

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – St Columba – Tomorrow

Image of the day

St Columba - His Feast Day is Tomorrow

People and places

North West to mark St. Colmcille Feast Day

Plans are in place to mark the Feast Day of St. Colmcille with a series of events taking place across the North West on the 9th of June, Katie Gillian writes in Donegal Daily.

The events are being organised in joint partnership with Derry City and Strabane District Council, Donegal County Council and other partners, as part of the final celebration of the Colmcille 1500 programme of activities to celebrate the life of the Saint.

Two special Feast Day Masses will be celebrated on the 9th of June, one in St. Eunan's Cathedral in Letterkenny, celebrated by the Bishop of Raphoe and broadcast on the RTÉ News Channel at 10.30am, and the second one celebrated by the Bishop of Derry from St. Columba's Church, Long Tower, at 7.30pm.

A pageant entitled: 'An Turas- The Journey' will take place after the Mass in Long Tower and the traditional Feast Day Blessing at St. Columb's Well on the 9th of June. Delivered by the North West Carnival initiative, in collaboration with In Your Space and Greater Shantallow Arts, the pageant is commissioned by Derry City and Strabane District Council and funded by the North West Development Fund and will explore Colmcille's life and legacy.

The Alley Theatre in Strabane will host the Battle of Knockavoe Anniversary Exhibition 1522-2022 from the 4th of June to the 22nd of July, commemorating the 500th Anniversary of the battle between the O'Donnells of Donegal and the O'Neills of Tyrone.

A 'Celebration of St. Columba's Life and Ministry' at St. Colmcille's Abbey in Churchtown/Rath Cnó, Gartan, on the 5th of June at 3pm, that will be attended by the Church of Ireland Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Rt. Rev. Andrew Forster and will include music and children's activities.

St. Augustine's Church is celebrating 150 years since it was consecrated on the 9th of June 1872 with a special Feast Day performance by Opera Hibernia at 7.30pm. Tickets and further details are available at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/st-augustines-150th-anniversary-concert-tickets-345622314647?fbclid=IwAR133k7oIP4RSSqGKvnyMK1viXxl1Pj5ghYiwmMht9PVKJjU9oNTXa7yY6l>

County Donegal Heritage Office has produced 'Illuminating Colmcille'/'Léargas ar Cholm Cille', a colouring book to mark the Colmcille 1500 commemorations which highlights some

St Philip and St James
Holywood Parish Church

FROM BROADWAY
TO HOLYWOOD!



SINGERS FROM
THE CHOIRS OF
GRACE CHURCH,
NEW YORK
IN CONCERT

TUESDAY 21ST JUNE
AT 7.30PM

Based at Grace Church on the lower East Side Wall Street area of New York, the choir has 30 singers and follows the Anglican cathedral tradition of Sunday sung Eucharist and choral Evensong. The Master of Choirs is Patrick Allen. Patrick has trained and coached the church choir for 22 years. The concert will have a varied programme likely to include compositions by Durufle, Tallis, Mozart, Stainer etc.



A retiring offering will be received
for the Elgar Organ Rebuilding Fund

of the heritage sites, places, objects and archives associated with St. Colmcille's life and legacy. In the lead up to the Feast Day, free copies are being made from local libraries, or you can download a digital version at

www.donegalcoco.ie/heritage. Copies have also been distributed to all 23 local primary schools named after the Saint across the two Council areas.

Donegal Library Service has released a very special illustrated comic produced as part of a Colmcille Digital Folklore Project by schools in Donegal and Derry, in partnership with Libraries NI. It takes a light-hearted look at folklore and legends of the Donegal Saint. Copies are available at local libraries or you can download a copy at: <https://www.donegallibrary.ie/media/donegal-library/contentassets/files/pdflibrary/Colmcille%201500%20FINAL.pdf>

A number of other community and church led events to mark the important Feast Day will be held across the North West including a number of religious services at local churches and holy wells. Further information can be found on the Colmcille Facebook page: www.facebook.com/Colmcille1500NW

Nominations now open for Ecclesiastical's Movement for Good Awards 2022

For the fourth year running, Ecclesiastical and Benefact Group are giving away over €1,000,000 to charities with the return of the Movement for Good Awards.

People are once again invited to nominate a cause close to their hearts for a potential €1,000 award to help make a



difference. This year, another 500 charities around Ireland and the UK will each receive €1,000 during the campaign.

It's quick and easy to nominate, you can vote for your favourite charity online at: www.movementforgood.com

David Lane, Managing Director of Ecclesiastical in Ireland, said: "We are delighted to announce the launch of Ecclesiastical and Benefact Group's Movement for Good Awards for the fourth year running.

"We were thrilled to receive so many nominations from the public over the past three years, and in 2022 we are

encouraging even more people to nominate a charity of their choice.

“Thank you on behalf of the 1,500 charities that have already benefited from the awards and the members of the public who voted for them.

“The pandemic, the current rising cost of living and other external factors have had a huge impact on charities with many facing financial difficulties. Our Movement for Good awards will continue to help charities at a time when they need it most, and we know that for many charities, €1,000 can make a real difference.

“Ecclesiastical is a unique financial services group. We are owned by a charity, which means all available profits can be given to the good causes that are so important to our customers. As a company whose purpose is to contribute to the greater good of society, charitable giving is at the heart of our business.”

Anyone can nominate a registered charity at any time for the chance to receive €1,000. The first 250 winners will be announced this, a further 250 winners will be announced in September and you can nominate your chosen charity for this now.

Winners will be drawn at random and the more times a charity is nominated the more chance it has of being selected.

A further 120 €1,000 grants will be given away in December and €500,000 will also be given in larger grants later this

year. For more information about the awards visit www.movementforgood.com

About Ecclesiastical and Benefact Group

Owned by a registered charity, Benefact Group Trust, Ecclesiastical is a unique financial services organisation. With its main operations and headquarters in the UK, Ecclesiastical also operates in Australia, Canada and Ireland.

Ecclesiastical is a specialist insurer of the faith, heritage, fine art, charities, education and private client sectors.

Benefact Group is an independent, specialist financial services group that exists to give its profits to charity.

Clogher Bishops attend Ecumenical Prayer Service for Pentecost

Since 2000, the Roman Catholic and Church of Ireland bishops of Clogher have come together, along with members of their respective Church communities to mark together the Day of Pentecost or Pentecost Sunday, as it also known.

The Day of Pentecost marks the end of the fifty-day season of Easter. Moreover, it marks the descent of the Holy Spirit in the upper room and the beginning of apostolic preaching, thus marking a defining moment in the origin of the Christian Church. Christian associations with the feast begin with Acts of the Apostles 2: 1-45.



Bishops arriving for the service

Each year, a site of historic significance in relation to the origins of the Christian church in different parts of the diocese is chosen to host this Ecumenical Service. The venue for this year's outdoor Pentecost service, Donagh Old Graveyard, is settled on a hillside close to Glaslough village, and is considered to be one of the oldest ecclesiastical sites in the country and is on a pilgrimage route associated with St Patrick. Within this protected graveyard there are the ruins of a medieval church which remained in use until 1690, a beautiful stone cross known as the Donagh Cross or the McKenna Cross (described by various experts as being 10th to 12th century), two cross-bases, two 17th century grave-slabs and a cross-shaped headstone dated 1666 as well as numerous examples of headstones with intricate evocative folk art inscribed upon them.

There was a good attendance at this year's Ecumenical Prayer Service for Pentecost held on Sunday, 5th June in

Donagh Old Graveyard, in Donagh Parish, Glaslough, Co. Monaghan.

The afternoon open air service was attended by people from across Fermanagh and Monaghan including parishioners of St Salvator's Parish Church, Glaslough as well as members of the congregation of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Glennan, where everyone parked to get the shuttle bus to the graveyard a short distance away.

The service was attended by the two Bishops of Clogher, the Right Revd Dr. Ian Ellis, who gave the address, and the Most Revd Larry Duffy. The service was conducted by Fr. Hubert Martin, of St. Mary's assisted by Revd Margaret Pringle, who is looking after services in the Church of Ireland Donagh Group of parishes. The opening greeting and prayers were led by Bishop Larry Duffy. During the service, two young people spoke about their views on Pentecost; Emma McQuaid from Beech Hill College and Sophie Brennan from Monaghan Collegiate.

The praise was led by Donagh Community Choir trained by Mrs Ethne McCord and accompanied by Mr Gerard Toal on the keyboard.

Bishop Ian Ellis, in his address reflected on what difference the Holy Spirit made to people's personal lives and church life.

He focused on three main themes; Change, Clarity and Conviction.

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He said the dramatic events of the first Pentecost changed the disciples for ever. They were utterly changed and transformed.

Text of bishop's address at -

[[] <https://clogher.anglican.org/News/newsevent.php?id=1152>]

Beach baptisms in Millisle



The three parishes of Carrowdore, Millisle and Knocknagoney in the Diocese of Down & Dromore recently got together to celebrate six adult baptisms.

After a service of celebration in St. Patrick's, Millisle, where promises and professions of faith were made, and worship was led by James and Elise Turner, the congregation walked across the road and down to the sea.

Knocknagoney's Andrew and Jude Frame, and Revd Colin Davis (Carrowdore and Millisle) joined together in baptising the six ladies.

Introduction of Priest-in-Charge of Mallusk



Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev George Davison, with the Rev Jacob Mercer, third from left, and clergy at the Service of Introduction in St Brigid's, Mallusk.

The Rev Jacob Mercer was introduced as Priest-in-Charge of St Brigid's Parish Church, Mallusk, at a special service on Tuesday May 31.

Rev Jacob Mercer addresses the congregation at his Service of Introduction.

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Jacob, 33, was previously curate of St James and St Anne's, Bermondsey, in the Diocese of Southwark, London. He is married to Rebecca and they have three young children.

A native of Hertfordshire, Jacob has worked in Christian Ministry for the past 11 years, and was ordained in 2018. He spent a year in Belfast from 2011-12.

Speaking before the service, Jacob said: "I am looking forward to meeting everyone and getting to know people not only in the church but in the surrounding area."

Congratulations, good wishes and prayers of Methodist people in Ireland to Her Majesty The Queen

The President and Lay Leader have written to Her Majesty as follows to convey their congratulations, good wishes and prayers of the Methodist people in Ireland. They state -

Madam,

With our humble duty, we have the honour to convey to Your Majesty the congratulations, good wishes and prayers of the people, clergy and staff of the Methodist Church in Ireland to you on the occasion of your Platinum Jubilee.

Our church, which covers the entire island of Ireland, is very much aware that, within your reign, the people of our island have moved from polarisation to peace, that your state visit

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to Ireland and President Higgins's to the UK marked milestones in the relations between our nations, and that your example of dignity and public service has inspired as many outside of your realm as within.

As a church, we are also grateful to you for the focus you have placed on faith - both as a concept and as your daily lived experience - as a force for good in public and private life and we look forward to continuing our ecumenical and inter-faith relations with other churches with renewed vigour in the spirit of your ongoing example

We also admire and pay tribute to your devotion to your family - not only biological, but national, Commonwealth and church - and acknowledge the bittersweetness that must exist with celebrating such a momentously long reign in tandem with remembering your beloved late father whose passing precipitated that reign.

We wish Your Majesty and your family every happiness on this Jubilee and continued blessings hereafter, and be assured always of the prayerful thoughts of the Methodist people in Ireland.

We have the honour to be, Madam,
Your Majesty's humble servants,
Rev Dr Sahr Yambasu
President of the Methodist Church in Ireland

Ms. Hazel Loney
Lay Leader of the Methodist Church in Ireland



Holy Trinity Ballylesson

Parish of Drumbo  Church of Ireland
A province of the Anglican Communion

Community Church



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Carnmoney Parish Jubilee Party

A correspondent writes - The weather was fabulous for our Platinum Jubilee Party on Friday 3rd June, attended by over 160 people. Many people came in fancy dress and we had entertainment for the children in the form of games and a performance from Bonzo the clown (who also met our new mayor Counsellor Stephen Ross who called in). Over 160 people of all ages enjoyed a meal in the hall before entertainment and dancing led by Joe Lagen as we celebrated 70 years of faithful service from our Queen.

Wilson's Hospital pupil success at Junk Kouture

Junk Kouture is an international youth fashion and sustainability competition where teenagers from six different countries compete to make fashion from recycled materials.

The 5th of May saw the first of six worldwide city finals in Dublin and over 60 young people from across the country competing. Winner of the Western Region heat, and the All Ireland final was Clodagh Ramsey, student at Wilson's Hospital School and member of All Saint's Mullingar.

Clodagh grew her costume over a six month period. Her skirt and headdress are made from dried Pampas grass whilst her bodice is constructed from Cork with Moss growing on the outside of it. The shoulders are made of living Black Grasses which are grown in recycled cat food pouches filled with soil.

Maintaining the garment is some feat; Clodagh has to water the Grasses and the Moss daily, and carried a spray bottle during the Dublin final to prevent it from drying out under the lights!

Clodagh says that the biggest problem is keeping her dress alive as it all needs light and air. The Moss, however, prefers shade whilst the neighbouring grasses need direct sunlight in order to thrive. It has proven quite the challenge to give each part of her design the optimum conditions.

Clodagh was thrilled to be made the All-Ireland winner and will be going to Abu Dhabi in the Autumn to compete in the World finals, hopefully she can keep her kouture alive until then!

Coverage of the Junk Kouture Dublin final was on RTE 2 on the 19th of May at

News reports

At least 50 Christians killed in yet another violent attack in Nigeria

In yet more distressing news from Nigeria, at least 50 Christians have been killed and several more abducted in an attack on a church as it gathered to celebrate Pentecost, Open Doors reports.

At least 50 Christians, including children, have been killed and dozens injured in an attack on a church in south west

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Nigeria as it gathered to celebrate Pentecost. Several believers were also kidnapped.

The attackers shot at people outside and inside St Francis Catholic Church in the town of Owo in Ondo State on Sunday (5 June). Explosives were also detonated. The presiding priest is among those abducted.

No one has yet claimed responsibility for the attack, but Adeyemi Olayemi, a lawmaker in Ondo, told The Guardian that the attackers are believed to have been militant Fulani herdsmen in retaliation to the state recently imposing restrictions on grazing following a surge in kidnappings.

“We have enjoyed improved security since herdsmen were driven away from our forests by this administration,” Olayemi said. “This is a reprisal attack to send a diabolical message to the governor.” Open Doors is investigating these claims.

Insurgency spreads to Christian-majority south

This latest attack reflects how the Islamic insurgency typically concentrated in northern Nigeria and the Middle Belt is affecting other parts of the country, including the Christian-majority south where Owo is located.

“The south of Nigeria is known for being peaceful and safe for the church, but now things are changing,” shares Zula, Open Doors country manager for Nigeria. “The violence from the north and Middle Belt is spreading rapidly and this is the result of violence that has gone unpunished.”

"The south of Nigeria is known for being peaceful and safe for the church, but now things are changing"

Zula

Last week, the head of the Methodist Church in Nigeria was abducted along with two other clerics in the south east of the country. They were later released after a ransom was paid.

Nigeria is number seven on the World Watch List, but it would be number one if it were based purely on violence. More Christians were killed there last year for their faith than in all other countries combined.

Please pray as attacks bring trauma, fear and doubt

"We condemn in the strongest terms possible the attack on Christians as they gathered in peace to worship God," says Jo Newhouse, Open Doors' spokesperson for sub-Saharan Africa. "We call on the Nigerian government to adequately discharge its legal obligation of duty to protect its citizens, both under international and domestic legal regimes.

"We also call upon the authorities to take a strong stance against all violence, including Fulani militant violence, investigate the perpetrators, hold them accountable to the justice system and break the cycle of violence that is expanding to other areas of the country, as is clearly shown by this incident. The longer these acts go unpunished, the longer they will continue."

"People are full of trauma," says Zula, who adds that many Christians are not going to church for fear of attack, or even

stopping travelling on roads to avoid abduction. “Continue to pray for faith to be increased as well, because having seen these things going on it affects the faith of many. They begin to question God – whether God is still alive. Let’s keep praying for the church in southern Nigeria and Nigeria as a whole. Thank you.”

See also report in The Tablet -

More than 50 Catholic worshippers slaughtered in Pentecost attack in Nigeria

[[] <https://www.thetablet.co.uk/news/15538/more-than-50-catholic-worshippers-slaughtered-in-pentecost-attack-in-nigeria->]

In the media

Charities regulator concerns with Trócaire

The Times

The charities regulator has written to Trócaire, the overseas development agency of the Catholic Church in Ireland, to “remind” it that any future political activity must “directly advance and support [its] stated charitable purposes”.

The letter was prompted by two formal complaints to the regulator about recent campaigns by Trócaire — which was set up to combat poverty and injustice in the developing world — relating to the treatment of Palestinians in Gaza.

Police confirm file will be sent to prosecutors over Michaela McAreevey video

Irish News

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It is believed the PSNI has taken legal advice on what offences the men can be legally questioned about under caution

Simon Coveney warns Boris Johnson leadership woes could impact protocol talks

Irish News

"What we don't want to see is Ireland being part of a strategy to maintain support within the Conservative Party"

Troubles legacy Bill 'cannot be made compatible with human rights'

Irish News

Human Rights Commissioner Alyson Kilpatrick voiced concern at the lack of distinction between crimes a person can be granted immunity for, including murder, kidnap, rape and torture

Analysis: Muckamore families deserve nothing less than complete transparency

Irish News

What the families want are answers - how their loved ones were abused and how the abuse could be allowed to happen

Poem for today

Love's Philosophy by Percy Bysshe Shelley

The fountains mingle with the river
And the rivers with the ocean,

June 8, 2022

The winds of heaven mix for ever
With a sweet emotion;
Nothing in the world is single;
All things by a law divine
In one spirit meet and mingle.
Why not I with thine? —

See the mountains kiss high heaven
And the waves clasp one another;
No sister-flower would be forgiven
If it disdained its brother;
And the sunlight clasps the earth
And the moonbeams kiss the sea:
What is all this sweet work worth
If thou kiss not me?

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this sit

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

