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Image of the day - Derby Cathedral

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People and places

Rt Revd Michael Burrows elected as Bishop of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe



**It was
announced
yesterday
afternoon (Friday
January 14) that
the Episcopal**

**Electoral College for the United Dioceses of Tuam,
Limerick and Killaloe, meeting in Christ Church
Cathedral, Dublin, has elected the Rt Revd Michael
Burrows, Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory, as the
Bishop of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe.**

Bishop Burrows succeeds the Rt Revd Patrick Rooke (formerly Bishop of Tuam, Killala and Achonry) and the Rt Revd Dr Kenneth Kearon (formerly Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe) who both retired at the end of October 2021, at which time the two dioceses were united. He has served as Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory since 2006, and was previously Dean of Cork, Rector of Bandon, Church of

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Ireland Chaplain at Trinity College Dublin, and Curate in Douglas with Frankfield.

The Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson, Archbishop of Dublin and Primate of Ireland, said: “Bishop Michael Burrows has served the Church of God and the Church of Ireland assiduously as deacon, priest and bishop. The clergy and people of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory have been greatly enriched by his commitment, compassion and energy. He will readily invest all these qualities in the life of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe. I wish him all that is best in his new diocese under God.”

The Bishop–elect said: “I am grateful to the Electoral College for their affirmation and trust. I leave a diocese which I have greatly loved after nearly 16 years, having learned so much from them, but clearly it is a time to embrace the new challenge of a new diocese and I look forward to working to cement the new United Dioceses of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe and serving God’s people there.”

Following the ratification of the election by the House of Bishops, the Bishop–elect will be translated from the United Dioceses of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory to the United Dioceses of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe on a date to be determined.

The Right Reverend Michael Burrows (born 1961) was ordained in 1987 after graduating from Trinity College Dublin. He initially served as Curate of Douglas with Frankfield, in the Diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross (1987–1991). He was subsequently Chaplain of Trinity College

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Dublin (1991–1994), during which time he was also a Lecturer in Church History and Liturgy at the Church of Ireland Theological College. He returned to Cork, Cloyne and Ross as Rector of Bandon (1994–2002) before becoming Dean of Cork and Incumbent of St Fin Barre’s (2002–2006).

He was elected Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory in March 2006 and consecrated as bishop in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, in July of that year. Bishop Burrows is Chair of the Church of Ireland’s Commission for Christian Unity and Dialogue, Chair of the Board of Governors of the Anglican Centre in Rome, Co–Chair of the Church of Ireland–Methodist Covenant Council, and Patron of the Irish Guild of the Church (Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise). He is married to Claire with four grown–up children, and is a keen railway enthusiast and organist.

Churches deep shock and sadness at the killing of Ashling Murphy

The Methodist Church in Ireland in a statement said it” is deeply shocked and very saddened by the killing of Ashling Murphy near Tullamore on Wednesday.

“She was a young woman who was only beginning her career as a National School teacher. We extend our deepest sympathy to her family and all those closest to her. We are praying for them at this awful time. We recognise the incredible shock felt around the area by the whole community.

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“The murder of Ashling highlights that women are not safe enough in our society. We live and work for a society where all would feel safe to enjoy the liberties this country provides. We recognise that important broader issues in this regard need addressing. However, at this time we simply stand with the Murphy family in their immense grief and the pain and shock being felt in the wider community”.

The statement was issued by Rev. Steven Foster
Convenor of the Southern Executive of the Southern
Division of the Methodist Church in Ireland's Council on
Social Responsibility

A joint statement was issued by the Most Revd Pat Storey, Bishop of Meath and Kildare, the Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson, Archbishop of Dublin and Primate of Ireland, and the Most Revd John McDowell, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland:

'At this very dark time, we simply want Ashling's family, friends and school community to know that they are in our prayers and in the prayers of the Church of Ireland community. We also think at this time of the whole community of Tullamore and pray that they find solace in the midst of this shocking event.

The light of Ashling's unique human personality has been cruelly extinguished. Although it is almost impossible to find words to express the depth of sadness at the murder of Ashling Murphy in Tullamore, it is true to say that we have all suffered a loss because of her murder. But our sympathies are with those who knew her best and loved her most.

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“Perhaps we, on the whole of this island, can begin to think of ourselves as truly civilised when we have made genuine efforts, as citizens, as governments and as churches, to create a society where women need feel no fear as they walk in our cities, towns and countryside.”

Dublin services for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2022

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2022 runs from January 18 to 25. Resources this year have been prepared by Christians in the Middle East.

Dublin Council of Churches has two events during next week. On Sunday January 16 there will be an ecumenical service on RTE One television at 11am in preparation for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This service was prepared by members of the Dublin Council of Churches.

On Tuesday January 18 at 8pm the Opening Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will take place in St Anthony’s Parish Church, Clontarf, off St Lawrence Road, Dublin 3. The theme of the service, as chosen by the Middle East Council of Churches, focuses on the Epiphany Story: ‘We have seen his star in the East’. The preacher will be former Presbyterian Moderator the Very Revd Dr Trevor Morrow and Dublin church leaders will be in attendance. The service will be livestreamed from the St Anthony’s parish website: <https://stanthonysclontarf.ie/>

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Meanwhile, churches in the Greater Leeson Street area will hold an Ecumenical Lunchtime Prayer for Christian Unity on Tuesday January 18 at 1pm in St Finian's Lutheran Church, Adelaide Road. This is a hybrid prayer service and will take place both in the church and on Zoom. The Revd Andrew Kingston of Methodist Centenary Church, Leeson Park, will lead the prayer. For further information please contact: lutheran.ireland@gmail.com

Young Leaders in Ministry Fund – applications welcome



As teenagers and young adults look forward to a new year of youth ministry, the Church of Ireland Youth Department's Young Leaders in Ministry Fund is once again open for applications.

The fund is open to young people aged between 15 and 25 years who can demonstrate a current involvement in the Church of Ireland. It seeks to support training and development courses, mission teams, leadership opportunities and placements that can be shown to:- significantly develop the faith of the young adult applicant; grow the skills of the applicant especially, but not confined to, leadership skills; and be of significant use to the ministry of the Church of Ireland in the 12 months following the completion of the opportunity.

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The next closing date is Monday January 31, and application forms (in PDF format) can be downloaded at this link.

Please send all completed applications by post to: Young Leaders in Ministry Fund, CIYD, Church of Ireland House, 61–67 Donegall Street, Belfast, BT1 2QH, or by email to admin@ciyd.org

For any further information or questions please email simon@ciyd.org.

BEM award for parishioner of Castle Archdale and Derryvullen North

Mrs Frances Hunter (right) was awarded the BEM in Her Majesty The Queen's New Year Honours List 2022 for Services to the Community in Irvinestown.

Frances has served as Cleaner in Irvinestown Library for 35 years and as Building



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Supervisor in Irvinestown Primary School for 38 years. She is known, in each of these roles, as someone who is completely dedicated to what she does, who has the highest standards in her work and who wants to see the organisations thrive in contributing to the life and well being of the community.

200 years of work and witness at Eglinton

This is the start of a year of celebration for St Canice's church in Eglinton to mark the 200th anniversary of the opening of the present building.

Throughout the year there will be various events and services to help celebrate the past and focus on the future.

This Sunday the Bishop of Derry & Raphoe, The Rt Rev Andrew Forster will be present for the first of those services.

Dean of Saint Patrick's tribute to Bishop Brian Hannon

Warm tribute has been paid by the Dean of Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin to the former Bishop of Clogher, the Right Reverend Brian Hannon, "whose life and ministry were the epitome of the search for the healing of conflict in Northern Ireland throughout the Troubles."

In expressing the condolences of the Chapter of Saint Patrick's Cathedral to Bishop Hannon's wife Maeve, and

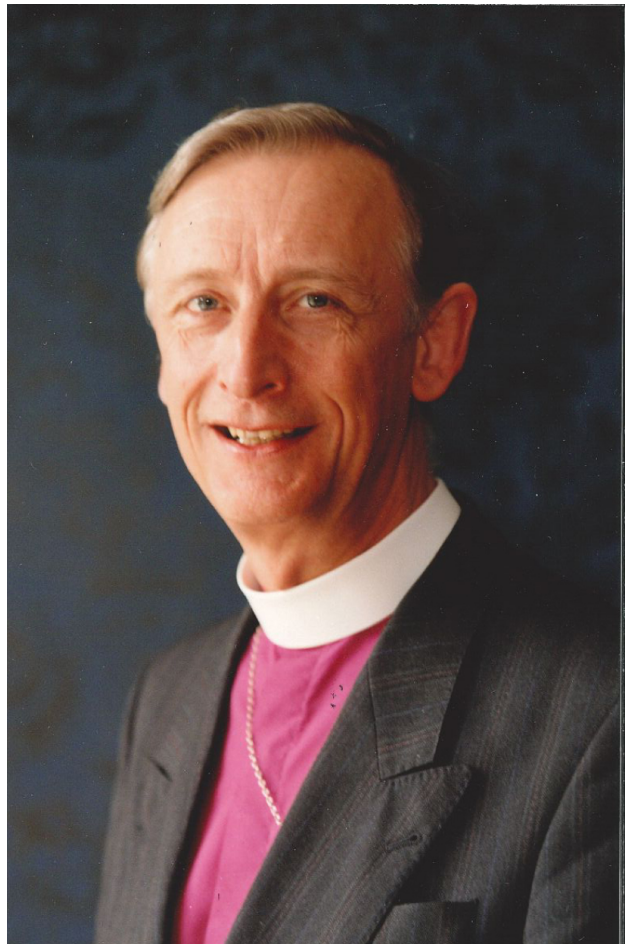
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sons, Desmond, Brendan and Neil, the Very Reverend Dr William Morton said that the bishop had striven always to offer spiritual and pastoral support and leadership through the most difficult years of violence in Northern Ireland.

As an ordinand, Dr Morton recalled attending a memorial service in Saint Patrick's Cathedral in November 1987 for the victims of the Enniskillen bombing one week earlier. In a landmark

address, for which he received a sustained standing ovation, Bishop Hannon thanked the full capacity congregation, including the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Carmencita Hederman, and political and community leaders from all over Ireland, "for the wave of prayer and compassion that has surrounded those bereaved and injured in Enniskillen and for the new determination by so many to say to all our fellow countrymen, 'No more of this'". Nothing in Ireland, in the Republic, or in Northern Ireland, could justify such an atrocity, he said.

The Dean at that time was Dr Victor Griffin whom Bishop Hannon succeeded as Rector of Christ Church, Londonderry in 1969 where he remained until 1982 before being appointed Rector of Enniskillen, and subsequently Dean of Clogher, and Bishop of Clogher. Dean Morton also



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recalls attending a meeting of The Irish College of Preachers led by Bishop Hannon who delighted all present with his skills as a gifted pianist, a musical tradition which has been carried on by his son Neil, and his highly-rated band The Divine Comedy.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts and books

Complete three guided walks on Ireland's Camino - Saint Patrick's Way

The Saint Patrick Centre is offering 4 night Irish Monastic Retreat all inclusive.

Participants complete three guided walks on Ireland's Camino - Saint Patrick's Way and a canoeing experience with expert Guides.

“See the places where St Patrick started his mission in Ireland, the place of his transformation.

“Learn about Celtic Spirituality from local monks and the art of monastic meditation & journaling.

“Receive a Pilgrim's Journal & Pilgrim's Passport. All bedrooms en-suite”.

Cost - £798 No single supplement all inclusive of accommodation, transfers, meals and activities.

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find out more - <https://www.saintpatrickcentre.com/friends/the-journey>

Commissioning Service of MCI's new mission partner

You are invited to the Commissioning Service of MCI's new mission partner, Melissa Newell.

Sunday 16 January, 6.30pm, Dungannon Methodist.

Limited seating can be booked in advance at: buff.ly/3r0nbgl

OR watch LIVE this Sunday on Facebook here: buff.ly/3FaP4HC

PCI Global Mission clip

Watch the latest clip from Stephen and Angelina Cowan, PCI Global Mission Workers based in Tuum, Kenya.

Download from our Vimeo channel for us in your church services:

vimeo.com/655011896

News Reports

Holocaust Memorial Commemoration at York Minster

Six hundred candles in the shape of the Star of David will be lit at York Minster on Wednesday 26th January 2022, to remember more than 6 million Jewish people and millions of other groups murdered by the Nazi's in

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the Second World War and the millions who have died in the genocides that followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

The Minster's act of commemoration is part of a week-long programme of events taking place across the city of York to mark international Holocaust Memorial Day, which takes place on the 27 January each year. The date marks the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp – the largest Nazi death camp – in 1945.

The event at York Minster will begin with a Choral Evensong service at 5.30pm attended by representatives from York's Jewish community and other faith communities. This will be followed by a procession to the cathedral's Chapter House for the act of commemoration, which will include readings, music, poetry, prayers and periods of silence for quiet reflection.

The Revd Canon Maggie McLean, Canon Missioner at York Minster, said: "The international theme for HMD 2022 is 'One Day', which encourages people to come together to remember, to learn about the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution and the genocides that followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur, in the hope that there may be One Day in the future with no genocide. We learn more about the past, we empathise with others today, and we take action for a better future".

To help safely manage numbers inside the Chapter House, free tickets must be booked in advance for the Holocaust Memorial Commemoration event. Tickets can be booked at:

churchnewsireland@gmail.org

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<https://yorkminster.org/whats-on/event/holocaust-memorial-commemoration/> or by ringing 01904 557200.

Angel festival for COVID-19 victims attracts thousands in Wales

St. Giles Parish Church in Wrexham is reminding people that its Festival of Angels, commemorating those who have lost their lives to coronavirus in Wales, will be drawing to a close at the end of this month.

Since it opened in late October, it is estimated that by the end of December approximately 17,200 people visited the church and saw the festival.

The vicar of St. Giles, the Rev. Jason Bray, said, “The reactions from the public seeing the festival have been extremely positive and supportive of what we have tried to offer. It has been a hugely emotive time for them and for us. The comments and messages we have received have meant a great deal. We hope that everyone who wanted to see the festival will have had an opportunity to do so by the end of the month.”

Southwark priests resign canonries over Ghanaian Bishops’ support for anti-LGBT Bill

Three priests in the diocese of Southwark, including the next Archdeacon of Southwark, have resigned as honorary canons of a Ghanaian cathedral, in response

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to the Ghanaian Bishops' apparent support for criminalisation of LGBTQ+ people, Madeleine Davies writes in the Church Times:

In a parish email newsletter sent on 11 December, the Vicar of St John the Divine with St James the Apostle, Kennington, the Revd Mark Williams, wrote: "It is with great sadness that I inform you that I have resigned as a Canon of Asante Mampong Cathedral in Ghana. A draft bill has been presented in the parliament in Ghana criminalising LGBTQ+ people and those who support them . . .

"Unfortunately the churches have felt under pressure to support this Bill and they have done so. Following several weeks of discussion with the Archbishop of Ghana, the support of the church for the Bill has not changed in the public domain, and this left me and two other Ghanaian canons in the Diocese of Southwark with no other choice but to resign. This fills me with enormous sadness given my association with the Church in Ghana over some 17 years. Please pray for Ghana, and for all those affected by this proposed changed in the law."

On Tuesday, he said that there had been "conversations over a number of weeks" before sending the email.

The Team Rector of North Lambeth, the Revd Angus Aagaard, who has also resigned as a Canon of Asante Mampong Cathedral, said that the Archbishop of Ghana, the Most Revd Cyril Kobina Ben-Smith, had been an assistant priest in the parish for two years, and that "we all hope to continue our strong relationship with him."

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The third priest to resign as an honorary canon of the cathedral is the Rector of St George the Martyr with St Alphege and St Jude, Southwark, the Revd Jonathan Sedgwick, who is due to be installed as Archdeacon of Southwark in May. On Wednesday, he said that the three had resigned “with very heavy hearts but because of the Anglican Church’s very public support for this legislation. We are very clear that we wish to continue in friendship and fellowship with our brother and sister Christians in the Anglican Church in Ghana.”

Bishops in the Church of England and the Archbishop of Canterbury have expressed concern about the support for the Bill, which was indicated in a statement from the House of Bishops of the Ghanaian province of the Church of the Province of West Africa (News, 21 October 2021).

Archbishop Welby later apologised for having commented without first speaking to the Ghanaian Archbishop (News, 19 November 2021). He told the General Synod in November that the Anglican Church in Ghana did not, contrary to reports, endorse the proposed criminalisation of the LGBTQ+ community in the Bill (News, 19 November 2021): a statement not yet confirmed in the public domain by the Ghanaian Bishops.

Perspective

The icing on the Ashers bakery cake case by Peter Lynas

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After almost eight years, the saga of the Ashers Bakery case is hopefully now over. LGBTQ rights activist Gareth Lee had taken his case to the European Court of Human Rights in a last roll of the dice.

The court has ruled Mr Lee's case inadmissible as he did not raise his convention rights in the domestic courts. The end result is that the ruling of the UK Supreme Court stands. Human rights have been affirmed and everyone is protected from compelled or forced speech.

The case dates back to 2014 when Mr Lee ordered a cake with the slogan "support gay marriage" from a bakery owned by the McArthur family. The order was initially accepted but the following day the bakery called Mr Lee to say it could not fulfil his order because it was a "Christian business". The bakery apologised and refunded his money.

Mr Lee, backed by the Equality Commission in Northern Ireland, sued the bakery, Ashers, for damages for alleged discrimination on the grounds of his sexual orientation, political opinion and the religious beliefs of the bakery owners. Mr Lee won his case at first instance at Belfast County Court on all three grounds in 2015. During subsequent appeals the High Court and the Court of Appeal also sided with Mr Lee.

However, in October 2018 five UK Supreme Court judges ruled in favour of Ashers, unanimously finding that there had been no discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation, religious belief or political opinion. The Supreme Court agreed that it is an affront to human dignity to deny someone a service because of that person's race, gender,

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disability, sexual orientation or any of the other protected personal characteristics. But Lady Hale said: “That is not what happened in this case and it does the project of equal treatment no favours to seek to extend it beyond its proper scope.” This is perhaps the key line in the judgment. There was no discrimination in this case, and over-reaching puts all human rights at risk.

Fundamentally this was a case about freedom of conscience, speech and belief, and whether someone could be forced to create a message they profoundly disagreed with. The issue was always the message rather than the messenger. The Supreme Court ruling protects everyone from compelled speech and even LGBTQ activist Peter Tatchell came out in support of the bakers.

In ruling the case inadmissible, the European Court has effectively backed the Supreme Court ruling. The European Court reiterated that in order for a complaint to be admissible, the convention arguments must be raised explicitly or in substance before the domestic authorities. The applicant had not invoked his convention rights at any point in the domestic proceedings and so his appeal failed.

The mark of a free and democratic society is that competing views are discussed and debated. We have seen an increase in cancel culture and “no-platforming” which undermine a free and fair society. The Supreme Court has rightly ruled that it would be wrong to compel the McArthurs to use their creative talents to promote a political cause which is against their deeply held views.

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The case has captured imaginations and split opinions. It raised profound questions about how we balance competing rights. In the end, the Supreme Court wrestled with all the issues and handed down a ruling that protects not just Christians, but everyone from compelled speech.

As writers such as TS Eliot, Tom Holland and Larry Siedentop have noted, our equality and human rights framework is, whether its adherents realise it or not, deeply Christian. We inhabit a society that continues to live off the fruits of the Christian story, while simultaneously chopping down the very tree that sustains that fruit. There is a certain irony that the very human rights that Mr Lee sought to rely on and use against the bakers are fundamentally Christian.

It's disappointing that this case has been pitched as Christians versus the LGBTQ community. The Equality Commission in Northern Ireland must accept some of the responsibility for that framing. In reality both sides were arguing about equality, dignity and human rights based on our image-bearing nature (though such explicit language wasn't used).

While some will say common sense has prevailed, but it is equally true to say that the Christian story has prevailed. Christians need to get better at understanding and articulating the biblical foundations for human rights.

It turns out there is no such thing as a "gay cake". Perhaps now Ashers can get back to making cakes, we can get back to eating them and we can all stop talking about them.

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Peter Lynas is the UK director of the Evangelical Alliance and a former barrister.

Courtesy The Tablet 13/01/2022

Poem for today

Peace

by Patrick Kavanagh

And sometimes I am sorry when the grass
Is growing over the stones in quiet hollows
And the cocksfoot leans across the rutted cart-pass
That I am not the voice of country fellows
Who now are standing by some headland talking
Of turnips and potatoes or young corn
Of turf banks stripped for victory.
Here Peace is still hawking
His coloured combs and scarves and beads of horn.

Upon a headland by a whinny hedge
A hare sits looking down a leaf-lapped furrow
There's an old plough upside-down on a weedy ridge
And someone is shouldering home a saddle-harrow.
Out of that childhood country what fools climb
To fight with tyrants Love and Life and Time.

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