

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Craic at the Cranagh**

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## Image of the day

### Craic at the Cranagh

Derriaghy Parish youth group wound up their activity week with water sport on the river Bann at the Cranagh, Coleraine.

## People and places

### Child loss focus of Belfast cathedral service



**A special service in partnership with the Mariposa Trust will be held at Belfast Cathedral on Sunday afternoon 3rd July, starting at 3.30pm.**

This is a service for all those who have lost a baby in pregnancy, at birth or in early years, and for those grieving never having had a child.

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Service led by Revds Janice and Ron Elsdon, with the team from the Mariposa Trust.

For further details see: <https://www.mariposatrust.org>

## **Sanctuary Sunday at Christ Church Cathedral**

**What kind of welcome would the child refugee, Jesus, receive if he arrived in Ireland today seeking safety? This was the question posed by Dr Ebum Joseph, founder and director of the Institute for Antiracism and Black Studies, during the Sanctuary Sunday Service at Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, on June 26.**

She wondered if Jesus and his parents would be given €38 per week, the amount given to asylum seekers. Would he be able to fulfil his potential and follow his dreams, she asked.

The Sanctuary Sunday Service, sung by the Cathedral Choir, brought Refugee Week 2022 to a close. Events took place in the cathedral throughout last week and the Dean, the Very Revd Dermot Dunne, said it was vital that the cathedral, city and country be a place of safety for refugees. Christ Church Cathedral was designated Ireland's first Cathedral of Sanctuary in February 2018.

It was a stark reality, the Dean observed, that 100 million people are crossing the planet at this time seeking refuge, safety and a place to call home. "In our bones we know





Dean Dermot Dunne, Dr Ebum Joseph, Dr Veronica Crosbie, Pastor Dare Adetuberu and the Revd Abigail Sines.

what it is like to seek safety and in turn, as we are a prosperous nation, must provide sanctuary,” he said.

In her sermon, Dr Joseph reminded the congregation that Jesus and his parents were forced to seek refuge in Egypt as Herod was searching for the child. In Refugee Week they remembered the different people who for different reasons had to seek refuge. She said it was important to look at how people were welcomed and treated.

She also pointed out that there was a tendency to think about refugees in terms of what we give to them. But she wanted to highlight how blessed people were by giving: “It is more blessed to given than to receive”.

“When we meet foreigners they come with things that we need. They come with skills. Yes, welcome them. But they also have skills,” she said.

In the Bible there were many foreigners whose skills were used. She gave the example of Simon of Cyrene who was compelled to carry the cross of Jesus. “He was a foreigner and he served the Lord in his last hour... It is more blessed to give than to receive,” she said.

During the service the lessons were read by Dr Veronica Crosbie, chairperson of Places of Sanctuary Ireland and Pastor Dare Adetuberu, Pastor of RCCG Kingdom Connections and member of Dublin City Interfaith Forum. The prayers were led by Liz Parkin, a member of the Centenary Methodist Church and participant in the Sanctuary in Faith network.

## **No family drops down from Heaven perfectly formed - insight from Pastoral Congress in Rome**

**Delegates from across Ireland took part in the first day of the Pastoral Congress which is an integral part of 10th World Meeting of Families taking place in Rome until next Sunday 26 June.**

The Pastoral Congress sees delegates from 120 countries listening to the experiences of family and experts on a range of topics. Presentations for the first day of the Pastoral Congress heard about support needed by couples in the early years of marriage; the role of grandparents and the

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elderly in families; the important relationship between couples and priests in the parish; adoption and foster care; the role of fatherhood and motherhood; young and old on the synodal journey; and, the important place of forgiveness in the family.



Speaking after day one of the Pastoral Congress, Ms Deirdre O’Rawe, Regional Director of Accord Northern Ireland Marriage Care Service, said, “There was a great variety of views in terms of the pastoral care of the elderly and the mission of the family. What struck me today, especially as we mark the sixth anniversary of *Amoris Laetitia*, Pope Francis’ Apostolic Exhortation on love in the family, was something that the Pope says in it, namely, that no family drops down from Heaven perfectly formed! In all of the presentations shared so far, this reality spoke to me as does the need for us as a Church community – as family, as parishes and as diocesan





agencies – to work collaboratively for the common good. The other take away from the presentations was around the whole area of co-responsibility: the need for the priest and married couples and the laity generally to work together – not one without the other, but together so that

we can achieve the mission of the Church.”

Also attending the presentations in Rome is Derry priest Father Colm O’Doherty, Parish Priest of Lifford, Co Donegal, who said, “It is enlightening to hear the stories of people from such diverse backgrounds on how they are living as family in their own situation. It made me realise that what we hear of the joys and challenges of family life in Ireland is typically shared by families from around the world. Looking to the future I think that the valuable interaction between the elderly and young can certainly be worked on and

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developed in our own parishes.”

A theme being addressed today is the impact of the digital world on family life.

The opening Mass for the World Meeting of Families took place in Saint Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. Cardinal Kevin Farrell, Prefect of the Dicastery for Laity, Family & Life, was the

principal celebrant and preached the homily.

Concelebrating the Mass were Archbishop Eamon Martin of Armagh, Bishop Denis Nulty of Kildare & Leighlin, Father Timothy Bartlett of Down & Connor, Father Colm O'Doherty of Derry and Father Darren Brennan of Down & Connor.

The closing Mass will be celebrated by Pope Francis on Saturday evening, and the Angelus and 'Mandate to Families' from the Pope will be shared on Sunday morning.

Delegates from around the world attending the World Meeting of Families are being hosted by families in the parishes of Rome.







## **Knitted model Cathedral is unveiled at special service in Clogher**

**A yearlong wait finally ended on Sunday evening, 26th June for the congregation of the Clogher Cathedral Group of Parishes, when they unveiled their model cathedral constructed from a timber frame and knitted exterior.**

Members of the Knit, Stitch and Natter Group began their model Cathedral project during lockdown when they started knitting individual squares at home with the hope that when brighter days would allow, the squares would be brought together to form a single project. With the help of some carpenters, the creation of the miniature cathedral began and finished a year later.

The unveiling of this amazing piece of artwork took place during a Praise and Worship service in St. Macartan's Cathedral on Sunday evening. The service was led by the

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Rector, Revd Olivia Downey assisted by the Bishop of Clogher, the Right Revd Ian Ellis with the switching on of the lights performed by Jasmine Domer.

Also during the service there was a dedication of an electric piano in memory of Mrs Martha Fannin, a former organist for many years. Her granddaughter, Sarah, is now one of the organists.

There were praise items led by Dean Raymond Ferguson and family members and hymns sung during the service were "How Great Thou Art," "Shine Jesus Shine," "Through all the Changing Scenes of Life", "God Sent His Son", "King of Kings," "I heard the voice of Jesus say" and "To God be the Glory." The organists were Diane Simpson, Sarah McKenna and Janice Clingen. The readings were by Ruth Fannin and Eileen Cutler and prayers were led by Isobel Stewart, Diocesan Pastoral Assistant and Alan Lavelle, Parish Reader.

**Presbyterian**  
CHURCH IN IRELAND

**Ukraine Crisis 2022**

**Presbyterian Church in Ireland**  
**UKRAINE**  
**Crisis Appeal**

**£1.1 million raised so far**

Photo: The Motherland Monument which overlooks central Kyiv

# **Cathedral Choir Concert**

**in St Macartin's Cathedral,  
Enniskillen**

**on**

**Sunday 23rd October 2022**

**at 7.30pm**

**Everyone welcome**

**Proceeds in aid of the  
Cathedral Organ Fund**

The preacher was Revd Peter Ferguson, Rector of Derg



and Termonamongan Parish Group.

During the service, a panel of four; Dean Raymond Ferguson, Revd Peter Ferguson, Andrew Gordon and Professor Rab Mollan discussed the meaning of worship with the Rector, Revd Downey.

Bishop Ellis, in his thanks to everyone who had helped with the project, described the model cathedral as “an amazing piece of work which is quite astounding.”

He said that for the members of the Knit, Stitch and Natter Group “Their work is their prayer. This piece of art is a prayer.”

## News reports

### Church of England in rainbow flags row

**The Church of England has become engulfed in a row over the flying of Pride flags on religious buildings after a dean accused critics of “homophobia”.**

Last week, papers containing hundreds of proposals to be voted on at the General Synod, the Church’s legislative body, were published.

Among the measures to be considered by the Synod at the meeting in York next month was a submission to prohibit the flying of the Pride rainbow flag on Church buildings.

The proposal was put forward by Sam Margrave, a lay Synod member from Coventry, to call for the House of Bishops to “state that support for Pride (including use of the rainbow flag and participation in Pride events) is incompatible with the Christian faith”.

However, the Dean of Southwark, the Very Revd Andrew Nunn, one of the most senior clergy members in the Church of England, has intervened, deeming the proposal “homophobic”.

The dean was responding to the motion at the national conference of the Movement of Supporting Anglicans for an Inclusive Church.

He said: “There is a homophobic element within the structures of the Church of England that isn’t interested in moving forwards.”

The Church of England is consulting on LGBT+ issues as part of its Living in Love and Faith project.

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

### Lambeth Conference on Discipleship

“Discipleship is sharing the Word of God together... and praying together with a clear mission or focus.”

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Assistant bishop, the Rt Revd Eleanor Sanderson, shares how The Diocese of Wellington has been making discipleship a key priority.

Read more [➡ lambethconference.org/discipleship-h...](https://lambethconference.org/discipleship-h...)

## Archbishop Welby on Lambeth Conference

I am delighted to be welcoming over 1,000 people to Canterbury for the 15th Lambeth Conference in just a month's time. Together, we will explore what it means to be God's Church for God's World in the challenges and opportunities we face.



The welfare of the  
family is decisive for  
the future of the  
world  
and that of the  
Church.

- Pope Francis

*Amoris Laetitia*, 31

@catholicbishops





St Macartin's Cathedral,  
the Parish of Enniskillen

**Flower Festival**

*"Signs & Sayings  
in John's Gospel"*

Artistic Director: Erne Flowers  
assisted by Alan Beatty & James Burnside

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**Friday 26th - Monday 29th May 2023**

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**Festival Times**  
Friday: 10am-8pm  
Opening Service: 8pm  
Saturday: 10am-8pm  
Sunday: 2pm-6pm  
Morning Services: 9am & 11am  
Celebratory Service: 7pm  
Monday: 10am-8pm

Refreshments available  
Group bookings welcome

Contact the Cathedral Office:  
02866322917 or  
[stmacartins@btopenworld.com](mailto:stmacartins@btopenworld.com)

Proceeds in Aid  
of Church Funds

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When we meet, we will ask God how the Anglican Communion can share the task of transformation in the name of Jesus Christ.

To find out more about the upcoming Lambeth Conference, visit:

<http://lambethconference.org>

## **The great feast of Pentecost**

Discover more about the great feast of Pentecost and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit with free articles and resources from Catholic Bishops of England and Wales.

Visit The God Who Speaks to learn more ↘ ↘

<https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/pentecost/>

## **Special edition of CPAS Today**

In this special edition of CPAS Today, the Rt Rev Mark Tanner, Bishop of Chester and Chair of CPAS Trustees, announces the appointment of their new Chief Executive Officer, the Rev Jon Scamman.

Find out more about how you can prayerfully support CPAS at

[www.cpas.org.uk/pray](http://www.cpas.org.uk/pray).

## **Belfast Cathedral concerts**

Enjoy a summer of special evening concerts in the stunning location of Belfast Cathedral. From classical and candlelit, to

the popular classics that were the soundtrack to summers past.

For tickets and further information check out the following websites:

[www.kindadusty.co.uk](http://www.kindadusty.co.uk)

[www.feverup.com](http://www.feverup.com)

## Perspective

### **Bear Grylls: 'My Christian faith is my secret strength'**

The explorer and TV presenter Bear Grylls has opened up about his faith during a recent interview.

In an episode of The Diary of a CEO with Steven Bartlett, Grylls shared how his Christian faith has been "a real backbone" and a "secret of strength" in difficult moments.

Bartlett had asked Grylls whether he got a feeling of fulfilment and achievement from climbing mountains and having success with his TV show.

But Grylls said he found his sense of accomplishment from his Christian faith which had led him to be proud of "simpler things" such as being married for 22 years or having three boys.

Although the 48-year-old adventurer admitted he found it "hard to articulate" his faith as he understands how religion has been "tarnished", he has always been vocal about it.



He has previously been quoted saying his faith has been "a very empowering and important part of his life" and has various links with Holy Trinity Brompton (HTB).

Grylls was also famously seen praying for former president of the USA, Barack Obama during an episode of his TV show Running Wild with Bear Grylls.

Grylls continued: "I was always the least religious person growing up.

"As I kid I had a really natural faith, I always believed in some higher power, I could feel there was something around and then I went to school, and we all had to go church and they all wore white cassocks and spoke Latin. It's been a life journey to unwind all of that and realise that actually the little me had it right.

"Faith is in your heart, knowing that you are not alone. There's something bigger than us out there and therefore that power is for us and not against us and despite my doubts, I'm going to put my trust in that and try to have love at the centre of all we do, and live empowered and go for things and not be driven by fear."

A new season of Running Wild with Bear Grylls will be released in July, with celebrity guests learning essential survival skills.

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

## Poem for today

### Begin by Brendan Kennelly

Begin again to the summoning birds  
to the sight of the light at the window,  
begin to the roar of morning traffic  
all along Pembroke Road.  
Every beginning is a promise  
born in light and dying in dark  
determination and exaltation of springtime  
flowering the way to work.  
Begin to the pageant of queuing girls  
the arrogant loneliness of swans in the canal  
bridges linking the past and future  
old friends passing though with us still.  
Begin to the loneliness that cannot end  
since it perhaps is what makes us begin,  
begin to wonder at unknown faces  
at crying birds in the sudden rain  
at branches stark in the willing sunlight  
at seagulls foraging for bread  
at couples sharing a sunny secret  
alone together while making good.  
Though we live in a world that dreams of ending  
that always seems about to give in  
something that will not acknowledge conclusion  
insists that we forever begin.

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# Church News Ireland

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