

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Jubilee street party at St. Brendan's

Image of the day

Jubilee street party at St. Brendan's

People and places

Jubilee street party at St. Brendan's

One of many celebration events in Down and Dromore to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee took place in St. Brendan's, Sydenham on Thursday afternoon.

Over 600 people of all ages joined together in celebration at the free community street party that included lunch, tea and coffee, ice creams, slushies, crafts, music, fancy dress, soft play area and bouncy castles. A free book on the faith of the Queen was given out, the national anthem was sung and there was even a life-size cut out of her majesty for people to take photos as she couldn't make it in person(!).

Andrew Brannigan, who helps to lead the church, said after the event; "This is one of the biggest events we have run in the parish and it is a testimony to people's admiration for the Queen and also the hard work and dedication of the organising team and volunteers here.

It was a hectic day trying to keep up with the influx of arrivals and constantly make more sandwiches and tea but the team somehow managed it. It was worth it though to celebrate the jubilee and bless the community in Sydenham. The atmosphere was brilliant and a big thanks is due to all who attended and especially those who helped out."

June 4, 2022

Sydenham parish will round off their jubilee weekend with a cream tea after church on Sunday at 12.30pm.



Belvoir's Jubilee Tea for seventy

Seventy people – seventy years!

“At Belvoir Parish we enjoyed a special Jubilee Afternoon Tea on 2 June where we had a seat at the table for 70 people – one for every year of the Queen’s reign. (We might have sneaked in a few extra guests for good measure!)

“We were piped into the hall where we enjoyed music by Geoffrey Cherry, a sing-song, a photographic montage of the Queen’s life and her many visits to Northern Ireland, and of course a traditional afternoon tea with cream scones and tottering towers of cupcakes, trifles and lemon possets. Every cake stand in BT8 was put to good use! We finished a fantastic lunch with a sparkling toast to the Queen.”

CNI

Service of Thanksgiving for Queen Elizabeth is held at Enniskillen Cathedral



The Service of Thanksgiving for Her Majesty, The Queen's Platinum Jubilee took place on Thursday evening in St Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen

The service was filled with music and tributes to Her Majesty.

In his address, the Bishop of Clogher, the Right Revd Dr. Ian Ellis described it as “a joyous occasion to celebrate a most significant landmark in the life of our nation; the Platinum Jubilee of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth.”



Mrs Jane Styles Her Majesty's Deputy Lieutenant for Fermanagh lighting the beacon

He said 70 years was an outstanding record of steadfast duty and service to her subjects, and she had imbued her Royal duties in all of those years with her customary grace and dedication.

He elaborated on the words “duty and service” linking them with the Gospel reading with the words of the Lord Jesus: I am among you as one who serves.

Bishop Ellis said; “Duty and service tend not to be popular words today; our society inclines to think in contractual and employment terms when we consider the roles people may have. There is of course nowadays correctly, a focus on



Mrs Jane Styles Her Majesty's Deputy Lieutenant for Fermanagh

rights as many inequalities need to be addressed. However, in New Testament terms the Christian is called to serve and to follow the model of our Saviour Christ who gave up his rights and offered his life as a sacrifice. I think it is this attitude of mind which has influenced Queen Elizabeth who has spoken openly about her personal faith in Christ and how he has sustained her particularly in challenging moments in her personal and regal life.

“That brings me back to those two words ‘duty’ and ‘service’. There is no doubt that Queen Elizabeth has seen her role as monarch as the call of God upon her life, and she sees it as her duty and service to God, to the people of the United

June 4, 2022

Kingdom and the Commonwealth. In that service she has dedicated herself unstintingly and consistently to all the public duties and constitutional roles expected of her.

“The Queen’s early upbringing, the influence of her parents and her worshipping life using the prayerbook of the Church of England, have undoubtedly shaped her life. “



[Monsignor Peter O'Reilly reading the Gospel Reading.](#)

Bishop Ellis examined duty and service in more detail and said; 'The Queen had demonstrated that kind of service to her country and commonwealth. She had delivered her historic address during her visit to Dublin in 2011 and in 2012 during her visit to Enniskillen, she led the way in

promoting neighbourliness and breaking down barriers to friendship and working together.

He continued; “We might ask ourselves are we truly following this command to love our neighbour as ourselves and to be inspired by the example that Queen Elizabeth has modelled in her life.

“Duty and service is what God requires of all who follow his Son Jesus Christ, we are servants of the servant. During Holy Week on Maundy Thursday we remembered that Christ took a towel, knelt down and washed his disciples’ feet. Queen Elizabeth continues a time-honoured tradition of monarchs in presenting Maundy Money each year on that day to citizens who have given exemplary service to the community. Service to others following the example of Christ has characterised her reign and has indeed been a primary impulse of her life. We thank God today for this example and lifetime of duty and service.

“God does not call us to be great servants but faithful servants. In our time we need men and women not to do great things necessarily, but to be faithful in their duty to God and to neighbour. In our churches we are called to be members of a body serving our Lord and serving each other with humility and faithfulness. In wider society we must become a people more at ease with ourselves across the different traditions and communities. To desire and seek the future common good, development and prosperity of all citizens.

“As we celebrate this festive Platinum Jubilee may we draw inspiration from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth through the

example of her faith, her devotion to Christ and dedication to selfless service. Let us bring our own response to God, through trust in his Son and in duty and service as members of the communities to which we belong.

“This evening as we light beacons across the country and across our town may we be inspired by our Queen’s shining example of duty and service to shine brightly as lights in the world of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ who came not to be served but to give his life for us all. And may God bless the Queen with the knowledge of our profound gratitude for her unwavering sense of duty and service to us all.

“May God save our gracious Queen.”

The service was conducted by the Revd Christopher West, Curate Assistant at St. Macartin’s Cathedral.

The Old Testament Reading was read by Mrs Jane Styles, Her Majesty’s Deputy Lieutenant for Co. Fermanagh; the New Testament Reading was by Mr. Sam Morrow OBE, Honorary Secretary of St. Macartin’s Cathedral and the Gospel Reading was by The Right Revd Monsignor Peter O’Reilly, PP, VG, Roman Catholic Dean of Clogher.

The Bells of the Cathedral were rung by The Guild of Ringers before and after the service.

The hymns were; “Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,” “O God, our help in ages past,” “Lord of all hopefulness,” “I vow to thee my country” and “Now thank we all our God.” The praise was led by the Cathedral Choir conducted by Mr. David Baxter and accompanied by organist, Mr. Glenn Moore.

June 4, 2022

Among those attending were clergy from the main churches in Enniskillen.

The service was followed by the lighting of the beacon in the grounds of the Cathedral and music from the Community Massed Pipes and Drums hosted by the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association (Fermanagh Section) performed a pipers tribute to Her Majesty The Queen.

There were also musical tributes from buglers and a song for the Commonwealth “A life lived with grace” was performed by St. Macartin’s Cathedral Choir.

Afterwards the lighting of 12 beacons in the walls of Enniskillen Castle organised by Enniskillen Rotary Club took place as well as beacons lit by Scouts and Guides on Castle Island and by Scouts at Topped Mountain and also at Enniskillen Royal Grammar School by the NI Battalion Army Cadet Force.

Armagh gives thanks

Archbishop Lord Eames returned to Armagh as preacher at a Service of Thanksgiving to Celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty The Queen

The service was held in St Patrick’s Cathedral, Armagh on Thursday 2nd June 2022 at 8pm. The service was followed by the lighting of the Jubilee Beacon in the Cathedral grounds.

June 4, 2022



Also taking part in the service was Archbishop Martin, the Roman Catholic primate.



Archbishop McDowell represented the Church of Ireland at the National service of thanksgiving in St Paul's Cathedral, London.





Celebration of Wholeness and Healing in Raphoe diocese

The small village of Ballintra, in County Donegal, was the venue, on Sunday evening, for the first in-person Healing Service in the diocese since the pandemic struck, over two years ago.

The Service of Celebration of Wholeness and Healing, in Drumholm Parish Church – one of the southernmost churches in the diocese – was led by the Rector of Macosquin, Rev Paul Lyons, who is Warden of the Derry and Raphoe Ministry of Healing. He was assisted by Rev Heather Houlton, who preached the sermon and took part in the laying on of hands; Archdeacon David Huss, who provided music; and Wendy McCool and Brian Seaton, from the Diocese's Healing Ministry team, who delivered the Gospel readings and helped with the private prayers afterwards.

The clergy and congregation – which included people from different denominations – were welcomed to the church by the Rector of Drumholm, Kilbarron and Rossnowlagh, Rev Canon Brian Russell.

Rev Lyons said those taking part in the service “believed fervently in the power of prayer”. He encouraged members of the congregation to avail of the opportunity for prayer: “Maybe it’s for illness, maybe it’s for a relationship, maybe it’s for a certain situation.”

In her sermon, Rev Houlton said those present were thinking mainly of sickness of “body, mind and spirit”. She commended Romans Chapter 8 to anyone who was feeling down. “It’s filled with encouraging words,” she said, “especially the second half of the chapter, so, remember that: pull out your Bible and read Romans 8 as soon as you can.”

Rev Houlton said that she had been on teams praying for healing for many years and had seen answers to prayer. “When the Holy Spirit touches us,” she said, “it is possible for us to experience healing because the Holy Spirit is so powerful. He was there at the beginning of creation. God is the one who knows our complex human bodies because he made them. The Holy Spirit came into Christ’s dead body in the tomb and raised him from the dead. The Holy Spirit is able to do that, and he is able to touch our bodies in the place of our sickness still today.”

After the service, the congregation stayed on either to pray privately – as individuals – with the Healing Ministry team, or

to enjoy refreshments provided by members of Drumholm Parish.

Rev Lyons said he and his colleagues on the Ministry of Healing team looked forward to supporting clergy and congregations right across the diocese in future. He invited rural deans to get in touch if they wanted the team to come and support healing services in their local communities.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Bishop Chillingworth's thoughts on the Jubilee

The Rt Rev David Chillingworth, former Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church, highlighted the Queen's strong religious faith as he gave 'Thought For the Day' on BBC Radio Scotland's flagship Good Morning Scotland programme.

The former Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld & Dunblane reflected on the Monarch's 70 years of service ahead of this weekend's Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

The broadcast can be heard here <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m0017s2k> at the 20:35 mark, and the full text appears here <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/the-queens-faith-has-guided-and-sustained-her/>

June 4, 2022

June Presbyterian Herald available

This month the Herald features the 'big interview' with Moderator-designate, Rev John Kirkpatrick, who will be installed at the General Assembly later in June.

Read the editor's letter here:

<https://www.presbyterianireland.org/Blog/May-2022/Presbyterian-Herald-June-2022.aspx>

Download the edition electronically via Issuu here:

<https://issuu.com/presbyterianireland>



Prayers for World Meeting of Families

Pope Francis releases his prayer intention for June 2022, and urges Catholics to pray for all families during the month in which Rome hosts the 10th World Meeting of Families.
<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2022-06/pope-francis-june-prayer-intention-families-world-meeting.html>

Perspective

The Queen's faith has enabled her to be a constant strength and comfort of the nation - Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York

Amid all the pomp, pageantry and pleasure the Platinum Jubilee brings, it is easy to forget that at its heart, the Coronation of 69 years ago was a religious event.

And while television cameras may have been granted access to Westminster Abbey, one moment was hidden from public view. Her Majesty was anointed with oil and afforded a time of stillness and reflection before God. She was also given a Bible by the Archbishop of Canterbury and reminded that scripture is “the most valuable thing this world affords”.

Geoffrey Fisher was the archbishop at the time. He came alongside Her Majesty as she prepared for the spiritual journey that lay ahead. One of the treasures in the Lambeth Palace library is the book of devotions, which he presented

to Her Majesty all those years ago. It includes prayers, passages of scripture and daily meditations.

For Her Majesty, the Coronation was an intimate encounter between a monarch and her God, a moment where the Queen would be called by name and given a lifelong vocation. It marked a moment where her personal relationship with Christ met the national events and public moments that remind us that this country, its laws and customs and culture, is shaped by the Christian faith.

This is a discipleship that, gently but truly and generously, makes the love of Christ known

The Queen's Christmas addresses have long been a powerful and public example of this faith in our national life. They show how faith in Christ informs and sustains the values of duty, service, honour and sacrifice we so rightly commend this Jubilee.

It is the lens through which she has viewed the world.

Invoking the parable of the Good Samaritan in her Christmas address in 1989, she said: "Our neighbours are those of our friends, or complete strangers, who need a helping hand. Do you think they might also be some of the living species threatened by spoiled rivers, or some of the children in places like Ethiopia and Sudan who don't have enough to eat?" And, referencing the same story in 1985, she concluded her address by saying that "the story of the Good Samaritan reminds us of our duty to our neighbour. We should try to follow Christ's clear instruction at the end of that story: 'Go and do thou likewise'."

As Supreme Governor of the Church of England, when addressing General Synod the Queen has often spoken about the “ministry of reconciliation” to which Christians are called. She has lived that ministry out in a most remarkable way. In 2012, the Queen famously shook hands with Martin McGuinness, despite the long and painful history and her beloved uncle’s death at the hands of the IRA in 1979.

image

All of this has been sustained, replenished and shaped by the rhythms of daily prayer and weekly worship that are the bedrock of a Christian life. This Christian faith is sacrificial as well as deeply practical. It urges behaviour that reflects the heart of God and the life of Christ. In a world that has changed so greatly during Her Majesty’s reign, she has, as the Primate of Wales once said, “regarded the Christian faith as the rock on which you have been able to draw strength and comfort”, and in turn has so often been the strength and comfort of the nation. This is a discipleship that, gently but truly and generously, makes the love of Christ and the care of God known. Quite simply, she could not be as she has been without her faith in Christ.

In Archbishop Fisher’s book of private devotions, the first prayer he gave the Queen to consider was Psalm 25:3-4: “Shew me they ways, O Lord: and teach me thy paths. Lead me forth in thy truth, and learn me: for thou art the God of my salvation; in thee hath been my hope all the day long.”

This prayer, which Her Majesty prayed in 1953, is still as relevant today, and as a Christian I too take great comfort in it as I seek to follow in the way of Christ. It is, indeed, a calling for all of us.

Poem for today

Inniskeen Road: July Evening by Patrick Kavanagh

The bicycles go by in twos and threes
There's a dance in Billy Brennan's barn to-night,
And there's the half-talk code of mysteries
And the wink-and-elbow language of delight.
Half-past eight and there is not a spot
Upon a mile of road, no shadow thrown
That might turn out a man or woman, not
A footfall tapping secrecies of stone.
I have what every poet hates in spite
Of all the solemn talk of contemplation.
Oh, Alexander Selkirk knew the plight
Of being king and government and nation.
A road, a mile of kingdom, I am king
Of banks and stones and every blooming thing.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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

