

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Portrush

Image of the day

Portrush

Portrush is a north coast resort. Home congregation of the present Moderator of the Irish Presbyterian Church. RNLI Base - the single boat shown in the harbour is the ever-ready lifeboat. Photograph courtesy of the air wing of the Police Service Northern Ireland.

People and places

Derry's Walled City Passion

Walled City Passion, which stages a re-imagining of the Easter story, will return to the city walls this Easter.

The production – which looks at the story and message of Christ's ministry around the final few days of his life – will be staged on Thursday 6th, Friday 7th and Saturday 8th April. Writer, Jonathan Burgess, said, "This year, we're making the story a little more traditional than last year and are taking it back to the vision of a live promenade production around the city centre."

Archdeacon Robert Miller, one of the show's producers, added: "The WCP project, isn't only concerned with the

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show. There are other fringe events, talks and theatre workshops which unpack the message of the Passion story and examine its relevance in today's world." You can find out more about the fringe events below.



WALLED CITY PASSION

6-8th April 2023

TICKETS

www.millenniumforum.co.uk/shows/walled-city-passion

PASSION+ fringe festival 10th April

PEACEBUILDING + TRAUMA + FAITH TODAY

The production will be staged at 12.30pm and 3.30pm on Thursday 6th, Friday 7th and Saturday 8th April, commencing at the Church of Ireland Diocesan Office and finishing at the Guildhall. Tickets are on sale at the Millennium Forum Box Office on 02871 264455 or at www.millenniumforum.co.uk

PASSION+

fringe festival **Monday 10th April**

PEACEBUILDING + TRAUMA + FAITH TODAY

PASSION+ Peacebuilding 10:00am

Venue: **St Augustine's**

Michael Doherty MBE and Brian Dougherty MBE will explore the themes of Peacebuilding in WALLED CITY PASSION with two respected peacebuilders.

The event will include the opportunity to sign up for free capacity-building workshop, 'Facilitating Good Relations Work,' with Michael Doherty MBE

PASSION+ Faith Today 12:00noon

Venue: **tbc**

Bishop Andrew Forster and Tony Macaulay will explore WALLED CITY PASSION as the narrative at the heart of Christianity and consider its message for the world today.

PASSION+ Trauma 2:00pm

Venue: **tbc**

Prof Paul Miller and Prof Derek Farrell MBE, Paul and Derek will bring their experience in addressing trauma globally to reflect on WALLED CITY PASSION and explore the importance of addressing trauma on an individual and societal level.

The event will include the opportunity to sign up for free training, 'Trauma Capacity Building Leading to Peacebuilding' with Prof Paul Miller and Prof Derek Farrell MBE.

PASSION+ Symposium 4:00pm

Venue: **Derry & Raphoe Diocesan Centre, London Street**

Join the writer Jonathan Burgess FRSA and creator Archdeacon Robert Miller FRSA to explore this year's performance and have an opportunity to ask any questions about WALLED CITY PASSION.



Anniversary Celebration in Second Ballyeaston

Looking forward to joining with The Clare Chorale and Ballyclare Male Choir for an Anniversary Celebration Evening Service this Sunday 12 March in Second Ballyeaston Presbyterian Church at 7pm.

This is a very special year for both choirs as the Ballyclare Male Choir celebrates 90 wonderful years and The Clare Chorale their 20th anniversary. It's sure to be a wonderful evening of memories and music when both choirs will sing and also perform a piece or two together.

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Supper will be provided by the church catering team afterwards in the church hall.

🎵💜🎵 Don't miss this night of great music, history, congregational singing and thanksgiving.

A vertical poster for a 'Spring Sing!' event. The background is a light yellow with a pattern of musical notes and treble clefs. The text is arranged in a central column. At the top, 'Spring Sing!' is written in a large, black, cursive font. Below it, 'Enniskillen Methodist Church' is in a bold, red, sans-serif font. Then 'Saturday 25th March' and '7.30pm' are in a bold, red, sans-serif font. Next is 'Special Guests Include' in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Below that are 'SILVER TONES MALE VOICE CHOIR', '"THE ORIGINAL TENORS"', and 'CHILDREN'S CHOIR' in a bold, black, sans-serif font. At the bottom, 'For Tickets' is in a smaller black font, followed by 'Contact Ingrid 07968 85 65 08', '£10 Supper Included', and 'Children under 12 Free' in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The poster is framed by black bars at the top and bottom.

Spring Sing!
Enniskillen Methodist Church
Saturday 25th March
7.30pm
Special Guests Include
SILVER TONES
MALE VOICE CHOIR
"THE ORIGINAL TENORS"
CHILDREN'S CHOIR
For Tickets
Contact Ingrid 07968 85 65 08
£10 Supper Included
Children under 12 Free

Spring Sing in Enniskillen Methodist Church

For tickets please approach any choir member, Ingrid, or you are welcome to ring 02866340115 between 10.30am and 12.30pm on any Thursday in March. You are also welcome to call into the church office/vestry during the times given above. If you do not get a reply from the office please ring 07719440171.

Coleraine Movie House to host An Irish Goodbye event

**The Movie
House
Coleraine
will be the
first stop in a
very special**

**‘Homecoming Tour’ for the filmmakers behind the
Oscar-nominated short movie An Irish Goodbye.**



A screening of the film, followed by a question and answer session with some of the cast and crew, will be held on Monday, March 20 at 7.30pm at Movie House Jet Centre.

The 23-minute long movie won a BAFTA for Best British Short Film 2023 and the cast and crew are now in Los Angeles gearing up for the 95th Academy Awards where the film is competing in the Best Live Action Short Film category. Floodlight Pictures has organised the Homecoming Tour to give the public a chance to hear directly from the filmmakers. For the event in Coleraine, the writer/director

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duo Ross White and Tom Berkeley and actor James Martin are due to attend and chat about making the movie.

An Irish Goodbye (12A) is set on a farm in rural Northern Ireland where estranged brothers Turlough (Seamus O'Hara) and Lorcan (James Martin) are forced to reunite following the untimely death of their mother (Michelle Fairley). But when the pair discover an unfulfilled bucket list belonging to their late mum, their pained reunion takes an altogether different course. - continued next page.



MWI
METHODIST
WOMEN IN
IRELAND

NORTH EASTERN DISTRICT

Methodist Women in Ireland
invite you to a Fellowship Evening
in-person evening at
Braniel Methodist Church
or via Zoom

Zoom
Meeting ID:
827 9184 0316

Zoom
Passcode:
454738

Please contact
Shirley Culbert at
sarahculbert@live.co.uk
if you are planning to
attend in person

Speaker Deaconess Marlene Skuce

Thursday 16th March 2023
7.30pm
ALL WELCOME



Movie House is donating the screen for this event so all ticket sales go directly to Floodlight Pictures, which will be giving 25% of proceeds from this screening to Mencap NI. Tickets are now available at <https://coleraine.moviehouse.co.uk/event/76098>



Lisburn Cathedral 240 minutes of prayer

10am -2pm Saturday 11th March 2023.

Prayer Stations, Prayer Reflections & Prayer Opportunities are a great encouragement for us to talk with the Lord during this season of Lent.



CONGRATULATIONS!

GBNI EXPLORER CHOIR

2ND PLACE

171ST NI MUCKAMORE PRESBYTERIAN



Morning Prayer in Unity

**Tuesday and Friday
7.30am - 8.00am**

On FaceBook and YouTube

www.divinehealingministries.org



Cloughfern Sunday School's Crowns of Thorns

This week Cloughfern Parish Sunday School children did puzzles, pipe cleaner craft and decorated buns for the Sunday coffee morning, based on the theme of 'the Crown of Thorns', part of their work during Lent.

News reports

School Principals and Chairpersons meet for Dublin & Glendalough Patron's Day

Following a break of three years, the Patron's Day for Chairpersons and Principals of schools in the United Dioceses took place on February 24 in the Clayton Hotel, Liffey Valley, Joyce Perdue reports.

There was great support for the day from both Principals and Chairpersons who enjoyed the opportunity to spend time together away from the school context. It was also a welcome event at which people could simply meet up with colleagues and friends to renew connections, share experiences and educational concerns and learn about or discuss issues affecting schools under Protestant patronage.

The Archbishop welcomed everyone and opened the meeting. He acknowledged the difficulties faced by schools and educators during the recent pandemic and thanked all those who worked so hard to ensure continuity of education. He spoke about the effects the closures and lockdowns had on children and how they will need to be supported in the future.

The first speaker was Arlene Forster, CEO of the NCCA. Arlene referenced her time as a primary school teacher in Kill O' the Grange NS before moving on to work in the areas of curriculum development and assessment. She focused



Clockwise from top left: Patron's Day organiser Joyce Perdue, Jacinta Kitt, Arlene Forster and Finbar Hurley.

on the soon to be launched Primary Curriculum Framework and went through the changes that will be part of the new framework and its impact on the further development of subject areas and themes. This new framework was developed following wide-ranging research, consultation and dialogue with parents, pupils, educators, patrons and the wider community and will form the basis for the primary curriculum in the future.

Following coffee, Jacinta Kitt (retired author and lecturer) gave a presentation on 'Proactive Caring for Yourself'. Jacinta spoke about how people in leadership positions

need to care for themselves if they are to be able to care for others. She explained the components of psychological capabilities which are: Hope, Optimism, Self-Efficacy (Confidence) and Resilience as well as the importance of interpersonal behaviours and relationships. She is an advocate for being reflective and self-aware while not taking yourself too seriously! Jacinta's message was delivered in a light-hearted, fun way and everyone agreed that she was engaging and interesting.

The final speaker of the day was Finbar Hurley from the Centre for School Leadership (CSL). Finbar explained the mentoring programme for newly appointed principals which is facilitated by the CSL and encouraged experienced principals to become mentors. He also talked about the professional coaching that's available for principals and school staff and how it can enhance leadership in management teams in schools. He tasked principals and chairpersons with considering the seven factors that impact on distributive leadership and how they are operating in their schools.

Before lunch, there was a short time for attendees to discuss issues that are impacting their schools. A number of issues were raised, some of which Dr Ken Fennelly answered and others which will be referred to the Board of Education. These included:

- The lack of teachers for schools under Protestant patronage. There was a call for the number of students following the CIC pathway in DCU to be increased as well as some work to be done on data around schools so that there's more of an idea of the numbers that will be required.

- The shortage of SENOs in Wicklow and lack of access to supports for children with additional needs.
- Concern about having to amend Admission Policies which may force schools to open special classes.

The meeting ended with a very enjoyable lunch where delegates spent time chatting and reconnecting, something that was appreciated by all after all the recent restrictions on socialising.

Bishop of Durham responds to immigration proposals

The Bishop of Durham, Paul Butler, who speaks for the Church of England on refugees, has issued the following response to the Home Secretary's statement on the Illegal Migration Bill.

He said: “No one wants to see people risking their lives to reach safety, but we must ask is this Bill the right response - one that is built on compassion, justice and moral leadership?

“It’s likely to push thousands of people, including children, into a prolonged legal limbo and imprisonment, and does nothing to support timely and effective consideration of asylum requests.

“It would label all those crossing the Channel illegal entrants and therefore people to whom we do not owe a responsibility and would criminalise the act of claiming asylum - without acknowledging that many are highly



vulnerable people escaping persecution and war, who have been left with no safe routes.

“Providing safe and legal routes is part of the solution and not one only to be explored after Channel crossings have ended.

“The Home Secretary acknowledges the growing global refugee crisis, which we can’t solve on our own, but it is disappointing that the Government has decided to not take on a greater role in leading the world to equitably support those forced to flee their home.

“The consequences of this will be felt by vulnerable migrants, and by poorer countries in the global south already supporting the vast majority of the world’s refugees.

“We must not abdicate our legal and moral responsibility to some of the world’s most vulnerable by simply treating asylum seekers as a group not to be welcomed or integrated, but detained and returned. We must do and be better.”

In the media

Norma Foley announces scoping inquiry into abuse at schools run by religious orders

Breaking News.ie - The Government has announced a scoping inquiry to shape its response to allegations of historical sexual abuse in schools run by religious orders.

Minister for Education Norma Foley made the announcement having secured Cabinet approval for the inquiry.

She said it was the “first stage” of the Government’s response to the abuse allegations.

The scoping probe will be led by senior counsel Mary O’Toole.

The inquiry will produce a report that will include recommendations to the Government on next steps.

The move follows a public apology last year from the Spiritan Congregation to victims of abuse and the announcement of an independent group to engage with

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survivors at its schools and institutions, including Dublin's Blackrock College.

More at -

[\[https://www.breakingnews.ie/ireland/foley-announces-scoping-inquiry-into-abuse-at-schools-run-by-religious-orders-1443379.html\]](https://www.breakingnews.ie/ireland/foley-announces-scoping-inquiry-into-abuse-at-schools-run-by-religious-orders-1443379.html)

Scoping inquiry announced into abuse at schools run by religious orders

The Irish Times

Move by Minister Norma Foley follows allegations at Blackrock College and other schools dating back to 1960s.

[\[https://www.irishtimes.com/ireland/education/2023/03/07/scoping-inquiry-into-abuse-at-schools-run-by-religious-orders-announced/\]](https://www.irishtimes.com/ireland/education/2023/03/07/scoping-inquiry-into-abuse-at-schools-run-by-religious-orders-announced/)

Primary school pupils will have freedom to reduce religious learning

Irish Examiner

Primary school pupils will be taught foreign languages from third class onwards and schools will be given the freedom to reduce religious learning, under sweeping reforms proposed for the curriculum.

Details of the first major overhaul of the primary school curriculum in 25 years will be brought to Cabinet today by Education Minister Norma Foley, with a move towards more 'fact-based' subjects, such as science and math, and a reduced emphasis on religion.

[\[https://www.irishexaminer.com/news/arid-41087035.html\]](https://www.irishexaminer.com/news/arid-41087035.html)

Good Friday Agreement: Year '98 podcast marks 25 years

BBC News

Do you remember where you were when the Good Friday Agreement was signed? If not, you're probably under 40.

As the 25th anniversary of the deal approaches we've compiled a podcast considering the text on the agreement and the context.

[<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-64858138>]

Bangor Academy bids for integrated status

BBC News

Northern Ireland's largest school could be set to become integrated.

Bangor Academy's governors have decided to ballot the parents and guardians of its 1,835 pupils on the proposal.

In a letter, principal Matthew Pitts said becoming integrated would be "an affirmation of our current ethos and values".

[<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-64881971>]

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Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



Ireland Post-Brexit: A Faith Perspective

The Catholic Bishop of Derry, Donal McKeown, and the District Superintendent for the Methodist Church in Ireland, North Western District, Rev Dr Stephen Skuce, will share their reflections on a post-Brexit Ireland on Thursday 16 March 2023 at 14.15 UTC / 15.15 CET via ZOOM.

The event is organised by 'About Faith in Europe'.

All are welcome. The briefing will be followed by opportunities for discussion.

Registration

Please register to attend (free).

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About Faith in Europe

Faith in Europe is an educational charity. Its aim is to brief its member representatives of British Churches and the wider public on political, social, and cultural issues across Europe, from faith perspectives. It is a Body in Association with CTBI (Churches Together in Britain and Ireland).

For more information please contact the General Secretary, Rebecca Bellamy.

Links at -

[<https://ctbi.org.uk/ireland-post-brexit-a-faith-perspective/>]

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

