

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – The Bishop of Barbecue

July 5, 2022

People and places



Bishop of Barbecue at Summer Madness

The torrential rain relented in Portglenone and the heavy clouds above Our Lady of Bethlehem Abbey parted just in time for the Derry and Raphoe BBQ to proceed as planned at this year's Summer Madness festival in County Antrim.

Bishop Andrew Forster was 'mine host' for the occasion, which brought back happy memories for him and his wife, Heather, of past Summer Madness festivals they'd visited with their children years before they came to Derry and Raphoe.

July 5, 2022

Summer Madness is described by its organisers as Ireland's "premier Christian youth festival". Around two dozen young people from the diocese made their way to this year's event to celebrate, connect and explore the significance of faith in their culture and community. They were accompanied by a raft of adult leaders who were there to ensure that their charges remained safe and got the maximum possible enjoyment from the experience.

The Diocesan Youth Officer, Claire Hinchliff, was on barbecue duty with Bishop Andrew, along with Pauline Beadle, whose husband was recently appointed as the new Rector of Donagheady. Pauline said after the appointment that she loved cooking and that her happy place could be any kitchen. Today she had to make do with a tent and a grill.



The poster features a yellow background with a dark blue horizontal bar at the top. On the right side of this bar is a circular logo with a white Celtic knot, the text 'HOLY TRINITY GLENCRAIG', and 'COME AND JOIN US!' above it. The main text is in bold, dark blue font. Below the logo, the text '19 hrs a week (2 years)' and 'closing date Friday 15th July 12 noon' is centered. At the bottom, a dark blue bar contains the contact information in yellow text.

We are looking for a

**COMMUNITY
OUTREACH WORKER**

19 hrs a week (2 years)
closing date Friday 15th July 12 noon

**For more information email:
catherine@holytrinityglencraig.org**

July 5, 2022

For the Bishop, it was a chance to show off the culinary skills he'd first revealed at the 'Can't Cook, Won't Cook' event in Macosquin a couple of months earlier. He was assisted by Claire, who looked after the technical side of the barbecue; the chairman of Derry and Raphoe Youth, Rev Peter Ferguson; and the Diocesan Children's Officer, Kirsty McCartney, who brought her niece in tow.

The smoke from the grills wafted above nearby tents drawing the hungry Derry and Raphoe contingent, and assorted visitors from other dioceses, to the Derry and Raphoe tents in short order. There were no complaints as the young people feasted on burgers, chicken kebabs and sausages – even Simon Henry, the Church of Ireland's



Day of Prayer
10am - 2pm
Saturday 9th July

St. Patrick's Church of Ireland
Ballymacarrett
220 Newtownards Road
Belfast, BT4 1GZ

Prayer, Worship, Reflections,
Silent waiting in the Presence the Lord
Join us anytime between 10am - 2pm

*""If my people, who are called by my name, shall humble themselves,
pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways,
then I will hear from heaven, and will heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14*

July 5, 2022

National Youth Officer, fetched up to sample the fare and pronounce the barbecue a big success.

More Derry & Raphoe photos at -

[[] <https://www.derryandraphoe.org/its-madness-out-there-festival-fever-grips-derry-and-raphoe-youth/>]

Connor Summer Madness report and photos at -

[[] <https://connor.anglican.org/2022/07/04/summer-madness-the-big-connor-bbq/>]

New minister at Ballynahinch Methodist Church



July 5, 2022

The Reverend Jackie McNair has begun his ministry as the new minister of Ballynahinch Methodist Church.

Revd McNair led his first service on Sunday morning. Jackie is the son of John McNair and Marina McNair of McNeely Villas, Letterkenny

Making connections to support people from Ukraine in Rathmines

Making connections has been the focus of Holy Trinity's initiatives to support people fleeing war in Ukraine who have arrived in the Rathmines area.

A number of families in the parish have taken in refugees from Ukraine and the church is also holding social events and classes to help people integrate.

Chloe Donnan is a pastoral, prayer and service leader at Holy Trinity and is overseeing the parish's response to the crisis. She explains that they started by asking parishioners to consider if they had room to provide accommodation. A number had already put their names forward through the Red Cross initiative.

A friend of Chloe's had worked in Ukraine and got in touch to say that she knew of a mother and child who needed accommodation. Further connections were made and a number of people were offered accommodation in the parish through word of mouth. Chloe recalls one girl who arrived in the hub in Dublin Airport who was overwhelmed at being

July 5, 2022

told that a family wanted to take her in and asked why she was so special.

The parish also took a stand at the nearby Swan Centre where a swimming coach from Ukraine organised an event to show refugees what was available in the area. From that event they saw that English classes were needed and the Rector, the Revd Rob Jones, offered to host classes in the church in association with Atlas Language School. The parish and the parish school, Kildare Place School, had to fundraise for this and between donations and generous support from Dublin City Council they raised €5,000 for the project.



English classes taking place in Holy Trinity Rathmines

July 5, 2022

Masha from
Ukrain,
Chloe and
Zoe from
Holy Trinity
at the
church's
stand in the
Swan
Leisure
Centre



Now English
language
classes, at
various
levels, take
place in the
church daily
during the
week and
this also
supports the

participants in building community. Volunteers from the parish also bake several times a week to provide treats for participants.

A number of social events have taken place in the church and they have organised boardgames and chess evenings for children of all ages.

“People are delighted to be able to do something practical,” Chloe comments. “I felt, seeing the news, that it was so

July 5, 2022

overwhelming. But this is what we can do. Obviously, word has spread because a few Sundays after we had the stand in the Swann Centre we found that there were a number of Ukrainians coming to church.”

On Easter Sunday church-goers witnessed a moving moment. A Ukrainian Christian led a prayer in Ukrainian which was translated into English by a young Russian woman who is a member of the Holy Trinity community. “The Russian girl didn’t know if the Ukrainian people would want her translating the prayer but it was very powerful to see two women from Russia and Ukraine praying together,” Chloe says.

There are quite a large number of people from Ukraine living in hotels in Rathmines and in student accommodation which is empty for the summer. Chloe said they have received a lot of advice from Angie Gough of Helping Irish Hosts which coordinates hosts who are supporting Ukrainians in Ireland and facilitates placements.

“We have said that we are here to help. We’re providing English classes and we’ve been able to help some people to find accommodation. The government is providing services for refugees but we feel we offer a spiritual place for them. This is an open door. People are welcome here, which is how a church should be. It has been moving and emotional embracing people in our church. It has only been positive and a lot of people want to help make a difference,” she explains.

For other parishes who find that they are in an area where numbers of Ukrainians are living, Chloe suggests starting off

July 5, 2022

with a coffee morning or an evening gathering (as many people are working). She adds that it is important to find out what is needed and points out that there are a lot of women here who may want to meet up while their children are in school. English language classes are very important as is learning how to reach people. She has learned that people from Ukraine don't use email in the same way we do and use apps to keep in touch with each other.

World news

Pope, Archbishop and Kirk Moderator apologise for postponed South Sudan trip

Pope Francis, the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland have apologised to Christians in South Sudan, saying their “disappointed” they could not visit next week as scheduled.

The trio were due to tour South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo as part of a peace-building trip.

The visit has already been postponed multiple times, due to the pandemic and the worsening warfare.

This time, it was the Pope's health that put a spanner in the works.

Pope Francis has been confined to a wheelchair and is awaiting a knee operation.

July 5, 2022

All three Christian leaders sent a video message expressing their disappointment.

Archbishop Justin reflected on his 2014 visit, saying: "You're full of great vibrancy, courage, resilience. You are children of God, seen by God, chosen by God, called by God."

"Yet, I see and know that you have suffered. I see the floods that endanger your homes. I see the famine that makes each day a struggle.

And I see the violence that overshadows all of life. Many of you cannot return to your homes. God sees and know that. God's heart of compassion is moved by your struggles."

Pope Francis said: "'Today I had planned to come on a pilgrimage of peace and reconciliation to the DRC and South Sudan. The Lord knows how greatly disappointed I am to have had to postpone this long-awaited and much-desired visit."

General Synod of the Church of England meets in York this week

Officers and members of the General Synod of the Church of England will attend the Sung Eucharist service at York Minster at 11am on Sunday 10th July for the first time since March 2020. The General Synod's July meeting will take place in York from 8 -12 July.

The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell will preside at the service. The sermon will be given by Archbishop Julio E



Murray, Primate of the Anglican Church in Central America. The Choir of York Minster will perform at the service which will be livestreamed.

The Revd Canon Dr Victoria Johnson, Precentor at York Minster said: “We are delighted that the General Synod of the Church of England will join with the worshipping community here at York Minster to pray and break bread together. Worship transforms us as individuals and as a community, we belong to one another through worship, we become the people God wants us to be through worship and our faith in God is shaped through our worship. We pray that through our worship on this day, the mission and vision of the whole church may be enlivened and encouraged.”

The Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell said: “It will be so good to welcome the General Synod of the Church of

July 5, 2022

England back to York after a three year gap, and especially to York Minster itself.

“None of our business makes sense except that it is rooted in our worship of God, our fellowship around the table of the Lord, and the nourishment of word and sacrament.”

Synod members and officers will be among the first to view a spectacular, newly installed artwork at York Minster. ‘Faith and Fracture’ a large scale art installation inspired by the Church of England’s “Living in Love and Faith” project which will be on display at York Minster from mid-July to mid-September. The art work was commissioned by the bishops of the Church of England as part of the “Living in Love and

Prayer Ministry

SHANKILL METHODIST CHURCH



(Corner of Berlin Street)

Every Thursday 10.30am–12.00 noon



Refreshments will be served

Come in and have a cup of tea and then receive prayer for any difficulty in your life, or for your friends or family.

July 5, 2022

Faith” project which saw an 18-month long discussion held across the Church on the subject of human identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage.

Later that day, Synod members and officers will be invited to attend a special Evensong Service at 4pm celebrating 25 years of girl choristers at York Minster. Former girl choristers will sing alongside the current group of girl choristers and the adult singers of York Minster for the celebratory service. The guest preacher will be the Bishop of Whitby, Paul Ferguson, who was Precentor of York Minster 25 years ago when the first group of girl choristers gave their debut performance at the Minster.

Evangelical Alliance renews calls for government intervention in Christian persecution

The Evangelical Alliance is has joined calls for the UK government to do more about the persecution of Christians around the world.

The renewed message comes ahead of a ministerial conference on freedom of religion and belief in early July.

Around 500 faith leaders and ministers are expected to attend the event,

According to the Open Doors World Watch List, almost 360 million Christians around the world suffered significant persecution in 2021, as a result of their faith.

July 5, 2022

Almost 6,000 of them were killed – mostly in Nigeria.

Danny Webster, director of advocacy at the Evangelical Alliance, says: “At the summit this week, words must be matched with action. Protecting and promoting human rights should be a cornerstone of our government’s foreign policy, trade deals and overseas development spending. Religious freedom is foundational to free societies and should be at the centre of government action across the globe.”

Three years ago, the UK government accepted 22 recommendations in the Bishop of Truro’s review on the persecution of Christians overseas.

However, Christian charities and organisations say there is urgent need for the newly formed FCDO (Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office) to set out a long-term strategy to advance freedom of religion or belief in both foreign and development policy.

In the media

St Luke’s: 150 years of caring in Cork city

Established in Cork city in 1872, St Luke’s Home has just celebrated 150 years of caring for the older person. Chris Dunne of Echo Live Cork traces the history of the Mahon centre.

St Luke’s Home is celebrating an amazing milestone of 150 years in existence.

July 5, 2022

A modern, purpose-built residential care home, it provides full-time nursing cover and is located in extensive grounds at Mahon, on the banks of the River Lee near Blackrock Castle.

The 128-bed home is made up of four units: Wise House, Exham House, Gregg House, and Maguire House - the latter with 38 beds is its dedicated Dementia Unit.

St Luke's is also home to a Day Care Centre facilitating older persons from the community, and an Education Centre (Northridge House) providing courses and training to all involved in the care of the older person, in addition to having a Foundation through which fundraising, legacies and donations are secured and managed.

The original Home was founded in Cork in 1872 by Frances Fitzgerald Gregg, daughter of Bishop John Gregg. In 1993, driven by new health and safety regulations and the ever-increasing cost of maintaining an ageing building, the Board made the decision to move the Home from Military Hill to a green-field site in Mahon.

Incorporating the latest thinking in care for the older person, the new building was built in modules and comprised of 90 beds.

Since it was established, St Luke's Home has built a reputation as a leading provider of residential care and support services for older people in the Cork region. Its ethos is based on Christian traditions of care, but it

July 5, 2022

welcomes residents and Day Care service users of any and no faith.

St. Luke's is a voluntary organisation operating under the patronage of the Church of Ireland and the main Protestant Churches in Cork. It is governed by a voluntary Board of Directors. The Right Rev. Dr Paul Colton, Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross serves as President of the Home. A professional body of management, nursing and administrative staff operate it.

There is always something going on at the Home, many social events take place like arts and crafts, singing, and afternoon orchestral sessions to entertain the residents. Gardening is popular too while the conservatory provides a space for the daily social club and other activities. There is a dedicated family space for the use of the residents and their families. There is also a hairdresser salon, a library the residents can avail of and the Oyster restaurant.

Joan Jeffrey, Deputy Director of Finance and Administration, has worked in St Luke's for 28 years.

“And before that I would have had relatives in Military Hill whom I would have visited,” she says. “I recall as a child attending the annual Christmas Bazaar, so St Luke's has been a huge part of my life.

“Now, when we look back to when St Luke's was founded, we remember all who have been residents and their families throughout that time, all the staff who cared for them, the board members, volunteers, our invaluable fundraisers and

July 5, 2022

generous benefactors. I wish St Luke's all the best for the next 150 years and hope it continues doing what it is doing."

Tony O'Brien, CEO, says it is a great honour and privilege to lead St Luke's Charity and Home in its 150th year. "From its humble but visionary and purposeful origin in 1872, St Luke's is proud of its status as being one of the foremost providers of Residential Care, Education and Training Services in the care of the older person in Cork and the wider community," he said.

"We continue to be a leader in the provision of dementia care. "Our values of Respect, Partnership, Accountability, Integrity and Excellence influence the way in which we deliver our services."

Mr O'Brien paid tribute to Home Residents and their families, past and present, as well as staff, volunteers, colleagues, supporters and friends, "who, throughout the years, have displayed remarkable dedication, resilience and loyalty". He said these were "clear qualities that have allowed us to provide a high level of resident-centred care and top class accredited education training and research services.

"Our Outreach program has delivered significant collegial and financial support to fellow charitable health organisations in Cork.

"Our community dementia support service has played its part in providing crucial family support when needed. We would like to thank the Health Service Executive for their continued support of St Luke's and its ideals and principles

July 5, 2022

of providing our quality level of care to people at a most vulnerable time of life.

“Providing our services at the expected level requires a continued focus and drive on our fundraising requirements each year. Our annual financial fundraising target is €500,000. We welcome all pledges of support.”

Mr O’Brien said, in the 150th year, “our wish is to remember and reflect on past achievements of St Luke’s in a period of stability and calmness while looking forward to a bright future.”

Other services at St Luke’s include physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech and Language, holistic and other therapies. There is also a dietician and chiropody.

The facilities include landscaped private gardens overlooking the Lee, a conservatory day room, in-house laundry, multi-denominational chaplains (coordinated by the Church of Ireland Chaplain) and a chapel for regular services and private worship, a hairdressing service, rooms for recreation including art, crafts and music and the James Joyce Library.

With the help of its volunteers, St Luke’s Home also offers social and leisure activities such as art therapy, beauty therapy, outings, bingo, book clubs and poetry readings, creative writing, spirituality sessions, fitness, gardening, pet therapy, musical evenings, reminiscence therapy, multi-sensory therapy, Sonas therapy and social activities.

July 5, 2022

The Right Rev Dr Paul Colton, Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, said of the anniversary

“It was here at our home, the home since 1782 of successive Church of Ireland Bishops of Cork, at Bishop Street, opposite St Fin Barre’s Cathedral, that, in the early 1870s, Miss France Fitzgerald Gregg, the daughter of one of my esteemed predecessors, the Right Reverend Dr John Gregg, did what we would call today ‘blue sky thinking’. She was compassionate. She recognised a great need in the Cork city and county of her day. She knew the importance of matching the ideas and words of her Christian faith, with practical care in action. Together with others, in 1872, she founded what was then the Home for Protestant Incurables.

That name, in itself, while blunt and graphic, reveals something of the times in which, what today we call St Luke’s Home, was founded in Cork. Then, in a polarised society, what was done was done by religious denominations on their own, in isolation, and, in the main, for their own members. That does not denigrate the charitable enterprise; it is the way things were then. Then too, voluntary groups, in the absence of State intervention in such fields, were the ‘only show in town’ in many areas, including healthcare and in providing services, such as they were, to older people, and people with additional needs.

“This year, in a very different Cork and society in Ireland, with a vastly changed landscape and understanding when it comes to care for older people and people living with dementia, we are not only giving thanks for that brave initiative back then, but also, and more important, we are

July 5, 2022

celebrating what St Luke's Home has become, and looking forward to the opportunities that lie ahead.

“The Church of Ireland and the mainstream Protestant Churches in Cork, being tiny minorities, are, I believe, justifiably, proud of what they have done through St Luke's Home for the last 150 years, with the support of so many, serving people regardless of religious denomination, faith or outlook, but simply on the basis of need.

We are pleased to be a significant employer in Mahon in Cork, and rejoice too in our many partnerships with the HSE, and other agencies and sister charities working in similar areas. Most of all we give thanks for the generous solidarity and support of the people of Cork and further afield.”

DATELINE

1995: The Mahon Home was officially opened by President Mary Robinson.

1997: 125th anniversary celebrations

2000: The Day Care Centre was opened by President Mary McAleese and blessed by Dr Paul Colton Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross.

2002: The Conservatory, a Millennium project, is completed.

2003: Micheál Martin TD, Minister for Health and Children, turns the sod for the fourth unit and officially opens the conservatory.

2004: Exham House becomes operational.

2005: New entrance lobby, plus major refurbishment and upgrading on all three original care units is completed.

2008: Upgrading of main corridors, dining room and kitchen extension is completed.

2010: Work commences on the new Education Centre, Northridge House on the grounds of the Home.

2011: St Luke's Home Foundation established. Northridge House opens. Maguire House becomes a 38- bed Dementia Care Unit. Day Care Centre expanded and rebuilt.

Northridge House Education and Research Centre is located on the grounds of St Luke's Home. This unique training centre has been named to celebrate the generosity of the Northridge family, whose generous bequest facilitated the building of the Centre.

Over time, three of the Northridge siblings were cared for in the adjoining St Luke's Home.

The Centre was established as a dedicated vocational training centre to enhance the quality, consistency and relevance of education to individuals and institutions committed to the Care of the Older Person, both in the public and private sector. In time, it provided a broad spectrum of management training programmes.

July 5, 2022

It provides modern facilities with a Conference Room that can host 100 attendees and four fully equipped training rooms. It has developed several innovative training programmes and had established links with HSE and various Skillnets Agencies. The Centre has developed links with several 3rd Level colleges and has partnered in a number of research projects.

In a fast-changing environment, the Centre offers up to date programmes either in the Centre or in offsite settings in various Nursing Homes.

Courtesy of Echo Live Cork

[<https://www.echolive.ie/corklives/arid-40905473.html>]

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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