

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – York Minster

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York Minster

Photographer Andy Marshall of fotofacade comments - “The best views of York Minster are from the wall on the north east side. It reveals the complex layered history of the site. Beneath the Minster lies the remains of a Roman barracks.”

People and places



New Families and Outreach worker at St John's Newcastle

The Parish of St John's Newcastle have announced the appointment of Ashleigh McCartan as their part-time Families and Outreach worker.

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Ashleigh, pictured above with her husband Mark, lives in Newcastle and is a regular worshipper at St John's. She brings a wealth of experience of working in different settings to the role and has been leading the Sunday School.

Ashleigh said: "I am really excited at the prospect of working alongside the Rector and building up our links with families in the community and with our many visitors to Newcastle over the summer months."

Taking the step to prioritise children and young families has been a blessing to the whole church family in St John's Newcastle. Watch the rector, Revd Myrtle Morrison, share the story as part of the diocese's Transformations series for Lent 2023 at -

[\[https://www.downanddromore.org/news/2023/03/new-member-of-staff-for-st-johns-newcastle-\]](https://www.downanddromore.org/news/2023/03/new-member-of-staff-for-st-johns-newcastle-)

Flower Festival St Andrew's Church in Malahide

St Andrew's Church in Malahide is holding a Flower Festival from June 9 to 11 2023.

The event marks the 200th anniversary of the consecration of the church and is being directed by Chelsea Flower Show Gold Medal Winner, Christopher White. The theme of the festival is 'The Gospel in Flowers' and floral artists from all over the country will participate.

The festival opens on June 9 and concludes on June 11 with a Festival Service at which the Choir of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, under the direction of Tom Little, will sing.

Preserving Sligo's historic buildings with vital funding for repairs



Calry Parish Church, The Mall, Sligo has been allocated funding under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2023 for conservation works to the bell tower.

The Sligo Champion reports that the Minister of State for Heritage and Electoral Reform, Malcolm Noonan has announced that 14 heritage projects across the county will benefit from a total of €107,006 under this year's Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS). The BHIS is one of two built heritage funding schemes run by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in association with the 31 Local Authorities.

The poster features a background image of a boat on Lough Derg. At the top, the text 'LOUGH DERG' is in a large, bold, serif font, with a stylized boat icon below it. To the right, 'Day of Friendship & Prayer' is written in a large, bold, sans-serif font. Below this, 'Wednesday 17th May 2023' is written in a smaller font. A dark red horizontal band contains the text 'Guest Speaker: The Very Reverend Kenneth Hall' in white, followed by his title and a list of questions. To the right of this band is a portrait of a smiling man in clerical attire. Below the red band, the date and time 'Wednesday 17th May 2023 | 10:00am - 3:00pm' and 'Admission €25 includes all hospitality & services' are listed. At the bottom, the venue 'Sanctuary of Saint Patrick, Pettigo, County Donegal' and contact information are provided.

LOUGH DERG Day of Friendship & Prayer
Wednesday 17th May 2023

Guest Speaker:
The Very Reverend Kenneth Hall
Dean of Saint Macartin's Church of Ireland Cathedral, Enniskillen

*Can there be two Christian Communities living side by side?
If so is Christ divided?
Is Christian disunity a scandal before God?
Or is it something we have grown accustomed to?
So what does the Lord require of us?*

Wednesday 17th May 2023 | 10:00am - 3:00pm
Admission €25
includes all hospitality & services

Sanctuary of Saint Patrick, Pettigo, County Donegal
www.loughderg.org | info@loughderg.org | +353 (0)71 98 61518

Day of Friendship and Prayer on Lough Derg

The annual 'Day of Friendship and Prayer' on Lough Derg will take place on Wednesday 17th May, with boats from 10:00am.

The Very Reverend Kenneth (Kenny) Hall, Dean of Saint Macartin's Church of Ireland Cathedral in Enniskillen will deliver the Keynote Address which will begin at 12 noon.

A light lunch will be served from 1.15pm and boats depart from 2.45pm. Admission of €25 includes all hospitality and services.

Booking for this special day is essential and can be made online: www.bit.ly/loughdergbooking2023 by email: info@loughderg.org or by phone +353 (0)71 9861518.



Altar rededicated in Dundalk church

St Joseph's Redemptorist Church in Dundalk has been refurbished.

Bishop Michael

Router said he was “delighted and honoured to have rededicated the altar in the newly refurbished St. Joseph's Church, Dundalk.”



REQUIEM

John Rutter

- Sionán Mullan and Lisa Dawson (*Soloists*)
- Chamber Ensemble
- Jack McCabe (*Organ*)

*Performed by **Cathedra**
(incorporating Cadenza and Down Cathedral Choir)*

Directed by Michael McCracken

Other works featured include:

Allegri: Miserere Mei, Deus

Mendelssohn: Hear my prayer

Chilcott: God so loved the world

Monday 3rd April 2023, 7.45pm

Down Cathedral, Downpatrick

TICKETS £15 (including light refreshments)

Available at the door

The Windows on the Resurrection

This Easter, 'The Windows on the Resurrection' Art Installation will be returning to St Cuthberts Parish Church, Edinburgh from the 2nd to the 9th of April.

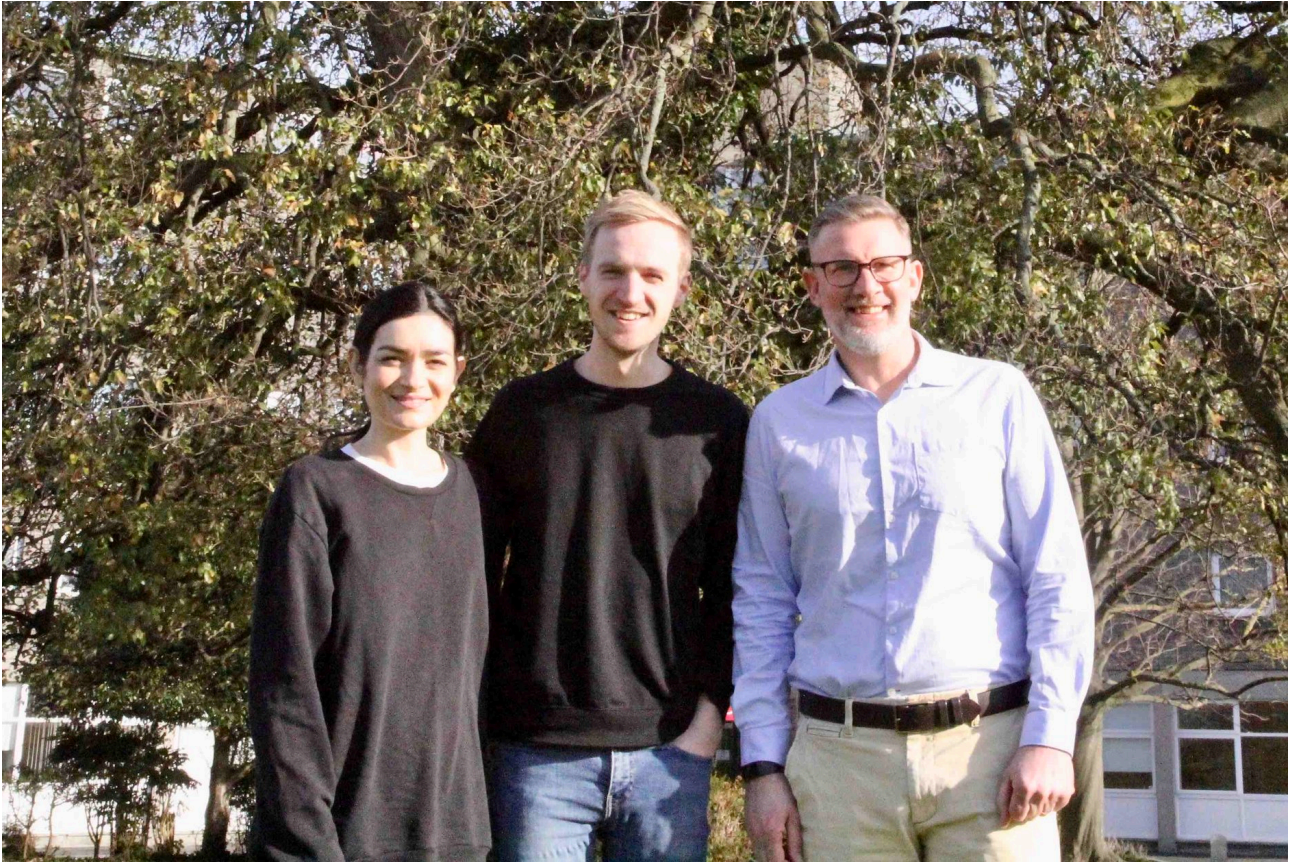
Find out more about how the windows were made:
www.sanctuaryfirst.org.uk/blog/the-windows-on-the-resurrection

The Windows were created by the Sanctuary First community, 12 different people from our community painted a window and each recorded a prayer to accompany it. Each window depicts a different scene from the story of the Resurrection of Christ. Together with an ambient sound scape it hopes to invite people into an immersive spiritual experience, through light, sound and art.

‘Spiritual nudging’ sees new Curates come to serve in Rathmines

A series of exciting connections has resulted in a young family relocating from London Diocese to take up roles in the Church of Ireland. The Revd Colin and the Revd Rebecca Hamilton are the new curate assistants in Holy Trinity Rathmines.

Together with their daughter Scout they moved to Dublin at the beginning of the year.



The Revd Rebecca and the Revd Colin Hamilton and the Revd Rob Jones in front of what is reputed to be the oldest oak tree in Leinster which is located in Rathmines.

The Rector of the United Parish of Rathmines with Harold's Cross, the Revd Rob Jones, has been seconded for some of his time to lead the Church of Ireland's new Pioneer Ministry movement (www.pioneerministry.org) , which was formally launched in St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin on February 5th .

Rob will of course be staying on as Rector of the parish and Colin will be a priest in the parish, to cover the time Rob will be working on Pioneer Ministry. Rebecca will also have a role in the parish while also supporting Pioneer Ministry nationally as well.

Colin and Rebecca were both ordained in the Church of England having attended St Mellitus' College in the Diocese of London. Their ministry in Rathmines is their second Curacy, their first being in King's Cross Church in London. They have belonged to that church for eight years, with Colin on staff for seven years and Rebecca for nearly four years. Incidentally, Rebecca's father is the Revd Geoff Read, Chaplain of the Anglican Church in Luxemburg in the Diocese of Europe.

Colin, who is originally from Monaghan, explains that for the last couple of years they have felt the Lord calling them on and they have been on a journey of discernment. They had been exploring a number of options but none felt right.

When they were visiting Colin's sister in Dublin last year, they felt the Holy Spirit nudging them but they were not sure how. They said: "Lord if there is something here for us, you will have to make it obvious". A week later they got an email from Rob.

Colin's and Rob's sisters are both Church of Ireland primary school teachers and through them Rob was given Colin and Rebecca's email. Rob emailed them and the connection was made.

"It was a link that none of us expected or planned. We visited the church and met Rob and the team and it felt like the Lord was calling us and opening a door for us to join them," Colin says. "It feels like the start of a new season and we're jumping into it."

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Rob points out that there is a historic link between Dublin and Glendalough and the Diocese of London. The retired Bishop of London, the Rt Revd Richard Chartres, came to Dublin some years ago, as part of the Come and See initiative, to talk about fresh expressions of church. “We couldn’t ask for two better people in the parish,” he comments. “They are gifted, anointed and very experienced and the parish is blessed to have them.” He adds that it is wonderful to have people coming from another part of the Anglican Communion bringing new life, knowledge and ideas to Holy Trinity and the wider dioceses.

Rebecca says they are really looking forward to their ministry together with Rathmines.

“It’s a really exciting time to be joining Holy Trinity. The image associated with vision for Holy Trinity is the oak tree. The oak tree’s roots have grown deep and the church is now growing in a new and exciting way and building on the amazing leadership of all that has gone before. The Spirit is working here and he’s inviting us to be part of it for the next season. It’s a real privilege,” she comments.

Colin and Rebecca were introduced in the parish at a joint service of Holy Communion in September 2022 and were formally licensed by the Archbishop on January 17.

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News reports

Dublin Orthodox synagogue goes on sale for £6.6 million

The Irish congregation has acquired smaller premises to cater for its future needs, Barry Toberman writes in The Jewish Chronicle.

Dublin's Orthodox synagogue, Terenure, has been put up for sale for €7.5 million (£6.62 million). But the president of the Jewish Representative Council of Ireland, Maurice Cohen, insists the move does not reflect diminishing Jewish life in the Republic.

Although the breakdown of religions from the latest Irish Census is awaited, Mr Cohen anticipates the figure for the Jewish community will exceed the 2,557 recorded in 2016, itself an increase of 28.9 per cent on the 2011 figure of 1,984. And as he points out, not everyone declares their religion on the census form.

He believes a more accurate gauge of the community's well-being is its Stratford schools in Dublin, where around 30 Jewish teens attend Stratford College and 50 are enrolled at the Stratford National School, its primary section.

Mr Cohen added that other signs of communal health are small but growing groups in Cork, Galway and Limerick,

which gather to hold services or hook up online with other communities.

In Dublin, he estimates that Terenure (Dublin Hebrew Congregation) and the Progressive shul each involve around 200 people. Terenure has acquired smaller premises to cater for its longer-term needs. The congregation runs a kosher shop and kosher options in the city will imminently be boosted by the opening of a Chabad centre, incorporating a deli and restaurant.

Some Jewish newcomers had moved because of Brexit. “Israelis are coming because of high tech. They like Ireland, they like their jobs. The only problem is that housing is expensive and difficult to come by.”

New arrivals might not join a shul but some attend festival celebrations and social events, connecting through Facebook or community pages.

“On my travels, I find people always talk about the same thing — how we define Jewish life today. There are those who still feel it’s about shul-going.

“Others think that going to services is not how people treat religion. It’s not who is a Jew but what is a Jew and what makes a Jewish community.” To this end, a Jewish arts and culture programme is being developed, Mr Cohen reported.

And Dublin’s Jewish Museum was “a huge asset to the community — a great way of explaining what Jews are about to schoolchildren and the general public”.

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There has also been an influx of 80 Ukrainian Jews, who are housed around the country. “A few are being hosted — it wasn’t for the want of offers. The main aim is to get them their own accommodation.”

Having chaired the representative council for almost ten years, Mr Cohen is “desperately looking to replace myself. I’m implementing a plan for a job share.”

Succession issues were widespread, another example being three Stratford school trustees with a combined service of around 130 years stepping down.

“But the seeds are there of younger people wanting to take responsibility.”

Courtesy The Jewish Chronicle 17/03/2023

Marriage doctrine is for Church of England to decide, Parliament told

The Church of England's representative in the House of Commons has told Parliament to stay out of its doctrine on marriage.

Andrew Selous, Conservative MP for South West Bedfordshire and the Second Church Estates Commissioner, raised concerns about the Church of England's religious freedom in his response to a ten minute rule motion introduced by Ben Bradshaw MP.

Mr Bradshaw asked the Commons on Tuesday "that leave be given to bring in a Bill to enable clergy of the Church of

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England to conduct same sex marriages on Church of England premises in certain circumstances".

His Bill is backed by a coalition of high profile MPs, including former deputy Labour leader Harriet Harman, Tory MP and former lord chancellor, Robert Buckland, former foreign secretary, Dame Margaret Beckett, and Sir Peter Bottomley, the Conservative father of the House.

It is a response to the vote in the Church of England's General Synod last month to introduce blessings for same-sex couples while retaining its doctrine on marriage as a lifelong union between a man and a woman.

Under the plans, churches will be allowed to hold services of prayer and blessings for same-sex couples but they will not be permitted to wed them.

In his speech to MPs, Mr Bradshaw said, "The House might ask why this is a matter for MPs and for Parliament.

"Well, the Church of England is not just some sect; it is the established Church in England. It was established by Parliament and still has its Church or canon laws approved by Parliament.

"The monarch is its Supreme Governor; its bishops are appointed by the monarch on the advice of the Prime Minister and sit in the other place; it runs thousands of schools across England.

"With those privileges of establishment comes a duty to serve the whole nation—to be there for all citizens."

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During his speech, Mr Bradshaw, who is in a civil partnership, said that evangelical parishes opposed to the plans were "homophobic" and claimed that there was a "minority" in the Church who "are holding the majority back".

"The Church leadership should stop indulging them and focus on their primary mission to the majority of Anglicans here," he said.

"That might also make it easier for them to focus on the many important things the Church has to say and offer about the 21st century."

In reply, Mr Selous asked that Parliament respect the views of Synod and leave matters of doctrine to the Church's own democratically elected parliament.

"I do not intend to divide the House, but it is necessary to respond to the Bill in my capacity as Second Church Estates Commissioner because it seeks to usurp the role of the democratically elected General Synod of the Church of England, as well as to remove the freedom of the Church of England to decide its own doctrine, a freedom that members from all parts of this House champion for religions and beliefs all over the world and one that we should therefore apply equally to the Church of England," he said.

"There are passionately held and differing views about same-sex marriage on both sides of the House and I am also acutely aware of the personal pain and hurt that the issue causes for so many people, but it is for the democratically elected assembly of the Church of England,

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the General Synod, to decide matters of doctrine rather than Parliament.

"That has been the settled convention for nearly 50 years, since the 1974 worship and doctrine Measure was approved by Parliament."

He continued, "Directing the Church of England on doctrine is not the job of Parliament. It would infringe on settled principles of religious freedom, for which we argue for our sisters and brothers overseas, and it would also call into question the rights and protections of conscience for other denominations and faiths."

The Bill is to receive a second reading on 24 November.

Although most Ten Minute Rule Bills do not become law, they are often used by MPs to draw attention to particular issues.

Mr Bradshaw said he hoped his Bill "sends a clear message to the Church of England leadership about where Parliament stands on these matters".

43,000 dead in Somalia drought demands UK action, Christian Aid warns

As a new report warns an estimated 43,000 people died amid the longest drought on record in Somalia last year, international development agency Christian Aid has called on the UK Government to “urgently get more funding to the front line.”

The report, released by the World Health Organization and the United Nations children's agency, is the first official death toll announced in the drought. At least 18,000 people are forecast to die in the first six months of this year.

Somalia and neighbouring Ethiopia and Kenya are facing a sixth consecutive failed rainy season while rising global food prices complicate the hunger crisis.

Jennifer Larbie, Christian Aid's Interim Head of of Global Advocacy & Policy, said, "Millions are taking desperate measures to survive in the face of failed harvests, livestock deaths, water shortages and extreme hunger. As we have for Ukraine, we have a moral duty to act.

"The UK Government needs to heed the alarms. Ministers must urgently get more funding to the front line of this hunger crisis, mobilise the international community to act and ensure all humanitarian support is directed to local actors who are best placed to respond."

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

St Patrick's life in Tales - Timeline series from St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin

This video is part of the Cathedral's "Tales from our Timeline" series. The full exhibition can be viewed at

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www.stpatrickscathedral.ie. These videos were produced by Irish digital media company Noho www.noho.ie and was part funded by the Heritage Council www.heritagecouncil.ie

Morning prayer from Washington National Cathedral

"No one wants to think of themselves as the seemingly sanctimonious Pharisee, and we tend to gravitate to the seemingly humble tax-collector."

The Rev. Canon Jan Naylor Cope reminds us that we all depend on God's mercy and grace.

bit.ly/42oRnmS

Methodist Church service

A video of Sunday's service at Coleraine Methodist Church with Rev Norman Cardwell is available on the Circuit's YouTube channel at

<https://youtu.be/WAuA4A3qMZs>

Mothers' Union Make A Mother's Day campaign

Mothers' Union CEO Bev Jullien was interviewed on numerous local BBC radio stations on Mothering Sunday about our Make A Mother's Day campaign.

You can listen to one interview with BBC Radio Cambridgeshire here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0f5nrst>

Poem for today

Daffodowndilly by A.A. Milne

She wore her yellow sun-bonnet,
She wore her greenest gown;
She turned to the south wind
And curtsied up and down.
She turned to the sunlight
And shook her yellow head,
And whispered to her neighbour:
"Winter is dead."

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this sit

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

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