

Image of the day - Refugee Week at Christ Church

June 16, 2021

C of I opposed to abortion legislation imposed on Northern Ireland by the UK Parliament

The Standing Committee of the General Synod, at its meeting yesterday (Tuesday, 15th June), approved the following resolution:

‘The Church of Ireland affirms that every human being is created with intrinsic dignity in the image of God with the right to life.

We oppose the extreme abortion legislation imposed on Northern Ireland by the United Kingdom Parliament in what was previously considered a devolved issue and ask that legislation is developed that safeguards the wellbeing of both the mother and unborn child. In addition, we encourage our church to provide more support to mothers during pregnancy, particularly during times of crisis.’

Refugee Week 2021 at Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin

As part of Christ Church’s ‘Cathedral of Sanctuary’ status, they continue to look for opportunities to both welcome those who have come seeking sanctuary, and also to raise awareness around the wider situation of refugees and asylum-seekers in Ireland and around the world. The theme for Refugee Week 2021 is ‘We cannot walk alone’ and the cathedral has a number of events planned, a mixture of in-person and online.

June 16, 2021



'We cannot walk alone' – make your mark at Christ Church Cathedral during Refugee Week.

Homing Pigeons: Birds with Wishes Exhibition 14–20 June

Good wishes arrive on the wings of fanciful works of art, created by school children in Aleppo, Syria. Organised in collaboration with Places of ARcture, with support from Ecclesiastical.

Homing Pigeons Public Opening Hours:

Wednesday, 16th – Saturday, 19th: 10.00 – 16.00 (normal cathedral admission applies)

Friday, 18th: 18.00 – 20.00, special evening opening, Free of charge!

School and community groups are invited to book in to the exhibition free of charge: Advance booking essential. Email welcome@christchurch.ie.

June 16, 2021

‘What’s the Story? Lives in Direct Provision’ Thursday, 17 June, 19.30, Online via Zoom

They’ve taken ‘What’s the Story?’ online this year but the goal is the same: to offer a space for the sharing of stories, making space for connection across our community, by listening to the lived experiences of who have been through the direct provision system. Join this event to hear poetry and reflections around the themes of family, home and time, and a piano composition by Cherinet Ayele to compose the evening. Register via Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/whats-the-story-lives-in-direct-provision-tickets-154268056911>

‘We cannot walk alone’ Make your mark! Friday, 18 June and Saturday, 19 June, 11.00 – 17.00

Call in to the cathedral grounds and take part in the creation of a chalk mural (weather permitting)! Visitors are invited to add chalk footprints around the cathedral’s labyrinth plaza to symbolise the message ‘We cannot walk alone’.

Community Market Friday, 18 June and Saturday, 19 June, 11.00 – 17.00

Come and check out the colourful outdoor market at Christ Church for the weekend. Ellie Kisyombe of Our Table will have her fantastic hot sauces for sale. Njabuliso Moyo of Busy Finger Diaries will have be selling her one of a kind handbags and clothing items. And from the workshop of local charity the Mendicity Institution there will be fabulous handcrafted wooden flower boxes and other items, a great way to support Mendicity’s work in the local community.

June 16, 2021

Sanctuary Sunday Sunday, 20 June, 15.30

Christ Church Cathedral will mark World Refugee Day during its afternoon service of choral evensong with guest preacher, Pastor Ebenezer Segatu. (Congregation limited to 46 persons, due to social distancing, doors open at 15.00.) If you can't join in person you are welcome to join online via webcam. For further information see the cathedral website.

Locals surprised as Bidens attend Sunday service

Churchgoers in a seaside resort in England say they have been left “gobsmacked” after U.S. President Joe Biden and the first lady Jill Biden dropped in to a service on Sunday past

The Bidens were in Cornwall, where the U.S. president was attending the Group of Seven summit. On Sunday morning, ahead of the summit's conclusion, they were seen attending mass at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in St. Ives.

“I think gobsmacked is probably a very true word,” said Annie Fitzpatrick, 58. “It's quite amazing, we went into the church and they took some details from us and I thought this is a bit unusual. About 10 minutes into the service the doors opened up and President Biden and Dr. Jill Biden walked in and just sat in the pew just across from me.”

The president “quietly got on with his prayer like everyone was doing,” she said, adding: “He looked around and said

June 16, 2021

peace be with you, and I was one of them so I'm delighted. I'm not sure I will ever get over this moment completely."

Gayle Wood, 63, said Biden appeared to make a "very generous donation" to the church before leaving.

Lord Chancellor 'likely' to pass names of new C of E bishops to Queen

The change follows the PM's marriage to Carrie Symonds in the RC Church last month

The task of sending the names of new Church of England bishops to the Queen is likely to pass from the Prime Minister to the Lord Chancellor, Robert Buckland, it was confirmed this week.

First reported in The Sunday Times, the change follows Boris Johnson's marriage to Carrie Symonds in the Roman Catholic Church last month. The Roman Catholic Relief Act of 1829, which enabled Roman Catholics to serve as MPs, states that: "It shall not be lawful for any person professing the Roman Catholic religion directly or indirectly to advise his Majesty, or any person or persons holding or exercising the office of guardians of the United Kingdom, or of regent of the United Kingdom . . . touching or concerning the appointment to or disposal of any office or preferment in the Church of England, or in the Church of Scotland."

Anyone guilty of this offence would be "deemed guilty of a high misdemeanour, and disabled for ever from holding any office, civil or military, under the Crown".



In Ireland we go to the beach to enjoy the view. The view

Mr Johnson was baptised in the Roman Catholic Church, but confirmed in the Church of England while a pupil at Eton. In 2007, the then Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, made a series of constitutional reforms that included relinquishing the Prime Minister's power to choose diocesan bishops. The Crown Nominations Commission now passes just one name to Downing Street, and the Prime Minister conveys that recommendation to the Queen.

Mr Buckland has described himself as a practising Anglican. No formal announcement has been made about the transfer of the Prime Minister's part in the appointment process to him. It is understood that the 1829 rule is to be examined

June 16, 2021

further, and that the Prime Minister may yet retain his part in the process.

First church in Wales to join Prayer Book Society

A church in Llandudno is the first in Wales to join the Prayer Book Society.

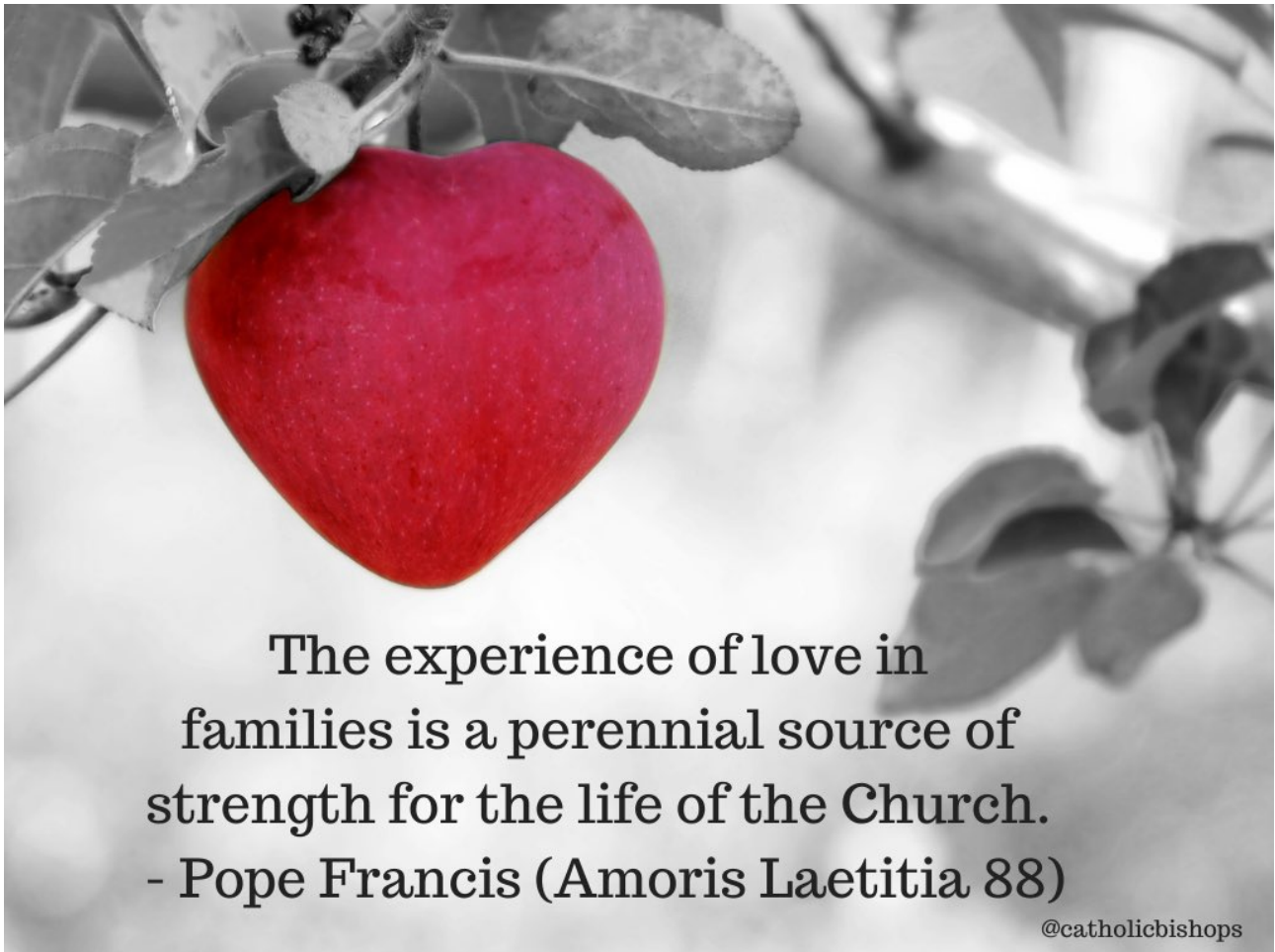
St Paul's Church, which has traditionally used the Church in Wales Book of Common Prayer for all its services, will also use of the Book of Common Prayer that is at the heart of Anglican worship.

The 125-year-old church, which has one of the few traditional Anglican four-part choirs left in North Wales, also plans to reinstate a quarterly service of Holy Communion in September.

Rector and area dean, the Reverend Samuel Erlandson, said: "St Paul's has strongly held to the Church in Wales Book of Common Prayer and we have upheld its traditional values".

The Church in Wales Book of Common Prayer, first published in 1984, is a traditional language Prayer Book. Many of the texts are those found in the Church of England's 1662 Book of Common Prayer.

The news has been welcomed by members of the congregation which has increased to more than 50 at the main services of the week. Their ages range from 11 months



to the mid-90s, with a fifth made up of young people and families.

The Prayer Book Society has more than 120 member churches keen to ensure continuity in use of the 1662 Prayer Book for services.

The society was founded in 1972 amidst liturgical reform in the Church of England. It was feared that the 1662 Book of Common Prayer – despite its continued status as the Church of England’s official standard of teaching – would fall into disuse, being replaced by contemporary forms of worship. Deeply rooted in the Bible, The Book of Common Prayer is the traditional service book of the Church of England and contains its official teaching.

June 16, 2021

Created in 1549 and then revised in 1552 by Thomas Cranmer, it was the handbook of the new English church which had just split from Rome.

G7 Summit 'an unforgivable moral failure'

As the G7 negotiations came to an end with just the 'goodbye' photos to take - development agencies and environment campaigners said the summit has totally failed, leaving millions of marginalised and vulnerable communities dangerously exposed to Covid and the impact of global warming.

CAFOD

CAFOD Director Christine Allen said: "Leaders of the G7 have wasted a precious face to face meeting to encourage each other and deliver urgent and desperately needed action on Covid and the climate crisis. They've failed on concrete commitments on the finance needed and the climate actions are inadequate given the urgency.

Will the actions of these G7 nations have created necessary trust around the world as we move towards the next major summit in the UK, COP26? I'd says that's unlikely.

It is clear the G7 leaders have not adequately heard the voices of the world's poor in relation to vaccines and climate finance.

If Boris Johnson believes that 'global Britain' is a force for good, then he needs to show by his actions the moral

June 16, 2021

imperative to take urgent action for a fairer, greener and just world."

Christian Aid

Patrick Watt's Director of Policy, Public Affairs and Campaigns at Christian Aid said: "This summit was an opportunity for the richest nations of the world to tackle the perfect storm of the pandemic, the climate emergency, and the debt crisis that is hitting the world's poorest people hardest. We've heard warm words about a green Marshall Plan and ambitions to vaccinate the world, but this falls well short of what's needed.

"This is a partial plan not a Marshall Plan. The US committed 6.5% of its post-war GDP to the Marshall Plan. The UK, in contrast, has reneged on an aid promise one tenth as ambitious. The G7 needed to progress comprehensive debt relief, deliver on climate finance promises, and act to end vaccine apartheid.

"The G7 leadership has failed to make real progress in any of these areas. The success of the COP26 climate summit now hangs in the balance. There is still time for rich nations to deliver a solidarity package that tackles these interconnected crises. Without it, the COP will fail."

Greta Thunberg tweeted: "For the umpteenth time the rich club has failed to deliver on its promise to channel \$100bn a year to poor nations coping with a heating climate. The world's richest democracies have responded with a plan to make a plan."

June 16, 2021

Oxfam International

Oxfam International tweeted: "The G7 have chosen to cook the books on vaccines and continue to cook the planet. We don't need to wait for history to judge this summit a colossal failure, it is plain for all to see" -

Global Justice Now

Nick Dearden from Global Justice Now said: "Johnson says this was the first zero-carbon summit' You flew from London to Cornwall. I said on Friday we shouldn't expect anything positive from the G7. Gives me no pleasure to be proved so right. This archaic, self-interested forum should never meet again.

So after three days, the G7 is committing *less* Covid vaccine donations than when the meeting started?? Only 840m now. And nothing but opposition for a Peoples Vaccine. The lives of the majority of the world are irrelevant to these people."

People and places

Eco–Congregation Ireland’s first Gold Awards ceremony

Eco–Congregation Ireland’s latest newsletter is now available, highlighting examples of environmental projects undertaken by churches across the island of Ireland.

June 16, 2021

This includes coverage of the group's first Gold Awards ceremony, 'no-mow' areas at Carrigaline Union of Parishes (Co. Cork), a call for climate campaign organisers from Christian Aid Ireland, a mini-series on creation care at St John's, Orangefield (Belfast), and the recent Voices of the Climate Crisis webinar hosted by the Irish Council of Churches.

Eco-Congregation Ireland is an initiative of the Irish Inter Church Meeting, and includes members from the Roman Catholic Church, Church of Ireland, Presbyterian Church, Methodist Church and Religious Society of Friends.

[[] www.ecocongregationireland.com]

A beacon of hope for Dublin and the Church' – Archbishop views St Patrick's Cathedral roof restoration



Photo - Inspecting reinstalled Clerestory windows are Archbishop Michael Jackson, Lorcan Hickey, site manager with Clancy, Ian Morrissey, contracts manager with Clancy, and Dean William Morton.

June 16, 2021

Archbishop Michael Jackson following his close look at the ongoing work at St Patrick's Cathedral wrote the following -

On the afternoon of June 11 2021 I had the privilege of seeing first hand and close at hand the restoration work on St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin.

From my time as Dean of St Fin Barre's Cathedral Cork, I know how easy it is for others to take for granted work on a roof and all of the accompanying opportunities that come with it to carry out restoration. When you have a build of scaffolding, you need to use it wisely and comprehensively.

From my time in Cork, I also know that what pulls our cathedrals through and keeps them in the mainstream of civic society and of religious life is the open-hearted and open-handed generosity of the whole community and of the State. I found, 20 years on, that the same altruism holds.

We in the Church of Ireland should treasure this generosity of spirit and generosity of giving. We should also honour it by our open-door response to the spiritual needs of today's society, in all of its complexity and in all of its receptivity, as indeed I know to be the case in St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, today under the guidance of the Dean and those who work with him tirelessly to this end.

The work done on roof, on stonework and on windows is of a quality second to none. This work is carried out at a height that the naked eye will never in fact see it. It is done as a labour of love and as an expression of commitment to future generations.

June 16, 2021

The fact that this work has been undertaken and completed – with all the requirements of social distancing and health and safety in place – throughout the time of Covid–19 – is a beacon of hope to the people Dublin and to the people of the Church of Ireland to whom the Dean of the cathedral, the Very Reverend Dr William Morton, is totally committed.

I want to thank the Clancy's team – and all with whom they have worked in the most challenging of times – and the St Patrick's Cathedral team – for everything they have done. We on the ground must never forget that this work has been executed when many people thought that the churches and other places of Faith were closed. It is in this time that St Patrick's as a building has been given new life and fresh energy.

With modest confidence and with understated assurance, St Patrick's Cathedral has shown us a pathway of service in a time of darkness.

I know that the Cathedral, in a very particular way through this restoration, is keen – along with Christ Church Cathedral and its Dean – to point a way forward for everyone, who lives in Dublin and who visits Dublin, who wishes to cross its threshold. People worldwide do this as pilgrim, visitor and worshipper in order to meet God and be met by God in beauty and in simplicity.

Carlow youth worker ordained Cof I deacon

A youth worker from Carlow town has broadened his field for helping people after he was ordained a deacon in the

June 16, 2021

Carlow Church of Ireland Union, Elizabeth Lee writes in The Nationalist



Revd Ger James with his mother, Barbara

Ger James from Carlow town was ordained deacon by the Right Reverend Michael Burrows, Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory on Pentecost Sunday. The sermon was given by the Revd David White, rector of St Mary's Church in Carlow town.

James was accompanied to the ordination by his mother Barbara, while Archdeacon Ruth Elmes, Revd Nicola

June 16, 2021

Halford, Revd Patricia Coleman and Revd Alec Purser were also in attendance.

Ger works with Carlow Regional Youth Services and, for the past two years, has been studying in preparation of ordination as deacon. For the next year, he'll be assisting Revd White in the union churches, which include St Mary's, Urglin and Staplestown, after which he'll be ordained as a priest.

Revd White congratulated Revd James on his new position in the union, adding that he's "delighted to have his help".



Pointers for prayer

O Lord,
we beseech thee mercifully to hear us;
and grant that we, to whom thou hast given
an hearty desire to pray,
may by thy mighty aid be defended and comforted
in all dangers and adversities;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

June 16, 2021

Almighty God,
you have broken the tyranny of sin
and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts
whereby we call you Father:
Give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service,
that we and all creation may be brought
to the glorious liberty of the children of God;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Jesus' homecoming was attended by enthusiastic crowds
but also by dissenters, who attributed his good works to
Satan. That we might be faithful to the One who calls us his
"family", blessing his goodness and striving to follow his
example, we pray "True Son of God and Son of Man," and
respond, "Keep us faithful, keep us true."

That the Christ's church would remain faithful in its witness
to the truth of the gospel, we pray: True Son of God and Son
of Man.

Keep us faithful, keep us true.

That where the church of Jesus Christ finds itself a minority
in the midst unfaith, it may not succumb and accept defeat.
True Son of God and Son of Man.

Keep us faithful, keep us true.

That homes of the church that are afflicted with violence,
anger, or abuse, may find refuge and counsel in God's
Word. True Son of God and Son of Man.

Keep us faithful, keep us true.

That our congregation may be enabled to embrace the lost,
the fallen, and the wayward of our community. True Son of
God and Son of Man.

June 16, 2021

Keep us faithful, keep us true.

That those who participated in baptismal and confirmation preparation , may be blessed with increasing faith and strengthened in continued, regular worship we pray: True Son of God and Son of Man.

Keep us faithful, keep us true.

Pardon us, O God, when we are so concerned with ourselves and those near to us that we fail to pray for others. Instill within us your compassion. True Son of God and Son of Man.

Keep us faithful, keep us true.

Let your loving Spirit, O God, announce again the "Abba" word of our divine parentage and our sure inclusion as members of your family. Amen.

Speaking to the Soul

Gamaliel said, "My advice is, leave these men alone. Let them go. If they are planning and doing these things merely on their own, it will soon be overthrown. But if it is from God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You may even find yourselves fighting against God!"

Acts 5:38-39 NLT

The success of Peter and John's healing and preaching ministry was deeply irritating to the Jewish authorities. They were anxious to silence them but nothing seemed to be working. They tried imprisoning them but even that didn't work as the apostles miraculously managed to escape and carry on their preaching ministry in the Temple. So, once

June 16, 2021

again, they were hauled before the Jewish leaders who had become so furious that many of them wanted to put Peter and John to death.

Rabban Gamaliel suggested a different approach. Gamaliel was one of the most prominent rabbis of the time and was greatly respected by everyone. He was the apostle Paul's rabbi and was so revered that he had the title rabban which literally means our teacher, to distinguish him from the title rabbi which was used for ordinary teachers. Gamaliel suggested that it would be wise not to take action against the apostles for the simple reason that if the new movement was not of God it would fizzle out anyway. But on the other hand, if the new Jesus movement was of God then the authorities could find themselves fighting against the Lord, and that would be a foolish thing to do. The decision was to flog the apostles and let them go.

Rabban Gamaliel, the wise Pharisee, got it right. It is impossible to stop God. Last century there were many organised attempts to banish Christianity particularly under communism. The church in China has been placed under massive pressure. During the Cultural Revolution from 1966 to 1976 thousands of Christians were imprisoned and subjected to humiliation. But the church was merely driven underground and since that time it has grown enormously. It's impossible to know how many Christians there are in China today but it is likely to be about 100 million! When God is at work it is impossible to stop him, however hard people try.

QUESTION

June 16, 2021

In what way do Gamaliel's words encourage you?

PRAYER

We praise you loving God that ultimately no one can stand in the way of your plans. Amen

