

Church News Ireland



**Image of the day – Methodist President
gets on his bike**

Image of the day

Methodist President gets on his bike

The President of the Irish Methodist Church was invited to the annual conference of the Methodist Church in Great Britain. With the scheduled train strikes, he relied on his own transport to fulfil his duties.

People and places

Methodist Church concerned with the impact of poverty

The Conference of the Methodist Church in Ireland through a major report from it's Council on Social Responsibility, written in conjunction with The Trussell Trust and Christians Against Poverty has observed with great concern the continuous and ever deepening cost of living crisis.

It is all so apparent that many more individuals and families in the UK and in the Republic of Ireland are encountering real hardship as a result of increased energy costs, inflation, especially food price inflation, increases in National Insurance and public transport, as well as general travel costs.

JUNE 23, 2022

The Methodist Church in Ireland is very exercised about the impact of poverty in all aspects for all people, but in particular the health and well-being of so many of those who are unemployed, homeless, disabled or in low-income families, especially those with children.

Whilst acknowledging recent well-thought-out and targeted pledges from the UK Exchequer and the previous NI Executive, it is our view that these interventions have been too slow, reactive and insufficient.

The recent Conference of the church called for -

1] All the political parties recently elected to the new NI Assembly to make the elimination of poverty the number one priority and to do everything in their power to get the

Assembly and Executive functioning immediately so

Elmer elephants are gracing Belfast this week

that measures can be put in place which will directly help the most affected by poverty in





society.

Songs of Hope - a night of uplifting music in aid of Ukrainian refugees in Ireland. Tuesday 28th June, 8pm, St John the Baptist, Clontarf. Tickets available <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/songs-of-hope-tickets-320539661757>

2] The immediate implementation of those mitigations announced by the UK Exchequer which fall under its remit.

3] The implementation of the Anti-Poverty Strategy which was ready for Executive agreement prior to its collapse. Conference also commended the partnership arrangement between the Council on Social Responsibility, Christians Against Poverty and the Trussell Trust as it seeks to encourage Methodists on the island of Ireland to pray, learn and act with regard to poverty.

Conference directed the Council on Social Responsibility to gather information and reflect prayerfully on the nature of poverty on the island of Ireland and to report to Conference next year on a series of evidenced-based recommendations to local administrations – north and south – and to the Methodist people with regard to reducing poverty as well as encouraging practical actions to support those most in need.

Orangefield Parish celebrates the Emergency Services

St John's Orangefield hosted a special service on Saturday 18 June to celebrate and say a big 'thank you' to all those working in the Emergency Services in Northern Ireland.

All of the statutory services were included and local dignitaries, ministers from other local churches and service men and women attended.

It was a sunny day, perfect for cream teas and refreshments on the lawn before the service which included a testimony about what it is like serving as a Christian in the police and prayers for those who serve. Revd Andy Moore, deacon

intern with the parish and a qualified Paramedic, planned the event and gave the address.



Mr. Moore was on the frontline with the Ambulance Service for 13 years and from 2020 until his ordination in 2021 he worked in the Belfast Trust managing one of the departments in the Royal Victoria Hospital. He still does some shifts in the Rapid Response Car and understands just how challenging the work is in the current negative climate.

“These folk are doing their best in really difficult circumstances,” he says. “Many are Christians and I wanted to encourage them and say thank you, and also to thank God for his faithfulness to us in our work.”

Mr. Moore preached on Mark 2: 1–21, the healing of the paralysed man, and children from the parish helped with a visual aid by carrying a stretcher up through the congregation.

He said in his sermon, “One of the things I remember most fondly from my time as a Paramedic was how closely the emergency services work together. Those calls, often

mundane, were referred to as the ‘bread and butter’ of what we did, yet they brought so many disciplines into the mix. It doesn’t matter what uniform is worn, what colour the stripes on the side of the vehicles are, nor even who pays our wage. What is important is the mission to serve the most vulnerable and needy within our society.

“The story of Jesus healing the paralysed man in Mark 2 is much more than just this one individual receiving a miracle at the hands of Jesus. We often overlook the pivotal role that the four friends had. Without the four men working together to carry the paralysed man to Jesus, without thinking outside the box by going through the roof and then taking the physical burden of his weight as he is lowered down in front of Jesus would have left the man without healing. Those actions command a respect. They trusted



Refreshments on the lawn. The Bishop escorts HM Lord Lieutenant of Belfast

Jesus without having ever met Him. Trusted that He would heal their friend and went above and beyond yet did so in a humble and obedient manner. The emergency services do that each day, serving others often to the detriment of themselves.

“For me, it is following in Jesus’ footsteps and acting in compassion and love for all those I encounter that helps me draw closer to God. And that closeness isn’t unique and is evident this afternoon in your attendance and commitment to others. May those who encounter you in your professional and personal capacity see God’s hand upon you, His love shining through you and above all else, draw others closer to Him that embraces us all.”

Irish delegation joins Festival of Families with Pope Francis as 10th World Meeting of Families begins in Rome

Amongst those gathered for the Festival of Families with Pope Francis will be families from Ukraine

The delegation from Ireland has arrived in Rome for the 10th World Meeting of Families which begins today on the theme, ‘Family love: a vocation and a path to holiness.’ The delegation includes family members and is led by the President of the Bishops’ Conference, Archbishop Eamon Martin of Armagh, and the chair of the Council for Marriage & Family, Bishop Denis Nulty of Kildare & Leighlin.

The gathering of families, representing people from all over the world, begins this evening at 6.00pm (Rome time)



starting with the 'Festival of Families' in the presence of Pope Francis. Amongst those gathered for the Festival will be families from Ukraine.

Ireland hosted the 9th World Meeting of Families in August 2018 which was attended by Pope Francis, as well as by tens of thousands of

people from home and abroad. Speaking from Rome, Bishop Nulty said, "There is great excitement here ahead of the beginning of the World Meeting of Families this evening. All of us remember with fondness the Festival of Families in Croke Park, Dublin, in August 2018, and this evening we will celebrate with families again in the presence of Pope Francis.

"I am particularly looking forward to tomorrow when we will gather with families to discuss many of the themes relevant to family life today: the role of grandparents, the pastoral care of the elderly, accompanying fatherhood and



motherhood, vocations, accompanying forgiveness, preparing for marriage, the impact of digital media on family life, and much more.”

All families can join in the celebration

Bishop Nulty continued, “This year’s World Meeting of Families has been adapted to suit the post-pandemic era and therefore will be smaller in terms of numbers with just 2,000 delegates gathered here in Rome. But it is still possible for families across Ireland to be part of the event by joining us online, in the same way that we became accustomed to during the pandemic. All of the gatherings that are part of this year’s World Meeting will be live-streamed and I would really encourage people to tune in,

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see World Meeting of Families 2022 Rome – #WMOF22
(romefamily2022.com)

“We have also taken the prayers and intentions of Irish families with us to Rome and I would ask that our delegation be remembered in prayer in our parishes at home, especially this coming weekend, by praying the special Prayer for the World Meeting of Families 2022 (see below),” Bishop Nulty said.

Streetreach Commissioning 2022



After a two year absence, Streetreach returns in-person from July 5-8, when young people will exercise faith in action in the community around Mossley Parish.

A special service took place in the Church of the Holy Spirit, Mossley, on Sunday evening, June 19, at which the Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev George Davison shared from God's Word and commissioned the team.

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Busy session for General Synod Standing Committee

The Standing Committee of the General Synod of the Church of Ireland met in Holy Trinity Church, Rathmines, on Tuesday, 21st June 2022.

Ms Hazel Corrigan opened the meeting with a Bible reading from Luke chapter 12 and in prayer, seeking peace among all peoples and prosperity in all lands, for evil to be overcome, and for all wars to end – remembering in particular the continuing conflict in Ukraine.

Building work continues on Rathmine's community hub, including housing units, as seen from Church House Dublin.

The Archbishop of Armagh congratulated Mrs Joan Bruton on receiving the award of an honorary British Empire Medal for her work with the Lighthouse Trust Summer School over many years.

The Archbishop thanked Dr Catherine Smith, who will shortly be moving from her role as Synod Officer to become Operations Executive with the Church's Ministry of Healing, for her tremendous grace and efficiency in the role of Synod Officer over the last seven years. The Honorary Secretaries, on behalf of the Standing Committee,

expressed their gratitude to Dr Smith and wished her well in her new role.

The Honorary Secretaries have proposed that the 2023 meeting of the General Synod should take place on Friday, 12th May, and Saturday, 13th May, in person with a meeting for the third day of business to be held remotely on the evening of Tuesday, 16th May, and of Thursday, 18th May (if required).

The Standing Committee approved the Clergy Permanent Health Insurance Policy and the Clergy Parental Sabbatical Policy for inclusion in the Dignity in Church Life Charter.

The Standing Committee also approved proposals by the Sub-Committee on future mechanisms for meetings of Standing Committee and other meetings, which allow for a combination of in-person and remote formats for meetings of the Standing Committee with the potential for hybrid meetings to be considered by the Honorary Secretaries.

Appointments

The Revd Canon Jane Galbraith was declared elected to the Standing Committee as the clerical representative of 55 years or over for the Diocese of Limerick and Killaloe.

PriceWaterhouseCoopers was appointed as auditors of the accounts of the Representative Church Body for the year 2022, on terms to be agreed by the RCB Executive Committee and reported to the Standing Committee.

Delegates

The Standing Committee approved the appointment of the following persons to represent the Church of Ireland as delegates to annual meetings of other Churches:

- the Rt Revd Dr Ian Ellis and Mrs Ethne McCord to attend the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland (22nd–25th June 2022) at Assembly Buildings, Belfast;
- the Rt Revd Michael Burrows to attend the Provincial Synod of the Moravian Church in Great Britain and Ireland (14th–18th July 2022) in Swanwick;
- Professor Ken Dunn, and a further delegate to be appointed by the Honorary Secretaries, to attend the Ireland Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (11th–14th August 2022) at Stranmillis University College, Belfast; and
- the Revd Canon Malcolm Kingston to attend the Governing Body of the Church in Wales (7th & 8th September 2022) at the International Convention Centre, Newport.

The Standing Committee ratified the appointment of the Revd Eugene Griffin to the Safeguarding Board, as a clerical member nominated by the Archbishop of Dublin. Ms Shirley Scott, Policy Manager at the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre, has also been co-opted to the membership of the Safeguarding Board as an external expert.

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News reports

Queen is awarded medal by archbishop for services to Church

The Queen has been presented with a special Canterbury cross for her “unstinting service” to the Church of England over the last 70 years.

The 96-year-old head of state met the Archbishop of Canterbury at Windsor Castle on Tuesday.

The Most Rev Justin Welby gave the Queen the small silver cross, inspired by a ninth century Saxon brooch and incorporating a triquetra pattern, as a “heartfelt symbol” of the church's “love, loyalty and affection”.

It was a tribute to her outstanding service to the Church of England and in honour of her Platinum Jubilee.

The Queen wore her glasses and dressed in a cream dress decorated with a pattern of large pink flowers.

The monarch, who is facing ongoing mobility issues, shook hands with the archbishop, who wore purple clerical robes as he entered the Oak Room sitting room in the Berkshire castle.

Presented in a red box and attached to a blue ribbon, the cross was specially crafted for its royal recipient with platinum inserts in recognition of her milestone 70 years on the throne.

The Queen, who has a deep Christian faith, is supreme governor of the Church of England and defender of the faith.

In the citation for the cross, which was also given to the Queen as a framed piece of calligraphy, the archbishop praised the monarch and hailed “her care for the unity of her people and the welfare of the least fortunate” as a “constant inspiration to the whole church”.

The Queen's life was “an example of a Christian life well led,” he said.

The citation read: “Throughout her reign, Her Majesty has duly upheld both the Christian religion and the Church of England in her roles as defender of the faith and supreme governor of the Church of England.

“Whether in the formality of opening sessions of General Synod or the more intimate context of her personal addresses to the nation and Commonwealth at Christmas, Her Majesty has made manifest her own deep faith and its relevance to all that she undertakes.

“Her subtle understanding of the changing position of the established church in England has sustained and encouraged laity and clergy alike.

“Her care for the unity of her people and the welfare of the least fortunate have been a constant inspiration to the whole church.

“Hers is an example of the Christian life well led.

“This presentation of the Canterbury cross is a heartfelt symbol of the love, loyalty and affection in which the Church of England holds Her Majesty and it represents the recognition and gratitude of her whole church for her 70 years of unstinting service. God Save the Queen.”

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

World Meeting of Families

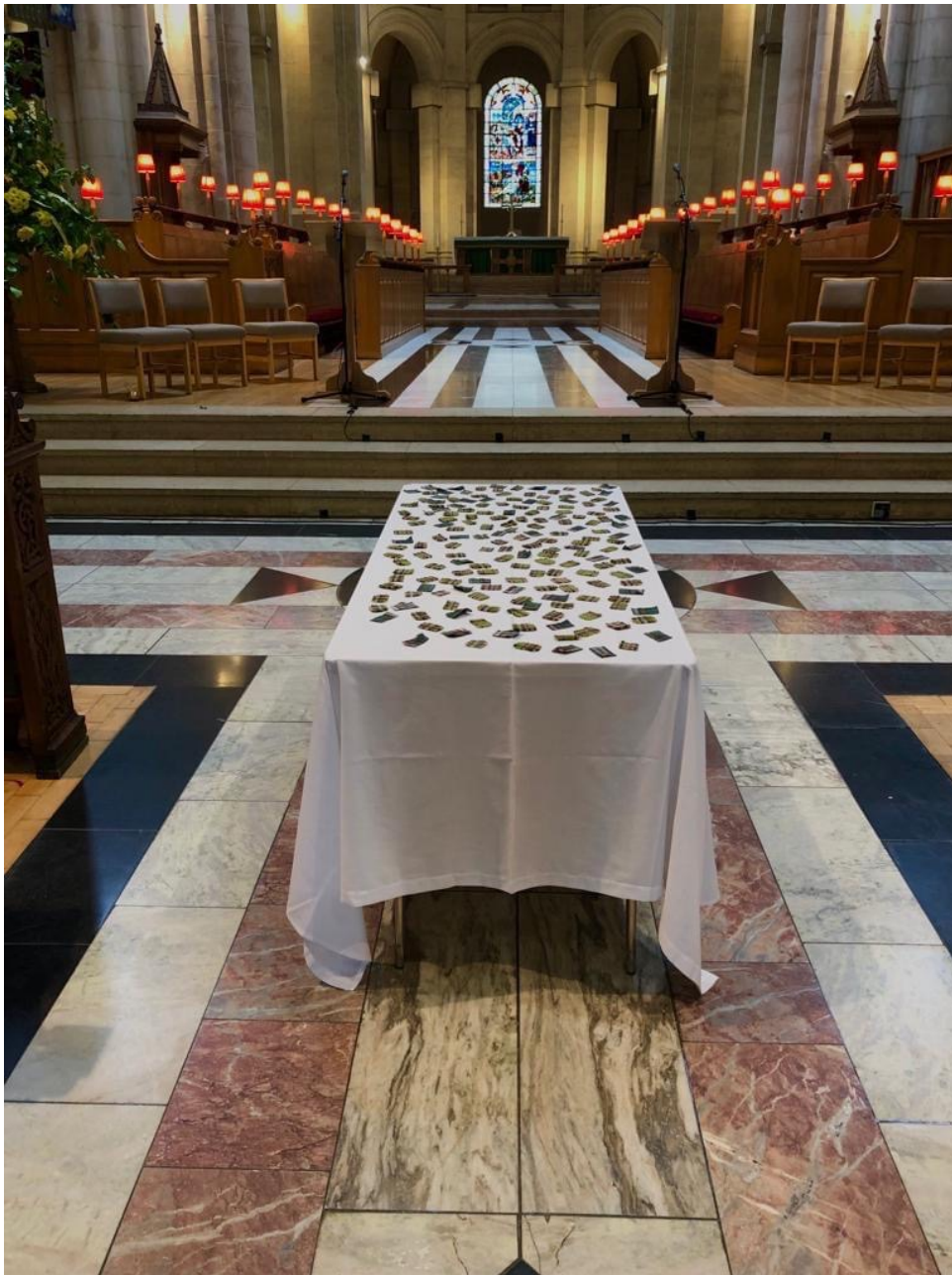
This is the complete programme of the World Meeting of Families 2022 which begins today. All events are live streamed and for parishes wanting to tune in from Ireland please remember Rome is + 1 hour ahead!
[romefamily2022.com/en/programma/]

‘Courage to Lament’ at Belfast Cathedral online

If you were unable to attend the Courage to Lament Service held on Tuesday 21st June, you can watch the full service on YouTube. See
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jRL57bOfBUU>

(Service begins at minute 13)

The powerful service included a recording (with his permission) by Richard Gowers performing "Where the Birds Sing" by Grace Evangeline Grace Mason, which was



Patches of healing.

Belfast Cathedral hosted Courage to Lament, an ecumenical service held as part of a Day of Reflection on Tuesday June 21

composed for the Commission of Victims and Survivors. This was played as those present collected small patches of cloth as an act of remembering.

Leading the service were Toni Johnston, EJ McClay, Alex Wimberly, Catherine McCoy, Dr David Bruce, Archbishop Eamon Martin and the Dean.

Poem for today

The Sun Rising by John Donne

Busy old fool, unruly sun
 Why dost thou thus,
Through windows, and through curtains call on us?
Must to thy motions lovers' seasons run?
 Saucy pedantic wretch, go chide
 Late school boys and sour prentices,
Go tell court huntsmen that the king will ride,
 Call country ants to harvest offices,
Love, all alike, no season knows nor clime,
Nor hours, days, months, which are the rags of time.

 Thy beams, so reverend and strong
 Why shouldst thou think?
I could eclipse and cloud them with a wink,
But that I would not lose her sight so long;
 If her eyes have not blinded thine,
 Look, and tomorrow late, tell me,
 Whether both th' Indias of spice and mine
 Be where thou leftst them, or lie here with me.
Ask for those kings whom thou saw'st yesterday,
And thou shalt hear, All here in one bed lay.

 She's all states, and all princes, I,
 Nothing else is.
Princes do but play us; compared to this,
All honour's mimic, all wealth alchemy.

Thou, sun, art half as happy as we,
In that the world's contracted thus.
Thine age asks ease, and since thy duties be
To warm the world, that's done in warming us.
Shine here to us, and thou art everywhere;
This bed thy centre is, these walls, thy sphere.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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