



**Image of the day -**

## **St. Macartin's, Enniskillen**

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## **St. Macartin's to receive £25,000 funding for repair work**

**A much-loved Fermanagh church is to share in a £611,000 funding payout from the National Churches Trust, Victoria Johnston writes in the Impartial Reporter.**

A £25,000 grant will help fund urgent roof and stonework repairs and help safeguard the heritage of St Macartin's Cathedral and enable the church to continue to serve the local community.

### **Critical role**

Funding for the grant comes from the Department for Communities Historic Environment Division's Covid-19 Culture, Languages, Arts and Heritage Support Programme.

Communities Minister Deirdre Hargey said: "I am delighted that I have been able to provide this support. This will help catalyse renewal activity and animate communities affected by Covid-19 by working with them to tackle the issues faced by our historic church buildings which are at the heart of our communities.

### **Repairs**

"Churches have played a critical role in the Covid-19 response and it is fitting that they now become part of our renewal through increased focus on conservation-led repair of heritage fabric, together with provision of new facilities to help ensure their continued use into the future."

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Broadcaster and journalist Huw Edwards, Vice President of The National Churches Trust, said: “I’m delighted that St Macartin’s Cathedral, Enniskillen is being helped with a £25,000 grant from the National Churches Trust thanks to the support of the Department of Communities in Northern Ireland. The funds will facilitate roof and stonework repairs.”

“The grant will help safeguard unique local heritage and to help St Macartin’s Cathedral continue to support its wider community as we begin to emerge from COVID-19 pandemic.”

A total of 67 churches and chapels in England, Wales Scotland and Northern Ireland will benefit from the latest grants from the National Churches Trust, the charity supporting church buildings of all Christian denominations across the UK.

This is the first round of grants made by the National Churches Trust in 2021. Last year the Trust has awarded, or recommended on behalf of other funders, 260 grants amounting to £1.7 million.

## **Much encouragement**

The grant will support roof and stonework repairs. The Very Reverend Kenneth Hall, Dean of the Diocese of Clogher said: “The Dean and Select Vestry of St Macartin’s Cathedral very much appreciate the award of £25,000 from the National Churches Trust towards the costs of reroofing and restoring the cathedral.

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“The total cost of the restoration work, including internal redecoration, will be about £450,000 (excluding VAT). The award from the National Churches Trust will give the parishioners and the local community much encouragement as they continue with their major fund raising campaign.

“It is hoped that the restoration work can be completed in time for the 2022 celebrations to mark the 400th anniversary of the appointment of the first rector of the church.”

Courtesy of The Impartial Reporter, 02/05/2021

## **Consecration of Bishop of Clogher**

Impartial Reporter

Report and Photo Gallery

[[] <https://www.impartialreporter.com/news/19267145.bishop-clogher-ordained-moving-service-fermanagh/#gallery13> ]

## **Bishop's secretary in Cork retires**

**Ruth Wolfe, who has been part-time secretary to the Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, Dr Paul Colton, for almost the last 20 years retired on Friday 30th April, which was her last morning ‘in the office’.**

Ruth has been working from home throughout the pandemic but the Bishop and she, together with colleagues from the Diocesan Office: Billy Skuse, Diocesan Secretary and Susan Perrott, Assistant Secretary, hailed each other from a distance in the forecourt outside St Fin Barre's Cathedral, where the Bishop had left Ruth a flower arrangement and a gift for collection.



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The Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross The Right Reverend Dr. Paul Colton, Ruth Wolfe, Bishop's Secretary, Billy Skuse, Diocesan Secretary and Susan Perrott, Assistant Diocesan Secretary

Bishop Colton said

“It’s terrible we can’t even have coffee and a cake from The English Market together (as we so often did) to mark Ruth’s significant period of work alongside us all. Such, sadly, are some of the disappointments of the times in which we are living.

“I would want Ruth and everyone to know, however, how much her work and solidarity has been appreciated, not only by me, but by everyone in the Diocese and further afield with whom she came into contact. She has been a model also of discretion and confidentiality, which is essential in support of the Bishop’s ministry and the work of the Diocese. Thank you, Ruth, so much for your work throughout the last 20 years”.

At the meeting of the Diocesan Council of Cork, Cloyne and Ross on Wednesday 28th April, a motion recording admiration

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for Ruth and gratitude to her was passed unanimously by acclamation; acclamation which was no less sincere and enthusiastic just because it was emoji clapping hands on the screen of a Zoom meeting.

## **Archbishops to Review New Zealand Seminary Culture**

**New Zealand's troubled Anglican theological college is back in the spotlight. The province's three archbishops have announced that they will undertake a review of the culture at St. John the Evangelist College in Auckland during the next five months, and have invited confidential submissions to an extensive inquiry.**

New Zealand's Anglican Church is a complex settlement. The small island nation at the bottom of the Pacific has a thriving Protestant tradition that arrived with English and Scottish settlement in 1814. The church took responsibility, largely through missionary work, for spreading the gospel in the remote Pacific Islands.

In 1992, the church revised its constitution to form three partners: Pakeha (European), Maori (Indigenous New Zealanders), and Pacific, the Diocese of Polynesia. There are three archbishops to represent their constituent members and regions. Churches with histories of colonization look to New Zealand's partnership with its indigenous people as a model.

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But a theological college for the entire province has a huge challenge to educate and provide leaders for three cultural models, or *tikanga*, of the church.

St. John's College has a venerable history. It was established in 1843 and has a handsome endowment in global terms, valued in 2010 at NZ \$293 million (US \$210 million). It cooperates with other tertiary institutions, like the University of Otago, to grant degrees, and at one stage also trained ministers for Methodist churches.

In 2012, an extensive review of the college, led by former Archbishop Paul Reeves, recommended sweeping changes to the college's management. It found the three-college structure did not work, and a single principal was appointed, with a dean for each *tikanga*.

An external report of the college by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority, published in November 2019, was glowing in its assessment of the college's performance, its 10 full-time staff, and the training offered to its 114 students to equip them for ministry.

But the three archbishops have now set up an independent review. The Rev. Katene Erurea, *manukura*, or principal, of the college, told *TLC* that they would be considering the college "with a focus on its culture."

"The college governors and faculty are committed to providing quality theological education in a supportive and encouraging environment that will prepare its students well for their future ministry in the Church," the principal said.

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“We welcome the opportunity to learn more details, to review our present culture, and to consider how we might improve so that the Church is well served in the future.”

The nature of the complaints that prompted the inquiry are not public, but the archbishops said in their letter to the college that there have been “a number of complaints over a considerable period of time.” The Anglican Church in New Zealand’s General Synod Standing Committee has backed the review, which began in March.

The college was told that the review team, led by lawyer Miriam Dean, QC, would “examine the nature and extent of current and past complaints, how the college has responded to past complaints, and review the health and safety of staff and students at the college.”

The team has invited contributions in person and in writing, and promises confidentiality to those who contribute. Dean said she aims to complete the review by August 31.

At her retirement as *te ahorangi*, or dean, of the college in 2014, Dr. Jenny Te-Paa Daniel praised its achievements but also spoke of her distress at the “depth and breadth of racism, clericalism, and sexism still so deeply, determinedly entrenched.”

The Maori laywoman, who had worked at the college for 23 years as dean, said, “It surely is not acceptable that such abhorrent behaviors can continue to find avenues for their expression within a household of God.”



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Her criticism was particularly directed at the 1992 revision of the New Zealand church's structure, which she said had never had a "theologically grounded, strong common undergirding." Instead, Te-Paa Daniel said, the *tikanga* structure had led to division and competition between the groups, "rather than selfless gospel-driven commitment to solidarity."

Te-Paa Daniel said it was incumbent on the college, as one of the most privileged Anglican theological educational institutions in the world, to be one of the "leading lights" in the Anglican Communion. Books, Broadcasts, Resources and Webinars

By Robyn Douglass, in Living Church

## **Opinion – The importance of acceptance - Gordon Linney**

**When Éamon de Valera died in 1975 a service of commemoration was held in Christchurch Cathedral, Dublin. The sermon was preached by the then-Archbishop of Dublin Dr Alan Buchanan, Gordon Linney writes in the Irish Times' Thinking Anew.**

It is difficult to imagine two men so different: de Valera, the republican and ultraconservative Roman Catholic; Buchanan, of northern unionist background and senior bishop of the Church of Ireland. They did have one thing in common: both had been prisoners of war –de Valera for his republican activities and Buchanan, a British army chaplain taken prisoner at Arnhem.

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So what could the archbishop say about a man so different to him? He began: “Speak of the man as you knew him” and went on to talk of a shared respect.

His words came to mind recently when, following the death of the Duke of Edinburgh, former president Mary McAleese was asked in a BBC interview to comment on the historic visit of Queen Elizabeth and the Duke to Ireland in 2011. She said: “What struck me on that day was that I was talking to two people of faith and it was a faith that demanded of them that they seek reconciliation and forgiveness. This really surprised me and I don’t know why it should have but it did and they both gave me to understand that they wanted to visit Ireland. They saw themselves as having a duty to do whatever they could by way of bringing about that reconciliation between neighbours.” Here again we have people, political and religious strangers, but by respecting each other, discovering something in the other that was authentic and worthy of admiration.

This is consistent with the principles of Christian living described in tomorrow’s epistle reading: “Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. “(1 John 4.7)

This is not sloppy sentimentality; this is practical Christianity, insisting that we value others, especially those with whom we have differences.

Tomorrow’s reading from the Book of Acts (8.26) reminds us that living with difference is a human problem. Philip, known as the evangelist, meets an Ethiopian eunuch who is trying

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to make sense of that familiar passage from Isaiah 53 that we associate with the passion of Jesus: “He was despised and rejected . . .” This spoke to the eunuch’s own experience as he had just visited Jerusalem seeking spiritual comfort and found none because, as a eunuch, he was not allowed into the Temple. He too felt despised and rejected because according to scripture this “sexless” man “shall not have a place in the assembly of the Lord” – an attitude that haunts parts of the church to this day.

He asks Philip to explain the texts and Philip tells him that Jesus is the rejected one, “cut off out of the land of the living” but that the good news of the gospel is that because of Jesus, the risen Christ, the excluded have become the included. And so right there in the desert, a white man, and a black man, a Palestinian Jew and Ethiopian Arab, dive into the water for baptism – a message for today’s church.

In his book *As Bread is Broken*, Fr Peter van Breeman stresses the importance of acceptance: “One of the deepest needs of the human heart is the need to be appreciated. Every human being wants to be valued . . . Every human being craves to be accepted, accepted for what he is . . . When I am not accepted, then something in me is broken . . . Acceptance means that the people with whom I live give me a feeling of self-respect, a feeling that I am worthwhile. They are happy that I am who I am. Acceptance means that I am welcome to be myself. Acceptance means that though there is a need for growth, I am not forced. I do not have to be the person I am not.”

Courtesy, The Irish Times 01.05.2021

## Books, Broadcasts, Resources and Webinars



### Connor Connections online

A digital version of the spring issue of the diocesan magazine [\*Connor Connections\*](#) can now be accessed online.

The magazine is packed with stories of hope and encouragement, sharing articles about the work being done by clergy, parishes and individuals in this time of pandemic.

These include accounts of three hospital chaplains who have been at the forefront of the battle to care for those who have required hospital care since Covid-19 reached us more than a year ago, and a focus on Belfast Cathedral's poignant *Lives Reflected* project.

The Rev Keith Scott and his wife Lyn speak to *Connor Connections* about their many years spent as CMSI mission partners working in the St John's Anglican Seminary in Zambia, and we also reflect on the retirement in Yei Diocese, South Sudan, of our friend Bishop Hilary.

There are messages of hope from our bishop, the Rt Rev George Davison, and from Connor Mothers' Union President Sally Cotter, while Diocesan Youth Officer Christina Baillie has a special message for young people.



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Other features include an interview with talented musician and composer, 17-year-old Aidan MacLean, from St Polycarp's; a visit to the new Community Garden in Glencairn; and a feature on some exciting outreach work going on in the Parish of St Paul and St Barnabas, Tiger's Bay.

Archive issues of Connor Connections can also be accessed on the diocesan [website](#).

## **Reflection for the Fifth Sunday of Easter by Archbishop Michael Jackson**

Archbishop Michael Jackson continues his sermon series for the Season of Easter 2021 with a reflection for the Fifth Sunday of Easter (May 2).

This week the Archbishop's reflection is based on St John 15.1: 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener ...'

This series continues each Sunday. You can find it and other videos on YouTube channel – <https://www.youtube.com/c/TheUnitedDiocesesofDublinandGlendalough>

## **Reaching People with Jesus**

Down & Dromore diocese has invited members to sign up now for two evening training sessions that will teach you simple ways to share the Word of God. The events are part of the '[Strength for the Task](#)' season running from 13–23 May.

*Strengthen your faith / Reach others / Grow the church*

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The diocese is delighted to welcome the CEO of the Pocket Testament League, David Collum, to share with us a simple and highly effective way of reaching people with the Gospel. This way has been used by thousands of church members to engage with over 25 million people in the past 2 years.

These two short sessions over Zoom will involve:

### **Part 1: Monday 17 May at 7.30 pm**

A biblical and simple way to share the Gospel that anyone can do, regardless of your faith journey or own confidence. It's a way that leans on God's sovereignty more than our works.

[Click here to register](#)

### **Part 2: Tuesday 18 May at 7.30 pm**

Encouraging your church and others in sharing God's Word and practical ways on how to do this.

[Click here to register](#)

## **Media review**

### **Consecration of Bishop of Clogher**

Impartial Reporter

Report and Photo Gallery

[[] <https://www.impartialreporter.com/news/19267145.bishop-clogher-ordained-moving-service-fermanagh/#gallery13> ]

## **Misogyny may have had role in my axing: Foster**

Belfast Telegraph

Outgoing First Minister Arlene Foster yesterday still had no idea why she was forced out, four days after announcing her resignation from the post and as party leader. But Mrs Foster did not rule out misogyny playing some role in events that led party members to threaten a vote of no confidence in her leadership, the move had led to her announcement she was stepping down from both positions.

[[] <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/politics/misogyny-may-have-had-role-in-my-axing-foster-40380963.html?utm>]

## **Women must have choice of abortion, says TV star**

Belfast Telegraph

A lead actress in an upcoming BBC drama about abortion has said that services must be provided for women in Northern Ireland who feel that a termination is the right choice for them. Bafta nominee Sinead Keenan, who stars in Three Families, said women must be afforded the right to choose.

[[] <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/entertainment/film-tv/women-must-have-choice-of-abortion-says-tv-star-40380364.html?>]

## **Northern Ireland established 100 years ago today**

RTE

Vincent Kearney. The UK's Queen Elizabeth has paid tribute to a generation of leaders who had the vision and courage to put reconciliation before division to make political progress in Northern Ireland possible.

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[[] <http://www.rte.ie/news/2021/0503/1213418-northern-ireland-100/> ]

## **NI 100: QUB opens series of public talks to mark partition**

BBC NI

[[] <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-56941161> ]

## **NI 100: Tracing the history of the 100-year-old Irish border**

BBC NI

[[] <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-56806404> ]



## **Pointers for prayer**

Mighty God, in whom we know the power of redemption, you stand among us in the shadows of our time.

As we move through every sorrow and trial of this life, uphold us with knowledge of the final morning when, in the glorious presence of your risen Son, we will share in his resurrection, redeemed and restored to



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the fullness of life and forever freed to be your people.  
Amen.

Living God,  
long ago, faithful women  
proclaimed the good news  
of Jesus' resurrection,  
and the world was changed forever.  
Teach us to keep faith with them,  
that our witness may be as bold,  
our love as deep,  
and our faith as true. Amen.

Creator of the universe,  
you made the world in beauty,  
and restore all things in glory  
through the victory of Jesus Christ.  
We pray that, wherever your image is still disfigured  
by poverty, sickness, selfishness, war and greed,  
the new creation in Jesus Christ may appear in justice, love,  
and peace,  
to the glory of your name. Amen.

O God, your Son remained with his disciples after his  
resurrection,  
teaching them to love all people as neighbours.  
As his disciples in this age,  
we offer our prayers on behalf of the universe  
in which we are privileged to live  
and our neighbours with whom we share it....

Petitions... concluding with:

Open our hearts to your power moving  
around us and between us and within us,

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until your glory is revealed in our love of both friend and enemy,  
in communities transformed by justice and compassion,  
and in the healing of all that is broken. Amen.

Holy God,  
you have called us to follow in the way of your risen Son,  
and to care for those who are our companions,  
not only with words of comfort, but with acts of love.  
Seeking to be true friends of all,  
we offer our prayers on behalf of the church and the world.  
Petitions... concluding with:  
Guide us in the path of discipleship,  
so that, as you have blessed us,  
we may be a blessing for others,  
bringing the promise of the kingdom near  
by our words and deeds. Amen.

## Speaking to the Soul

**Even though I am a free man with no master, I have become a slave to all people to bring many to Christ... When I am with those who are weak, I share their weakness, for I want to bring the weak to Christ. Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some. I do everything to spread the Good News and share in its blessings.**

1 Corinthians 9:19, 22 & 23 NLT

I love meeting people who are passionate about something, whatever it is. It may be their love of horses or of a particular football club or their devotion to gardening. You sense that

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their whole life is tuned into their passion and I find it fascinating learning how they organise their lives. Paul was clearly passionate about people finding salvation in Jesus and here he gives us a very clear insight into how he was wired. He lets us see his strategy for spreading this amazing message. His method was to get alongside people whatever their background or their way of life. Whether they were a Jew or a Gentile, weak or strong he would look for the common ground so that he could share the Good News of Jesus.

It's always the most incredible privilege to talk with other people about Jesus but the conversation will never get anywhere unless you can find common ground. Paul seems to suggest that if you look hard enough you can find that common ground with anyone. It's not a case of putting on an act, but of showing so much interest in another person that you discover those places where your life meets theirs. When that firm link has been established you are then able to share the Good News in a way that is relevant to them. Paul's intention was never to force his faith on another person, and it should not be ours. But he was passionate about giving everyone a chance to hear just how great God is, and that would surely be a great objective for all of us.

## QUESTION

In what way can you find common ground with the people you see regularly who don't know Christ?

## PRAYER

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Thank you, Lord, that we have such Good News to share. Help us by your Spirit to find ways of sharing it with those whom we meet day by day. Amen

