

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Consecration of Coronation oil

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Consecration of Coronation oil

The Chrism oil which will be used to anoint His Majesty The King on 6th May 2023 has been consecrated in Jerusalem.

In a special ceremony at The Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, The oil has been consecrated by the Patriarch of Jerusalem, His Beatitude Patriarch Theophilos III, and the Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem, The Most Reverend Hosam Naoum.

The oil has been created using olives harvested from two groves on the Mount of Olives, at the Monastery of Mary Magdalene and the Monastery of the Ascension. The Monastery of Mary Magdalene is the burial place of his Majesty's grandmother, Princess Alice of Greece.

The olives were pressed just outside Bethlehem. The oil has been perfumed with essential oils - sesame, rose, jasmine, cinnamon, neroli, benzoin and amber - as well as orange blossom.

The Coronation oil is based on the oil used at the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, the formula of which has been used for hundreds of years. It will also be used for the anointing of Her Majesty The Queen Consort.

The Archbishop of Canterbury said:

“I am honoured and grateful that His Beatitude Patriarch Theophilos III and Archbishop Hosam Naoum have consecrated the oil that will be used to anoint His Majesty The King. I want to thank especially His Beatitude for providing this Coronation Oil, which reflects The King’s personal family connection with the Holy Land and his great care for its peoples. I am also delighted that the Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem shared in the consecration of the oil.

“Since beginning the planning for the Coronation, my desire has been for a new Coronation Oil to be produced using olive oil from the Mount of Olives. This demonstrates the deep historic link between the Coronation, the Bible and the Holy Land. From ancient kings through to the present day, monarchs have been anointed with oil from this sacred place. As we prepare to anoint The King and The Queen Consort, I pray that they would be guided and strengthened by the Holy Spirit.”

People and places

Bible Society NI shares with Ballyclare Methodist Women



Catherine had a lovely evening with some of the ladies from Ballyclare Methodist Circuit last week with their Methodist Women in Ireland group.

“Thank you for the welcome and hospitality. It was great to share more about our work, the difference it makes and the precious gift that God's Word is to all of us”, Catherine commented.

Canon of Derry appointed

The Rector of All Saints Clooney, Rev David McBeth, has been appointed a Canon of St Columb's Cathedral and Rural Dean for Derry, in both cases succeeding Rev Paul Whittaker who retired last weekend.

March 6, 2023

The new Canon shared the news with his parishioners on Sunday morning. He described the news as “a thrill” not just for himself but for his family and said he was “blown away” when Bishop Andrew told him about the appointments.

“In 2016, I was honoured to be awarded a British Empire Medal in the late Queen Elizabeth II’s Birthday Honours,” Canon McBeth said, “but the news of these appointments surpasses even that. I’ve been in the diocese all my life and this is the highlight of my ministry.

“My favourite bible verse is Jeremiah 29:11: ‘I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to hurt you, plans to give you hope and a future.’ I’ve tried to follow God’s plan and he’s certainly blessed me for the future. I see my future ministry as doing the best I possibly can to serve Him and fulfil my calling in ordained ministry.

Archdeacon of Cork installed

Last November Bishop Paul Colton appointed the Venerable Andrew Orr as Archdeacon.

Yesterday he was installed in St. Fin Barre's Cathedral as Archdeacon of Cork, Cloyne and Ross. The ceremony took place at Choral Evensong.

Newry Methodists host Youth With a Mission

Working in partnership is a crucial way ahead for YWAM - here its Newry Methodist and YWAM.

YWAM had a great afternoon spending time with folks from the Newry area over some hearty bowls of chilli. Special



thanks to Newry Methodist for hosting the event, Natalie and Conor vibe Armagh for helping to organise and YWAM Rostrevor for cooking and coming to serve.

News reports

Pope Francis to make Apostolic Journey to

Hungary

Pope Francis will make an Apostolic Journey to Hungary from 28 to 30 April, marking his 41st Journey abroad, where he will follow a busy itinerary in the capital Budapest.



ST PATRICK'S FESTIVAL ARMAGH 2023

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 Cathedral

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

FRIDAY 17TH MARCH – ST PATRICK'S DAY

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

Bangor Drama Club proudly presents

SAINT PATRICK

An evening of traditional music, Irish dancing and storytelling



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www.bangordramaclub.com



March 6, 2023

During his three-day visit, the Pope will meet with refugees and poor people, as well as with children of the Blessed



László Batthyány-Strattmann Institute.

As is customary, the Holy Father will address authorities, civil society and the diplomatic corps; young people; bishops, priests, deacons, consecrated persons,



seminarians and pastoral workers; and representatives of the academic and cultural world.

More than half of Hungarians are Christian, and at least 37 percent of the population identify as Catholic.

The Holy Father made a brief stop in Budapest to celebrate Mass for the closure of the 52nd International Eucharistic Congress on 12 September 2021, on his way to Slovakia.

Pope Francis also showed his closeness to the Hungarian faithful during his visit to Romania, when celebrated Mass at the popular Hungarian pilgrimage site of Csíksomlyó (Șumuleu Ciuc) in the Romania's Transylvania region. Transylvania had once been part of Hungary, but became Romanian territory in 1920. Ethnic Hungarians in Romania total more than one million people.

Cardinal Péter Erdő, Archbishop of Esztergom-Budapest, said the papal visit will be a great joy for the nation. He said this visit is particularly important as it comes at a time when Hungary, which has a population of less than ten million people, has taken in over a million refugees from Ukraine which has been a "great challenge". Most have not stayed, but about 10 - 15 per cent have remained.

The Cardinal said efforts to support the refugees have been helped by Caritas at national and diocesan level, various parishes charities and the Knights of Malta.

He said the war had brought much sadness, but there have been prayers for peace every day in the different communities.

" We also regularly hold peace processions and have consecrated Ukraine and Russia to Our Lady, as the Holy Father had invited us to do. We did this act in St Stephen's Basilica in front of his relic, because St Stephen a thousand years ago was the first who, according to history, offered an entire country to Our Lady. And so, we felt a spiritual closeness to the two peoples."

In the media

Fermanagh rector pays moving tribute to brother in new SEFF book

Canon Alan Irwin, rector of Colaghty Parish Church, Lack has shared his twin brother's story as part of the South East Fermanagh Foundation (SEFF) publication, 'The wider human cost of the Northern Ireland Troubles', Victoria Jackson writes in The Impartial Reporter.

Stephen Irwin took his own life at age 17, shortly after the murder of his uncle at the hands of the IRA.

Stephen's death is not recognised in the official Troubles death toll of more than 3,000 people.

Canon Irwin acknowledges that it is a comfort to have his brother's life and death acknowledged in this way.

He said: "We don't realise the terrorism that we endured, just the impact that it has had on people's lives. The general

rule of terrorism is not only to destroy or murder the individual, but to destroy the lives of the entire family.

“I have spoken about my brother’s life and loss in other aspects, but the fact [is it's very important] that now there is a recognition that while we record the lives that have been lost through murder, those injured [through terrorism], often we forget about the ones that have been impacted because of the terrorism they endured.”

Acknowledging the wide-reaching levels of trauma for all who lived through The Troubles, Canon Irwin said: “Many people involved within the emergency services, doctors, nurses, funeral undertakers and sometimes reporters – what they witnessed and experienced, they sometimes carry [with them through life].”

The following is an (edited) extract from SEFF's new publication, 'The Wider Human cost of The Northern Ireland Troubles'.

The following extract focuses on Stephen Irwin, twin brother of Rev. Canon Alan Irwin, the rector of Colaghty Parish Church, Lack.

In the early 1980s, Stephen Thomas Irwin was a young man growing up in rural County Tyrone, finding his way in life. He joined the Royal Artillery when he was 16 but quickly decided it was not the life he wanted.

His uncle Fred had been a part-time member of the UDR when he was murdered by the IRA in 1979 aged 43.

The death of his uncle, unbeknown to his family at the time, weighed heavily on Stephen's mind, affecting his mental health to the extent that on January 25, 1983, Stephen took his own life, aged 17.

Stephen's father Thomas was also a part-time member of UDR. He was also murdered by the IRA in 1986.

Almost prophetically, the note Stephen left before his death in 1983 said he didn't want to be around to see his father die in the same way as his uncle.

Alan Irwin (57), Stephen's twin brother, talks about the impact of his brother's death and, how almost three decades later, this influences the way he supports other bereaved families in his role as a Minister, his lived experiences of loss.

"Growing up, Stephen and I were close but we weren't identical, and we weren't telepathic in the way you hear twins can sometimes be. We did a lot of things together.

"We both attended primary school together and we both went to Omagh Secondary School, now Omagh High School, but he was generally more energetic than me.

"Stephen was more sporty than me, more active, but then he became interested in becoming 'involved', as they say, and becoming a boy soldier.

"He went into the Army. He was very interested in the Royal Artillery. He did most of his training locally in Ballymena before going to England where he discovered his training should have taken place (but didn't fully complete it).

“Whether it was how he was received as coming from Northern Ireland, or the perception he had, he came back home, whether he went AWOL or he just wanted out at that stage is uncertain, but he resolved it wasn’t for him.

“Although the necessary steps were taken to come out of the army, though this meant going back to England for a period, this never happened as things took a different turn.

“None of us can see the underlying pressures that people face. We put that mask on, that façade, but underneath we are paddling like a duck.

“There was a time leading up to the suicide that he could have been quite aggressive, at other times, quite calm.

“That night of the suicide, he was actually in good form. Seemingly he had everything in place and that was the difficult thing, not knowing how he had got access to the old shotgun, because dad was the only one who had the keys, and he kept them on his person.

“The shotgun was always dismantled and shells were locked away in another cupboard.

“There was a time afterwards, because I was in the same room as my brother shot himself, that I wondered why did I not hear, because it wasn’t until mum opened the door and asked “What was that bang?” that I woke.

Murdered

“We didn’t see the note that he left, we were only given a verbal account of what was written, but once our uncle Fred, who was part-time in the UDR, had been murdered in 1979, and the way things were going, basically Stephen said he just didn’t want to be around to see dad, who was also part-time UDR, murdered as well.

“My father was murdered in 1986. That is a memory that sticks with me, with all of us as a family.

“At the time, it was devastating for my mum, Anne. She couldn’t go into the room, and for years wouldn’t go upstairs if the room door was open.

“You do look back and wonder, if it didn’t happen, what he would have been doing now, or what the story would be, but while you can speculate the reality is you just don’t know.

“I wonder what he would think about what I am doing now. I was ordained in 2009, so I am not a long time in Ministry, but my experiences with my brother and the other atrocities in the family have given me a better empathy, particularly with those who have lost loved ones to suicide.

“A while back, I went to the home of a 17-year-old who took his own life, spending time with the family, and on the day of the funeral, stepping outside the funeral home (and after talking to the family, I came back outside), and saw the sea of young people. It is things like that which brings it all back.”

The Wider Human Cost of the Northern Ireland Troubles is published by SEFF. - Courtesy The Impartial Reporter.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Archbishop of York on BBC Sounds

During the Archbishop of York's 3-day visit to the Diocese of Manchester he spoke with Eamonn O'Neal from BBC Radio Manchester.

You can catch up on BBC Sounds - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0f377c1>

Podcast with the Rev Gary Paulsen

Rev Gary was instituted in January 2023 to serve as Rector of the Cloughjordan & Borrisokane Group of Parishes.

Listen on TLK at -

<https://www.mixcloud.com/TLKCOMMS/tlk-podcast-gary-paulsen/>

The event was covered by the Nenagh Guardian - read about that here:- <https://www.nenaghguardian.ie/2023/01/26/new-rector-for-cloughjordan-and-borrisokane/>

One Day Prayer Ministry Course

Organised by the Church's Ministry of Healing on Saturday 1st April 2023 from 9.30am- 3.30pm at The Mount, 162 Upper Knockbreda Road, Belfast BT6 9QF



Led by Revd. Dr. Pat Mollan

Booking essential - Tel 028 90795832 for more details

Books via Clergy Support Trust

Clergy Support Trust offer a free digital library for Anglican curates and ordinands throughout their training - Thanks to SPCK and IVP for being great partners.

Find out more at clergysupport.org.uk/library

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