



**Image of the day  
Enniskillen**



## **Archbishop McDowell regrets Secretary of State's intent to usurp NI Assembly's powers at time of democratic deficit**

**The Most Revd John McDowell, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, has issued the following statement:**

'It is a matter of regret that the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland intends to seek powers from Parliament to give direction to the Department of Health in Northern Ireland around what is clearly a devolved matter. There may have been an element of justification for seeking powers of this sort when the Northern Ireland Assembly was not functioning, but such justification manifestly does not apply now.

'This comes at a time when a vast number of Statutory Instruments (particularly in relation to the Northern Ireland/

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Ireland Protocol) receive minimal or no scrutiny in any form by the Assembly and can only heighten the sense of a democratic deficit around that issue, and do further harm to the sense of the fairness and effectiveness of devolved government.

‘I hope that the Secretary of State will bear this in mind when weighing up the best course of action and instead encourage the Assembly to find a constructive way forward.’

## **Parish to publish The ‘Galilee Gazette’ this Easter**

**The ‘Galilee Gazette’ is the title of an imaginary newspaper being printed and circulated this Easter in Magheralin Parish and beyond.**

It’s been written in contemporary language as if the crucifixion and resurrection were happening today.

“We wanted a form of outreach that people might read over and keep and read again and so we’ve produced a tabloid newspaper to go into every home in our villages,” said the Rector of Magheralin, Revd Simon Genoe.

“It will also be available as a PDF to be downloaded, and in Holy Week if you follow the hashtags #jesusisalive and #galileegazette you’ll get more ‘in the moment’ tweets and posts,” he added. “It’s a mission–focussed attempt to bring the Gospel into our homes this Easter.”



April 2021

# Galilee Gazette

## Jesus of Nazareth Execution

Dramatic twist as witnesses state "He Is Risen" after body missing from tomb only days after crucifixion - Page 2.

## Court Transcript Revealed

We reveal for the first time the transcript of the interrogation that led to Jesus' execution - Page 6.

## Full 33 Year Time Line

The Gazette has pieced together a full timeline from humble beginnings to being dubbed "Messiah" - Page 4.



The paper has been written using the Bible as the basis of the Easter Story, and by also using a little creative license, in having the opinion of less credited witnesses like the donkey owner on Palm Sunday, a temple money changer and a retired innkeeper who recalls when Christ's parents, Mary and Joseph, arrived looking for somewhere to sleep!  
[Armagh's two cathedrals](#)



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“It’s a great, informative and often entertaining read and we really hope it resonates with our community and beyond this Easter,” said Simon. “Don’t forget, ‘He is risen’.”

The paper will be distributed and be available online from Palm Sunday at [ [www.magheralin.org](http://www.magheralin.org) ]and on the parish Facebook page.

Other parishes wishing to use the material should please contact Magheralin Parish Office (028) 92619569

## **Sexton’s House in Leitrim officially opened**

**Manorhamilton’s newest public amenity, the recently constructed Sexton’s House Community Hub, located just outside the Church of Ireland on Church Lane, was officially opened at noon on Monday via a live broadcast of the event on the YouTube Channel, PJ Leddy writes in the Leitrim Observer.**

It was an occasion of celebration for the local community and the Leitrim Co. Council’s Peace IV Programme, which provided the bulk of the funding for the successful completion of the work on the Sexton’s House Community Hub buildings, etc.

The new Sexton’s House Community Hub will provide an excellent venue for many community events to take place in Manorhamilton in the future, and particularly so once things



[Sexton's House pictured at the bottom of photo](#)

start going back to normal when the Covid 19 lockdowns, which have dragged on for over a year now, end.

The Hub is a beautiful new community space, and it was developed through the Shared Spaces initiative, which was fully backed by Leitrim Co. Council. The project entailed the refurbishment of old Sexton's House and the building of a hall at the rear of it.

The inspired Sexton's House Community Hub project visionaries say its objective is "to promote positive relations characterised by respect, cultural diversity," so that "people can live, learn, and socialise together."



## Irish missionary in South Sudan says her task is to empower locals



Loreto Sister Orla Treacy, principal of Loreto Girls Secondary School in Rumbek, South Sudan, walks outside the school with children in 2017. (Paul Jeffrey/CNS.)

**In honour of Saint Patrick’s Day, Ireland’s embassy to the Holy See highlighted the significant and historic role that missionaries from the island have played and are playing in service of those most in need on a daily basis, Elise Ann Allen writes in Angelus.**

Speaking during a brief March 17 virtual reception in honor of St. Patrick’s Day, Irish Ambassador to the Holy See Ambassador Derek Hannon said, “it is not an exaggeration to say that the Irish have a tradition of missionary service going back centuries.”

Missionaries from the area date back to at least the 6th century, when Saint Columba established a monastery on the Scottish island of Iona.

Saint Patrick himself – who at 16 was kidnapped from his native Britain by Irish pirates and who lived as a slave in Ireland for six years before escaping, only to return to Ireland later to evangelize – was also a missionary, Hannon said.

For over 1500 years, “countless Irish man and women have given their lives in the service of God and their fellow man,” bringing with them “their learning, their faith, and their caring, all over the world,” Hannon said.

Irish missionary activity was at its peak in the 18th and 19th centuries. During that period, the Irish Church was arguably considered the primary evangelization force in the world, including the United States.

Irish Catholics had a monumental influence on the Catholicism in the United States, due in part to the large number of Irish immigrants who came to the country, but also its missionaries.

This Irish influence on the U.S. can be seen and heard even today, not just by wearing green or wearing shamrocks on March 17. In fact, American Catholics can thank the Irish for traditional church hymns such as Lord of the Dance, Be Thou My Vision, Morning Has Broken, and countless others.



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Sister Orla Treacy, a member of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary, also known as the Loreto sisters, serves as head of the Loreto Rumbek Mission in Maker Kuei, South Sudan, where she oversees a secondary boarding school for girls, a co-educational primary school and a women and children's healthcare facility.

Treacy, who has lived in South Sudan for the past 15 years, during Wednesday's virtual reception described missionary life as an "incredibly journey," noting that Irish missionaries in particular are present all over the world.

"We have missionaries from Monaghan, from Dublin, from Kilkenny, Limerick, Kerry Cork, and me from Wicklow," she said, adding, "We're part of a great legacy, and lately that legacy has moved into our lay colleagues, men and women from all over Ireland."

In South Sudan, "You'll find them in nearly every village in South Sudan, delivering aid, delivering international support, and supporting the people in different ways," she said.

A missionary's life is to be "among the people. We have suffered among the people, Treacy said, noting that two missionaries in her order have been killed in recent years, and numerous others have either been raped, beaten, imprisoned, or tortured.

"That's the experience of the South Sudanese people, so it's not for me as a missionary to lament on that," she said, noting that sadly, this is the reality that many people who live in areas of conflict, not just South Sudan, often face.

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Treacy praised Saint Patrick's role as a missionary, noting that he came as a foreigner, but learned the local language and cultural customs, and was present among the people.

On a personal level, Treacy said she was hesitant to be a missionary at the beginning, saying "I thought missionaries were bible-bashers, I thought missionaries were people who left their homes and never came home again."

However, "I've been very surprised that I've lived a very happy life here in South Sudan for the past 15 years," she said, adding that like Saint Patrick, "we enculturate ourselves among the people. We learn their language, we try to support the people from behind."

"Some of the modern language I would use for missionaries today are bridge-builders, people of hope, people of empowerment, people who try to engage in conflict resolution," she said.

While missionaries don't usually stay in one place for a lifetime, they are present for a time in order to help the people in the best way they can, Treacy said, saying, "I'm there to pass on what I have, to empower the people of South Sudan so that they can be the leaders of their own destiny and their own country."

"It's great to be Irish, it's great to celebrate St. Patrick's Day and that rich heritage that we have as missionaries," she said, and praised all other consecrated and lay missionaries working in different development projects throughout the world.

Report courtesy of Elise Ann Allen and Angelus 18.03.2021

## **Presiding Bishop Curry and The Episcopal Church comment on recent US hate killings**

### **Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and the Episcopal Church following recent hate killings stated -**

“Wherever and whenever hatred or bigotry rises up and is directed at any child of God, we who follow Jesus of Nazareth and therefore stand for love, must act. We must stand up, speak up and show up. Today we do so with and for our Asian American and Pacific Islander brothers, sisters and siblings. Whatever the motivation of the shooter in Atlanta, we know that we are seeing a dangerous increase in hate crimes against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders: in the past year, Stop AAPI Hate has documented 3,795 incidents. Many of our fellow children of God are living in fear here in the United States, where there is supposed to be liberty and justice for all. We who stand for love must act — we must speak up, stand up and show up”.

They then listed “some links to some ways we can do that”

## **Clerical**

### **Canons of Saint Patrick’s Cathedral, Dublin**

**Two new Canons have been elected to the Chapter of Saint Patrick’s Cathedral, Dublin – the Dean of Clogher,**



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## **the Very Reverend Kenny Hall, and the Reverend Ian Gallagher, Rector of Stillorgan, Dublin.**

Dean Hall, who has been Rector of Saint Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen, since 2010 will serve as Prebendary of Tassagard on the Saint Patrick's Chapter in succession to the Reverend Canon Samuel McVeigh, former Rector of Drumachose, Limavady.

The Reverend Ian Gallagher, who has been Rector of Stillorgan since 2001, will serve as Prebendary of Tipperkevin in succession to the Reverend Canon Robert Warren, former Rector of Taney, Dublin.

The Dean of Saint Patrick's Cathedral, the Very Reverend Dr William Morton, said: "I am delighted to welcome to the Chapter our two new members and I look forward to working with them in the future."

As Dr Morton explained at the Chapter meeting, the two new Canons join recently appointed, or elected, colleagues all of whom will be installed when Covid-19 restrictions lift and it is possible to worship with the Choir and congregation.

The complete list of installations now reads: the Very Reverend Roderick Smyth, Dean of Killaloe, to be Prebendary of Taney; the Reverend Malcolm Kingston, Rector of Saint Mark's, Armagh, to be Prebendary of Yagoe; the Reverend Aonghus Mayes, Rector of Moy, to be Prebendary of Newcastle; the Reverend Katharine Poulton, Rector of Julianstown, to be Prebendary of Swords; the Very Reverend Kenny Hall, Dean of Clogher, and Rector of

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Enniskillen, to be Prebendary of Tassagard; and the Reverend Ian Gallagher, Rector of Stillorgan, Dublin, to be Prebendary of Tipperkevin.

The Chapter of a Cathedral is the body of clergy responsible for the ministry and mission of the Cathedral. The Cathedral Chapter of the National Cathedral of the Church of Ireland (St Patrick's Dublin) is composed of four Dignitaries (Dean William Morton, Precentor, Chancellor and Treasurer), the Archbishop of Dublin, 12 Diocesan canons to represent each diocese of the Church of Ireland, nine canons elected by the Chapter, and two ecumenical canons elected by the Chapter.

### **Vicar appointed to Christ Church Cathedral, Lisburn**

The Very Reverend Sam Wright has announced that the **Rev Danielle McCullagh**, has been appointed Vicar of Lisburn Cathedral by Bishop George Davison at a Board of Nomination held on 18th March 2021.

Dean Wright said, "Just as St Patrick gave himself whole heartedly to reaching the lost, teaching the word of God and building churches, this appointment coming on the day after St Patrick's Day is a tribute to all that Danielle has given in evangelism and ministry as our Curate during the past three and a half years. Her gifts in clear biblical teaching, having a heart for the lost and in nurturing the faith of believers are deeply appreciated by all in the Cathedral.

"As Dean of the Cathedral, I am thrilled and excited to have Danielle staying on for the next three years to serve as Vicar. Her experience and knowledge of Lisburn Cathedral

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will be particularly important as we prepare to emerge from lockdowns, restarting many ministries as well as opening up new areas of mission and service, as we "seek the



peace and prosperity of this city" in the name of Christ".

## **Bereavement - the Reverend Desmond Logan**

The death has taken place of the Reverend Desmond Logan. He was made deacon in 1978 and served as a Non Stipendiary Minister in Belvoir Parish 1978 - 85, in Knock Parish from 1985 - 87 and in St Brendan's 1987 - 91.

He was licensed to officiate 1991 - 95, then serving as curate-assistant in Bangor Abbey 1995 - 97, and as Incumbent of St Clements, Templemore Avenue, Belfast, from which he retired in 2011.

The Bishop of Down & Dromore said, "Desmond was much loved in St Clement's and a faithful pastor to all who needed his care. Our thoughts and prayers are with Joan and the family circle."



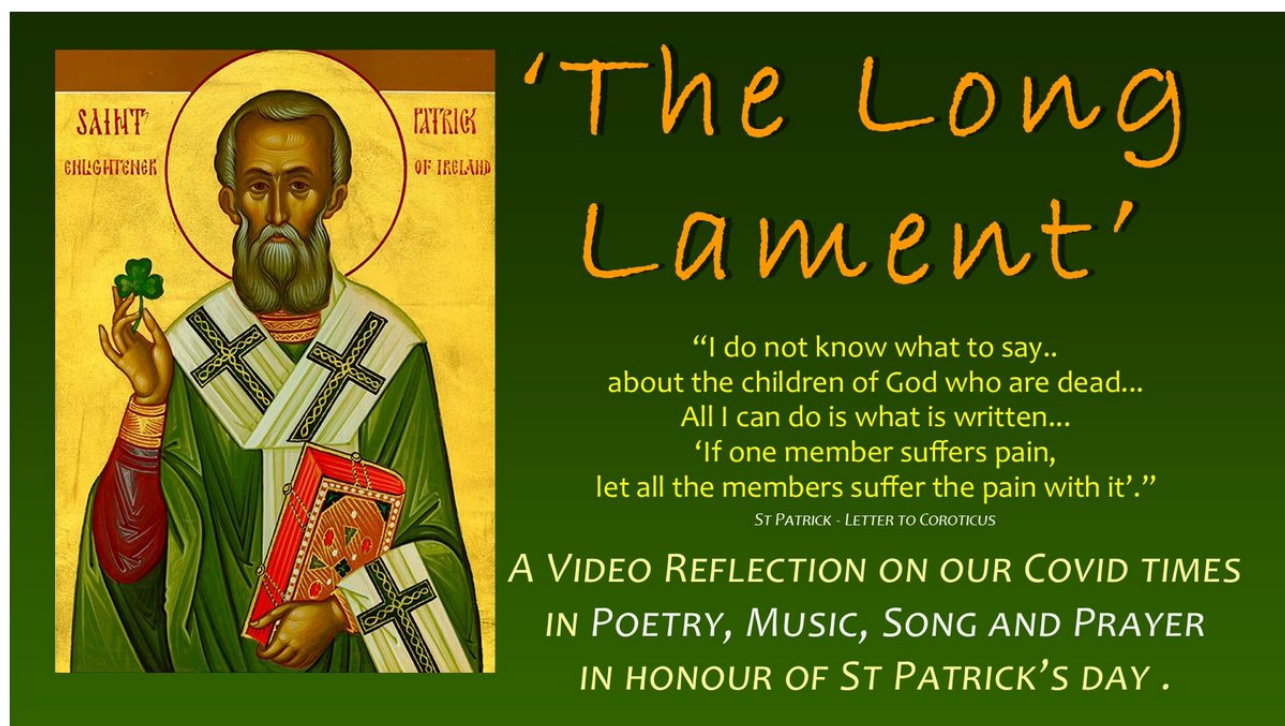
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## Books, Broadcasts, resources and webinars

### Daily Prayer: Common Worship Morning and Evening Prayer

The Church of England

[<https://cofe-daily-prayer.captivate.fm/>]



**'The Long Lament'**

"I do not know what to say..  
about the children of God who are dead...  
All I can do is what is written...  
'If one member suffers pain,  
let all the members suffer the pain with it'."

ST PATRICK - LETTER TO COROTICUS

**A VIDEO REFLECTION ON OUR COVID TIMES  
IN POETRY, MUSIC, SONG AND PRAYER  
IN HONOUR OF ST PATRICK'S DAY .**

### The Long Lament video reflection on covid times

The Dublin Council of Churches have released a video reflection on covid times in poetry, song and prayer, in honour of St Patrick: "The Long Lament:

[ <https://youtu.be/Y9Y5HwDBAUA> ]

### C of I Marriage Council webinar

For all Ministers or Church representatives interested in running Marriage Courses, we are hosting a 1 hour webinar

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on Thursday 29th from 2pm - 3pm to walk through the Alpha Marriage Course. If you are a church leader or work with couples and you would be interested in finding out about this great resource, please consider signing up for this free event.

[ <https://coimarrriagecouncil.eventbrite.ie/> ]

## European Heritage Open Days

Department for Communities NI writes - Would you like to take part in European Heritage Open Days 2021 by putting on an event or by opening a historic property/ building of interest to the public? Interested in hosting an online event or contributing digital content that celebrates local architecture, history and culture? If so, you'll need to register first.

The physical events are on 11 & 12 September whilst the digital offerings are from 6 to 12 September. To take part, REGISTER by 5 MAY at

[ <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/ehod> ]

We'll help you promote your offer to the public for FREE on LoveHeritageNI social media channels, Dept. for Communities website, Discover NI website and in an e-brochure. There's help to manage bookings if needed and you'll be given promotional material, all FREE.

European Heritage Open Days (EHOD) is Northern Ireland's annual celebration of local architecture, history and culture. Individuals, owners of historic buildings, companies/ organisations & community groups are all welcome to take part. We're appealing to all races, ethnicities, genders, ages & abilities to participate by organising workshops, walks,

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talks, tours, exhibitions, traditional skills demonstrations. Or take part by telling your story to the public through art, literature, song, dance, drama, film, food, crafts. More ideas/contact details at the above link.

[ <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/articles/european-heritage-open-days> ]

## Media review

### **Fears mass-goers may cross Border over Easter as churches there set to reopen**

Independent.ie

Frustration with the ongoing closure of churches for public worship may spur some Catholics to cross into Northern Ireland for Easter ceremonies ...

[[] <https://www.independent.ie/irish-news/fears-mass-goers-may-cross-border-over-easter-as-churches-there-set-to-reopen-40210064.html> ]

### **McAleese condemns 'cruel' ruling on same-sex blessings**

The Tablet

Former president of Ireland, Mary McAleese, has written to the head of the Catholic Church in Ireland appealing to him to “acknowledge the hurt” ...

[[] <https://www.thetablet.co.uk/news/13964/mcaleese-condemns-cruel-ruling-on-same-sex-blessings> ]

### **More people will be allowed in 'cathedrals of commerce' than in churches after Level 5 - Archbishop**



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Irish Examiner

The Archbishop told RTÉ radio's Morning Ireland that when he goes to his local shop for milk “I have to wade my way through the aisles to get there”.

[[] <https://www.irishexaminer.com/news/arid-40246664.html> ]

## **I would bless a same-sex couple’ – Irish priest rebels against Vatican advice**

Irish Independent

[[] <https://www.independent.ie/irish-news/i-would-bless-a-same-sex-couple-irish-priest-rebels-against-vatican-advice-40215498.html> ]

## **Abortion: UK government to compel Stormont to implement new laws Press**

BBC News

[[] <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-56448413> ]

## **Brandon Lewis to force Northern Ireland Executive to speed up provision of abortion services - reports**

Belfast Telegraph

[ <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/brandon-lewis-to-force-northern-ireland-executive-to-speed-up-provision-of-abortion-services-reports-40213790.html> ]

## **DUP will ‘vigorously oppose’ UK intervention to speed up NI abortion services**

Guardian

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Exclusive: Northern Ireland secretary to get new powers to force executive to act, as women still crossing Irish Sea for help

[[] <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/mar/18/uk-to-force-northern-ireland-to-speed-up-abortion-services> ]



## Pointers for prayer

Heavenly Father,  
your Son battled with the powers of darkness,  
and grew closer to you in the desert:  
help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer  
that we may witness to your saving love  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Almighty Father,  
whose Son was revealed in majesty  
before he suffered death upon the cross:  
give us grace to perceive his glory,  
that we may be strengthened to suffer with him  
and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory;  
who is alive and reigns with you,

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in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

Hold in your hands, Lord  
our families & friends  
our neighbours  
those whom we worry about  
and those who worry for us.  
And in these same hands  
hold every family,  
especially those for whom today  
has brought new burdens and fresh sorrows

We remember with thanks the numerous Mothers' Union members who, over the years, have used their God-given gifts to change the world. We pray that, in our day, we'll also be willing to use our gifts to help transform lives and communities

We pray today for the church across the world, especially in places where they are experiencing hardship and persecution. We stand together with our sisters and brothers and pray for God to bring relief from their circumstances.

Holy God,  
you know the disorder of our sinful lives:  
set straight our crooked hearts,  
and bend our wills to love your goodness  
and your glory  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Almighty God,  
you have created the heavens and the earth

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and made us in your own image:  
teach us to discern your hand in all your works  
and your likeness in all your children;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all  
things,  
now and for ever.

## Speaking to the Soul

**"While he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.'"**

Luke 15:20-21 NLT

Of all the stories that Jesus told the parable of the prodigal son is the most famous and it takes us to the heart of the Good News. The son was a complete embarrassment. Can you think of anything worse than a son asking for his inheritance whilst his father was still alive? He then, inevitably, went off and squandered the money and ended up stony broke. He was so desperate that all he could do was to find a job feeding pigs, and for a Jew you couldn't imagine a worse job because they were banned from eating pork.

The people would have listened to Jesus with rapt attention. But they also knew how the story was bound to end. When they heard that the son had resolved to go back home and



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ask for a job from his father, they knew what was going to happen next. Any self-respecting father would give his son a hiding. He would punish him severely because everyone could see that that's what he deserved. But this father was different. Even though he had been horribly abused, the father threw his arms around his wayward son and welcomed him home. He then gave the best robe to him, put a ring on his finger and threw a big party.



This is precisely the Good News that Jesus came to bring. We have all strayed from God's ways and treated him appallingly. We don't deserve to be loved by God. Punishment would be entirely appropriate. But incredibly God throws his arms around us and welcomes us home.

## QUESTION

What does this parable say to you personally?

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## PRAYER

Dear Father, thank you that even though I have done so many things that are wrong, you are willing to forgive me and give me a new life. Amen.

