

# Church News Ireland

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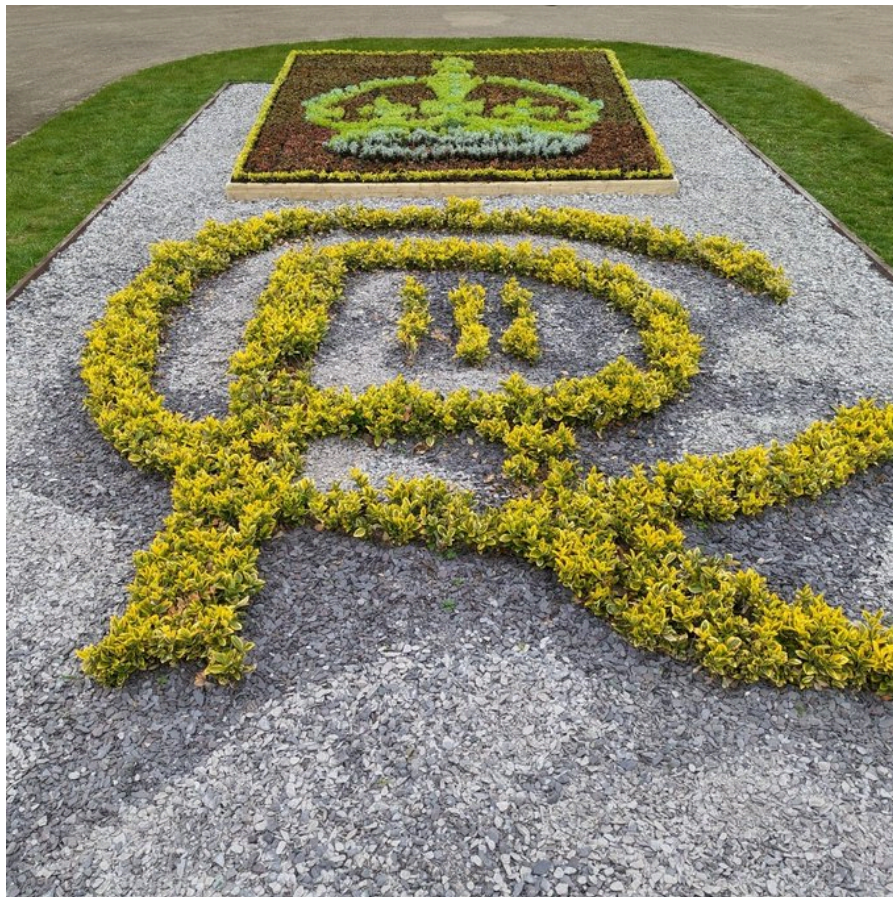


**Image of the day – A Coronation garden**

# Image of the day

## A Coronation garden

Yesterday HM King Charles III and Queen Camilla on their first visit to Northern Ireland following the Coronation, officially opened the Coronation Garden on the north side of Belfast Lough. It is an initiative undertaken by the Newtownabbey and Antrim Council.



A crown has been added to HM The King's cypher at Hillsborough Castle and Gardens - their floral tribute to celebrate the King's Coronation . The crown has been planted with tender carpet bedding plants and will be in place until the first frosts in Autumn.



# People and places



## End of year Service at Bandon Grammar School

The Bishop of Cork, Clyne and Ross, Rt Rev Dr Paul Colton with the graduating Sixth Form at the end of yesterday's end of year Service at Bandon Grammar School.

And on the next page - End of choir rehearsal at Bandon Grammar School before the end of year Service





## Ordination in Elphin

**On Pentecost Sunday, Bishop Kevin Doran of the Diocese of Elphin will ordain Deacon Christopher Garrett to the priesthood for our diocese.**

All are welcome to the Ordination Mass at 3pm in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Sligo. Please keep Deacon Chris in your prayers as he prepares for ordination.

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## **Clogher Ecumenical Service for Pentecost to take place at Inniskeen, Co. Monaghan**

**The Ecumenical Service for Pentecost Sunday in Clogher Diocese will take place this year at the former Church of Ireland church, graveyard and ancient round tower at Inniskeen near Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan.**

Both the Roman Catholic Bishop of Clogher, the Most Revd Larry Duffy and the Church of Ireland Bishop of Clogher, the Right Revd Dr. Ian Ellis, will lead the service which begins at 4pm on Sunday, 28 May.

Bishop Larry Duffy will give the address at this service. Local clergy from parishes in the Carrickmacross area; Revd Ian Cruickshank, Rector of Carrickmacross Union, Magheraclone and Ardragh and Canon Martin Treanor, P.P., Inniskeen Parish, will also be taking part.

During the service, two young people from post-primary schools in the area will be giving reflections on Pentecost. The praise will be led by local singers accompanied on the keyboard. Afterwards, refreshments will be provided in the local community centre.

Since 2000, the Roman Catholic and Church of Ireland bishops of Clogher have come together, along with members of their respective Church communities to mark together the Day of Pentecost or Pentecost Sunday, as it





## **The church and round tower at Inniskeen.**

also known. The Day of Pentecost marks the end of the fifty-day season of Easter. Moreover, it marks the descent of the Holy Spirit in the upper room and the beginning of apostolic preaching, thus marking a defining moment in the origin of the Christian Church. Christian associations with the feast begin with Acts of the Apostles 2: 1-45.

Each year, a site of historic significance in relation to the origins of the Christian church in different parts of the diocese is chosen to host this ecumenical service.

This year's outdoor service takes place at the monastic site at Inniskeen where St. Daigh lived towards the end of the 6th Century. According to tradition he was born in Kiennacta Breagh, near Duleek in the east of the kingdom of Meath and was a brother of St Felim, later to be Bishop of Kilmore.

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Daigh was styled a bishop of the Irish monastic tradition, referred to in the Martyrology of Donegal as 'Bishop of Inis-Caoin-Degha in Conaille Muirtheimhne'. The 16th century collection of documents known as the Register of Clogher, lists him among the early successors of St Macartan. He was baptised by St Molaise (also known as Laserian) at the Augustinian priory of canons regular at Devenish on Lough Erne in Fermanagh and educated there as well as at Bangor. Pádraig Ríain tells us that 'Mochta, patron of the Augustinian priory of Louth, one of the richest of its kind, is shown in an extensive introductory section [of the life of Daigh] to have recognised Daigh's future sanctity and to have foretold the affiliation of Iniskeen to Clonmacnoise.' This life of Daigh was probably written at Clonmacnoise in the mid-to-late twelfth century. It was at Clonmacnoise that he was probably ordained to the priesthood before coming to the banks of the Fane to found, with the blessing of St Columba, the monastic settlement of Inis Caoin Deagha sometime around 562. Daigh was a noted craftsman and is reputed to have fashioned numerous bells, shrines, reliquaries, crosses and covers for the Book of the Gospels.

St Daigh would also have travelled to different parts of Ireland, notably through north Connacht and other parts of Ulster, and his name is associated with a variety of church communities in the martyrologies of saints.

St Daigh's date of death is listed as either the 16 or 18 August 588.

The monastery at Iniskeen was burned in 789, plundered by the Vikings in 948 and burned again in 1166, just before the Norman invasion of Ireland, which would lead to much

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change. With the passage of time, the monks were replaced by secular clergy.

Today, all that is left of the monastic foundation is the Church of Ireland church (closed in 1970), which contains remnants of the earlier foundation, and the bottom part of the round tower. For many years afterwards, Inniskeen parish was (and still is, officially) known as the Parish of Inis-Caoin-Deagha.

**Directions:** From Carrickmacross (on the N2) take the R178 (Dundalk) road. At Essexford take the L4620 to Inniskeen village. The church and round tower are just to the left off the centre of the village. It's about 15 minutes (17kms) from the N2 at Carrickmacross to Inniskeen.

## **Methodist ecumenical presence in Rome**

Rev Matthew Laferty, Director of the Methodist Ecumenical Office in Rome, welcomed H.E. Annemieke Ruigrok Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Holy See, to discuss a wide range of issues including MEOR's work and Methodist-Catholic dialogue.

## **Bishop of Cork's new Domestic Chaplain**

The Right Reverend Dr Paul Colton, Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, has announced that he has appointed the Reverend Meghan Farr, Priest-in-Charge of Saint Anne's Church, Shandon to serve also in the honorary role of one of his domestic chaplains. Meghan will serve alongside the





## Reverend Meghan Farr

other domestic chaplain who is the Reverend Anne Skuse.

Domestic chaplains assist the bishop liturgically and in practical ways on major public occasions and during Church Services in the Diocese.

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## News reports

### Female Minister "humbled and excited" to be elected Moderator of the General Assembly

**The head of a Christian charity which fights global poverty has been elected the next Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.**

Rt Rev Sally Foster-Fulton, who has led Christian Aid in Scotland since 2016, will serve as the Kirk's ambassador at home and abroad for the next 12 months.

The 59-year-old said she is "beyond humbled, inexpressibly honoured and more than a wee bit excited" to represent the Church in this role.

Mrs Foster-Fulton is looking forward to meeting and encouraging people involved in church work at local, national and international levels at a time of unprecedented challenge and opportunity.

She was passed the official ring and chain of office by the outgoing Moderator, Very Rev Dr Iain Greenshields.



## Extraordinary times

Mrs Foster-Fulton said: "I am beyond humbled, inexpressibly honoured and more than a wee bit excited to be your Moderator.

"Thank you for your trust, your prayers and the commitment you share to be part of the body of Christ in this place."

Mrs Foster-Fulton told the General Assembly that she has gone a "bit rogue" with her choice of official Moderator clothing but said there is a reason.

Mrs Foster-Fulton's jacket was made by Stewart Christie & Co, bespoke specialist tailors in Edinburgh.

It is based on the traditional moderatorial jacket but has been developed into a female cut.

It is made of an 18oz piper green barathea, a type of weave of cloth.

"It has felt like an extraordinary time in the life of the planet, the life of the country and the life of the Church of Scotland," said the Moderator.

"Green is the liturgical colour for 'ordinary time' and it reminds us, throughout history, the world, the country, the Church, have experienced extraordinary challenges," she added.

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"And it has been the grit, the determination and the hopeful imagination of individuals and communities who have risen together to those challenges.

"Ordinary time is extraordinary and we know what is at stake – all we need to do is look around us.

"There is a South African phrase 'Ubuntu' – best translated 'I am because you are'.

"The body of Christ has work to do - love to share, justice and equity to seek.

"When I look at you wonderful people, I see an audacious hope.

"So General Assembly, right reverend, let's roll up our sleeves and bring it."

## **Hefty challenges**

Born and raised in South Carolina in the USA, Mrs Foster-Fulton is married to Rev Stuart Fulton, a fellow Church of Scotland minister who serves the parish of Newlands South Church in Glasgow.

The couple, who live in Glasgow, have two adult daughters, Alex and Gracie.

The new Moderator has experience working in parishes, hospital chaplaincy and was convener of the former Church and Society Council of the Church of Scotland from 2012-16.



Ordained as a Church of Scotland minister in 1999, Mrs Foster-Fulton's first charge was Camelon Irving Parish Church in Falkirk where she spent four years.

The married couple took up the role of co-pastors for the PCUSA congregation in Seneca, South Carolina, and stayed for four years before returning to Scotland, the place that the Moderator Designate considers home.

In 2007, Mrs Foster-Fulton was appointed associate minister at Dunblane Cathedral where she served for 10 years before taking up her current role at Christian Aid.

She recently became a grandmother and she said her new role has "shifted her perspective and given new meaning" to her commitment to try and make the world a better place.

"There are hefty challenges facing the Church of Scotland, there are monumental challenges facing the world and the church is not exempt," added the Moderator.

"Across our global neighbourhood, we face a triple threat, ones that feed on each other – climate change, conflict and COVID.

"Together, they add pressure on well-being, a sense of home and culture, on finances and resources – and sadly unsurprising, it is the most vulnerable who suffer most.

"Being a living, breathing, reforming and loving body of Christ in this place continues to be the mission and ministry of the Church of Scotland."



Right Rev Sally Foster-Fulton with Rev Jean Montgomerie.

## **Moderator pays tribute "from the heart" to longest serving female minister**

**The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland has paid tribute "from the heart" to the longest serving female minister, Rev Jean Montgomerie, stating "we stand on the shoulders of giants".**

On 11 January, 1973 Ms Montgomerie was one of the first women to be ordained as a minister of Word and Sacrament within the Church, and was also the first to convene a committee of the General Assembly.

"Jean also told me whilst we were having coffee that the General Assembly passed the act allowing women to be



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candidates for ministry on Wednesday and her application was mailed on Sunday," Mrs Foster-Fulton added.

Addressing commissioners Mrs Foster-Fulton praised Ms Montgomerie as a trailblazer, saying: "Thank you for hearing that call and saying 'I hear you' and it is for me, and being brave enough."

"Thank you from the General Assembly, thank you from both the charges that you so wonderfully led, Kelman Memorial in Peterculter and Forfar St Margaret's Thank you for convening the board of ministry. Thank you for serving this church so beautifully, and you continue to do it. So thank you."

Reflecting on her 50 years in ministry, Ms Montgomerie said: "It's been absolutely amazing to get this far.

"I believe the church has given me a lot of support during that time. There has obviously been lots of ups and downs but by in large it's been a good journey.

"The highs have been preaching and pastoral work. Now I'm retired I still enjoy preaching, although it takes a lot out of me."

Paying tribute to Ms Montgomerie earlier this year on the anniversary of her ordination, Rev Shuna Dicks said: "It is on behalf of the women that followed in your footsteps that I add my gratitude for showing that women could and should lead in the Church of Scotland.

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"Please never forget the role you have played through your example in encouraging many more of us to follow our calling."

## In the media

### **Bishops will continue to speak out on government's immigration policy, says Welby**

**The Archbishop of Canterbury has defended his outspoken criticism of the government's Illegal Migration Bill.**

Archbishop Justin Welby and bishops sitting in the House of Lords have strongly criticised the Bill, which proposes sending failed asylum seekers to countries like Rwanda.

Writing in *The Times*, the Archbishop said that bishops would continue to speak up.

"Those who sit on the bishops' bench will not abandon our duty to point out when governments propose legislation that is impractical or immoral," he said.

"We will not abandon the most vulnerable people that Jesus Christ specifically calls us to love. And we will not abandon our hopes and efforts for a nation and a world that helps those in trouble and supports those in need."



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The Archbishop agreed that "we must stop the boats" that are making illegal crossings across the English Channel and said that there should be "limits" on the number of migrants accepted into the country.

However, he argued that the Bill in its current form "will do little to resolve the existing problems, and will exacerbate others, all while causing serious suffering to the most vulnerable".

Welby said that anyone attempting to cast opponents of the Bill as "indifferent" to the reality of the challenges "is not engaging with this debate in good faith".

The Archbishop called on the government to speed up processing of asylum seeker applications, and provide more safe routes for people to come to the UK as a means to "undercut" the people smugglers.

He has tabled two amendments to the Bill which he describes as "helpful, not destructive".

"The crisis is global, vast and long term. No nation can offer simple, quick fixes on its own," the Archbishop wrote.

"Successive governments have implemented deterrence policies to prevent asylum seekers arriving. They face indefinite detention in grim conditions, at constant risk of severe destitution, and now face the prospect of being sent to Rwanda. And yet Channel crossings are set to see record numbers this year."

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He continued, "No solution can stop Channel crossings entirely. But these alternatives are more likely to alleviate the situation without compromising the UK's approach to international law or neglecting the victims of slavery, and while maintaining the commitment to dignity and hospitality that defines our country at its best."

## Perspective

### World Communications Day 2023 – Archbishop Eamon Martin

*On 21 May, Ascension Sunday, World Day of Social Communications is celebrated by the universal Catholic Church. For his 2023 theme, Pope Francis has entitled his message Speak from the heart. According to truth in love (Eph 4:15).*

**Archbishop Eamon Martin writes - This year I am pleased to be marking World Communications Day here in Lourdes, where I am on pilgrimage with the Diocese of Dromore.**

There's an old saying, "sticks and stones may break my bones but words can never hurt me" ... but i think that this is far from the truth. I think we all know nowadays that what we say – and how we say it – can cause immense damage. Whether it is at home, in the workplace, on social media, or in person, the comments we make about others can either build up, or destroy.

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That is why Pope Francis, in his message for World Communications Day this year, is challenging us to always speak the truth with love.



Archbishop Eamon Martin - I had the honour of carrying the monstrance at the Blessed Sacrament procession at Lourdes with Emer carrying the banner for Dromore Diocese. Very humbling to witness the gaze of reverence and faith in the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist



Out here in Lourdes, people from all over the world are united in love and concern for the sick and the vulnerable – and the pilgrims here share a common language of prayer and praise.

But we are all very conscious that the world can be a cruel place at times and that the language we use is sometimes insensitive and destructive.

Social media, for example, can create a toxic and hurtful environment with many comments and postings about others that are downright mean and judgmental. It is worth thinking this week about our own use of online platforms: our likes, our retweets, the opinions we share, including the images or gifs that pretend to be funny. Apart from the times when information can be widely shared which is blatantly false and defamatory, there are so many other comments about people's looks, or failings, mistakes or faults that lack any kind of mercy or understanding of human weakness and frailty.

Pope Francis is inviting us to consider looking into our hearts and asking ourselves, what's going on in there? What kind of darkness or noise is there which would lead us to be so lacking in empathy or mercy?

He reminds us of a phrase from one of the psalms which says 'guard your tongue from evil'.

I suppose the keyboard version of that might be, 'guard your thumbs from evil!'

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If we could all do that this week the world would be a more loving, caring, charitable and peaceful place.

God bless you from here in Lourdes.

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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# Church News Ireland

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