

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – St Colman's Dunmurry**

## People and places

### Arklow Methodist Church celebrates 200 years of worship

**Arklow Methodist Church recently celebrated the Bicentenary of Methodist Worship in the first chapel just off Abbey Lane right in the heart of the town.**

This chapel became too small by 1842 though it continued to be used until May 12, 1869 when the present building on Ferrybank was opened.

To celebrate this joyous occasion, during a special Church Service and afterwards at the Arklow Bay Hotel, the church was blessed by the presence of many friends from other Methodist churches on the South East Leinster Circuit, representatives from the other Christian communities in the town, neighbours and friends, some local County Councillors, and also some past ministers at Arklow, the Revd Donald Rodgers, and the Revd, Rosemary Lindsay.

Another past minister at Arklow The President of The Methodist Church in Ireland, the Rev Dr Sahr Yambasu preached on 'beginnings' and gave all present much food for thought. Courtesy Wicklow People



# St. Katharine's celebrated the Platinum Jubilee



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Denise McClure (above) spent from Easter until the event knitting items related to the Queen.

And everyone could have their photograph taken with the Queen.

The Rector Canon William Taggart had assistance planting the Platinum tree.



## **Clonard: Annual novena returns to in-person masses**

**The annual Clonard Novena in Belfast will return this week with in-person masses for the first time since the Covid-19 pandemic.**

The nine-day Catholic religious event in west Belfast attracts around 15,000 worshippers to the Clonard Monastery each day.

The series of masses had been held virtually for the past two years, with services streamed online.

But the number of services held this year has been reduced. The annual Festival of Faith, which begins on Wednesday until 23 June, is rooted in Catholic devotion to the Virgin Mary, with nine successive days of services known as a novena.

Normally there are 10 sessions each day, but this year they have been limited to six as a precaution against coronavirus.

The rector of Clonard Monastery, Fr Peter Burns, said: "We're conscious if we're bringing significant people back to the church we want to keep it as safe as possible."

The popular healing services for the sick, which normally take place on Saturday, will also not take place because of virus.

## Presbyterian ministers

For the first time two Presbyterian ministers, Rev Steve Stockman and Rev Dr Ruth Patterson will be part of the team of preachers speaking at the novena masses.

Even before the pandemic, the novena had a large online following with 5,000 people watching services each day in previous years.

Last year with only a virtual novena on offer, around 10,000 people watched the online services from all over the world. The theme of this years festival is "Let us Dream".

Organisers said the theme explores "what times of crisis can teach us" and "how to handle upheaval of any kind in our own lives and the world at large".

## Moderator wants to see woman leading the Presbyterian Church in his lifetime

**The outgoing Presbyterian Moderator has expressed hope that a female minister will be elected leader within his lifetime, Alf McCreary writes in the Belfast Telegraph**

The controversial issue has been debated by Presbyterians for decades, but the church is still the only major reformed church in Ireland which has not appointed a female leader in its 180-plus year history.





Speaking on BBC Radio Ulster's Sunday Sequence yesterday morning, the Rt Reverend Dr David Bruce made his feelings clear. "I sincerely hope that there will be a female Presbyterian Moderator appointed in my lifetime, and I can think of a number of people I would like to nominate," he said.

"However, this is a democratic decision, and it is up to the 19 Presbyteries throughout the island of Ireland to decide who they want to nominate.

"Speaking personally, if a lady minister is nominated, she would have my support on the same basis as anyone else whose name is brought forward.

"It's a curious thing. The post of Moderator is not a competition. It is something that lands on your plate, and then you say to yourself, 'What am I going to do with this?' I

would be happy for a woman to lead in this role. We just want to appoint the right person with the right attitude.”

The Presbyterian Church was the first to ordain a female minister, Rev Ruth Patterson. However, in recent years, when she was nominated for election to become Moderator, she fared badly, and on the second occasion did not receive a single vote from any of the 19 Presbyteries.

More recently, Rev Dr Liz Hughes, when minister of Whitehouse Presbyterian Church in north Belfast, fared better.

In 2014, she was the joint runner-up for the Moderatorship, along with Rev Ian McNie from Ballymoney.

This was the first time a woman came close to becoming Moderator, but in 2015, when she stood again, she lost to Mr McNie by a significant margin.

Dr Hughes told the Belfast Telegraph yesterday: “Dr Bruce has been a strong advocate for the inclusion of women at all levels of church leadership.

“I am not at all surprised that he envisages the possibility of a woman Moderator.

“I just wonder how far into the future this will actually happen.

“Right now, we need all of our church leadership, at a congregational level, to actively encourage women to hear and to respond to God's call to ministry.



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“We all need to listen to what the Spirit is saying to the church today.

“I have been greatly impressed by David Bruce's courageous leadership over the past two years and his willingness to speak up and take action on the key issues, including the breakdown of sectarianism and racial barriers.

“He has a strong record of representing the church north and south.”

Dr Bruce will be succeeded by Rev John Kirkpatrick, from Portrush, who will take over during the General Assembly in Belfast on June 22.

## **Synod LGBT group calls for gay marriage in churches**

**Sacramental marriage for gay and lesbian Catholics and the ordination of women priests are key demands of an LGBT focus group set by Bishop Kevin Doran as part of the synodal process, the Irish Catholic reports.**

A Church-wide apology to LGBT people and their families from the Pope as well as priests and bishops and an end to the Church teaching on homosexuality are also called for by the group.

Led by former broadcaster Ursula Halligan, the group consisted of ten people and reported back to the Diocese of Elphin process.

## Connaught Rangers Association remembers



The Connaught Rangers Association along with other disbanded Regiments Associations attended a service in St. Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday past. This ceremony commemorated the centenary of the disbandment of the Irish Regiments in 1922. Quis Separabit.

# CNI

## News reports

### Archbishop of Canterbury is praying for the Pope to get better as there are fears he may resign

**The Archbishop of Canterbury has expressed that he is praying for the Pope, amidst fears he may resign.**

The Pope has recently had to have surgery on his knee resulting in him having to postpone his Apostolic Journey to the Democratic Republic of Congo and to South Sudan.

Rt Rev Justin Welby was due to meet him in South Sudan on the tour and took to Twitter to express his condolences.

Rt Rev Justin Welby said: "I am praying for my dear brother @Pontifex and share his regret that our visit to South Sudan with @ChurchModerator is postponed.

"I continue to pray for the people of South Sudan in their challenges and hopes for peace, and look forward to this historic visit at a later date."

There is said to be feverish speculation about whether the 85-year-old Pope might be preparing to follow the precedent set by his predecessor Benedict XVI, who surprised the world when he resigned in 2013.



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The talk grew after he announced he would travel to the Abruzzo town of L'Aquila in late August to attend a feast that was initiated by a 13th-century pope who himself resigned after just five months in the job.

However some Vatican insiders say he will not step down.

Francis, who appeared in public using a wheelchair for the first time in early May, has cancelled several engagements since having a minor operation to treat knee pain.

## **Freedom in Hong Kong is 'diminishing', says bishop**

**The Church in Hong Kong is being increasingly squeezed into the "cracks", a high profile Church leader has said.**

The Bishop of Hong Kong, Stephen Sau-yan Chow, wrote in the local Catholic magazine, the Sunday Examiner, that the existence of the Church in the former British colony could be likened to plants growing up through the cracks in paving.

He suggested that there is not so much freedom for people to say what they think as there was before.

"I can feel that Hong Kong, including our Church, is becoming more like an existence within cracks," Chow said.

"We used to enjoy much space and freedom of expression when we could express our opinions in any way we like."

After years of increasingly tight restrictions under the controversial National Security Law, Bishop Chow said that the freedom once "taken for granted" in Hong Kong "seems diminishing".

## In the media

### Churches source of pain and suffering for LGBTQI+ community, Pride service hears

**‘Christian church finds itself yet again on the wrong side of history,’ says Teagan MacAodhagáin of Amach le Dia**

Irish Times

The mainstream churches have been the source of much pain and suffering for those in the LGBTQI+ community and too often they have been guilty of talking about but not with that community, a special Pride religious service was told on RTÉ this morning.

“Like slavery, like the treatment of women, the Christian church finds itself yet again on the wrong side of history in its approach and treatment of the LGBTQI+ community,” said Teagan MacAodhagáin of the Christian Amach le Dia group in a sermon broadcast on RTÉ One television and RTÉ Radio 1 Extra.

Amach le Dia represents lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual Christians and friends which aims to provide a place where people of faith who

identify as LGBTQI+ can use their gifts and talents to serve God and others.

“It is time to say, ‘No more.’ It is time to say, ‘Not another murder, not another assault, not another suicide, not another hateful, hurtful Church motion, not another witch hunt, not another comment that tears down the humanity in another’,” Mr MacAodhagáin said.

## **Bishop criticises Higgins’s statement on Nigerian church massacre as ‘far-fetched’**

### **President said climate change played a role in the massacre of 40 people attending a Pentecost Sunday Mass**

Irish Times

A Nigerian Catholic bishop has criticised President Michael D Higgins for suggesting climate change played a role in the massacre of 40 people attending a Pentecost Sunday Mass at the church of St Francis in Owo district of Ondo’s Catholic diocese on June 5th. More than 126 people suffered injury.

Condemning the attack in a statement last Tuesday, President Higgins warned against “any attempt to scapegoat pastoral peoples who are among the foremost victims of the consequences of climate change” for it. He called for solidarity with “all those impacted not only by this horrible event, but in the struggle by the most vulnerable, on whom the consequences of climate change have been inflicted”.



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In a statement on Facebook, bishop of Ondo diocese Jude Ayodeji Arogundade described as “incorrect and far-fetched” the climate change elements in President Higgins’s statement condemning the massacre. “Alluding to some form of politics of climate change in our situation is completely inappropriate,” the Bishop said.

Throughout Nigeria there was “a profound fear in every part of the country and such a situation has nothing to do with ideology”, he said. He appealed to “those who are trying to take advantage of this horrific event to project any form of ideological agenda, to desist from such opportunism”.

## **Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books**

### **RCB Library marks the 100th anniversary of the loss of the Public Record Office of Ireland**

One hundred years ago on 30th June 1922 – as is all too well known by Irish archivists, historians and others alike – the biggest explosion ever witnessed in Dublin before or since occurred in the Treasury building of the Public Record Office of Ireland (PROI) within the Four Courts complex, taking with it much of the country’s records from the 13th to the 19th centuries.

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the loss of the PROI, the RCB Library has commissioned historian Dr Ian

d'Alton to produce a commemorative piece entitled 'Rosamond Stephen's Civil War', illustrated with extracts from her family archive. Ms Stephen, the founding benefactor of the RCB Library who lived at 21 Upper Mount Street, Dublin, recorded the events of that fateful day in her personal 'Record'.

The 'Record' is principally a typewritten set of copy letters (to both her sisters and her mother in England) and her own journal entries that cover the years from 1902 to 1923. Rosamond claimed in 1922: "My experience of life is all educed to writing, and future generations will enjoy ferreting it out." In analysing the 1922 entries, some 100 years later, Dr d'Alton describes it a "most valuable possession" – transferred by Ms Stephen herself to the RCB Library before her death in 1951.

2022 is also significant because it marks the 90th anniversary of the RCB Library, which opened at headquarters of the RCB in 1932 (located then at 51 St Stephen's Green). Approximately 5,000 printed books donated by Ms Stephen formed the nucleus of the original Library collection.

Although initially conceived as a lending library of printed materials, the RCB Library soon took on important record-keeping functions too in response to the loss of the PROI, where over 500 collections of parish records were destroyed, along with all the medieval and early modern diocesan archives and many genealogical papers of vital interest to historians of Church of Ireland families.

However, the early response of the Church's Ecclesiastical

Records Committee (formed in 1925) helped to locate and identify copies of items that had been lost, as well as set about the task of carefully collecting other records that had not been transferred to the Four Courts.

Today many of these are now in the Library's safe keeping – including 1,218 collections of parish records alone.

Speaking from the RCB Library, Librarian and Archivist Dr Susan Hood commended Dr Ian d'Alton for his enlightening presentation, illustrated with a variety of archival material from the Library's collections, and accompanied by the online release of the Rosamond Stephen's diary or 'Record' of 1922, which has been digitized for the first time. This important work will hopefully "rescue Rosamond from relative obscurity and ensure further focus on her insight through this tumultuous period".

You can explore the full Archive here.

[[] [https://www.ireland.anglican.org/news/11359/rosamond-stephens-civil-war?](https://www.ireland.anglican.org/news/11359/rosamond-stephens-civil-war?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=facebook)  
[utm\\_source=dlvr.it&utm\\_medium=facebook](https://www.ireland.anglican.org/news/11359/rosamond-stephens-civil-war?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=facebook) ]

## Poem for today

### Ulysses by Alfred Lord Tennyson

It little profits that an idle king,  
By this still hearth, among these barren crags,  
Match'd with an aged wife, I mete and dole  
Unequal laws unto a savage race,  
That hoard, and sleep, and feed, and know not me.  
I cannot rest from travel: I will drink  
Life to the lees: All times I have enjoy'd



Greatly, have suffer'd greatly, both with those  
That loved me, and alone, on shore, and when  
Thro' scudding drifts the rainy Hyades  
Vext the dim sea: I am become a name;  
For always roaming with a hungry heart  
Much have I seen and known; cities of men  
And manners, climates, councils, governments,  
Myself not least, but honour'd of them all;  
And drunk delight of battle with my peers,  
Far on the ringing plains of windy Troy.  
I am a part of all that I have met;  
Yet all experience is an arch wherethro'  
Gleams that untravell'd world whose margin fades  
For ever and forever when I move.  
How dull it is to pause, to make an end,  
To rust unburnish'd, not to shine in use!  
As tho' to breathe were life! Life piled on life  
Were all too little, and of one to me  
Little remains: but every hour is saved  
From that eternal silence, something more,  
A bringer of new things; and vile it were  
For some three suns to store and hoard myself,  
And this gray spirit yearning in desire  
To follow knowledge like a sinking star,  
Beyond the utmost bound of human thought.

        This is my son, mine own Telemachus,  
To whom I leave the sceptre and the isle, —  
Well-loved of me, discerning to fulfil  
This labour, by slow prudence to make mild  
A rugged people, and thro' soft degrees  
Subdue them to the useful and the good.  
Most blameless is he, centred in the sphere

Of common duties, decent not to fail  
In offices of tenderness, and pay  
Meet adoration to my household gods,  
When I am gone. He works his work, I mine.

There lies the port; the vessel puffs her sail:  
There gloom the dark, broad seas. My mariners,  
Souls that have toil'd, and wrought, and thought with me—  
That ever with a frolic welcome took  
The thunder and the sunshine, and opposed  
Free hearts, free foreheads—you and I are old;  
Old age hath yet his honour and his toil;  
Death closes all: but something ere the end,  
Some work of noble note, may yet be done,  
Not unbecoming men that strove with Gods.  
The lights begin to twinkle from the rocks:  
The long day wanes: the slow moon climbs: the deep  
Moans round with many voices. Come, my friends,  
'T is not too late to seek a newer world.  
Push off, and sitting well in order smite  
The sounding furrows; for my purpose holds  
To sail beyond the sunset, and the baths  
Of all the western stars, until I die.  
It may be that the gulfs will wash us down:  
It may be we shall touch the Happy Isles,  
And see the great Achilles, whom we knew.  
Tho' much is taken, much abides; and tho'  
We are not now that strength which in old days  
Moved earth and heaven, that which we are, we are;  
One equal temper of heroic hearts,  
Made weak by time and fate, but strong in will  
To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.

# Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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## Church News Ireland

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