



**Image of the day - Seymour Street Methodist Church, Lisburn**

## **Methodist Church in Ireland to install its first leader of colour**

**The Methodist Church in Ireland (MCI) says it is set to make history when it installs its first national leader of colour next week.**



Reverend Dr Sahr Yambasu

will be formally appointed as MCI President at the church's annual conference, which will be held at the Agape Centre on south Belfast's Lisburn Road on June 9, Gillian Halliday reports in the Belfast Telegraph.

Dr Yambasu will be the first non-white person to hold the leadership position in one of Ireland's four main churches, the MCI has said.

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Dr Yambasu was born in Sierra Leone in 1957 and attended the Irish Methodist Theological College, Edgehill in Belfast where he studied for a BD at Queen's University and was then awarded a scholarship to Cambridge where in 1992 he was awarded his PhD.

His wife Clodagh Yambasu is a daughter of a prominent Methodist family in Longford and is now also a minister within the Methodist Church in Ireland.

They returned to Sierra Leone after their marriage, but came back to Ireland in 1995 owing to civil war. Dr. Yambasu ministers at St. Patrick's Church in Waterford, while his wife oversees a parish in Birr, Co Offaly.

He revealed that has chosen as his theme for his year of office; 'People First, Under God' — a message of social equality underpinned by Christian love.

Speaking ahead of his installation, he said: “As a church, we are often more exercised about the shade of paint on a church wall, what doctrines we teach, what denomination we belong to, what interpretation is correct or wrong than we are with the value and equality of every human being.

“The Black Lives Matter movement, the rise in popularity of right wing thinking and groups, the hostile attitude towards migrants, asylum seekers, refugees and Muslims, the continuing disparity in pay and awarding of leadership roles between men and women and the rampant discrimination and racism in the workplace and beyond point, among other things, to the fact that some human beings are not

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recognised, respected and valued in the same way as other human beings.

“If by the end of my Presidential year, people begin to think a little bit more about these themes in the light of their calling to follow Christ, I'll consider it a success.”

In his inaugural address, Dr. Yambasu will reflect on the example of the late Irish Senator Gordon Wilson's message of forgiveness after losing his daughter Marie in the Enniskillen bomb of 1987.

“[Gordon] decided to make a name for God rather than himself,” said the Reverend.

“He embraced the sacrificial way of God in Christ, who has not given up on people to fulfil their calling to be signs of God's grace on earth. Gordon helped me see how, under the influence of the Holy Spirit, people are enabled to relate to other people as God would.”

Courtesy the Belfast Telegraph 03.06.2021

## **Impressive fund-raising start for new Cork, Cloyne and Ross charity**

**A new charity – The Bishop of Cork Pastoral Care Fund – was established in late 2020 by Bishop Paul Colton, with the support of the Diocesan Council, in the United Dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross.**

A Founders' Appeal launched by the Bishop has raised nearly €162,000, for investment, to set the charity on its

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way. Of that amount, nearly €124,000 was raised in just 14 weeks, in the period from the second week of Lent until Trinity Sunday, last Sunday.

The charity, recognised by and registered with the Charities' Regulator, has been set up in a very broad way to help, within the resources available to it, any necessitous person in Cork City or Cork County under the following headings permitted by charity legislation:

Relief of poverty or economic hardship

The advancement of education

Advancement of community welfare including the relief of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill-health, or disability

The advancement of religion with a special focus on the promotion of religious or racial harmony and harmonious community relations

The United Dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross and its bishops have been associated with many charities for many centuries but this is the first charity to be set up directly by a bishop and the Diocese with such a broad and all-encompassing range of charitable objects.

'Apart from the fact that a new Charity was needed because a number of smaller charities had to be wound up and consolidated in a viable unit for the purposes of implementing the Charities Governance Code,' explained Bishop Colton, 'other donors were coming forward to

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support the work of the Church of Ireland through the Bishop of the Diocese, and a proper charity setup was essential to make that possible. Given that a new charity was necessary it was decided to make it as strong and as [Bishop Colton held up the vision to the Diocese of this charity as one way to implement the third of The Five Marks of Mission of the Anglican Communion, namely ‘to respond to human need with loving service.’](#)

potent as possible for the benefit of those in need, now and in the future. It is also vital that the discretionary charity work done by a bishop on behalf of a diocese is transparent and regulated within the charities’ governance structures.’

Bishop Colton held up the vision to the Diocese of this charity as one way to implement the third of The Five Marks of Mission of the Anglican Communion, namely ‘to respond to human need with loving service.’

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Thanking all of the donors to the Founders' Appeal, Bishop Colton said: 'I feel strongly that we shouldn't just ride on the bus set in motion by our generous ancestors in the past. We all have an opportunity in our own time to do something positive and to make a difference now, in a way that the people of future generations will be thankful for.'

'Yes, it seemed counterintuitive to set up a new charity in the midst of the crisis of a pandemic but, paradoxically, it has proven to be the right time; people here have recognised the need, shared the vision, and supported it very generously.'

'I thank each and every person who has supported the Founders' Appeal to date: people and parishes from this Diocese, friends of the Diocese from all over Ireland, and people from the Cork diaspora as far away as New Zealand.'

'The Founders' Appeal itself was inspired by two celebrations and commemorations of recent times. The 150th anniversary of the disestablishment of the Church of Ireland was a reminder of the significant voluntary donations of members of the Church in those difficult days to the future work of the Church. Between April and October 1870, £30,000 ( a huge sum at the time) was raised in Cork, Cloyne and Ross alone. And, in the same period of history in Cork, Cloyne and Ross the people had been raising money to build the new Saint Fin Barre's Cathedral. I recently came across the list of subscribers to that in a photograph album which was kept by Bishop John Gregg.'

Each parish in the Diocese has appointed liaison persons to work with the Bishop and trustees of the new Charity.

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It is still possible to support The Founders' Appeal for the Bishop of Cork Pastoral Care Fund. Please go here to visit the Charity's webpage

<http://cork.anglican.org/charities/bishop-of-cork-pastoral-care-fund/>

## **Commemorative booklet marks 300th anniversary of Ballymena Parish**

**The Parish of Kilconriola and Ballyclug, Ballymena, marks its 300th anniversary this year and the Mayor of Mid and East Antrim Borough Council has officially launched a special commemorative booklet to mark the tercentenary.**

Councillor Peter Johnston was joined for the launch by the rector, the Rev Canon Mark McConnell; curate, the Rev Emma Carson; and members of the congregation who produced the booklet with council's support.

The Mayor said: "We are delighted to mark this significant milestone with St Patrick's Church of Ireland in Ballymena. The present church and its predecessor church, now known as the Old Church Yard off Church Street in Ballymena centre, are woven into the fabric of the history of the town, being two of Ballymena's well known Seven Towers.

"Given the difficulties of the last year, Council also recognises the valuable role that our local churches play in their congregation's wellbeing but also wider community life."





Pictured in front of Old Tower, site of the original church, are, from left: The Rev Emma Carson, curate; Roy Smith, a direct descendant of the Adair family; Cllr Peter Johnston, Mayor of Mid and East Antrim Borough Council; James Perry MBE; Deputy Lieutenant for County Antrim; and the Rev Canon Mark McConnell. Photo: Loraine Watt.

Canon McConnell said that the

tercentenary brochure had been made possible by the support of Mid and East Antrim Borough Council, and the parish was very grateful.

“This brochure is an excellent resource and I hope many people will take the time to enjoy it and visit us at St Patrick’s after our planned renovation works are complete,” Mark said.

The attractively produced brochure provides a brief history of St Patrick’s Church and the wider parish, including referencing the Old Church Yard site where the predecessor St Patrick’s Parish Church served generations of families after being consecrated in 1721.

The present St Patrick's Church on Castle Street welcomes people today. It was constructed after fundraising, generously supported by the local landowner Adair family in the 1850s.

The booklet also includes a visitor guide to enable visitors to appreciate the church building and fine interior.

## **Dean of Christ Church wins fifth legal bid to oust him**

**One of Britain's most senior Court of Appeal judges has thrown out an Oxford University college's fifth legal bid to oust its embattled Dean.**

The Very Rev Martyn Percy, who presides over Christ Church and its cathedral, has been embroiled in a long-standing, multimillion-pound battle with Oxford dons over his tenure.

The latest dispute follows on from an allegation that he "sexually harassed" a woman by stroking her hair and complimenting her on her appearance.

The allegation, which he denied, was reported to police triggering a "thorough investigation" which was then promptly concluded without arrests.

However, it has now emerged that Judge Dame Sarah Asplin, president of tribunals for the Church of England, has rejected a move by Christ Church to haul its dean before a

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Church of England disciplinary tribunal under the Clergy Discipline Measure (CDM) – the process which hands out ecclesiastical punishment and sanctions for clergy.

In a 1,200-word judgment, Dame Sarah said it would be “entirely disproportionate” for the matter to be referred to a clergy disciplinary tribunal.

While she ruled that both witnesses and their accounts were “credible,” she said disciplinary tribunals were intended to deal with serious misconduct. “Although I do not intend to trivialise ... allegations in any way,” she wrote, “it seems to me that it is entirely disproportionate that this matter should be referred to a tribunal”. A college spokesperson said: “The tribunal process is continuing and there will be no further updates at this time, nor will Christ Church comment on any separate, external processes.”

## People and places



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## Tipperary Town man ordained Deacon

Tipperary Live reports - A Tipperary Town man was ordained a Deacon to the Church of Ireland, Ordained Local Ministry (OLM), on Sunday, May 23.

The Ordination of Reverend Mike O'Meara took place in St Mary's Church in Tipperary Town and was presided over by The Right Reverend Michael A.J. Burrows (far left), Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory and by the Very Reverend Gerald Field, Dean of the Cathedral and Rector Cashel Union of Parishes (far right). Our congratulations to Reverend O'Meara on his ordination and every blessing to him in his ministry. Courtesy of Tipperary Live

### Richard's 60/60km for Tearfund NI this month

Richard Ryan of The Book Well and St Dorothea's Parish, Gilnahirk, is running 60/60km for



Tearfund NI this month. "My mate Dave joined me for the last one just to make sure I finished! Thanks for all who have sponsored me. Your donations will change so many lives."

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## ICMA virtual Summer School - 'Songs of Love, Faith, Trust & Praise'

July 7th-10th 2021. Workshops Wed, Thurs, Fri at 8pm, Sat at 2pm. No booking required. A virtual choir will accompany the summer school - submission details to follow.

### Joseph in Belfast

Belfast Cathedral Summer Music School presents...Joseph and the Amazing Technicoloured Dreamcoat Summer Music Course

Taking place from the 16th-20th August, 9am-4pm, this course is for children ages 7-14.

Belfast Cathedral is offering children the opportunity to work with a team of specialist music tutors on this 5-day course, which will culminate in a concert performance of Joseph and

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the Amazing Technicoloured Dreamcoat and other works for family and friends.

The course is open to all children regardless of their musical ability and we welcome complete beginners alongside those who are more advanced. We will be working with some of the city's finest professional musicians to create a vibrant and exciting programme.

Follow the link below to discover more about the Summer Music Course and to download the application form. If you have any questions contact [bcsms@belfastcathedral.org](mailto:bcsms@belfastcathedral.org).

<https://www.belfastcathedral.org/news/belfast-cathedral-summer-music-school>

## **Fellowship in Palliative Care Education honour for cleric**

Rev Dr Daniel Nuzum, of the pastoral care team at Marymount University Hospital and Hospice has been awarded an AIHPC Palliative Care Education Fellowship. This award aims to support palliative care professionals across the island of Ireland. Marymount CEO Sarah McCloskey said, "We are proud and honored to announce that Dr Daniel Nuzum has been awarded an AIHPC Palliative Care Education Fellowship, we look forward to working with Daniel on his new initiatives which will be invaluable to palliative care education in Marymount".

Daniel's fellowship has been awarded for the development of online spiritual care educational resources for use in palliative care. Daniel's aim is that the fellowship will provide

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training resources for cross professional education in palliative care in the area of spirituality which is globally recognised as a constituent part of palliative care.

## **Irish winner in WCC prestigious essay writing competition**

Rev Chris West has been announced as one of the five winners of the World Council of Churches (WCC) prestigious essay writing competition. Chosen by an international panel of judges from the Ecumenical Institute in Bossey and the WCC, the essays cover a range of themes and perspectives related to the topic of the competition, “The Future of Interreligious Dialogue.” In the June issue of the Church of Ireland Gazette, Rev West writes about the themes explored in his winning entry where he explores faith, hope and love as key principles for interreligious engagement.

## **Former St Patrick’s verger in charge at Salisbury**

St Patrick’s Cathedral, Dublin, has sent congratulations to Esther Lycett “on her very well-deserved appointment as Head Verger at Salisbury Cathedral. This is an historic appointment, as Esther is the first woman to hold this role. Esther was a verger here at the Cathedral for many years, and is very much missed, although we couldn't be happier for her! “

<https://www.salisburyjournal.co.uk/news/19341591.first-female-head-verger-admitted-salisbury-cathedral/>

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## **Canterbury - are hiring a new Director of Music**

“We seek an outstanding choral director with the imagination, creativity, and entrepreneurship necessary to deliver our vision for the musical life of the Mother Church of the Anglican Communion.”

Find out more and apply [bit.ly/CCDofM](https://bit.ly/CCDofM)

## **India: Hundreds of priests and religious among Covid deaths**

More than 329,000 people have died from the Covid pandemic in India so far. Among the dead are 204 priests, 212 nuns and three bishops. Suresh Mathew, Capuchin friar and editor-in-chief of the English-language magazine 'Indian Currents' said: "Most of the priests and nuns who died, were in rural areas carrying out pastoral work and did not have access to health services."

Among the deceased are religious from different religious orders. The Jesuits who work among the poor, indigenous groups, tribes and outcasts, have registered 36 deaths. The Missionaries of Charity, who take care of abandoned and dying people have lost 14 nuns.

## **Seymour Street Methodist Church, Lisburn.**

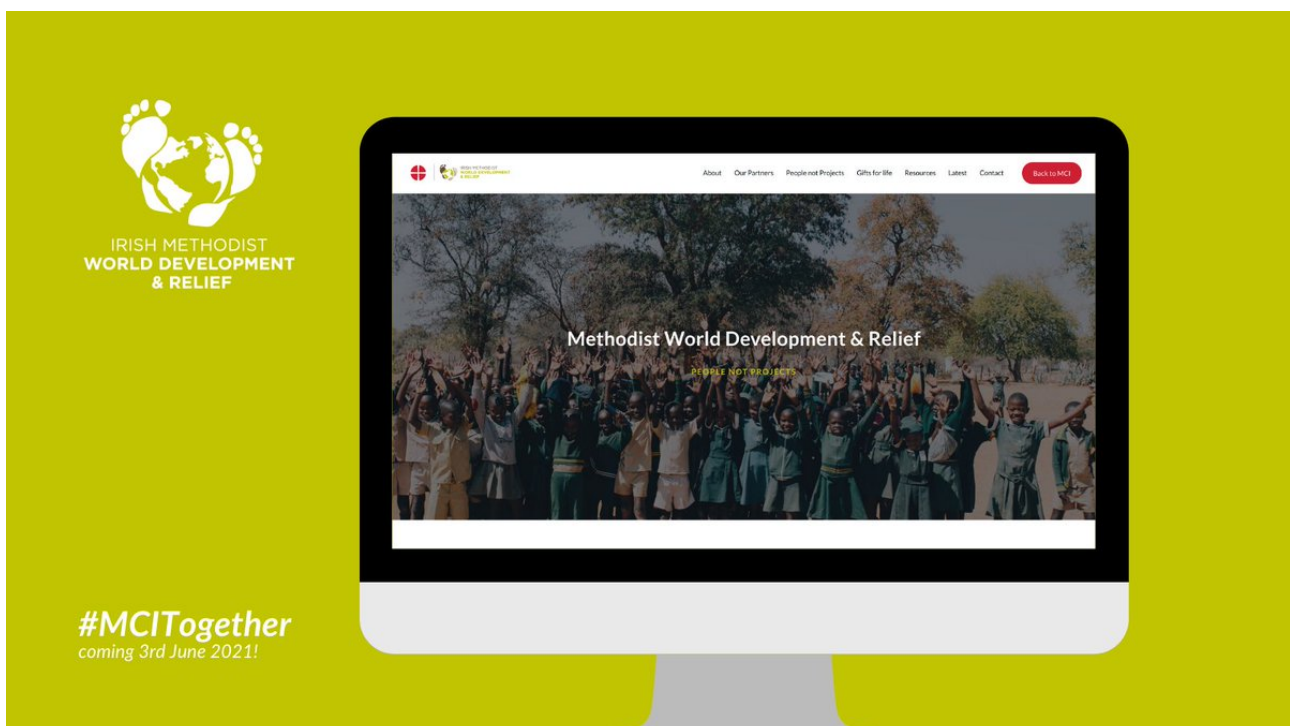
Front page photo - The church was built and opened for Public Worship on Sunday November 21st 1875. A description of the new church appeared in The Irish Evangelist of 1st January 1876. "The new church is a very conspicuous and ornamental building, occupying an



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excellent site at the extreme end of Seymour Street, at the junction of the Belfast and Hilden roads. The main front is approached by a gradual incline and a flight of steps leading to a large open vestibule, having bold, massive columns of the finest County Down granite. The carved caps and other attachments being of Dungannon stone. The vestibule is surmounted by an encircled cornice and a large stone circular window in the principal gable. (The original church was in Market Street, Lisburn, erected about 1774 and served to 1873. It suffered from decay/damp and a public roadway beckoned a new church to be built) Courtesy - George E. Orr on Methodist Church Website. Photograph 25 April 2021.

## Books, Broadcasts, Resources and Webinars



## Methodist Church launches new online home

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On 3rd June, the Irish Methodist Church launched a new online home. The church tweeted, “This new website is one step forward in our commitment to live wholeheartedly as followers of Jesus, being His hands and feet online and offline”.

**CONFERENCE 2021**  
*Installation Service*

REV SAHR YAMBASU

*People first, under God.*

#MCICONF21

## **Methodist Conference 2021 Installation Service**

You are invited to join the MCI for the Installation Service of President Designate Rev. Sahr Yambasu. Taking place on Wednesday 9th June at 7:30PM. You can watch live on the MCI Website.

Follow [#MCIConf21](#) or [<https://www.irishmethodist.org/>]for Updates

## **King's College input to First Night of the BBC Proms**

The Director of Music at Kings College, Cambridge, Daniel Hyde, will be performing at the First Night of the BBC Proms

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this year, playing Poulenc's Organ Concerto with the BBC Symphony Orchestra lead by Dalia Stasevska. It'll be broadcast live from the Royal Albert Hall on TV and radio on Friday 30 July. Don't miss it!



## Pointers for prayer

<http://cork.anglican.org/charities/bishop-of-cork-pastoral-care-fund/>Your hand is upon your people, O God, to guide and protect them through the ages.

Keep in your service

those you have called and anointed,

that the powers of this world may not overwhelm us, but

that, secure in your love,

we may carry out your will

in the face of all adversity. Amen.

O God our ruler and shepherd, you anointed Jesus as the king and servant of your people. Make us attentive to your word, that we may accept your reign over us and serve you alone. Amen.

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Friends in Christ,  
God invites us to hold the needs of our sisters and brothers  
as dear to us as our own needs.  
Loving our neighbours as ourselves,  
we offer our thanksgivings and our petitions  
on behalf of the church and the world.

*Intercessions*

....

Hear our prayers, God of power,  
and through the ministry of your Son  
free us from the grip of the tomb,  
that we may desire you as the fullness of life  
and proclaim your saving deeds to all the world. Amen.  
As you heard the prayer of Isaac and Rebekah, O God,  
and guided them in the way of your love,  
so listen now to those who call upon you.

...

*Intercessions*

....

Move us to praise your gracious will,  
for in Christ Jesus you have saved us from the deeds of  
death and opened for us the hidden ways of your love.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.  
Lord God, friend of those in need,  
your Son Jesus has untied our burdens  
and healed our spirits.  
We lift up the prayers of our hearts for those still burdened,  
those seeking healing,  
those in need within the church and the world.

*...Intercessions....*

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Hear our prayers  
that we may love you with our whole being  
and willingly share the concerns of our neighbours. Amen.

Creator God,  
you call us to love and serve you  
with body, mind, and spirit  
through loving your creation  
and our sisters and brothers.  
Open our hearts in compassion  
and receive these petitions  
on behalf of the needs of the church and the world. Amen

## Speaking to the Soul

**“We all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done!” They stood there amazed and perplexed. “What can this mean?” they asked each other. But others in the crowd ridiculed them, saying, “They’re just drunk, that’s all!”**  
Acts 2:11-13 NLT

I love the carefulness of Dr Luke’s account of the day of Pentecost. He is giving us only a very brief summary of what actually happened on that amazing day, but he doesn’t miss out the fact that many people struggled to work out what on earth was going on! For us it is absolutely clear what a significant day it was, but for many people at the time it was thoroughly perplexing. Some asked genuine questions, and Peter is just about to give them a very full explanation. But other people concluded that the bizarre events could only be explained by alcohol.

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When God works in your life in a big way there will always be a variety of responses. Perhaps you have felt led to be confirmed or baptised, or to change your job in obedience to the Lord, or to work for him in another country. Some people will have questions and we should always be delighted by this. I remember the time when an uncle of mine became a minister. He had a well-paid job in the oil industry and lived in a beautiful home in the suburbs. As a minister he lived in a much smaller house in a far less attractive area and saw his income reduced enormously. There were inevitably many questions! Such moments give us, like Peter, a superb opportunity for explaining to people what our faith means to us.

But, be warned, there will always be people who will laugh off our experiences. It must have been very hurtful for the apostles to hear that some people thought that they were intoxicated. They had completely missed the point. We should never be surprised by such responses, but patient and gracious as we explain what's going on. It is hardest of all when such reactions are from people in our own families, and we will need special grace to keep our cool and to respond wisely and graciously.

## QUESTION

How do you respond when people laugh at your Christian commitment?

## PRAYER

Lord God, help me to respond with your wisdom and grace to those who are perplexed by my faith. Amen

