22-page document, Vatican money managers should stay away from pornography, prostitution, gambling, defence, pro-abortion health clinics, contraceptive products and stem-cell research, avoid money laundering havens, and favour long-term investments over riskier “speculative strategies”.

All investments should “aim to contribute to a more sustainable world” and be “aligned with the teachings of the Catholic Church”, the Vatican said.

There are specific exclusions for “financial investments that contradict fundamental principles, such as the sanctity of life or the dignity of the human being or the common good”.

The document refers to the need to invest in “environmentally friendly” companies with a strong record on corporate social responsibility and transparency, and identify “best-in-class” assets and investments that have “a positive and demonstrable impact regarding equality and climate change”.

Climate change and social justice have been a focus of Francis’s papacy. The Argentine has also had his hands full with administrative reforms, including a recently adopted Vatican constitution, and he has allowed a Vatican court to put a cardinal on trial.

Angelo Becciu is accused of embezzlement and abuse of office. He is being tried with nine others, mostly in connection to the purchase of a former Harrods warehouse in which the Vatican was allegedly fleeced by middlemen and Vatican staffers. All defendants deny the charges. The building was sold last month for £186 million, costing the Vatican a reported £66-150 million.

Poem for today

An Irish Airman Foresees His Death by William Butler Yeats

I know that I shall meet my fate
Somewhere among the clouds above;
Those that I fight I do not hate,
Those that I guard I do not love;
My country is Kiltartan Cross,
My countrymen Kiltartan's poor,
No likely end could bring them loss
Or leave them happier than before.
Nor law, nor duty bade me fight,
Nor public men, nor cheering crowds,
A lonely impulse of delight
Drove to this tumult in the clouds;
I balanced all, brought all to mind,
The years to come seemed waste of breath,
A waste of breath the years behind
In balance with this life, this death.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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