

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Derry Organ Scholar debut**

May 18, 2023

## Image of the day

### Derry Organ Scholar debut

Congratulations to Michael, the second Philip Mehaffey Memorial Organ Scholar, who played his first organ voluntary on Sunday morning in St Columb's Cathedral, Derry. An excellent debut. Well done Michael.

## People and places

### Ballywalter's Big Breakfast for Christian Aid returns

**It's Christian Aid Week and Ballywalter Parish were thrilled, after a two year break, to be able to hold their Big Breakfast fundraiser on Saturday 14 May.**

“We had a fabulous time and served almost 90 breakfasts,” said the rector, Revd Sue Bell. “The weather was superb and after two years of not being able to hold this event the atmosphere was wonderful. There was such a sense of community and to date we have raised £981.

“We're so grateful to the team who prepared, cooked and cleared away after the event and to everyone who showed their support for Christian Aid.”



## **Ballywalter Parish Big Breakfast Team**

## **Special Dublin Black Santa Sit Out Raises €20k for Ukraine Appeal**

Black Santa's special spring appeal to support refugees from Ukraine arriving in Dublin & Glendalough raised a fantastic €20,000 for the diocesan U&Ukraine Appeal. St Ann's caretaker, Fred Deane, and volunteers from the parish held the collection outside the church on Dawson Street for five days at the end of April.

The appeal was officially opened by Archbishop Michael Jackson and Black Santa also welcomed a visit from the Minister for Foreign Affairs Simon Coveney who dropped in to show his support.



**Archbishop Michael Jackson, Minister Simon Coveney, Fred Deane and Desmond Campbell at the launch of the Black Santa sit out for the Ukraine appeal at St Ann's.**

Thanking all who donated to their appeal for their support, Arthur Vincent of St Ann's said they had received very generous donations from people on the street and online along with private supporters. He explained why they decided to hold the sit out: "We at St Ann's felt that it was an opportunity to show to the people of the centre of the city that our dioceses are fully behind the people of Ukraine".

Speaking at the launch, the Archbishop thanked volunteers from St Ann's for taking to the streets for this special sit out. "St Ann's sees itself as 'the church in the heart of the city with the city at its heart'. At a time when so many people

May 18, 2023

who have fled the war in Ukraine are seeking refuge in our city, it has been the natural response of St Ann's to take action," he said. "Black Santa is best known for the sit out in the days before Christmas when they collect funds for charities who support the most vulnerable in the city. Now, in the season of Easter, the volunteers once again seek to support the vulnerable, those whose lives have been changed utterly as a result of the invasion of their home country." He concluded with prayers for peace.

St Ann's caretaker, Fred Deane, led the sit out along with friends and supporters of St Ann's. As always, every cent donated to the Black Santa appeal goes directly to charity with no deductions for administration.

Dublin & Glendalough have committed to responding practically to the crisis resulting from the war in Ukraine. The U&Ukraine initiative will help meet the needs of Ukrainian people arriving in Ireland. In consultation with community representatives and those working with refugees from Ukraine in the Dublin 1 area, the proposal is to utilise St George and St Thomas's Church on Cathal Brugha Street to support those who have arrived here. It is also planned to facilitate worship in the Ukrainian Orthodox tradition to provide pastoral and liturgical ministry to Ukrainians who have been displaced.

Black Santa at St Ann's in Dublin is modelled on a similar appeal, which has been run each Christmas by successive Deans of St Anne's Cathedral in Belfast for many years. It became known as the Black Santa appeal because of the long heavy black cloaks worn by the clergy to keep out the winter cold.

## Electoral College for Cashel meets Friday

On Friday, in Christ Church cathedral, the Archbishop of Dublin will chair the Electoral College which will seek to elect a Bishop of Cashel, Ferns & Ossory, in succession to the Rt Revd Michael Burrows who has been translated to the new see of Tuam, Limerick & Killaloe.

In the evening, at 7.30 in St Brigid's church, Castleknock, Dr Jackson will institute the Revd Colin McConaghie to the incumbency of Castleknock, Mullhuddert & Clonsilla.



*Carrick Parish Church*



Request the pleasure of your company at our

### **Wedding Dress Festival**

in our beautiful church located at

**Carrick Lane, Ballyquin Road,  
Limavady BT49 9HA**

ON

**Friday 10th June 6pm to 9pm &  
Saturday 11th June 10am to 6pm**

Come and see magnificent displays of Wedding Dresses through the Ages, enjoying Music, Refreshments and a History of our picturesque Church.

Donation proceeds to Carrick Parish Church Building Projects

Contact: Rev Jones on 07907386327  
or email [carrick.church@outlook.com](mailto:carrick.church@outlook.com)  
to confirm your attendance

## Invite to Wedding dress festival

The Balteagh Group of Parishes is holding a wedding dress festival next month to raise funds for building work at the small but beautiful Carrick Parish Church. There's an open

May 18, 2023

invitation to come and see a magnificent display of 'Wedding Dresses through the Ages' on Friday 10th June and Saturday 11th June.

And, glorious though they may be, it's not just these gowns that should interest visitors. There's music to enjoy, refreshments to be savoured, and a history of this splendid parish church to find out about.

Please contact the Rector, Rev Rhys Jones, on 07907 386327 or email [carrick.church@outlook.com](mailto:carrick.church@outlook.com) to confirm your attendance.

## **Isle of Man students fund raise for Mothers' Union Literacy programme**

A group of students from Isle of Man raise £479 for the MU Literacy and Financial Education Program at the One World Charity Challenge!

Each year on the Isle of Man, the MU President promotes the work of the Mothers' Union at the One World Charity Challenge: on this day sixth-form students from across the island gather to choose a charity to promote and fund-raise for, with a particular emphasis on supporting young people.

In 2021 they chose to share the MU 'Literacy and Finance Education Program'; and Mothers' Union was enthusiastically picked by a team from King William's College & The Buchan School. The eight strong all female team then carried out a research project on this MU

May 18, 2023

program and prepared a ten-minute presentation. At the in-school competition, they were not selected to go onto the final, but they were awarded a prize of £250 from the challenge sponsor AFD Software Ltd.

The team also raised a further £229 from a school hot chocolate social. The team also shared the literacy program on their social media, in particular on Facebook. (Two of the team are pictured in their school Cadet Force Uniforms). The members of the Mothers' Union on the Isle of Man would like to thank the team from KWC for promoting the work of the MU and raising £479 for the MU 'Literacy and Finance Education Program'.

## **Ballymoney church transforms classrooms to bedrooms for Ukrainian refugees**

Over 30 Ukrainian refugees have been welcomed to Ballymoney after local members of the Hebron Free Presbyterian Church worked to transform Sunday School classrooms into bedrooms to accommodate families, Niamh Campbell writes

Donations were also received in the form of new beds, bedding, window blinds, a shower unit, a washing machine, fridges and a Hoover, as well as numerous food and financial contributions.

A special reception was held at Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council headquarters in Coleraine to welcome the 33 evacuees.



May 18, 2023

The church's Reverend David Park said: “I, like many others across the world, couldn't believe what was unfolding when war broke out in Ukraine.

“I was in Romania, preaching in a church in Timisoara, when I witnessed the outpouring of aid in preparing the church to receive refugees.

“Upon arriving home my wife Susan and I felt burdened to help and asked ourselves — what can we do to help?

“After a visit from Donald Fleming from Faith in Action, we discussed how we could help support the families from his ministry in Ukraine and after assessing church facilities, and talking to the elders and committee, we set about making preparations.”

Mayor Richard Holmes thanked Rev Park and the other volunteers at the welcome celebrations.

“As the situation in Ukraine has evolved, so too has the community spirit to pull together to help provide a lifeline for those most in need,” he commented.

The council used the opportunity at the welcome event to launch its new leaflet guide, which contains information about a range of services including advice centres and local support organisations offering language classes and other social activities for people fleeing the war in Ukraine.

The council's welcome leaflet is available to download in Ukrainian, Russian and English and can be accessed at [www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk/live/support-for-ukraine](http://www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk/live/support-for-ukraine)

## News reports

### Presiding Bishop encourages prayers for his home city after racial hatred shooting

Presiding Bishop Michael B Curry said in a message -

My heart is heavy with the news that a white supremacist gunman took the lives of 10 children of God in #Buffalo on Saturday. I grew up walking distance from the scene of this hateful crime, and my friends and I used to ride our bikes around the neighborhood. Buffalo's Black community raised and formed me. I grieve with the city and people I love.

The loss of any human life is tragic, but there was deep racial hatred driving this shooting, and we have got to turn from the deadly path our nation has walked for much too long. Bigotry-based violence—any bigotry at all—against our siblings who are people of color, Jewish, Sikh, Asian, trans, or any other group, is fundamentally wrong.

As baptized followers of Jesus of Nazareth, we are called to uphold and protect the dignity of every human child of God, and to actively uproot the white supremacy and racism deep in the heart of our shared life.

Please join me in prayer for the shattered families in Buffalo. Please also join me in expressing profound gratitude for the intervention by Buffalo police that likely saved many other lives. Even amid tragedy, even when manifestations of evil

May 18, 2023

threaten to overwhelm, let us hold fast to the good. It is the only way that leads to life.

## **Church of England Evangelical Council releases new resources for churches in anticipation of division over sexuality**

**The Church of England Evangelical Council (CEEC) has said it's working to help church leaders engage biblically with issues around human sexuality with their congregation.**

It's released two short films, in a collection for four, as well as study notes. The set of resources come as the Church of England considers potential change on its recognition of human sexuality, which could impact its teaching, liturgy or practices.

Rev Ian Paul, from CEEC, told Premier the council felt it had to something in response to the Church's Living in Love and Faith (LLF) resources, which is the latest way the C of E is discussing differences on sexuality.

“Many people have two concerns about the process. The first is that when you look at the Living in Love and Faith material, what it aims to do is aims to sort of put on display a range of views about sexuality. But... it puts one view or one moment, a different view, a different moment, a Bible passage. It never actually resolves the differences in the tensions between those different views.

May 18, 2023

“I mean, so we meet a transgender gay couple on the one hand, and then we hear something from 1 Corinthians 6 on the other. And the question is left hanging in the air. Well, how on earth do we connect these two different things?”

The Church of England website states that: “The purpose of the resources is to enable the Church of England churches across the country to participate in a process of learning and praying together as part of discerning a way forward in relation to matters of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage.”

However, Rev Paul added that LLF makes it seem like the Church doesn't currently have a stance on sexuality.

“Those who are involved in designing it said ‘well, we were never intended to resolve questions, it was supposed to open up discussion’. But that leads to the second issue with Living in Love and Faith, I think it has given some people the impression that the Church decides its doctrine by as it were taking a straw poll of all the different opinions and sort of settling somewhere in the middle. That's never been the way the Church of England has actually understood what it is that God's calling us to.

“So I think out of that, the Church of England Evangelical Council is simply concerned for the Church to say, there are different ways, there are better ways to actually resolve these things. [We want the Church to say] what it is that God teaches us about what it means to be human, what it means to be bodily made in His image, male and female, what sexuality and sex is all about.”

May 18, 2023

The first two short films the CEEC has released address the Church's doctrine on sexuality and how to have conversation around that. The next couple, which will be released later, address specific issues in terms of the content of the debate on human sexuality.

With the upcoming Lambeth Conference, which gathers bishops from across the Anglican Communion, Rev Paul said it's hard to predict how the Church will move in its process to address sexuality.

“The question is... are the bishops going to either alienate those in the global historic majority? Are they going to alienate those who want to change? Or are they, by a compromise, going to alienate everybody? It's not an enviable position to be in. But I think that's the decision that they're facing.”

The CEEC has also launched a regular e-bulletin to keep evangelicals across the country up to date about developments on the sexuality debate, among other things.

Courtesy Premier News

## **Diocese addressing mental health in leadership, appoints Dean of Clergy Well-Being**

**The Diocese of Southwark is working to promote good mental health within its clergy. It has created a new five-year position called “Dean of Clergy Well-Being.**

May 18, 2023

Rev Canon Leanne Roberts, Diocesan Director of Ordinands and Director of Vocations, will be taking up the new role and will leave her current post at the end of June.

Canon Leanne is a senior priest and professionally qualified and registered as a Jungian psychotherapist.

The role will provide support, guidance and appropriate signposting for therapeutic interventions, as well as some direct confidential therapeutic intervention. It will also develop Diocesan structures to create a network of support, working closely with the Archdeacons.

The diocese said it wants to make the point that clergy well-being is integral to ongoing ministerial development.

Speaking of her appointment, Canon Leanne said, "I am delighted to have been offered this opportunity for a new chapter in my ministry.

"Promoting the importance of mental health and well-being has been a priority throughout my career, both before ordination in my work with the Cochrane Schizophrenia Group and subsequently as a university chaplain and honorary mental health chaplain at Littlemore hospital in Oxford.

"My work as Diocesan Director of Ordinands in Southwark with candidates and ordinands has given me invaluable insight into the breadth of the Church of England and the care needed to nurture vocations from all traditions and contexts to ordained ministry; this role feels like an organic

May 18, 2023

development based on my experience and passions, and a natural outworking of my own priestly vocation.

“The chance to combine my psychotherapeutic training with this newly created role is an exciting one, and I am looking forward to supporting the clergy of the Diocese in their ongoing ministries.”

Venerable John Kiddle, Archdeacon of Wandsworth, has been leading a group examining issues for clergy well-being and this new role will complement that work.

He said: “Our synodical priorities for the next three years explicitly include the need to focus on clergy well-being and Bishop Christopher has indicated this as an area of personal commitment. The Archbishop of Canterbury, at national level, has stated this as a priority for the Church as we face substantial challenges and changes. These particularly affect stipendiary clergy and their families as their livelihoods and homes are integral to their practical, outward-focused vocations.”

The news comes after the Church of England announced that it is to make extra funding available to dioceses for grants to help clergy and lay workers struggling with the cost of living crisis

# Church News Ireland

## In the media

### **Bishop of Oxford “colluded with the forces of darkness”, and is considered by some to be a safeguarding risk**

Archbishop Cranmer web site

Liberated from the purgatorial shackles of Christ Church, Oxford, Martyn Percy is now free to speak, and he has done so.

Andrew Billen in The Times Magazine recounts the tortuous history of the saga, and perhaps the most illuminating, if not disturbing comments surround the conduct of the Bishop of Oxford, the Rt Rev'd Steven Croft, and the part he played in how Martyn Percy came to look “like a man who has been through the wringer.. very thin... In the depths of the dispute he struggled to eat enough to reach 8½st.”

The transformation from physical firmness to ghosted frailty was noted way back in 2018, but then Pelion was piled on Ossa, with Church of England collusion in bullying; the weaponising of safeguarding; Church lawyers conspiring with Christ Church lawyers and PR; exoneration without restoration; Clergy Discipline Measures leading to suicide; more slander and defamation; the Church of England causing nervous breakdown; the Diocese of Oxford misrepresenting facts; and on, and on, and on, and on...

...This isn't, of course, the first time the Bishop of Oxford has been accused of being a safeguarding risk: during the IICSA hearing in 2019 he was accused by Matthew Ineson, a



May 18, 2023

victim of rape at the hands of Rev'd Trevor Devamanikkam of “seriously misleading” people in events surrounding the abuse and subsequent suicide of the priest. It isn't at all clear what happened to the CDM brought against him in 2017, and why it mysteriously went “out of time”. Matt Ineson wrote subsequently...

[<https://archbishopcranmer.com/bishop-of-oxford-colluded-forces-of-darkness-safeguarding-risk/>]

See Also Thinking Anglicans post of May 15  
[[ <https://www.thinkinganglicans.org.uk/> ]

## Perspective

### **The Good Friday Agreement is in danger of collapsing - by David Trimble**

*John Hume and I made huge sacrifices to help Northern Ireland find peace. Now it's all at risk*

Twenty five years ago next year, John Hume and I signed the historic Good Friday Agreement which, thank God, ended 40 years of a terrorist campaign that caused tens of thousands of injuries and deaths and billions of pounds of economic damage to Northern Ireland. The agreement was not perfect, it faced opposition from many, but I believed then and now that it would benefit the people of Northern Ireland.

Its central premise was that Northern Ireland would remain part of the United Kingdom as long as the people of the province wished to do so. Importantly, it guaranteed that “it

would be wrong to make any change in the status of Northern Ireland save with the consent of the majority of its people”.

The people of the province, nationalist and unionist, supported the Assembly because of the assurance that cross-community consent would be required when decisions on a controversial or significant issue were to be made. Everything rested on that central pillar of consent, essential for the working of government in a deeply divided society.

Even with that guarantee, at times the Assembly has faced disruption. But by returning to the central pillars of consent and cross-community agreement, solutions have been found to ensure that the Assembly and its executive could continue to operate.

It grieves me now that the arrangements which I and others gave so much to achieve are in danger of collapsing, as a result of the imposition of the Northern Ireland Protocol. The High Court in Belfast ruled that the Protocol changed the constitutional position of Northern Ireland within the UK. Indeed, in giving evidence to the court, the Government’s own lawyers admitted that, when the EU Withdrawal Act was passed in the House of Commons, Article 6 of the Act of Union was “implicitly set aside” without consent.

The Protocol also removed any votes on the laws which will be made in Brussels, now imposed on Northern Ireland and enforced by the European Court of Justice. Consent and democratic legitimacy have been torn from the province by the Protocol. That is why I and other unionist leaders intend taking our legal challenge to the Supreme Court.

American politicians and the EU say that they support the Good Friday Agreement, yet this denial of democratic control and dilution of British sovereignty over part of the UK has had the opposite effect. If they did care about the Good Friday Agreement, they would realise that this Protocol doesn't command support from any unionist representative in Northern Ireland. How does anyone expect the Assembly, which is based on decisions being made by consent, to function?

The Protocol is also damaging the economy of Northern Ireland. Products coming into the province have to be inspected at EU border posts. Goods sent even for personal use are subject to customs procedures. Transport costs have increased by 27 per cent. Many firms in Great Britain will no longer supply to Northern Ireland, reducing choice and increasing prices.

There has been significant displacement of trade from Britain to the Republic of Ireland. Yet the EU has shown nothing but rigidity in the application of border checks. Although only 0.2 per cent of goods going into the EU flow through Northern Irish ports, they account for 20 per cent of the total number of EU border checks.

Marks & Spencer claims that a lorry-load of goods going to its stores in Northern Ireland takes 20 people eight hours to load because of the paperwork involved. Had the same lorry gone directly to the Republic of Ireland from Great Britain, it could have been loaded in only 20 per cent of the time, even though the goods were going to be consumed in the European Union.

May 18, 2023

This situation cannot continue. The Government has now set out the societal, economic and constitutional damage the Protocol is causing. It has tried to negotiate changes to the Protocol, or at least its implementation with the EU, only to be met with a brick wall of intransigence.

The EU insists that the Protocol cannot be renegotiated. Yet the fact is that the political declaration which accompanied the Withdrawal Agreement clearly committed both the EU and the UK Government to look for alternative solutions because the Protocol was seen as a transitional arrangement.

I know only too well the many personal and political sacrifices John Hume and I made to deliver the Good Friday Agreement and peace. Which is why the Government must now act on its responsibility to safeguard the future of Northern Ireland and replace this damaging and community-splitting Protocol. Surely the EU should cooperate in resolving this, as I did with John Hume 25 years ago.

Lord Trimble was First Minister of Northern Ireland. He won the Nobel Peace Prize with John Hume in 1998 for their work on the Good Friday Agreement

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## Church News Ireland

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May 18, 2023