

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – D Day Remembrance, Mullingar

People and places



Military history centenary service at St Patrick's

Yesterday the close descendants of the Royal British Legion Ireland founders gathered in St. Patrick's

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Cathedral , Dublin, for the centenary service for the disbanded British Army Regiments of Ireland.

This special centenary occasion also celebrated the golden thread to the charitable service of the members of these regiments in their veteran communities, then and since.

The dedicated service of Evensong today was arranged by the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association and was officially attended by

Lt Col (Retd) Ken Martin - President RBLROI

Maj (Retd) Brian Duffy, MBE - Chairman RBLROI

Mr John Stewart- Chairman RBL Northern Ireland

Mr Brian Crawford - Secretary RBLROI

Mr Jim Kearns - Dublin Central Branch Royal British Legion

Mr David Gibson Brabazon - President Midlands Counties & Kildare Branch and representing the family of the late Maj Gen David O'Morchoe CB CBE.

Mr Ciaran Crone - Parade Marshal, RBLROI and

Mr Geoff Barry - District Standard Bearer RBLROI are on parade





SYNOD
2022



Non Subscribing Presbyterian Synod 2022

**The Non Subscribing Presbyterian Church Ireland
Synod for 2022 will be held at All Souls Church, Belfast.**

Rt Rev Chris Hudson will conduct his final service as
Moderator at 7.15pm on Tuesday 14th June 2022 before the
Service of Installation of the new Moderator.

7.30 pm – Synod Communion Service

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8.15 pm – Synod Service and Installation of Moderator

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Events yesterday



The Bishop of **Cork, Cloyne & Ross** (Sunday) at Choral Evensong, Dr Colton licenced of Dr Richard Scriven (above) as Reader in St Fin Barre's cathedral.

At 10.30am in **St Columba's church, Knock** in East Belfast, there was a Patronal Festival Eucharist and the dedication of the new church roof by Lord Eames who was also the preacher. The celebrant was the Rector, Canon John Auchmuty

In **Christ Church cathedral, Dublin**, the preacher at the Trinity Sunday Patronal Festival Eucharist, at 11am, was Dr

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Peter Admirand, Lecturer in the School of Theology, Philosophy & Music in Dublin City University. Following a break of over two years, the Past Choristers returned to their place alongside the cathedral choir to sing Evensong.

Helen Livingston, former Derry & Raphoe Mothers' Union President

Derry & Raphoe Mothers' Union is greatly saddened by the passing of their much loved friend and Diocesan President, Helen Livingston (2001-2006). One of the many tributes pouring in beautifully sums up our Helen:



'Helen was a wonderful person and a true and loyal example of our Christian faith. She gave such wonderful service to our beloved Church through her work in the

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Mothers' Union, we loved being in her company and valued greatly her inspiring leadership.'

Thank you to David, Eleanor and Clyde for sharing Helen with us and our love, thoughts and prayers surround you. Your gift was our treasure.

Helen ran a great race, and through thick and thin she radiated joy, faithfulness, encouragement and fortitude.

Clerical Appointments

The Reverend Paul Arbuthnot has been appointed Vicar of **St Ann's, Dawson Street**, Diocese of Dublin. As a part of this incumbency he will also be Rector of **St Stephen's**, known as the Pepper Canister Church.

Commenting on the appointment the Vicar-elect said, "I will miss the many kindnesses shown to me by the parishioners of Cobh and Glanmire, the people of the Diocese of Cork, Cloyne, and Ross, and Bishop Paul Colton."

The Reverend David White has been appointed rector of **Zion in Dublin Diocese**

Rossorry Parish

The appointment of a new Rector for Rossorry Parish has been announced by the Bishop of Clogher following a meeting of the Clogher Diocesan Board of Nomination.

The Venerable Stephen McWhirter, who has been serving as Archdeacon of Tuam, Killala and Achonry and Rector of the Killala Group of Parishes in Co. Mayo, has been appointed as the new incumbent of Rossorry.

The Bishop of Clogher, the Right Revd Dr. Ian Ellis, who was the previous Rector of Rossorry, before being elected Bishop in 2020, welcomed Archdeacon McWhirter and his family to the Diocese. He said: "I am very pleased that The Ven. Stephen McWhirter has been appointed as Rector of Rossorry Parish. Archdeacon Stephen joins us from the newly amalgamated dioceses of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe and brings much experience of rural life from the West of Ireland and from his earlier ministry in more urban settings. I am sure that his engaging personality and many talents will be quickly appreciated by Rossorry parishioners and the wider community. I trust that he and he and his family will settle quickly into the parish where I know he will be gladly welcomed. We wish him God's blessing on this new chapter in his ministry among us."

Archdeacon Stephen, who is married to Revd Jennifer (Jen) McWhirter and has two daughters, Harvest (26) and Kizzy (7), said he is looking forward to the move to Clogher Diocese.

He said: "I have thoroughly enjoyed life and ministry in the West of Ireland and now look forward to a new chapter in ministry and getting to know the people of Rossorry and, indeed, the wider diocese of Clogher. As a child I spent many happy family holidays in Enniskillen, and in fact Jen and I honeymooned here, and I look forward to living in an area that has always been close to my heart.

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"I am excited by the prospect of a context which is both rural and urban and by the new challenges which lie ahead of me. I would like to thank both Bishop Ian and the nominators for the



confidence and welcome I have already received. This is a big move for my whole family, especially Kizzy as she contemplates the move to a new school, which I trust will bring blessings for us all."

He grew up in the Parish of Bangor Abbey and has always been involved in the life of the church, having attended Sunday School, all sections of the Scout Group and singing as a chorister in the Church Choir as well as being a Sunday School teacher and youth leader.

He served in a number of Church of Ireland Parishes in Belfast, Portadown and Lisburn while training for ministry.

He said: "I am currently Rector of the Killala Group which incorporates the Kilmoremoy Union and the Killala Union. This Group comprises of seven churches following the

coastline of Killala Bay. I have enjoyed the intimacy of ministry in the West of Ireland and thoroughly enjoy the opportunity to work in, and develop, team ministry.”

He said he has been working in full time ministry since 2001 and has a deep interest in the Church’s sacraments and liturgies and he has a heart for all aspects of pastoral ministry and visitation and loves being with people of all ages.

Archdeacon McWhirter has many interests outside church, enjoying reading and walking as well as participating in country sports such as fishing and shooting. He also paints having a passion for modern art and has other home-based pastimes.

A date for Revd McWhirter’s institution will be announced later.

News reports

US Church preaches 'the Gospel according to Dolly Parton'

A church in the US city of Chicago has just finished a five week series of sermons based on Dolly Parton's faith.

The Rev. Britt Cox, lead pastor at the Church of the Three Crosses in Chicago's Old Town neighbourhood, told Religious News Service, she decided to use Dolly Parton as



the subject of the preaching series "as [a] way to talk about story and our larger story of faith and that all of our stories matter and that God's story is continuing on in us."

The American country music legend is a committed Christian and has always been very vocal about her faith.

However, in December 2021, when interviewed by People Magazine after being awarded 'People of the Year' honour she said she did not want to be worshipped.

"I don't want to be worshiped, because there's a scripture in my Bible that talks about idol worship and I see that happening all the time with movie stars and these celebrities. People literally worship them more than they worship God and I just - I cringe at it sometimes."

But For Rev Cox, Parton's ability to connect with different people, her generosity into causes she cares about, like child literacy and the Covid-19 research, are some of the reasons she thought it would be a good idea to use her as an illustration of some of the Gospel teachings.

Each Sunday sermon has focused on a different song by Parton, most of them performed by a member of the congregation.

Rev Cox said she had been inspired by a sermon she had heard at Mayflower Congregational United Church of Christ in Oklahoma City.

One of the sermons was based on her song "Coat of Many Colors", which talks about the biblical story of Joseph and his coat of many colors.

But Rev Cox changed it to preach on song "19th Amendment", which talks about women's rights based on the biblical story of a Canaanite woman arguing with Jesus to heal her daughter.

Other sermons used songs "9 to 5," "Jolene" and "My Tennessee Mountain Home."

Cardinal Nichols praises 'indomitable spirit' of Bruce Kent

On hearing of the death of Bruce Kent, Cardinal Vincent recalled his 'indomitable spirit' and prayed for the repose of his soul. In his statement, the Cardinal writes:



"I am sorry to learn of the death of Bruce Kent. I pray that our Heavenly Father welcomes him into the peace for which he yearned.

He served for thirty years as a priest of this Diocese, in a wide range of roles: here in Archbishop's House, in parishes, the University Chaplaincy that he helped to establish and in many other ways. He brought his passion, determination and power of argument to this precious ministry.

He used those same gifts tirelessly in the cause of disarmament and peace. Only two months ago, at the age of 92 years, he was on the podium in Trafalgar Square, urging that peace is the only road for humanity to take.

His convictions and his life flowed from his faith in Jesus Christ and his love for the Catholic Church. He supported

his parish priests, no matter their views. He was constant and warm in the encouragement he gave to me, personally. He will be sorely missed.

My prayers are now with Valerie, his wife, and all who mourn him. We thank God for the indomitable spirit he gave to Bruce and commend his soul to the mercy of God that he may now rest truly in peace."

In the media

BBC should reflect local life and make room for live Twelfth coverage

Mark Bain writes in the Belfast Telegraph

We are told — and can see it on our streets — that we live in a multicultural society.

We are told that by accepting and welcoming the wide breadth of cultures and religions that have found a home in Northern Ireland, we can all cultivate a better, more peaceful future where we all sing, like that famous song from the 1970s Coca-Cola advert, in perfect harmony. Those are fine words, but it seems the BBC feels that, like an opened can of Coke, the Twelfth has lost a bit of fizz.

When you look back at the 1970s, the Twelfth of July was a day when pretty much everyone had a holiday.

Parades were attended by people from all walks of life. The Orange Order wasn't as politicised, nor demonised, in some

quarters as it is today, built into a caricature of what it stands for by those on the outside.

Perceptions have been eroded over time and, yes, some members haven't exactly helped the cause recently. The timing of the announcement is important. It will not go unnoticed that the BBC has abandoned live coverage of the Twelfth just a week after a video emerged of men in an Orange Hall singing and laughing about the murder of Michaela McAreavey.

It also comes just days after an image of the Irish tricolour was used to represent Northern Ireland at the Jubilee concert outside Buckingham Palace.

A week earlier, the Belfast celebrations of Northern Ireland's centenary were largely ignored. The BBC is in a unique position where it is funded by the viewers. It is also unique in that it provides localised coverage.

Not everyone will want to watch a live broadcast of the Twelfth of July parades. That's fine, but a lot of people will.

Not everyone will want to watch EastEnders, The Great British Sewing Bee or Barra Best's Walk the Line. But all those shows have an audience.

The broadcaster has made a big play in recent years about multiculturalism.

Coverage of Gaelic games has increased, so too has coverage of road racing — two pursuits adored by significant sections of the population. Irish language

programming has also improved. All these things have their place, and the commitment to increase programming is great.

But if the BBC is to be truly reflective of local life, scaling back the coverage of something that many people love, a colourful spectacle of historic significance to Northern Ireland, is not a good look.

There will be many who can't make it to the parades, who pay their licence fees to see events such as the Twelfth. It's a part of their life, so they will feel bitterly let down by the BBC's decision. The corporation has lost a great deal of goodwill from a large section of the people who fund it.

Instead of watching the Twelfth, the likelihood is they will be 'treated' to a repeat of Bargain Hunt, with the BBC citing resourcing issues as a reason for its decision.

The cameras will still be there, the BBC has said, and there will be highlights. That's all well and good, but it doesn't compare to the feeling of actually being there, which a live broadcast provides. If the cameras will be there regardless, the financial savings should be negligible. So much for singing in perfect harmony.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Summer issue of Search

The summer issue of the Church of Ireland journal, Search, edited by Dr Ginnie Kennerley, will shortly reach subscribers.

In considering what the Churches can do for peace—making and justice in Europe and beyond Bryan Kelly of TCD looks at the challenges and opportunities. With a narrower focus, a select group of C of I notables offer their ‘vision’ and on a broader front, the Archbishop of Armagh writes on the challenge facing the long delayed Lambeth Conference in July.

Some thoughts on personal spirituality follow. Maria Jansson shares her personal anguish over the invasion of Ukraine and where she found God in it; Brian Grogan SJ looks at how our ideas of eternity relate to modern science and our care for creation; Robin Stockitt urges the healing power of beauty; while Steve Brunn outlines a responsible approach to Scripture, searching its deep meaning rather than seeking confirmation of our own prejudices.

Liturgica, this time on “The Earth”, and a crop of book reviews follow and as well as these we feature a letter to the editor from a former Sunday School teacher, with passionate guidance for drawing children into the imaginative life of the Church. More letters from our readers would be welcome and the editor would like to know how readers react to the content of the journal and what they would like Search to explore.

Poem for today

The World Is Too Much With Us by William Wordsmith

The world is too much with us; late and soon,
Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers;—
Little we see in Nature that is ours;
We have given our hearts away, a sordid boon!
This Sea that bares her bosom to the moon;
The winds that will be howling at all hours,
And are up-gathered now like sleeping flowers;
For this, for everything, we are out of tune;
It moves us not. Great God! I'd rather be
A Pagan suckled in a creed outworn;
So might I, standing on this pleasant lea,
Have glimpses that would make me less forlorn;
Have sight of Proteus rising from the sea;
Or hear old Triton blow his wreathèd horn.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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