

Church News Ireland



Image of
the day –

St Patrick
drama in
Glencraig
for
schools

Image of the day



St Patrick drama in Glencraig for schools

Play it by Ear visited Holy Trinity Glencraig

Play it by Ear later said - "Great to kick off our week (and a bit) of St Patrick shows at Holy Trinity Glencraig.

"Thanks to Rockport School and Glencraig Integrated for coming and joining in. Some great pretend vomiting!

"Because they were pretending to be sea sick, not because of our performance. We hope..."

People and places

350 YEARS IN SCRIPTURE, STITCHES AND STONE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH, ARMAGH



Thursday 4th May -
Sunday 7th May 2023

A Festival of Creative Displays to Mark 350 Years of Worship and Witness

Opening Times:

Thursday 4th May, 1.30pm - 7.30pm
Friday 5th May, 10.00am - 7.30pm
Saturday 6th May, 1.30pm - 7.30pm
Sunday 7th May, 12.30pm - 7.00pm

Services:

Thursday 4th May, 1.30pm
Sunday 7th May, 11.30am
Sunday 7th May, 7.00pm

Refreshments Available

Charity Number: NIC104984

Further information:
www.firstarmagh.co.uk
Contact us:
info@firstarmagh.co.uk

or find us on 



350th Anniversary First Presbyterian Armagh

First Presbyterian Armagh says - This year, we are delighted to commemorate and celebrate the 350th Anniversary of the founding of our congregation. To mark this significant milestone, we will be holding a Festival of Creative Displays, entitled 350 Years in Scripture, Stitches and Stone, from Thursday 4th May – Sunday 7th May. Further details are available on our website at <https://firstarmagh.co.uk/350-years/> . We do hope you will be able to join us for this extra special event.



Primate with Armagh Methodist Young at Hearts

Archbishop John McDowell was the speaker at the Armagh Methodist Church's Young at Heart Club at their March meeting.

St Patrick's Day

March 17th 2023

St Patrick – A Stranger Bearing Gifts

An ecumenical celebration
in word, song and music

at **6 pm** on **March 17th**
in **St Patrick's Cathedral**

www.dublincouncilofchurches.ie

St Patrick's Close
Dublin 8



St. Patrick, A Stranger Bearing Gifts - Dublin ecumenical service on St. Patrick's Day

“St. Patrick, A Stranger Bearing Gifts” is the theme for this year’s ecumenical service on St. Patrick’s Day at 18:00 at the Cathedral.

The theme is a reminder that St. Patrick was not from these shores, in fact was held here as a slave that had been trafficked into Ireland after a raid on his parents’ home in neighbouring Britain.

After having been able to flee he returned to the land of his captors to foster a new beginning, bringing as a gift his own new-found faith in a loving God. Patrick’s gift is an

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encouragement for us today to receive the gifts of those who have come to us in recent times: refugees seeking shelter from situations of immense hardship.

This service brings together the 14 churches from the Orthodox, the Roman Catholic, Protestant and Dissenting traditions who are in membership of the Dublin Council of Churches.

All are welcome to join this celebration in poetry, words of Scripture, song and traditional Irish music.

Appreciation of Portrush's Methodist Global Mission partners



An afternoon celebration was held in Portrush Methodist Church Hall for Isabelle Mbako and Ben Rose their Global Mission Fellows - Global Ministries of UMC who will be leaving shortly. Thanks were expressed from everyone on the circuit for everything they did and got involved with over this last couple of years.



CMSI parish partnerships in mission

The Reverend Roger Thompson (left), a Partnership Coordinator with CMS Ireland had a busy Sunday this week.

In the morning he was preaching at the United Parish of Ballynure and Ballyclare at a special Kenya-themed service marking the launch of the Parish Partnership Plan with the Tujisaidie Project, Nairobi. Rector Rev Jonny Campbell-Smyth invited people to participate both via zoom and in person. Roger; parishioner Keny Chiaji who is originally from Nakuru, Kenya, and will be licensed as a parish reader next week; Louise Githire, Tujisaidie Adviser; and Antony Njoroge Irungu, Tumaini African Foundation, all took part in the service.

On Sunday evening Roger was the guest speaker at a praise service in All Saints Clooney, Derry/Londonderry. There was a wonderful freedom in worship led by the praise band, the Rector Canon David McBeth and Rev Andrea

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Cotter (curate). Roger shared encouraging stories of faith from CMSI global partners in Kenya, Nepal and Rwanda.

Big Belfast Ceilidh for St Paddy's

WEDNESDAY 15TH MARCH 9PM
THE HUB BELFAST 22 ELMWOOD
EVERYONE WELCOME



FORGE Ministry Apprenticeship Scheme Coordinator sought

The Church of Ireland Diocese of Down and Dromore seeks to recruit a Ministry Apprenticeship Scheme Coordinator (full-time). The post is based in Church of Ireland House, Belfast.

The diocese has commenced a new Ministry Apprenticeship Scheme to enable young Christians (aged 18–25) to develop a strong and enduring faith through training and service in the church.

This scheme, which started in October 2022, provides an opportunity for young disciples to explore whether to pursue a calling to employed Christian ministry. Their voluntary work will support the mission and ministry of their host churches and the diocese.

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Read about the scheme on the diocesan website - see below.

The Ministry Apprenticeship Scheme Coordinator will work with members of the diocesan team and churches in the diocese to ensure that the objectives of the FORGE Ministry Apprenticeship Scheme are met.

How to apply - Download an Application Pack with Job Description and Person Specification from link on diocesan site -

[\[https://www.downanddromore.org/news/2023/03/forgeminiistry-apprenticeship-scheme-coordinator\]](https://www.downanddromore.org/news/2023/03/forgeminiistry-apprenticeship-scheme-coordinator)



The Right Rev and Most Honourable Lord Williams of Oystermouth, former Archbishop of Canterbury, lecturing at the Anglican Centre in Rome this week on the theme of the early church.

News reports



Pope Francis on Women's Day thanked women

During Wednesday's General Audience with pilgrims in St Peter's Square, Pope Francis mentioned that it was International Women's Day, and called for a round of applause for all women, saying "they deserve it."

He said: "On International Women's Day, I think of all women. I thank them for their commitment to building a more humane society, through their ability to grasp reality with a creative eye and a tender heart."

The number of women employed at the Vatican has risen significantly in the last ten years. Never before has the number of female employees and their share of the total staff been higher, according to a Vatican News survey. The number of women in Vatican leadership positions has also grown under Francis.

There are currently 1,165 female employees working for the Pope, compared to just 846 in the year Francis took office in 2013. The percentage of women in the total workforce at the Vatican rose in the current pontificate from just under 19.2 to 23.4 per cent today. These figures refer to the two administrative units Holy See and Vatican City State together.

The increase in female employees is more pronounced if one looks exclusively at the Holy See, i.e. the Roman Curia. Here, the proportion of women has risen from 19.3 to 26.1 per cent over the past ten years. This means that more than one in four employees at the Holy See is now a woman - in absolute figures 812 out of 3,114.

In the ten-part salary scale used in the Vatican, most women in the Curia have been found for many years on the sixth and seventh step. They thus exercise professions that usually require an academic degree, such as lawyers, department heads, archivists or administrative specialists. In 2022, 43 per cent of the women employed at the Curia worked at the sixth and seventh levels.

Several women have reached executive level, which goes beyond the ten-step salary scale. Today, five women hold the rank of undersecretary and one the rank of secretary at

the Holy See. Secretaries and undersecretaries are the second and third levels of management respectively in most curia authorities and are part of the management team together with the prefect, i.e. the superior of the authority; all three levels are filled by appointment by the Pope. At the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, Pope Francis appointed a female secretary for the first time in 2021, the Italian religious Alessandra Smerilli. It is the highest post ever held by a woman at the Holy See.

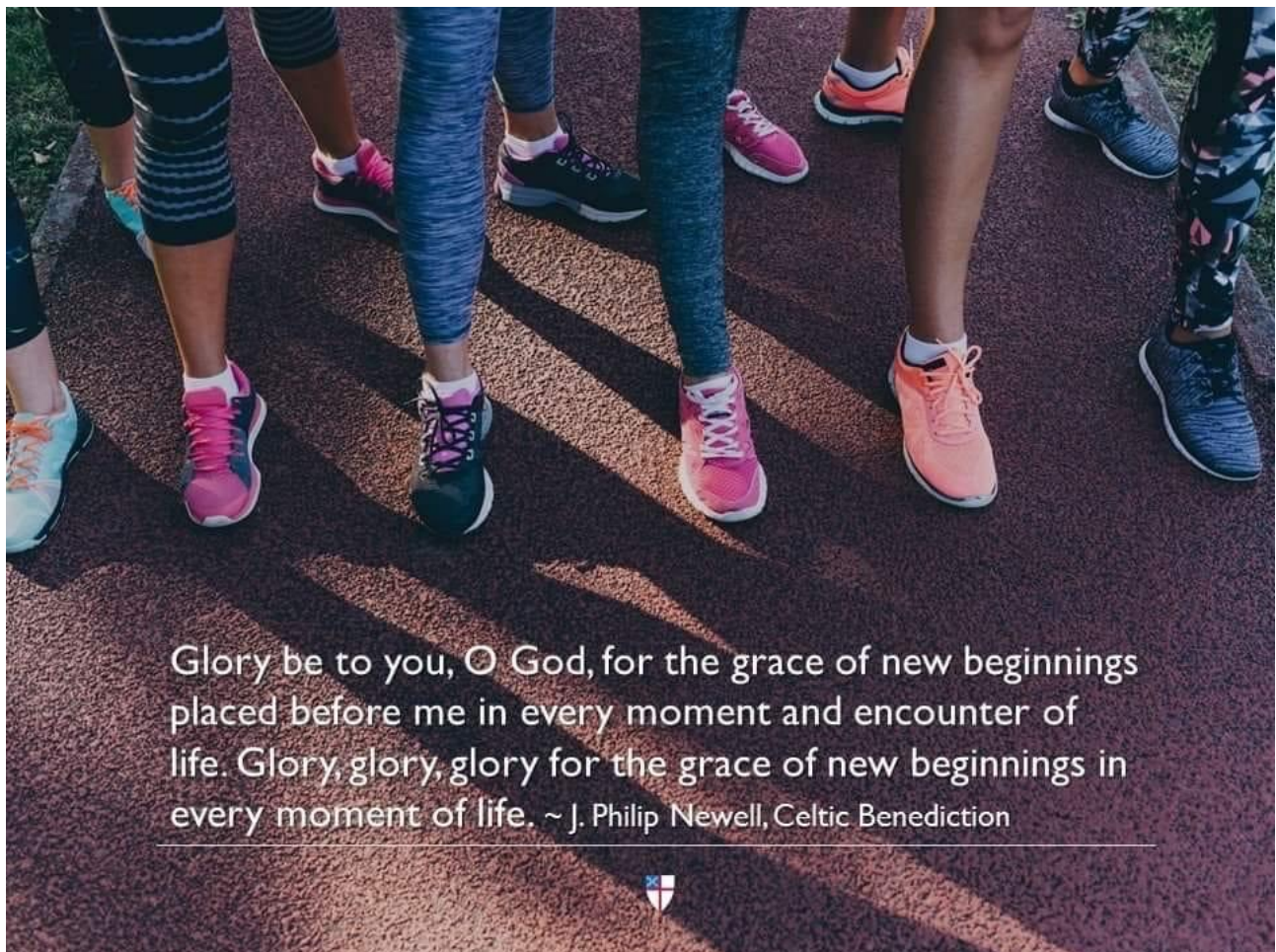
Undersecretaries at the Holy See currently work at the Dicasteries for Religious, for Laity, Family and Life (two female undersecretaries), for Culture and Education, and at the Secretariat of State. However, the lawyer Francesca Di Giovanni, aged 70, who works there, will soon leave for reasons of age and will be replaced by a priest. The General Secretariat of the Synod also has an undersecretary, Nathalie Becquart, a French nun, although it should be noted that the Synod is not part of the Roman Curia (but is part of this statistical survey).

Historically, the appointment of expert women to high Curia offices began with Pope Paul VI. In his pontificate, the Australian Rosemarie Goldie worked at the Pontifical Council for the Laity from 1967 to 1976 as one of two vice-secretaries. After a long break, it was not until 2004 that Pope John Paul II appointed the next undersecretary: Sr Enrica Rosanna at the Congregation for Religious.

Under Pope Francis, appointments of women to leadership positions have multiplied, even though they account for less than five per cent of all leadership tasks in the Curia currently entrusted to women. For now, there is no female

prefect as the 'number one' of a Curia authority. But the course has been set: In the basic text for the Curia reform *Praedicate Evangelium* (2022), Pope Francis made it possible that in future lay people and thus also women can lead dicasteries as prefects. This was previously reserved for cardinals and archbishops. In an interview last December, the Pope announced his intention to appoint the first female prefect in about two years.

In the Vatican City State, which is a separate administrative entity from the Holy See, Pope Francis has appointed two women to top positions: Barbara Jatta, director of the Vatican Museums in 2016, and Sr Raffaella Petrini, secretary general of the Governatorate in 2022. While lay people had always headed the Vatican Museums, the Italian nun took the place of a bishop in the Governatorate.



Glory be to you, O God, for the grace of new beginnings placed before me in every moment and encounter of life. Glory, glory, glory for the grace of new beginnings in every moment of life. ~ J. Philip Newell, Celtic Benediction



Pope Francis has not only placed some women leaders in the Vatican, but has also appointed others to positions where they can "influence the Vatican while maintaining their independence". He wrote about this in his book *Let us Dream*. Thus, for instance, Francis was the first pope to appoint women as "members" of curial offices, a measure that went largely unnoticed. Until then, only cardinals and some bishops were members of the traditional "Congregations". Members - along with prefects and secretaries - have voting rights in the plenary assemblies.

The Council for the Economy, consisting of 15 members, currently includes eight cardinals and seven lay people, six of whom are women, including the British Leslie Jane Ferrar, formerly Treasurer to Prince Charles of Wales. In 2019, Francis nominated seven female religious superiors to the Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life in one fell swoop. In 2022, he appointed two women religious and a lay woman as members of the Dicastery for Bishops, where they participate in the process of selecting bishops for the universal Church, along with cardinals and bishops who are members of the Dicastery as they are.

In the ten years of his pontificate, Pope Francis has increased the presence, visibility and influence of women in the Vatican. Several times, however, he warned against seeing the task of women in the Church as well as in the Vatican from a purely functionalist point of view. In *Let us Dream*, Francis described it as a challenge for him to "create spaces where women can take leadership in a way that allows them to shape the culture and ensures that they are valued, respected and recognised." By setting a course

in favour of women, Francis ultimately wants Rome to become a model for the universal Church in this respect.

Archbishop of York to visit Isle of Man

Archbishop Stephen will be in the Diocese of Sodor and Man for a missionary visit from 16 - 19 March

As part of his visit to the diocese, Archbishop Stephen will be at St Catherine's, Port Erin on the morning of Saturday 18 March, to meet with parishes and congregations from the South and the West of the Island. There will be coffee at 10.00, followed by input from the Archbishop until 12:00. Everyone from congregations and parishes in the Southern or Western Mission Partnership is warmly invited to come and hear the Archbishop. You are also invited to bring someone with you who may need encouragement in their Christian faith!

This will be repeated on the Saturday afternoon, 18 March, for the Northern and Eastern Mission Partnerships: 2.30 – 4.30 pm at St Paul's, Ramsey, beginning with input from the Archbishop at 2.30 and concluding with tea at 4.00 pm. Again, for congregations and parishes in the North and the East (including Douglas): please come, and bring a friend!

Speaking about his visit, Archbishop Stephen said, "I'm really looking forward to visiting the island and communities, to encourage people in their ministry and discipleship and to share the gospel with those who don't yet know Christ. May we be refreshed and renewed in our desire to look for those opportunities where God is at work and join in his mission to



make Christ known.” The Archbishop of York is a compelling and exciting speaker and evangelist, and he will be speaking about his vision for the Church of England: ‘Becoming a more Christ-centred Church’.

On the morning of Sunday, 19 March, at 10.30, the Archbishop will be celebrating the eucharist and preaching at the Cathedral in Peel. This is Mothering Sunday (4th of Lent), when traditionally Christians would go to the ‘Mother Church’ of the Diocese, the Cathedral. The Bishop therefore invites parishes and congregations, if possible and where pastorally appropriate, to join him and the Archbishop at the Cathedral that morning.

Diocese of Sodor and Man: <https://www.sodorandman.im/>

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Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



Derry C of I Parish Group on RTE

The Rector of the CCCMSP Group of Parishes, Ven. Robert Miller, and the group's Pastoral Director, Rev Canon Katie McAteer, led a party of parishioners to Dublin, recently, to record a Service of Worship. We will all have an opportunity to enjoy the fruits of their labours when the Service is broadcast on RTÉ on Sunday 26th March - the 5th Sunday of Lent.

Magnificat (Collegium Regale), by Herbert Howells

A musical high quality treat from New York. Highlights from the Saint Thomas Choir, 5th Avenue.

[<https://youtu.be/V7EQIjLXKBc>]

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Seven Voices of Sorrow

Author Fr Lorcan Kenny introduces us to the latest title in his 'Seven Voices' series in which we hear from seven figures connected to the Lenten story. Published by Veritas Ireland

FULL interview - youtu.be/iMC_PwKQDdg

Play it by Ear - Child poverty

The Council on Social Responsibility of the Methodist Church asked Play it by Ear to write a monologue the subject of child poverty.

You can check out the video below and a powerful article on the topic by clicking the link

bit.ly/3Zy8mRz

I love to tell the Story

250 voice Mass Choir for Classic Hymns album "Our God Reigns"

[<https://youtu.be/AB-KSNQdhaY>]

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Poem for today

Young Lambs by John Clare

The spring is coming by a many signs;
The trays are up, the hedges broken down,
That fenced the haystack, and the remnant shines
Like some old antique fragment weathered brown.
And where suns peep, in every sheltered place,
The little early buttercups unfold
A glittering star or two--till many trace
The edges of the blackthorn clumps in gold.
And then a little lamb bolts up behind
The hill and wags his tail to meet the yoe,
And then another, sheltered from the wind,
Lies all his length as dead--and lets me go
Close bye and never stirs but baking lies,
With legs stretched out as though he could not rise.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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