

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Jubilee visitors at Stranmillis

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On Sunday the bell at St Bartholomew's church, Stranmillis, was rung for seven minutes, each one representing a decade of the Queen's reign. When this bell was part of a peal of eight it rung at the Accession to the Throne of Elizabeth 1. It has rung on many significant occasions since and continues to do so. On Sunday morning there was All Age worship to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and to receive into the congregation those children baptised during the pandemic without a congregation present. This was followed by refreshments in the parish hall. The choir sang the Royal Anthem penned for the Jubilee by the RSCM.

People and places

Follow faith example of the Queen - Bishop of Derry and Raphoe

The Bishop of Derry and Raphoe has told the congregation at a Platinum Jubilee Service in St Columb's Cathedral that if they are truly to honour Her Majesty the Queen – both her constancy and her service – then they would seek to follow her example and put their faith in “the great reconciler” Jesus Christ.



Rt Rev Andrew Forster was addressing a congregation that included the Vice Lord Lieutenant for the County Borough of Londonderry, Mr Ian Crowe MBE DL; Rt. Hon. Conor Burns MP, Minister of State at the Northern Ireland Office; and Derry City and Strabane District Councillor Philip McKinney, who was representing the Mayor, Alderman Graham Warke.

The service was led by the Dean of Derry, Very Rev Raymond Stewart, who was assisted by leading members of the four main churches in the city. The Bishop of Derry, Dr Donal McKeown, the Moderator of the Presbytery of Derry and Donegal, Rev Graeme Orr, and the Minister of Carlisle Road Methodist Church, Rev John Montgomery read prayers during the service, while Bishop Forster preached the sermon. The readings were delivered by Mr Crowe and Cllr McKinney.

June 6, 2022

In his sermon, Bishop Andrew said footage of the new Queen Elizabeth arriving at London airport, in February 1952, after a flight from Nairobi, and being greeted on the runway by her first Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, seemed almost like another world. “Post-war rationing was still in place,” the Bishop said, “major cities across the country still bore the scars of bombing raids. It seems impossible to get our heads around the incredible changes in our world in those 70 years, changes that have been both exhilarating and, at times, bewildering.



“Over the last couple of days, there’ve been many, many tributes paid to the Queen. One of the words that keeps cropping up is ‘constant’ – the constancy of Her Majesty. And think about it. Look back on your own life, at all the changes that you’ve had, both good and bad, and the constant presence has been Queen Elizabeth.

“On her 21st birthday, when the young Princess Elizabeth dedicated herself to our service in these now famous words, she said: ‘I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service.’ She then said, ‘God, help me to make good my vow.’ On the eve of her coronation, she asked: ‘Pray that God may give me wisdom and strength to carry out the solemn promises I shall be making, and that I may faithfully serve Him and you all the days of my life.’

“If ever you needed evidence that God answers prayer, here we have it in the life of the Queen: her constant presence, her faithfulness, her dignity. And what has been the golden thread running throughout these 70 years? It is the golden thread of service to us and service to God: service that has made her the constant in our lives; service that has both inspired and humbled us; service that has profoundly benefitted the life of this nation and the Commonwealth; service that in her understated way has put both presidents and paupers at ease in her presence; service that has led us through times of great celebration and times of great hardship; service that has moved us and blessed us.”

Bishop Andrew recalled the Queen’s words to the nation on the 5th of April, 2020, two or three weeks into a lockdown none of us had ever experienced. “She said this: ‘We should take comfort that better days will return. We will be with our friends again. We will be with our families again. We will meet again.’ I don’t in any way mean this to sound disrespectful but for me it seemed like she was like the nation’s grandmother, comforting us, helping us, guiding us and giving us hope in those dark days of the lockdown.”



The Platinum Jubilee may prove to be unique in history, the Bishop said. He remembered as a child celebrating the Silver Jubilee, at a street party in 1977. On that occasion, he said, the poet, Philip Larkin, penned these words: ‘In times when nothing stood but worsened, or grew strange, there was one constant good: she did not change.’

“One constant good,” Bishop Andrew repeated, “the constant life of service; the constant in our lives that we are thankful for tonight. But for her, there is one great constant in her life, her faith in Jesus Christ, the one whom Scripture tells us comes not to serve but to be served.

“The Queen speaks both beautifully and vividly about her faith in Christ. She uses words to speak of her faith, one of them being this little sentence: ‘I draw strength,’ she said, ‘from the message of hope in the Christian Gospel.’ But she

speaks eloquently of that faith in her life of devoted service. For her, to be Queen has been a vocation – not simply a role, but a divine calling. Her faith has shaped her service and her life, and that remains an example for us all.

“And may I presume to say that her faith has also shaped the influence that she has brought to bear in this place that we call home, in Northern Ireland. The divisions of our society are sometimes obvious and at other times more



subtle, but they are divisions that have blinded us and diminished each one of us. It seems to me that the Queen has given us an example of quite literally stretching out the hand of reconciliation.

“It is never an easy or simple thing to do, but perhaps she tells us why and how she does it. Her Christmas speech –

2007 she said this – ‘Mary and Joseph found no room in the inn. They had to make do with a stable and the new-born Jesus had to be laid in a manger. This was a family which had been shut out. Perhaps it was because of this early experience that throughout his ministry Jesus of Nazareth reached out and made friends with people whom others ignored or despised. It was in this way that he proclaimed his belief that in the end we are all brothers and sisters in one human family.’

“Every Christmas, I always think, she says it far better than any preacher can. A life rooted in faith and inspired by hope and inspired by the hope of Christ to build a better world.

“In her message to the people of Northern Ireland on the centenary of the foundation of Northern Ireland, she said these probing and searching words for each and every one of us. ‘It is clear that reconciliation, equality and mutual understanding cannot be taken for granted and will require sustained fortitude and commitment.

“If we are truly to honour Her Majesty the Queen – both her constancy and her service – then we will also seek to follow her example and, like her, put our faith in the one who is truly constant, the one who is the same yesterday, today and for ever, the one who comes to be a servant of us all, who is Jesus Christ – the great reconciler – whose ministry is the ministry of reconciliation, reconciling us to God through the cross; reconciling us to our neighbours and our friends and even to our enemies; the one who comes to transform and to bless.

June 6, 2022

“And on this Platinum Jubilee that we are all honoured to celebrate, today we look to the example of the Queen and we look to the one who has inspired that example, Jesus Christ. And I commend him to you, both as saviour and as friend. And as we seek to live out the example of Christ, we, too, can make the world, and even the place that we live in, a better, more hopeful, more loving, more gracious place, and we do it in the name of Christ. Amen.”



During Friday evening's service, Bishop Andrew dedicated a new kneeler, which was made by members of Templemore Mothers' Union to mark the centenary. It took 11 of the women almost 70 hours – spread across nine days – to cross-stitch the kneeler. It was brought to the Cathedral by the Branch leader, Irene Hewitt, and presented to the Bishop by Church Warden Muriel Hamilton.

Major boost to refurbish houses at Kingston College for Ukrainians



The RTE DIYSOS; Build for Ireland television programme presented by Irish radio and television personality Baz Ashmawy has come on board with the Kingston Charity project to refurbish houses at Kingston College

‘When the war started in Ukraine I sent around an email widely to test the waters,’ said Bishop Paul Colton, ‘as I wanted to see if there would be interest in helping us to raise money to restore these houses for Ukrainians arriving in Ireland.’

Bishop Colton explained what happened next:

I was just testing the waters, but instead what happened was amazing. I didn't ask for money in the email, but within just over a week €200,000 was raised. Then we had the donation of €200,000 from The One Foundation and many more donations in the weeks since.

Equally, if not more important, Charlie Daly and a group of colleagues and friends, who had been alerted to my email by Cobh parishioner Andrew Bird, came forward and said that they would offer their services voluntarily to restore some of the houses and to raise even more funds.

Billy Skuse, secretary of the charity, and I met them all at Kingston College and this featured in a report in The Irish Times the next day. The producers of 'DIYSOS; Build for Ireland' saw the report and the photos. Before we knew it we were all meeting in Kingston College again, this time on the Wednesday of Holy Week. That set the ball in motion towards where we are now. This in turn opens up many possibilities with community support and for the Trust to advance its work for Ukrainian refugees in this way.

Needless to say all of us who are involved in Kingston College are absolutely delighted and we warmly thank the 'DIYSOS; Build for Ireland' producers and team, and we are all looking forward to working with them.

We join with their appeal (see below) for volunteers. DIYSOS announced their involvement on their page on Facebook as follows:DIY SOS, The Big Build Ireland is returning to Cork for a very special two-part episode based in Kingston College, Mitchelstown.



Some of the volunteers who met with Bishop Paul Colton (6th from right) and Billy Skuse (secretary, 4th from left) at Kingston College, including Charlie Day (on bishop's right) and Andrew Bird, (3rd from right). Pic. Michael Mac Sweeney/Provision

This is an incredibly special build and we are extremely excited to be able to announce this mammoth endeavour.

From the 5th – 13th July, Baz and some very familiar faces will once again be rallying the troops, but this time it is to renovate and retrofit six beautiful houses to provide much needed temporary homes for Ukrainian refugees.

Kingston College is a community of 31 small terraced houses, which have been providing housing to people in need since 1761. These beautiful houses are grouped around a large square with a chapel as it's central focus,

June 6, 2022

and have been in Trust since the mid-eighteenth century to three Church of Ireland Bishops, who have been maintaining them via a fund. One of these is Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross Dr Paul Colton, and it was he and diocesan secretary Billy Skuse who, having watched the plight of the Ukrainian people decided to put out an appeal to try and raise money to do up 8 of the vacant houses to house refugees and their families.

The support they received was beyond expectations and the generosity of the local community and beyond has been mind-blowing. There are currently thousands of Ukrainian refugees in temporary homes in Cork, mostly organised by the Red Cross, and they need our help to turn this build around quickly.

The DIYSOS team have joined forces with the Bishop and the local community, and together we plan to draw on their support as well as the good will of the Irish people, to turn these run down houses into homes for refugees in the immediate future, with a view to eventually reverting them back to their original use -to provide housing for those in the local community who are in need.

We live in strange times, but us Irish are known for our charitable nature, so come on Ireland.... once again, let's do this!

A Trades day will be on the 16th of June. More information on this will be posted soon.

What is needed?

For Trades:

We are looking for....Groundworkers, Ticketed Machine Drivers, Carpenters, General Labourers, Plumbers, Electricians, Roofers, Slabbers, Blocklayers, Painters, Plasterers, Joiners, Pavers, Landscapers, Tilers, Catering, Cleaning and Registration Volunteers – you name the trade, we need you there!

We also need local companies who can assist us by supplying goods and materials for external works:

Grab hire, skips, waste management, lawn turf, soil and other landscaping products.

For Catering:

We need to feed our volunteers so we are looking for catering companies or local restaurants to provide breakfast rolls, lunches, dinners and snacks to fuel our 100 + hardworking troops on site every day.

For Design Interiors & Exteriors:

We need a number of joinery companies, stoves, extensive homewares, wallpaper, paint supplies, indoor and outdoor furniture, plants, trees, lights and accessories.

For Site Support:

We need Site Security, Van drivers, Transport companies, Portaloos, Marquees, Accommodation, and Printing Facilities...

June 6, 2022

If you'd like to get involved, please get in touch via email or phone (diysoscork@gmail.com / 083 013 9827) and include your:

- * NAME
- * NUMBER
- * EMAIL
- * Details of your TRADE or what you can SUPPLY.

Come on Ireland... let's do this together!

Conversations on mental health – MindMatters 'Voices' team share experiences

MindMatters COI, the Church of Ireland's mental health project, has launched a new section on its website where people can share their experiences of mental health.

One of the main aims of the MindMatters COI project is to create a central hub for conversations on positive mental health for the Church of Ireland (COI) and the wider community across the island of Ireland.

An integral part of this mission is the development of the Voices section of the website where they provide a platform for the MindMatters COI community to share their advice, opinions, and experiences of mental health. Through this, the team hopes to promote positive mental health and connections and work to combat stigma and isolation.



MindMatters COI

- Reducing Stigma
- Promoting Connections
- Clergy Training and Supports
- Mental Health and Faith

The first Voices post is from Voices Team contributor the Revd Claire Henderson (Derry and Raphoe), who shares her experience with C-PTSD.



June 6, 2022

This can be read here [https://
mindmatters.ireland.anglican.org/voices/](https://mindmatters.ireland.anglican.org/voices/)

Keep an eye on the Voices part of the website for more contributions from the Voices Team.

If you would like to contribute a written piece to the Voices Team, please contact Caoimhe Leppard, MindMatters COI Digital Marketing Lead, at mhp@rcbdub.org for more information.

News reports

Dom Helder Camara papers sent to Vatican

Papers of the late Dom Helder Camara were sent to the Vatican last week in the latest stage of the process of his canonisation, which was opened in 2015. The vicar general of the Archdiocese of Olinda and Recife, Monsignor Luciano Brito, accompanied the documents.

Before that, on 25 May, Governor Paulo Camara of Pernambuco in North-East Brazil received Archbishop Fernando Saburido of Olinda and Recife, to talk about the process of the canonisation.

The Government of Pernambuco has participated in the process from the preparation of the collection to the feasibility of sending it. "We have been following all this work with great emotion" stated Governor Camara, adding that, "I hope that we can have a saint that we know so well,



and that we know that all his work and dedication in life were in favour of the poor and of a better world, with more peace and health."

The Dom Helder Camara Institute took about three years to gather manuscripts, books and documents, which were then scanned. The huge 500 kg collection was transported to Rome by the airline TAP Air

Portugal, which supports the project.

"We are all interested in the cause of Dom Helder, so that we can, as soon as possible, have the happiness of seeing him recognised as a saint of the church", emphasised Archbishop Saburido.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Pray for the 15th Lambeth Conference with a free prayer guide

The guide includes prayers from several Anglican Religious Communities around the Communion and relates to many of



PRAYER GUIDE FOR THE LAMBETH CONFERENCE



the important themes that will be discussed during the event.

“Through the prayer guide, we hope that the prayers we share here will encourage all who use it to unite in prayer for the bishops gathered in the Lambeth Conference.” - Brother Christopher John

Share the short prayer guide with your church community and pray on Trinity Sunday, 12th June. You can also use the pack on each day of the conference, using the prayers for each day.

Download the Prayer Guide... <https://bit.ly/3lqVtH4>

Poem for today

Lovers On Aran by Seamus Heaney

The timeless waves, bright, sifting, broken glass,
Came dazzling around, into the rocks,
Came glinting, sifting from the Americas

To possess Aran. Or did Aran rush
to throw wide arms of rock around a tide
That yielded with an ebb, with a soft crash?

Did sea define the land or land the sea?
Each drew new meaning from the waves' collision.
Sea broke on land to full identity.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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