

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Every Goal Counts charity support  
from Methody girls hockey**

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## Image of the day

### Every Goal Counts charity support from Methodist College girls hockey

Methodist College, Belfast, recently made a substantial donation to the charity Charlenes Project with a total sum of £15000, with £3000 being raised by the 1st XI Girls Hockey Team through their 'Every Goal Counts' Pledge and £12000 raised by previous 6th form pupils.

Read more about this project here  
<http://ow.ly/9Q6950JY4ae>

## People and places

### Eglinton parish response to flooding, again

**The heavy rains which affected area in the north-west with flooding was a major cause for concern. Canon Paul Hoey, Rector of Eglinton, commented on the experience. He stated -**

“I’m aware that various people in our local community have had their property damaged by the torrential rain that we've had this evening, and that many have been traumatised by the thought that we were going to get a repeat of the devastating 2017 flooding.

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“The damage does not seem, at this stage, to be on the same scale, but stories are still emerging. I want those who have been affected to know that we in St Canice's are praying for you, and that we stand ready to help in any practical way that we can. Please don't hesitate to get in touch.

“Many have been asking if St Canice's church building is ok. Thankfully, the flood barrier we installed after the previous flooding seems to be working well.

“Lord, keep us all under your care this night. Give to those who have been fearful as they witnessed the water encroaching on their homes, and those for whom traumatic memories have been revived, your gift of peace. And help them, Lord, to sleep secure in the knowledge of your loving presence. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.”

## **Ballymena youth reach in Spain**

**A team of young people from High Kirk Presbyterian Church, Ballymena are presently in Cambrils in Spain**

They are running a kids club and doing various outreaches. (Saturday 23rd July until Tuesday 2nd August).

## **Senior cleric warns of changes to come in Catholic Church**

**The Catholic Church in Ireland may find itself “increasingly marginalised in public debate”, its most**

**senior bishop has warned — but Archbishop Eamon Martin said it must remain “prophetic”.**

Speaking about the publication next month of a document for the Irish church's Synodal Pathway, which has seen tens of thousands of Catholics across the country take part in nine months of consultations, Dr Martin said the next chapter in the life of the Irish church will be different to the last.

The all-Ireland Primate from Derry said the 'synodal synthesis' would reveal many challenges for the handing on of the faith, including the impact of “a major decline in the

## **Prayer Ministry**

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*Refreshments will be served*

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practice of the faith”, in vocations to priesthood and to religious life, and to sacramental marriage.

In the consultations, many people had called for greater transparency, participation in decision-making and accountability within parish and diocesan structures, he said.

They also highlighted the importance of tapping into the energy and gifts of young people and of finding fresh models of responsibility and leadership which recognise and facilitate the role of women.



The listening process indicated there was a need to reach out to the many people who have left the Church behind and in some cases feel excluded, forgotten or ignored, the Catholic leader said.

The synodal journey, the Archbishop of Armagh stressed, is taking place at a critical moment in the Irish Church's history, as 2029 will mark 200 years since Catholic Emancipation, and would draw to “a close a significant chapter in the life of the Church here, while at the same time opening a new one,” he said.

Of the past, Dr Martin paid tribute to a church which “contributed generously to health, to education and community cohesion, to care for the poor and outreach to the marginalised in society”.

But he underlined that the other side could not be ignored — “the failures in mission, the clerical and institutional abuse scandals, the holding on to power and status that sometimes obscured the light of the Gospel and left behind a legacy of pain and trauma for many.”

The synodal consultations had shown a need for healing and hope, he said.

Separately, Archbishop Kieran O'Reilly has published a pastoral letter highlighting the aging profile of priests ministering in the archdiocese of Cashel & Emly in in mid-western Ireland.

The average age of the 68 priests in the archdiocese is 67 and in five years, there will be just 35 priests below the age

of retirement, which for priests is 75. At the moment, the diocese has just one man training for priesthood.

“It is clear that this staffing level will not continue,” Dr O'Reilly said.

He warned that faced with this reality, change would be coming soon in how parish life is organised. As part of a plan to deal with projected priest shortages, the diocese will form pastoral units encompassing multiple parishes and lay people will share the work of priests. The new units will be introduced in November.

## **‘Hands on’ Presbyterian social care recruitment drive ‘exceeds expectations’**

**As a social care provider who looks after over 300-plus people, one of the biggest issues facing the Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI) and the sector in general has been its ability to attract and fill staffing vacancies.**

But a recent PCI community-based recruitment initiative for care assistants, team leaders and other posts exceeded expectations when it filled 70 per cent of vacancies.

The Council for Social Witness (CSW), PCI’s social care arm, manages the denomination’s day-to-day provision of residential, nursing, supported housing, respite and day care, along with a number of community-based programmes. It includes Aaron House, a residential care home for 14 people with profound learning disability, in

Dundonald's Ballybeen estate. It also has a day care centre, which usually supports 9 people, and has two rooms available for respite care.

As Rev David Brice, Convener of the Council for Social Witness, explained, "For organisations like PCI, and others who provide a wide range of professional social care, the last few years have seen very testing times. It is an understatement to say that it has been a challenging period for the system and those who work in it. One of the ongoing challenges that we face is attracting new people into the caring profession, which is why we needed to come up with a different and perhaps more hands-on approach for Aaron House, which has been part of the Ballybeen community since it opened in 1995."

Having tried traditional advertising methods to recruit, Mr Brice said that they wanted to 'push the boat out' and make a specific effort in the local community. "It wasn't rocket science, but it took some time and effort. We leafleted over 1,000 homes on the estate to let people know about Aaron House and the local job opportunities that were available on their doorstep. We also did some social media and the community came up trumps," Mr Brice explained."

The leaflet – which listed some of the benefits of working at Aaron House, including a £500 'welcome bonus' - was also an invite to a special recruitment day held in Ballyoran Community Centre. Here people could be interviewed by members of the CSW team and colleagues from PCI's personnel department at one of three interview stations that were running throughout the day. Assistance was also given to those who needed help filling in their application form,

along with the promise that each interviewee would have a



The poster features a large, abstract graphic on the left side composed of overlapping, semi-transparent squares in various shades of red, orange, yellow, green, and blue, creating a dynamic, geometric pattern. The background is a light cream color. The title 'aurora' is in a large, bold, red sans-serif font, with the 'o' replaced by a colorful, multi-colored circular pattern. Below the title, the subtitle 'certificate in children's ministry' is in a smaller, bold, red sans-serif font. The text is arranged in a clean, modern layout with clear headings and bullet points. The bottom of the poster has a red banner with white logos and text.

# aurora

## certificate in children's ministry

Republic of Ireland      Aurora Children

Aurora Children is a children's ministry training course from St Peter's College (part of Sheffield Diocese) designed for those involved in Christian children's work, and is made up of three modules:

**Children's Ministry and the Children's Leader, Understanding Children and Children's Ministry Practice, and Managing the Ministry.**

It is ideal for anyone who can commit to a number of training sessions over 8 months, in order to develop their practice, gain new skills and grow in confidence.

Running from September 2022 to May 2023, we plan to deliver the course using a blended approach of online and in-person learning. Saturdays will be run in-person - starting in Dublin with future venues TBC. Wednesday evenings will be on Zoom. More details on our website.

Students can work towards the St Peter's College Certificate in Children's Ministry by completing a number of written assignments.

Cost €300 per student (some discounts and bursaries available)

For more details and to book a place, visit [www.auroratraining.org.uk/eire](http://www.auroratraining.org.uk/eire)

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church of ireland  
**youth**  
department

 Church of Ireland Board for Ministry with Children & Families

decision on the same day - conditional on future Access NI clearance and the taking up of references.

Mr Brice continued, “If we got two or three people we would have been pleased. Come the day we were able to fill eleven vacancies, which was far and away beyond our expectations. We were amazed.

“For over a quarter of a century Aaron House has been home to some amazing people, who are cared for by a team of incredibly dedicated individuals. Some of the staff team have been there since it opened and along with their colleagues, continue to go the extra mile for those in their care.

“Across all our homes we seek to provide care in a specifically Christian ethos and environment, but you don’t need to be a Christian to work for us, or be cared for by us. As a Church, and as individual Christians however, we are called to demonstrate Jesus’ love for people,” he said.

“This means putting our faith into practical action and simple Christian caring, which we seek to do in all the homes that we manage. It is a powerful social witness of the gospel. This hands on recruitment drive, and the people we have coming on stream, will take a lot of the pressure off our colleagues at Aaron House, who for too long have been working additional shifts. They will be joining a great team.”

Since the formation of the Presbyterian Orphan and Children’s society in 1866, the Presbyterian Church in Ireland has played a key role in ministering to the physical needs of people. This approach continues today overseas,

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and at home through its homes and support units, community based projects, and the work of its congregations on the ground across Ireland. Originally managed by the Currie Community, PCI took over the management of Aaron House in 2009 in partnership with Choice Housing Association, who are responsible for the maintenance of the building.

## First Diocesan Further Education and Training Officer and new priest-in-charge for Kilmore Union



From left to right: the Rev. John Ardis, the Rev. Canon Paul Arbuthnot, the Rev. Terry Mitchell, the Right Rev. Dr Paul Colton, the Rev. Gary Paulsen, and the Ven. Adrian Wilkinson. Picture: Andy Gibson.

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**On Sunday, 24th July 2022, the Rev. Terry Mitchell was instituted as priest-in-charge of Kilroe Union of Parishes and also as Diocesan Further Education and Training Officer by the Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, the Right Rev. Dr Paul Colton.**

Pictured after the service is Rev. Terry Mitchell with his wife Julia. Picture: Andy Gibson.



The preacher at the service was the Rev. Gary Paulsen, Rector of Fermoy Union. He said that the relationship between parish and priest is one of supporting each other and celebrating with each other. Bishop Paul pointed out the patience of the parish in waiting for ministry to be provided and also of Terry's and Julia's patience for everything to be ready for them to move to their new parish.

Kilroe Union, where Terry will be based, includes the parishes of Schull, Altar and Crookhaven. The role of Diocesan Further Education and Training Officer is a new one in the Diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross. As the first appointee to this post, Terry will oversee, administrate and

innovate the provision of further education and lifelong learning within the Diocese. He will also actively teach and deliver some of the courses.

## Lambeth focus

### Draft Lambeth Call “undermines and subverts” LGBT+ people - Bishops of Wales

**The draft Lambeth Call on human dignity “undermines and subverts” LGBT+ people, say Church in Wales bishops. In a statement issued ahead of the Lambeth Conference, which starts today Tuesday, the bishops pledge to work to amend the passage “to reflect more adequately our understanding of their equal place in the Church”.**

The full statement follows.

#### Lambeth Call statement

The bishops of the Church in Wales are looking forward to meeting with their colleagues from across the Communion at the forthcoming Lambeth Conference, and to take counsel together to advance the proclamation of the Gospel and the mission of the Church.

We commit ourselves to work positively with all our colleagues in this task, but, like others, we have noticed a short text, inserted in the draft Lambeth Call on Human Dignity, which undermines and subverts the dignity of an

integral part of our community, rather than affirming them. Recognising that some provinces will want to affirm the historic understanding of marriage, we wish to assure our LGBT+ sisters and brothers in Christ that we will work to amend this passage to reflect more adequately our understanding of their equal place in the Church.

+Andrew Cambrensis +Gregory Llanelwy +Joanna Tyddewi  
+June Landav +Cherry Mynwy +John Aber +Mary Stallard

## **Eight groups' open letter to the Archbishops and Bishops of the Church of England**

**Changing Attitude England is one of the eight groups who have written an open letter to the Archbishops and Bishops of the Church of England expressing concern about the draft Lambeth Call on Human Dignity, to be discussed and possibly issued by the forthcoming Lambeth Conference.**

This Call has been drafted with reference to Resolution 1.10 of the 1998 Lambeth Conference. It says: "It is the mind of the Anglican Communion as a whole that same gender marriage is not permissible. Lambeth Resolution I.10 (1998) states that the "legitimizing or blessing of same sex unions" cannot be advised. It is the mind of the Communion to uphold "faithfulness in marriage between a man and a woman in lifelong union."

Were it to be accepted, it would fatally sabotage the Living in Love and Faith process and rule out any possibility of

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progress towards the Archbishops' vision of a radical new Christian inclusion for LGBTQIA+ people.

Dear Archbishops and Bishops,

We write on behalf of a wide range of organisations representing members of the Church of England to express our grave concern at the draft Lambeth Call on Human Dignity, to be discussed and possibly issued by the forthcoming Lambeth Conference. As you will be aware, this Call has been drafted with reference to Resolution 1.10 of the 1998 Lambeth Conference, ruling out the possibility of same-sex marriage, and making the claim that this represents “the mind of the Anglican Communion as a whole.” We do not see how this claim, overriding the real diversity of doctrine and practice in the Communion, can be substantiated. With respect of the Church of England, we note the following urgent points:

Resolution 1.10 has never been adopted by General Synod or any other representative body of the Church of England

A similar attempt to foreclose debate on the possibility of same-sex marriage was contained in GS2055, debated by General Synod in February 2017 but for that reason, Synod refused to Take Note of the paper.

We have engaged hopefully since then in the Living in Love & Faith process on the basis of the repeated assurances that it is an open process without foregone conclusions.

Given this expectation of openness to the different possible futures in the Church of England, to be discussed by you

this very autumn as part of LLF, we urge each and every bishop of the Church of England to use their voice and vote at the Lambeth Conference to oppose the issuing of the Call on Human Dignity in its present form. Without such a stand trust between LGBTQ+ members and many others of the Church of England will be impossible when it is most needed. United, we ask for reassurance as to the security of the LLF process and how the misrepresentation of the diversity of the Communion will be corrected. Only then may it be possible for this call to truly affirm human dignity as intended.

Signed:

Fr Dan Barnes-Davies SCP, (Chair of Trustees, the Inclusive Church Network)

Revd Colin Coward MBE (Convenor of Changing Attitude England)

Luke Dowding (Executive Director, OneBodyOneFaith)

Nigel Evans (Chair of the Campaign for Equal Marriage in the Church of England)

Revd Canon Tim Goode {Co-Chair, MOSAIC)

Prof. Elaine Graham (Chair of Council, Modern Church)

The Very Revd Joe Hawes (Chair of Trustees, the Ozanne Foundation)

Prof. Helen King (Vice-Chair, General Synod Gender and Sexuality Group)

Jayne Ozanne (Director, the Ozanne Foundation)

Revd Neil Patterson (Chair, General Synod Gender and Sexuality Group)

Revd Trevor Wyatt (Co-Chair, MOSAIC)

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-Joy, Postdoctoral Researcher  
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## World News



### Pope Francis arrives in Canada

**Pope Francis arrived in Canada yesterday at the start of his five day 'penitential pilgrimage' to the country.**

At the start of his journey he tweeted: "Dear brothers and sisters of #Canada, I come among you to meet the indigenous peoples. I hope, with God's grace, that my penitential pilgrimage might contribute to the journey of

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reconciliation already undertaken. Please accompany me with #prayer."

The papal plane landed at 11:09 am local time at Edmonton International Airport after a more than ten hour flight from Rome where he left in the morning local time.

The arrival of the Pope with the journalists on board with him was followed with a brief welcome by civil and religious authorities.

Those greeting Pope Francis included indigenous leaders, church leaders, Governor General Mary Simon, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, and Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, Salma Lakhani. The Holy Father talked with everyone from a wheelchair because he is suffering with a painful knee that makes walking difficult.

After the welcome ceremony Pope Francis traveled to St Joseph Seminary, overlooking the Edmonton Valley, to rest after the long flight for the rest of the day. His first public meetings will begin on Monday morning.

Watch a short film from the Vatican Youtube channel here:  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wv5OSYTTKpY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wv5OSYTTKpY)

## Poem for today

### Postscript by Seamus Heaney

And some time make the time to drive out west  
Into County Clare, along the Flaggy Shore,

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In September or October, when the wind  
And the light are working off each other  
So that the ocean on one side is wild  
With foam and glitter, and inland among stones  
The surface of a slate-grey lake is lit  
By the earthed lightning of a flock of swans,  
Their feathers roughed and ruffling, white on white,  
Their fully grown headstrong-looking heads  
Tucked or cresting or busy underwater.  
Useless to think you'll park and capture it  
More thoroughly. You are neither here nor there,  
A hurry through which known and strange things pass  
As big soft buffetings come at the car sideways  
And catch the heart off guard and blow it open.

## 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)

