

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – build a house where love can dwell

Image of the day

Build a house where love can dwell

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live, a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive; built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of Christ shall end divisions: All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

- Presiding Bishop Most Rev. Michael Curry

News reports



Nativity scene festival at Eglinton

From 2-4 December at St Canice's Church, Eglinton, the church will be filled with dozens of nativity scenes - some in traditional style, others made from lego, wood or glass.

There will be a puppet nativity and lots of other interesting takes on the Christmas story.

The organisers say - Although this is being organised by St Canice's, it's very much something for the whole community, to help keep the Christmas spirit flourishing in Eglinton, and ensure that hope shines out to everyone this Christmas.

It's not too late to put in an entry. Maybe you have an idea of your own, or you could get together with others in your family, or in a group or club you're part of? Just call Carole on 07923081222 before the 15th November to let us know you want to take part.

€10 million payout to cover loss due to Covid-19 church closures

In this week's issue of The Irish Catholic, the country's largest diocese has received an almost €10 million payout

Family & Lifestyle: How to focus amid distraction - Pages 29 & 31

The Irish Catholic

MARY KENNY No human being is a 'spare' Page 5	DAVID QUINN No easy answers to global warming Page 16	NIAMH UÍ BHRIAIN Ireland needs to see sense on transgenderism Page 7
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Thursday, November 10, 2022 €2.50 (inc. 12.2%) The Irish Catholic Newspaper @IrishCathNews www.irishcatholic.com

Dublin diocese receives €10 million Covid-19 pandemic insurance payout

Ruadhán Jones

The country's largest diocese has received an almost €10 million payout from insurance companies to cover money lost due to Covid-19 church closures when collections could not be taken up.

The Archbishop of Dublin's financial reports for 2021 show that it received €9.4 million as compensation for losses under the business interruption clause of its insurance policy.

Most of the money received relates to losses suffered in 2020 when Government restrictions were particularly draconian on parishes and includes an interim amount for 2021, which amounts to 20% of the settlement for 2020.

This opens up the possibility of further claims for the diocese and other dioceses that have similar insurance policies. The 'Parishes of the Diocese of Dublin' report recently filed with authorities showed a surplus of just more than €3 million for 189 of its 197 parishes - the report excludes eight parishes run by religious orders. This is compared to a deficit of €4.3 million in 2020.

The parishes' total income for 2021 was €313 million, an increase of almost €4 million on 2020, while the expenditure amounted to €281 million, down €1.2 million.

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Going forward in time...



Principal of St Eithne's Primary School Mr McDowell, teacher Mrs Concannon and some of the children from her class receive a time capsule from members of the Ballymagroarty Hazelbank Community Partnership. The capsule was created as part of an intergenerational project organised by BHP between children from Mrs Concannon's Primary 5 class and some of the older members of St Eithne's community, November 3.

Stormont stalemate opens way for paramilitaries - bishop

Chai Brady

The failure to form an Executive in the North and a lack of political leadership is leaving space for paramilitaries, Bishop Donal McKewen of Derry has warned.

He said any decision regarding another Stormont election, set to take place after Christmas, must be taken with a focus on the "common good".

"I think we have to challenge all our political leaders in Westminster and Belfast to share that particular purpose... there's a danger that politics becomes just a game for parties who are squabbling with one another and jostling for position. Our job is to say 'you're being paid to look after everybody', he said.

The bishop added that "our job is saying politics is important, prove that politics works otherwise you leave space for paramilitaries. Focus not just on macro politics but focus on delivering for people on the ground so that we will get through this winter."

"We've got to have the short, medium and long-term welfare of people in mind and not just long-term dreams of a united Ireland or a united Kingdom..."

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POPE IN BAHRAIN

Peace through dialogue
PAGES 10-11



JANE MELLET

Realise climate responsibility and engage with COP27
PAGE 32

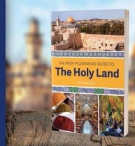


JONATHAN VAN MAREN

A pro-life movement with huge potential
PAGES 18-19



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from insurance companies to cover money lost due to Covid-19 church closures.

The Archdiocese of Dublin received €9.4 million as compensation for losses under the business interruption clause of its insurance policy.

This opens up the possibility of further claims for other dioceses.

Read this story and all the latest news at www.irishcatholic.com

Kilkenny Christmas Tree Festival in St Canice's

There is still time for you to enter a tree in the wonderful Kilkenny Christmas Tree Festival in St Canice's Cathedral which will be held over the weekend of the 1st -6th December.

The festival which is run by Kilkenny union of Parishes has grown from strength to strength but this year we want to make it bigger and better. Entry forms to be returned by 25th November for trees to be set up on Tuesday 29th November.

Dean of St Canice's, Stephen Farrell is "hugely excited to see the cathedral transformed with hundreds of Christmas trees. The Christmas Tree Festival brings together the entire city and reminds us that the cathedral belongs to all the people of Kilkenny". He added that "this year the



Festival will support essential maintenance to the cathedral and also a local charity, Teac Tom , which offers services to those affected by suicide”.

The trees can be entered from businesses, individuals, schools, sports clubs, musical groups etc. The trees will vary from tall and inspiring to small and delicate but made of all sorts of products associated with the entrant. Some edibles, some whacky, some arty, all with their own take on this special tree that adorns ours homes each year.

All details available on Cathedral Website but you also can ring or drop in to find out all details of how to enter or what's on to plan your visit as part of Yulefest.

There will also be themed talks, children's activities with some festive cheer throughout each day. Tasty treats, teas, and a seasonal stall, raffle are all part of the festival. The popular 'Giving Tree' will be there, where donations that will be passed on to local charities can be left. This year the festival is introducing a Quiet Hour on the Friday 2nd December between 2 and 3 pm to create a more welcoming environment for children with autism. All information is on St Canice's Cathedral website and social media pages.

For further information, visit www.stcanicescathedral.com



Maureen Dunn MBE from Cloughfern Parish, Connor diocese, at Windsor Castle following the presentation of her MBE award.



200th anniversary service at Malahide church

An anniversary service will be held on Sunday 27th November at 11.30am in St Andrew's Church, Malahide

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The Preacher will be Most Rev. J McDowell, The Primate of All Ireland and the Celebrant will be The Archbishop of Dublin

A reception will follow the service in St Andrew's School to which all are welcome. There will be no 8am or 10am services on this Sunday.

Belvoir Bikeshed dream realised

A dream has been realised with the grand opening of Belvoir Bikeshed in the grounds of Belvoir Parish Church.

The new bikeshed is the fruit of a partnership between Belvoir Parish, The Church of Ireland Priorities Fund and All Nations Ministries. All Nations Ministries was founded by Belvoir parishioner David Maganda, and supports asylum seekers and refugees who have come to Belfast.

The workshop receives, stores and up-cycles bicycles that are no longer wanted or needed. At the workshop the team carry out a recorded assessment on the condition of each bicycle and where possible within a limited budget, service and repair them so they can be moved on and given to a new owner. Not only does this provide someone with much needed transport but it also reduces waste.

Access to a bicycle has proved to be lifechanging for members of the refugee/asylum seeker and local Belvoir communities. The 150th bicycle will soon leave the workshop to be given to a family or individual, allowing



Pictured above from L–R: Revd Adrian McCartney, Cllr Sarah Bunting, Andy Panayotou, Carson Bell and David Maganda

them the independence to travel and interact with local people and with community groups, services, and amenities.

Retired engineer Carson Bell had the vision for a bicycle repair and recycling project in 2019. The workshop had its first home in Newforge Lane, Belfast and in 2021 the project moved to rooms at Belvoir Parish Church. Now the dream of a fully dedicated space has been realised.

Most of the work is done by Carson along with Andy Panayotou, a retired physics teacher. In addition, All Nations volunteers are trained in the skills of assessing bicycle condition, documenting repairs necessary, scheduling of repair work, managing time and priorities, meeting goals, achieving deadlines and an understanding of assessing/mitigating personal risk and risk to others within a workshop environment. They also receive training in practical skills such as the use of hand tools used for the repair programme, the use of basic power tools, the need for a

disciplined and positive attitude and an essential understanding of health and safety.

Anne Graham works for Migrant Help, an organisation which supports the victims of human trafficking. Over the past two years in excess of 340 people have needed their help.

Anne said: “The people we support are indebted to the bikes because most of them have enrolled in Belfast Met for English classes and it allows them to attend the college. Everybody knows about the bikes and everybody knows Carson!”

DUP Councillor, Sarah Bunting was given the honour of cutting the ribbon whilst Belvoir rector, Revd Adrian McCartney, said that the bikeshed was ‘dedicated to those outside the church for whom we exist and whom we have yet to meet.’

Walk of Light is back on the streets of Dublin

On Sunday November 20 at 3.30pm the congregations of the Leeson Street and Rathmines area of South Dublin together with the Chaplaincy Centre of Trinity College Dublin and under the umbrella of the Dublin Council of Churches (www.dublincouncilofchurches.ie) invite you to come and join them on their annual pilgrimage.

The walk begins in Newman University Church on St Stephen’s Green, leads across the Green and down Grafton Street and into Trinity College Chapel. There will be stops

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outside the gates of St Stephen's Green, at the Molly Malone Statue, and on the Front Square of Trinity College.

Into darkness, great light!



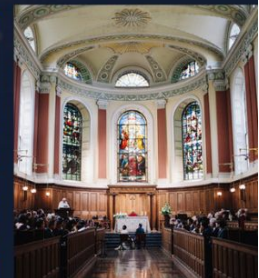
An Interchurch Pilgrimage

Walk of Light



20 NOVEMBER 3:30PM

*Procession beginning at 3:30pm in University Church,
Saint Stephen's Green and ending in Trinity College Chapel*



*Associated with the City Centre Congregations
of the Dublin Council of Churches*



This year's theme for the inter-church pilgrimage is "Into Darkness, Great Light" as participants contemplate the great afflictions of our days: war, housing emergency and economic hardship, and climate collapse. "In the face of these all-consuming and frightening challenges the Advent message of the coming of God's light is more urgent than ever," the organisers say.

Donations are invited for this year's charity, St Vincent de Paul. All are welcome.

Annual Clive West Trust lecture

The annual Clive West Trust lecture will take place on Tuesday November 22, with guest speaker Dr Tim Ward from Oak Hill Theological College, London.

Tim is a lecturer in doctrine and was formerly on the staff of the Cornhill Training course in London. His topic is 'The Clarity of Scripture,' addressing questions such as: Is the Bible clear? If the Bible is God's Word, why do I find it hard to understand? Why isn't the Bible clear to me? Is hearing God's voice the same as hearing God's word?

The lecture will be held in St Nicholas' Parish Church, Lisburn Road, Belfast, and car parking is available at St Nicholas' church halls at the rear of the Lisburn Road Fire Station.

The lecture is free to attend, but there will be an opportunity to contribute to the West Trust fund, which enables training for Christian ministry in Ireland.

Legal challenge against Northern Ireland abortion regulations delayed until next year

A legal challenge against abortion regulations in Northern Ireland has been postponed until next year.

The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) said it was "very disappointed" that its case is being delayed until January 2023.

Hearings commenced this week in its legal challenge against the 2021 Northern Ireland Abortion Regulations but on Wednesday, government lawyers succeeded in having the case adjourned.

The regulations were passed by Westminster while the Northern Ireland Assembly was suspended. They brought far more radical abortion rules to Northern Ireland, allowing abortion for any reason up to 12 weeks of pregnancy, up to 24 weeks on physical and mental health grounds, and up to full term in cases of disability.

Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Chris Heaton-Harris MP, said last month that he would directly commission abortion in Northern Ireland using money from the existing health budget, after "continued inaction" by the Department of Health for Northern Ireland.

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"The UK Government has been clear that it would commission abortion services if the Department of Health did not act," he said.

"The devolution settlement does not absolve me of my legal obligation to ensure that women and girls can access abortion services in Northern Ireland, as they can in the rest of the UK.

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"I will be meeting the Chief Executives of Health and Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland in the coming weeks to ensure these services can be provided. Ultimately, it



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remains the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Executive to fund abortion services in Northern Ireland."

SPUC's case questions the legality of the Secretary of State advancing Westminster's abortion agenda without the cooperation of ministers in the devolved institutions.

On day one of the case, SPUC's senior counsel, John Larkin, argued that the powers conferred to the Secretary of State are more limited than the UK government believes.

On Wednesday, the court halted proceedings after a request from the Secretary of State's lawyers for more time to consider their response.

SPUC fears that the Secretary of State will use this delay to pursue his abortion plans in Northern Ireland.

Michael Robinson, SPUC's Executive Director of Public Affairs, urged Mr Heaton-Harris not to press ahead with "a radical abortion agenda that does not have the support of the people of Northern Ireland".

"The court has recognised that this is a very important case so we are very disappointed that the Government's lawyers have had it adjourned," he said.

"While the reaction to our argument shows that it is potentially decisive, we are concerned that the Secretary of State will take this delay to pursue his plans."

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



Armistice Day Service Online Live Broadcast

Friday 11 November, 10:45am

Remembrance Service from the National Arboretum
On Friday 11 November a service will be held on the Armed Forces Memorial to mark Armistice Day.

“Visitors to the Arboretum will be able to view the service on a large screen in Heroes' Square. We will also be broadcasting our service via our YouTube channel and Facebook page for those unable to attend the Arboretum on the day.”

YouTube

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrf_dViPHoUYgxCGJ3ve6tQ]

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See also online Order of Service

[<https://www.thenma.org.uk/what%27s-on/events-exhibitions-and-talks/events/remembrance-sunday/online-order-of-service>]



Climbing and Reconciliation

On 13 November Sunday Worship on BBC Radio 4 broadcasts the last of four programmes from high peaks across the nations of the United Kingdom marking the centenary of the BBC.

In the final episode, the Rector of Ballyholme, Canon Simon Doogan, and Father Martin Magill tackle Northern Ireland's highest peak, Slieve Donard in the Mourne Mountains.

This Remembrance Sunday, they consider the theme of reconciliation and how the search for it can be similar to climbing and reflect on the story of Jacob and Esau, two brothers whose relationship was seriously ruptured but later were reconciled.

Listen live from 08:10 on BBC Radio 4

Poem for today

An Irish Airman Foresees His Death by W. B. Yeats, 1865 - 1939

I know that I shall meet my fate
Somewhere among the clouds above;
Those that I fight I do not hate
Those that I guard I do not love;
My country is Kiltartan Cross,
My countrymen Kiltartan's poor,
No likely end could bring them loss
Or leave them happier than before.
Nor law, nor duty bade me fight,
Nor public man, nor cheering crowds,
A lonely impulse of delight
Drove to this tumult in the clouds;
I balanced all, brought all to mind,
The years to come seemed waste of breath,
A waste of breath the years behind
In balance with this life, this death.

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
