

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – CS Lewis service on Sunday

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CS Lewis service on Sunday St Mark's, Dundela

On Sunday night, St Mark's Dundela will be hosting a special C.S. Lewis Service of Music and Readings as part of the 10th C.S. Lewis Festival. The service begins at 6.30 p.m. and all are welcome. The photograph is of the window which CS Lewis and his brother donated in memory of their parents in the church where their grandfather had been rector.

News reports

Choral Christmas in Kilkenny

A Choral Christmas event promises to be a memorable and entertaining night and a perfect way to start the Christmas season

St Canice's Cathedral have announced a special Christmas event for the festive season, A Choral Christmas with The High Hopes Choir and The Lady Desart Choir on Friday December 16, at 7pm.

The High Hopes Choir was formed in 2014 by renowned conductor David Brophy, as part of a project in conjunction with RTE to make a documentary series highlighting the issue of homelessness.



A Choral Christmas will take place at St Canice's Cathedral with The High Hopes Choir and The Lady Desert Choir on Friday December 16, at 7pm Photo: St Canice's Cathedral

They are now known as the Waterford High Hopes Choir and membership is not exclusively for homeless people, although they still have some of the original members, who now thankfully have accommodation.

Membership has broadened out to include people with variety of issues including addiction, abuse, mental health issues, serious illness and homelessness.

They also have members who just want to sing and help out in any way that they can. In October of 2022 they went forward with the National Lottery Good Causes Award and

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won the Arts and Culture section, a fantastic achievement for the choir.

The Lady Desart Choir was formed in 2017 and is a SATB contemporary community choir with 80 members ranging in age from 20 to 82 years. The local Kilkenny choir loves to sing and share their passion for music with others through regular public performances.

The event promises to be a memorable and entertaining night and a perfect way to start the Christmas season.

Tickets available from www.eventbrite.com/e/a-choral-christmas-at-st-canices-cathedral-tickets-464932895807
Courtesy Kilkenny Live



Congratulations blessings and best wishes to Revd Matthew Hagan who was instituted as Rector of the Brackaville, Donaghendry & Ballyclog Group of Parishes (Armagh Diocese) on the evening of 15th November 2022.

Service of Introduction, Castlewellan & Kilcoo

The Revd Pat Kerr was introduced as Priest in Charge of the Parish of Castlewellan & Kilcoo (Down & Dromore) on Wednesday 16 November.

The preacher at the service in St Paul's, Castlewellan, was Pat's rector at St Mary's Church, Princes Risborough, Revd David Williams. Please pray for Pat and his family as they approach this new chapter of ministry.

St Saviour's Rathdrum celebrate growing community with opening of school extension

There were celebrations at St Saviour's National School in Rathdrum this afternoon (Tuesday October 15) as the new school extension was officially opened.

Archbishop Michael Jackson was on hand to cut the ribbon and he also dedicated the new building.

The whole school turned out for the occasion and many parents joined the festivities.

The extension saw the construction of new classrooms and a new room for the Hub, the school's dedicated resource area.

The Rector, the Revd Brian O'Reilly, welcomed everyone to the school and said that the children were central to everything that happened at St Saviour's. He said that they



Members of St Saviour's School Council Mrs Doyle, Miss Sherlock, Archbishop Michael Jackson and the Revd Brian O'Rielly to cut the ribbon on the new extension.

strove at all times to provide a safe space for the children and the school had great teachers and staff, led by the principal, Antoinette Doyle. He said that the school would not be resting on its laurels. Having added an extension and PE hall in 2016 in addition to the new Hub and classrooms opened today, a further extension is already being planned.

Archbishop Michael Jackson said he was delighted to be back in St Saviour's NS and noted that the new extension gave pupils the opportunity to live their lives to their full potential. He said that the development of the school could be attributed to all who were associated with St Saviour's, past and present.



Members of St Saviour's Active School Committee assist the Archbishop in planting a tree to mark the official opening of their extension.

“As well as building an extension to the school, we are building a fresh community. At this time we remchildren like us who are in Ukraine and Russia and the Middle East who treasure their education,” he commented. “To the principal and all associated with St Saviour’s thank you for building this school community and thank you for being back at school and making a go of it. Thank you for your commitment to the children and to keeping the spirit of the school alight.”

The principal, Mrs Doyle, thanked everyone from the school and the wider community who had joined them on their special day. She said that St Saviour’s enrolment had doubled in recent years, which necessitated the extensions,



[The Archbishop unveils a plaque to mark the occasion.](#)

but throughout that they aimed to preserve the school's ethos. They aimed to provide a climate where all pupils could flourish and to educate pupils in line with the Christian principles of love and respect, she added.

Mrs Doyle said that the staff and the pupils had adapted during the time when the extension was being built. She thanked the architect, builders, the board of management and all who helped ensure the project ran smoothly.

“At times it wasn't pleasant but everyone dug deep and we had our eyes on the prize. Now we have lovely new classrooms and a cool new lift and the Hub is a beautiful space where pupils can attend classes while also attending mainstream classes,” she said. “Our staff is growing, our school is growing but it is most important to preserve the

ethos of the school. Rathdrum is growing and the school will inevitably grow with it but we hold onto our values and keep children central in those.”

The pupils were central to the celebration with 5th and 6th classes giving a recorder recital and two excellent musicians, Ciara and Nina, giving a piano recital. 1st, 2nd and 3rd classes and junior and senior infants sang hymns and 4th and 5th classes led the prayers. Sixth class also shared their memories of the building project.

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St Margaret Declaration of friendship officially signed at Dunfermline Abbey between the Church of Scotland and the Catholic Church in Scotland

An historic declaration of friendship between the Church of Scotland and the Catholic Church in Scotland was signed at Dunfermline Abbey on Wednesday.

The St Margaret Declaration was formally endorsed on what is St Margaret's Day during a special service to celebrate the 950th anniversary of the magnificent building.

Her Royal Highness, the Princess Royal, was in attendance along with around 300 invited guests from the local community, ecumenical partners, civic society and heritage organisations.



Princess Anne addresses the congregation

Named after the 11th century Scottish Queen who is buried in the abbey, the St Margaret Declaration is the culmination of years of ecumenical relationship building between the two Churches which recognise each other as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Stand alongside each other

It was signed in the presence of Princess Anne by Rt Rev Dr Iain Greenshields, Moderator of the General Assembly, and Most Revd Leo Cushley, Roman Catholic Archbishop and Metropolitan of St Andrews and Edinburgh.

Dr Greenshields said: "I am deeply honoured and privileged to be one of the signatories of the St Margaret's Declaration at Dunfermline Abbey in its 950th year and on St Margaret's Day.



The St Margaret Declaration was signed by Dr Iain Greenshields, Archbishop Leo Cushley and Princess Anne.

"This new friendship agreement has been many years in the making and is aptly named after a Scottish Queen who was venerated for her missionary Christian faith and her kindness and generosity to poor people.

"The declaration reflects the steadfast desire of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Scotland and the Church of Scotland to continue to journey together and to see the healing of division within our nation.

"Friendship is a very deep relationship, a relationship of conscious and deliberate choice in which individuality is respected but there is room for disagreement.

"This is a relationship in which we stand alongside one another, support one another, rejoice together and weep together, pray for and with each other, and work together.

"I would want people across Scottish society to look at this new relationship between the Church of Scotland and the Catholic Church and take away a powerful message – there is more that unites us than divides us as we strive to be an ever more united Christian voice in this land.

"May the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ be in us and between us, may the living hope of the Gospel inspire us and may the deep, enduring, inspiring, renewing and eternal love of God in Jesus sustain us."

Unity and cooperation

Written by senior figures from both Churches, the declaration describes the Churches' shared beliefs, 'rooted in the Apostles, Christ's first disciples,' and acknowledges a common heritage as Christians in Scotland.

It also recognises the divisions of the past, apologises for the hurt and harm caused and seeks to make amends, asserting 'we repent and ask forgiveness of one other.'

It is accepted that some divisions between the Churches remain challenging and more work is needed on reconciliation and healing.

Nevertheless, both Christian denominations say that what they hold in common is far greater than what divides them, and they commit to continue working towards greater unity.

Princess Anne, who served as Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly in 2017, was invited to the service as the patron of St Margaret's Chapel Guild at Edinburgh Castle.

Addressing the congregation, she said: "This is St Margaret's Day and it is an important St Margaret's message of unity and friendship that we are also celebrating here.

"I was honoured to be asked to be present today for the signing of the Declaration of Friendship between the Roman Catholic Church in Scotland and the Church of Scotland.

"This formalises their close bonds of friendship.

"We have been able to celebrate St Margaret today and I think her legacy has helped to bring us this declaration and I thank you all for that.

"Once again, my congratulations on this significant anniversary for the abbey and for the city of Dunfermline but also underlining the importance of what you have signed up today."

Respect and support

Princess Anne described Dunfermline Abbey as a "remarkable place".



Princess Anne greets Dr Greenshields and Most Rev'd Leo Cushley outside the Abbey Church. Rev Maryann Rennie stands by the door.

In his sermon, Archbishop Cushley said: "The declaration is a consciously new approach to ecumenism, an attempt to re-imagine the path towards Christian unity.

"Instead of listing our problems and points of friction or grievance, old or new, the Declaration chooses to focus on what we have in common and underline that we treasure together, so much that is inspiring and ancient, profound and beautiful.

"We stand shoulder to shoulder before an unbelieving world and we wish to respect each other, to be a support to each other, and to do all we can to achieve the unity that the Lord prayed for.

"And if St Margaret and the first men who came here nearly a thousand years ago were here with us now, I would like to think that they would welcome and approve of us setting out in this way.

"In friendship, to face the next thousand years, not as enemies or rivals, but as sisters and brothers and friends in Jesus Christ."

Invited guests were welcomed to the Abbey Church of Dunfermline by minister, Rev Maryann Rennie.

The last resting place of Robert the Bruce and other Scottish monarchs, the building, part of the abbey, was opened in 1821 and features outstanding stained glass and other architectural features.

A new piece of music was commissioned to mark the 950th anniversary thanks to a grant from Creative Scotland.

Mrs Rennie said: "The celebration of the 950th anniversary of the priory at Dunfermline and the legacy of St Margaret of Scotland is an opportunity to notice that faith in Jesus Christ is sustained even in the changing patterns of church design, church reform and the challenge of growing secularisation.

"As the current congregation on the site, we are aware that we are tenants who at this time have the task of sharing Christ's story.

"As Christian people, we are inspired by the presence of Christ we see in Margaret of Scotland, as her story speaks of her piety, compassion, and commitment to others.

"These are values that we hope we continue in the activity of our church.

"But we also recognise the important role that this site has played in the life of the city offering a home and place of worship and refuge for royalty, city residents and visitors."

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth visited Dunfermline Abbey in 1972 to mark its 900th anniversary and King Charles and the Queen Consort had a tour last month on the day that the town officially became Scotland's newest city.

In the media

In this week's issue of The Irish Catholic, the Bishop of Meath Tom Deenihan has said the message of Irish army chaplain **Fr Willie Doyle SJ** can combat a narrow sense of nationalism in Ireland that seeks to "exclude and scapegoat."

Fr Willie Doyle SJ died in 1917 during World War I.

"We see at home an increase in a narrow nationalism which seeks to exclude and scapegoat rather than include and reach out," Bishop Deenihan warned.

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When God's love is rejected evil follows
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Thursday, November 17, 2022 €2.50 (inc. p. 12.20) The Irish Catholic Newspaper @IrishCathNews www.irishcatholic.com

Bishop warns Catholics of the dangers of 'narrow nationalism'

Chai Brady

The message of an Irish army chaplain currently on the road to sainthood can combat a narrow sense of nationalism in Ireland that seeks to "exclude and scapegoat", the Bishop of Meath has said.

Bishop Tom Deenihan hailed Fr Willie Doyle SJ who died in 1917 during World War I, saying his generosity extended beyond nationality and creed.

The Dicastery for the Causes of Saints has opened Fr Doyle's cause, making him a "Servant of God".

"We see at home and abroad an increase in a narrow sense of nationalism which often seeks to exclude and scapegoat rather than include and reach out," Bishop Deenihan warned.

"The current stalemate with the Northern Assembly, the Ukrainian refugee crisis and the growing nationalism in politics throughout the world, are cases in point. Pope Francis has said before that the real Christian is someone who builds bridges not walls. Willie Doyle was a bridge builder," he said.

Bishop Deenihan said that the concept of an Irish priest working as an army chaplain with the British forces in 1917 and ministering to soldiers who were Catholic and Protestant, and losing his life while bringing one to safety, points to "a generosity that is Continued on Page 2

Giving the gift of love...

Launching Trócaire's Christmas 'Gifts of Love' were sisters Rose (1) and Aoibhín McHugh (4) from Kildoon, Co. Meath. This year's gift of winter essentials is for Syrian children living in harsh conditions in Lebanese camps. The Irish public have bought more than one million life-changing Trócaire gifts since the year 2000 to support some of the world's most vulnerable families. The gifts can be purchased online at trocaire.org/gifts. Photo: Mark Steadman

JASON OSBORNE
Irish interfaith pioneer in US dies at 103
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Fr. Aengus Finucane: "a legacy of incredible humanitarian significance"
Looking at a rich and varied life lived in the service of others and of God. **CONCERN** worldwide

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Anglican history maker

Did you know, Rt. Rev. Vicentia Refiloe Kgabe was the 1st female bishop to preach at the Opening Service of the Lambeth Conference, in its 155-year history?

‘In April, Kgabe received the email from Lambeth Palace inviting her to preach, and she didn’t quite believe it. “I

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thought there was a wrong email in my inbox...when it became clear the invitation was real, “I started crying...”

Read the moving story and find out more about the history-making moment here ➡ <https://bit.ly/3UAMrY4>

Perspective



Raising of Advent Wreath marks the start of Advent and Christmas for York Minster - the Archbishop of York writes

On Friday 25 November, York Minster’s spectacular Advent Wreath will be suspended below the Minster’s Central Tower marking the beginning of the Christian festival of Advent and Christmas at the Minster.

The wreath is assembled around a vast and heavy three metre wide, metal ring with built-in channels to hold the water required to keep the foliage fresh. The structure also features five one metre high candle holders, representing the weeks of Advent.

It takes the Minster's expert team of volunteer flower arrangers almost two hours to transform the metal ring into a beautiful abundant display, overflowing with fresh, evergreen winter foliage.

Once the wreath is complete, children from St Peter's School York and Little Green Rascals Children's Organic Day Nurseries, have been invited to the Minster to help Head Verger Alex Carberry, lift four one metre high candles into position on the wreath and watch as Alex lifts the fifth candle into its central position. The wreath will then be hoisted into position below the Central Tower.

The raising of the Advent Wreath is the pinnacle of the calendar year for our flower arrangers who work all year round to provide the cathedral with beautiful floral displays. Producing the Advent Wreath allows Head Flower Arranger Mandy Barker the opportunity to be creative with different seasonal foliage each year, producing a display which is vital to the Advent and Christmas festivities here at the Minster.

The first candle will be lit on Sunday 27 November (the first Sunday of Advent), and then on three successive Sundays with the final candle being lit at the Christmas Day Eucharist service. Each week, the clergy will film a short video which will be released across the Minster's social media channels,

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to explain the significance of each candle of Advent. The candles will remain lit until the Feast of Epiphany on 6 January.

The raising of the Advent Wreath is the first event in the season of Advent and Christmas which celebrates the themes of anticipation, hope and joy. The beginning of Advent will be celebrated on Sunday 27 November with the cathedral's atmospheric Advent Procession, illuminating the Minster in candlelight.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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