

# Church News Ireland



**Image of the day – Mothers' Union celebrate Coronation**



## Image of the day

### Mothers' Union celebrates Coronation

**Drumachose Mothers' Union celebrated the Coronation with an Afternoon Tea Party on Wednesday 3rd May.**

Ladies were invited from Dungiven and Boveva, Tamlaghtfinlagan, Tamlaghtaard, Aghanloo, Carrick and Balteagh. The host branch in Christ Church Limavady was also delighted to welcome back Joan McVeigh. Canon McVeigh, Canon McNee, Canon Roemmele, Eric and Jean Kelly's daughter Hilary were among the guests.

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The hall was decorated by an extended committee. Avril McNee brought her hand knitted bunting and Brenda Sherrard made beautiful posies to decorate the tables. The Rector, Canon Mayes, opened with a reading and prayer.

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The Guest Speaker was Janet Wilson from Gift International who gave an inspiring talk on her work with the charity in Kenya.

Two special ladies were present - Jean Kelly who has been in Drumachose Mother's Union for 50 years and Adrienne Roemmele who has also served in different branches for 50 years. To celebrate their achievement Jacqui Armstrong the Derry & Raphoe Diocesan President presented them with their certificates. They were also given the honour of cutting the cake.

The ladies then enjoyed a delicious spread of sandwiches, scones, cupcakes and shortbread as well as fellowship with other members.

At the end a retiring collection for Gift International was received and a total of £400 was raised to help Janet continue her amazing work.

## People and places

### Irish diocesan staff member based in Mozambique

**Cashel, Ferns and Ossory Diocesan Office was full of activity this week. Joining with the office staff was Ms Rita Cammaer, Finance Secretary who usually works remotely from Mozambique.**

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Her visit coincided with the welcome of two new staff to the office, Ms Alison Galloway - Assistant Diocesan Secretary and Ms Rebecca Williams Phelan- Safeguarding and Compliance Officer.

The Diocesan Secretary Ms Elizabeth Keyes welcomed them all to the office and is delighted with the additional assistance. She noted that the Diocese is very fortunate to have the vast experience, education and knowledge of Ms Galloway and Ms Williams Phelan and very much appreciates the dedication and commitment of Ms Cammaer as she continues working with the Diocese. Bishop Wilkinson was present.

## **Methodist Church community celebrates 125 years in Carlow**

**Rev David Nixon, President Methodist Church of Ireland, joined by minister Malcolm Noonan, planted a tree to mark the 125th anniversary of the Methodist Church in Ireland.**

They were accompanied by the Mayor of Carlow Cllr Fintan Phelan, Cllr Brian O'Donoghue, Cathaoirleach of Carlow County Council, Cllrs John Pender, Fergal Browne and Tom O'Neill and Richard Codd, the President of Carlow Historical and Archaeological Society.

## **Clerical Appointments**

**Cork, Cloyne and Ross - the Reverend Adam Pullen** has been appointed to the incumbency of Fanlobbus Union of

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parishes in the Diocese. Fanlobbus Union of parishes is centred on the town of Dunmanway, County Cork and also includes churches in Drimoleague, Drinagh, Coolkelure and the surrounding areas.

The Reverend Adam Pullen is currently Incumbent of Stranorlar in the Diocese of Raphoe and has served there since 2013. He is an experienced rector with more than 14 years of parish ministry in diverse contexts, from thriving suburban and deprived inner city settings, as well as rural farming communities. He describes himself as ‘passionate about whole-life discipleship and faith formation in children, young people and adults leading to faith in action in the community.’

Originally from Dublin, Adam studied for a Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Wales (Aberystwyth) in microbiology. He trained for ordination at St John’s Theological College, Nottingham, did a post-graduate diploma in theology with the Open University, and then completed a Master of Arts in Mission and Ministry at the University of Nottingham. He was ordained deacon in the Cathedral of Saint John, Brecon, in the Church in Wales in 2006 and, a year later in 2007, was ordained there to the priesthood. He served in parishes in the Diocese of Swansea and Brecon, and in what was the Diocese of Tuam, Killala and Achonry in the west of Ireland, before his move to Derry and Raphoe in 2013.

## **Toberkeigh and Ramoan install new Minister**

**Rev Philip McKelvey** grew up on his family farm in County Tyrone where he worshiped at Sixmilecross Presbyterian

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Church. Philip went onto study at Greenmount Agriculture College in Antrim before taking up employment at a meat factory in Omagh and continuing to work on the family farm.

After a few years he left work to study at Belfast Bible College and then Queen's University Belfast where he completed a Divinity degree. After becoming a Presbyterian minister, he was privileged to serve in two congregations, Loughgall and Tartaraghan in County Armagh for the past sixteen years before coming to Toberkeigh and Ramoan congregations.

Philip is married to Sarah and has three children Lydia, Jonathan and Joshua. Rev McKelvey said he is looking forward to getting to know the people in Ramoan and Toberkeigh congregations and the wider community.

You Tube -



**Toberkeigh & Ramoan Presbyterian  
Congregation**  
**Welcome you to the Service of Installation of  
Rev Philip McKelvey**

## Chapter members for Ferns

Bishop Adrian Wilkinson has made appointments to the Chapter of the Cathedral Church of St Edan in Ferns.

**The Revd Canon Nicola Halford** to be Canon Chancellor - Canon Halford has been promoted within the Chapter having previously been Canon Treasurer. She has been rector of Enniscorthy Union since 2016 and was curate in Wexford and Kilsoran Union. She is very involved in youth work in the Diocese and serves on a number of central church committees including the Representative Church Body and the Standing Committee. Commenting on her appointment, Canon Halford says ‘Sincere thanks to Bishop Adrian for appointing me Chancellor of St. Edan’s Cathedral Chapter. I also look forward to welcoming my colleagues Norman and Trevor onto the Chapter.’

**The Revd Norman McCausland** to be Canon Treasurer - Canon Norman McCausland has been rector of Wexford and Kilsoran Union since 2022. He was ordained in 1989 and has served in the Dioceses of Armagh, Cork and Dublin. He was also for a time a member of staff at the Church of Ireland Theological College. He will also be chaplain at the forthcoming Church of Ireland General Synod in Wexford. Canon McCausland comments ‘Small in physical stature when I was a boy, I was always reminded by my parents that ‘good things come in small packages’. Perhaps the same can be said of St. Edan’s – not the biggest cathedral in the world but with no little significance in our United Dioceses.’



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**The Revd Trevor Sargent** to be Prebendary of Kilrane and Taghmon - Prior to his ordination Canon Sargent was well known in his political career and as leader of the Green Party. He served as curate in Waterford Union for three years from 2018 and was appointed rector of Bunclody Union in 2021.



## **Saint Mary's Cathedral, Limerick installations**

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On Sunday, 7th May, 2023 at 4pm at Saint Mary's Cathedral, Limerick, four new members of the Chapter will be installed – all are welcome to attend the service.

**The Very Revd Lynda Peilow** who will be installed as Precentor of the Cathedral, the **Venerable John Godfrey**, as Archdeacon of Killaloe, the **Rev Canon Michael Cavanagh** as Chancellor of the Cathedral and the **Rev Canon Kevin O'Brien** as Prebendary of Inniscattery.

## **Planting Seeds of Hope Together in Dublin's Ecumenical Bible Week**

**The Symposium this year takes place on 31st May in Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Sean McDermott St, Dublin - Archbishops Dermot Farrell & Michael Jackson will be joined by Dr Mimi Kelly to explore @Foundations in Christian Hope'!**

Opening on Pentecost Sunday (28th May) with events up to Trinity Sunday (4th June May), Ecumenical Bible Week 2023 (now in its 10th year) is a direct result of the fruitful ecumenical cooperation which marked the International Eucharistic Congress of 2012.

The first EBW took place in 2014. Its purpose is to bring together Christians of different traditions around the Word of God. It takes place each year between Pentecost and Trinity Sunday. It offers a variety of different events in and around the greater Dublin area. It is currently funded by The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Dublin, The Church of Ireland

**PLANTING** seeds OF hope **TOGETHER**  
IN A POST-COVID REALITY

**SYMPOSIUM**  
**FOUNDATIONS IN CHRISTIAN HOPE**

**Archbishop Dermot Farrell**      **Archbishop Michael Jackson**

**Dr. Mimi Kelly**

**Wednesday 31st May :: 2pm-4pm**  
SEAN MC DERMOTT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

**ECUMENICAL BIBLE WEEK 2023**

## Planting Seeds of Hope

United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough, and The National Bible Society.

This year's theme is Planting Seeds of Hope Together in a post-COVID reality. Christian life is based on hope. EBW 2023 will explore how this hope can be sown and passed on by people of different traditions working together in our current context.

## Youth Link NI seek Church engagement Youth Worker

Youth Link NI are seeking to employ a "Good relations and Church engagement Youth Worker."

If you are passionate about faith, reconciliation, listening to and advocating for young people - then check this out!



<https://www.communityni.org/job/good-relations-and-church-engagement-youth-worker-0>

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## **Navy loses a ‘true friend’ with sudden death of former Chaplain of the Fleet**

**Tributes have been paid to the Navy’s former most senior chaplain, the Venerable Martyn Gough, who has died at the age of 57.**

Martyn served the Navy and nation for nearly a quarter of a century, latterly as the Service’s most senior Anglican, and as Chaplain of the Fleet. It crowned a naval career which began in 1998 and saw extensive service at home and aboard, from the front line with troops in Afghanistan to the day-to-day work of the Fleet in frigates, survey vessels and carriers. Originally from South Wales, Martyn was educated at the University of Wales, Cardiff, and St Stephen’s House, Oxford. After ordination in the Diocese of Llandaff, he served in parishes in South Wales before being appointed at the same time to a position in the European Union in Northern Italy and as Chaplain of Milan and Genoa.

He joined the Royal Navy in 1998 and spent much of his early ministry working in Devonport, deploying with the base’s Type 22 frigate flotilla. He was also ‘bish’ – as chaplains are affectionately known across the Royal Navy – aboard aircraft carrier HMS Invincible and served as Chaplain to the Hydrographic Squadron. Ashore, posts included Amport House (the Armed Forces Chaplaincy Centre), RNAS Culdrose, Britannia Royal Naval College Dartmouth and HMS Drake in Plymouth. In 2013-14 he was appointed as the Forces’ senior chaplain in Afghanistan before returning to the UK first as Deputy Chaplain of the

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Fleet and, from August 2018, Chaplain of the Fleet and Archdeacon for the Royal Navy. That same year he was also appointed a Queen's Honorary Chaplain.



“Martyn was an enormous character,”

said his successor as Chaplain of the Fleet, the Ven Andrew Hillier.

“The entire Naval Chaplaincy Service grieves his death, as we pray for Amanda and the children in their grief.”

The Rev Scott Brown, the convener of the Church of Scotland's Committee on Chaplains to HM Forces, and Chaplain of the Fleet between 2010 and 2011, added: “Martyn was a faithful priest, pastor and friend”

“He was always supportive of the Church of Scotland and we will miss his support, wisdom and friendship. We remember Amanda, his wife, and their children in our prayers.”

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Away from the RN, the father-of-two enjoyed art, literature, skiing and especially renovating his home in Wiltshire's Chalk Valley with his wife Amanda.

Although he left the Navy in 2021, he continued to champion the Services as National Chaplain to the Royal British Legion, officiating at that year's Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall.

"A proud Welshman, he was wonderfully affable individual with a great sense of fun. As a priest, he was an enormously faithful and committed man. As a chaplain, he loved nothing better than to be surrounded by sailors and was truly a friend and advisor to all on board". - Chaplain of the Fleet, the Ven Andrew Hillier

## **Christian Aid Week 2023 – Giving peas a chance in Malawi**

**Esther and other members of the cooperative run by Christian Aid's partner. Esther said: "Nandolo Farmers' Association connect us to better buyers so I'm able to sell the pigeon peas at a better price. I like the progress it's brought to our lives."**

Malawi is Africa's largest producer of pigeon peas. This versatile, low-cost, protein-rich and drought-resistant crop has been maligned in Malawi – regarded as 'desperation' food and only eaten when there is no alternative. But with the support of Christian Aid's local partner, one widowed gr



grandmother is making her children's dreams come true this humble pulse.

Esther Saizi is lively, chatty and full of laughter. When we first meet the 54-year old grandmother, she is baking bread with pigeon pea flour. She shows us the bread oven, opening the front door to reveal the rolls inside and the place where the firewood fits at the back. With the money she earns growing pigeon peas and selling bread made from pigeon pea flour, Esther is helping her elder daughter grow her carpentry business and supporting her younger daughter's education, hopeful that one day she will become a nurse. The money is also paying nursery school fees for her 4-year-old grandson.

But Esther's broad smile hides much sorrow and hardship. Two years ago, Esther's husband passed away and she struggled to come to terms with his loss.



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On top of that, Esther lives in Malawi, one of the most climate–vulnerable countries in the world and smallholder farmers like her are on the frontline, beset by harsh drought and extreme weather.

Thankfully she was spared the worst effects of Cyclone Freddy, the longest–lasting tropical cyclone on record which devastated Malawi in February and March. However, just a year earlier, Cyclone Ana washed away many of Esther’s crops, leaving her feeling desperate.

Even the war thousands of miles away in Ukraine impacts Esther, driving up the price of staple foods and fertilizer.

Despite these difficulties, Esther has seen a remarkable reversal in her fortunes since 2019 when she joined a pigeon pea cooperative run by Christian Aid’s local partner, the Nandolo Farmers’ Association. Esther had been growing pigeon peas for eight years before joining the cooperative, but she’d never been able to secure a fair price for her crop. Exploitative middlemen target isolated farmers like her to gain a sale at very low prices. But when Esther started selling as part of the cooperative, she was connected to better buyers and was able to fetch much more. She is one of more than 3,300 farmers helped by the Nandolo Farmers’ Association to get a better price for their crop. Another benefit of Esther’s membership of the cooperative is that she is able to store her pigeon peas in a communal warehouse, safe from storms and floods. Instead of having to sell her crop immediately after harvest and accept a bad price, the store allows her to wait until prices have improved. The programme also helped Esther to restore her soil fertility and boost her harvests.

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Esther, who is now a chairperson of the cooperative, told us: “Before I joined the programme, I grew pigeon peas, but I wasn’t aware that I could make some reasonable money out of it.”

With the profits from her pigeon pea crop, Esther began buying goats and today her herd has grown to 13. The goats provide milk and meat to support her family as well as manure for her crops, which saves on expensive fertiliser. Esther even used her income to buy a sewing machine and now she makes clothes for her family.

Esther isn’t the only businesswoman in her family. Her daughter Ziwone (25) and son-in-law Peter (28) are carpenters and with her pigeon pea income, Esther has bought tools to enable their business to thrive. Esther is also paying for her grandson Nespo (4) to attend nursery school and hopes that she’ll be able to help his baby brother Emmanuel (4 months) go to school too.

Esther’s younger daughter Rashida (17) lives away from home to be near her school. The pigeon pea income is supporting Rashida’s education by covering the cost of her lodgings, a part-time tutor, examination fees and school uniforms. Rashida dreams of graduating from college and becoming a nurse.

Esther hopes that she can continue to support her younger daughter’s education and recalls a memory from her own schooldays: “I was good at mathematics. I remember that the teacher would wait for my exercise book and use mine to mark the others against. It was sad that I had to drop out

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of school but that is one of my favourite childhood memories.”

Esther tells us that growing pigeon peas has even helped her through the difficult times she has faced since losing her husband. Although she misses her husband greatly, the programme gives her the security to provide for her family.

Pigeon peas are drought-tolerant, so they thrive in the dry fields of southern Malawi. They're cheap to grow from recycled seed and require only minimal amounts of fertiliser and pesticides, making them an ideal crop to grow in a region where over 60% of families live in poverty. And because pigeon peas of the 400,000 tonnes the country produces each year is consumed domestically. The Nandolo Farmers' Association hopes to rebrand the pigeon pea as quality, healthy food and has produced a recipe book to celebrate this versatile, low-cost, protein-rich, drought-resistant pulse.

Baking bread from pigeon pea flour is just one initiative Esther is involved in to support her family. Recently, Christian Aid provided a machine to process fish food from a blend of pigeon peas and soya, and this busy grandmother plans to start a fish farm, growing fish in small ponds and selling them to earn an additional income.

This transformation in Esther's fortunes has only been possible because of the generosity of Christian Aid's supporters. By giving this Christian Aid Week at [caweek.ie](http://caweek.ie), you can help more farmers like Esther secure a fair price for their crops and make their children's dreams come true.

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There's still time for you to join with us this Christian Aid Week (14–20 May). Visit [caweek.ie](http://caweek.ie) to find out more about how your gifts can help build better futures for people around the world, and give peas a chance with our family-friendly Big Pea Challenge. You can download a range of resources to help you knit, grow, crochet and cook your own peas to raise funds for farmers in Malawi and beyond.

Christian Aid Week takes place from May 14 to 20. See [www.caweek.ie](http://www.caweek.ie) for details.

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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## 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](mailto:houstonmckelvey@mac.com)

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