

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Stone of destiny

Image of the day

Service of Reception of the Stone of Destiny

Front photo - The Lord Lyon at the Service of Reception of the Stone of Destiny at Westminster Abbey.

A service to mark the arrival of the Stone of Destiny at Westminster Abbey was held on Saturday 29th April.



The stone, an ancient symbol of Scotland's monarchy, will play a central role in the Coronation of HM The King in the Abbey on 6th May.

The Stone of Destiny

The Stone of Destiny was for centuries used in the inauguration of Scotland's kings. In 1296, King Edward I brought the stone to Westminster. He placed it within the Coronation Chair, the oak seat he commissioned in



1300-1301 and which has been the centrepiece of coronations for more than 700 years.

In 1996, the UK government announced that stone was to be returned to Scotland, but would come back to the Abbey for coronations. It has travelled from its home in the Crown Room at Edinburgh Castle where it is visited by millions of people each year.

May 4, 2023

About the service

The service was conducted by the Dean of Westminster, the Very Reverend Dr David Hoyle, who said in his Bidding: Today we meet in deep friendship and respect, confident in our different histories, here to acknowledge what unites us. We have a common calling under God which summons citizens of all kingdoms to find a home in the Kingdom of Christ, for he is our peace.



We meet to pray for Their Majesties King Charles and Queen Camilla, for the Royal Family and for God's blessing on all those who now work so hard on the preparations for the Coronation. We will pray for the government and people of Scotland and for our sisters and brothers in the churches of Scotland. With nations and with the Commonwealth we

May 4, 2023

look to the Coronation where, in worship and music, we will find a common voice and express a common hope.

Among those speaking at the service was the Right Honourable The Lord Lyon King of Arms, who said in his address:

The Stone was taken from its place in the Abbey of Scone to this Abbey Church in 1296 by command of King Edward I in an act of enmity. It was returned to Scotland in 1996 by command of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in an act of amity and now comes again to this place by command of King Charles III as an act of unity and a symbol of friendship.

The Very Reverend Professor David Fergusson, Dean of the Chapel Royal in Scotland and Regius Professor of Divinity, University of Cambridge, said:

Scripture recalls us to the bedrock of faith, the stones from which are hewn, the foundations upon which our lives must be built if we are to live well with one another – foundations made by God, our Creator and Sustainer. So as we mark the arrival of the Stone of Scone today, we thank God for our common purpose, for bonds of friendship, and for the rich heritage of faith.

The Reverend Canon David Stanton, the Abbey's Sub-Dean, read Ephesians 2: 13-22. Prayers were led by the Reverend Mark Birch, Minor Canon and Precentor.

The service was sung by the Robin Chapel Choir, directed by Professor Herbert Kerrigan KC. The organ was played by Peter Holder, Sub-Organist.

People and places

Armagh Service of Thanksgiving for the forthcoming Coronation



The Dean of Armagh, Very Rev Shane Forster and readers

A Service of Thanksgiving for the forthcoming Coronation of King Charles III was held in St Patrick's Cathedral Armagh on the evening of Tuesday 2nd May 2023. The principal guest was His Majesty's Vice-Lord Lieutenant for County Armagh, Mr Richard Hamilton-Stubber DL

The congregation included The Lord Major of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, Councillor Paul

May 4, 2023



Greenfield together with various Aldermen & Councillors and the Council Chief Executive, Mr Roger Wilson. The Secretary of State for N. Ireland, Rt Hon Chris Heaton-Harris. US Consul-General Paul Narain, and Mr Mark Hanniffy, Irish Joint Secretary of the North/South Ministerial Council.

The cathedral choir sang a number of pieces of music performed at previous coronation services, including Handel's Zadok the Priest.

Archbishop Martin, the Head Girl of Armagh Royal School and representatives of youth organisations read the Bible passages.

Church of Ireland Archbishop John McDowell was the preacher. He told the congregation that the King has been described as a proven friend of Northern Ireland.



He elaborated stating that the King is “Indeed a friend of Ireland North and South – with a very detailed knowledge of our affairs, and more importantly, we have a place close to his heart.”

The Archbishop said Charles has an advantage over many of his predecessors in his “incomparable experience of working with an enormous array of people from every nation under the sun”, adding the familiarity that comes from working with people over a long period of time is “a priceless gift in terms of discipleship and a practical monarchy”.

Archbishop McDowell will present the Sovereign’s Orb during the coronation service at Westminster Abbey. This is the first time this part of the ceremony has been undertaken by anyone other than the Archbishop of Canterbury

The service concluded with the National Anthem and a collection was taken to support the work of Southern Area Hospice Services.



US Consul-General Paul Narain, local councillors and members of the Girls and Boys Brigades

Speaking before the service, Archbishop Martin said he was pleased to attend to represent the Catholic community, and offer prayers and thoughts for the King on Saturday.

“I’m also very privileged to be able to attend the coronation myself, along with the other church leaders from the island of Ireland, it’s a very special moment,” he said.

“We were at the time of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth’s funeral and so to return on Saturday on a much happier occasion is a wonderful privilege.



A cohort of Buglers from the Royal Irish Regiment played the “Opening Fanfare” at the special Service of Thanksgiving for His Majesty King Charles III at Saint Patrick’s Church of Ireland Cathedral Armagh.

“The new King himself said just before the funeral of Queen Elizabeth that he wants to be someone who represents the diversity of faiths and indeed who represents people of no faith, and all traditions on these islands.”

A Quote

Prayers should be as honest as possible – but that requires us getting honest with ourselves too. The Christian story is ultimately a story of failings redeemed and sins forgiven -

Archbishop of Canterbury



Youth Forum's coastal adventure

More than 50 young people attended the Diocese of Connor Youth Forum's event on the north coast on May 1.

Rain didn't stop play when Connor's young people headed to the north coast on Sunday May 1 for a Diocesan Youth Beach Bonfire organised by Connor Youth Forum.

While the bad weather meant the event had to be quickly moved to the local Ballyrashane Parish Hall, the young people who had travelled from across the diocese were still able to end their evening at beautiful White Rocks Beach.

May 4, 2023



Groups came from Lisburn Cathedral, All Saints' Parish, Antrim, the United Parish of Christ Church & St John's in Ballyclare, and the Grouped Parishes of Ballyrashane & Kildollagh, with more than 50 young people enjoying fun and fellowship together.

They tucked into chips before sharing some cake, as Jonny Diamond, one of the local youth leaders was celebrating his birthday!

After a few party games, the groups went across the road to St John's Parish Church for worship led by some of the Youth Forum participants and friends.



By this stage, the rain had thankfully dried up so everyone jumped into cars and made it down to the beach to end the night!

Diocesan Youth Officer Christina Baillie said: “A huge thanks to the Connor Youth Forum members who have organised this and several other youth events across the diocese over the last 18 months. It has resulted in closer ties amongst youth groups and renewed opportunities to come together for encouragement.”

She also expressed thanks to the Grouped Parishes of Ballyrashane & Kildollagh for facilitating the young people for the evening.

May 4, 2023

Armenians in Ireland mark 108th anniversary of genocide



Bishop Hovakim Manukyan, Archbishop Michael Jackson, Honorary Armenian Consul, Ohan Yergainharsian and other participating clergy at the Khachkar memorial in the grounds of Christ Church Cathedral.

Armenians in Ireland gathered in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, on Sunday afternoon (April 30) to mark the 108th anniversary of the start of the Armenian Genocide.

May 4, 2023



The congregation at the Khachkar memorial at Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin

Every year Armenians around the world mark the start of the genocide which began with the arrest of 250 Armenian intellectuals on April 24 1915. Over the years that followed 1.5 million Armenians died and a similar number of the Armenian population was scattered across the globe.

The commemoration took place in the context of Choral Evensong which was sung by the Cathedral Choir. Armenian poetry was recited by the children of St Hripsime Armenian Sunday School. The service began and concluded with music played by pianist Varazdat Khachatryan. The hymn of the martyrs of Armenian genocide was sung by Aydah Arshagian.



Sunday School children recite Armenian poetry.

Welcoming the large congregation to the cathedral, Archbishop Michael Jackson noted that in both the Eastern and Western Churches, the commemoration this year took place in the Season of Easter. He pointed to the last words of Jesus on the Cross from St John's Gospel: "it is finished".

"The earthly life of Jesus Christ is finished. But memory is not finished," the Archbishop said. "It is memory that gathers us together today to commemorate The Armenian Genocide in all its stark remembering and its wilful forgetting over a century of historical life beginning as it did on April 24th 1915. Memory gives destruction and displacement, pain and horror, individual death and community genocide. Memory gives hope and colour, perspective and resonance, music and laughter. Memory gives the voice of life ended along with the open pasture of life beginning in a very specific way

May 4, 2023

in the Christian picture of birth and healing, suffering and resurrection that marks out the person of Jesus Christ as our pattern and our king, as the hymnwriter expresses it.”

Honorary Armenian Consul, Ohan Yergainharsian, highlighted the magnitude of what happened to the Armenian people and said that the terms ‘genocide’ and ‘crime against humanity’ were first used in reference to what happened to them in Ottoman Turkey. He hoped that the recognition of the Armenian Genocide would continue throughout the world, including in Ireland, and said that Armenians continued to suffer oppression today. Mr Yergainharsian thanked those who worked to have the Khachkar (Armenian stone cross) located in the cathedral grounds to remember the victims of the Armenian Genocide.

Bishop Hovakim Manukyan, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of the United Kingdom and Ireland, thanked the Archbishop, Christ Church Cathedral and the Church of Ireland for their ecumenical hospitality in embracing the Armenian community in Ireland. He said that the Armenian Genocide was commemorated annually on April 24 as that was the date in 1915 when the Turkish Ottoman government started arresting Armenians. He said that the decision to conduct the mass killing of Armenians did not happen over night but rather was the result of many years of anti-Armenian sentiment. Despite the contributions of Armenians to Turkish life, he stated, they were considered second class citizens. He said that this mindset contributed to genocide.

The service concluded with prayers and laying of wreaths at the Khachkar memorial.

May 4, 2023

In the media

Hannon's new song inspired by late father

Divine Comedy frontman Neil Hannon has revealed how a new composition was partly inspired by the memory of his late father, Alf McCreary writes in the Belfast Telegraph

Hannon, whose work includes the theme tunes for Father Ted and the IT Crowd, was commissioned by the Ulster Orchestra to write a new work titled *As The Sun Brightens, the Shadows Deepen*.

It will be given its premiere on Friday by the Ulster Orchestra.

Hannon said the piece has been influenced by memories of his father, Church of Ireland Bishop Brian Hannon, who died in January 2022 after a long illness.

He told the Belfast Telegraph: “At the reception after my dear father's funeral early last year, the conversation turned to a film he was rumoured to have narrated in the 1960s, and which had something to do with John Hume and Derry, where I was born.

“By the following day a resourceful niece of mine had found the film titled *A City Solitary*, which was based on John Hume's research for his thesis on Derry, in 1963.

May 4, 2023

“It was indeed narrated by my dad and it was lovely to hear his voice as a young man, with a commentary in a Pathe news-style and spoken with his soft Ulster lilt.

“I'd just been commissioned to write something for the Ulster Orchestra and this seemed like a great jumping-off point.

“A film about the history of the city of my birth, based on John Hume's research and narrated by my dad. Perfect.”

On the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement, the film's portrait of Derry on the cusp of all that was to come afterwards is a fascinating moment in time.

It is personalised by Hannon's new work, in which he draws from other composers as widespread as Adams, Elgar, and Copland, with some light orchestral music of the 1950s.

Hannon added: “By interweaving the music and the speech, I hope that I have created something that is greater than the sum of its parts. What that something is, I am not all together sure. I hope to find out this Friday.”

Erne Integrated College board of governors resigns

BBC - The entire board of governors at a County Fermanagh secondary school has resigned, BBC News NI has learned. The principal of Erne Integrated College in Enniskillen, Jimmy Jackson-Ware, is understood to also have announced his plan to retire.

[<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-65467636?>]

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



Belfast Community Gospel Choir

“A huge thank you to Rev Alan Wardlow and the audience at Edenderry Memorial Methodist Church, Portadown. You

May 4, 2023

were an amazing audience and we thoroughly enjoyed performing for you....

[<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/entertainment/music/belfast-community-gospel-choir-director-on-the-inspiration-behind-her-new-album/661517940.html>]

Be still and know

Marina Elliott with Raymond Ferguson sings.

<https://www.facebook.com/marina.elliott.7/videos/10158160707391310>

Celtic Psalms

Love and Mercy is a song from their new album (www.celticpsalms.com) Psalm 85 set to Lovely Molly

Worship resources to mark centenary of the end of the civil war in Ireland

The Liturgical Advisory Committee (LAC) of the Church of Ireland has this week published a set of resources for use in parishes where the centenary of the end of the Civil War in Ireland will be marked.

The resources include a complete order for a Service of the Word, as well as additional material for use at Eucharistic Services. It is intended that the material may also be adapted for use in conjunction with other services provided in the Book of Common Prayer or at local commemorative events.

May 4, 2023

Speaking about the publication, the Very Revd Nigel Dunne (Dean of Cork and Honorary Secretary to the LAC), said: “The LAC is pleased to respond to the request by the Historic Centenaries Working Group for material to mark this last significant commemoration in the centenary series.

“Our thanks also to Professor Marie Coleman for writing a most informative Introduction to the material. As with previous material in this series, we hope that this liturgical resource will be of the same benefit to those involved in local, diocesan or national services or other commemorative events marking the end of the Civil War in Ireland.”

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

The publication of Church News Ireland is overseen by Very Rev Dr Houston McKelvey OBE, QVRM, TD. He may be contacted at houstonmckelvey@mac.com

