

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Belfast City Hall Day of Reflection**

June 17, 2022

# People and places

## Belfast City Hall to host a Day of Reflection

**A reminder that City Hall will host a Day of Reflection next Tuesday 21 June, 10am-5pm.**

The event offers an opportunity for individuals and communities to reflect on the impact of the conflict in NI.

Activities will include a short film screening, poetry and prose readings, a chance to share memories and hopes for the future and City Hall illuminated in yellow.

Details of support organisations will also be available, and there will be space for quiet reflection and remembrance too.

Read more at [belfastcity.gov.uk/dayofreflection](http://belfastcity.gov.uk/dayofreflection)



WWW.GOSPELRISING.COM @GOSPELRISING

**Super Soul Sunday**

**SUNDAY, 19<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 12.30 - 6PM • FREE LIVE CONCERT @ MOUNTJOY SQ PARK**

DISCOVERY GOSPEL CHOIR • SUSO GOSPEL CHOIR • BELLE HARMONICS • AFRICAN GOSPEL CHOIR • SHANNON GOSPEL CHOIR  
SANDYMOUNT GOSPEL CHOIR • FORGET ME NOTS CHOIR • MAYNOOTH GOSPEL CHOIR • GARDINER STREET GOSPEL CHOIR  
VIRGINIA GOSPEL CHOIR • OLV GOSPEL CHOIR • FINGAL GOSPEL CHOIR • NEWBRIDGE GOSPEL CHOIR

**FOOD TRUCKS BY IRISH VILLAGE MARKETS** **SINGING & PERFORMANCE WORKSHOPS** **CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINMENT**

**Gospel Rising**  
Music Festival

**SING**  
IRELAND

**Comhairle Cathrach**  
Shallú Atha Cliath  
Dublin City Council

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## Major development at Methodist College Belfast



Education Minister and past-pupil Michelle McIlveen visited Methodist College Belfast this week to officially open the newly refurbished McArthur Hall Buildings and the RICS award-winning School House building.

“Funding from our major works and school enhancement programmes have helped to deliver modern accommodation for pupils”, she said.

# CNI



## **Irish missionaries call on Michael D. Higgins to visit suffering Christians in Nigeria**

**In this week's issue of The Irish Catholic, Irish missionaries have called on Michael D. Higgins to visit suffering Christians in Nigeria, after the president was accused of blaming a recent slaughter of Catholics at Mass on climate change rather than anti-Christian persecution.**

“The way leaders of countries are going to Kyiv to support Ukraine, it would be good if the President of Ireland came to Ondo to meet with the people and the bishop,” Fr Kevin O’Hara SPS, an Irish Kiltegan missionary based in Nigeria said.

This story and news at [www.irishcatholic.com](http://www.irishcatholic.com)

## **Mind Matters calls for contributors for Voices project**

**The MindMatters COI mental health awareness initiative is developing a central hub for conversations on positive mental health for the Church of Ireland and the wider community across the island of Ireland.**

An important part of this mission is the development of the Voices section of the website where the project can provide a platform for the MindMatters COI community, which includes members of the Church of Ireland and others with



an interest in mental health issues, to share their advice, opinions, and experiences of mental health. Through this, the project hopes to promote positive mental health and connections and to work to reduce stigma and isolation.

The first Voices post is from the Revd Claire Henderson, from the Diocese of Derry and Raphoe, who shares her experience with complex post-traumatic stress disorder (C-PTSD). This can be read here: <https://mindmatters.ireland.anglican.org/voices>

Please keep an eye on the Voices part of the website for more contributions. If you would like to contribute a written piece as part of the Voices Team, please contact Caoimhe Leppard at [mhp@rcbdub.org](mailto:mhp@rcbdub.org) for more information.





## Statement of the Summer 2022 General Meeting of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference

News Report and texts are available at -

<https://www.catholicbishops.ie/2022/06/15/statement-of-the-summer-2022-general-meeting-of-the-irish-catholic-bishops-conference/>



## **Applications for Belfast Student Accommodation at Koinonia House are open**

Koinonia House is situated in beautiful surroundings off the Malone Road, Belfast in the heart of the Queen's Quarter. We hope to welcome a new group of students to take up residency for the new academic year. Rent for 2022/23 for a single, en-suite bedroom is £110 per week (Monday to Sunday) or part thereof.

Apply now:

→ <https://buff.ly/3lpZ5sU>



# COURAGE TO LAMENT

**21 JUNE 2022  
11.30AM-12.30PM  
ST ANNE'S CATHEDRAL  
BELFAST**

A SERVICE TO REFLECT ON THE PAIN  
OF THE TROUBLES AND HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

**corrymeela**



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha  
Department of Foreign Affairs



## Cork, Cloyne and Ross Synod

On Saturday, 11th June 2022, the United Dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross held their Diocesan Synod at the Rochestown Park Hotel in Douglas. It was the first in-person Diocesan Synod since 2019.



The day started with a celebration of the Holy Eucharist for the Feast of St Barnabas in St Luke's Church, Douglas. The choir of St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork sang at the service under the direction of Peter Stobart with Robbie Carroll, Assistant Director of Music, playing the organ.

At the Synod itself, the Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, the Right Rev. Dr Paul Colton took the President's Chair at 11am and the Archdeacon of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, the Ven. Adrian Wilkinson opened the proceedings with a reading and a prayer. The Diocesan Chancellor, Lyndon MacCann S.C. was nominated Assessor by the Bishop, a post which Mr MacCann has held now for the past twenty years. The Bishop welcomed special guests and a review video of the past months since the last Diocesan Synod was played, before appointments, retirements, resignations and jubilees were noted. Some significant anniversaries included that of Canon Peter Rhys Thomas, who marks fifty years of ordination as a Deacon and that of Brian Studdert, who has now served as a Reader for fifty-six years. There was a minute's silence kept for all those who has died and to remember the late Roy Warke, former Bishop of the Diocese, and his wife Eileen, as well as Mrs Beth Mayes, wife of Bishop Michael Mayes, former Archdeacon of the Diocese. After these announcements, Helen Arnopp was elected as Lay Member of the Representative Church Body.

In his Presidential Address Bishop Paul Colton addressed the impact of the Corona Virus and the invasion by Russia of Ukraine, especially thanking the CEO of Protestant Aid, David Webb, who confirmed that Protestant Aid will donate €50,000 to fit and equip the houses at Kingston College for our Ukrainian families, and The ONE Foundation who

donated €200,000 towards the same project. Bishop Paul also reflected on the work of the Cork, Cloyne and Ross Centenaries Commemoration and Reconciliation Project and especially on the work of Bishop Charles Dowse, who was Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross from 1912 to 1933.

After words of thanks were spoken and remarks on the Presidential Address were made, former Diocesan Secretary Wilfred Baker shared Impressions from the General Synod of the Church of Ireland 2022 in Belfast. After that, Dr Simon Woodworth proposed the Report of the Diocesan Council, which was seconded by the Dean of Cloyne, the Very Rev. Susan Green. The Report was adopted unanimously. Peter Stobart proposed the Report of the Diocesan Board of Education, and it was seconded by the Rev. Anne Skuse. This report was also adopted unanimously. The report of the Diocesan Youth Council was proposed by Oriel Hosford, seconded by the Rev. David Bowles and adopted unanimously.

Two motions were proposed to the Diocesan Synod. The first motion called on the Diocesan Council to set up a working group to explore and address forms of exclusion within the Diocese. It was proposed by Stephen Spillane and seconded by Simon Elliott. The second motion called on the Synod to encourage each Select Vestry in the Diocese to consider their parish becoming a 'Church of Sanctuary'. The motion was proposed by the Rev. Canon Alan Marley and it was seconded by the Rev. Canon Elaine Murray. Both motions were passed unanimously.

At the end of the Diocesan Synod, two presentations were given. The Rev. Tony Murphy spoke on the Burundi Project



and an interview on the Cork Burundi Partnership can be watched on the Christian Aid Ireland YouTube Channel. The presentation on the project can be found [here](#). The presentation on MindMatters CofI was given by Eddie Hallissey, Project Team Member at MindMatters CofI. The Diocesan Synod ended with a hymn and a blessing from the Bishop.

The text of the bishop's address to synod is at -  
[[ <https://churchofirelandcork.com/2022/06/13/bishop-paul-coltons-address-to-diocesan-synod-2022-in-cork/> ]]

## **Incoming PCI Moderator honoured with doctorate**

**Portrush Minister and the next Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI) Rev John Kirkpatrick, has been awarded an honorary doctorate of divinity by the Presbyterian Theological Faculty, Ireland (PTFI).**

Dr Kirkpatrick was honoured in recognition of his nomination as PCI's incoming Moderator ahead of next week's General Assembly when he takes up office.

In a sign of the gradual return to the familiar routine of previous years, Dr Kirkpatrick joined family and friends of those who had studied at Union Theological College in Belfast for the annual graduation ceremony, where they received their degrees from the PTFI, together with certificates of competency for ministry.



Incoming Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, the Limavady-born and Portrush based, Rev Dr John Kirkpatrick (centre) is pictured with Rev Professor Gordon Campbell, (left) and Dr Desi Alexander.

The PTFI awards degrees by the authority of its Royal Charter, which was granted by Queen Victoria in 1881 and renewed by the Queen in 2021. This year's citation was delivered by Dr Desi Alexander, Senior Lecturer in Biblical Studies at UTC. Dr Alexander spoke of how his and Dr Kirkpatrick's paths first crossed at Greenmount Agricultural College where the future Moderator was on a placement studying farm management.

"I recall you riding a motor bike and wondering how you managed to wear a helmet because in those days you had considerably more hair than you have today," Dr Alexander said. He spoke of Dr Kirkpatrick's life growing up, how he had encountered God aged nine and how his time at Greenmount, when aged 19, his life "was turned around as



you discovered afresh God's love and grace in a most personal way."

Having left the agri college in 1979 and completed a degree in Social Science and Environmental studies, Dr Alexander described how the Moderator-Designate felt God's call on his life to full-time ministry which led him, aged 25, to Union Theological College in 1981 and his ordination as Assistant Minister at Megain Memorial and Mersey Street Presbyterian Churches in east Belfast four years later. He also spoke of his first call as a minister to Garryduff Presbyterian Church outside Ballymoney in 1987 and his move to Portrush Presbyterian six years later where he has served for nearly 30 years.

"As someone who has marinated himself in Scripture, you have a burning passion that others should be steeped in the life-transforming Word of God. Your ministry has been marked by biblical teaching that seeks through the Holy Spirit to be life changing," Dr Alexander said.

"All who listen to you quickly sense that you have a passion for biblical preaching that addresses the needs of contemporary people. Pastoring in Portrush is but one part of your ministry. Your vision for the kingdom has extended far beyond the strands that stretch out to the east and west of Portrush."

Dr Alexander spoke of Dr Kirkpatrick's role in developing links between PCI and reformed churches in central and eastern Europe after the Iron Curtain fell. His chairing of the European area for the World Alliance of Reformed Churches from 1995 to 2002 and his leadership of the New Horizon

Christian festival for seven years, encouraging Christians to grow in their faith.

There was also Dr Kirkpatrick's well-known interest in motorbikes. "Most young men grow out of this, but you have remained young at heart. However...it is not the machines that primarily interest you, but the people," Dr Alexander said.

"Since 1994, you have been Race Chaplain to the Motor Cycle Union of Ireland. Motor biking and Christianity don't always go together in the minds of most people. Yet you have sought to build a bridge to many who might not see themselves as regular church members."

He also spoke of the incoming Moderator's passion to equip others to share their faith in relevant ways and his links with the Oxford Centre for Christian Apologetics where he was part of a team that developed a programme of teaching called 'Reality 316'. Referring to the Apostle John's gospel, and one of the best known verses in the Bible, Dr Alexander said, "John 3:16 is very important to you [and] I suspect that Portrush manse is the only residence in Ireland to be named '3:16 House'."

In conclusion Dr Alexander spoke of the new Moderator's love for his children and grandchildren – and his wife Joan, "In giving thanks to God for the opportunities that have come your way, John, I know that you would want to highlight the vital role that Joan has played in shaping and sustaining your ministry...This honour tonight is one that you will share with Joan, your whole family and many others. All of us tonight are thankful that from an early age,



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John, your life was and continues to be transformed by the unmerited, dynamic grace of God.

Dr Kirkpatrick was one of a number of recipients of various awards at the graduation ceremony, which included 12 ministry students at UTC who received a Certificate of Completion of academic requirements for ministerial training. With a further ministerial placement still required before they can be licensed as probationary PCI ministers, one student received a Certificate of Completion of all requirements for ministerial training.

Six of the twelve students also graduated with an award from the Presbyterian Theological Faculty, Ireland, five with a Master of Divinity and one with a Master of Theology.

Dr Kirkpatrick's election and installation as Moderator will take place at the Opening Night of the General Assembly, which will take place on Wednesday, 22 June. It will be livestreamed on [www.presbyterianireland.org](http://www.presbyterianireland.org). All public sessions will be livestreamed until the Assembly's close on Saturday, 25 June. Proceedings can also be followed via a live Twitter feed @pciassembly, using the hashtag #PCIGA22.

# CNI

## In the media

### Why the Protocol status quo is not beneficial to Northern Ireland - Esmond Birnie

**Even before we actually saw the contents of the UK government legislation late on Monday afternoon, the storm of protest had begun.**

Some of the protest has, predictably, come from the EU side. Past performance suggests they will continue to talk tough until the point at which they concede further “flexibilities”. The EU will, no doubt, threaten a trade war against the UK as a whole but is it really in the EU’s interest to have a trade war given that Northern Ireland (NI)- Republic of Ireland trade is so small in proportion to the scale of the EU Single Market?

Here in Northern Ireland and the UK, various commentators have tried to suggest the Protocol status quo is beneficial to NI. There are a number of weaknesses to such arguments:

- (1) If the UK government had not introduced the various grace periods, we would be looking at full implementation of the Protocol and hence very severe economic dislocation;
- (2) I wonder if business supporters of the status quo would wish to see the UK government end its current support measures which mitigate against the frictions imposed by

the Protocol? The UK government has been spending more than £200m annually through schemes like the Trader Support Service. So, a lot of the costs of the Protocol to businesses are currently being disguised. I wonder if some of the businesses which say they have gained from the Protocol would be prepared to pick up some of that £200m tab?

(3) Any change to trade rules will produce winners and losers. The Protocol has done that so it isn't surprising that some NI businesses can say they are now better off – but it is an entirely different matter whether NI overall is better off. The detailed economic forecasting by the Fraser of Allander Institute in November 2021 strongly suggests that in overall terms the Protocol will represent a substantial net cost to the NI economy. There has been particular focus on how the food processing sector in NI may have gained. The NI farming and food processing sector is an important economic sector but it is important to remember that it represents about 5% of total NI regional output. We should also be concerned about the remaining 95% of the NI economy;

(4) A few months ago various commentators claimed latest data showed the NI economy was out-growing the rest of the UK and it was also claimed this difference was a consequence of the Protocol. Well, the latest data from the Office for National Statistics, if it is reliable, “nowcasts” NI's economic growth in January-March 2022 as only half the UK average.



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From an economic/business point of view there are two main things to consider in the Government's Protocol legislation:

To what extent will the checks at the ports be reduced?

To what extent will the European Court of Justice (ECJ)'s ultimate jurisdiction over NI be removed or reduced. This second point is not simply a legal technicality – it very much plays into questions of how far various policy measures can actually be used in NI: VAT cuts, corporation tax changes, introduction of a freeport in Northern Ireland, and Northern Ireland's inclusion in any UK international Free Trade Agreements.

- Dr Esmond Birnie, Senior Economist Ulster University Business School in the News Letter, June 16, 2022

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

### Presbyterian Podcast - The General Assembly

Episode #60 - As annual events retake their familiar place in the calendar, next week the General Assembly meets in Belfast, from Wednesday, 22 to Saturday, 25 June. It will be the first time since 2019 that it has been able to meet in its usual month and manner, following a smaller in-person meeting last October.

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In this episode we look ahead to next week's gathering of ministers and elders with guests the Moderator of the General Assembly, Rt Rev Dr David Bruce, the Clerk of the General Assembly, Rev Trevor Gribben, the Convener for the Council for Global Mission, Rev Dr Liz Hughes – who also gives us a glimpse of who we can expect from overseas and why their presence is so important - and Moderator Designate, Rev John Kirkpatrick, who will succeed Dr Bruce.

This episode is hosted by Karen Jardine, PCI's Public Affairs Officer.

Further information on the General Assembly, each day's business, and media relations activity, can be found here: [ [www.presbyterianireland.org/ga22](http://www.presbyterianireland.org/ga22) ]

Listen here:

[ <https://audioboom.com/posts/8096680-060-the-general-assembly-2022> ]

## Poem for today

### In Bewley's Coffee House-A Poem for Bloomsday by Malcolm Guite

I look up, hands around my coffee cup,  
On Grafton street in Bewley's coffee shop,  
Blue Mountain, Java and Colombian  
The labels are a journey on their own  
Then the aroma as they're ground by hand,

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Beans broken open. Out of every land,  
Separate savours float across this room  
Of dark mahogany, to a softer bloom  
Of stained glass windows, where I sit apart  
Warming my hands, and waiting on my heart  
To call me to adventure. I have found my voice,  
Yeats in my pocket, backpack full of Joyce ,  
I'm nineteen, it is nineteen seventy-seven  
And Dublin is the very gate of heaven

## 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)

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