

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Belfast Marathon winner

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Image of the day



Belfast Marathon winner - Queen's University academic and author, Gladys Ganiel, came first in the women's race at

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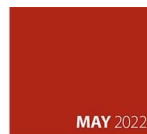
Sunday's Belfast City Marathon. Front page photo with her son Ronan

People and places

Church involvement in Belfast Marathon

As well as QUB academic and author, Gladys Ganiel, coming first in the women's race at Sunday's Belfast City Marathon, former Catholic Chaplaincy Pastoral Manager, Conor Gallagher, came second in the men's race. And several churches on the route of the marathon provided and staffed refreshment stalls for the participants. "Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us" (Heb 12:1)

Presbyterian
Herald



Special focus on Education in May edition of Presbyterian Herald

This month's edition is dedicated to the theme of education including articles that reflect a variety of voices on the current challenges, concerns and opportunities within the sector. Read the editorial

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from Sarah Harding here: bit.ly/36MDIya



Licensing and Ordination in Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church

On Sunday at a special service Lynda Kane was licensed for ministry and Alan Kirk was ordained as an Elder of All Souls Church. Both Lynda and Alan were tremendously

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touched by the kind words of support and thank everyone who helped make the day so special.

Seagoe appoints an Associate Minister



On Sunday the Reverend Terence Cadden(Rector of Seageoe, Portadown) announcet the appointment of the Reverend Stuart Moles as Associate Minister of Seagoe.

Stuart has been Curate-Assistant of Seagoe for over 4 years, and during that time has proved himself to be a very gifted, dedicated and enthusiastic team member.

Stuart's new appointment is for a two year period during which time he will focus more on the encouragement of youth ministry and on the further development of the Parish's pastoral care.

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(photograph Rev Stuart Moles (Associate Minister) and Rev. Canon Terence Cadden (Rector of Seagoe).

Papal Nuncio to Ireland is being transferred to Prague



Pope Francis has named Papal Nuncio to Ireland Archbishop Jude Thaddeus Okolo as the new Papal Nuncio to the Czech Republic ending his six-year term of office in Ireland.

The announcement was confirmed by the Vatican, on the day Archbishop Jude Thaddeus Okolo was in Galway Cathedral for the installation of the new Bishop of Galway Michael Duignan.

Retiring Bishop of Galway Brendan Kelly paid tribute to him at this afternoon's Mass in Galway Cathedral, and thanked him for his service in Ireland since 2017.

Poignant Week of Centenaries in Cork, Cloyne and Ross

Speaking to RTE News last week, the Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, Dr Paul Colton, said that ‘we need not only to tell, but also to wrestle with every story around the creation of the State during this, the Decade of Centenaries.’

Bishop Colton was speaking outside Saint Mary's Church, Dunmanway, County Cork, one of the parishes most acutely affected by events of 26th to 29th April 1922. He also referred to President Michael D. Higgins' public support for this pastoral approach to the commemorations in Cork.

President Higgins wrote openly to the Bishop at the start of the centenaries last week and said

As part of a process of ethical remembrance, it is crucial that the voices of all of those without exception who were impacted by these horrific events are heard.



Bishop Paul Colton, together with the Reverend Cliff Jeffers, Rector of Fanlobbus Union, meeting descendants – great grand nieces Jennifer Carolan, Jackie Eakins, and Barbara Gargan – of David Gray who was killed in Dunmanway in 1922: Picture: Andy Gibson

I wish you all the best wishes in this endeavour as we continue to remember this period in our nation's history, and seek to do so ethically, and with moral purpose, allowing for an inclusive reflection, open to all sides, including those who left our shores, those who left below, and those who were left in a minority status, North or South, to suffer discrimination in any aspects of life.

President Michael D. Higgins, 26th April 2022

The United Dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross put in place a Centenaries Commemoration and Reconciliation Project in 2014, co-funded by the Church of Ireland Priorities' Fund.

The rationale for the project, devised by the Bishop and supported by the Diocesan Council and Diocesan Synod, was because Cork was deeply affected and a very violent place during the War of Independence and the Civil War.

Bishop Colton explained the background to the week of visits:

The historiography of events in the Bandon valley between 26th and 30th April 1922, has been written about extensively and debated with different narratives, emotions and responses elicited. Why it happened and what the motives of people were are elusive questions. What can we know with certainty at this remove?

At one straightforward level what happened is clear. In that week, 14 people were killed: Acting Commandant Michael O'Neill, Thomas Hornibrook, Samuel Hornibrook, Captain Herbert Woods, James Buttiner, David Gray, Francis Fitzmaurice, Robert Howe, John Chinnery, Robert Nagle, Alexander Gerald McKinley, John Buttiner, James Greenfield and John Bradfield. Two of those were 16 years of age and the oldest was 82. Twelve were members of the Church of Ireland in this Diocese. Attempts were made on others' lives and they had to escape, many never to return. We know that in the years that followed many people from Cork, Cloyne and Ross felt insecure in this part of the world and left.

Bishop Colton undertook the 8 days dedicated to these centenaries between Sunday 24th April, beginning with Confirmation Services in two of the parishes – Fanlobbus



Part of the gathering at Saint Mary's Churchyard, Dunmanway. Picture: Andy Gibson.

Union and Kinneigh Union – and ending on Sunday 1st May with a Confirmation Service in Kilgariffe Union.

The Bishop lit 14 candles and laid a wreath in the current Decade of Centenaries memorial space in Saint Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork on Tuesday, 26th April, the first day of the fateful events. The same space had been used to mark the centenary of the First World War with images of many of those from Cork, or with present day connections with Cork, whatever side of the war they fought on, who died or were injured between 1914 and 1918. More recently, in the summer of 2021, the memorial space was the centrepiece of a commemoration of the end of the War of Independence – the Truce – and of all those who died in the War of Independence.

That evening, Bishop Colton, accompanied by Mrs Susan Colton, visited the roadside at the present day Ballygroman House in the Parish of Desertmore where everything started in that week, and laid flowers there. During subsequent days, the Bishop travelled throughout mid-West Cork meeting people, including descendants of those who were killed, and descendants of some of those who fled in order to save their lives. At each grave, where the grave is known, readings, silence and prayers were offered, and flowers were laid.

Three graves are unmarked, and the exact whereabouts of the burial of three of the victims is not known, but flowers were laid together with silence and prayers in appropriate places to mark each of the events of the week one hundred years ago. The Bishop, local clergy and parishioners, were joined by other local people at some locations, and also by clergy of other Christian denominations, including the Reverend Greg Alexander (Methodist Church), Father Ted Collins (Dunmanway), Father Tom Hayes (Ballymoney and Kinneigh), and Monsignor Aidan O'Driscoll (Clonakilty).

Bishop Colton said:

Several things struck me as being especially poignant during these centenaries including the spectacular beauty of the countryside in the sunshine of those days, together with the birdsong in those quiet places where the victims of such horrible events now lie. The contrast was very poignant. I also appreciate and pay tribute to the compassionate and caring way that the pastors in this Diocese have engaged with people in their own parishes and listened to them, so

that their wishes might be taken into account throughout these centenaries. A group of young people from Dunmanway came to ring the Sam Maguire bells, half-muffled, and their presence was greatly appreciated.

Naturally, meeting some of the descendants was especially moving; and I was also struck by the number of people who turned up and who told me that they too were descendants or connections of some of those who were killed. Among them and local historians I was also very moved by those who came to me to impart some piece of information or insight, inherited in the oral tradition of families, about the events of that time.

On their own initiative, today's parishioners, in the case of many of the known graves, had arranged for the headstones to be cleaned or restored. Where a name had never been put on one headstone, it was added by the parish, and the new plaque was blessed by the Bishop. There are plans in preparation in another parish to erect a headstone in another previously unmarked grave. Such was the fear and silence in that period that some of the deaths were not entered in the burial registers of the parishes concerned.

Following an extended period of consultation about the form that the current phase of the project should take to mark the centenaries of the killings of 14 people in 1922, including of 12 members of the Church of Ireland from Cork, Cloyne and Ross in the period between the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty and the start of the Civil War, it was decided that the Bishop would undertake a series of pastoral visits which would take into account the particular wishes of each of the parishes affected. The process of consultation took place, in

spite of the challenges and constraints of the Coronavirus Pandemic, with all clergy in the Diocese, their parishes, most especially the parishioners affected in the Rural Deanery of Mid-West Cork, with those descendants with whom were able to make contact, and with local historians, researchers and authors. Bishop Colton had also raised the matter of these commemorations during a visit to a meeting of the Expert Advisory Group on Centenary Commemorations established by An Taoiseach in 2011, and also the Church of Ireland's own Historical Centenaries Working Group.

Bishop Paul Colton, Diocesan Magazine, April 2022

On Sunday, 1st May, prayers were said and acts of remembrance took place, at all Services throughout Cork, Cloyne and Ross to mark these centenaries, based on materials prepared by the Church of Ireland Liturgical Advisory Committee for use throughout Ireland during the Decade of Centenaries.

In Kilgariffe Church, as a candle of remembrance was being lit at the start of the Confirmation Service on Sunday 1st May, Bishop Colton said that the horror of what had happened hit home to him as he was signing the Confirmation Register.

Robert Nagle who was killed in this parish on 27th April 1922 and who is buried in the churchyard just meters from the door of this church, was only 16 years of age. Today, one of you being confirmed is that same age: just 16. That's how awful those events and times were.

News reports



Archbishop Welby apologises for abuse at residential schools in Canada

The Archbishop of Canterbury has apologised to survivors of abuse at residential schools in Canada.

Archbishop Justin Welby made the apology during a meeting with members of the James Smith Cree Nation, Chakastapaysin Band and the Peter Chapman Band in Saskatchewan.

He said he was "horrified" and "ashamed" to hear about the abuse they and other children had endured in the schools, Global News Canada reports.

"I am sorry. I am more sorry than I can say," Welby said.

"I am ashamed. I am horrified. I ask myself, where does that come from — that evil. It has nothing, nothing to do with Christ.

"It is the lowest, wickedest, most terrible thing to molest a child while you read them the Bible."

Survivors have called for actions to match words.

"Do what you're saying. Don't just say something and not do anything because that's most disheartening," said survivor Rhonda Sanderson.

The Anglican Church ran dozens of residential schools across Canada between 1820 and 1969.

Welby suggested it was up to the Anglican Church of Canada to take the lead in redressing the wrongs of the past.

"The Anglican Church of Canada is the Anglican Church of Canada and I'm from overseas. It is not for me to interfere," he said.

The Catholic Church has already apologised for the abuse that occurred in its residential schools.

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Over decades, children were forcibly removed from their Indigenous communities and sent to the schools in the name of cultural assimilation.

Meeting delegations from Canada's First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples, Pope Francis apologised and asked for forgiveness.

"For the deplorable conduct of those members of the Catholic Church, I ask for God's forgiveness and I want to say to you with all my heart: I am very sorry. And I join my brothers, the Canadian bishops, in asking your pardon," he said.

Pope Francis Calls for Daily Rosary for Peace for Ukraine

Renewing his appeal for peace, Pope Francis said he grieves for the suffering of the Ukrainian people, especially given reports of children and the elderly being forcibly deported to Russia.

After praying the “Regina Coeli” prayer with pilgrims gathered in St. Peter’s Square May 1, the pontiff said that “terrible reports of children being expelled and deported” have caused him to “suffer and weep.”

I suffer and weep thinking of the sufferings of the Ukrainian people, and, in particular, the weakest, the elderly and the children.

— Pope Francis May 1, 2022



“And while we are witnessing a macabre regression of humanity, I wonder, along with so many anguished people, if peace is truly being sought; whether there is the will to avoid a continued military and verbal escalation; whether everything possible is being done to silence the weapons,” he said.

Ukrainian officials have accused Russia of deporting thousands of Ukrainian men, women and children to Russia from the besieged port city of Mariupol.

Iryna Vereshchuk, deputy prime minister of Ukraine, said an estimated 40,000 Ukrainian citizens were moved to camps in Russian-controlled territories, BBC News reported.

As Russian forces overrun Mariupol, Ukrainian authorities are racing against time to evacuate civilians sheltering in a steelwork factory in the city. Although some Ukrainians were able to escape, evacuations have been difficult due to

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Russia's continued bombardment of established humanitarian corridors.

Speaking to the pilgrims gathered in the square, the pope called for the safe evacuation of civilians trapped in the Azovstal steel plant and urged Christians to "pray the rosary for peace every day" during the Marian month of May.

"Today is the beginning of the month dedicated to the Mother of God," he said. "My thought goes to the Ukrainian city of Mariupol, 'the city of Mary,' barbarically bombed and destroyed."

Before leading pilgrims in a moment of silent prayer, Pope Francis appealed for an end to the war and expressed his hope that "the path of dialogue and peace be taken."

"I beg you, let us not surrender to the logic of violence, to the perverse spiral of weapons," the pontiff said.

In the media

Ireland: Sanctimony as a Defence Policy

Quadrant. Kevin Myers writes -

Ireland, on the western flank of the European Union, is one of the most vulnerable countries to Russian aerial and naval intrusion. It is also the least prepared. Ireland has made a virtue of being disarmed, a luxury that is only possible because its skies and seas are effectively protected by the

British. But that protection is of the hypothetical non-warfare variety and presumes that RAF fighters will always be at the beck and call of the Irish government, a fiction that Putin has now firmly laid to rest.

However, that doesn't mean the vocabulary and the attitudes of the Irish political classes can be freed of their deadly dependence on the British, especially since this reality is never publicly admitted. Instead, Ireland's unarmed neutrality is seen as a natural if mystical blessing, uncontaminated by anything as sordid as weaponry. So Russian intrusions are never the subject of questions in the Irish parliament, the Dail, for such questions might demand serious answers. Which is why the Irish Foreign Minister, Simon Coveney, who also doubles as Minister for Defence, has declared that he is not "comfortable" with the idea of Ireland supplying weapons to Ukraine, and so is limiting Irish aid to peaceful items.

[\[https://quadrant.org.au/magazine/2022/04/ireland-sanctimony-as-a-defence-policy/\]](https://quadrant.org.au/magazine/2022/04/ireland-sanctimony-as-a-defence-policy/)

An Irish first: Galway bishop to work across two Catholic dioceses

Bishop Michael Duignan says 'much of what church has built crumbling before our eyes'

Irish Times - Patsy McGarry writes.

History was made in Galway on Sunday afternoon with the installation of Catholic Bishop of Clonfert Michael Duignan as Bishop of Galway, Kilmacduagh and apostolic

administrator of Kilfenora. For the first time in Ireland one bishop will serve two Catholic dioceses, which take in parts of counties Galway, Clare, Mayo, Roscommon and Offaly.

Speaking at the installation Mass in Galway Cathedral, Bishop Duignan spoke of it as a “moment of transition from the past to the present to the future. We can no longer ignore the fact that much of what the church has built up in Ireland over the last two centuries is crumbling before our eyes.”

He added: “The more and more I see, the more and more I am convinced that much of our infrastructure, our systems, our pastoral practices that were beneficial in the past, now hinder rather than help the life of faith.”

In Ireland today “many no longer believe the message. Many of our parishes are struggling, on so many levels, to support a vibrant faith community. Despite the great work done by generations of priests, religious and lay people now, at times it feels like we have been out all night without a single catch.”

[[] <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/an-irish-first-galway-bishop-to-work-across-two-catholic-dioceses-1.4867014>]

Text of Homily of Bishop Michael Duignan at his Installation as Bishop of Galway and Kilmacduagh and Apostolic Administrator of Kilfenora

[<https://www.catholicbishops.ie/2022/05/01/homily-of-bishop-michael-duignan-at-his-installation-as-bishop-of-galway-and-kilmacduagh-and-apostolic-administrator-of-kilfenora/>]

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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