

**Image of the day - Light, texture and peace
in Liverpool Cathedral**

Summer 2021 General Meeting of the Irish Bishops' Conference

In accordance with the public health restrictions to help prevent the spread of Covid-19, members of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference gathered remotely this week for their Summer 2021 General Meeting via video-link, instead of the usual location at Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth. This was the fifth plenary meeting of bishops hosted using this medium. The President of the Conference is Archbishop Eamon Martin of Armagh and the Vice-President is Archbishop Dermot Farrell of Dublin.

During their meeting bishops acknowledged the depth of pain experienced by people whose loved ones have died during this difficult time and offered their prayerful support to families who have suffered due to the restrictions placed on funeral rites and attendance. Bishops also expressed their thanks to the faithful for their prayers, sacrifice and perseverance and for adhering to the public health restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This commitment has successfully served to protect life and health.

The main issues discussed by the bishops during their Summer General Meeting included:

#Bishops express thanks for over 550 submissions received for Synodal Pathway

#Safeguarding children in the Catholic Church

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#Northern Ireland

#Vaccine ethics and equity

#Proactively engaging with the Department of Education in relation to reconfiguration of patronage

#Birth Information and Tracing Heads of Bill

#Welcome to Pope Francis instituting the Ministry of Catechist

#First World Day for Grandparents & the Elderly

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#Laudato Si' on care for our common home
Prisoner Repatriation

#Bishops thank public for generosity to Trócaire

#Call on Government to recognize the State of Palestine
Brutality in Myanmar

#UN Food Systems Summit

#Appointments

The official commentary on the main issues above may be found at -

<https://www.catholicbishops.ie/2021/06/16/statement-of-the-summer-2021-general-meeting-of-the-irish-bishops-conference/>

Fr Magill: I pleaded for return of Stormont... now I'm calling on the parties not to collapse it

The priest who pleaded with Northern Ireland's leading politicians to bring Stormont back has said he is now appealing to them again - this time not to collapse it, Claire McNeilly, Special Correspondence, writes in the Belfast Telegraph.

Father Martin Magill, who publicly shamed Arlene Foster, Michelle O'Neill and Mary Lou McDonald, among others, at the memorial service of murdered writer Lyra McKee, told

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the Belfast Telegraph that the timing of the latest crisis in the Northern Ireland Executive “couldn't be worse”.

And the west Belfast cleric, whose intervention in 2019 is said by many to have helped bring the Assembly back after a three-year hiatus, added that his “heart really went out” to Mrs Foster after seeing her ousted as both DUP leader and First Minister.

“As a citizen I'm concerned about where we are,” he said.

“People are on very long waiting lists for the health service; there are huge issues and challenges in education, especially educational under-achievement.”

Referring to his homily at St Anne's Cathedral in April two years ago, which prompted a standing ovation, Fr Magill said he was “convinced I tapped into something then”

.

“I definitely picked up a frustration, a sense of 'not again',” the parish priest said. “There are huge issues to resolve here.

“Our peace process 23 years after the signing of the Good Friday Agreement is still relatively young and a key word for me in the midst of all this is stability.

“We need stability. We do not need further uncertainty and a vacuum.

“I'd be particularly concerned that a vacuum would then allow some of the shadowy figures within armed groups of

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whatever hue to make the most of this instability that's around. We are coming into a very difficult time.”

The current crisis began with Mrs Foster being the victim of a DUP coup led by her ultimate successor Edwin Poots. With the controversial Protocol still dominating the agenda, and Mrs Foster having resigned, Mr Poots and the Sinn Fein leaders Mrs O'Neill and Mrs McDonald have only days to set up a new Executive.

The spectre of a dispute over an Irish Language Act - which brought down Stormont the last time - has reappeared.

Should this be resolved, Mrs Foster's replacement as First Minister - Paul Givan - will head the new look government along with Mrs O'Neill.

“My heart really went out to Arlene over the way in which that was dealt with,” said Fr Magill.

“Having said that, I have been enormously impressed with the way in which she has handled herself.

“As a person of faith, I want to see more grace and generosity and compassion and Arlene has shown some of that in her speeches, particularly over the last number of weeks.”

Fr Magill said it was time for politicians to “listen to ordinary people” and “get a sense of the issues that face people on the ground”.

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He referred to “the need for mature dialogue with our politicians to make our politics work but also compassionate leadership”.

Try to really understand. Get a sense of what's important and what different parties can do to assist one another.”

Now he is hoping that politicians can prevent Northern Ireland from making the news again for all the wrong reasons.

“It is time for political leaders to focus on the common good,” he said.

Courtesy The Belfast Telegraph 17. 06.2021

Canadian bishop resigns after sexual misconduct

A former bishop of the Anglican Church of Canada (ACC) has resigned from episcopal ministry after allegations, which he admits are “well founded,” that he “sent inappropriate sexualized electronic communications to an adult person” with whom he had a pastoral relationship, Kirk Petersen writes in The Living Church.

Lincoln McKoen, who had been Bishop of the Territory of the People, a diocese in British Columbia formerly known as the Anglican Parishes of the Central Interior, was initially “inhibited” (essentially suspended) on June 1, just days after the grisly discovery of a mass grave of 215 Indigenous children at the former Kamloops Indian Residential School, which had been operated by the Roman Catholic Church.



St. Paul's Cathedral in Kamloop, British Columbia; inset: Lincoln McKoen

The Territory of the People is headquartered at St. Paul's Anglican Cathedral, also in Kamloops, about three miles from the site of the former school. The back-to-back events rattled the city of 90,000 to an extent that Archbishop Lynne McNaughton, who is the Metropolitan of British Columbia and Yukon and McKoen's former boss, felt the need to clarify to the diocese that the action against McKoen "is absolutely unrelated to the horrific discovery at the Kamloops Residential School this past week."

In announcing McKoen's resignation, McNaughton said the adult with whom McKoen had inappropriate correspondence "is resident outside the Ecclesiastical Province" of British Columbia and Yukon.

McKoen was elected bishop by the Territory in January 2020, after serving parishes in Labrador, Ontario and British

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Columbia. "His wife Tanya is also a priest," the Anglican Journal reported at the time of his election.

The Most Rev. Linda Nicholls, primate of the ACC, said in an announcement: "Pastoral care is being offered to the diocese and all affected. An interim Steering Committee has been put in place. The diocese now enters a time of grieving and discernment about its future episcopal leadership. Please join them in prayer."

Courtesy The Living Church, 16 Jun 2021 at 18:43

People and places



New Diocesan Secretary for Limerick & Killaloe

Mrs Lorna Sharpe has been appointed Diocesan Secretary by the The Finance Committee, with effect from 1st July next. She succeeds Mrs Yvonne Blennerhassett, will retire from that post at the end of June after ten years service to the diocese.

Lorna Sharpe was educated at Kilkenny College, RTC Carlow and the Athlone Institute of Technology. Lorna has worked in the

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financial services sector for several years, and more recently in academic administration with AIT. She is a parishioner in Aughrim Group of parishes, where she currently serves as treasurer to the Glebe School Board of Management.



Connor Children's Officer takes up post

The Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev George Davison, has welcomed the newest member of the Diocesan Development Team, Victoria Jackson, who took up her post as Children's Ministry Officer this week.

Victoria was formerly Chief Executive Officer of the Church Lads' and Church Girls' Brigade (CLCGB), and is well known in Connor Diocese, as she has supported many diocesan and parish events organised by previous

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Children's Officer Jill Hamilton and our Youth Officer, Christina Baillie.

Victoria and her husband Paul are members of Dundonald Elim Church.

A past pupil of Sullivan Upper Grammar School, Victoria has a Degree in Human Nutrition and a Masters in Health Promotion, both from the University of Ulster. She was appointed Development Officer at the CLCGB in 2014 and became the organisation's Chief Executive Officer in 2019.

Bishop George Davison said Victoria brought a wealth of skills and resources to the role of Children's Ministry Officer, and would be a blessing to those involved in the important ministry of making Jesus Christ known amongst children in the diocese.

Victoria can be contacted at victoriajackson@connordiocese.org or on 07885 897022.

Portsmouth Cathedral becomes one of first religious institutions in UK to launch own gin

A Cathedral has become one of the first religious institutions in the UK to launch its own gin.

The Dean's Tipple gin has been produced in partnership with Portsmouth Cathedral and The Portsmouth Distillery Co. with funding from the government's Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage.

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Portsmouth Cathedral worked with the Southsea distillery to develop a one-off gin inspired by the local 'Spice Island' surroundings.



The Dean's Tipple is described as 'gloriously spicy and zesty on the nose', with 'rich and complex flavours' that include fennel and pepper with a delightfully warm orange twist on the finish.

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The gin is part of the new 'Cathedral Collection' featuring bespoke products inspired by its building and heritage.

Every purchase of The Dean's Tipple supports Portsmouth Cathedral and ensures the building can be freely open to all for generations to come.

The Very Revd Dr. Anthony Cane, Dean of Portsmouth was thrilled to share the new gin which he has been involved with developing over the past six months. He said: 'Our gin is just one of the many new projects we are working on at Portsmouth Cathedral as we recover from the devastating financial impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

'All the proceeds will directly support the conservation of the 800 years of Portsmouth history encapsulated in our building, whilst ensuring the cathedral remains free and open for all who wish to visit.

'Our gin is the latest in a long line of church and monastic communities who brew high quality beer, wine and mead as a way of supporting their ministry. We hope visitors and locals alike will enjoy the unique opportunity to support our cathedral, taking home a bottle of The Dean's Tipple on their next visit.'

Vince Noyce, from The Portsmouth Distillery Co. added: 'It has been a pleasure to work with our city cathedral to create a truly unique product. The Dean's Tipple gin is the perfect gift to give family or friends you may not have seen for a while, or even just for yourself.

‘The label of the gin also hold significance for the cathedral, with our in-house designer working with the heritage team at the cathedral to create a design inspired by the 800-year-old building.’

[[] <https://www.portsmouthcathedral.org.uk/portsmouth-cathedral-news/fancy-a-tipple-portsmouth-cathedral-launches-new-gin-with-the-portsmouth-distillery-co>]

Magheragall parishioner shares poignant stories of uncle's wartime service

A Magheragall parishioner has donated treasured wartime memorabilia which belonged to her late uncle to the Ulster Aviation Society.

A number of years ago, May Best shared the story of Flight Sergeant David Maffett in the Magheragall Parish magazine. She said at the time that she would like to find a permanent home for David's World War Two medals and his flying log books – somewhere they could be on display to enable the retelling of David's story.

On the suggestion of her rector, the Rev Nicholas Dark, May presented the items to the Ulster Aviation Society at the Maze. Covid-19 delayed the presentation, but on May 26, Nicholas, May and her husband Gerald met aviation historian John Hewitt from the Ulster Aviation Society at Magheragall Parish Hall.

Mr Hewitt has written extensively on the subject and his first book was entitled Ireland's Aviator Heroes of World War II. It recounts stories of individual personnel using interview



May Best, John Hewitt and Gerald Best at the presentation of May's Uncle David's war medals and RAF log books to the Ulster Aviation Society on May 26.

material from surviving personnel and their families. The interviews are supported by extensive research of the original flying log books and service records of the men.

Nicholas said: "Mr Hewitt's work is a witness to the great courage and sacrifice demonstrated by these Irishmen as they contributed to the Allied war effort against Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan."

Mr Hewitt told May that her uncle's story will be included in his fifth volume of Ireland's Aviator Heroes of World War II. He said Flight Sargent Maffett's medals and documents

would become an important part of the collection at the Maze and would be on display.

Mr Hewitt also presented May and the rector a signed copy of his second volume of Irish Aviators of World War II.

During the meeting on May 26, David Maffett's story was recalled. He grew up in County Down and attended Down High School, finishing in 1939 when, aged 18, he joined the Royal Air Force.

With the outbreak of war, David's training led to his first tour of duty from January to September 1940 with 9 Squadron, Nos 3 Group RAF Bomber Command. During this tour, David completed 30 operations over Germany as a gunner on Wellingtons.

In September 1940, David was posted to No 20 Operational Training Unit at RAF Lossiemouth. The unit was formed in May 1940 to train night bomber crews using the Wellington.

Whilst at RAF Lossiemouth in January 1942, David received a letter from Thomas Stevenson, Acting Headmaster, and Robert Maxwell, Honorary Secretary of Down High School.

It stated: "In expressing to you the sense of admiration with which the school and all those associated with it regard your action in responding to the call of duty in the hour of national peril, sacrificing for a time at least your own prospects in the future, we feel that we have every reason to be proud of your action, and we assure you that your example in this respect has set high the good name of the school.



David Maffett

“It is our expectation that you will do credit to yourself in your new sphere of activity and that whatever the times ahead may bring, or whatever trials or hardships you may be called upon to endure, you will manifest in all circumstances those qualities of spirit, loyalty and devotion that have characterised the people of our nation

through the years of the past. May we, in conclusion, in offering you our very best wishes, express the earnest hope that you will have a safe return when at length your presently appointed task is fulfilled.”

In April 1942, soon after receiving these words of encouragement from home, David was posted to RAF Marham for training on four engine Stirling Bombers in preparation for a return to operational duty.

He went on the first 1,000 bomber raid on Cologne. Several sorties later, on August 7 1942, he was shot down. The following is a description of that night:

“On 7 August 1942, at 01.10 hrs Stirling N6072 took off for Duisberg once more laden with six 1000 lb general purpose bombs and seven 500 lb general purpose bombs. Around 02:57 hrs Stirling N6072 was intercepted and shot down, by Hptm Ludwig Bietmann of 5./NJG1 flying a Messerschmitt Bf 110, to crash into the west bank of the Maas near Kessel, 2 miles south of Venlo.

“Three of the crew had managed to bail; the pilot, Sgt William Laidlaw, Wireless Operator Sgt David Maffett and Sergeant John Green the Observer, to become Prisoners of War.

“The rest of the crew – WO II AL Bachelder, RCAF, and Sgts HP Gardiner, GC Cavanagh, and LWA Barnard (Air Gunner), RAF – were killed in the crash. They were initially buried in a temporary military cemetery at Venlo. On 1st October 1947, they were re-interred in the Jonkerbos War Cemetery on the outskirts of Nijmegen in the Netherlands which contains 1,629 Commonwealth WW2 burials.”

In 2005, on the 60th anniversary year of the ending of the war, David spoke about his experiences, describing the events of August 7 1942. Reflecting on the death of four crew members and his own experience as a PoW, he wrote:

“I was lucky to be alive. I was wireless operator that night. Only three got out, the pilot, navigator and me. They got out first and I was alone in the aircraft, until I bailed out.

“I was a PoW for three years in Silesia, which is now in Poland and quite near Auschwitz. The camp held 13,000, some from Dunkirk, some 51st Highlanders and the RAF

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prisoners. On January 22nd 1945, 3,000 of us were marched out.

“We had to march 20km a day and had just two breaks. We went to Duderstadt and stayed 10 days, then across the Elbe at Magdeburg. By the time we reached Lukenwalde, just 50 miles from Berlin, there were just 145 of us still alive.

“We arrived in Berlin on the Wednesday and the Russians took over on the Saturday and held us for five weeks. Then they took us to the Yanks. We were flown to Brussels. I got back in June 1945 and was sent to RAF Cosford and then home. I was just 24 by then.”

As David’s nearest relative, May has remembered and treasured his wartime stories along with his medals and his RAF flying log books.

Nicholas said: “May’s decision to donate them to the Ulster Aviation Society at the Maze will ensure that her Uncle David’s story of bravery will be remembered and treasured by future generations.”

Books, Broadcasts, Resources and Webinars

‘Living Together in Peace’ ~ an Invitation from the Cork Three Faiths Forum

Cork Three Faiths Forum invites you to an Interfaith service themed “Living Together in Peace” on Saturday 19th June

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21 at 7:30pm.
Due to on-going pandemic restrictions, the Service is a virtual one.

The welcome will be given by the Lord Mayor of Cork, Cllr. Joe Kavanagh and the guest speaker will be celebrated poet and theologian Pádraig Ó Tuama.

Prayers will be led by

members of

the Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish and Muslim Faiths


Interfaith Event
LIVING TOGETHER IN PEACE
via Zoom, Sat, 19th of June 2021
Time: 7.30 pm



You are invited to join this online Prayer Service which will be preceded with an address by
Pádraig Ó Tuama

The Prayer Service will be given by members of the Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Muslim & Jewish Faiths

Organised by Cork Three Faiths Forum



To Register
CLICK LINK ABOVE

To register, please click on the link below, you will then receive an email with the Zoom link for the service.

<https://mailchi.mp/4d958898c18b/6txjed5g2l>

The Forum look forward to you joining members for an evening of interfaith prayer and reflection.

churchnewsireland@gmail.org



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.

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.

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

As they stoned him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." He fell to his knees, shouting, "Lord, don't charge them with this sin!" And with that, he died.

Acts 7:59-60 NLT

Stephen was one of the seven people who were appointed to handle the distribution of food to the widows. Chapter 7 reveals that he was also a very fine preacher. He delivered a careful exposition of the Old Testament story which showed that God had repeatedly raised up men to act as deliverers of his people, and the Jews had systematically rejected them. And now they had murdered the Righteous one, Jesus himself. The sermon did not go down well. His Jewish audience was infuriated and shook their fists at him. They covered their ears, yelled at the top of their voices and rushed at him, dragging him out of the city where they stoned him to death. He was the first Christian martyr.

As he died Stephen used words that remind us what Jesus had said as he breathed his last, but his words were interestingly different. Jesus had placed himself in his

Father's hands and now Stephen asks Jesus to receive his spirit. He clearly recognised that Jesus was God himself and he places his life securely in his Master's hands. And then his final words were to ask the Lord not to charge his murderers with their sin. They were words of mercy and grace, which are just further evidence of how wise and full of the Holy Spirit Stephen was.

Martyrdom probably feels unimaginable to most of us. We cannot imagine a set of circumstances in which it might happen to us. But it is wise for us to stop for a moment and remind ourselves that there were more Christian martyrs last century than in all the previous centuries of church history put together. Even today there are Christians who are living under threat of losing their lives and it is important that we keep them in our prayers. May the Lord give them the courage, grace and wisdom that he gave so long ago to Stephen as he died.

QUESTION

What do you learn from Stephen's example?

PRAYER

Lord God our Father we pray today for those who risk their lives out of their love for you. Fill them afresh with your Holy Spirit and grant the strength to face every challenge. Amen

