

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Aslan

Image of the day

Aslan from *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe*

CS Lewis Square, East Belfast

News reports



Clothes Swap at Dromore Cathedral

Dromore Cathedral is holding a Clothes Swap in aid of Tearfund NI on Saturday 19 November from 10.00am–12 noon in the Cathedral Hall.

What is a clothes swap?

Do you have clothes in your wardrobe that you are thinking of bringing to a charity shop? Bring up to 5 items and you could bring home up to 5 different items.

A donation box for Tearfund will be at the door on the day.

November 16, 2022

Please leave the items in the Cathedral Hall on Friday 18 November between 7.00pm and 8.30pm or on Saturday 19 November, before 10.00am if possible.

You will be given a voucher (with the number of items you could take e.g., if you donated 2 items you will be given a voucher for 2 items).

If, at the end of the day there are items left you will be able to buy these, with money from the sale going to Tearfund.

Tea, coffee and treats will also be provided.
What kind of clothes?

Items will be limited to men's and women's clothes that are in good condition and that you would still wear yourself. However you will also be able to swap children's Christmas jumpers.

30% of textiles in the UK end up in landfill. Let's help reduce this by swapping clothes with friends instead of throwing items away.

Remembrance at St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin

President Michael D Higgins and Lord Mayor of Dublin Caroline Conroy attended a Service of Choral Evensong to mark Remembrance Sunday in St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, on Sunday afternoon (October 13).



The service, which was led by Dean William Morton and sung by the Cathedral Choir, was also attended by representatives of Dail Eireann and the diplomatic corps along with representatives of the judiciary and the defence forces. Much of the congregation was made up of members of





the RBL Republic of Ireland.

Following the Exhortation, wreaths were laid at the war memorial in the cathedral by the President and Lieutenant Colonel Ken Martin, District President of RBL Republic of Ireland. The lessons were read by Mrs Joan Bruton BEM and the Ambassador of Ukraine HE Gerasko Larysa.

The preacher was Canon David Oxley who took his text from 'The Fellowship of the Ring' by JRR Tolkien: "I wish it

need not have happened in my time”, said Frodo. “So do I”, said Gandalf, “and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us”.



He said that the congregation had gathered to remember and honour those whose lives were given away and taken away in two world wars. “We do so, knowing that as we listen and pray, the people of Ukraine are enduring the bitter experience of invasion, of conflict, of devastation. Doubtless they wish it need not have happened, this pointless and unjust war. But they have stood up to do what the times demand of them, to defend their country and protect their people. And in President Zelensky they have found an unexpected but inspiring leader,” he stated.

Canon Oxley explained that Lord of the Rings presented two competing ideas about power. The first is the power that sought to dominate, to control and it tended to destroy.

“Tolkien is quite clear-sighted about the impact of domination upon ecology. Saruman’s wanton felling of trees; the utter desolation of the barren ash-heaps of Mordor; the pollution of the Shire when the hobbits return – all vivid images of the tight link between devastation and domination. One of the aspects of the current conflict that affects me most is the attacks on infrastructure, on the power stations, that threaten a while back to destroy a major dam. I’m sure that morally the deaths of the many innocent should hit harder, but there is something chilling about this deliberate and wanton destruction, that will cause so much suffering, and take so long to rebuild,” he said.

The other idea about power is that which is dedicated to heal, to repair, to protect and to nurture, the preacher stated.

The poster features a background of a colorful, abstract painting with green, blue, and yellow tones. A semi-transparent white box in the center contains the following text:

‘Kind Light’
A concert in aid of Bangor Lifeboat Station
Dedicated to the memory of Mary Feeney
BANGOR ABBEY – 9TH DECEMBER 2022
Tickets £15 from ticketsource.co.uk - Proceeds to RNLI
Music by
MAESHINE, MANDY BINGHAM, DAVID LENNON
Poetry by
AMY LOUISE WYATT, PAUL DANIEL RAFFERTY,
BARBARA BOYLE, GAIL JOHNSTON, GIFFORD SAVAGE
Including recitals of Mary Feeney’s Poems

He said that the Elves, Gandalf and Sam Gangee had it. He suggested that the way to this power was the refusal of the domination represented by the evil Ring. Frodo became an embodiment of courage, humility, and self-sacrifice. His suffering freed Middle-Earth from its enemy, although there was no healing for him this side of heaven, Canon Oxley pointed out.

Referring to the Old Testament reading [Micah 4:

1–5] he said that the words about “turning swords into ploughshares and spears into pruning-hooks” represented a “basic either/or choice: we can opt for flourishing and fertility, or we can opt for devastation. Micah’s vision of all

Going Deeper

Time aside with the Lord

10am - 4pm Saturday 26th November
at CCN
468 Shore Road, Whiteabbey
Newtownabbey
BT37 0AB

**Worship - Teaching - Loughshore Emmaus Walk
Fellowship - Listening to the Lord
Prayer Ministry - Activation**

Bring packed lunch and notebook
To register interest:
email: fergus@divinehealingministries.org



November 16, 2022

the nations walking together in pursuit of justice and righteousness remains both relevant and urgent.”.



NI Minister's visit to Armagh

The Minister of State for Northern Ireland, Steve Baker MP, visited Armagh on Monday. As well as meeting local representatives, the Minister had the opportunity to visit



November 16, 2022

both Cathedrals and the Armagh Robinson Library.

Second photo above - The Dean of Armagh, Very Rev S Forster along with the Administrator of St Patrick's RC Cathedral, the Very Revd Peter McAnenly, the Minister of State and local representatives.

Civic reception marks Armagh parish's 250th anniversary



A civic reception marked 250 years of faithful worship in St John's, Lisanadill

A large number of parishioners had a wonderful night at a Civic Reception held in the Palace in Armagh last Thursday. The Reception was hosted by the Lord Mayor and was given to mark 250 years of faithful worship in St John's, Lisanadill. Thanks were expressed to the Lord Mayor Paul Greenfield, Alderman Jim Speers, Alderman Gordon

Kennedy, Alderman Gareth Wilson and Councillor Sam Nicholson, who were all so generous with their time and hospitality.



Christmas
WITH
THE ULSTER CONSORT

The Ulster Consort
Tristan Russcher, piano and organ
Matthew Owens, conductor

St Mark's, Dundela, Belfast
Saturday 3 December, 7.30pm

Come and join us for a very special evening
of festive music with Northern Ireland's newest
professional vocal ensemble.

Programme includes favourites such as
Deck the Halls, The Little Road to Bethlehem,
The Holly and the Ivy and works by John Rutter.

Tickets £12 (2 for £20); under 16s £5
available via [eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk) or at the door

St Mark's Church, Dundela,
220 Holywood Road, Belfast BT4 2DR

Former Dean of Derry remembered with great affection

The funeral took place in Londonderry yesterday (Tuesday) of the Very Reverend David Cecil Orr, a former Dean of Derry who died peacefully at his home in the city's Waterside on Friday.

Dean Orr, who recently marked the 65th anniversary of his ordination, served his entire ministry in the Diocese of Derry and Raphoe where he is remembered "with great affection" by former parishioners and clergy.

The current Dean of Derry, Very Rev Raymond Stewart, had been friends with the late Dean for over 40 years and recalled his predecessor's strong attachment to St Columb's Cathedral, where he worshipped regularly during the 25 years of his retirement.

Dean Orr, who was 89, was born a short distance from the Cathedral, in Carlisle Road, where his father owned a draper's shop. He was educated at the Model School, Foyle College and Trinity College Dublin.

He served his curacy in Drumragh, Omagh from 1957-60, before being appointed Rector of Convoy and Monellan. He spent 10 years there, followed by incumbencies in the Maghera Group (1970-80) and Drumragh (1980-84). It was a special honour for him when, in 1984, he was appointed rector of his boyhood Parish of Templemore, St Columb's Cathedral, and Dean of Derry.

Dean Orr spent a long and active life being involved across many aspects of life of the diocese and the wider community.

He was Honorary Secretary of the Diocesan Council and Synod from 1982-95, and secretary of the Derry Diocesan Board of Education for five years until his retirement. He was also awarded a Silver Acorn for his long service to the Scouting Association, and the Honourable the Irish Society made him a Freeman of the City of London for his contribution to the community in Londonderry.

He is survived by his wife, Valerie, sons Richard, David and Jonathan, daughter Melissa and a number of grandchildren.

Dean Orr's funeral service took place in Saint Columb's Cathedral and was followed by a private family burial.

Former Archbishop of Canterbury joins first climate repentance ceremony

The former Archbishop of Canterbury, Baron Williams of Oystermouth, was among religious leaders from around the world who took part in a climate repentance ceremony on Sunday.

The multi-faith ceremony saw faith leaders seek forgiveness for climate sins, and call for humility and action from world leaders as they seek to address climate change during Cop27.

The latest UN climate change conference of world leaders started last week in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, and runs until 18 November.

Climate finance and compensation, pledges to curb greenhouse gases, and water scarcity are some of the topics on the agenda of the talks.

The climate repentance ceremony brought together leaders from Egypt, the US, Israel, India, Spain and the UK.

They took part in a penitential march up Parliament Hill in London, carrying scrolls with 'Ten Principles for Climate Repentance'.

This was followed by a two-hour ceremony at the New North London Synagogue. Leaders came from the Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Sikh and Hindu traditions.

"Humans have caused untold harm to our precious planet," said Baron Williams.

"Climate repentance means all of us holding up our hands to climate sins, something that is all too often missing from these conversations.

"Only when we deeply acknowledge the past and the present, can we make the courageous changes necessary for a future of climate justice.

"The Ten Principles set out the path for that future."

Patriarch Bartholomew, who is known as 'the Green Patriarch' for his climate activism, said, "The abuse of nature and the exploitation of its resources are a sin against God the Creator and the gift of creation."

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Dominicans to host meeting to consider 'Does the Church need Art?'

The Dominican Congregation will organise a meeting of artists, and those interested in the Christian arts, on Saturday 10 December next. The meeting will take place from 2.00pm to 5.00pm in Saint Saviour's Priory, Upper Dorset Street, in Dublin city centre.

According to organiser Father Michael Dunleavy OP, "The purpose of the meeting is to consider various challenges facing contemporary Christian artists." The conversation will focus on a pertinent question posed by Pope Saint John Paul II in his 1999 letter to artists *Does the Church need Art?* in which he stated:

"Art has a unique capacity to take one or other facets of the [Gospel] message and translate it into colours, shapes and sounds, which nourish the intuition of those who look or listen. It does so without emptying the message itself of its transcendent value and its aura of mystery."

For further details please contact Father Dunleavy on michael.dunleavy@dominicans.ie.

Poem for today

November by Ted Hughes

The month of the drowned dog. After long rain the land
Was sodden as the bed of an ancient lake.
Treed with iron and was bird less. In the sunk lane
The ditch – a seep silent all summer –

Made brown foam with a big voice: that, and my boots
On the lanes scrubbed stones, in the gulleyed leaves
Against the hill's hanging silence;
Mist silvering the droplets on the bare thorns

Slower than the change of daylight.
In a let of the ditch a tramp was bundled asleep.
Face tucked down into beard, drawn in
Under his hair like a hedgehog's. I took him for dead,

But his stillness separated from the death
From the rotting grass and the ground. The wind chilled,
And a fresh comfort tightened through him,
Each hand stuffed deeper into the other sleeve.

His ankles, bound with sacking and hairy hand,
Rubbed each other, resettling. The wind hardened;

A puff shook a glittering from the thorns,
And again the rains' dragging grey columns

Smudged the farms. In a moment
The fields were jumping and smoking; the thorns
Quivered, riddled with the glassy verticals.
I stayed on under the welding cold

Watching the tramp's face glisten and the drops on his coat
Slash and darken. I thought what strong trust
Slept in him- as the trickling furrows slept,
And the thorn roots in their grip on darkness;

And the buried stones taking the weight of winter;
The hill where the hare crouched with clenched teeth.
Rain plastered the land till it was shinning
Like hammered lead, and I ran, and in the rushing wood

Shuttered by a black oak leaned.
The Keeper's gibbet had owls and hawks
By the neck, weasels, a gang of cats, crows:
Some stiff, weightless, twirled like dry bark bits

In the drilling rain. some still had their shape,
Had their pride with it; hung, chins on chests,
Patient to outwait these worst days that beat
Their crowns bare and dripped from their feet.

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
