

January 8, 2022

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NEWS
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Image of the day - Carlisle Cathedral

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Carlisle Cathedral

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People and places



Mothers' Union Diocesan President raises €3k over 100km

Hilary Dring, Mothers' Union Diocesan President in Cork, Cloyne and Ross, has walked over 100km throughout the autumn and winter

months of 2021 in aid of local projects.

Hilary writes, "Over the autumn months Mothers' Union members took to the highways and byways of Cork, both city and county, to raise funds for the Mums in May fund –

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what a great time we had, walking and talking, getting soaked, enjoying the sunshine, drinking tea together, sharing stories and praying together. The views were at times magnificent, at times we were in the fog; it was always enjoyable!

“‘21 in 21’ was the tagline – do 21 of something and raise some money to help fund projects all across Ireland. So I thought what could I do? I could walk 21 x 5km and raise a few bob. Little did I realise how wonderful a plan it would be. For a year and a half we had not been able to have any meetings or services, members had been ‘cocooning’ and were isolated and often lonely.

“As I contacted the different branches, and the walks were organised one by one, I experienced the sheer joy of seeing people meet up again after not seeing each other for so long. It was simply amazing to bring people together in different places, to have the support of the clergy, who led us in prayer as we set out and often walked with us. It seemed such a simple thing to do but it turned out to be also a profound thing to do. Members and others were encouraged and strengthened as we gathered. The friendship and fellowship which is such a big part of Mothers’ Union was able to take place again in person.

“Travelling around the county was a wonderful experience and I learned so much about the different areas thanks to the local knowledge that ‘walked’ with me. I visited places I had never been before and learned of the history of Cork in a new light.

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“Thank you to all who walked with me, to those who organised the walks, the teas, the prayers, the raising of funds. My 21 walks have raised just short of €3,000 and, along with the great efforts of many other members in Cork, we have raised a total of €7878 so far which is incredible. Across Ireland we estimate that the amount will be well above €50,000, which will go towards local projects and towards changing people’s lives over the next three years.”

Gay cake ruling 'protects everyone from compelled speech'

The Evangelical Alliance has welcomed the European Court of Human Rights' decision not to hear a case involving a Christian bakery that refused to make a pro-gay cake.

Ashers Baking Co declined to create a cake iced with the words "Support Gay Marriage".

The order was placed by gay rights activist Gareth Lee in 2014, who said he had been discriminated against by the bakery's refusal to make the cake.

He took the Belfast-based bakery and its owners, Colin and Karen McArthur, to court but in 2018, the McArthurs won the case at the UK Supreme Court, which concluded that equality law does not compel people to say something they profoundly disagree with.

Mr Lee then sought a ruling from the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) that would prevent business owners



from being able to refuse to make products because they disagree with the messages contained in them.

The McArthurs won their case at the UK Supreme Court in 2018.

On Thursday the ECHR ruled the case inadmissible, meaning that the UK Supreme Court verdict stands.

Peter Lynas, UK director of the Evangelical Alliance and a former barrister, said "everyone is better off" as a result of Thursday's decision.

He said it "protects us all from compelled speech" and means that "everyone's human rights have been affirmed".

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"This case was about freedom of conscience, speech and belief, and whether someone could be forced to create a message they profoundly disagreed with. Today's ruling protects everyone from compelled speech," he said.

"The Supreme Court found no discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation, religious belief or political opinion.

"The issue was always the message rather than the messenger. In ruling the case inadmissible, the ECHR has effectively backed the Supreme Court ruling."

Simon Calvert, spokesman for The Christian Institute, which supported the McArthurs in the seven-year battle, said the ruling protects business owners from being forced to promote views they do not share.

"This could have included a Muslim printer being forced to print cartoons of Muhammad, or a lesbian-owned bakery being forced to make a cake describing gay marriage as an 'abomination'," he said.

"This is good news for free speech, good news for Christians, and good news for the McArthurs."

Mr Lee's lawyer, Ciaran Moynagh of Phoenix Law, told Belfast Live that they are considering bringing a fresh court challenge under domestic law.

Donaghcloney Parish welcomes a new rector



Revd Mark Lennox has received a warm welcome from his new congregations in Donaghcloney and Waringstown.

The Bishop of Down & Dromore, Right Reverend David McClay instituted Mark (above) as Rector at a service in Holy Trinity Waringstown on 6 January and Bishop Ken Clarke gave the address.

Mark has known Bishop Ken for many years, and they have travelled many miles and journeys together (both literally and spiritually). The primary emphasis of the sermon was St Paul's clear exhortation to the younger leader Timothy, "Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus..."

Preaching from the first few verses of 2 Timothy 2, Bishop Ken said:

"Mark, you will feel stretched weak and unsure at times but be strong in the grace of Christ Jesus. Preach grace. Live in grace. Swim in the river of grace. Drink from the wells of

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Christ's grace. Aim for a grace-filled ministry. Like Jesus be full of grace and truth!"

Bishop Ken also challenged the Church to be strong in grace.... "a church of open hearts not bitter hearts, upbuilding words not hurtful comments, welcoming hands not clenched fists nor pointing fingers! The crucified hands of Jesus are open hands speaking of profound compassion, radical forgiveness and overflowing overwhelming and unending grace!"

Link to longer report and photographs at -

[[] <https://www.downanddromore.org/news/2022/01/donaghcloney-parish-welcomes-a-new-rector>]

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts and books



Founders Day at Church Army next Friday

The 14th of January (next Friday) is Founders Day at Church Army, marking Wilson Carlile's birthday. In our brand new blog, we ask What Motivated Wilson Carlile? Read it here bit.ly/3HIQZV8

Microsoft Methodists

In 2022, MCI are rolling out the use of Microsoft Teams to Boards & Committees, Districts, Circuits and Societies.

“To assist with this we're running 4 one-hour weekly training sessions beginning Tuesday 11th January at 7.30pm.”

Read more & register here: buff.ly/3sXfmL0

Chamber Choir Ireland presents Soul Peace online

Chamber Choir Ireland presents Soul Peace, a concert of works seeking peace and comfort, available to stream online from Friday, 14 January 2022, 6.00pm

Nils Schweckendiek, Artistic Director of the Helsinki Chamber Choir, joins Chamber Choir Ireland as Guest Director for this diverse programme of works, unified by the universal search for peace and comfort in places internal and external—a drink at the end of the day in Paul Hindemith's madrigal 'Trink aus!'; the soothing sounds of the



late-night shipping forecast in Amanda Feery's Longwave; or the small light of religious faith held within, in Eugene Birman's Lamentations, Ina Boyle's Five Gaelic Hymns, and Amy Beach's psalm, Help us, O God.

This concert, performed to a live audience in November 2021, will now be made available to online audiences for one week only. Sampler and link at -

[[] <https://journalofmusic.com/listing/06-01-22/chamber-choir-ireland-presents-soul-peace>]

Episcopal and Anglican Studies at Candler

Candler School of Theology at Emory University offers a Master of Divinity degree with a certificate in Episcopal and Anglican Studies, a 2-year Master of Religious Leadership

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and a 90% online Doctor of Ministry so you can be ready to serve, wherever God leads.

Enhance your ability to serve as a church leader, pastoral counselor, community organizer, or chaplain in a parish, school, hospital, prison, retirement community, or other setting.

Build ministry skills through 2+ years of mentor-led, hands-on training.

Benefit from the resources of top-ranked Emory University.

Generous scholarship support: 100% of MDiv and MRL students receive at least 50% tuition, with 75% tuition for qualified students in Episcopal and Anglican Studies, and substantial support for DMin students.

[\[https://apply.candler.emory.edu/rfi/livingchurch-eblast-Jan2022.html?utm\]](https://apply.candler.emory.edu/rfi/livingchurch-eblast-Jan2022.html?utm)

Are you considering undertaking a postgraduate programme?

A postgraduate programme at SPPU - St Patrick's Pontifical University at Maynooth - allows you to look at bigger issues of life and develop a skillset that allows you to think critically, debate and communicate effectively and research your topics in great depth. These skills can add to your career and your purpose in life.

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Discover their range of Postgraduate programmes on offer at maynoothcollege.ie/courses.

First Holy Communion - Online preparation evenings for parents/guardians in Elphin

Online preparation evenings for parents/guardians of First Holy Communion Candidates begin next week in Boyle and Castlerea Deaneries. See [elphindiocese.ie] for further details and dates for all parishes throughout the Diocese. Hosted by the volunteer diocesan Catechists

News Reports

‘We stand at a moment of peril and promise’: Bishop Curry recalls the Capitol riots

In Epiphany service and Lincoln Memorial speech, presiding bishop calls nation to wake from ‘the nightmare of Jan. 6’

‘The United States must wake up from the “nightmare” of the attack on the US Capitol building a year ago (News, 8 January 2021), the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, the Most Revd Michael Curry, said in a video address to the nation on Thursday, as commemorative events were held in Washington, DC.

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Standing by the monument of Abraham Lincoln, he said that the attack — at which supporters of the former President, Donald Trump, stormed the Capitol building in an attempt to force lawmakers to overturn the election result — was “also a revelation that there are forces intentionally seeking and working to divide us”.

And, in a rallying call, he said that the United States was standing at a “moral moment of spiritual peril and promise. . . Such a moment demands moral vision that is beyond mere self-interest and beholds the common good.”

He quoted the late Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who said: “If you want peace, do not talk to your friends, talk to your enemies.”

Bishop Curry also preached at an Epiphany service in Washington, DC, just east of the White House, in the morning.

In his sermon, he said: “One year ago . . . darkness descended [on] the land and Epiphany was eclipsed at the Capitol of the United States of America. And it occurred to me a few months ago that, whatever else goes on, we who claim to be followers of Jesus Christ must reclaim Epiphany.”

He said there was also a need to reclaim the symbols of Christianity, which had been co-opted by some of the rioters.

“We saw the Capitol of the United States of America breached, the temple of democracy desecrated. . . We saw

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symbols of Christianity used to perpetuate the desecration,” he said. “We must reclaim it by choosing the light.”

Later in the day, he also offered a prayer at a candle-lit vigil with members of Congress on the steps of the Capitol.

Five people died in the 6 January attack or shortly afterwards.

President Biden used the anniversary to launch an excoriating attack on Donald Trump in a televised address, though he did not mention Mr Trump by name.

“The former president of the United States of America has created and spread a web of lies about the 2020 election,” he said. “His bruised ego matters more to him than our democracy or our constitution. For the first time in our history, a president had not just lost an election: he tried to prevent the peaceful transfer of power as a violent mob breached the Capitol. . . I will allow no one to place a dagger at the throat of democracy.”

It was his harshest attack yet on the former president and the Republicans who still support him, and marks a shift in tone from his earlier unifying rhetoric.

The evening before, on 5 January, the congregation of Old North Church, in Boston, Massachusetts — an Episcopal church best known as the illuminated focal point of Paul Revere’s 1775 ride at the start of the American Revolution — lit lanterns in support of American democracy.

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The Vicar, the Revd Dr Matthew Cadwell, said: “In memory of those killed on January 6, 2021, and in support of the noblest ideals of our beloved nation, the Old North Church lights its sacred lanterns again tonight, signalling to all that the lights of freedom and democracy continue to shine brightly in our city, Commonwealth, and nation.

“We pray that these lights lead us all to clearer vision, better understanding, and deeper reverence for the institutions of our democracy.”

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Following a Jan. 6 noon Epiphany service at Church of the Epiphany in Washington, D.C., Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry shared words of reflection and exhortation to the church and nation in a recorded message from the Lincoln Memorial.

“The nightmare of last January 6th was not just an event—it was a revelation,” he said. “It was a revelation of deeply dangerous divisions in our nation. ... That day, and our response to it, contain potential for both peril and promise.”

On the web: <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/publicaffairs/presiding-bishop-curry-highlights-moment-of-peril-and-promise-on-one-year-anniversary-of-jan-6-attack/>

Perspective

Desmond Tutu deserves his place in our liturgical year – by Bishop George Carey

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Desmond, who died on Boxing Day age 90 – inaccurately described as a ‘leading apartheid leader’ by many secular writers – was shaped by a firm Anglo Catholic faith and a deep sense of the presence of God.

It was a real blessing to know this man and to have been close to him during the most turbulent times of the struggle for justice and equal rights for black people in South Africa.

My first meeting with Desmond was in 1991 in Newcastle, Northern Ireland at the Primates Meeting of the Anglican Communion. Desmond swept in, a day late, because of an important political event that he felt it was necessary to attend and we became firm friends almost immediately. Indeed, there was much to admire in this small man with his engaging smile, infectious laughter and ability to defuse any tense meeting. He was quick to speak of Archbishop Trevor Huddleston’s influence on his life and the fact that I knew Trevor, and had also benefited from theological teaching at Kings London brought us together.

But January 1994 would consolidate our friendship and bring me more closely into contact with the South African church’s struggle against apartheid. The Primates Meeting in Cape Town was the occasion and Nelson Mandela had just been released from prison. Desmond managed to persuade Mandela to address us. Introduced by Desmond, Mandela spoke with frankness about his experiences of conflict with white authorities. He spoke with appreciation of Desmond’s ministry during his absence in prison describing it as costly as well as inspiring. Most notably, Mandela spoke freely of his own faith and the crucial role of the Christian faith in the struggle for freedom.

It was during this visit that a meeting with President de Klerk indicated that the formidable and ugly walls of apartheid were about to collapse. The President met myself, Desmond, Archbishop Robin Eames and Presiding Bishop Ed Browning of the United States.

Desmond clearly had a professional, convivial but robust relationship with the President. But the meeting had its moment of tension. President de Klerk expressed some anger when I asked him whether he agreed that apartheid was very evil. He replied in personal terms arguing that apartheid was never designed to make black people second class citizens. He pointed to his father, a Dutch Reformed minister who had believed in this “social structure”. Then he visibly softened his tone admitting that apartheid had become evil.

I recall Desmond saying later that the President’s dawning admission of the evil of apartheid was a necessary step towards the ultimate goal of truth and reconciliation.

Other visits to the Province of South Africa showed the effective ministry of Desmond Tutu. His warm personality, sharp intellect and bright sense of humour were extraordinary gifts that he deployed to defuse the racial tensions that remained. But it is important to acknowledge the role of other Christian leaders alongside Desmond. This was no ‘one man band’ show. Catholic, free church and other leaders were also very visible, joining hands in protests outside Parliament and uniting in worship. The Province of South Africa gave tremendous support to the Archbishop, releasing him to get on with being the voice and

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face of protest. Bishop Nuttall kept the reins of the church in his capable hands describing himself as 'number two to Desmond Tutu'.

In his tribute to Desmond Tutu Archbishop Justin Welby compared himself as a mouse to the elephant that Desmond represented. But it is not necessary to make this personal. What made Desmond was that, like David of old against Goliath, Desmond used his office as Archbishop and his considerable personal gifts to take up the fight against evil. It was the events that shaped his ministry.

Desmond Tutu deserves a place in our liturgies alongside other great individuals, such as George Bell, for commemoration and prayer. Liturgists, get to work.

Courtesy - Church of England Newspaper, January 6 2022

Poem for today

The Meeting by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

After so long an absence
At last we meet again:
Does the meeting give us pleasure,
Or does it give us pain?

The tree of life has been shaken,
And but few of us linger now,
Like the Prophet's two or three berries
In the top of the uttermost bough.

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We cordially greet each other
In the old, familiar tone;
And we think, though we do not say it,
How old and gray he is grown!

We speak of a Merry Christmas
And many a Happy New Year
But each in his heart is thinking
Of those that are not here.

We speak of friends and their fortunes,
And of what they did and said,
Till the dead alone seem living,
And the living alone seem dead.

And at last we hardly distinguish
Between the ghosts and the guests;
And a mist and shadow of sadness
Steals over our merriest jests.

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friends**

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