

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – St Patrick's Day Cork Civic service



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St Patrick's Day Cork Civic service

After three years of restrictions, the Civic Service and Festival Eucharist at St Fin Barre's Cathedral as well as the Reception at the Bishop's Palace to celebrate St Patrick's Day took place again this year. As in previous years the Bishop of Cork, the Right Reverend Dr Paul Colton and Mrs Susan Colton, invited nearly 300 representatives of civic



and community life in Cork City and County to their home to celebrate St Patrick's Day.

The civic attendance was led by Cork's first citizen, the Lord Mayor of Cork, Cllr Deirdre Forde, who is joined by Councillors, former Lords Mayor of Cork, and representatives of the City Council.

Also represented were the Defence Forces, the Naval Service, and An Garda Síochána. Members of the Chapter of St Fin Barre's Cathedral in attendance were joined by Father Gerard Dunne, O.P. (Chaplain of University College Cork).

People and places



50 years faithful service recognised

At a Mothering Sunday parish reception Ballintoy Rector's Churchwarden, Raymond Rogers was presented with a gift and a touching poem to celebrate 50 years faithful service on

the Select Vestry of his Mother Church of Ballintoy.

Dromore and District Male Voice Choir will raise the roof at charity Praise Service

Dromore and District Male Voice Choir are attempting to revive interest in the choir which has been in fine voice for more than sixty years.

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Currently the choir is at a low point having lost a lot of members over the lockdown period and numbers are dwindling.

If you have a love of singing why not come along to a practice on Mondays 8pm in 1st Dromore Presbyterian Church hall and meet the members.

Under their musical director David Thompson and accompanist Gertie Jamison the choir are seeking to continue to uphold the tradition of Male Voice singing in the area. On Sunday March 26 at 7.30pm there will be a Praise Service in 1st Dromore Presbyterian Church at 7pm where



In every family there are seasons
of joys and challenges:
Seasons of laughter
and seasons of sadness.
Times of unexpected joy
and times of unwanted trauma.
Circumstances to cherish
and circumstances to overcome.
Seasons of harmony
and seasons of discord.
Times of resilience
and times of weakness.
Moments to look forward with hope
and moments to look back with thanksgiving.
God in every circumstance and season
we bring you our worship and praise.

Amen

Mothers' UNION

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Dromore and District Male Voice Choir will be joined by members of Ballymoney and Queens Island Victoria Male Voice choirs to raise funds for Kidney Research Northern Ireland and the choir.

For further information contact James Smyth on 07757641944 or Ian McFarlane on 07884362396



Habitat focus on Mothering Sunday at Christ Church Lisburn

Jenny Williams of Habitat spoke at last Sunday's service. She said afterwards, "What a privilege to share about

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Habitat's mission and to join the church family at Christ Church Lisburn for Mothering Sunday Worship". .



Mothering Sunday in Maguiresbridge

Photos from the family service in Maguiresbridge, Clogher diocese, on Sunday morning. "A very uplifting and encouraging service as

we considered our role as members of the family of God. Thanks to all who took part or helped in any way. A wonderful celebration".



YOU ARE INVITED TO

A Spring Concert

WITH KING'S CHORALE

Agherton Parish Church,
The Diamond, Portstewart
Saturday 25th March, 2023
at 7.30pm


CONDUCTOR MARK SPRATT	GUEST ARTISTE RICHARD DOUGLAS	ACCOMPANIST PAULINE MAGOWAN
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Beneficiaries: Agherton Parish Church
Suggested Donation: £10

Tickets available from
Agherton Parish Centre
Tel: 028 7083 3277



CHARITY NUMBER NIC102532



DHM
Divine Healing
MINISTRIES

30th Anniversary Celebration

ST. ANNE'S CATHEDRAL

Monday, 27th March, 2023 @ 7.30 p.m.



Speakers:
Br. David Jardine
Fr. Pat Collins



News reports

NI education body chiefs meet Minister of State

In January, leaders of the seven bodies representing sectoral interests in education wrote to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and the Permanent Secretary for the Department for Education regarding their grave concerns surrounding proposed funding cuts to the education budget.

Having met the Permanent Secretary last month, the group met with Minister of State, the Rt Hon Steve Baker MP on Wednesday 8th March, as figures from the Education Authority show 50% of schools will face financial deficit by the end of this month.

Leaders of education bodies with Steve Baker MP, Minister of State in the Northern Ireland Office.

Despite funding being already significantly lower than that received for the education of children and young people aged 3–19 in England, Scotland, and Wales, indicative figures signify that education in Northern Ireland is now facing additional cuts. These will result in a reduction in outcomes for children and young people across Northern Ireland, and diminish their opportunities to contribute to society. The group also warned that failure to address the problem immediately, would have a negative impact for many generations to come and lead to

higher spending in other government areas including health and justice.

The group is made up of the chief executives and chairs of the Catholic Schools' Trustees Service, Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta, Council for Catholic Maintained Schools, Council for Integrated Education, Controlled Schools' Support Council, Governing Bodies Association NI and the Transferor Representatives' Council (TRC).

Speaking after the meeting, TRC Chair Dr Andy Brown said, "£100 million annually is needed to 'level-up' education provision in Northern Ireland to the lowest of Scotland, England, and Wales. We have listened to our school leaders, fifty per cent of whom have stated they will face financial deficit from 31 March 2023. Further cuts are simply not the answer.

TRC Chair Dr Andy Brown discusses education funding with Minister Baker.

"Northern Ireland is a very different place to England, Scotland and Wales and has had significant periods without government, without strategy and without substantial investment in education. There is a strong argument to be made that there is more need in Northern Ireland for that reason. The prosperity that was promised to all children and young people in a post conflict situation since the Belfast/ Good Friday Agreement requires an investment in the education sector. The time to redress this historical underfunding and put our young people on an even footing to England, Scotland and Wales is now. The time to invest in and enable our young people is now."

Dr Brown continued, “A generation of school children is missing out. Whilst their schools find creative ways of educating and inspiring the next generation, they do so under the spectre of systemic underfunding, with scant resources and often in buildings not fit for purpose. School leaders, teachers and other education professionals are struggling; they, and the children and communities they serve, deserve better.”

Following the meeting, the group issued the education spokespersons of Northern Ireland’s main political parties an invitation to an urgent meeting on funding.

Information on the work of the Transferor Representatives’ Council – representing the Church of Ireland, Presbyterian Church and Methodist Church in education policy in Northern Ireland – is available on its website at www.trc-churcheducation.org

Carlow photo exhibition chronicles Irish Methodist World Development and Relief aid programme

A photo exhibition illustrating an impactful development programme that operates in some of the world’s most disadvantaged areas took place in Carlow recently.

The work of the Irish Methodist World Development and Relief Programme was documented by three Irish photographers, Pete Laverty, Tim West and Simon Hutchinson.

The initiative has supported around 400,000 people over the last 50 years across eight countries with 12 local partners. They include a host of programmes, including an education programme in Lebanon for some of the 1.5 million Syrian refugees, and empowering women in Africa, who are now caring for their grandchildren after they lost their parents.

Programme committee member, Carlow's Anton Scheele, explained: "They all have something in common. Every project starts off by supporting to build a community, then it can go into water projects, or helping vulnerable women in Nepal, where there is lot of domestic violence, by enabling and empowering them to get housing, education and skills."

He added: "There is a lot of forgotten people from around the world. The fall-out from Syria is not in the media, as they have moved on, but people are still living in camps.

"We start differently than most organisations. We ask people on the ground what they see as the biggest problem. What would make their biggest problem a little bit smaller? Instead of experts outside identifying the biggest problem and where to start, we work the other way around. The ownership is with local people."

The exhibition was planned to coincide with the programme's 50th anniversary, but was delayed until this year because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The exhibition was launched by broadcaster and journalist Olivia O'Leary. A large number of transition year students from local schools also visited the expo during its run. The

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exhibition will now be displayed in other Methodist churches across Ireland, north and south. More information about the programme can be found on irishmethodist.org.

Courtesy The Nationalist 18/03/2023 and
michaelorourkephotography.ie

In the media

In Pictures: Enjoying a tasty 'big breakfast' at Ballintoy Parish Church

Farming Life

A big breakfast was organised by Ballintoy Church of Ireland recently.

[\[https://www.farminglife.com/country-and-farming/in-pictures-enjoying-a-tasty-big-breakfast-at-ballintoy-parish-church-4071070\]](https://www.farminglife.com/country-and-farming/in-pictures-enjoying-a-tasty-big-breakfast-at-ballintoy-parish-church-4071070)

Pick-me up choirs providing social lifeline in Co Antrim

Belfast Telegraph

Pick-me-up choirs have been set up in the glens of Antrim to help anyone who loves singing and may be feeling isolated post-Covid...Budding singers making friends and connecting with community through pick-me-up choirs. From learning Italian songs and gospel numbers to belting out Tina Turner and Johnny Cash hits, the all-ability groups use music to connect with each other.

[\[https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/sunday-life/features/its-about-getting-out-and-having-a-bit-of-craic-pick-me-up-choirs-providing-social-lifeline-in-co-antrim/596273229.html\]](https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/sunday-life/features/its-about-getting-out-and-having-a-bit-of-craic-pick-me-up-choirs-providing-social-lifeline-in-co-antrim/596273229.html)

A new Laois based Ukrainian Choir will perform in a special free concert in Portlaoise later this month

Leinster Express

Inter-generational Ukrainian Choir - 'Mallows' - was set up in January under the Ukrainian Health and Well Being Support fund of Laois County Council.

Co-ordinated and facilitated by Music Generation Laois, the choir are meeting twice-weekly in Laois Music Centre under the direction of Nataliia Rehesha, a choral director from Kyiv who has been living with her family in Laois since March 2022.

[\[https://www.leinsterexpress.ie/news/arts---entertainment/1059966/new-ukrainian-choir-to-feature-in-free-laois-community-concert-in-portlaoise.html\]](https://www.leinsterexpress.ie/news/arts---entertainment/1059966/new-ukrainian-choir-to-feature-in-free-laois-community-concert-in-portlaoise.html)

Pope promotes former Anglican bishop who became priest

Catholic Herald

The Pope has promoted a former Anglican bishop to the rank of Monsignor less than a year after he was ordained a Catholic priest.

Mgr John Goddard, the former Bishop of Burnley, has also been made a "chaplain to His Holiness" within six months of his ordination as a priest for the Archdiocese of Liverpool.

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The father-of-two was received into the Catholic faith in May 2021 by Auxiliary Bishop Tom Williams of Liverpool and ordained a priest in the Lutyens Chapel of the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, Liverpool, on April 2 last year.

Following a petition from Archbishop Malcolm McMahon of Liverpool, Pope Francis agreed in November to honour Mgr Goddard in recognition of his previous 50 years of “priestly and episcopal service in the Church of England”.

[\[https://catholicherald.co.uk/pope-promotes-former-anglican-bishop-who-became-priest/\]](https://catholicherald.co.uk/pope-promotes-former-anglican-bishop-who-became-priest/)

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

New book - ‘An Architectural History of the Church of Ireland

A new book, ‘An Architectural History of the Church of Ireland’ by Michael O’Neill, will be launched next Tuesday, March 28 2023, at 6pm in the Irish Architectural Archive on Merrion Square, Dublin 2.

Published by Church of Ireland Publishing, the book will be launched by Dr Sandra O’Connell, Director of Architecture and Communications at the RIAI, with a response by the Archbishop of Dublin, the Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson.

Using a significant trove of new and previously unexplored archival material from the RCB Library, this new book

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provides a definitive account of the architectural history of the Church of Ireland. Dr O'Neill adopts a thematic and historical approach that will assist the reader to interpret ecclesiastical buildings, explore histories and evolving traditions of use, and help broaden an appreciation and understanding of the uniqueness and significance of the architectural legacy.

The book will be available to purchase on the night at a launch offer price of €40. It will be available to purchase online at <https://store.ireland.anglican.org/store/>

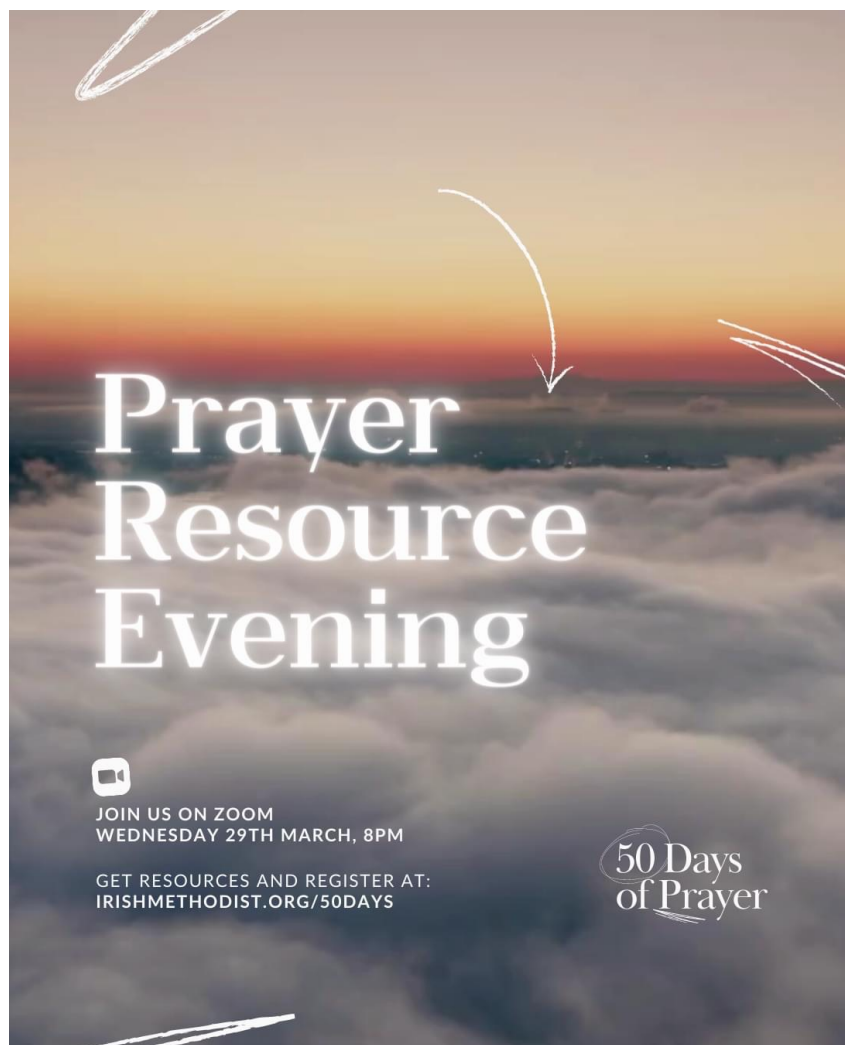
If attending the launch please email library@ireland.anglican.org

Methodist Connexional Prayer Resource Evening on Zoom

Register now for
the Connexional
Prayer Resource
Evening on Zoom!

An opportunity to
join together to
receive resources,
ideas,
encouragement
and to pray as you
prepare for 50
Days of Prayer in

[Church News Ireland](#)



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your own setting.

Wednesday 29th March, 8pm on Zoom

Register now: bit.ly/3yiayRJ

Churches across the Connexion are invited to take part in 50 Days of Prayer 2023, happening from Easter Sunday 9th April to Pentecost Sunday 28th May.



Graciously Confident - Gospel Engagement in the Public Square

A morning for Presbyterians involved in the public square (as teachers, healthcare workers, civil servants, in business, science, the media, or involvement in the local community) to be inspired and equipped as they seek to live as gospel

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people with gracious confidence in the areas where God has placed them.

Keynote speaker Dr Nathan Mladin, is a senior researcher with Theos, a Christian think tank founded by the Bible Society.

The morning will include a panel discussion from those who do work, or have worked, in various ways in the public square as we unpack what engaging with gracious confidence means in practice.

There will also be opportunity for discussion in small groups as we think about what this means for each of us in our congregations, workplaces, and communities.

Saturday 1 April. 9:30 am - 1:00 pm. Assembly Buildings, Belfast

Book a free space here:

www.presbyterianireland.org/graciousconfidence

Poem for today

The World Is Too Much With Us by William Wordsworth

The world is too much with us; late and soon,
Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers;—
Little we see in Nature that is ours;

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We have given our hearts away, a sordid boon!
This Sea that bares her bosom to the moon;
The winds that will be howling at all hours,
And are up-gathered now like sleeping flowers;
For this, for everything, we are out of tune;
It moves us not. Great God! I'd rather be
A Pagan suckled in a creed outworn;
So might I, standing on this pleasant lea,
Have glimpses that would make me less forlorn;
Have sight of Proteus rising from the sea;
Or hear old Triton blow his wreathèd horn.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

The publication of Church News Ireland is overseen by Very Rev Dr Houston McKelvey OBE, QVRM, TD. He may be contacted at houstonmckelvey@mac.com