

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Retired cleric fasts for Christian Aid

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As part of St Patrick's Parish, Broughshane's effort for Christian Aid week, retired cleric Canon Stuart Lloyd had a sponsored fast for 72 hours. A Sunday lunch was another of the events organised. So far £2,334 has been raised.in the Connor parish.

People and places

Archbishop's sermon tribute on 150th anniversary of Christ Church, Castlerock

The Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, Most Rev John McDowell, has paid tribute to Castlerock parishioners – past and present – for first of all building and subsequently maintaining their parish church, which has been belatedly celebrating its 150th anniversary, last weekend.

The Archbishop preached the sermon during a Service of Morning Prayer, on the third and final day of the 'Lord, for the Years' Flower Festival, which has attracted hundreds of visitors to Christ Church Castlerock over this weekend.



More than 2,000 flowers were used by floral designers Alan Beatty and James Burnside to transform the church's interior. The festival was project managed by Castlerock parishioner Evelyn Conn, with all proceeds going towards church funds.

Castlerock Rector, Rev Chris MacBruithin, told the congregation, this morning, that the Covid pandemic had forced the parish to postpone its celebrations. Thanking the Archbishop for his visit, Rev MacBruithin said the Primate's presence was an indication of the significance of the anniversary.

In his sermon, Archbishop McDowell reflected on the first reading – from Genesis 28: 10-17 – which recounts Jacob's dream at Bethel. The Archbishop thanked the congregation for maintaining a church that was obviously so very close to



their hearts. “We discovered this during Covid,” he said, “when we had to close them, that buildings are very close to people’s hearts, that they’re a place where we encounter the holiness of God, a bit like old Jacob, lying on a stone near Beersheba, not realising it until afterwards that surely this place is the gate of Heaven, surely this place is the house of God.”

The Archbishop said people often talked about God’s mercy and love and glory, but not half often enough about God’s beauty. “Those people who designed this church and those churches of the 1830s and beyond had one word in their mind more than any other – more even than beauty – and that was glory: churches were meant to reflect the glory of God, so that the glory of God might be in the land; and that’s what you and I are here for, so that the glory of God can be seen in Castlerock. That is the purpose of a church – to

reflect the glory of God and the face of Jesus Christ in the place where they are. And that glory isn't cold or aloof; that glory isn't superior; that glory has love in it; therefore, it has a redemptive power which all that cold, stand-offish holiness never has or had."

Archbishop McDowell said his hope and prayer on the 150th anniversary of Christ Church was that for the remainder of its existence, its parishioners would continue to make a difference to one another and also to the community in which they were set, and that they would reflect the glory of God and the face of Jesus Christ."

One month countdown to the 10th World Meeting of Families

Sunday 22 May marked the official one month countdown to the 10th World Meeting of Families which will take place in Rome from 22 – 26 June.

Pope Francis is urging Catholics around the globe to take part in the 10th edition of the event. In a video message the Pope said a new format is being planned for the WMOF event, which will have its focus on Rome but be held throughout the world.

"After being postponed for a year due to the pandemic, the desire to meet again is great," said the Holy Father.

From local to worldwide

May 31, 2022

He pointed out that past meetings were small events, which were perceived by many families as “something remote, at most followed on television, and unknown to the majority of families.”

Responding to this situation, Pope Francis said the WMOF2022 will take on a special format.

After more than a year of remote working and learning, along with increased awareness of online tools, the meeting will be updated to allow more people to participate, despite physical distance.

“It will be an opportunity provided by Providence to create a worldwide event that can involve all the families that would like to feel part of the ecclesial community,” said the Pope.

Percy French Society
presents **A CONCERT IN
AID OF UKRAINE**

Featuring
**The Lindsay Chorale,
Father Martin O'Hagan
& Lynda-Jane Nelson.**

**Friday 24th June 2022 at 7.45 p.m.
in St. Comgall's Parish Hall,
Brunswick Road, Bangor.**

*Ticket
£10*

“Rome will be the main venue,” said Pope Francis, “and there will be a number of delegates of family pastoral care participating in the Festival of Families, the Pastoral Congress, and the Holy Mass.”

He added that these events will be broadcast throughout the globe.

Pastoral Kit for the WMOF2022

The Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life has made available a Pastoral Kit for dioceses and parishes to assist with the local celebration of the 10th World Meeting of Families. As numbers going to Rome for the event are restricted due to the pandemic, Pope Francis has asked that families around the world be given opportunities to feel part of the gathering through events held locally and by engaging with the events in Rome which will all be live-streamed.

The pastoral kit which offers a step by step guide to celebrating the event, can be downloaded here with lots of additional materials available on www.laityfamilylife.va.

Episcopal priest for Saint Anne, Shandon and Saint Luke's Home, Cork.

The Bishop of Cork, the Right Reverend Dr Paul Colton has announce that he has appointed the Reverend Meghan Farr, an Episcopal priest currently serving in the Episcopal Diocese of Eau Claire in Wisconsin, USA, as priest-in-charge of Saint Anne's, Shandon, Cork and also as Chaplain to Saint Luke's Home, Cork.

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Meghan will be arriving in time to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the Church of Saint Anne, Shandon and to join in the celebrations of the 150th anniversary of Saint Luke's Home, Cork.

Bishop Colton said: It has been both exciting and frustrating knowing for some months now that the Reverend

Meghan Farr had accepted my offer of appointment to these posts in Cork while we waited for visa permission for Meghan and her family from the Irish Immigration Service. I have been looking forward to making this announcement and now that everything is in place I am delighted to publish this news. Meghan has exactly the gifts needed for these ministries and, together with you all, I look forward to welcoming her, Daniel, Aidan, Declan and Cavan to Cork in the not too distant future.

The Reverend Meghan Farr said: I am so pleased to accept the call to serve as Priest-in-Charge of St. Anne's Shandon



and Chaplain at St. Luke's Home. My family and I look forward to making Cork our home and getting to know the parish and community. Please keep us in prayer as we prepare for the transition and know that we are praying for you all as well. God bless you—Reverend Meghan.

The Reverend Meghan Farr grew up in the Episcopal Church in Rhode Island and later Florida. She was active as a child and teenager in Sunday school, youth ministry and as an acolyte. While at the University of Florida studying history, Meghan worked as an assistant youth minister at a local Episcopal Church. It was during this time she met her husband, Daniel, who was also studying history. They were married in 2003. After graduation, they moved to Meghan's hometown of Melbourne, Florida where she worked for several years in substance abuse prevention and treatment. Meghan and Daniel were active in their Episcopal church serving in various ministries.

Meghan began the discernment process for the priesthood in 2009 and in 2010 she entered seminary at Asbury Theological Seminary in Orlando, Florida. In 2013 she and her family moved to Wisconsin where she finished her Master of Divinity at Nashtoa House Theological Seminary. Meghan was called to a curacy at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in the Diocese of New Jersey. She served there for two years before accepting a call in 2015 as Assistant Rector for Pastoral Care at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Central Florida. After five years, the family returned to Wisconsin where Meghan became Priest-in-Charge of the Northern Highlands Benefice—a group of four Episcopal churches.

Meghan and Daniel have three boys, Aidan (16), Declan (11), and Cavan (7) as well as two dogs (Magnus and Siggy) and two cats (Nessie and Hamish). Aside from staying busy as mom, Meghan is an avid reader. She and Daniel love getting out for hikes with the dogs, trying new restaurants and all things history. The whole family enjoys traveling and is always up for adventure.

HRH The Duke of Kent presents gallantry awards

A lifeboat mechanic from Portrush RNLI was invited to join His Royal Highness (HRH) The Duke of Kent at St James's Palace last week (Friday 27 May) to be presented with a Vellum from the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) for his part in a daring rescue that saved the life of a teenage boy off Portstewart Head in September 2020.

Portrush RNLI station mechanic Dave Robinson attended the event with his wife Livvy, where he was awarded a Vellum for his actions that day.

The Duke - the RNLI's President - attended a lunch for the 16 volunteers and employees and their partners, including lifeboat crew from Castletownbere, Rosslare Harbour, Kilmore Quay, Dunmore East, Portrush, Trearddur Bay, Salcombe, and Hayling Island, along with RNLI lifeguards from Mawgan Porth in Cornwall.

A total of 12 RNLI Medals for Gallantry were presented to crew and lifeguards by The Duke and six crew were accorded Thanks of the Institution Inscribed on Vellum.

Portrush RNLI Station Mechanic Dave Robinson was awarded a Vellum for his role in saving the life of a teenage boy in the sea off Portstewart Head in 2020. The lifeboat mechanic attached himself to a heaving line before jumping into the turbulent water and bringing the exhausted young man to safety. More information including video of the rescue [here](#).

Lifeboat crew at Portrush RNLI are receiving two awards from the Institution for the rescue. Along with the Vellum for Dave Robinson, the Coxswain Des Austin, will receive a Chairman's Letter of Thanks for 'his professionalism, seamanship, and leadership under severe pressure' during the rescue. He will receive his Letter at a presentation to be held locally later.

The callout occurred on Friday September 25th, 2020, when lifeboat crew responded to reports of a young boy spotted in the water off Portstewart Head. On arrival at the scene, lifeboat crew observed a teenage boy in the surf, waving his arms and flailing, while being pulled out to sea by the tide. In a dramatic rescue, a heaving line was attached to Mechanic Dave Robinson's lifejacket, and he entered the water to reach the teenager, keeping hold of him in the choppy waters. Coxswain Des Austin manoeuvred the lifeboat in the breaking swell, to keep as close as possible to the casualty, while the mechanic kept hold of the boy until the lifeboat crew were able to hoist both to safety and return to shore.

Mark Dowie, RNLI Chief Executive said: 'RNLI gallantry awards are given for saving life at sea and celebrate the courage, skill and dedication shown by our charity's lifesavers.

'To receive their awards at St James's Palace from The Duke of Kent is an honour and as the charity's chief executive, I am humbled and proud of all our volunteers and employees that make up this incredible institution. Every one of them and their families give so much to the charity and our purpose of saving lives at sea.'

Commenting on the honour for the station, Portrush RNLI Lifeboat Operations Manager Beni McAllister said, 'Words can't describe how proud I am of our incredible lifeboat crew in Portrush. We are all delighted for Dave on his gallantry award and for Des who will also be recognised for his role in the rescue. No crewmember goes out to get recognition or reward. They are selfless people who drop everything to answer a call for help and the people they leave behind at home and in the community take great pride in their actions. We had a full crew onboard the lifeboat that day, each one of them focused on saving that young boy's life.'

Portrush RNLI mechanic and Vellum recipient Dave Robinson added, 'Receiving the RNLI Gallantry award from HRH the Duke of Kent was a huge honour and I felt I was receiving it on behalf of all the crew in Portrush RNLI. I remember that day so clearly and I knew that boy had only minutes left before he was in danger of drowning. I entered the water and trusted in my crew and my training and just went for it. That poor boy was exhausted when I reached him and the whole crew were elated that he was saved. I'm

grateful for the Vellum and to receive it with my wife, Livvy, by my side.'

Among the awardees were the Coxswains of three Irish lifeboats Eamonn O'Rourke (Rosslare), Eugene Kehoe (Kilmore Quay) and Roy Abrahamsson (Dunmore East) who were all presented with Bronze Medals for Gallantry for their role in a rescue in October 2020 that saved nine lives and prevented a 100-metre cargo vessel, the Lily B, carrying 4,000 tonnes of coal, from hitting rocks at Hook Head. [More info here.](#)

Coxswain Eamonn O'Rourke was also accorded a vellum for a rescue during Storm Ophelia in 2017 during conditions described by the crew as some of the worst they had ever witnessed. The crew battled 10-metre seas in force 12 conditions to save three lives. [More information here.](#)

HRH The Duke of Kent has been President of the RNLi since 1969 after succeeding both his parents as President of the charity.

News reports

Archbishop, Pope and Moderator to make historic 'peace pilgrimage' to South Sudan

The Archbishop of Canterbury has spoken of his hopes for the historic "pilgrimage of peace" to South Sudan he will be making with Pope Francis and the Church of

Scotland Moderator, saying that God has “not forgotten” the country.

The three leaders are making the unprecedented ecumenical visit from 5-7th July to urge peace and solidarity in a nation that continues to suffer the effects of civil war. The joint visit by leaders of Roman Catholic, Anglican and Reformed traditions is the first trip of its kind.

During the visit the Christian leaders will lead a large open-air prayer vigil for peace, which will bring together people from across the country to pray for God’s guidance and for reconciliation.

They will also visit an internally displaced persons camp, where they will speak and pray with people who are directly affected by the conflict, which has claimed 400,000 lives and displaced over four million people.

The visit was promised during a spiritual retreat held at the Vatican in 2019, attended by the Archbishop and the Moderator of the Church of Scotland. The spiritual leaders implored South Sudanese leaders to make peace for their people and the future of their country.

During this pilgrimage the Pope, the Archbishop and the Moderator will meet the President and five Vice-Presidents to reflect on the commitments made at the Vatican retreat and to encourage them to “Seek that which unites. Overcome that which divides.”

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, said: “I greatly look forward to this historic pilgrimage of peace to South

Sudan with my dear brothers in Christ, Pope Francis and the Revd Dr Iain Greenshields. We hope to stand in solidarity with the people of South Sudan in their great struggles. We hope to support and encourage the continued unity of churches for the good of the nation. And we hope to encourage political leaders to pursue peace in this remarkable country.

“We pray that the symbolism of our joint visit will show that reconciliation and forgiveness are possible - and that relationships can be transformed. We come as servants and disciples following the call of Jesus Christ to be peacemakers. God has not forgotten South Sudan. At the Vatican retreat in 2019, we saw the hope that is possible when people see the image of God in one another - and he never turns away from that hope. Please pray for this visit, for those who will join us and those we will meet, and please pray for South Sudan and her people.”

Speaking to members of the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission at the Vatican recently, the Pope said: “I wish to recommend to your prayers an important step. Archbishop Justin Welby and the Moderator of the Church of Scotland, two dear brothers, will be my traveling companions when, in a few weeks’ time, we will at last be able to travel to South Sudan. Ours will be an ecumenical pilgrimage of peace. Let us pray that it may inspire Christians in South Sudan and everywhere to be promoters of reconciliation, patient weavers of concord, capable of saying no to the perverse and useless spiral of violence and of arms.”

Dr Greenshields said: “I am genuinely humbled at the opportunity to assist our brothers and sisters in South Sudan in the search for peace, reconciliation and justice. It is a privilege to be joining the Holy Father and the Archbishop of Canterbury on this historic Pilgrimage for Peace and we come as servants of the Global Church. We call on all people in South Sudan to give expression to Jesus' words that ‘Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called the children of God.’

“The Church of Scotland has been invited to represent the Presbyterian family due to our strong partnership with the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan. We have been working closely together since 2015 on a vital peace, reconciliation and conflict resolution programme. It has helped local church leaders work at both a grassroots level and political level to try and bring unnecessary conflict to an end and build lasting peace, stability and unity in the country.

“There is still much work to do and the symbolism of this historic ecumenical visit sends out a very strong message about our steadfast commitment to helping the people of this country flourish for the good of all.”

Church News Ireland

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Ecumenical Bible Week 2022 online

Ecumenical Bible Week 2022 runs from Pentecost Sunday to Trinity Sunday – June 5 to 12.

The overall theme for this year's event, which will feature five online events, is 'A New Pentecost: Moving to the Edges' based on Acts 10:44 'Peter was still speaking when the Holy Spirit came upon all who listened to the word.'

Now in its ninth year, Ecumenical Bible Week is led by the Archdiocese of Dublin and the United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough in collaboration with many other Christian traditions.

The opening event on Tuesday June 7 at 10am is Morning Prayer broadcast live from the oratory of Tallaght University Hospital and led by Fr John Kelly and the chaplaincy team.

On Wednesday evening at 7.30pm, 'Every Tribe and Tongue' will celebrate the diversity of Christian expression throughout Ireland. The Revd Philip McKinley will curate a conversation with Christians from various ethnicities and nationalities about what the Holy Spirit is doing in their lives and communities in Ireland.

The symposium on Thursday June 9 is on the theme 'Listen to the Word'. Presenters, Bishop Michael Burrows, Bishop of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe; Sean Goan, coordinator of Spiritan Mission Animation Ireland and lecturer in biblical theology; and Lorna Gold Director of Movement Building at Faithinvest will explore how Listening to the Word leads us to connect with those on the margins of society.

Presenters of this year's Thinking Allowed will consider the question: 'What is my personal vision of a New Pentecost?' Church leaders and others working on the margins will give their personal visions of what a new movement of the Spirit might mean in today's world. Presenters are Amy Carey, CEO of Solas Project; Archbishop Dermot Farrell, Catholic Archbishop of Dublin; Archbishop Michael Jackson, Church of Ireland Archbishop of Dublin; Dr Ebun Joseph Nigerian–Irish lecturer, author and consultant; Fr Ioann Kazadojev Russian Orthodox Rector of Diocesan Community of St Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia in Castlebar; and Barbara Walshe, restorative justice facilitator and mediator.

The closing event will take place within the Sunday worship of Inchicore Solid Rock Church on June 12 led by Pastor Emmanuel Might. During this Fr Vasyl Kornitsky of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church and curate in Donnycarney parish will reflect on the readings.

Registration is required to attend each event and this can be done on the EBW website – www.bibleweek.ie

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Helion publishers have some books heavily discounted, two of which may appeal:

Linda Parker's biography of Woodbine Willie:

<https://www.helion.co.uk/military-history-books/a-seeker-after-truths-the-life-and-times-of-g-a-studdert-kennedy-woodbine-willie-1883-1929.php?sid=15865ad78aa381baf091d4641c614525>

Stuart Bell's book on WWI's religious legacy:

<https://www.helion.co.uk/military-history-books/faith-in-conflict-the-impact-of-the-great-war-on-the-faith-of-the-people-of-britain.php?sid=15865ad78aa381baf091d4641c614525>

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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