

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Respect

Image of the day

Chelsea Pensioners at the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior

News reports



Symposium of architects and engineers at Saint Patrick's, Dublin

“Saint Patrick’s Cathedral: 800 Years in the Making” brought together an incredible symposium with RIAI speakers included key players in the roof restoration.



These included architect John Beauchamp, Clancy Construction director Chris Chambers and project manager Niall Meagher.

The day was chaired by Cathedral Manager and Dean's Verger Louis Parminter. Guests were welcomed by The Very Reverend Dr William Morton, Cathedral Dean.

The symposium was officially opened by Minister Malcolm Noonan, who secured vital funds in the restoration project.

Symposium attendees got up close to the finer details of the epic project with special behind-the-scenes tours led by John Beauchamp and his right-hand man at b2architectsuk Tom Griffin. Congratulations were expressed to RIAI CEO

November 14, 2022

Kathryn Meghan, Teresa Harte and Ghinlon Wang on this wonderful collaboration,

Anglican parish priest of Abu Dhabi

**On 6
November
2022 in a
eucharist at
St Andrew's
Archbishop
Michael
formally
licensed the
Reverend
Christine
Trainor as
Anglican
parish priest
of Abu
Dhabi.**



She had until that point discharged the role under the archbishop's Permission to Officiate. The Reverend Gill Nisbet assisted at the liturgy.

November 14, 2022

The parish of Abu Dhabi includes both St Andrew's in the city of Abu Dhabi and the congregation of St Thomas Al 'Ain in the interior.

Missionary Aviation pilot passes the 1000 hours mark

**Last month, MAF
Switzerland Pilot
Joël Rominger
serving in Papua
New Guinea
passed the 1000
hours mark while
flying between
Bensbach to
Balimo.**

He came to PNG
and joined the
program with only
240 hours and is now an experienced pilot.

"It is Gods faithfulness that we see completed in this milestone.

"We are so thankful for every single safe landing of Joël",
says his wife Andrea Rominger.





Oxford College sees highest number of baptisms in recent memory

An Oxford College has celebrated the largest number of baptisms and confirmations in at least 20 years.

Eleven candidates were confirmed at Merton College Chapel by the Bishop of Reading, Olivia Graham, with six of the candidates baptised beforehand by the College Chaplain, Canon Simon Jones.

The group ranged in age from a 14-year-old chorister from the College's Girls' Choir to post-graduate students in their mid-20s and the adult daughter of a member of staff. They began their preparation after Easter.

Canon Jones said: “It was a great privilege to be involved in preparing this group for baptism and confirmation.

“Coming from a range of backgrounds and traditions, their commitment to our shared exploration of faith was hugely encouraging, and we learnt a lot from each other. Their baptism and confirmation was a moving and joyful occasion.”

Iona Thomas-Wright, a doctoral student in neuroscience, said: “Having shared the preparation with the other students getting baptised and confirmed, it was very special to take this next step of faith together and I will cherish the memories of this wonderful service.”

Bereavement - former Dean of Derry

The Very Reverend Raymond Stewart and The Reverend Canon John Merrick deeply regret to inform you of the death of The Very Reverend David Cecil Orr on Friday 11th November 2022, peacefully at home. Adored husband of Valerie, loving father of Richard, David, Melissa and Jonathan and a devoted grandfather.

The Funeral Service will be held on Tuesday 15th November at 11.00 am in Saint Columb's Cathedral, followed by a private family burial..

House private, family flowers only. Donations in lieu of flowers to St Columb's Cathedral c/o The Very Reverend Raymond Stewart, The Deanery, 30 Bishop Street BT48 6PP

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Carols by Candlelight with The Miskelly Chorale

The Miskelly Chorale invites you to join them for "Carols by Candlelight" on Tuesday 6th December at 8pm in St Mary's Parish Church Comber. Suggested donation £10 (cash or card) with all proceeds going to the Welcome Organisation Belfast.

Hewson Memorial Recital

This year marks not one anniversary but three at St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin. It is the 50th anniversary of the death of George Hewson, organist and master of the choristers (1920-60) to whom these recitals have been given in memory for many years. It is also the 120th anniversary of the installation of the mighty Willis Organ in the Cathedral thanks to the continued generosity of the Guinness family in 1902 and finally the 25th anniversary of the appointment of David Leigh at Saint Patrick's Cathedral.

Programme includes W.T. Best's arrangement of the Overture: St Paul by Felix Mendelssohn and Max Reger's Chorale Fantasia on "Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme".

Admission is free, but seating is limited so pre-booking is strongly advised. See Cathedral web site.

Advice and resources for churches on how to make the most of the World Cup

The Church of England has published advice for churches on how to make the most of the World Cup – including staging a football-themed nativity play and moving the date of carol services.

While human rights protesters have raised concerns about the global event being held in Qatar from later this month, the CofE has produced "ideas for how you could use the World Cup as a missional tool this Advent and Christmas," and published them on its 'Church Support Hub' website.

The ideas include a football-themed nativity play, with the shepherds debating whether the 'new king' will be greater than football stars Ronaldo, Messi or De Bruyne – and angels singing 'He's coming soon' to the tune of the English fans' anthem, 'Football's coming home.'

<https://www.churchsupporthub.org/sport-and-wellbeing-landing/b-sport-wellbeing-b-ideas/football-in-a-nativity-box.php>

Protests have been made about the Middle Eastern country's record on human rights, the number of workers that died during the construction of the tournament venues, the timing of the tournament – mid-season for many northern hemisphere nations – and the process that gave

rise to the high-profile event being awarded to a nation without a footballing heritage.

But churches and other Christian organisations have highlighted the opportunities for evangelism and mission, with the event's closing stages taking place in the run-up to Christmas. The CofE's advice to churches describes football as "a valuable mission tool."

It advises: "On December 18th, churches often hold carol services in the afternoon or evening, and this could still be possible if you choose the time carefully ... but what if there are penalties?! It may be best to avoid that day altogether and host a carol service on Saturday 17th instead."

The advice continues: "Despite this clash of dates, football and faith don't have to be at odds with one another, whether you love it or not, there's no escaping the fact that football and the Church have a conjoined heritage.

"Avid footy fans may well know that several Premier League football clubs of today started up as parish church football teams, set up for the health and wellbeing of those local communities. They were established to have a positive impact, especially in communities where poverty and deprivation hindered any kind of thriving."

The ideas being promoted by the CofE for its 13,000 parishes across England to make the most of the World Cup final include advice to:

Watch the game and join with others at your local sports club, pub, or invite neighbours to your home. Offer to lead



some carols, perhaps sharing a sport and faith testimony after the game, with an invitation to Christmas services or to explore faith through sessions such as Alpha after Christmas.

Screen the game in church with refreshments. Again, offer an invitation to something more after the screening.

Host a Christmas sports day instead of your regular collective worship at a local school.

Host a sports quiz and carols at an alternative time to the final.

Organise a Christmas-themed, sports mission event in a public place such as a park, recreation ground, after school

event, or sports club including "a simple football game and 'multisports' event interweaving Advent and Christmas themes into the activities rather than as a slot at the end."

The advice from the CofE also includes co-operation with other Christian groups involved in sports chaplaincy.

Perspective

“There is a crying need for atonement, inner healing and hope in the aftermath of the abuse scandals” – Archbishop Eamon Martin

“The Church of the future in Ireland is a Church which serves ... is less about maintenance and monuments and more about mission and evangelisation”

“There still remains much more to be done to address the legacy of violence, to build reconciliation on this island, and to heal the deep wounds of generations of conflict”

Yesterday Archbishop Eamon Martin spoke to the graduate class of 2022 in theology and philosophy in his role as Chancellor of Saint Patrick’s Pontifical University, Maynooth:

I have a photograph taken back in 1986 at the end of October of me and some of my family standing outside this beautiful College Chapel just after my graduation from the

Pontifical University here in Maynooth. Saint Joseph's Square, in its autumn colours, looked just as beautiful as it does today and I remember that same sense of joy and achievement which you and your families are feeling today.

Our graduation class was very different to today's. It consisted largely of seminarians and religious; the majority were young men like me, in our twenties, journeying towards ordination as priests for the various dioceses in Ireland, or as missionaries heading abroad to spread the Gospel. Your class is mostly made up of lay people of diverse backgrounds and cultures, including adults from all over Ireland who have decided to study Theology later in life and make a personal contribution to leadership at parish and diocesan level; and, we have a "first" this year – I welcome Sister Gabriella and Sister Philomena, the first ever female religious of the Egyptian Coptic Orthodox tradition to study theology at Third Level. Welcome also to you, Bishop Anthony, joining them to celebrate this special moment.

Church and society have changed immensely since the mid-eighties when I studied theology here – you are graduating in a very different world, and a greatly changed Ireland. There was still violence on our streets back in 1987 when I returned home to Derry from Maynooth. The Good Friday Agreement and the peace process were still more than a decade away; 106 people were killed in the Troubles that year, almost half of them civilians. Ten of those civilians were among the eleven people killed on this very weekend in 1987 in the Enniskillen "Poppy Day" bomb. We thank God for the positive progress in peace since those dark days, but there still remains much more to be done to



address the legacy of violence, to build reconciliation on this island, and to heal the deep wounds of generations of conflict.

Church wise, so much has changed in this last 35 years. I could never have imagined, leaving Maynooth, 35 years ago, the seismic changes that were to take place – the significant decline in regular sacramental practice; the fall-off in vocations to the priesthood and religious life; the shocking revelations of abuse in the Church. I sometimes wonder why it is that, when we were studying theology here in the 1980s, we didn't anticipate what was about to happen in the Church – perhaps we should have; was it because, in our studying and reading of Theology and Philosophy, we didn't engage enough in open discussion and dialogue, or really grapple with the big questions of the day for the Church and its mission?

I believe that is why many people are finding the current Synodal process in the Church to be stimulating and refreshing, and are welcoming the opportunity to engage in prayerful discernment and discussion; although, I do recognise that not all feel that way: some Catholics are confused by the Synodal process; they find such openness a potential threat to the stability and certainty of Church teaching. It is therefore very important that we work hard together to preserve the unity and communion of the Church at this time.

In August the Irish Bishops published the key points that were heard during the first phase of the Synodal process. The National Synthesis reveals significant challenges for the handing on of the faith in Ireland. There are clear calls for greater transparency and participation in decision making and for more accountability within our parish and diocesan church structures. There is a longing to connect with the energy and gifts of our young people and a call to discover fresh models of responsibility and leadership in the Church which will facilitate the role of women, as well as men, and help reach out to those who in recent decades have left the Church, or who feel excluded, forgotten or ignored. There is a crying need for atonement, inner healing and hope in the aftermath of the abuse scandals.

Our Synodal journey is taking place at a significant turning point in the history of the Church here. In 2029 we will mark the bicentenary of Catholic Emancipation and, as it approaches, there is a sense that we are in some ways drawing to a close a significant chapter in the life of the Church here, while at the same time seeking a new vision of living faith for the future.

The Synodal reflections so far have merely skimmed the surface. It is clear that we need to go much deeper in our listening, reflection and dialogue, and much wider in our conversations. And that, Pontifical University graduates of 2022, is where you come in!

You are well equipped to become active in the next important phases of Ireland's Synodal pathway. Ten years from now the Patrician year 2032 will mark 16 centuries of Christianity in Ireland. We need your help in creating a vision for the next chapter in the life of the Church in Ireland. We must be more confident and prophetic in the dialogue between faith and culture in Ireland; our Church must proclaim with both conviction and compassion the Good News of salvation in Christ; in face of a culture of death we must choose and witness to the challenging Gospel of Life; listening to the "cry of the earth" and the "cry of the poor", we must become a Church which cares more for the beauty and wonder of God's creation while always pointing beyond this world and enkindling a longing for eternal life; conscious of the unfinished business of peace in Ireland, we must join with our brothers and sisters in other traditions and faiths to foster greater harmony and reconciliation on this island. The Synodal process can help in developing such a vision and manifesto for the future which is both ancient and new, and which can bring afresh to our troubled world and its many lonely and wounded people, the joyful message that 'Christ is alive', 'Christ is our hope!'

I invite you then to become actively involved in our ongoing Synodal conversations. I also encourage this great Pontifical University at Maynooth to bring its resources and talents to the task of ensuring that the Church of the future

in Ireland is a Church which serves; a Church which is less about maintenance and monuments and more about mission and evangelisation.

Dear graduates, congratulations again! Celebrate and give thanks for what you have achieved, but please do not see this as the end of your journey in learning and in faith. Be mindful of the many people who have helped you along the way – your lecturers and tutors, supervisors, mentors and sponsors – not just those who directly assisted your learning process, but also your friends and loved ones who encouraged you to achieve your full potential.

Poem for today

A Soldier's Grave by Francis Ledwidge

Then in the lull of midnight, gentle arms
Lifted him slowly down the slopes of death
Lest he should hear again the mad alarms
Of battle, dying moans, and painful breath.

And where the earth was soft for flowers we made
A grave for him that he might better rest.
So, Spring shall come and leave it seet arrayed,
And there the lark shall turn her dewy nest

Francis Edward Ledwidge was an Irish war poet from County Meath. Sometimes known as the "poet of the

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blackbirds", he was killed in action at the Battle of Passchendaele in July 1917.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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