

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Ballina Quiet Day

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Ballina Quiet Day

A one day retreat was organised by Ballina Churches Together at the North Mayo Heritage Centre on Saturday last.

It focussed on the interplay of God's creativity and our response in being creative. There were a number of creative displays produced by local Christian artists.

Participants were then encouraged by a longer lunch hour to go out and explore the walled garden at the Centre and reflect further on God as the first artist and our Christian response. "A very stimulating day and I met lots of interesting people".

People and places

Worldwide and Relief Fund from Clogher Mothers Union

All roads seemed to lead to Monaghan as members of the Mothers' Union gathered from all across the Diocese for the annual Festival Service.

Bishop Ian Ellis presided at the Holy Communion and was assisted by Rev Charlie Eames (MU Diocesan Chaplain) and by the Rev Chancellor Ian Berry (Rector of Monaghan), who also preached. Members of the MU read the Bible passages and led the intercessions.



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In the course of the Service a representative of each Branch presented the money that had been collected for the Worldwide and Relief Fund.

Annual service – Church’s Ministry of Healing: Ireland

The annual Service of Thanksgiving of the Church’s Ministry of Healing: Ireland will be held in St Mary’s Church in Maynooth, Co. Kildare, on 11th June at 3pm.

EPIC
explorers
HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB

ST MARK'S ARMAGH
CROZIER HALL

Monday 7th- Friday 11th August
10am-12 Noon

For Primary
School aged children
Sept 2023

FOR CONSENT FORMS PLEASE SEE
WWW.STMARKSARMAGH.ORG

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The speaker will be Mrs Gillian Kingston, and the celebrant will be the incumbent of St Mary's, Rev Eugene Griffin. CMH:I Ministry Leader, Lydia Monds, will lead mindful and healing intercessions.

“All are welcome to this beautiful service, at which healing prayer may be requested for anyone who may need it.

“During the service, there will be an opportunity for the laying on of hands and anointing with oil, for those who wish it.”

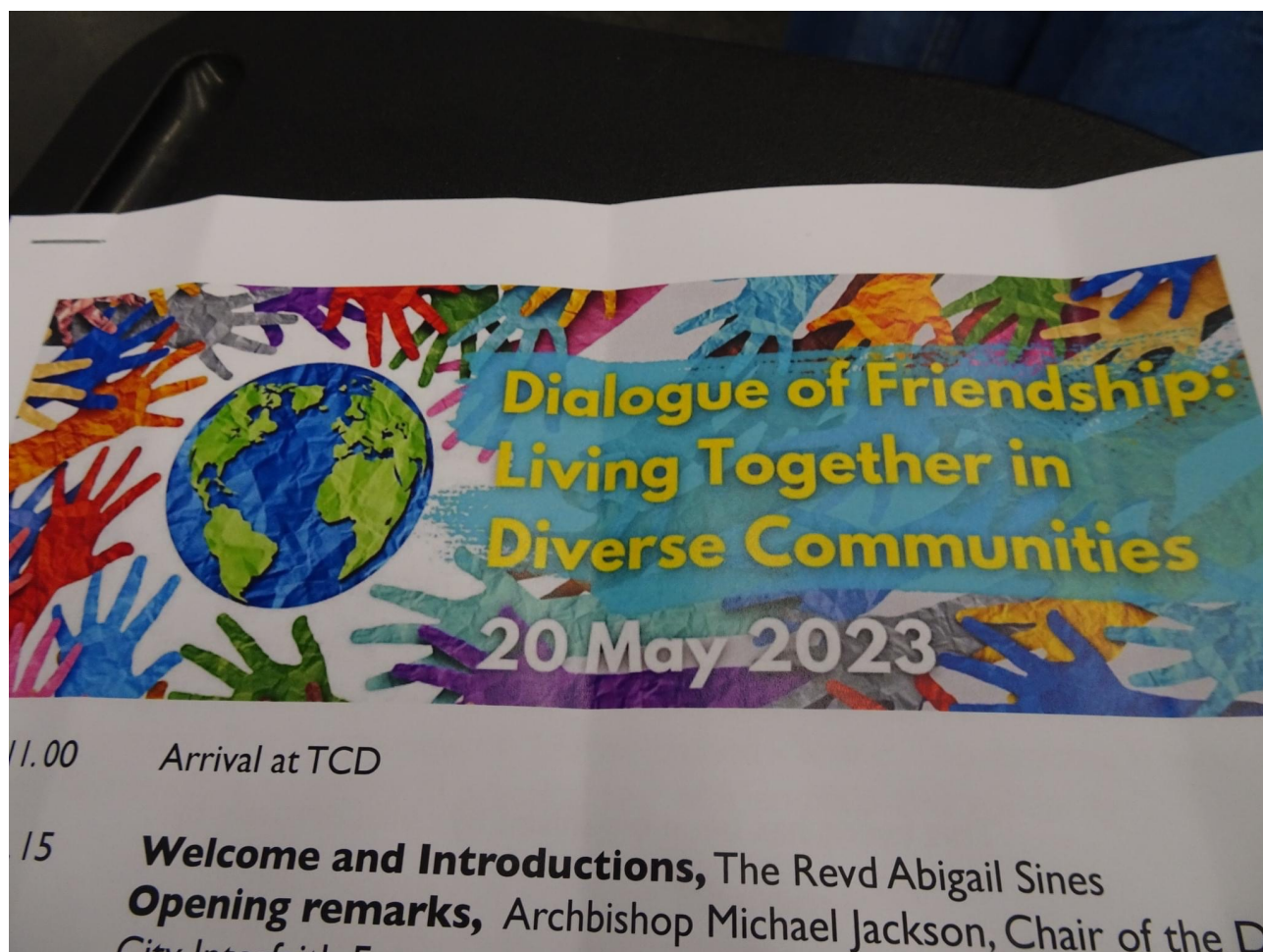


Enniskillen Castle welcomes groups

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Fivemiletown Mother's Union were welcomed to Enniskillen Castle recently. They enjoyed a guided tour by Julian followed by tea/coffee and scones in the coffee shop.

If your group would like a guided tour please phone 02866 325000 and the Castle team can help plan your visit.



Dialogue of Friendship: Living together in Diverse Communities

A seminar was hosted at the Irish School of Ecumenics, Trinity College, Dublin on Saturday. The sponsors included Dialogue of Friendship: Living together in



Diverse Communities with the Church of Ireland Interfaith Working Group and Places of Sanctuary Ireland

Participants were welcomed by Archbishop Michael Jackson and Rev Abigail Sines, followed by a keynote address by Rev Dr Stephen Skuce of the Methodist Church.

The concepts of Sanctuary and Hospitality are prominent in many different religions and expressions of faith.

When a faith community receives the Places of Sanctuary designation, it is an affirmation that the community is one in which hospitality and sanctuary are woven into their life and explicitly stated, so that those looking for a welcome will know where they can find one. Belfast City of Sanctuary will

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shortly be embarking on its journey to establish a Stream of Sanctuary in Faith and Belief.

There were lots of great presentations from representatives from Places of Sanctuary Ireland, Church of Ireland, the Islamic Community and the Methodist, Catholic and Presbyterian Churches. Lots of good practice was



Family Fun Day!



Saturday 10th June 2023
10:00am – 3:00pm
Ulster American Folk Park
Omagh
£5/€5 per child, adults free

Come along for:

- Games**
- Story**
- Songs**
- Treasure Hunt**
- Exploring**



Parishes must book in advance with numbers.

For a booking form email
kirsty@derryandraphoe.org

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displayed through work done by Mrs Fahmeda Naheed of SALAAM (Sustainable Alliances against Anti-Muslim Hatred), the 'Birds with Wishes' creative collaboration and Tullamore Welcome Centre run by the local Presbyterian church, and of course, my friend Naomi Green from Northern Ireland, a volunteer with the Belfast Islamic Centre.

**SUMMER RECITALS
AT THE CATHEDRAL**

JUNE 3RD : ANDREW JOHNSTONE

JUNE 10TH : DAVID LEIGH

JUNE 17TH : BARTOSZ THIEDE

**JUNE 24TH : MALCOLM PROUD
(ORGAN) WITH CIARÁN
FENNELLY (VOICE)**

**JULY 22ND : JONATHAN
DIMMOCK**

**ALL RECITALS ARE AT 1.10PM
FREE TO ATTEND**

**ST. CANICE'S
CATHEDRAL**
AND ROUND TOWER

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Br Kevin Mascarenhas of Places of Sanctuary and Cork City of Sanctuary had organised much of this day and moderated the afternoon session. Gillian Wylie of the Irish School of Ecumenics has accompanied for a number of years those on this journey of understanding and mutual support.

Bangor Worldwide to host première of one-man play about the persecuted church

Bangor Worldwide has released details of its programmes planned for Convention week, from Friday 18th to Saturday 26th August, during its preview launch events. The highlight will be the Northern Ireland and Ireland première of If prison walls could speak a play run in partnership with Release International and performed by the Artless Theatre Company.

The one-man hybrid multimedia performance production will first be performed in Hamilton Road Presbyterian Church on Saturday 19th August, the base for the majority of the Convention events, and will tour during the week.

This is a play about the imprisonment of a Christian believer in a Sudanese jail and due to the nature of the content, is only suitable for children over 12. Tickets need to be purchased online (£5) from the website in advance and numbers are limited.



At the launch of the programme for Bangor Worldwide 2023 is Keith McIlwaine, BW committee member, Steph Devlin from New Irish Arts, Dr Sinclair Ferguson guest speaker, Lesley Stewart, BW Secretary and Ruth Manning, BW committee member.

Speaking at the launch events this week, Chairman Tom Clarke said, “Our theme for 2023 is Arise Shine - from Isaiah 60 verses 1 to 3 and referred to again in many places in the New Testament. This is clearly an important instruction which Christians must take seriously and hence the focus it is being given in this year's Convention.

“Each year, Bible teaching forms a core element of Bangor Worldwide and this year we are delighted that Dr Chris Wright will be leading the studies each morning from Monday to Friday, at 11.30am. These are preceded by the

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daily prayer meetings which are led each time by one of our speakers.

“The majority of the events will be held at Hamilton Road Presbyterian Church but there are also events in the neighbouring Baptist Church as well as in Dublin, Drumreagh, Lurgan and Magherafelt. In addition, we are livestreaming some of our meetings to hubs across the country - an exciting extension of the reach of Worldwide during Convention week.

“Also for the first time we will have a presence at Bangor seafront during Convention week in the shape of the Gospel Truck, a ministry of Faith Mission. It is well worth a visit.”

There are specific events for young adults on both Fridays as well as a special Equip Gathering on Saturday 19th in 1st Bangor Presbyterian Church. A ladies afternoon tea event will take place in Bangor Parish Church on Thursday 24th featuring Naomi Dudgeon from Faith Mission and Kate Namate from ShineHisLight in Kenya. St Saviour’s Church in Dollingstown, Lurgan will host the play on Sunday 20th August at 6.30pm. Registration will be required for certain events such as seminars via the Bangor Worldwide website.

Irish bishops launch second annual Pray For Life Novena

The Council for Life of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference on Friday last launched a Pray For Life Novena which will run from Tuesday 23 May until Wednesday 31 May (Feast of the Visitation).

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The Pray For Life Novena and its associated website Pray For Life - Novena May 23rd - 31st will give people an opportunity to be an active part of this initiative to pray for the protection of human life and to build a culture of life. The Council for Life is inviting people to sign up on prayforlife.ie to receive the daily prayers and actions that will focus on themes such as expectant Mothers and Fathers, unborn Children, for those who defend life and for an end to abortion.

Launching the Pray For Life Novena, Bishop Kevin Doran, chair of the Council for Life, said: "This year, the period of the Novena includes the great Feast of Pentecost when we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit, the 'Lord and Giver of Life'. My prayer is that there will be a fresh outpouring of the gifts of the Holy Spirit on all of us who pray the Novena, and on our whole society. Gifts such as Wisdom, Right Judgement, Courage and Reverence, which are so relevant to our mission of building a better and more just society, where ever life and every person is respected."

Bishop Doran continued: "This is the second year in which the Council for Life has offered this Novena. This year we do so against the backdrop of the government's recent Review of the abortion legislation, which proposes changes in the law which would weaken the rights of the unborn, weaken still further the limited safeguards for women, and restrict the right of conscientious objection for pro-life healthcare professionals. We hope the Pray For Life Novena will help re-focus hearts and minds on the essential task ahead of us, which is to work for the repeal of the Health (Regulation of Termination of Pregnancy) Act 2018, and to replace it with public policies consistent with the right to life and the dignity

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of women. We invite you to join people across Ireland during this last week of May to pray for the protection of human life."

Read more about Prayer for Life here: <https://prayforlife.ie/>

You can follow the Pray For Life Novena on social media by using the hashtag #PrayForLife and by following @ChooseLifeIRL on Twitter; Pray for Life Novena Ireland on Facebook; Pray for Life Novena on Instagram

‘We should be comfortable talking about mental health’: Justin Welby encourages churches to work alongside NHS

The Archbishop of Canterbury has encouraged church leaders to explore collaborative ways of tackling the UK's mental health crisis as recent research revealed that 50 per cent of Britons face mental health challenges at least once a week.

Speaking at a mental health conference organised by ChurchWorks Commission, Most Rev Justin Welby said church should be “a place where we're comfortable talking about mental health”.

“We all know that being a Christian doesn't mean we're all sorts of happy all the time,” he said. “Faith doesn't mean the absence of mental health challenges. But it does mean that there is comfort for us when we're experiencing hard times.”

Several Christian organisations came together to provide "clear and simple next steps" for church leaders to take action in supporting "better mental health, better well-being, and better health outcomes" in churches and communities.

Speaking to Premier, News Jack Palmer-White, senior director of the Good Faith Partnership and one of the key organizers, said churches should work in tandem with the National Health Service (NHS) and other healthcare entities to provide effective care.

“We need to be well informed. We need to understand how to break down stigma, and how to approach these things in a way that is, is helpful that doesn't lose what is authentic about the church's role in this but it's also healthy in terms of ensuring that those who are coming into our churches seeking support are cared for with the best possible support,” he said.

Recognising the local impact and reach that churches have in their communities, the conference explored several ways to establish support systems within congregations. These included contemporary chaplaincy, church courses on well-being, connecting with social prescribing, and collaborating with various organisations that support mental health.

Palmer-White further stated: “Social prescribing is all about supporting people who might turn up at a GP surgery or somewhere else in the health system but what they need they're seeking can actually be best found within the community. And churches run so many things that fit the bill for that.

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“We want to help people think about how do they connect with social prescribing link workers in their local area.”

Archbishop Justin concluded: “We need to be equipped to support people in church as well as working closely with mental health professionals. The pastoral and spiritual care of the church is not a substitute for the expertise of mental health professionals. But the gifts offered by spiritual and pastoral guidance, and just by the love of the church community, have a valuable role in our well being by bringing together cheer.”

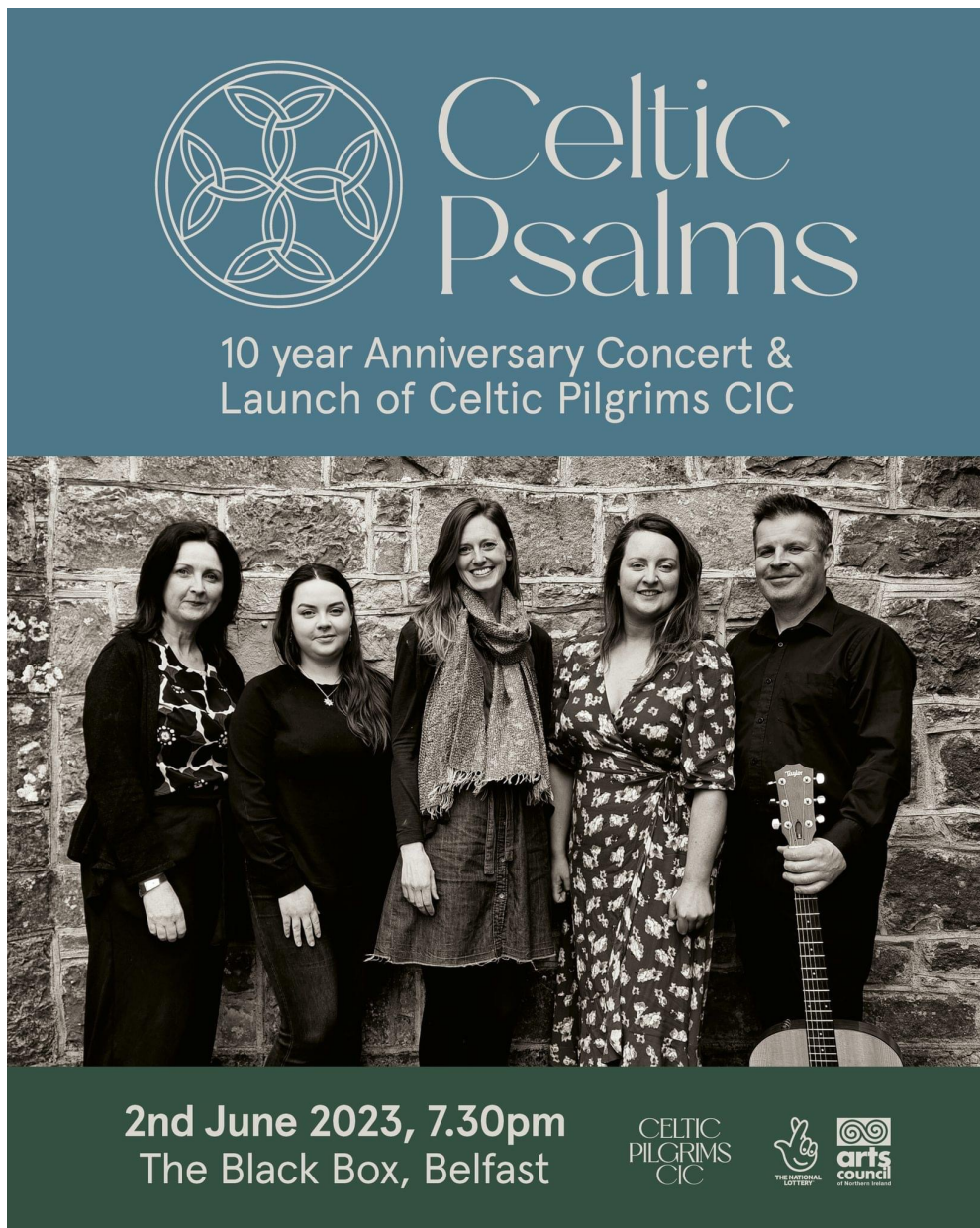
Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Celtic Psalms to be Celtic Pilgrims

After singing together for 10 years as Celtic Psalms, we’re launching a new chapter of bringing our music into the community: Celtic Pilgrims.

What is Celtic Pilgrims?

Celtic Pilgrims CIC is a nonprofit dedicated to connecting people through music, the arts, and spirituality – bringing people from diverse backgrounds together across community divides around a common interest of Celtic music, culture, heritage and spiritual practices. Through intentionally cross community events, concerts, retreats,



The poster features a teal header with a white circular logo containing a Celtic knot design. To the right of the logo, the text 'Celtic Psalms' is written in a large, white, serif font. Below this, in a smaller white font, is '10 year Anniversary Concert & Launch of Celtic Pilgrims CIC'. The central image shows five people (four women and one man) standing in front of a stone wall. The man on the right is holding a ukulele. At the bottom of the poster, on a dark green background, is the text '2nd June 2023, 7.30pm The Black Box, Belfast'. To the right of this text are three logos: 'CELTIC PILGRIMS CIC', 'THE NATIONAL LOTTERY', and 'arts council of Northern Ireland'.

and pilgrimages we will join together in song, listen to beautiful music that moves and inspires, and learn from one another.

What about Celtic Psalms?

Celtic Psalms (Kiran Young Wimberly & The

McGraths) will continue to perform, record and make music together, and Celtic Pilgrims will bring that music—and other music in the same genre blending sacred and traditional styles—into communities with the purpose of connecting across divides, forging relationships, finding common ground, and promoting social healing and wellbeing.

‘We look forward to collaborating with choirs, bands, singers, community groups, and churches as we build bridges through music. We’re excited about what we will create together, the music we will share, and the journeys

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we will
walk
alongside
others in
the
coming
decades.
We hope
you'll join
us...'

Celtic
Pilgrims
will be
officially
launched
as a part
of our 10
Year
Celtic
Psalms



Anniversary Concert at the Black Box on Friday, 2nd June.
Join us in person if you can! And if you're far away, you can
make a donation to Celtic Pilgrims to receive a live stream
link to the event. It would mean a lot to have you with us.

<https://ticketbud.com/events/bde7676a-e9cd-11ed-aea5-42010a717022>

This event has been sponsored by the Arts Council of
Northern Ireland and the National Lottery.

Poem for today

High Flight by John Gillespie Magee

Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of earth,
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds, --and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of --Wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air...
Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace
Where never lark or even eagle flew --
And, while with silent lifting mind I've trod
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.

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
