

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Methody making Coronation music

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Methody making Coronation music

Choristers from Methodist College Belfast are having a great time in London preparing for The Coronation.

They have enjoyed rehearsals so far in Westminster Abbey and are soaking up the atmosphere whilst enjoying the London sights.

Mrs McCartney (left above) and the girls also enjoyed a surprise visit from composer Howard Goodall (right).



The Methody community - students and staff past and present - are rightly immensely proud of the girls and the Music Department.

We wish them well with the rest of the rehearsals as they create their own memories for a lifetime

People and places

Archbishop attends annual 1916 State Commemoration

Archbishop Michael Jackson represented the Church of Ireland at the annual State ceremony to commemorate the



Archbishop Michael Jackson with Faith Leaders at the Grave of the 1916 Leaders. Easter Rising and the executed leaders of 1916 at Arbour Hill in Dublin on Wednesday May 3.

Hosted by the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence Micheál Martin, the event was attended by President Michael D Higgins and his wife Sabina, and Taoiseach Leo Varadkar as well as Lord Mayor Caroline Conroy, members of the Government and the Oireachtas, the Council of State, the Judiciary and relatives of the leaders and others who fought in 1916.

Arbour Hill is the final resting place of the seven signatories of the Proclamation of the Republic, including Padraig Pearse and James Connolly, as well as other executed 1916 leaders.



Participants in the State Commemoration are led from the Church of the Sacred Heart to the Grave of the 1916 Leaders.

Following Requiem Mass in the Church of the Sacred Heart, the church for the Defence Forces, a ceremony took place at the Grave for the 1916 Leaders at which Faith Leaders, including Archbishop Jackson, led prayers. President Higgins laid a wreath and led a minute's silence in memory of those who died in 1916.

The annual commemoration at Arbour Hill is the longest-running State ceremony to commemorate the Easter Rising. It is 100 years since the commemoration at Arbour Hill began in 1923, shortly after the end of the Civil War, and the first State commemoration event took place in 1924.



President Michael D Higgins lays a wreath at the Grave of the 1916 Leaders.

A commemoration event has been held each year since, including two years of scaled back ceremonies at Arbour Hill due to the COVID–19 pandemic. The commemorations resumed in full last year.

Cash, Ferns and Ossory review

On Saturday April 29th the Diocesan Review Commission presented its Report to the members of the Diocesan Synod at a special meeting convened at Butler House in Kilkenny College.

Bishop Adrian Wilkinson was in the chair and guided the proceedings.



The Diocesan Review Commission was set up by Diocesan Synod in June 2019 to facilitate a comprehensive review of parochial and diocesan life, and to set in train a process which would help set priorities and plans for the future. Over the past 4 years, the Commission visited all the parishes in the Diocese and met those invested in or interested in the mission and ministry of the Church.

The Report was presented by Dorcas Collier Hannon, the chair of the Commission. It was favourably received by the members of Synod who contributed to a wide ranging discussion of its findings and recommendations. Towards the end of the Synod, a motion was passed which permitted the election of a Bishop's Advisory Group which will take this



work forward. The names of the clergy and lay people elected to this group will be published next week. The meeting ended with prayer and presentation to the members of the Diocesan Review Commission. The Bishop thanked them for all their valuable work.

The Diocesan Magazine will have an article on the day's proceedings in the June issue.

Connor guests at Buckingham Palace Garden Party

The sun shone on the first Buckingham Palace Garden Party to take place in the reign of King Charles III on Wednesday May 3, and Connor Diocesan Development

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Manager Trevor Douglas was among the guests on this special occasion.



Trevor, who is also General Manager of St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, was accompanied by his wife Karen to the Palace Gardens just days before the King's Coronation.

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The Garden Party – the first of three announced by Buckingham Palace earlier this year, was hosted by the King and Queen Consort, who were also joined by the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh King’s Coronation.

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Scouting duties at Coronation

Nicole Finlay was selected along with 24 other Scouts from Northern Ireland to carry out duties at the King’s Coronation at the weekend.

Scouts from all over the UK will be in the city centre over the weekend

directing people and assisting them in and around the city.



A special Scout badge marking the Coronation

Being Scouts they'll be camping at Gillwell Park, near Chingford in North East London.

Nicole is an A Level student at Ballyclare Secondary School and a Sixmilewater parkrun volunteer .

Institution at Westport

The Institution of Rev Suzanne Cousins to the Aughaval Group will take place on Friday, 7th July, 2023 at Holy Trinity Church, Westport.



Suzanne, who comes from Newcastle, Co. Down, was ordained to the priesthood in 2016 and is

currently Rector of the Grouped Parishes of Clonfeacle, Derrygortreavy and Eglisk, in the Diocese of Armagh. Previously she served as Bishop's Curate for the Moville Group (Moville, Donagh, Culdaff, Malin) on the Inishowen Peninsula, Diocese of Derry and Raphoe. She is married to Alan and they have three adult children, two sons-in-law and two small grandchildren. The family lived in Dublin for eight years (1997-2005) and for three in South Africa. Suzanne's background is education – in earlier years she worked as a primary school teacher in Ireland and Northern Ireland, and

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for several years as Special Educational Needs Classroom Assistant while studying Theology and preparing for training for ordained ministry.

Suzanne is Inter Faith Adviser to the Archbishop of Armagh and serves on the Church of Ireland's Inter Faith Working Group and the Commission for Christian Unity and Dialogue. She enjoys time with her family, reading, walking, and art history and appreciation, and occasional cinema and theatre trips. She enjoys friendships and the breadth of ministry in the Church and wider community. She loves visiting, prayer and pilgrimage, and especially enjoys ministry to children and families.

Suzanne says, "While I will miss the wonderful people of my present parishes, I am delighted and thankful for the opportunity to serve God in this beautiful part of coastal Ireland and in the Diocese of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe. Alan and I look forward with excitement and joy to getting to know and working with the people, parishes and places of Westport, Castlebar, Turlough and Dugort (Achill)."

Youth and Community Work post

Moorlands College are looking for an experienced lecturer to oversee the management and delivery of the BA Applied Theology (Youth and Community Work) for students at Moorlands NI @ Youth Link NI in Belfast.

Moorlands are looking for an experienced lecturer to oversee the management and delivery of the BA Applied



Theology (Youth and Community Work) for students at Moorlands Northern Ireland. This role will include planning and organising teaching, alongside supporting students' academic, professional, and holistic development. With staff line management responsibilities, and active involvement in the implementation of the College's Vocations Strategy, this varied role is critical to the success of the College and this final cohort of Level 6 Students.

Successful candidates will have a Masters Level in Theology (or equivalent), and additional professional qualifications in Youth and Community Work. Experience of teaching at undergraduate level and leading others is essential, while the nature of the role requires confidence in prioritisation of tasks and efficient administration and organisation skills. To fully support students, knowledge of

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academic writing and study skills is required, to share alongside pastoral support.

Could it be you?

<https://www.moorlands.ac.uk/about/our-people/join-our-team/senior-tutor/>

A privilege and honour to take part in the Coronation - Moderator

The Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Right Reverend Dr John Kirkpatrick, has said that “...it will be a privilege to be able to take part in the King’s Coronation and an honour to be able to represent Irish Presbyterians at such a unique and historic occasion...”

Dr Kirkpatrick was speaking from London where he took part in a rehearsal at Westminster Abbey ahead of the ceremony.

While his predecessor, Dr John McKean, was a guest at the late Queen’s Coronation in 1953, this is believed to be the first time that a Moderator, along with his fellow Church Leaders from the island of Ireland, will be taking part in Saturday’s historic event, as they process together ahead of the King and Queen Consort at the start of the service.

“For all the pomp and pageantry, and amongst the symbolism and all the spectacle, at its very heart is a Christian service of dedication and blessing. It is a great

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privilege to be able to take part in the King's Coronation and an honour to be able to represent Irish Presbyterians at such a unique and historic occasion that hasn't been seen for 70 years," Dr Kirkpatrick said.

"As people tune in on Saturday to see King Charles crowned, it will be for many people, especially in Northern Ireland, a special moment. With Coronation services taking place across our denomination on Sunday, along with an array of community events to mark the occasion in which our churches are involved, this is also a time of thanksgiving and celebration."

The Moderator continued, "As a Christian leader, and a witness in the Abbey representing my brothers and sisters in Christ of all ages back home in PCI, the Coronation is a reminder of the meaningful place that Christianity still has in the fabric of national life.

"The service reminds us as well of the biblical call to pray for those in authority, without fear or favour, in the name of the King of Kings, while acknowledging the Grace of God that King Charles will need in order to do all that he is called to do. The Coronation also speaks to us of where we can find truth. For when the King is presented with the Bible, he is told that it is '...the most valuable thing that this world affords.'"

Dr Kirkpatrick concluded by saying, "While Moderators have been privileged to attend the inauguration of the Presidents of Ireland and other national events and commemorations, we are also in a unique position to be able to represent our people at state occasions in the United Kingdom. My

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predecessor Dr Bruce, for example, took part in the Service of Thanksgiving for Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee at St Paul's Cathedral last June, while I took part in the State Funeral following her death in September. Tomorrow is another opportunity to bear witness to, and be part of, a very special moment in time."

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



Sing & Tonic Choir

When: Sunday 18th June
Time: 3pm
At: Drumbeg Parish Halls, beside Coop Coffee
How: bring your deckchairs and picnic and chill!

First performance!

More Information :
kirstyormusic@gmail.com

Sing & Tonic at Drumbeg on Fathers Day

Sunday 18th June at 3pm at Drumbeg Parish Halls. Just next to Lady Dixon Park.

Sing & Tonic a Capella choir would love you to come and see them in their first ever public performance. They are going Proms in the Park style so bring your picnic, chairs and

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umbrellas (actually they are in the hall if it rains!)

Take a break vibes will be happening.....

Coronation music by the band, pipes, bugles and drums of the Royal Irish Regiment

A few months ago, the BBC recorded the Band playing a selection of music to be broadcast over The Coronation Weekend.

You can hear these recordings this Sunday, 7th May by tuning in to BBC Radio Ulster for Sounds Sacred at 17.03 and Classical Connections at 19.03. The band members hope you enjoy them.

Kentucky Wesleyan College singers at St Patrick's

Put Monday 15th May in your diary as a very special time to visit the Cathedral. At 1pm St Patrick's Dublin will welcome



Book online:

www.belfastphilharmonic.org.uk/BMinorMass or 07985 200 265
Glenmachan Church of God, Glenmachan Road, Belfast BT4 2NL



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the Kentucky Wesleyan College singers, an amazing choir of 36 singers taking part in their annual tour. Book early so as not to miss out.



This should be an enjoyable concert. The church is just off the top of O'Connell Street so lots of buses and luas stops

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nearby and the Dart a short distance away. Also close to a secure car park. Admission by donations at the door in aid of the upkeep of this beautiful church.

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