

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Albert Clock, Belfast

People and places



Special service for 1972 Troubles victims at Derry cathedral

A special 50th anniversary service will be held in Derry to remember victims who died or were injured during the worst year of the Troubles, Brendan McDaid writes in The Derry Journal .

1972 Remembered - 50th Anniversary' will take place this Friday, March 11 at 7.30pm in St Columb's Cathedral.

The event has been organised by Supprting Victims and Survivr. Strengthening Communities (SEFF) in conjunction with St Columb's Cathedral.

SEFF's Director of Services Kenny Donaldson said: "Almost 500 people died as a result of 'The Troubles' in 1972 and almost 5,000 were injured.

"We are aware that many of these families feel forgotten and others marginalised.

"We therefore worked with St Columb's Cathedral to develop this Service which we hope will offer an opportunity for collective remembrance and for solidarity to be present

Loving God,

**We pray for the people of Ukraine,
for all those suffering or afraid,
that you will be close to them and protect them.**

**We pray for world leaders,
for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their
choices.**

**We pray for the world that in this moment of crisis,
we may reach out in solidarity
to our brothers and sisters in need.**

**May we walk in your ways
so that peace and justice
become a reality for the people of Ukraine
and for all the world.**

Amen.



within innocents from right across the religious and political spectrum.

“We are again leading, and we appeal for others to respond positively.

“The Service is aptly themed; Acknowledging the Hurt, Healing and Pain and will aim to offer a time of reflection for those grievously impacted by the violence; those bereaved, those injured and those who were witness as well as those who supported the aftermath of incidents.”

The service will be conducted by Dean Raymond Stewart.

There will also be an address by the Right Reverend Andrew Forster, Church of Ireland Bishop of Derry & Raphoe.

Mr Donaldson also contended: “All must finally acknowledge that there was no legitimacy for the use of violence in the furtherance of or defence of a political objective; to claim there was is to continue the lie which fed the violence which brought this place to the point of Civil War.

“SEFF supports Peace, but not a phoney Peace, a just Peace where there is accountability for actions committed.

“ Let us never forget that Peace is not the Absence of terrorism, but the presence of Justice.”

Mr Donaldson concluded by inviting ‘all innocents, particularly those impacted by 1972 violence’ to attend the Service and he reminded those wishing to attend must

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RSVP with the SEFF office on: 028 677 23884, selecting option 1.

Those attending have also been advised that protective masks will also need to be worn entering and leaving the Cathedral and St Augustine's Parish Hall.

Courtesy The Derry Journal 07/03/2022

Divine Healing Ministries to launch Christian Irish Diaspora Association

On St. Patrick's Day at 7.30pm, there will be a special evening at St. Patrick's Ballymacarrett to launch the Christian Irish Diaspora Association (CIDA).

The evening will include praise from the Belfast Community Gospel Choir and the speakers will be Br David Jardine and David Legge.

The Christian Irish Diaspora Association is an affiliated ministry of Divine Healing Ministries to connect with the dispersed Christians from the Island of Ireland. Over 70 to 80 million people are in the Irish Diaspora. The vision is to encourage many Christians to join in praying for the whole of Ireland.

As this will be a ticketed event, now is the time to register your interest so we can allocate tickets to you, your friends and family members.

To book your ticket, send an email to:
don@christianirish.com

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You will then be emailed a numbered ticket for this special evening.

9th century crozier returns to the Shankill

Queen's University and the Greater Shankill Partnership have been working together with the Shankill's shamrock shaped St Matthew's Church to mark its 150th anniversary.



To celebrate and showcase the evolving social history linked to the church and the community, Queen's is facilitating an exhibition of photos, artefacts and displays.



On display for one day only at the launch on of the exhibition on Tuesday, past, March 8, was a bishop's crozier dating back to the 9th century. This was discovered in the grounds of Shankill Graveyard 300 years ago and is kept in the National Museum of Ireland in Dublin.

The Rev Tracey McRoberts, rector of St Matthew's said: "We are looking forward to welcoming children from local schools to view this priceless Shankill treasure alongside croziers used by our bishop today.

On Saturday March 12, we will be capturing some of the rich social history of the church and the Shankill area in a 'History Harvest' to gather stories, memories, old photos and memorabilia relating to the history of the church and wider area."



Olwen Purdue, Professor of Social History at Queen's, said: "This church, and the parish it serves, has an important history, dating back to pre-Christian times and closely connected to the wider history and growth of Belfast.

"The people of these streets have experienced wars and rebellions, industrialisation, urban change and conflict; they have also experienced work, play, loss, childhood, old age.

"This exciting collaboration between academics, public history students and local communities seeks to capture and tell the stories of these streets and the people who lived in them to explore the rich and diverse social history of this neighbourhood and community and develop new resources for learning and engaging with local history."

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Welcoming the exhibition, Jackie Redpath of the Greater Shankill Partnership, said: “We’re delighted that a partnership between St Matthew’s, Queen’s University and ourselves has come together to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the church and the rich history of the Shankill. We are especially grateful to the National Museum Dublin for bringing the bishop’s crozier back to its origins on the Shankill to exhibit – truly an historical occasion.”



Medical supplies leave Cork for Ukraine

On Tuesday past, 8th March, five van loads carrying 13 tonnes of medical supplies and aid contributed by Cork people and organisations in Cork departed for Ukraine, driven by a team from the Cork City Missing Persons

Search and Recovery accompanied by Caitriona Twomey of Cork Penny Dinners.

The cost of the ferry crossing from Rosslare to Cherbourg for the five vans has been covered, through an impulse offer of Bishop Paul Colton at lunch with Caitriona last Friday, by some of the clergy, employees and parishes of the Dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross. The vans will travel onwards through France, Belgium, Germany and into Poland where, at the border with Ukraine, the Cork team will be met by members of the Redemptorist Order who will bring them into Ukraine.

Whitehead and Islandmagee walkers 2,776 miles into challenge

The parishioners of Whitehead and Islandmagee are more than two thirds of the way to completing a 3,381 mile hike to the USA!

The challenge, which began on New Year's Day, is not only to get fitter, boosting positive mental health, but to support the caring work of St Patrick's & St John's churches in the local community.

Parishioners are aiming to clock up the full 3,381 miles by St Patrick's Day to complete the challenge.

An update on the parish Facebook page reveals that to date parishioners have walked a tremendous 2,776 miles and are (virtually) mid-way through Newfoundland in Canada, with a



further 1,002miles to reach their destination of Washington DC by midnight on March 17!

Revd Karen Salmon introduced to Magherally and Annaclone

Revd Karen Salmon has received a warm welcome from her new parish of Magherally and Annaclone.

The Bishop of Down & Dromore, Rt Rev David McClay introduced Karen as Bishop's Curate at a service in St John the Evangelist, Magherally on 8 March and the Rector of Willowfield, Revd Clive Atkinson, gave the address. The ladies of the parish provided a lovely supper afterwards.

Karen said: "It is a privilege to be introduced as Bishop's Curate for the Parish of Magherally and Annaclone. This is such an outward looking parish with a heart for overseas



mission and an active concern for their community. I am excited about God's call to lead them into a new chapter of growth. Any call is also, however, daunting, but we follow a BIG God who we know is always faithful, so I'm resting on that truth for now!"

About Karen

Karen began her working life as a nurse in Cardiology at Belfast City Hospital. This fostered a passion for preventive health care which led to her work as a health visitor and team leader at Cuper Street and Shankill Health Centres.

Spiritually, Karen spent formative years as a member of Knocknagoney Parish and the ecumenical group Community of the King where she led a women's group and was involved in children's ministry. While helping lead a

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Scripture Union camp she read an article on Mission which resulted in a rich twenty-year experience in Ethiopia with Crosslinks.

She was ordained in 2018 and served her deacon year in Shankill Parish Lurgan followed by a curacy in Willowfield Church. At a diocesan level, Karen currently holds the role of Joint Diocesan Director of Ordinands.

View the livestream of the service on the diocesan Facebook page.

[[] <https://www.facebook.com/dioceseofdownanddromore>]

News reports

Scottish primus calls for swifter action to help Ukrainian refugees reach UK

Following a special meeting of the United Kingdom Parliament where President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine addressed the House of Commons, the Most Rev. Mark Strange, primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church, commented:

“I, like all of us, have been watching the coverage of the invasion of Ukraine. Today we heard the powerful testimony from President Zelenskyy to U.K. parliamentarians. He laid out how the tactics of the aggressor changed as the Ukrainian resistance has proven stronger than was expected. We are now confronted by images of indiscriminate bombing of civilian areas and by the

Office of The
CHIEF RABBI

PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE

רבון העולמים
שומע תפילת כל פה

Sovereign of the Universe
Who hearkens to our prayers,

We stand before You in solidarity with all who are enduring the darkness of human conflict in Ukraine.

May You protect all innocent men, women and children at this moment of great peril for them, their country, for Europe and the world.

Bring fortitude to the vulnerable, resilience to the insecure and strength to those who live in fear.

Incline the hearts of national leaders towards peace and reconciliation and bless them with the wisdom, vision and perseverance needed to end this war and restore peace to the region.

Almighty God, strengthen the hands of those who pursue peace, not war. Bring harmony where there is hostility; relief where there is pain and hope where there is despair.

May He who makes peace in high places
Make peace for all on earth.

וכן יהי רצון

May this be your will
And let us say Amen.



continuing attacks upon families attempting to escape the onslaught.

“None of this can be defended; it is against international law and against any understanding of acceptable behavior.

“We are called upon to pray for peace, to work for peace and to live our lives offering peace, yet sometimes peace can only be created when the aggressor is challenged and wickedness confronted. Across the world people are calling out the evil we are witnessing; many are offering themselves to help in any way possible. There can be no let-up in the voices of condemnation, for if we begin to quiet our protest, or turn towards other matters, then the aggressor will have won.

“We are also called to act. I have been contacted by many people offering to help, as well as people wanting to know why we in the UK have offered refuge to so few of the people in need.

“I have tried to resist the temptation to comment on the slow response from the UK to this refugee emergency that is now engulfing Europe. I have waited to see if the promises being made by the UK government will be fulfilled. Last night I watched a news report which showed three government officials standing in a nearly empty room telling those who had reached Calais that they needed to go back to Paris to register. This is not acceptable.

“The need is urgent. People in need must be welcomed now and the necessary administration can follow, without becoming a barrier to those we need to help immediately. I

call on the Government: as we have been praying, so let us act: now.”

Bristol Cathedral replaces men-only plaque remembering first female priests

A plaque to mark the first female priests ordained into the Church of England is being replaced this week because it only mentioned the male clergy who carried out the ceremony.

Bristol Cathedral became the first Anglican church to ordain women as priests on 12 March 1994 at a service for 32 female deacons.

But when it came to memorialising the historic move, none of the women involved featured on a plaque in the cathedral, even though they helped pay for it to be made.

Instead, in a mark of the controversy of the issue as well as the power of patriarchy at the time, only the men who led the service appeared on the plaque. They were the bishop of Bristol at the time, Barry Rogerson, and the dean of the cathedral, Wesley Carr.

But next Saturday, after a long campaign by some of the female priests involved, a new plaque will be unveiled by the current bishop of Bristol, Vivienne Faull. The new Welsh slate plaque has been carved with the names of all 32 women ordained at the 1994 service.

One of them, Angela Berners-Wilson, said: “We were all asked to contribute to the original plaque and I think it was £15 each, which I happily did. But when we looked at it, it just had the bishop and the dean’s names on it. We are finally rectifying that 28 years later.”

Berners-Wilson, who is currently rector of the Quantock Towers Benefice in the diocese of Bath and Wells, described the previous male-only plaque as “very Church of England”.

She added: “It is good that at last this will be rectified, so all our names will appear on the new plaque and there is a special service with a woman bishop which is wonderful. I’m looking forward to seeing some of my old friends.”

Faull said: “There is a certain irony that it has taken us 28 years to unveil a plaque that mentions the names of those pioneering women ordained in Bristol Cathedral all those years ago.

“But I hope and pray that the progress that this represents will be a mark of wider progress in the standing of women in the church and indeed our reaching out to all marginalised or under-represented groups.”

The new plaque was made by the stone carver Robyn Golden-Hann, 55, who is in her final year of training to become a deacon in the Church of England.

She said: “I feel very honoured to have done this. It will be one of my very last commissions as a professional stone

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carver so it is very poignant that this should be the work that marks my transition from one calling to another.”

Asked why the original plaque only included male names, she said: “The only explanation I’ve heard is that it was probably done in some haste. I wouldn’t be surprised if it was just part of the patriarchal mentality of the time.

“The world has changed a lot in those 28 years. I now can’t imagine the Church of England without women priests.”

Courtesy The Guardian 06/03/2022

In the media

Gallery - Two weeks of war in Ukraine

RTE

Superb photography of this catastrophe.

[<https://www.rte.ie/news/news/2022/0309/1285350-14-days-of-war-in-ukraine/>]

Perspective

Female clergy make unity an impossibility by Michael Nazir-Ali

There was a period after the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission agreement on ministry and

ordination had been published — even though the first canonical ordinations of women to the presbyterate had begun to take place — when there was optimism among many that the question of the validity of Anglican Orders could be seen in a new light.

I well remember, however, the anguished correspondence between Pope Paul VI and Archbishop Coggan and the same between Pope St John Paul II and Archbishop Runcie, as well as that between the latter and Cardinal Willebrands (then head of the Council for Promoting Christian Unity at the Vatican). In the correspondence, the Popes and the Cardinal are seen as pleading with the Archbishop to prevent provinces of the Anglican Communion from taking unilateral action over the ordination of women to the presbyterate. They felt this would jeopardise the agreement on ministry, showing that the it was more apparent than real, thus making any possibility of re-evaluating Anglican Orders more difficult, if not impossible.

In his replies, Archbishop Runcie, while rehearsing some of the arguments in favour of ordaining women, expressed his inability to prevent any province of the Anglican Communion from acting independently on the issue. Runcie's argument revealed a fault line in the Communion which was to become even more pronounced over other issues such as divorced and remarried clergy, and the ordination to the priesthood and episcopate of those in sexually active homophile relationships. Was Runcie right to hold such a radical view of the autonomy of the provinces? Had not the 1920 Lambeth Conference declared that the provinces were indeed "independent", but independent in the Christian freedom which recognises the restraints of truth and love?

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I am not alone in having been uncomfortable with such a thoroughgoing belief in the autonomy of the provinces. Sadly, however, a view of an interdependent relationship between the churches of the Communion did not prevail.

Courtesy the Catholic Herald:

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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