

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Homeless Jesus, Belfast



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Homeless Jesus, Belfast

“Homeless Jesus” lies outside Centenary House on Victoria Street, Belfast.

The statue was designed by Timothy Schmalz a

Canadian sculptor and devout Catholic. It depicts Jesus as a homeless person, sleeping on a park bench. His face and hands are obscured, hidden under a blanket, but crucifixion wounds on his feet reveal his identity. The statue has been described as a “visual translation” of the Gospel of Matthew passage in which Jesus tells his disciples, “As you did it to one of the least of my brothers, you did it to me” (anyone who helps those in need is helping Jesus himself).

Centenary House is a hostel owned and run by the Salvation Army, while the adjoining Calder Fountain House



includes self-contained flats. They provide vital services for some of Northern Ireland's most vulnerable people, a safe supportive environment for individuals, helping them make positive choices about their current circumstances.

This powerful and haunting piece of art reflects the dual purpose of the Salvation Army. Its purpose is to raise awareness about homelessness. 4 people have died in Belfast this year and around 20 people who were supported by Northern Ireland homeless agencies in 2022.

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Schmalz intended for the bronze sculpture to be provocative, admitting, “That’s essentially what the sculpture is there to do. It’s meant to challenge people.”

The original sculpture was installed at Regis College, University of Toronto, in early 2013 and from then more than 100 casts of the statue have been installed worldwide. In several cities, the statues have been funded by anonymous benefactors, local churches, homeless shelters and charities.

People and places

Church for sale on the Shankill

An historic church off Belfast’s Shankill Road funded by a devoted sister in tribute to her clergyman and MP brother has gone on the market for £195,000.

According to A History of Congregations at the Presbyterian Church in Ireland 1610 to 1982, Nelson Memorial was built after Elizabeth Nelson left thousands of pounds to trustees for a church to be built in memory of Rev Isaac Nelson.

Rev Nelson was a minister at First Comber Presbyterian and Donegall Street, but later resigned his religious roles to take up a position as MP for Mayo.

He is remembered in the Dictionary of Irish Biography as “a champion of liberal causes” whose support of Home Rule and the Land League put him at odds with many colleagues.

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But Nelson Memorial, which first opened in 1897, has not been used by a congregation since 2014.

<https://bit.ly/41ybleC>

Amazing Grace in Derry Churches

AMAZING GRACE –

A Journey in God's forgiving love....

Wednesday 29 March – Sunday 2 April 2023

Worship & Praise -

Wednesday 29th March, 7.30pm, *St. Augustine's Church*
Thursday 30th March, 7.30pm, *Carlisle Rd Methodist Church*
Sunday 2nd April, 7.30pm, *First Derry Church*
(Guest speaker – Rev'd Canon Dr Heather Morris)

A Service of Healing and Wholeness

Saturday 1st April, 7.30pm, *St. Columb's Cathedral*

Drama – Forever Mine

Friday 31st March, 7.30pm,
St. Augustine's Church
(tickets on Eventbrite)



Lunchtime Talks

(followed by refreshments)

Thurs 30th March
First Derry, 12.30pm
The making of the drama
'Forever Mine'
(Ruth Garvey Williams)

Friday 31st March
Carlisle Rd Methodist, 12.30pm
Ending Gender Based Violence
'No More One in Three'
(Jacqui Armstrong)

For Primary School Ages

Saturday 1st April - First Derry, 2pm
Easter Crafts

ALL WELCOME – ALL EVENTS ARE FREE OF CHARGE

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St Patrick's Festival in Armagh



Tuesday 14th March, 7.30pm – ‘At Home with Patrick – Past, Present and Future’

Armagh Cathedrals Partnership invite you to join them in The Market Place Theatre for this special event. Speaker: The Very Revd Henry Hull, Dean of Down.

Music will be provided by the Music Departments of St Catherine's College and The Royal School, Armagh. Light refreshments will be provided.

Tickets are free but must be pre-booked at The Market Place Theatre.



Thursday 16th March, 4.00pm – St Patrick’s Lecture in The Market Place Theatre

Archbishop John McDowell and Archbishop Eamon Martin will discuss what St Patrick means to them in a 21st century context and how his words continue to resonate across the world. Tickets are free but must be pre-booked at The Market Place Theatre.

Thursday 16th March – Eve of St Patrick’s Day

7.30pm: Choral Evensong in St Patrick’s Church of Ireland Cathedra.

9.00pm: Vigil Walk by torchlight from St Patrick’s Church of Ireland Cathedral to St Patrick’s Roman Catholic Cathedral.

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Friday 17th March – St Patrick’s Day in St Patrick’s Church of Ireland Cathedral

10.00am: Eucharist (Irish) – Celebrant: The Revd Chris McBruithin

11.00am: Sung Eucharist – Celebrant: The Archbishop of Armagh. Sermon: The Revd Chris McBruithin. Choir: Armagh Diocesan Singers.

‘Transformation Now’ theme of Connor Mothers’ Union Festival Service

Connor Mothers’ Union held its annual Festival Service in Belfast Cathedral on Sunday March 12, with guest preacher the Ven Dr Stephen McBride, Connor Mothers’ Union Diocesan Chaplain and recently appointed All Ireland Chaplain.

The service included the commissioning of members of the Trustee Board and Executive Committee.

The theme of the service was ‘Transformation Now,’ and worship was led by the Mothers’ Union Festival Choir and the Choir of Lancaster Bible College from Pennsylvania, USA. Soloist was Janine Burnside and the organist was Brenda Pateman, Belfast Cathedral Mothers’ Union branch.

The readings were by Alberta Miskimmin, Belfast Cathedral branch (Ruth 1: 1-18) and Moira Thom, a former Diocesan President (1 Corinthians 12: 12-31).



At the 2023 Connor Mothers' Union Festival Service in Belfast Cathedral on March 12 are, from left: Irene Gates, Connor Mothers' Union Diocesan Secretary; Archdeacon Stephen McBride, Connor and All Ireland Mothers' Union Chaplain; Sally Cotter, Connor Mothers' Union Diocesan President; the Rt Rev George Davison, Bishop of Connor; the Very Rev Stephen Forde, Dean of Belfast; and Alberta Miskimmin, Belfast Cathedral branch of Mothers' Union.

Sally Cotter, Connor Diocesan President, read the Mothers' Union Aims and Objectives, and the Prayers of Intercession were led by Margaret Nelson, Lisburn and Derriaghy Area Chairperson and Jacquie McLoughlin, Social Policy Contact.

The colourful Diocesan and Cathedral Banners processed down the aisle of the Cathedral at the beginning of the service and were received by the Dean of Belfast, the Very Rev Stephen Forde.

Concert of Chamber Music

Lisburn Cathedral
Saturday 29th April, 2023
7.30pm

Violin/Soprano - Hayley Howe
Flute - Drew Rowan
Cello - Scott Heron
Piano - Rodney Spence

Programme to include works by:
Brahms
Schubert
Saint-Saëns

Tickets £10 (Under 18s £5) and can be purchased at the door
or from Hayley on hayleyhowe21@btinternet.com

Proceeds in aid of Abaana
'Changing lives - one child at a time'





St. Patrick's
Day



AFTERNOON TEAS

Methodist Hall Merville

FRIDAY 17TH MARCH

2.30PM - 5PM

Proceeds from this event will be split between the Inishowen Methodist Hall, Culdaff And Merville St Vincent de Paul Charities.

Come along for tea, coffee, and traybakes!

On St Patrick's Day - Afternoon tea in Merville Methodist Hall. Proceeds to local Methodist causes and St Vincent de Paul

Former Uganda mission partner to be Dean of Kildare

Rev Isobel Jackson has been appointed as Incumbent of Kildare & Newbridge Group of Parishes, and Dean of St Brigid's Cathedral, Kildare.

She is currently Rector of Templebreedy Group of parishes in the dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, where she has



served since 2010. Isobel is married to Norman, and they have two sons and a daughter.

While born in Sligo she grew up in Rathmoylon, Co. Meath. She worked for the Methodist Church Home Missions in Tallaght, Dublin, before moving with family as

Mission Partners to Uganda supported by the Church Mission Society Ireland in 1998. She was ordained in 2004, in the Diocese of Ruwenzori, Western Uganda.

In 2005 she returned to Ireland where she was Childrens Ministry Officer in the then Diocese of Cashel and Ossory and assistant priest in the Lismore Group of parishes. In 2010 she was appointed Rector of the Templebreedy group of parishes, where she also served as chaplain to the Diocesan Mothers Union.

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Following her appointment she said, “We look forward to getting to know and ministering with and among the people of Kildare and Newbridge. I ask for prayers for our family whilst we prepare for the move.”

Spending time with family, friends and travel is what she finds most relaxing.

Bishop Pat Storey said, “We look forward to welcoming Isobel to the dioceses in the summer. She brings great experience, both within the Church of Ireland as well as within the wider Anglican Church. We look forward to her ministry, and that of the Kildare and Newbridge Group of parishes.”

News reports

'Immoral and inept': Archbishop of York condemns government immigration policy

The Archbishop of York has called the government's new immigration policy "immoral and inept" in an interview with The Observer.

For Most Rev Stephen Cottrell, the policy "amounts to cruelty without purpose" and will prevent many "legitimate refugees and victims of modern slavery" from accessing support.

Under the government's new asylum and migration law, all adults arriving in the UK via illegal routes will be detained for

28 days and cannot claim asylum. If it's not feasible to return them to their home country, they will be relocated to a "safe third country" like Rwanda.

Archbishop Stephen said: "The proposals of the Illegal Migration Bill ... are clearly unworkable, but will restrict access to support for many legitimate refugees and victims of modern slavery, without even the dignity of having their case heard."

Although many critics have questioned the bill's legality, Home Secretary Suella Braverman is adamant that the plans don't break domestic or international law.

Braverman told the BBC on Wednesday: "We are confident that we are complying with the law, domestic and international."

"But we are also pushing the boundaries and we are testing innovative and novel legal arguments."

Archbishop Stephen said that safe routes to those fleeing their countries should be the right approach to the crisis. He added Christians were "morally bound to find ways of welcoming the stranger and feeding the hungry".

He continued: "This does not mean anything goes, but it does mean everyone counts. Of course, there have to be limits on the numbers of refugees and asylum seekers any one country can take. But this needs to be managed in a just, transparent and humane way. Criminalising the world's most vulnerable people is an immoral and inept way of responding."

The second most senior cleric of the Church of England is the latest figure from the denomination to speak out against the policy.

Earlier this week, the Bishop of Durham, Rt Rev Paul Butler, urged the government not to abandon its "legal and moral responsibilities to some of the world most vulnerable" while the Bishop of Dover, Rt Rev Rose Hudson-Wilkin said the policy lacked "human compassion"

Using a wheelchair is humiliating, admits Pope Francis

The Pope says he feels humiliated and “old” because he is now forced to use a wheelchair as a result of acute pain in his knee.

In comments that will fuel speculation about whether he might step down, Pope Francis, 86, said he has “less physical strength” than he did when he succeeded Pope Benedict XVI a decade ago.

If he began to feel too much “tiredness” or a lack of mental acuity, then he could follow the example of Benedict and resign from the papacy, he said.

The Pope made the remarks in an interview with Swiss state radio and television to be broadcast on Sunday, the day before he marks the 10th anniversary of his election to the

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papacy. Extracts were published yesterday by three Italian newspapers.

Pope Benedict, who died on December 31 aged 95, became the first pontiff to resign in about 600 years when he stepped down in 2013.

Asked what would lead him to make the same decision, Francis said: “A tiredness that doesn’t make you see things clearly. A lack of clarity, of knowing how to evaluate situations.”

He said he felt a little “ashamed” to have to use a wheelchair on trips abroad and public appearances in St Peter’s Square. “I am old. I have less physical resistance,” he said. “The knee [problem] was a physical humiliation, even if the recovery is going well now.”

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Sacred Space web site’s 24th anniversary

This began as a website for Lent in 1999. It was an initiative involving Fr Alan McGuckian (now bishop) and Fr Peter Scally.

Jesuits in Dublin's Jesuit Communication Centre, used a simple framework to offer daily prayer. The stages of prayer have been helpful to millions of people, helping them to create moments of quiet prayer using their computers. Have a look yourself. <https://www.sacredspace.ie>

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All Saints' Margaret Street - Lent Lecture 2023
"Fruits of the Spirit: art from the heart."

Speaker: the Revd Dr Ayla Lepine
Thursday 23rd March 2023 - 7.30 pm

This in-person and online lecture will explore the National Gallery's new virtual exhibition about the Fruits of the Spirit. More details here: <https://asms.uk/growing-in-faith/study/>

Lighten Our Darkness By Numbers Invitation

Register for your
free ticket:
corrymeela.org/events
welcome@corrymeela.org
028 2076 2626

The Corrymeela Community, in association with the Mullingar Union of Parishes, is delighted to invite you to Lighten Our Darkness, a unique performance of music and readings, written and presented by young people from All Saints Parish Mullingar, which highlights the urgent need to take action to care for our earth in the face of the devastating impacts of climate change.

Saturday 15 April 2023
2.00-3.30PM
Main Hall, Sheskburn
Recreation Centre,
7 Mary Street, Ballycastle



The performance will be followed by a Q&A. This is a wonderful opportunity to come together as a community to reflect, discuss, and act on the greatest challenge facing humanity today. We very much hope you will be able to join us.

“ It is wonderfully encouraging that so many young parishioners are taking such an active role in dealing with the world's problems through Lighten Our Darkness
- Sir David Attenborough ”



corrymeela
Together is better

Corrymeela Community - We are so pleased to be hosting a presentation of 'Lighten our Darkness' -- a dramatic retelling from the Book of Numbers created by young people

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from Mullingar -- calling us to urgent work of caring for the earth.

15 April 2-3.30pm

Sheskburn Recreation Centre, Ballycastle

Book your spot through our website.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lighten-our-darkness-by-numbers-tickets-520409166827>

Poem for today

Spring

by Gerard Manley Hopkins

Nothing is so beautiful as Spring –

When weeds, in wheels, shoot long and lovely and lush;

Thrush's eggs look little low heavens, and thrush

Through the echoing timber does so rinse and wring

The ear, it strikes like lightnings to hear him sing;

The glassy peartree leaves and blooms, they brush

The descending blue; that blue is all in a rush

With richness; the racing lambs too have fair their fling.

What is all this juice and all this joy?

A strain of the earth's sweet being in the beginning

In Eden garden. – Have, get, before it cloy,

Before it cloud, Christ, lord, and sour with sinning,

Innocent mind and Mayday in girl and boy,

Most, O maid's child, thy choice and worthy the winning.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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