

# Church News Ireland



**Image of the day – The Seafarers' Flying Angel**

## Image of the day

### The Missions to Seafarers' Flying Angel

At the Missions centre at the Port of Belfast.

## People and places

### Commissioning of Pastoral Visitors



A Service of Commissioning for Pastoral Visitors took place in Mullavilly Parish Church on Monday 9th May when ten Visitors were commissioned by Archbishop John McDowell after undertaking training led by Archdeacon Elizabeth Cairns.



The Pastoral Visitors are Leanne Leckey, Carol Meneely, Lorna Stewart and Ruth Prekop (all from Drumglass Parish Dungannon), Margaret Redpath from Drumsallan, John Matchett from Kilmore, Wendy Little, June Haire and Barbara Menary (all from Mullabrack & Kilcluney) and to Shauna McKinney from St Mark's Portadown.

## **New rector for Donemana**

The Parish of Donagheady (Donemana) is to get a new incumbent later this year. Rev Capt Richard Beadle has been appointed to succeed Rev Dr Robin Stockitt, who retired almost a year ago.

The news was shared this morning with worshippers at St James Church in Donemana and parishioners in the Manorhamilton Group of Parishes, in the Diocese of Kilmore, which Rev Beadle has been overseeing as Bishop's Curate since his ordination in September 2017.

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Rev Beadle has been an active Church Army Officer since 1998 and before being commissioned had worked in the Employment Service in the UK. His work as a Church Army evangelist took him to parishes in Nelson, East Lancashire; St. Matthew's on Belfast's Woodvale Road; and the rural Swanlinbar-Kildallon Group of Parishes in the Diocese of Kilmore.

“I am excited that my family and I will be coming to Donemana,” Rev Beadle says. “Exploring Donemana with the nominators has been a privilege and blessing, and we have clearly sensed God's hand. We pray God will use our gifts fully to make a lasting contribution as we seek to share the wonderful news of Christ. We greatly look forward to getting to know our new parish and diocese.”

Moments such as this can be bitter-sweet for clergy. “After 14 years,” Richard says, “leaving Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh Diocese is not easy, yet we are enormously grateful for our time and friends there.”

Richard, and his wife Pauline, will now be making preparations for their move to the Church of Ireland's northernmost diocese. Pauline is a midwife by profession. She loves cooking and her happy place could be any kitchen. The couple have three children: Ruth, who is at Lancaster University, and twins Alicia and Asher who are studying for A-levels in England.

When time allows, Rev Richard indulges his passions for tennis and nature photography – he was interviewed on BBC Radio Ulster recently about the plight of the curlew – and he describes himself as “a rare Crystal Palace fan”.



## **Canon of the Metropolitan Cathedral installed**

Canon Arthur Barrett, Rector of the Arklow Inch and Kilbride Parishes was installed as 12th Canon of Christ Church Cathedral Dublin at Evensong on Sunday afternoon. as Canon of the Metropolitan Cathedral. The anthem was by William Walton - Set me as a seal upon thine heart.

## **Show Time for Garrison Parish men**

Some of the men in the Parishes had an enjoyable bus trip to Balmoral last week. They cheered on Stanley Allingham as he competed in the sheep shearing competition and





visited his brother William on his Quadcrate stand at the show. On the way home they had a delicious dinner in Saddlers restaurant.

## Glory be! Tredagh Singers return again with Handel's Messiah

The rafters shall once again ring out as the Tredagh Singers, Drogheda's longest established and most successful mixed voice choir, returns to action after the long pandemic imposed break.

The comeback concert will be held in St.Peter's Church of Ireland on Friday May 27th at 8pm . It will certainly be a joyful affair and the choir will be joined by local orchestral



## The Tredagh Singers under Musical Director Geraldine Doggett present Handel's Messiah.

friends and invited soloists for festive excerpts from Handel's Messiah, pieces which we were all set to present last Christmas before yet another COVID wave swept that plan, like so many another, away.

The Messiah is, however, a moveable feast, so these pieces will now resound on an early summer evening for a change. There is not any time of year when great music should not be heard.

"The choir has worked hard in the background since Christmas and is currently in top form," said choir spokesperson Niall Fox. "We have also recently perfected Karl Jenkins' tremendously exciting 'Exsultate Jubilate' and



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premiered our own performance of it in a recent concert in Clontarf, garnering great praise from those present.

Along with those, quite a few other new pieces will also be presented on the night. Behind all this progress, of course, is the choir's talented musical director and conductor Geraldine Doggett, who has for many years fulfilled this role with her usual jovial charisma.

“Our planned concert will raise much welcome funds for The Alzheimer Society of Ireland, Drogheda Branch and our many local followers will know what to expect, especially those used to hearing us at our long established Christmas concerts, but if you are someone who has never happened to hear us, give us a try on May 27th and you will most likely be surprised and delighted by the standard to which we and our friends perform,” added Niall. “In the true spirit of the amateur musician the love of what we do -and that is what that very word means - regularly shines forth in our concerts!”

Tickets priced €20 are available from Ann Shortt on 087 2893698

Report by Alison Comyn courtesy Drogheda Independent

## **Kerygma concert for CMSI work in Nepal**

A very special fundraising event is coming up that supports the work of CMS Ireland, with a special focus on our partners in Nepal.



CMSI invite you to come & witness the amazing Kerygma, the Good News Choir who will be performing an exceptional fundraising concert in St Mary's Parish Church on Saturday 21st May at 7 pm.

The choir are united in their faith, love of music and desire to bring a message of peace and reconciliation. They believe this message to be important in a world where reconciliation of divided factions could bring about peace and prosperity for all, within and between each and every faith.

This fundraising event will be celebrating the links that CMS Ireland has with Nepal that stretch back to the early 1950s (when former CMSI President Trevor Strong was one of the first mission partners to enter the country).

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Currently, they partner with two faith-based NGO's (SDSS & HDCS) and support Mission Associate Deirdre Zimmerman (a Nutritionist in Patan Hospital, Kathmandu and consultant to NPCS).

To attend this event, the tickets are £15.00 (children 10 yrs & under: £5.00) or you can pay at the door.

Alternatively, you can buy your ticket in advance online at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/Kerygma-the-Good-News-Choir](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/Kerygma-the-Good-News-Choir)

This is an event not to be missed!

Date: Saturday 21st May. Time: 7 pm. Location: St Mary's Parish Church, Newry

## **Tributes paid as former MEP and IFA President Alan Gillis passes away**

Warm tributes have been paid to former Fine Gael MEP and past President of the Irish Farmers Association Alan Gillis of Grangecon, who passed away on Friday.

There was a huge turnout for his funeral service held on Monday in St Mary's Church, Baltinglass, followed by his interment in St John's Churchyard, Stratford-on-Slaney.

Mr Gillis was President of the Irish Farmers' Association from 1990 to 1994, and was elected to the European Parliament at the 1994 European election for the Leinster constituency. He was a member of the Committee on



## Agriculture and Rural Development in the European Parliament.

Mr Gillis is sadly missed by his children Nigel, Hazel, Barry and Anna. His wife, Irene, passed away in 2020, while he is also predeceased by his son Stephen, who passed in 2018.

An Tánaiste and Leader of Fine Gael, Leo Varadkar was among the first to offer their condolences to the Gillis family.

He said: “It was with deep sadness that I learned of the passing of Alan Gillis, he was a real gentleman and liked by all who met him. A dedicated public representative, Gillis was elected as an MEP for Fine Gael in the Leinster Constituency in 1994. While there, he served on the European Parliament’s Committee on Agriculture and Rural

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Development, putting Irish rural communities at the heart of Europe.

“A former President of the Irish Farmer’s Association, Gillis was a passionate determined and considerate representative both at home and abroad. My condolences go to his children, Nigel, Hazel, Barry and Anna, and his extended family.”

Senator Victor Boyhan said Mr Gillis was an engineer by profession, and always maintained he was a “Farmer by choice.”

In the early 1960s, Mr Gillis bought a farm in Kill, County Kildare, and soon decided he wanted to pursue farming full-time but required more land to fulfil that ambition. He set his sights on magnificent 375-acre farm in Grange on and agreed a deal to purchase the farm at Ballyhoos, close to Senator Boyhan’s own grandfathers farm in Grangecon.

“Alan Gillis will be missed by his many friends and his huge network of colleagues, he was a farmer, Churchman and politician. He advocated strongly for farm families, was faithful to and proud of his Church of Ireland roots and loved a good political argument,” said Senator Boyhan.

“Alan maintained a strong interest in agriculture from European Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) to Dáil and Seanad debates on Agriculture, church matters and politics.

Courtesy of Wicklow People and Irish Independent

More at -

[Church News Ireland](#)

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[[] <https://www.independent.ie/regionals/wicklow/news/tributes-paid-as-former-mep-and-ifa-president-alan-gillis-passes-away-41636523.html> ]

## News reports

### Rift over same-sex marriage in Anglican Church of Australia deepens after synod vote, threatening schism



Sydney Archbishop Kanishka Raffel addresses the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia on May 11, 2022. Photo: The Melbourne Anglican (Diocese of Melbourne)

The Anglican Church of Australia appears to be on the verge of schism over whether to allow same-sex marriage, with the powerful Diocese of Sydney and a majority of clergy and

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lay delegates to its General Synod in opposition and the House of Bishops narrowly in support.

On May 11, General Synod considered a resolution introduced by Sydney Archbishop Kanishka Raffel asserting that “the solemnization of a marriage between a same-sex couple is contrary to the teaching of Christ and the faith, ritual, ceremonial and/or discipline of this church.”

Two of General Synod’s three legislative bodies – the House of Laity and the House of Clergy – approved the statement, 63-47 and 70-39, respectively. The third body, the House of Bishops, voted 12-10 against the statement, causing the motion to fail.

“Today, the majority of the House affirmed the teaching of Jesus on the subject of marriage and its expression in historic Anglican rites. That is why I am deeply disappointed that a majority of bishops voted against making a clear statement,” Raffel said in a statement after the vote.

The following day, delegates also rejected a resolution that would have approved same-sex marriage. The issue of same-sex marriage, which was legalized in Australia in 2017, has been a flashpoint in the Anglican Church of Australia ever since, with the Sydney diocese vocally against it. The conservative, evangelical diocese, which includes over 400 churches and dozens of schools, is the largest of the church’s dioceses.

It is associated with the GAFCON movement, a network of Anglicans around the world opposed to same-sex marriage.

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GAFCON Australia's board of directors includes Raffel and the Rt. Rev. Richard Condie, bishop of Tasmania.

The Diocese of Sydney does not ordain women to the priesthood and has begun requiring new principals and directors of its school boards to sign a document stating that they believe marriage is between a man and a woman.

Before the General Synod vote, Raffel had warned that if the statement opposing same-sex marriage did not pass, then something was "fundamentally awry," and he discussed the possibility of dioceses leaving the church.

Mentioning other Anglican churches that had faced schisms over same-sex marriage, Raffel told General Synod, "it has proved to be the case that when statements like this one have failed ... then some Anglicans have found their conscience has not allowed them to continue fellowship."

In at least three Anglican Communion provinces – The Episcopal Church, the Anglican Church of Canada and the Anglican Episcopal Church of Brazil – parishes and dioceses have been upended by schism over same-sex marriage and women's ordination. Disputes over property ownership between Episcopal dioceses and the Anglican Church in North America, created by former Episcopalians, continue nearly 20 years after the rift broke open in response to The Episcopal Church's election and consecration of its first openly gay bishop, the Rt. Rev. Gene Robinson, who has since retired as bishop of the Diocese of New Hampshire.



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GAFCON-affiliated parishes in New Zealand followed leaders and left the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia in 2018 after that church's General Synod approved same-sex marriage. In all, 12 parishes seceded and formed their own GAFCON-affiliated church. GAFCON's Australia branch has threatened to do the same and has already set up a legal entity as a "lifeboat" for parishes or dioceses that decide to leave.

In a speech to synod after the House of Bishops' veto of the statement opposing same-sex marriage, Raffel said the church is now in a "perilous position" with no denomination-wide agreement on marriage.

"In that case, we ought to stop wasting each other's time by gathering this way and supporting these structures," he said.

– Egan Millard is an assistant editor and reporter for Episcopal News Service.

## In the media

### **Papal nuncio who played key role in NMH building transfer set to leave Ireland**

**Archbishop Jude Thaddeus Okolo in Ireland for five years but has appointed 12 bishops. Irish Times - Patsy McGarry**

One of the most influential if low-key papal nuncios to serve in Ireland will leave shortly for Prague following the Vatican

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announcement of his appointment to the Czech Republic earlier this month.

Archbishop Jude Thaddeus Okolo (65) has been in Ireland for just five years but in that time has appointed 12 bishops, or almost half the current membership of the Irish Episcopal Conference.

He was central to preparations for the visit of Pope Francis to Ireland in 2018 and played a key role in securing Vatican permission for the Religious Sisters of Charity to transfer “the entire issued share capital of St Vincent’s Healthcare group to St Vincent’s Holdings for a nominal sum of € 1.00” in 2020.

In line with Catholic Church Canon Law provisions, formal approval for any decision to complete the transfer of extensive property to new ownership by a religious congregation has to be secured from Rome.

At the time a canon lawyer, who wished to remain anonymous, told The Irish Times that the Vatican decision meant “doctrines and teachings” of the Catholic Church would have “no authority or control” over either the new St Vincent’s Hospital Holding CLG or the new National Maternity Hospital (NMH) and that there was no vehicle “by which such authority or control could be exercised”.

Rome consulted the Catholic Primate, Archbishop Eamon Martin; then-archbishop of Dublin Diarmuid Martin, and Archbishop Okolo before making its decision.

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[\[https://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/papal-nuncio-who-played-key-role-in-nmh-building-transfer-set-to-leave-ireland-1.4878959\]](https://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/papal-nuncio-who-played-key-role-in-nmh-building-transfer-set-to-leave-ireland-1.4878959)

## **Marks and Spencer boss: Brexit forced us to withdraw 600 lines from Irish stores**

County Times

Marks and Spencer has had to withdraw about 600 lines of goods from its stores in the Republic of Ireland since Brexit, peers have been told.

Sacha Berendji, the retailer's Ireland and Northern Ireland director, also said that it had faced increased costs and wastage due to new rules and administration.

He was giving evidence to the House of Lords Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland sub committee

He told peers that the impact on their operations in Northern Ireland, where a number of grace periods to rules within the Northern Ireland Protocol apply, had been significantly less than in the Republic.

He said: "Pre-Brexit, our food supply chain worked in exactly the same way for all our stores in the United Kingdom and Ireland, once Brexit came in, and in preparation for it, we had to significantly adjust our supply chain.

"While our business is significant in Ireland, it isn't big enough to stand up its own supply chain in Ireland so the vast majority of our goods continue to be shipped from GB over to Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

“In order to facilitate this we had to create a new export centre in Motherwell. All of our product for export to Northern Ireland and the Republic is now shipped into Motherwell; previously it was in our regular depots.

“At Motherwell, those vehicles are separated and despatched to Northern Ireland and the Republic.

[[] <https://www.countytimes.co.uk/news/national/20132084.marks-spencer-boss-brexit-forced-us-withdraw-600-lines-irish-stores/> ]

## **Sweden and Finland apply for Nato membership**

BBC News

Sweden and Finland have confirmed they will apply for Nato membership in a historic shift that comes as a result of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

In Sweden, the governing Social Democrats said they backed joining the Western security alliance, paving the way for the country to apply.

The announcement came soon after Finland formally announced it too would apply to join the grouping.

Russia sees Nato as a security threat and has warned of "consequences".

Sweden stayed neutral in World War II and for more than two centuries has avoided joining military alliances.

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# Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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## 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](mailto:houstonmckelvey@mac.com)

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