

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Leuven cathedral

People and places

Dunluce Exhibition raises £2,471 for Bishops' Appeal for Ukraine



Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev George Davison, receiving a cheque from Aileen Gault, Coordinator of the recent Art and photographic Exhibition at Dunluce Parish, Bushmills, along with the Rev Canon George Graham, rector, and members of the Select Vestry, from left are: Neil Salisbury, Jackie Garvin, Ronnie Garvin (Rector's Churchwarden), Aileen Gault, Canon George Graham, Bishop George, Glenda Rodgers, April Salisbury, Danny McCormick, Joyce Glass and Billy Creighton (People's Churchwarden).

Dunluce Parish Church hosted its annual Art and Photographic Exhibition from April 29 to May 2 in the Parish Centre, Bushmills, raising £2,471 for Bishops' Appeal for Ukraine.

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A cheque for Bishops' Appeal was presented to the Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev George Davison, when he visited Bushmills on May 15.

The exhibition, which returned after a two-year break due to the pandemic, has always been a popular event with residents and visitors to the North Coast over the Bank Holiday weekend.

More than 40 artists exhibited their work, with around 160 artworks on display.

The exhibition was official opened on Friday April 29 by guest artist, Julian Friers PPRUA.

Among those who attended was eight-year-old Amelia from Stormont, who was buying her first ever art work. Amelia chose exhibit number 81 – Jack by Coleraine artist, Brenda Harper.

Aileen Gault, Coordinator of the recent exhibition, said: “We’d like to thank all the artists and photographers who exhibited, our great team of volunteers, everyone who visited, bought artworks, raffle tickets, and enjoyed the lovely cream teas.”

See photo gallery at -

<https://connor.anglican.org/2022/05/20/dunluce-exhibition-raises-2471-for-bishops-appeal-for-ukraine/>



Ards Church Plants invest in Girl Power

The Church Plant teams from Glen and West Winds Community Churches recently set up two separate ministry groups supporting girls in their school transitional years (P7–Yr 11) in the estates in an effort to build positive relationships.

For the last number of months, both Girls Groups have engaged with local graffiti artist, Carla Hodgson, to discuss how they feel about their respective communities and through learning new skills, create and design their very own graffiti boards which will go on permanent display in the Glen and West Winds estates.

On Tuesday 10 May, both groups came together to formally present their boards to a packed audience of parents, friends, community representatives and church supporters.

Welcome to Kilfenora

A celebratory service of evensong will welcome the new Anglican bishop of the diocese that covers Kilfenora, to the village's ancient cathedral on Sunday next, May 22.

The Right Reverent Michael Burrows, whose diocese has recently been expanded to encompass Tuam, as well as Limerick and Killaloe, will be 'enthroned' in Kilfenora Cathedral, in a history-making ceremony, at 4pm.

It follows the formal installation, on May 1, of the Catholic Bishop of Galway and Kilmacduagh and Apostolic Administrator of Kilfenora. Bishop Michael Duignan was formally installed in a ceremony at Galway Cathedral.

Sunday's ceremony will be a celebration of song and welcome and refreshments will be served in the cathedral after the service. Everyone in the community is welcome to attend. The last enthronement took place in 1981, when Bishop Walton Empey, who was later C of I Archbishop of Dublin, came to Kilfenora Cathedral. The bishop's throne was donated in that year for the ceremony, and will be used again on Sunday.

Bishop Burrows was previously Dean of Cork and Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory. He is Chair of the Church of Ireland's Commission for Christian Unity and Dialogue, Chair of the Board of Governors of the Anglican Centre in Rome, Co-Chair of the Church of Ireland-Methodist Covenant Council, and Patron of the Irish Guild of the Church (Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise) – the Irish

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language society of the Church of Ireland. He is married with four grown-up children, and a keen railway enthusiast and organist. He was enthroned in Clonfert Cathedral on Thursday, May 19 at 7.30pm.

Strong Donegal connection to unique Kinlough Church of Ireland concert



Ronan Gallagher is just one of the multiple talents that will be performing on the night

Next Friday May 27 at 8pm, the Kinlough Church of Ireland will host a highly anticipated and unique concert setting.

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‘Leitrim Calling: Music from the Ridge County’ features songs and tunes from three diverse Leitrim-based and connected artists in this unique and intimate venue, but with a strong Donegal vibe and input through Modal Citizen Records, the ubiquitous Marc Geagan and a host of fellow talented Donegal musicians, Michael McHugh writes in Donegal Alive.

The line-up is headlined by The Richard Nelson Sextet (Jazz) with support from Leitrim’s hardcore troubadour Ronan Gallagher (Singer-Songwriter) and Meitheal (Trad) plus special guests Steve Cooney, Rosie Stewart and Mohammad Syfkhan.

Meitheal

From the Irish word for ‘working collaboratively.’ Meitheal is Bundoran based Modal Citizen Records’ in-house trad project band. The band can range from a duo to an entire 12-piece depending on the circumstances.

It features some of the finest performers of traditional music from South Donegal, North Leitrim, and West Fermanagh.

Their first album 'Songs of Erne Volume 1: Traditional Music from South Donegal and West Fermanagh' was released in 2017 and features guest performances from Steve Cooney and Junior Davey.

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Former Catholic Church in North Belfast to be demolished

The public are being invited to have their say on proposal to demolish a former Catholic Church in North Belfast.

Church of the Resurrection on the Cavehill Road first opened in 1980 and served as a focal point for Catholic families in the homes around the Upper Cavehill area.

In 2008 the Church, following consultation, was permanently closed due to continuing leakage from the roof, with the cost of repair beyond the resources of the parish at the time, with debts estimated at around £2 million.

Holy Family Parish is now inviting the public to have their say on a proposal to demolish the permanently closed Church of the Resurrection.

The parish said: "As time has moved on, the state of the church building has deteriorated, with the original leakage exacerbated by continuous vandalism and theft despite the security measures in place at a considerable cost to the parish.

"We also must face the unfortunate reality that there has been an on-going decline in the active church community, and this been further exacerbated over the past two years by the Covid pandemic.

"In addition, there is evidently a shortfall in the number of priests to serve the parish and people involved within the parish.

"The present active churches of Holy Family and St Therese have catered for the number of parishioners over the years and indeed have also entailed the reduction in the number of masses offered as more seating became available in each mass.

"In the year 2020/2021 the income of the parish reduced by £100,000. The safety of the building is also to be taken into consideration as well as its general outlook in the area.

"Recent pressure has come from the insurance company due to safety concerns. The insurers have told us that if there is no progress on demolition, they state they will require the site to be secured and constantly monitored with a maintenance schedule to be undertaken. This will be at a significant cost to the parish.

"It is proposed that when the demolition phase is completed, further communication will be made with parishioners on what is to be proposed for the Church grounds."

The public are urged to complete a response sheet and deliver to the parish office before 12 noon on Monday, May 30.

Any decision at parish level will require the approval of the Bishop, who will seek the consent of the College of Consultors and Diocesan Trustees.

Suffolk Street church to let with permission for licensed food hall

St Andrew's Dublin served until 2014 as a tourist office for State tourism body Fáilte Ireland, Ronald Quinlan writes in the Irish Times

The ongoing transformation of the area between Grafton Street and Dame Street is expected to give fresh impetus to a long-standing plan to give a new lease of life to the landmark former church known as St Andrew's on Suffolk Street.

Occupied and operated as a tourist office up until 2014 by the State's tourism body, Fáilte Ireland, the extensive cut-stone building is being offered to the letting market now with the benefit of full planning permission for a licensed food hall, dining, cultural space along with annex banqueting hall. The plan – spearheaded by entrepreneur and hospitality specialist Michael Wright of the Wrights of Howth family – secured approval from Dublin City Council in December 2019. With Mr Wright having decided to focus his energies on his company's numerous other interests – which include Hogs and Heifers and the Marquette foodhall in Dublin Airport – St Andrew's on Suffolk Street is being made available on a new long-term lease through agent Cushman & Wakefield.

Anna Gilmartin, who is handling the letting on behalf of Fáilte Ireland, says she believes a wide variety of users will be interested in St Andrew's based on its location, size and character. The rent is expected to be in excess of €600,000 per annum.

News reports

Less than fifth of marriages in England and Wales now take place in church

Marriages in places of worship in England and Wales now not only account for less than a fifth of all ceremonies for the first time, but have also hit a record low.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) on Thursday released data on marriages in England and Wales in 2019, analysed by age, sex, previous marital status and civil or religious ceremony.

It found that religious ceremonies accounted for 18.7 per cent of opposite-sex marriages, a decrease from 21.1 per cent in 2018 and the lowest percentage on record; for same-sex marriages, 0.7 per cent were religious ceremonies.

Researchers said the reason was “couples choosing to live together rather than marry, either as a precursor to marriage or as an alternative”.

The ONS also found that marriage rates for opposite-sex couples fell to their lowest level since 1862; in 2019, there were 18.6 marriages per 1,000 unmarried men and 17.2 marriages per 1,000 unmarried women.

18.7pc

Proportion of opposite-sex marriages in England and Wales in 2019 involving a religious ceremony, the lowest on record

However, the Bishop of Durham has insisted that “church weddings aren’t only for regular churchgoers”. The Rt Rev Paul Butler said: “We believe that marriage is a foundation for a good society, – wherever a marriage takes place – and we hear time and time again from couples who marry in church of how personal, meaningful, spiritual and beautiful – the ceremony can be.”

In total, 219,850 marriages took place in 2019, down 6.4 per cent on the year before. There were 213,122 marriages between opposite-sex couples, a decrease of 6.5 per cent from 2018 and 6,728 between same-sex couples, 2.8 per cent fewer than the year before.

Dr James Tucker, head of health and life events analysis at the ONS, said: “Today’s data show a decline in marriage rates for opposite-sex couples while rates for same-sex couples have remained the same.

The number of opposite-sex marriages has fallen by 50 per cent since 1972. Future analysis will show the impact of the pandemic on marriage rates.”

However, Harry Benson, research director of the Marriage Foundation, a family breakdown charity, said that “most young adults still want to marry”.

In the media

Gay marriages could be considered as soon as next year by the Church of England

ITV News

For same-sex couples, being gay and being a Christian doesn't always fit together easily, especially when they are making plans for their wedding day. They may be welcomed week-after-week to worship within the Church of England, but it is a welcome that is not extended to hosting their marriage ceremony, James Webster reports.

But one vicar, who is part of the team leading a project reviewing the church's position on same-sex relationships says he believes the church has reached a point where change in some form is now inevitable. It means the church could be closer than ever to allowing gay couples to marry.

Same-sex weddings were made legal in England and Wales in 2014, but those same laws also protected the Church of England's right to NOT hold such ceremonies without the fear of being taken to court under equality legislation.

Eight years on, the church is pulling together comments from congregations all over the country who have been asked to reflect on whether same-sex couples should be allowed to marry in church.

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It is an issue I personally wrestle with. I am gay and starting to think about planning my own wedding and when people ask me what sort of ceremony I would like, I don't yet have an answer because I know that one option that is not open to me is to have a ceremony in my church.

That's why I set out to investigate what is a difficult issue for the church in the hope that it would help me understand my own feelings on the subject. I'm not someone who is campaigning for change, but instead I am trying to better understand the passionate views on both sides of the debate.

More at -

[\[https://www.itv.com/news/2022-05-19/gay-marriages-could-be-considered-as-soon-as-next-year-by-the-church-of-england\]](https://www.itv.com/news/2022-05-19/gay-marriages-could-be-considered-as-soon-as-next-year-by-the-church-of-england)

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Platinum Jubilee Broadcast service from St Columba's, Knock

The BBC Radio Ulster Broadcast service will come from St. Columba's, Knock, on Sunday 5 June beginning at 10.15 am.

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The celebrant and preacher will be the rector, Canon John Auchmuty with choral director Dr. Joe McKee and organist Graeme McCullough.

Canon John Auchmuty commented, “We are very privileged to be invited to host this service on the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty The Queen where we along with many congregations throughout the world will be giving thanks for her 70 years of dedicated service.

“It is also the Day of Pentecost when we will be reflecting on the Gift of the Holy Spirit to empower us in our daily lives as people of faith.”

Tune in on on 94.5 MHz FM

Perspective

No, the UK is not breaking international law on the Protocol by David Collins

Endless repetition of the claim that the UK’s plan to abrogate the Northern Irish Protocol “breaches international law”, as if the UK were some kind of rogue state, does not make it true. Article 16 of the Protocol specifies that, should the agreement lead to “serious economic, societal ... harms or to a diversion of trade, [parties] may unilaterally take appropriate measures”. This is what the Government is now seeking to do via legislation.

The standards for invoking this provision are ones of seriousness and appropriateness. These concepts are not unique in international law – they are found in the World Trade Organisation's Agreement on Safeguards.

Safeguards are designed to cushion severe shocks resulting from free trade agreements and are widely viewed as a necessity given difficulties some countries experience adapting to new trading relationships.

There is no question that the developments that have occurred since the Protocol was signed are serious – a near total collapse of trade between Great Britain and Northern Ireland as a consequence of the EU's egregious customs checks on goods. The ensuing implications for the integrity of the Union as well as the UK's economic welfare are indeed a cause for concern.

The EU's unreasonable attitude over checks of goods is tantamount to a blockade in the Irish Sea. It is as good an example of bad faith in the implementation of an agreement as one might imagine.

Something close to one fifth of all documentary checks conducted by EU customs relate to the Irish border – a shocking figure given that these shipments account for far less than 1 per cent of EU trade. It is hard to resist the conclusion that the morass of paperwork was purposefully inflicted on the UK as some kind of punishment.

On appropriateness, the Protocol provides further clarification. The measures taken by a party in response to serious harm must be limited to those that are strictly necessary.

Liz Truss has explained that the UK's response would involve simplified customs checks on the Irish Sea, comprising a check-free green lane for goods staying in Northern Ireland, linked to a trusted trader scheme, and a red lane for full checks on products moving into Ireland and the single market. This proposal is not a reckless “ripping up” of the Protocol, as the BBC would have you believe. It is, as Suella Braverman, the Attorney General, averred, an entirely lawful exercise of the UK's rights as spelled out in the text of the treaty.

Article 16 goes on to state that the party against which safeguard measures are imposed to rectify harms (in this case, the EU) may respond via “proportionate rebalancing measures” which must also be “strictly necessary”. This does not authorise a trade war, as the EU seems to be threatening. Given the miniscule volume of trade which may be affected, any corresponding tariffs against UK goods should be minor. An attempt to retaliate beyond this would be unlawful, not to mention self-destructive, given the EU's trade surplus in goods with the UK.

The solution of a light-touch approach to the GB/NI border can preserve the integrity of the UK while posing little or no threat to the EU's single market. This was precisely the kind of arrangement that was envisioned by the Protocol and why the UK signed the treaty in the first place. Unfortunately, the EU did not see it this way. Something must be done – now.

David Collins is professor of International Economic Law at City, University of London

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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