

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Signs of spring in Belfast**

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## Image of the day

### Signs of spring in Belfast...

... at last.  
Yesterday in  
Botanic  
Gardens.



## People and places

### Holy Week series with Christina Baxter

**Canon Dr Christina Baxter will be speaking throughout Holy Week in Holywood Parish Church.**

You are warmly invited to share in the journey of this important week in the 'Close Encounters' with Jesus on the road to the cross.

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Monday 3–Friday 7 April at 7.30pm. The Good Friday service will include The Tenebrae led by Bishop Harold Miller.

## Pioneer Ministry moves forward



**The newly appointed National Director, the Revd Rob Jones, has begun to travel around the island to share the vision and how we can all get involved.**

As part of this communications plan, Rob was invited to speak at a recent Continuing Ministerial Education day in Newry Conference Centre. This was a great opportunity to encourage up and coming leaders in the Church. There was much debate, discussion, and excitement from all involved with a lively conversation on how leaders deal with change

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and current opportunities for Pioneer Ministry in the Church of Ireland.

Shortly, the Pioneer Ministry team will be issuing its first newsletter to help get the word out and keep us up to date with progress. If you would like to sign up for this or have specific questions about Pioneer Ministry please click here: [www.pioneerministry.org/get-involved](http://www.pioneerministry.org/get-involved)

## **Mental Health and Suicide Seminar for MindMatters C of I in Cork, Cloyne and Ross**

**The Dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross are holding a series of talks as part of the MindMatters C of I project, which aims to promote and support positive mental health within the Church of Ireland and the wider community.**

The seminar will take place on the 22nd April 2023 and focusses on Mental Health and Suicide.

The two speakers will be Dr Eve Griffin and Prof. Ella Arensman from the National Suicide Research Foundation.

Those who are interested in the event and would like to attend should please register via this event on Eventbrite.ie.

[<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/mental-health-and-suicide-tickets-595796522437>]



## **‘Meet and greet’ evening for asylum seekers in Kilroot**

**St Colman’s Parish Church, Kilroot, held a ‘meet and greet’ evening for asylum seekers in March 16, the eve of St Patrick’s Day.**

The parish welcomed 60 asylum seekers from Eritrea, Syria, Iran, Yemen, Nigeria, Uganda, Somalia and Sudan to the church hall, along with people from the different churches in Carrickfergus who are also working with asylum seekers.

A great selection of food was prepared by people from Syria, Iran, Yemen, Uganda and Nigeria, and following the meal, some of the ladies from the African nations gave a dance demonstration.

Next up were the Kurdish men, then the Syrians, Iranians, Eritreans and Yemenis.

The rector, the Rev Nigel Kirkpatrick, said: “Pretty soon everyone was on the floor trying in their own unique way to emulate the dancing. All in all, it was a wonderful evening of

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food, fellowship and encounter. Everyone had a great time, and friendships were renewed and built.”

The costs of hosting the event were covered by a grant from the Belfast Cathedral Black Santa Appeal.

## Former Headmaster appointed Vice Lord Lieutenant



Warmest congratulations to Belfast Boys Model’s former Headmaster, Dr Alan Logan MBE, who has been appointed as Vice Lord Lieutenant of the County Borough of Belfast to HM Lord Lieutenant, Dame Fionnuala Jay-O’Boyle DBE DStJ DDL (Hon QUB).



# ALL through History

## Lisburn Cathedral

### Easter Family Fun Days

**Free Events!  
Everyone Welcome!**

**Friday 7th April 1.30pm -3.30pm**  
**@ Lisburn Cathedral**

- Crafts
- Easter Trail
- All Through History Drama
- Games
- Grace Cafe

**Saturday 8th April 11am - 2pm**  
**@ Market Square**

- Storytelling
- Face Painting
- Puppet Shows
- Music
- Circus skills
- Glitter Tattoos

**@ Lisburn Cathedral**

- Easter Trail
- Bouncy Castle
- All Through History Drama
- Crafts
- Soft play under 5's
- Grace Cafe



ST. GEORGE'S SINGERS  
ST. GEORGE'S SINFONIA AND SOLOISTS

Easter Concert

J.S. Bach



*St. John Passion*

St. George's Church, High Street, Belfast  
Tuesday 4th. April 2023 at 7.45pm

Tickets £20 (Concession £10 for Students/Under 25's)  
available from Choir Members and at the door,  
also online: please visit [www.saintgeorgessingers.co.uk](http://www.saintgeorgessingers.co.uk)  
For information or assistance please phone 07793 018748

ST JOHN PASSION  
by J S Bach  
CRUMLIN ROAD GAOL  
Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April  
6.30pm

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

arts council  
of Northern Ireland

The poster features a dark background with a vertical strip of tree bark on the left. The text is in white, with 'ST JOHN PASSION' in a large, stylized font. Below it, 'by J S Bach' is written in a cursive script. The venue and date are listed in a bold, sans-serif font. At the bottom right, there are logos for 'THE NATIONAL LOTTERY' and 'arts council of Northern Ireland'.



## In the media

### **Community groups get £50k grant funding to help celebrate the King's Coronation**

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

More than £50,000 in grant funding has been awarded to over 100 community groups in the Lisburn Castlereagh area to help them mark the King's Coronation in May.

In January, Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council announced a calendar of events to celebrate this special occasion and invited eligible groups to apply to its first community initiative - the King's Coronation Small Grants Programme.

Having now reviewed all the applications received, the council has announced that £52,495 will be awarded to 105 groups. Among the successful recipients each receiving a grant up to £500, are community associations, church and history groups, young people's organisations and women's associations.

[<https://www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk/news/community-groups-get-50k-grant-funding-to-help-celebrate-kings-coronation>]

### **Co Tyrone priest on leave while safeguarding allegation is investigated**

Belfast Telegraph

The probe relates to Canon Patrick MacEntee, formerly of St Michael's College in Enniskillen and now parish priest of Dromore in Co Tyrone.

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A native of Monaghan town, Fr MacEntee is well-known in Fermanagh where he was heavily involved in St Michael's. He served as the president for several years and was on its board of governors...

[<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/co-tyrone-priest-on-leave-while-safeguarding-allegation-is-investigated/2027346995.html>]

## **Catholic leader agrees with TUV criticism of St Patrick's Day parade in Armagh**

A Catholic community leader has agreed with TUV criticism of the St Patrick's Day parade in Armagh for its “highly political and partisan nature”, Graeme Cousins reports in the News Letter

TUV's Keith Ratcliffe questioned the cross community credentials of parade in Armagh on Friday after the procession includes three republican bands, no unionist bands and the Union flag omitted from display of world flags during the procession.

Paddy Monaghan, secretary of the Evangelical Catholic Initiative, was also disappointed with the parade.

He contacted the News Letter to say: “As a leader in the Catholic community I want to agree with the TUV's Keith Ratcliffe that St Patrick's Parade in Armagh should be non-political.

It should represent the real St Patrick, who was pre-reformation and thus could be a potentially uniting figure for

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Christians in Armagh and Northern Ireland. This is especially so in Armagh as the ecclesiastical capital of Ireland is home to two cathedrals – one Anglican and one Roman Catholic, both called St Patrick's.

“[During the St Patrick's Day parade] in Armagh I personally challenged a number of participants in one Republican band at the end of the parade, who had marched under the Tricolour. I reminded them that the colours of the Tricolour stand for peace and reconciliation between the Orange and the Green. I challenged them to consider in future walking under both the Tricolour and the Union Jack. I wasn't the only one that challenged them. Some of the spectators were surprised that this band was allowed to take part.”

Mr Monaghan said that the parade was not the only celebration of St Patrick in Armagh: “A number of other celebrations were held and were genuinely cross-community. Both the Church of Ireland and Catholic Archbishops organised an Ecumenical Walk between both cathedrals on the March 16 at 9pm.

“I led a cross-denominational and international team of 32 folk who, in spite of the rain, took part in the walk and we, with permission, gave out St Patrick's Testimony pamphlets in the RC Cathedral at the end of the walk.

“We also took part in a cross-community event in the Market Place Theatre, which was packed out and both archbishops shared what St Patrick meant to them. This was organised by the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council and the Deputy Mayor Tim McClelland (DUP) gave a good introduction to it.

Mr Monaghan said the Evangelical Catholic Initiative is committed to renewal in the Catholic Church and building relationships with Protestant and Pentecostal Christians. He said: “In conjunction with Wild Goose Publishing, a Pentecostal ministry, we produced this modern version of St Patrick’s Testimony. In researching this we discovered that Patrick quoted 70 different Scripture verses/passages in his relatively short Confession, which is actually his Testimony.

“This modern version of St Patrick’s Testimony Pamphlet has been endorsed by leaders from RC, Protestant and Pentecostal Churches from north and south including Archbishops Eamon Martin and John McDowell, the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church, President of the Methodist Church, Evangelical Alliance and a large range of Pentecostal Churches.

“Maybe next year the Council would fund the St Patrick Testimony pamphlets as his wonderful testimony transcends all denominations. If so, I cant wait for Patrick’s Day in 2024 to happen.”

## **Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books**

### **Methodist Church Conference Service and podcasts**

Sunday 13th June, 11AM - Join the service in which as Lay Leader, Hazel Loney, preaches on ‘Living wholeheartedly as

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followers of Jesus, for the transformation of the world'. To access the Live Stream: <https://buff.ly/3uPVLcU>

See previous Living wholeheartedly podcasts at- <https://buff.ly/3un4GSG>



## **Easter Message from Mothers' Union Worldwide President**

Mothers' Union Worldwide President, Sheran Harper has written her uplifting Easter Message to all members. You can read it here: <https://bit.ly/40q4B1A>

## Prof Gladys Ganiel - 'Highly Religious Young Catholics in Northern Ireland'



You Tube of presentation to Irish Institute for Catholic Studies IICS - This week's lecture on 'Highly-Religious Young Catholics in Northern Ireland: Renewing the Catholic Landscape?' for the Irish Institute for Catholic Studies is available now to watch:

[<https://youtu.be/lmwRI6eOCjA>]

## Booklets of C of E Daily Prayers for the Coronation of King Charles

From Easter Day (9 April) to Coronation Day (6 May), this booklet provides a daily theme, reading, reflection and prayer for use by individuals, churches or groups.

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Booklets are also available in:

- Braille
- Audio CD
- Multiple large print sizes

Order these for the 28 days of prayer ahead of the Coronation, at <http://cofe.io/AccessibleCoronation>.

## **150th anniversary of the Gamble Library at Union Theological College**

On 27th March, UTC celebrated the 150th anniversary of the Gamble Library. Appreciation was expressed for all the hard work put in by the Librarian, Joy Conkey in organizing the event, the featured lecturers and to the PCI Moderator for opening the new exhibition.

<https://union.ac.uk/news/03/2023/t>

## **Council of Christians and Jews - Christian Seders not a good idea**

Why are 'Christian Seders' not a good idea? We sometimes hear about churches wishing to organise 'Christian Seders' during Holy Week. This is not something which we recommend, and we have written an explainer to outline exactly why: <https://ccj.org.uk/sites/ccj.hocext.co.uk/files/2023-03/CCJ%202023%20Explainer.pdf>

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## Windsor Framework - Centre for Cross Border Studies

On Wednesday 14th June, Seminar in Brussels with Andrew McCormick to explore the impact of the Windsor Framework. It will be kindly hosted by BrusselsNI so if you're in town, book your place to what will be an incredibly insightful event: <https://crossborder.ie/events/what-the-windsor-framework-protocol-will-mean-in-practice-for-the-institutions-of-government-in-northern-ireland-seminar/>



## The House of Paisley - A new docu-series

A new docu-series, The House of Paisley, follows the life of 'Big Ian'. With insights from past and present journalists and political allies and opponents, it explores the many twists and turns of his career. Produced by Walk On Air Films with support from Northern Ireland Screen, the series begins on Monday 3rd April at 10:40pm on BBC One NI.

<https://bit.ly/42P0pKc>





## **Corrymeela marking anniversary of the Belfast Good Friday Agreement**

As we approach the 25th anniversary of the Belfast Good Friday Agreement, Corrymeela is leading a series of events marking this significant occasion.

These events are an opportunity for people from different backgrounds to reflect on the progress we've made over the last 25 years and to recommit ourselves to building a society where everyone thrives in the future.

Find out more: [tinyurl.com/2h9hz2aj](https://tinyurl.com/2h9hz2aj)

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# Perspective

## The music of salvation and eternity - Houston McKelvey

**During all of my ordained ministry I have had the God - given good fortune to be associated with church communities which enjoyed good music, psalm and hymn singing.**

I have been privileged also to have spent periods in residence in cathedrals and colleges where christian music is prioritised.

My faith and my understanding of Christianity has been informed and directed by such music shaped worship.

In Holy Week leading to the principal feast of Easter we affirm in the best known of hymns the centralities of our Christian faith. Most Christians whom I know have their own particular hymn or set of hymns which are key to their understanding of their faith.

When it comes to Holy Week I can draw on such a rich seam. The experience which dominates however is not from my nurture in Ireland or Britain, nor from within an anglican church building.

Rather, it is from Methodism, and black America. I had been invited to conduct a series of seminars at an Episcopal seminary at Evanston near Chicago. When I mentioned this to an Irish Methodist colleague he revealed he was

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undertaking a program of study at a Methodist seminary across the road from the one I was going to and would I collect some books for him!

I met Linda the professor of Christian Education at that Methodist seminary. We talked the same language. I joined my Irish Methodist colleague on this program of professional development. It was a tough program and fitting in the journeys for the residential periods was not for the faint-hearted. Linda's husband Dwight was the Dean of Chapel and taught liturgy in the seminary.

Eventually graduation came round. The graduands were those like myself who had completed doctorate of ministry programs and those who had completed Masters of Divinity degrees and were about to be ordained.

Before the graduation at a communion service in the chapel one of the Masters students sang a solo. Dwight had chosen well. The hairs on the backs of my arm rose, and indeed are doing so as I type this.

She was a young black woman and she sang informed by her faith, race and American experience. She sang "Were you there when they crucified my Lord...Were you there when they nailed him to the tree..."

Naturally I knew the words but this lady was singing from her faith and culture within the environs of a part of the United States which had known racial conflict. She was not giving a performance, she was singing her testimony to her faith and vocation.

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May we stand with her and all fellow believers at the foot of the Cross once again this coming week. May we hear the music of salvation and eternity.

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## Poem for today

### Don't Quit by Edgar A. Guest

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,  
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,  
When the funds are low but the debts are high,  
And you want to smile but you have to sigh,  
When care is pressing you down a bit...  
Rest if you must, but don't you quit!

Life is queer with its twists and turns,  
As every one of us sometimes learns,  
And many failures turn about  
When we might have won had we stuck it out.  
Don't give up though the pace seems slow...  
You may succeed with another blow.

Often the struggler has given up  
When he might have captured the victor's cup;  
And he learned too late when the night came down,  
How close he was to the golden crown.

Success is failure turned inside out...  
And you can never tell how close you are

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It may be near when it seems so far.  
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit  
It's when things seem worst that you must not quit.

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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# Church News Ireland

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