

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Remembering Ukraine

People and places

St. Nicholas (the Green church) to host open day

St Nicholas' Church of Ireland, Dundalk (The Green Church) are hosting an open day this, Saturday, May 28th 2022, Olivia Ryan writes in The Argus.

The event will also mark the launch of a new website www.dundalkchurchyard.ie/church

Most Dundalk people will be familiar with the Green Church, recently made to look even more splendid with the development of the “St. Nicholas Quarter” by Louth County Council.

However, most people may not have yet seen behind the front gates of this picturesque building.

The history of the church begins with the wall and railings which have been in place since 1886! The Church open day will provide an opportunity for all to explore this wonderfully historic church and hear some of the colourful stories of those who lie beneath the headstones which date from the mid-1700s to the late 19th century.

With the assistance of Peace IV funding, St Nicholas' Select Vestry has recently developed a new website

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www.dundalkchurchyard.ie/church which will be officially launched on the day.

This website provides interesting local history together with photographs and detailed records for those seeking historic and ancestry information at home and overseas.

The open day will be held from 10am to 4pm, and will also feature a talk at 2.30pm, which will cover many aspects of the historic graveyard and memorial plaques.
Courtesy Irish Independent News.

Church and Queen - Double celebration in Macosquin



The parishioners of Camus-Juxta-Bann enjoyed a memorable day, last weekend, at the Macosquin 400 Jubilee Fete.

The festivities were a double celebration of 400 years of St. Mary's Church and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The festivities took place in the rectory garden, beside St Mary's

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Church.
Many thanks
to all those
who helped
organise the
fête and to
the hundreds
of people
who came
along,
including the
Lord
Lieutenant
for County
Londonderry,
Mrs Alison
Millar.

More photos
at

<https://>



www.derryandrathoe.org/double-cause-for-celebration-in-macosquin/?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=facebook

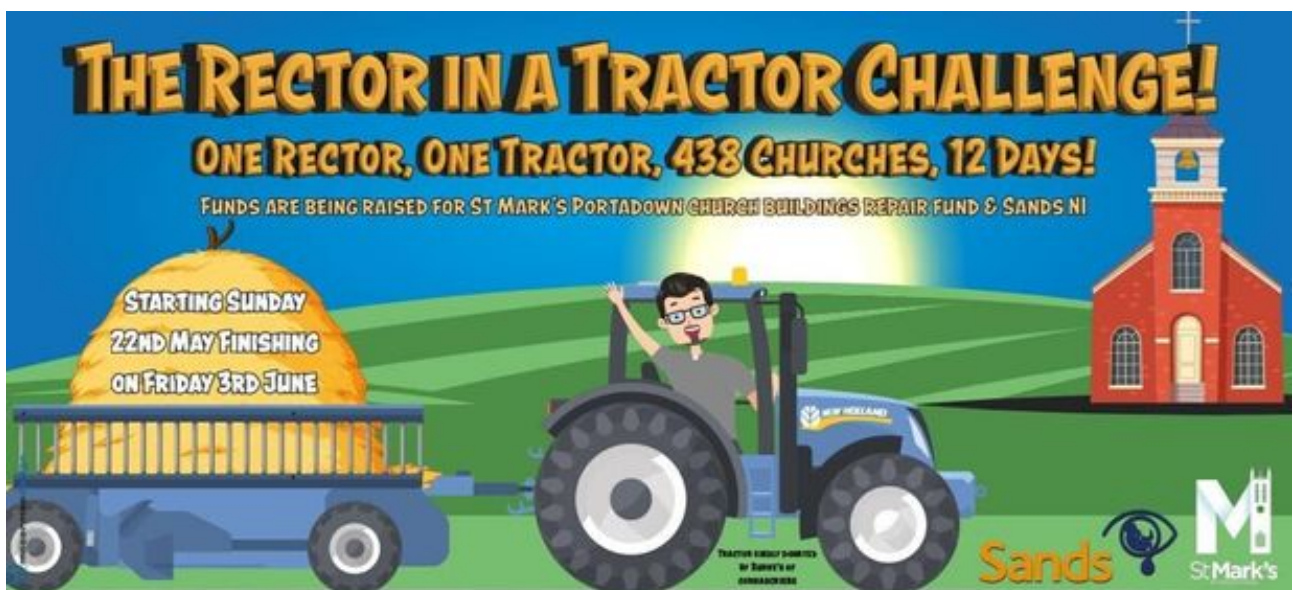
Down and Dromore Select Vestries meet

The fifth and final evening for Area Deaneries in Down and Dromore diocese was hosted by Magheralin Parish on Monday 23 May when Bishop David McClay addressed Select Vestries from the Iveagh and Clanbrassil Area Deaneries. Magheralin provided appreciated hospitality.



Support for Tractor Rector

On Monday the Parishes of Clabby and Tempo welcomed the Rev'd William Orr, Rector of St.Marks Portadown on his fundraising Rector in a Tractor Challenge for St Marks



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Church and SANDS NI. They wished Rev'd William Orr safe travelling for the rest of his journey.

Affirmation of local preachers

“Hopefully the role of the local preacher will no longer be seen as an additional ministry but integral to life and ministry of the church.”

Laura Griffiths has recently written an article featured in the Methodist Newsletter, titled ‘Called to preach’, looking ahead to a ‘celebration and affirmation of local preachers’ in September.

Read here:

<https://bit.ly/3MyzCJL>

90th anniversary of the Church's Ministry of Healing in Ireland

This year is the 90th anniversary of the start of the CMH in Ireland.

CMHI's Annual Thanksgiving Service & Gift Day was held for the first time in three years on Saturday past in the Church of St. John the Baptist, Clontarf.

The preacher was be the Archbishop of Dublin and Canon Lesley Robinson, Rector of Clontarf and the Chair of CMHI, was the celebrant. During the service those involved in



healer prayer renewed their commitment to the ministry of healing.

In his sermon the Archbishop remembered those who on “countless dark evenings and in countless small corners have prayed for the sick and for those who have asked for prayers for their healing. Only they know the distresses to which they are inviting God to respond”.

He said that those involved in healing ministry had instinctively widened their prayer to pray for the needs of the world and its peoples, in the spirit of wholeness and healing together. He asked: “Who would not wish to offer the embrace of God to the peoples of Ukraine and of Russia today and to all other peoples remembered and forgotten in similar plight the world over?”

Referring to St John 20, the Archbishop said the text spoke of two types of healing. One involved no touch, Mary of Magdala; one involved close touch and the invitation to dig deep more than once, Thomas the Twin.

“Both at the same time and in the same spiritual movement involve The Risen Lord, and that is the point; and that is why it is good to hold this service of thanksgiving in The Season of Easter. This is our point of connection. This is our focus of hope. This is our real presence of Christ Jesus the Healer risen and among us. Healing, in our context of embodied faith, always involves the holding together of the body of Christ and the body of humanity, Passion and Resurrection, Creator and creation,” the Archbishop explained.

He continued: “Jesus asks Mary to refrain from touching him; he is still in an in-between state and needs to be left to ascend. Jesus asks Thomas to touch him and to plunge his finger into the hole made by the soldier’s spear in his side, to look at his hands and to make a very particular connection of faith in the physical. We have no option but to go with the scriptural flow of contradiction.

Spiritual healing involves both not-touching and touching. Both of these very vivid pictures in tandem take us to the heart of healing: what it is to be transformed, each of us differently, by meeting The Risen Lord Jesus who carries beyond the grave his experiences of our life and gives back again to us those experiences for our experiencing transfigured by Passion and Resurrection.

In so doing, he transforms and heals our on-going life.”

With the advances in medical science, Archbishop Jackson said that we need to face the active relationship between

the spiritual and the medical adding that healing relates to both. He suggested that many things we describe as miracles are carried out by medical personnel and by the advances in medical science.

“And such insights and appreciations are essential for our generation to speak out boldly in commending The Ministry of Healing with all of its integrity, all of its rich history and all of its human and divine hopefulness – and to make and to hold the connections between both with confidence and without embarrassment,”

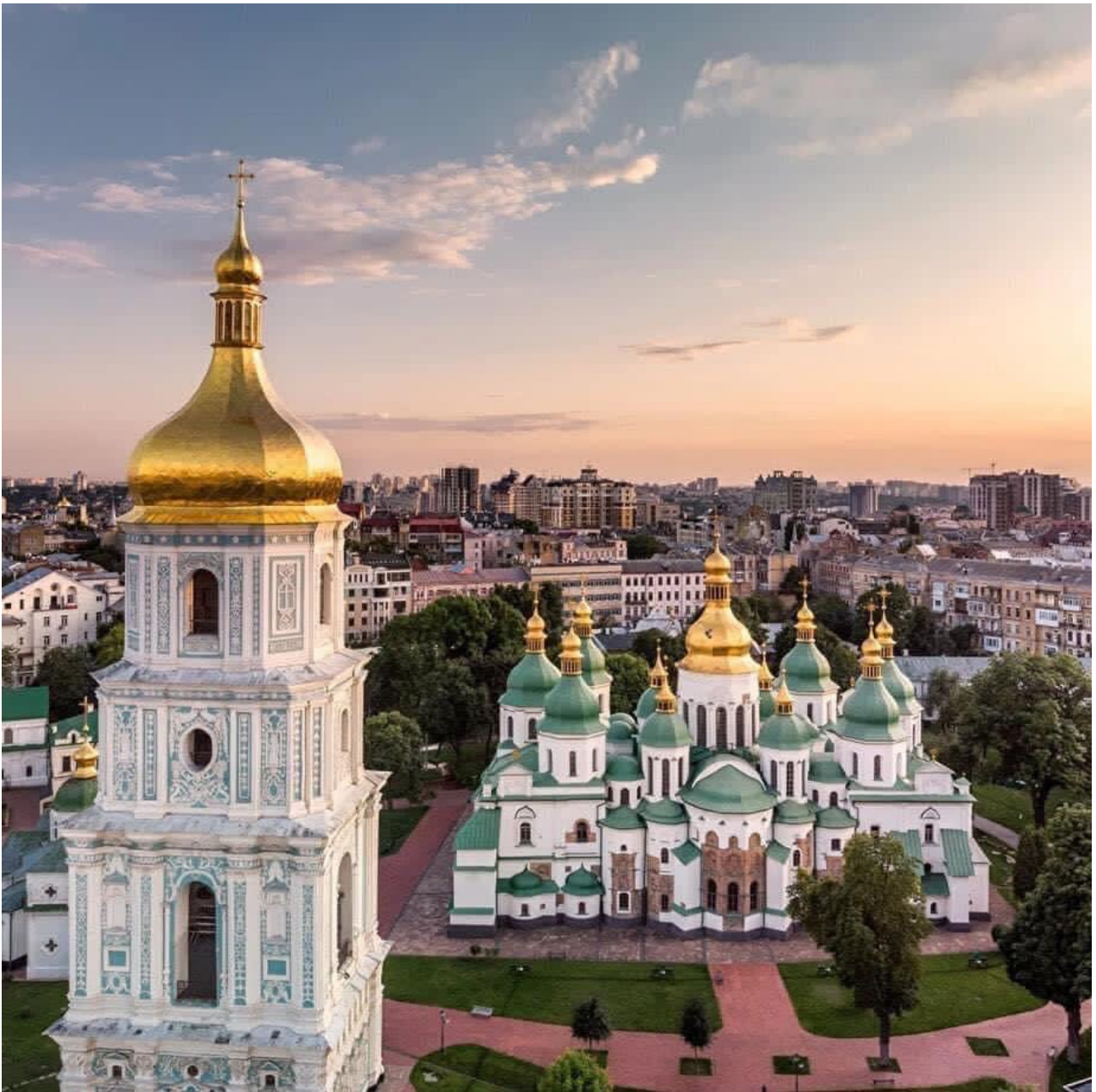
he said. God inhabits the totality of who we are and what we do, he stated, and there is no need to collude with any stand off between religion and science when it came to healing.

News reports

Church in Wales urges World Council of Churches to distance itself from Russian Orthodox Church over Ukraine

The Church in Wales has called on the World Council of Churches (WCC) to distance itself from any members which have shown support for Russia’s “unprovoked war of aggression” in Ukraine, namely the Russian Orthodox Church.

An emergency motion passed unanimously last month at the Church in Wales’ Governing Body in Newport last week urged the WCC to stand with the oppressed and work for



peace, and to take “clear and appropriate action” against any member which supported the war.

The Russian Orthodox Church is closely connected to the Russian government. Its head, Patriarch Kirill, is a close ally of President Vladimir Putin, and has given his blessing to the Russian military action.

The Bishop of Asaph, Gregory Cameron, a former Deputy Secretary General of the Anglican Communion, proposed

the motion to the Governing Body. He told the meeting that there were few members of the church who were not “horrificed” by the attacks on Ukrainians. He welcomed the WCC’s condemnation of the war and its voicing of support for the head of the Russian Orthodox Church in Ukraine, a critic of the war.

“What has been disappointing has been the response of the Patriarch of Moscow himself, who has sided with President Putin, and who has become increasingly vociferous in toeing the official line,” Bishop Gregory said.

“The Church in Wales’ view is that the war in Ukraine is an unprovoked war of aggression and we are asking the WCC to take appropriate action. We are asking Christians globally to take the stand for peace and to pray for repentance and reconciliation.”

The motion stopped short of calling for the ousting of the Russian Orthodox Church from the WCC, a move the former Archbishop of Canterbury Lord Rowan Williams has said may be appropriate.

The Anglican Communion’s Director of Unity, Faith and Order, Dr Will Adam, said: “the relationship between Anglicans and the Russian Orthodox Church goes back centuries. There have been periods where this relationship has been warm and others where it has been cooler. The Archbishop of Canterbury has a personal representative to the Patriarch of Moscow, Canon Malcolm Rogers, who is also the Chaplain of the Church of England’s church of St Andrew, Moscow. Through this, and through personal links,

Anglicans maintain contact with the Russian church even when times are hard.”

The WCC is a fellowship of churches, denominations and fellowships from 120 countries, working towards global Christian unity. It represents about 580 million Christians around the world. The Central Committee of the WCC will next meet in June.

In the media

Church in insurance compensation talks over millions of lost pandemic income

Church closures ‘had a very detrimental effect on income and collections’ writes Patsy McGarry in The Irish Times

Dublin’s Catholic Archdiocese is in discussion with its insurer, Allianz Ireland, over compensation for loss of income during the pandemic, when many of its parish churches had to close.

Informed sources have estimated that amounts involved could come to millions of euro.

A spokesman for the archdiocese said that “long periods of church closures throughout 2020 and 2021 had a very detrimental effect on income and collections. The impact of this was not fully offset by cost savings and policy cover was in place at the time in the event of a global pandemic. A

claim in this regard is currently being discussed with the insurers but it has not been completed.”

Collections at Mass

Last June, Archbishop of Dublin Dermot Farrell said finances in the archdiocese had been “severely impacted” by the pandemic with the drop in income from the usual two collections at Sunday Masses down by “80 per cent and 86 per cent respectively for the first quarter (January to March 2021)”.

The collections at Sunday Masses support priests in the archdiocese, with the second “Share” collection set up to help disadvantaged parishes.

“In the last financial year, the clergy collection decreased by 54 per cent and the Share collection decreased by 65 per cent. This year the situation is even more grave,” Archbishop Farrell said last June.

Redundancy scheme

In 2020, during the first year of the pandemic, the personal income of Dublin’s priests was reduced by 25 per cent due to a collapse in collections. A voluntary redundancy scheme, extending to all staff members in the diocesan support services and to parish pastoral workers, was also introduced.

During 2020 in other Catholic dioceses across the island, pay for both lay and clerical staff was also reduced

significantly. A number of lay redundancies were imposed. The financial difficulties continued into 2021.

[<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/church-in-insurance-compensation-talks-over-millions-of-lost-pandemic-income-1.4886374>]

Northern Ireland Abortion: No assurances that UN sex education won't be imposed on Catholic schools by Brandon Lewis

Philip Bradfield in The Newsletter writes - Despite the fact that the Catholic church has just unveiled its own schools sex education curriculum, the Secretary of State has affirmed that he intends to roll out his own UN-approved programme across NI - with a strong emphasis on teaching abortion.

But UUP councillor and former GP Dr John Kyle has warned that the content of such any standardised Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) curriculum remains a matter of debate and that consensus will be difficult to achieve.

He was speaking after the Alliance Party critiqued a new (RSE) curriculum launched by Catholic Bishop Donal McKeown for the church's primary schools across NI.

'Flourish' includes topics like conception, bullying, same-sex attraction and puberty, although contraception is not included as the Catholic Schools' Trustee Service said that the resource was designed to encourage "age appropriate" conversations.

However the Alliance Party was not satisfied with the resources and called for a standardised curriculum across NI. At present individual schools have great autonomy when deciding what to teach, however a standardised UN-approved curriculum was legislated for by Secretary of State Brandon Lewis as part of NI abortion legislation last year.

Alliance MLA Nuala McAllister said the church's new curriculum highlights the pressing need for standardised RSE across NI. "A number of topics were previously absent from RSE in Catholic primary schools, so steps being taken to address that is welcome," she said. "However, it once again highlights the need to ensure such teaching is standardised and evidence-based across Northern Ireland."

The News Letter asked the Northern Ireland Office if the new Catholic curriculum would in any way hinder Mr Lewis from imposing his own UN-approved RSE curriculum on Catholic schools? The NIO did not appear to directly answer the question, but instead affirmed that he has announced instructions to ensure abortion services are commissioned across NI. However it is understood that Mr Lewis holds that he is under "a clear legal duty" from his own abortion legislation to ensure that the recommendations from the 2018 Report of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women are implemented in full.

These recommendations include, making age-appropriate education on sexual and reproductive health and rights a "compulsory curriculum" component for adolescents, covering "early pregnancy prevention and access to abortion".

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But Dr Kyle warned that although RSE is an increasingly important part of the curriculum “the content and age appropriateness of the programme remains a matter of debate and discussion, and on some elements I think consensus will be difficult to achieve”.

[\[https://app.newsletter.co.uk/full\ page\ image/ page-10-1327/content.html\]](https://app.newsletter.co.uk/full\ page\ image/ page-10-1327/content.html)

Up to 25,000 loyal order members expected at centennial parade through Belfast city centre

Irish News

Orange Order grand secretary Rev Mervyn Gibson said: “This will be easily be twice the size of the annual Twelfth parade in the city, so we are encouraging people to come early and pick their spot because it will be difficult to get parked”

Campaigners cautious as British government poised to table Irish language legislation this week

Irish News

The long-awaited bill comes after thousands marched in Belfast on Saturday in support of the Irish language legislation first promised by the British government a decade-and-a-half ago

Faiths in holy alliance for promised land in Fingal

The Times

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A shortage of land has led to religious harmony in Dublin 15 with four different faith groups coming together to seek permission for a joint campus in Powerstown, close to the suburb of Tyrrelstown.

The four religious groups — one Hindu, one Muslim, one Indian Catholic and another interdenominational Pentecostal church — have agreed in principle to purchase between 10 and 15 acres from Glenveagh, one of Ireland's largest homebuilders, if the land is rezoned in the forthcoming Fingal county development plan.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Laudato Si' film and Webinar

Irish bishop on climate change: 'We cannot afford to be slow learners'

Laudato Si' Week has begun, marking the seventh anniversary of the publication of the bestselling and accessible encyclical letter by Pope Francis addressing everyone's responsibility to care for our common home. Ahead of the Week, Bishop Martin Hayes highlighted that Laudato Si' remains central to the universal Church's blueprint for climate action.

Bishop Hayes said: "The valuable guidance offered to society by Laudato Si' is once again evidenced by the

report, in April, of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which shows that global greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise. It is past the time to call on others to begin to limit use of fossil fuels, we now need to make rapid transformation to avoid the worst effects of climate impact.

"This reality was to the fore during discussions at the COP26 climate conference in Glasgow which I attended last November. For the sake of our future generations we cannot afford to be slow learners on the vital issue of sustaining creation. But we can act now. For example, changes in lifestyle and behaviours can have a significant role on mitigating climate change, particularly by limiting global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius through carbon removal. If we wish to limit warming to below two degrees Celsius, then climate finance for mitigation must be provided at a level of three to six times higher* by the year 2030."*

Bishop Hayes continued: "As people of faith we are called to be custodians of God's creation, 'this is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience' (Laudato Si, 217). On this the seventh anniversary of its publication, I strongly encourage all people to read Laudato Si' and inform themselves of their faith-based ecological obligation.

"At parish level, I urge the faithful to reflect on the message of Laudato Si and to form eco-awareness groups to help the Church apply its content in practice. For those who wish to pursue a deeper understanding of Laudato Si', I encourage you to sign up to the Laudato Si' Action Platform on <https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/> and I invite all to register for the

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webinar on the Laudato Si' film-documentary The Invitation, which will be broadcast on 27 May at 1.00pm," Bishop Hayes concluded.

Bishop Martin Hayes is Bishop of Kilmore and the coordinating bishop for Laudato Si'.

Trócaire is partnering with the Laudato Si' Movement in order to bring The Invitation to Ireland. There will be local screenings in parish communities, churches, schools community centres, universities, and retreat centres.

As part of Laudato Si' Week activities, footage from the film will be shown to the general public for the first time during a webinar hosted by the Laudato Si' Movement. The event will not be recorded and clips won't be shared afterwards, so this is a great opportunity for an inside look at the film. The webinar will take place at 1pm Irish time on 27 May 2022, and you can register on <https://laudatosiweek.org/event/laudato-si-movie-presentation/>

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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