



**Image of the day - Prince William in Scotland**

## **Prince William says Church found new life, purpose and energy during pandemic**

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## **The Duke of Cambridge has revealed that he found “comfort and solace in the Scottish outdoors” in wake of his mother’s death.**

Prince William, who is the Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, delivered a moving speech as it opened. He said he vividly remembered being at the Queen’s Balmoral home in 1997 when he was told of his mother Diana’s death.

“Scotland is a source of some of my happiest memories but also my saddest,” he said. “I was in Balmoral when I was told that my mother had died. Still in shock, I found sanctuary in the service at Crathie Kirk that very morning and in the dark days of grief that followed I found comfort and solace in the Scottish outdoors.

“As a result, the connection I feel to Scotland will forever run deep”.

The Duke’s position as Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland is a ceremonial appointment dating back to the 16th century which aims to maintain the relationship between state and church. He made the comments as the BBC faces serious questions following the publication of Lord Dyson’s report into the circumstances surrounding Diana, Princess of Wales’ 1995 Panorama interview.

However, the Duke said that Scotland was also a place he associated with blissful happiness.



## Prince William addressing the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland

“Alongside this painful memory is one of great joy because it was here in Scotland 20 years ago this year that I first met Catherine,” he said.

“Needless to say, the town where you meet your future wife holds a very special place in your heart.”

He reminisced about his time at the University of St Andrews in Fife, where both he and the Duchess of Cambridge studied.

“I spent four very happy and formative years studying in St Andrews, the town and the students left me alone to get on with student life, allowing me to share their freedoms – and their pubs,” he joked.

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“Scotland is incredibly important to me and will always have a special place in my heart. I’ve been coming to Scotland since I was a small boy.

“As I grew up, I saw how my grandmother relishes every minute she spends here and my father is never happier than in walking among the hills.

“My childhood was full of holidays having fun in the fresh air, swimming in lochs, family barbecues with my grandfather in command, and yes the odd midge.”

The Duke began a week-long visit to Scotland on Friday and the Duchess of Cambridge will join him on Monday for the rest of the tour.

Wearing a morning suit with the Order of the Thistle and diamond and golden jubilee medals, he was greeted by Nicola Sturgeon, Scotland’s First Minister, as he arrived at the venue yesterday. He held a private audience with her after the opening.

During proceedings, the Rev George Whyte, chaplain-in-ordinary and principal clerk of the Church of Scotland, read out a letter from the Queen.

Marking the assembly’s opening in her letter, the Queen spoke of “new bonds” that have been “forged in times of emergency” that “will serve us all well as the United Kingdom seeks to rebuild and reshape community life.”

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During the Scotland tour, the Duke spoke to first responders and their families at The Cold House in Edinburgh who had faced trauma.

He highlighted the importance of support from family. When one guest said they had not seen their in-laws for a year, he joked: “Some people are quite happy they haven’t seen their in-laws for a year.”

## **Students and young adults to be reached as part of C of E £9 million funding package for mission**

**Tens of thousands of students and young people who may never have been to church before are to be reached by the Church of England with the message of the Christian faith as part of a £9 million funding programme for mission projects across the country, it was announced last week**

Church of England parishes are to form new congregations aimed at reaching young adults and students in Leeds and Huddersfield in West Yorkshire, Blackburn in Lancashire and coastal areas of Paignton in Devon and Brighton and Hove in east Sussex.

A series of grants to help fund the projects has been awarded as part of the Church of England’s programme of Renewal and Reform.

The Church of England’s National Youth Evangelism Officer, Jimmy Dale, welcomed the investment in work with students and young people.



He said: “It is so exciting to see the church engaging with students and young people in a way that historically, we have often fallen short. Young people – the ‘Generation Z’ of 11 to 25 year olds - have faced enormous challenges as a result of the pandemic, not just socially and financially but educationally and with regards to mental health. The message of the good news of Jesus Christ offers this generation a real beacon of hope.”

A grant of £1.5 million has been awarded to the Diocese of Leeds to help expand its outreach to students with a new Sunday afternoon church based in the student area of Hyde Park in Leeds and aimed at those who have never been to church before.

[Church@HydeParkCorner](#), centred on St Augustine’s Church, will expand its reach through social media and

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activities and events for students studying at universities in the city.

In Huddersfield, 'Holy Trinity at 6' will be formed on Sunday evenings at Holy Trinity Church in the town, building on links with Huddersfield University to reach students and other young adults, the majority of whom have no previous experience of church attendance.

A grant of £3.5 million has been made to the Diocese of Blackburn to develop St Luke's Blackburn and St John's Blackpool as centres of mission and support to other churches in the diocese. St Luke's will work with young people and promote youth ministry across the diocese while St John's Church will have a strong focus on social outreach.

The Diocese of Exeter has been awarded £1.5 million for outreach work along the English Riviera area of Devon, including the new Bay Church, which will be based at St Andrew's in Paignton. There are plans for a new youth congregation and at least three more family and youth based congregations throughout Torbay.

In Chichester Diocese, a £2.5 million grant has been awarded to All Saints Hove to create a centre for mission, and to St Peter's Brighton, to develop four new church congregations. These churches will help support the work of churches across the city, through leadership development, social action and youth and children's ministry.

Funding has also been awarded for work based at St Paul's Church, Slough, supporting social outreach, training of lay ministers and intercultural work in the Oxford Diocese.

## **National church service will mark anniversary of George Floyd's killing**

**An array of senior church leaders from Britain and Ireland will call for justice at a national church service marking the first anniversary of the killing of George Floyd on 25 May 2021.**

Entitled Doing Justice: A National Service of Reflection on the Anniversary of the murder of George Floyd, the service will host senior church leaders and local Christians at the New Testament Church of God in Brixton, south London. They will remember the tragic death of Mr Floyd, as well as challenging churches and communities in Britain and Ireland to stand up for justice and against racism, ignorance and hatred.

Due to the existing COVID-19 restrictions, the socially-distanced service was recorded on 18 May 2021, but broadcast at 7pm on 25 May 2021, via YouTube and other social media platforms. BBC Radio 4 will subsequently broadcast the service at 8.10am on Sunday 30 May for its Sunday Worship programme.

The national service features contributions from the Archbishop of York – the Right Revd Stephen Cottrell, Pastor Matthew Ashimolowo from Kingsway International Christian Centre, Pastor Agu Irukwu - CTE's Pentecostal President, the Bishop of London – the Rt Revd Sarah Mullally, the Bishop of Dover – Rt Revd Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Revd Les Isaac from the Ascension Trust and Street Pastors Network, and Lynn Green from the Baptist Union of Great Britain, among others.





The service was initiated by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI). Richard Reddie, Director for Justice and Inclusion at CTBI said: ‘Last year, George Floyd’s killing and the Black Lives Matters protests that followed, showed that many were saying “enough is enough” when it comes to racism, especially the form experienced by Black people on both sides of the Atlantic. This anniversary is a timely reminder that we need to continue the work started last year, if we are really committed to ending injustice in church and society.’

The service will be complemented by the music of the awarding-winning IDMC choir, one of the leading Gospel choirs in Britain. It will also feature poetry, prayers and a symbolic action that sees local schoolchildren laying candles at the foot of a cross to remember all those who have lost their lives to intolerance. This activity will be

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followed by a minute's silence to remember them, including, of course, George Floyd.

Revd Wale Hudson-Roberts, a Justice Enabler for the Baptist Union of Great Britain and another of the organisers added: 'Despite what some may suggest, inequality and racism sadly remain detrimental factors in our society. If the Church is to speak prophetically to society on these issues, it must first get its own house in order because we still have a lot of work to do ourselves to truly become the types of organisations that are committed to doing justice.'

## **Don't make Bashir a scapegoat, says former chaplain to the Queen**

**A former chaplain to the Queen says Martin Bashir is being made a scapegoat for actions he took to secure an interview with Princess Diana.**

An independent investigation's concluded the former Religion Editor lied to persuade her to speak to him in 1995.

Rev Dr Gavin Ashenden told Premier News he believes the Princess would have given an interview to another journalist if it hadn't been Mr Bashir:

"What worries me about this is the way in which Martin Bashir has become a public scapegoat. It's often the sign that there's a form of group psychosis taking place and one person is carrying the sins of the community. Obviously, he shouldn't have done it, it was bad journalistic behaviour. But it's being treated as though on a scale of criminality it's at

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about nine out of 10. Whereas the fact is that all journalists bend the rules to get interviews."

Dr Ashenden, who resigned as honorary chaplain to the Queen in 2017, says if Martin Bashir hadn't secured the interview, it would have been somebody else:

"It appears Diana was going to give an interview anyway. She was looking to use a news outlet to continue her civil war against Charles, who had given an interview with Dimbleby. I think it's really quite important that we should not allow this civil psychological war to run down the generations, and to have the rest of us drawn in as supportive troops on one side or the other. And in particular, using someone like Martin Bashir as a scapegoat for it. Witch Hunts are always bad. And this appears to me to be taking the form of a public witch hunt. I think Martin Bashir is paying far too heavy a price for an improper initiative that he took when he got caught up in the civil wars between Charles and Diana."

Martin Bashir stepped down from his role as the BBC's Religion Editor earlier in May.

Former President of the Methodist Conference, Lord Griffiths told Premier News he was totally stunned that the corporation had employed Mr Bashir as its Religion Editor despite evidently knowing about the events of the past:

"I don't think that necessarily it throws a bad light on religion. But it will throw a bad light on the BBC for giving him a new contract when it's so egregiously broken the terms and the integrity implied by the programme that he did all those

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years ago. They had knowledge of it and he was brought back into a post at the BBC - and of all things - their religion post, it just makes it all seem even more astonishing. The collusion, the cover-up, the self-deceit, the harm that's been done to the family of Princess Diana.

"I'm knocked off my feet by it all. I'm totally committed to the BBC and this therefore, has been well beyond words, first of all, the act itself, and then the cover-up by the BBC, all of it just leaves me bewildered to be quite honest."

Lord Griffiths says the BBC will survive, although it must learn from its failings:

"The BBC is bigger than even a major scandal of this kind. In terms of public service broadcasting and the future of our media, in this country, the BBC is an essential part of it. I don't think this invalidates the role of the BBC. But it's a pretty grave shock to their system."

## **Do not return to the status quo after welcome ceasefire, Christian Aid urges**

**Responding to the ceasefire between Israel and the Palestinians announced last week, William Bell, Christian Aid's head of Middle East, said:**

"We welcome the ceasefire and hope and pray that all parties abide by it. One life lost is too many. But now it is imperative that the international community afford all help necessary to support the immediate humanitarian needs of the Palestinians in Gaza and begin the long process of

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reconstruction. The best way to begin this process would be to lift the blockade on Gaza which for too long has stifled life for 2 million people. And there must be clear political will to address the underlying causes of why the cycle of violence repeats itself so often. There can be no going back to the status quo ante, in the effort to build a lasting peace based on justice, dignity and equality for all.”

See also

<https://southwark.anglican.org/news-events/news/latest-news/anglican-bishop-and-catholic-bishop-call-on-government-to-take-rights-based-approach-to-peace-making-in-israel-palestine-conflict/?utm>

## **Tribute - The Right Reverend Patrick O'Donoghue**

### **Catholic Bishop who warmly welcomed immigrants and faced the Church's problems head-on**

The Right Reverend Patrick O'Donoghue, the former Roman Catholic Bishop of Lancaster, who has died aged 86, was a much-loved pastor both in London and in Lancaster; he was a strong defender of the Catholic faith who had no fears about speaking truth to power.

He was installed on July 4 2001 as the fifth Bishop of Lancaster, which covers Lancashire north of the Ribble and the whole of Cumberland. It was a post he was to occupy for eight years, but during this relatively brief time, “Pod”, as he was always known, made a major contribution to the life of the Church, both in the diocese and beyond.

He sold the vast episcopal residence and settled into more modest accommodation by the Cathedral. He also tackled the problem of diocesan debt, made a point of welcoming Indian immigrants into the diocese and was instrumental in setting up chaplaincies for Syro-Malabar Catholics. He was a tireless visitor to parishes and schools, and a rather bad driver.

Rather than shying away from looming problems, he initiated a major diocesan review entitled *Fit for Mission?* to prepare for a future with fewer priests and practising Catholics and attempting to encourage all Catholics to be more mission-focused.

In November 2007 he went further, tackling Catholic schools with *Fit for Mission? – Schools*. In this document, he took the – to him – not unreasonable position that Catholic schools should teach the Catholic faith. He directed that anti-Catholic books should be removed from school libraries, and that sex education should be part of a Catholic curriculum. Moreover, third parties should not be admitted to Catholic schools to present Catholic teaching when they themselves failed to uphold such teaching, this being a shot against several charities which were in his view Catholic in name only.

*Fit for Mission? Schools* won great praise in Catholic circles, especially from those who were dismayed by the rising tide of secularisation. The authorities in Rome held it up as a model of episcopal teaching.

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That a Catholic bishop should want to teach the Catholic faith horrified the National Secular Society, predictably, but also led the MP for Huddersfield, Barry Sheerman, to tell *The Guardian*: “It seems to me that faith education works all right as long as people are not that serious about their faith. But as soon as there is a more doctrinaire attitude questions have to be asked.” Bishop O’Donoghue was accordingly summoned before a Parliamentary education committee, where he robustly defended himself against the charge of fundamentalism.

In October 2008 O’Donoghue took up the cudgels against the adoption agency, Catholic Caring Services (CCS), which was placing children for adoption with gay couples, contrary to Church teachings, following the British government’s Sexual Orientation Regulations. “I find it unthinkable, indeed heartbreaking, that Catholic Caring Services, so linked to the Catholic Church since its inception, would abandon its position and capitulate to recent same-sex adoption legislation,” he told them.

However, the agency refused to ask for an exemption from the legislation, whereupon the Bishop took action, forbidding them to call themselves Catholic and trying to recover the properties they used and the monies they had received from the Church.

Patrick O’Donoghue was born at Mounse Abbey, Co Cork, on May 4 1934, one of five children of Daniel and Sheila O’Donoghue, who were farmers. As was customary in those days for Irishmen who wished to serve the Church as priests, he came to Britain in 1959 to train, first at Campion House, Osterley, Middlesex, then from 1961 to 1967 at the

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seminary at St Edmund's, Ware. He was ordained priest for the Westminster Archdiocese on May 25 1967.

His first three years of ministry were spent as a curate in the parish of Our Lady of Willesden, where he greatly loved being a hospital chaplain. From 1970 to 1973 he was part of the Diocesan Pastoral Mission Team, preaching and working in 27 parishes of the archdiocese. From 1973 to 1977 he was pastoral director at Allen Hall Seminary in Chelsea. From 1977-78 he was part of the team ministry at the parish of St Thomas of Canterbury, Fulham.

His next appointment was as sub-administrator of Westminster Cathedral, then rector of the seminary at Allen Hall, and administrator of the Cathedral from 1990-93. In 1993 he became an assistant bishop, and was given charge of the West London pastoral area of the archdiocese.

As a member of the bishops' conference he chaired the Bishops' Committee for Migrants from 1993. In the run-up to the 2001 general election he launched a strongly worded document, Any Room at the Inn? – Reflections on Asylum Seekers to mark the 50th anniversary of the UN Refugee Convention.

During his time in the diocese his concern for the homeless led him to help to establish The Passage, a charity in Westminster, which he considered his greatest achievement.

Bishop O'Donoghue retired as Diocesan Bishop in May 2009 and left the diocese to reside in his native Co Cork. He became a curate in the parish of Bantry, where he



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ministered with two other priests to a congregation of 2,500 people, nine schools and one hospital. In 2013 Bishop Padraig, as he was known locally, moved into Nazareth House, Mallow, a convent and nursing home, to be close to his family.

Patrick O'Donoghue was a man of rare pastoral gifts, much loved by the people with whom he worked. They valued his warmth and his humanity and often commented on his humility.

The Right Reverend Patrick O'Donoghue, born May 4 1934, died January 24 2021

## **Books, Broadcasts, Resources and Webinars**

### **New Lambeth Conference series - 'Talking about Faith and Science.'**

Archbishop Welby - "I was delighted to host a panel conversation in March as part of a new Lambeth Conference series called 'Talking about Faith and Science.' Faith and science will be a major theme at the Lambeth Conference. It is also the focus of a new Anglican Communion Science Commission that is forming. This is the first film in a series of 6.

"The films feature reflections from scientists, bishops, church members and practitioners from the Anglican Communion. They explore a series of questions in relation

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to faith and science, COVID-19, climate change and other topics.

“As we seek to be ‘God’s Church for God’s World’, may we ask what we can do to collaborate with the science community in response to human problems and work together to share the voice of faith into scientific debate.”

To find out more and join the conversation visit: <https://www.lambethconference.org/resources/talking-about-faith-and-science/>

### **Limerick at lunchtime**

On Tuesday in St Mary’s cathedral. Limerick, the third in a series of free online talks on the theme of ‘2021 Anniversaries’ will begin at 1.15pm when the architect, Maria Donoghue, will speak about the social reformer, Robert Owen, marking the 250th anniversary of his birth.

### **Archbishop Michael Jackson on Whitsunday 2021**

Archbishop Michael Jackson offers this reflection for Pentecost/Whitsunday 2021. His reflection is based on St John 15: 26–27. “When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.” [St John 16: 13] <https://www.youtube.com/c/>

**TheUnitedDiocesesofDublinandGlendalough**

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## **Dean of Saint Patrick's on Ascensiontide**

In the final reflection of this Ascensiontide series from Christ Church and St Patrick's cathedrals, the Dean of Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, the Very Revd William Morton, provides a reflection on the theme 'Our Glory is the Service of Christ' based on St John 21: 20–25. This is followed by the Choir of St Patrick's Cathedral singing the anthem 'I saw a new heaven and a new earth'.

[https://www.youtube.com/c/](https://www.youtube.com/c/TheUnitedDiocesesofDublinandGlendalough)

TheUnitedDiocesesofDublinandGlendalough

## **WCC Pentecost message 2021**

<https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/documents/pentecost-message-from-the-wcc-presidents-2021>

## **Global prayer for the Holy Land - resources**

<https://oikoumene.photoshelter.com/galleries/C0000pCXLODku2k0/Virtual-backgrounds-Thursdays-in-Black-2021>

## **Media review**

### **'Religion entered into me': A talk with Jane Goodall, winner of the 2021 Templeton Prize**

(RNS) — The celebrated primatologist is only the fourth woman to win the prize, established to honor those who use science to explore humankind's place and purpose in the universe.

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[[] <https://religionnews.com/2021/05/20/jane-goodall-celebrated-primatologist-wins-2021-templeton-prize/> ]

## **Vatican employees criticise pay cuts by Pope Francis as ‘anti-meritocratic and disincentivizing’**

(RNS) — Vatican employees complained to Pope Francis about the pay cuts he enacted at the Vatican, which is struggling financially due to mismanagement and the pandemic. Employees say it should not be up to them to foot the bill.

[[] <https://religionnews.com/2021/05/20/vatican-employees-criticize-pay-cuts-by-pope-francis-as-anti-meritocratic-and-disincentivizing/> ]

## **Sinn Féin MLAs challenge Gregory Campbell over allegations**

Irish News

The DUP MP claimed Martina Anderson and Karen Mullan were involved in “illegality in community groups” in Derry

## **Husband calls for probe into mental health care of mother cleared of murdering three children**

Irish News

Andrew McGinley said: “Whatever the outcome of this trial, it remains that our beloved children Conor, Darragh and Carla have died. As I write this, I’m no closer to understanding why”

## **Pointers for prayer**

Holy God,

you spoke the world into being.

Pour your Spirit to the ends of the earth,



that your children may return from exile  
as citizens of your commonwealth,  
and our divisions may be healed  
by your word of love and righteousness. Amen.

Empowering God,  
you gave the church  
the abiding presence of your Holy Spirit.  
Look upon your church today and hear our petitions.

... *Petitions...*

Grant that, gathered and directed by your Spirit,  
we may confess Christ as Lord and combine our diverse  
gifts with a singular passion to continue his mission in this  
world  
until we join in your eternal praise. Amen.

Creator Spirit and Giver of life,  
make the dry, bleached bones of our lives  
live and breathe and grow again  
as you did of old.  
Pour out your Spirit upon the whole creation.  
Come in rushing wind and flashing fire

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to turn the sin and sorrow within us into faith, power, and delight. Amen.

Holy Spirit,

you poured yourself out on the people of the early church, pour yourself out on us now.

Holy Spirit you set their tongues on fire with languages so as to speak to one another in ways that could be understood.

Set our tongues on fire to speak in different languages and ways so others may hear the good news about Jesus.

Jesus, you said you had to go away so that the Holy Spirit, the advocate, the counsellor would come and it was so.

Come once again Holy Spirit as the advocate that we all need, as the counsellor we all need, and as the helper we all need.

Come Holy Spirit, fan your flames of love and empowerment, set us on fire for you once again. Bring life to each of our dry bones.

Amen

## Speaking to the Soul

**On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.**

Acts 2:1-4 NLT

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Pentecost Sunday marks the birthday of the church. Jesus had asked his followers to wait for the gift of the Holy Spirit – and now he has arrived. Pentecost was a Jewish harvest festival and was held fifty days after Passover. It was one of the three annual pilgrimage festivals and so Jerusalem would have been heaving with pilgrims from all over the region.

The group of Jesus' followers was probably gathered in the upper room where they had been in the habit of meeting. One can imagine them meeting quietly and prayerfully as they had done since the time of Jesus' Ascension. But then suddenly everything changed as they were overwhelmed by the wind of the Spirit. A completely new era had just begun and it was marked by wind and fire. The violent wind filled the whole house symbolising the wind of life that the Holy Spirit brings. No one could miss the fact that something dramatic was taking place, and the tongues of fire which rested on each of them spoke of the cleansing and refining work of the Spirit.

As the Holy Spirit came upon them, they spoke in other tongues as they worshipped God together. What an incredible moment this was. Our experience of the Holy Spirit might be very different from this, but we should be encouraged that he is the same Spirit and his desire is to blow his breath of life into us today, and to refine us with his fire. One thing that the Holy Spirit never does is to leave things the way they are. He is constantly challenging, renewing and purifying us as we worship God together.

## QUESTION

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In what ways have you experienced the wind and fire of the Holy Spirit?

## PRAYER

God our Father, thank you for sending us your Holy Spirit. Help us to welcome him today, so that we may become more like Jesus. Amen

