



**Image of the day - Butterflies of Hope on the Shankill**

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### Butterflies of Hope on the Shankill



**The railings of St Michael's and St Stephen's parish churches, Belfast, were bursting with colour in the form of a Butterflies of Hope display in the lead up to Christmas.**

The Butterflies of Hope were created by children from Malvern Primary School, Small Wonders Nursery, St Stephen's Sunday School, St Michael's Afterschool Clubs, residents from Hemsworth Court and clients in Shankill Day Centre.

Heather Carson, parish development officer, said: "The butterflies are a bright and beautiful reminder in difficult times that there is always hope in Jesus."



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She expressed thanks to Mrs McSorley (Principal of Malvern PS) and the boys from the school who read prayers at the dedication of the exhibition, and to the rector of St Michael's and St Stephen's, the Rev Canon James Carson, and clergy from Townsend Presbyterian and Shankill and Woodvale Methodist churches who read scripture, spoke about hope, and prayed for everyone represented by the butterflies and for the community.

“Thank you to everyone who took the time to create such beautiful butterflies this Christmas time,” Heather added.

The Butterflies of Hope exhibition is a follow up to last year's very successful Angels of Faith, Hope and Love exhibition on the railings of the two churches.

## **New Cork post - Diocesan Further Education and Training Officer**

**The Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, Dr Paul Colton, has announced the appointment of the Venerable Terence Mitchell to a new position in the Diocese, that of part-time Diocesan Further Education and Training Officer based in Kilmore Union of Parishes where he will also be priest-in-charge.**

Terry Mitchell grew up in South Africa and after graduating in 1988 worked and ministered in a number of different schools and churches, as well as teaching part-time in an Anglican seminary, the College of the Transfiguration. In 2016 he moved to Ireland where he was appointed as the Rector of the Cloughjordan and Borrisokane Group of



## **The Venerable Terence Mitchell**

Parishes in the Diocese of Killaloe. He was appointed Archdeacon of Killaloe in 2019.

Speaking about his appointment, Terry said:

Teaching and pastoral work are two areas of my ministry that I particularly enjoy and I would hope to share in these ministries in Kilmore Union and the Diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross.

I have frequently visited West Cork, as well as the city of Cork and surrounds, and am struck by both the beauty and vibrancy of the area. My wife and I are looking forward to living in such a beautiful part of the country and in time to meeting you all.

Kilmore Union is the most southerly parish in the Church of Ireland, occupying most of the Mizen Peninsula in County

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Cork. The town of Schull, which is the main centre in the parish, helps to service the farming population and the constant stream of visitors.

An entirely new aspect of this appointment in Cork, Cloyne and Ross is the role of Diocesan Further Education and Training Officer. Terry Mitchell will work with the Bishop and Diocese in the organisation and supervision of activities related to the provision of further education and training services within and throughout the Diocese. The role will be, on the one hand one of oversight, administration and innovation, and, on the other hand, teaching and delivery of parts of or some of the courses.

As the first appointee to this post, Terry will have the exciting and innovative role of developing a strategy for lifelong learning and further education in the United Dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross in ways that both enrich and empower the discipleship of individual members of the Church, and also build up and energise the worship, ministry and mission of the Diocese within the Church of Ireland.

Announcing this appointment, Bishop Paul Colton said: "I am thrilled for the people of the Diocese and the Mizen Peninsula in general, as well as for the people of Kilmore Union of Parishes in particular, that I am announcing this appointment of Archdeacon Terry Mitchell at the start of this new year. He comes well-skilled for these combined roles and it will be exciting to see, especially, this new role of Diocesan Further Education and Training Officer taking shape in the years ahead and bearing fruit in the discipleship and ministry of the people of the Diocese. We

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all look forward to welcoming him and his wife to Cork, Cloyne and Ross later in 2022”.

## **Livestream for Archbishop of Tuam 's installation service on Sunday next**



**Most Reverend Francis Duffy (left) will be installed as Archbishop of Tuam in the Cathedral of the Assumption, Tuam, on Sunday next, 9 January 2022, during the celebration of Mass at 2.30 pm. He succeeds Archbishop Michael Neary (right) who was appointed Archbishop of Tuam on 17 January 1995.**

This will be a joyous and historic occasion for the people of the Archdiocese of Tuam and for Archbishop Francis himself. While it was hoped to celebrate the Installation with as many people as possible in attendance, and at the same time respecting the public health advice and the current



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official guidelines, this is now not possible due to the widespread circulation of the coronavirus in the community.

Archbishop Francis has decided to reduce the risk of his Installation becoming a potential spreader event, and to show his support for and solidarity with all who provide care for those suffering from Covid-19, all healthcare workers, and all work on the frontline in any capacity, the number of invited guests will be reduced to a minimum.



Good and gracious Father,  
we have emerged from a difficult year,  
and we give thanks for help found  
in times of illness, bereavement,  
perplexity and stress,  
and for all those who have served  
the needs of others during the pandemic.



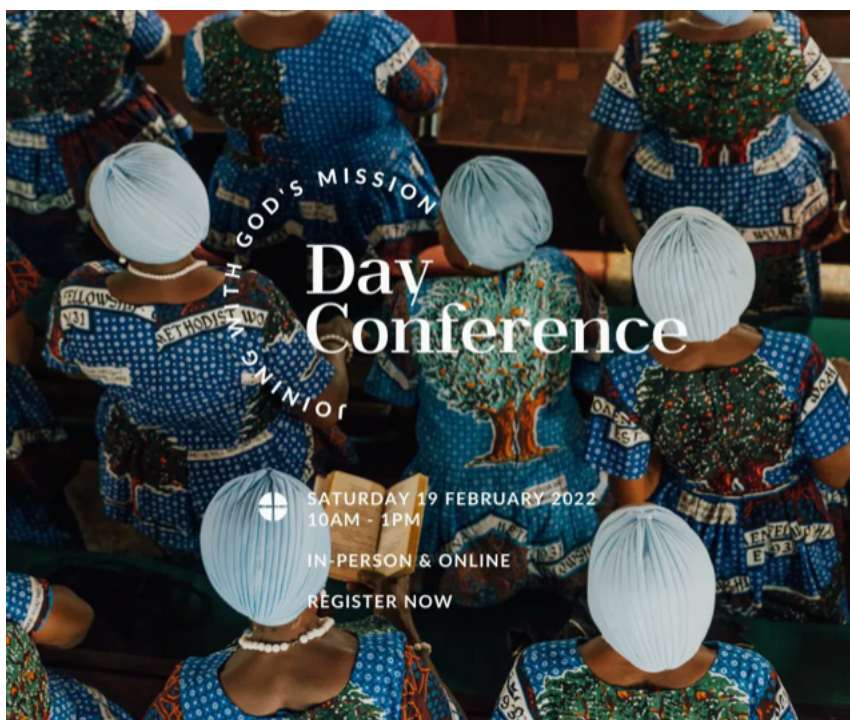
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Therefore, Archbishop Francis respectfully asks those who have been invited not to attend in person but instead to watch the ceremony online, or to listen to the ceremony on Galway Bay FM or Midwest Radio. He regrets the need to take this decision, but he is confident that it will be received with appreciation and understanding.

Sunday 9 January 2022 at 2.30 p.m.

Livestream on <https://www.tuamparish.com/web-cam>

<https://www.catholicbishops.ie/2022/01/04/installation-of-most-reverend-francis-duffy-as-archbishop-of-tuam/>



**Webinars,  
music,  
resources,  
broadcasts  
and books**

**Mission and  
Evangelism  
exploration**

The Irish  
Methodist Church

invites - Come and join with us this February as we explore Mission and Evangelism in the 21st Century and explore how we might help our churches to develop their evangelism ministry. In Person & Online.

Read more and register here: [buff.ly/3pQHtZ1](https://buff.ly/3pQHtZ1)

## **BBC Radio 4 Pick of the Year 2021**

With Clive Myrie and Marianna Spring. A BBC Radio 4 Today programme Thought for the Day by the Bishop of Leeds, Nick Baines, broadcast after 27 people drowned while crossing the Channel in November, is among the items that are selected. (Starts at around 28:42)

[[] <https://account.bbc.com/signin?realm>]

## **News Reports**

### **Presiding bishop will hold Epiphany service in DC today Jan. 6 on anniversary of Capitol attack**

**Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, Washington Bishop Mariann Budde and other Episcopalians will celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany in a livestreamed service at the Church of the Epiphany in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 6 in an event that will also mark the anniversary of the attack on the U.S. Capitol.**

The event, “To Look Like Jesus: A Call to the Church and the Nation,” will begin at noon Eastern time and a video address to the nation will follow from Curry in the afternoon.

“This Epiphany, we will proclaim that we recognize Christ alive and moving wherever people are looking, acting, and loving like Jesus,” the Office of Public Affairs wrote. “Bishop

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Curry will invite Episcopalians to commit afresh to becoming vibrant, loving, healing, truth-telling embodiments of Jesus and his light — in our communities and in our nation.” The event will promote Curry’s vision of The Episcopal Church as “a church that looks and acts like Jesus ... no longer centered on empire and establishment, no longer





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fixated on preserving institutions, no longer shoring up white supremacy or anything else that hurts or harms any child of God,” ideas Curry has previously articulated publicly. The worship service on the Feast of the Epiphany – which celebrates the revelation of Jesus in the world, particularly to the magi who came to visit Bethlehem – will feature “a diversity of people who are the face of Christ,” from Episcopal clergy to musicians Kory Caudill and Chanda Leigh Adeogba to homeless people.

The event takes place on the first anniversary of the attack on the Capitol by hundreds of supporters of then-President Donald Trump as Congress met to certify Joe Biden’s victory in the 2020 election. At a White House rally immediately before the attack, Trump and other Republicans repeated false claims of election fraud they had been making since Election Day (and even before) in an attempt to overturn the election. Trump urged his supporters to march to the Capitol, which they infiltrated and ransacked for about 5 hours.

One Capitol Police officer died the next day “due to injuries sustained while on-duty,” according to Capitol Police, and another four officers killed themselves over the following months. Four rioters died during the attack.

While the attack was still unfolding, Curry denounced it as a “coup attempt” in a video message.

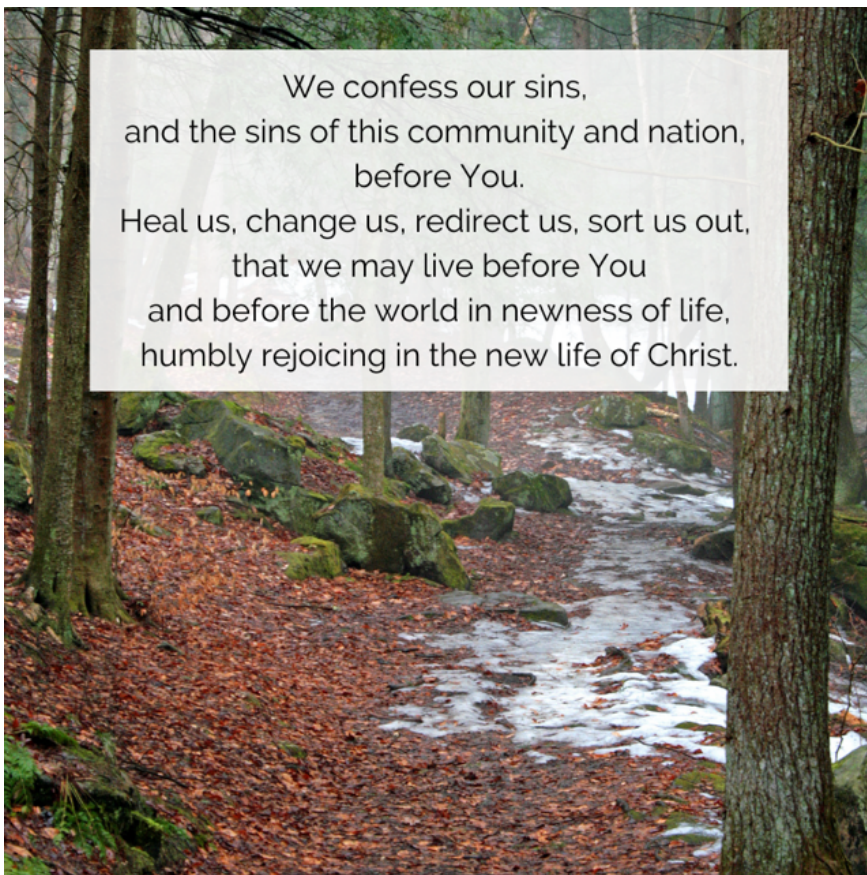
“The events at our Capitol today are deeply disturbing,” Curry said at the time. “Today’s protesters pushed through police barricades and forced their way into congressional chambers and ... [are] threatening the safety of lawmakers,

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their staff and others who work in the Capitol complex. This threatens the integrity of our democracy, the national security of our nation, the continuity of government, and the lives and safety of our legislators, their staffs, law enforcement and all who work in the Capitol.”

Curry and House of Deputies President the Rev. Gay Clark Jennings later specifically denounced the use of Christian imagery and language by many of the rioters.

“The stories, signs and symbols of our faith are being put to violent use by people who want to establish a nation in which power and privilege is held exclusively by white Christians,” Jennings said during an Executive Council meeting two weeks after the attack. “We have a special responsibility to stand against it.”



On Feb. 10, 2021, the House of Representatives impeached Trump for “incitement of insurrection.” He was acquitted three days later in the Senate. The former president and his supporters still falsely maintain

the election was stolen.

[churchnewsireland@gmail.org](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.org)

## **Middle East Churches prepare resources for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2022**

**The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, held 18-25 January, will draw together churches across the globe to reflect on the hope and joy in Matthew 2:2, 'We saw the star in the East, and we came to worship him.'**

The Middle East Council of Churches, based in Beirut, Lebanon, was the convener for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2022 drafting group.

The reflections explore how Christians are called to be a sign to the world of God bringing about unity. Drawn from different cultures, races and languages, Christians share in a common search for Christ and a common desire to worship him.

One reflection notes that, in the midst of evil, we long for goodness. "We look for the good within ourselves, but so often we are overwhelmed by our weakness that hope fails us," the reflection reads. "Our confidence rests in the God we worship."

Christians from Lebanon, Syria and Egypt developed the resources with input from an international group representing the Catholic Church's Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and the World Council of Church's Faith and Order Commission. The resources include an



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ecumenical opening prayer service, biblical reflections and prayers for eight days, and other elements of worship.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is an international Christian ecumenical observance kept annually around Pentecost in the Southern Hemisphere and between 18-25 January in the Northern Hemisphere.

Each year ecumenical partners in a different region are asked to prepare the materials.

With roots going back over 100 years, the dedicated octave of prayers has been jointly commissioned and prepared since 1966, after the Second Vatican Council, by the Roman Catholic Church and the WCC.

The materials for 2022 are already available in English, French, German, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian and Arabic.

**[Learn more about the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity](http://www.oikoumene.org/resources/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity)**  
[www.oikoumene.org/resources/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity](http://www.oikoumene.org/resources/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity)

**[Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2022: "We saw the star in the East..."](http://www.oikoumene.org/news/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2022-we-saw-the-star-in-the-east)**

[www.oikoumene.org/news/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2022-we-saw-the-star-in-the-east](http://www.oikoumene.org/news/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2022-we-saw-the-star-in-the-east)

**[Worship and background material for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2022:](http://www.oikoumene.org/resources/documents/worship-and-background-material-for-the-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2022)**

[www.oikoumene.org/resources/documents/worship-and-background-material-for-the-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2022](http://www.oikoumene.org/resources/documents/worship-and-background-material-for-the-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2022)

## **Twenty-two missionaries murdered in 2021, reveals Vatican in annual report**

**Twenty-two Catholic missionaries were killed around the world in 2021, half of them in Africa, according to a report released by the Fides News Agency.**

Fides, the news agency of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, reported that of the 22 missionaries killed in 2021, 13 were priests, two were women religious, one was a male religious, and six were lay people. Half of the total were killed in Africa: seven priests, two religious sisters, and two lay people.

In its report, Fides explains that their annual list “has not only included missionaries ad gentes in the strict sense, but has tried to register all Catholic Christians engaged in some way in a pastoral activity who died violently, not expressly ‘in hatred of the faith’.”

According to the report, seven missionaries were murdered in Latin America, three in Asia, and one in Europe.

“In recent years, Africa and Latin America have alternated in the first place of this tragic ranking. From 2000 to 2020, according to our data, 536 missionaries were killed worldwide,” says the report.

The full report (in a MSWord document,) provides a detailed list of all the missionaries; but summarizes the motives and different circumstances of their killing.

It says: “Parish priests killed in their communities, in Africa and the Americas, tortured, kidnapped by criminals in search of non-existent treasures or attracted by the mirage of easy redemptions or to silence uncomfortable voices, which urged not to passively submit to the regime of crime; priests engaged in social works, as in Haiti, killed to rob them of what was needed to run such activities, or even killed by those they were helping, as in France, or in Venezuela, where a religious was killed by thieves in the same school where he taught to young people how to build a future.”

“Nuns hunted and killed in cold blood by bandits in South Sudan. And still many lay people, whose number is growing: catechists killed by armed clashes together with the communities that animated South Sudan; youths killed by snipers while trying to bring aid to displaced people fleeing clashes between the army and guerrillas in Myanmar; a female lay missionary brutally murdered to steal her cellphone in Peru.”

The Fides report, nevertheless, avoids any mention of the number of Catholics in Africa, mostly priests, killed by Islamist radicals, especially in Nigeria. The report only mentions the victims as being killed by “a group of armed men,” with no mention to their connection to radical Islamist organizations in sub-Saharan Africa such as Boko Haram.

According to Fides, to this list, “must be added the long list of the many, of whom perhaps we will never know or whose name we will not even know, who in every corner of the



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planet suffer and pay with their lives their faith in Jesus Christ.”

## **A surge of evangelicals in Spain, fueled by Latin Americans**

**When Kent Albright, a Baptist pastor from the United States, arrived as a missionary to Spain in 1996, he was unprepared for the insults and threats, or the fines from the police for handing out Protestant leaflets on the streets of Salamanca, the Miami Herald reports.**

“Social animosity was big — they had never seen a Protestant in their life,” said Albright, recalling one woman who whispered, “Be thankful we don’t throw stones at you.”

He couldn’t have imagined that 25 years later, he would be pastoring an evangelical congregation of 120 and count about two dozen other thriving Protestant churches in the northwestern city.

And there’s a distinctive feature to the worshippers: Most of them are not Spanish-born — they’re immigrants from Latin America, including about 80% of Albright’s congregation. The numbers reflect huge surges in Spain’s migrant population and evangelical population in recent decades, producing profound changes in how faith is practiced in a country long dominated by the Catholic church.

“The Bible says there are no ethnicities, there are no races. I don’t go down the street asking, nor do I ask for passports at the church door.” Albright said. He marvels that in a

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course he teaches for deacons, his six students include one each from Peru, Venezuela, Colombia and Ecuador.

One of the newest members of his congregation is Luis Perozo, 31, a former police officer from Maracaibo, Venezuela who arrived in Spain in February 2020 and applied for asylum with his wife, Narbic Escalante, 35.

While the couple wait for their status to be resolved, Perozo works in the laundry of a hotel. His wife does nursing in a retirement home. "I was a lifelong Catholic," says Escalante. "When I arrived in Salamanca, I entered the church, looked everywhere, said hello, and they ignored me. I went to several churches — I felt absolutely nothing."

Perozo and Escalante soon visited Albright's church — one of Perozo's uncles had emigrated earlier and was already a member. "The next day, Pastor Albright was helping us find a house, appliances and kitchenware. He moved us with his van," Escalante said.

Read more at: <https://www.miamiherald.com/entertainment/celebrities/article257031127.html#storylink=cpy>

## Poem for today

### Looking for a sunset bird in winter by Robert Frost

The west was getting out of gold,  
The breath of air had died of cold,  
When shoeing home across the white,

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I thought I saw a bird alight.

In summer when I passed the place  
I had to stop and lift my face;  
A bird with an angelic gift  
Was singing in it sweet and swift.

No bird was singing in it now.  
A single leaf was on a bough,  
And that was all there was to see  
In going twice around the tree.

From my advantage on a hill  
I judged that such a crystal chill  
Was only adding frost to snow  
As gilt to gold that wouldn't show.

A brush had left a crooked stroke  
Of what was either cloud or smoke  
From north to south across the blue;  
A piercing little star was through.

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