

# CNI CHURCH NEWS IRELAND

Image of  
the day -  
New sign  
for the  
times at  
Newry  
Parish



## Reports

### Irish bishops choose woman to guide route to national synod



Irish Catholic bishops have chosen Nicola Brady to head preparations for a national synod in Ireland, due to be held in the next five years.

**The Irish Catholic bishops have chosen a laywoman to head preparations for a national synod, due to be held in the next five years.**

Nicola Brady has worked in a number of peace-building roles, both nationally and internationally, and currently works on building relations between the Christian traditions in Ireland.

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Bishops meeting virtually for their summer 2021 plenary meeting announced June 16 that Brady will head up a new synodal steering group to make preparations. She is currently general secretary of the Irish Council of Churches.

Vice chairs for the group will be Bishop Brendan Leahy of Limerick and a layman, Andrew O'Callaghan.

In their statement, Irish bishops said their work on the synodal pathway has been "assisted and greatly encouraged by Cardinal Mario Grech and Sister Natalie Becquart of the general secretariat for the Synod of Bishops in Rome."

The bishops also announced they had received more than 550 submissions from the public as part of the initial phase of the synodal pathway.

Brady described the Irish synod as "an important and hope-filled development in the life of the Catholic Church in Ireland."

"I am grateful for the opportunity to help guide and shape this work," she said.

A statement from the Catholic Communications Office said Brady "has particular expertise in the area of faith-based peace building on the island of Ireland and internationally, including human rights advocacy, support to victims/survivors, facilitation of civic dialogue, community engagement with policing, and research across a broad range of issues relevant to reconciliation."



## **‘Time to take stock’ – Pastoral letter from Archbishop Michael Jackson**



### **Writing to church members in Dublin & Glendalough Diocese, Archbishop Jackson states -**

Dear friends,

Not only is the summer now upon us. We are at the longest day of the year already. Our society feels different. Our country looks different. And, while caution remains our watchword and compliance remains our requirement, there is a much greater sense of what is humanly possible and what might be a new horizon. This has not come about by accident. It has come about by the hard work and deep commitment of experts in terms of assessment, analysis, intervention, innovation; the heroic efforts and the tireless work of everyone on the ever-expanding Front Line right

across our country; the truly miraculous outcomes of contemporary sciences in developing a range of vaccines for use worldwide in order to stem the ravages of the coronavirus. But behind and within all of this there is the commitment to goodness, to neighbourliness, to order and compliance, to kindness and to solidarity on the part of you who have made the transition from Lockdown to Openup happen – step by step, on the ground. It could be a lot different. It is a lot different in other parts of the world. For us here and now it is good as it stands. We need to keep it like this. When those charged with the reopening of society compliment you, please accept the compliment. It is genuine. It is well deserved. To this I add my own thank you and my own appreciation. The road may, at many points, have looked negative. It now looks quite a lot more positive.

The summer season is the time to break the cycle of repetition and to have a holiday. It can be a simple holiday at home or from home. The important thing is that it break the cycle of what has become predictable and that it give time and space that are free, or at least more free, from the anxieties we have carried for one another and for ourselves over the year and a half through which we have just lived and, sadly, through which others have not managed to live and survive. We mourn their passing in devastating times and circumstances. We still have significant issues relating to specific grief and general wellbeing to identify and address sensitively, structurally, personally.

Perhaps then, before you let it all slip out of your memory, if that is what you decide to do, and nobody could really blame you for doing this, you might think about taking stock in whatever way taking stock works best for you. I am

suggesting that you take stock of what you have gained and lost, what you have learned about yourself and about others, what are new blessings that you have experienced in these months. There are many further things on which to reflect, for example, people, places and happenings that you now treasure; fresh priorities that you have set for yourself and have managed to keep up; good habits that you have formed along with new and different appreciations of so much that hitherto you took for granted. You may not be too sure how these came about. You may not be too keen to share them directly with others. You don't have to. But I suggest to you that they are worth your own attention while the moment is still warm.

Some people will have no difficulty with moving out again into the wider society and for them I am truly delighted. A large number of people have said to me that they genuinely now find conversing with other people really difficult. Talking about something other than the coronavirus or something Covid-19 related is difficult when it has been the focus of so much media attention and energy together with individual anxiety for the best part of a year and a half. If you do not, in fact, find general conversation and engagement with others difficult, then you might think of helping someone you know or, even better, someone you don't know and happen to meet by chance, to move beyond Covid-conversation. We have only really begun to identify the wellbeing issues facing us with a very steep gradient ahead of us on this path. We are ill-equipped to address them effectively and empathetically. We are now being encouraged by responsible people to grasp the future with excitement. We surely do not want others to be left behind as we move forward. There already are, and will continue to be, so many

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situations that need us to work together, to cooperate and to collaborate, and to make the effort to do so if we are to shape the new possibilities opening up. And many of them will be simple rather than complicated. And many of them may cost very little, if any, money.

And we should remember that in March 2020 it was the then Minister for Health who spoke of kindness as a primary virtue for our times. This was driven by human and not by specifically religious concern. It is all the better for it.

Kindness might wisely become a continuing watchword, a cherished aspiration and a nurturing focus of hope. Again, I wish to thank all of you for the good things you have done. Again, I wish to thank all of the Front Line workers in the visible and the invisible sectors for what you have done. 24/7/365 has become a working reality for so many unsung heroes and heroines. Again, I wish to encourage you to take a break and to rejoice with God, with yourself, with your family and with your neighbours that you are here today and that tomorrow is coming.

In the Hebrew and the Christian Scriptures, Ecclesiastes chapter 3 speaks about time itself in a timely way. I suggest that we might think of adding to its exploration of time and times and timeframes as follows:

For everything its season, and for every activity under heaven its time: ... a time to set aside and a time to start anew ...

Yours sincerely, +Michael



## People and places

### Archbishops' tribute to the Bishops of Tuam, Killala and Achonry & Limerick, Killaloe and Ardfert



Bishops Rooke and Kearon

**Commenting yesterday (June 21) on the announcement that the Bishop of Tuam, Killala and Achonry and the Bishop of Limerick, Killaloe and Ardfert are to retire on 31st October 2021, the Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, the Most Revd John McDowell, said:**

“There will be time and opportunity to say something more when the date of the Bishops’ retirement comes round, but for now I wish to thank Bishop Patrick Rooke and Bishop Kenneth Kearon for their respective and very distinctive contributions to the work of the House of Bishops and to the life of the Church of Ireland.



“When each was elected to the House, they brought with them a combination of wide experience and unique gifts. Bishop Rooke has worked tirelessly on an enormous range of projects on behalf of the Bishops with his characteristic thoroughness and energy. Bishop Kearon brought with him an unparalleled knowledge and experience of the Anglican Communion which he generously shared with many of us during the course of the last six years.

“Both Bishops, working together, with patience and pastoral care, successfully negotiated (in every sense of that word) the amalgamation of their united dioceses, which can now look to the future with confidence and optimism.

“May I wish both Bishops God’s continued presence and blessing as they prepare, over the coming months, to move into a new phase of life and vocation.”

The Archbishop of Dublin and Primate of Ireland, the Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson, remarked:

“I would like to commend Bishop Patrick Rooke and Bishop Kenneth Kearon for their positive contributions to the life of the Church of Ireland in the dioceses of Tuam, Killala and Achonry and Limerick, Killaloe and Ardfert and beyond. Geographically, the dioceses cover a large area along our western seaboard with a diverse population. Members of the Church of Ireland in the West of Ireland make a great contribution to their own communities and to the wider Church.

“The retirement of Bishop Rooke and Bishop Kearon will bring significant structural change to the dioceses. Both the

Bishops now retiring and the people of Tuam, Killala and Achonry and of Limerick, Killaloe and Ardfert have done sustained work in building a firm foundation for their future together. They are to be commended on the spirit in which this work has been carried out collaboratively. There will be much to do in the coming months and years but I wish to assure them of my support as they travel this road together.”

## **Clergy appointments**

**Diocese of Armagh** - The Archbishop of Armagh, the Most Revd John McDowell, on Sunday past, confirmed the following appointments in the Diocese.

The Revd Sarah Parkinson to be Curate Assistant in the Parish of St Mark’s Armagh.

The Revd Matthew Topley to be Curate Assistant in the Parish of Drumglass, Dungannon.

The Archbishop said: “I would like to congratulate Sarah and Matthew on successfully completing their formal theological studies and internships. Their ordination as priest/presbyter marks the next stage in their ministerial formation and of their discipleship. I wish them well and pray for them as they prepare for their new roles and for the move to Armagh and Drumglass. I know they will find a warm welcome and much encouragement in both parishes.”

The Revd Sarah Parkinson commented: ”Daniel and I are extremely excited that I have been appointed as Curate Assistant for St Mark’s Armagh. Our home parish is Lisburn Cathedral in the Diocese of Connor and over the past year I

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### **Sarah and David Parkinson**

have been serving as Deacon in the parish of St Columba's Derryvolgie. Prior to studying at The Church of Ireland Theological institute I studied Theology at Belfast Bible College, whilst working part-time in a local community pharmacy. During December 2020 Daniel and I were married. It was small wedding with only a few family and friends due to restrictions. It was a very special service, a few photos and no reception. So, the new Mr & Mrs Parkinson went home with a take away Pizza. In our spare time I love to read, drink tea and take our dog Rory for walks while Daniel is on the golf course. We will be excited to call Armagh our home and can't wait to settle in and begin our ministry together in St Mark's."

The Revd Matthew Topley commented: "I'm delighted to be coming to Drumglass as your new curate! I am married to



### Matthew, Lilly and ErinTopley

Erin and I have a little baby daughter, Lilly. We're currently serving in St Mark's, Armagh. I'm from not too far away (Portadown), but Erin is from very far away (Sydney, Australia)! As you read this, God willing we will be in Australia as Erin completes her final home assignment with CMS Australia. Erin was seconded by CMS-A to the Diocese of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh (based in Sligo) prior to our move to Armagh. Erin's role had been as a children's ministry consultant which had involved developing and training children's leaders across the diocese as well as teaching a certificate in children's ministry on a national basis. Prior to ordination training, I worked for the local council, taught music, and did some post-grad work in theology at Queen's. Both of us had very different upbringings (not just geographically) – this played a large



part in when and how we came to know Jesus as our Lord and Saviour.

“Both of us love drinking good coffee, so if you want to know more about our story, why not grab a coffee with us when we arrive and find out? We’d love to share and hear about your life. If coffee isn’t your style, then walks, Park Run, or a boxing session is also something that we enjoy in our spare time! That being said, with a 5 month old in the house, spare time is a distant memory! We are both excited about moving to Dungannon and getting to know everyone in St Anne’s and St Elizabeth’s as we seek to follow Jesus together.”

## **Diocese of Limerick**

The Dean of Limerick, the Very Revd Niall Sloane, has announced the appointment of the Revd Dr Leonard Madden as curate–assistant of Limerick City Parish.

Leonard grew up near Clonakilty, in West Cork. He studied English and Philosophy in UCC, his doctoral work being on Samuel Beckett’s early poems and prose, and taught in the Department of English. He and his wife, Catherine, moved to Celbridge in 2011, where they have lived until now. Leonard has worked in the HSE and in the Teaching Council, and has volunteered with Fáilte Isteach, teaching conversational English to people who have newly arrived in Ireland. Catherine works in the Representative Church Body of the Church of Ireland, as the Synod Officer.

Leonard began training in the Church of Ireland Theological Institute in 2018; during his time there he has won prizes in Greek, divinity, and Anglican theology. He was, for several

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years, an acolyte, and, for several years more, a liturgical verger in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin. He was ordained to the diaconate in 2020, and, during the last academic year has served as deacon intern



in Blessington Union of Parishes in the diocese of Glendalough, and straddling the border of county Wicklow and county Kildare.

Dr Madden will begin his ministry in Limerick following his ordination to the priesthood in Saint Mary's Cathedral on Saturday 11th September.

## **Down & Dromore**

### **New Diocesan Directors of Ordinands**

Bishop David McClay has invited Revd Karen Salmon and Revd Simon Genoe to share the role of Diocesan Director of Ordinands (DDO). The vacancy has been created by Revd Adrian Green's appointment as chaplain to the English-speaking church on Ibiza and Formentera.

Karen (Curate in Willowfield Church) and Simon (Rector of Magheralin) are already in post and you are welcome to contact either of them using the details here -

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[Revd Karen Salmon](#); [karen@willowfieldchurch.co.uk](mailto:karen@willowfieldchurch.co.uk); Tel: 07842015355

[Revd Simon Genoe](#); [magheralin.minister@gmail.com](mailto:magheralin.minister@gmail.com); Tel: 07955356055



## Tribute

### Deirdre Frame always loved to sing

**As a teenager she was an enthusiastic member of the choirs of Sacred Heart Grammar School and Newry Cathedral.**

As a teacher at St Malachy's PS, Camlough, she gave generations of children the experience of singing a wide range of secular and sacred music, from plainsong in Latin to compositions in Irish.

Deirdre later joined the Armagh City Choir and Armagh Cathedral Choir and accepted responsibility for music at the church of St Peter & Paul in Bessbrook, developing a four-part choir with a challenging repertoire.

She wrote many of the parts out by hand, often working late into the night, and provided material for the choir from her own resources.

Many of the singers recall how they were left home safely after each practice, or the annual choir party in Deirdre's garden when she provided food for everyone and her husband Freddie organised football, board games and even cricket.

Born Deirdre Fearon on Chapel Road, Bessbrook in 1935, Deirdre's father, Patrick (Pappy), was headmaster of St Malachy's Boys PS as well as a member of Armagh's 1926 Junior All-Ireland winning football team.

Her first language was Irish, which Patrick and his wife Mary Catherine (Daisy) both spoke fluently, and she spent some months of her primary education in Dún Lúiche in the Donegal Gaeltacht.

Her musical education began with piano lessons at Convent of Mercy PS, Bessbrook and continued through Josef Delafaille and August Toremans, successive Belgian organists in Newry Cathedral.

Deirdre advanced to St Mary's teacher training college where among her circle of friends was her future husband, Frederick Frame, who would work alongside her as principal teacher in St Malachy PS.

She was responsible there for liturgical music for sacramental preparation and the school choir was honoured to sing at St Malachy's Church, Carrickcruppen, especially



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at the ordination of Fr Brian McCreesh and at the first Mass of past pupil Fr Peter John McParland.

Deirdre also established a branch of the internationally recognised Pueri Cantores in the school and brought groups to its conventions throughout Ireland.

She was a founder member of Cumann Ceol Eaglasta na hÉireann (Irish Church Music Association) when it was formed in 1969 and a regular attendee at its summer schools.

She also was for many years a member of the Armagh Diocesan Liturgy and Church Music Commission.

## Deirdre Frame

On retirement from teaching, she continued her love of music, education and all things cultural.

Deirdre became a committee member and friend of the Charles Wood Festival of Music in Armagh and also attended the annual Lislea Drama Festival, Newry Drama Festival and plays of An Cumann Scoil drámíochta.

She supported all sections of Newry Musical Feis, becoming an honorary vice-president, and enjoyed her annual visits to Castleward Opera and Wexford International Opera Festival.

It was very special for her to see her grandson, Malachy, sing roles in Risurrezione and Rigoletto in Wexford in 2017.

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Her big regret was that Freddie did not live to enjoy this experience.

She also loved to attend lectures as a member of Seanchas Ard Mhacha, Dromore Diocesan Historical Society and Old Newry Society.

Another area of expertise was liturgy. Each week for an academic year Deirdre travelled to Maynooth to attend the Diploma course in Pastoral Liturgy and Theology.

In her 85th year and in the company of the Armagh Cathedral Choir, whose friendship and liturgical music meant so much, her contribution was recognised by Archbishop Eamon Martin who presented her with the St Patrick's Medal, an Armagh diocesan award.

Sadly Covid-19 prevented the presentation of the Bene Merenti medal awarded by Pope Francis last year.

Deirdre Frame enjoyed a remarkable life lived with generosity towards others as a good neighbour, teacher and Christian.

Her knowledge and experience of choral music, liturgical, sacred and secular, was nothing short of amazing.

She died on Palm Sunday, March 28 - a fitting day for one so steeped in the Liturgy of the Church.

Idir Dhia agus a dheas-lámh go raibh sí.



## 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

**The rain and snow come down from the heavens and stay on the ground to water the earth. They cause the grain to grow, producing seed for the farmer and bread for the hungry. It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it.**

Isaiah 55:10-11 NLT

There is something about me that you need to know, and that is that I am incredibly excited writing these daily devotionals. Believe me, that's got nothing to do with my abilities as a writer but everything to do with the fact that God's word is powerful. So being asked to encourage people to read, enjoy and live by God's word is as exciting as life can get. Every day, thousands of people read and listen to these words and I have very little idea of what the impact will be. However, what is certain is that God's word is challenging, changing and encouraging people's lives.

We are completely dependent on water. There can be no life without it. Therefore, when it rains we can be absolutely certain that the result will be life and fruitfulness. It is just the

same as we read the Bible and allow God to speak to us, but in many ways it is even more exciting because we cannot be sure of the way in which God will bless us. We know that he will make us fruitful, but that fruit could take many different forms. To one person our verses today will be saying, “Keep going in your difficult situation because even though it’s tough what you have been doing will have an ongoing effect”. To another person, who might be coming to the end of a period of service, God is saying, “You can move on now because the words you have spoken will continue to bless people long after you have gone.”

The writer to the Hebrews spoke of the word of God and described it as being sharper than any double-edged sword (Hebrews 4.12). It always gets to the point. I encourage you to read the Bible with the confident expectation that God will speak powerfully to you and that the result will be that your life will produce abundant fruit.

## QUESTION

In what ways have you seen the power of God’s word?

## PRAYER

Loving God, thank you that you are continually speaking to us. Amen

