

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Dublin's Walk of Life

Image of the day

The Revd Steve Brunn addresses participants in the 18th Walk of Light in the Front Square of Trinity

News

18th Walk of Light and witness in Dublin city centre



As darkness began to fall in Dublin city centre on Sunday afternoon members of several south Dublin churches of various denominations gathered for an interchurch pilgrimage.

This was the 18th Walk of Light, an event organised by Dublin Council of Churches which takes place annually on the Feast of Christ the King. This year, after a two year gap, the pilgrims returned to bring their message of hope to the hustle and bustle of the city streets.



The lanterns are lit for the 18th Walk of Light by Fr Gary Chamberland and the Revd Martin Sauter in Newman University Church. College

This year's theme was 'Into Darkness, Great Light' based on Isaiah 9:2 'The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light'. The theme was apt in these challenging times and as the pilgrims moved from station to station there were reflections on the issues of today – war, housing emergency and economic hardship, and climate collapse.

November 23, 2022

The interchurch pilgrimage began in Newman University Church on St Stephen's Green where participants were greeted by Fr Gary Chamberland. He said that those walking in the pilgrimage would "stand in the midst of the modern world and announce that we come as witness to the light that drives out darkness". He added that they were conscious of the struggles and difficulties faced by communities in Dublin and around the world.



Reflections on War and Peace at Fusiliers' Arch at St Stephen's Green.

The pilgrimage travelled through a busy St Stephen's Green before coming to a stop outside Fusiliers Arch where the Revd Martin Sauter of St Finian's Lutheran Church and chairperson of Dublin Council of Churches led the reflection on war and peace. They then travelled to the Molly Malone

Statue where a representative of St Vincent de Paul spoke about the housing crisis and economic hardship focusing on what it means to have a secure place to live and the work of the charity which was the beneficiary of donations made during the Walk of Light.

They then travelled along Dame Street to the Front Square of Trinity College Dublin where the Revd Steve Brunn, Church of Ireland Chaplain and Dean of Residence, led the reflection on climate change and the ecological emergency facing the planet as well as providing food for thought on small changes each individual could make.

The Walk of Light concluded in the Trinity College Chapel where the Chapel Choir led the music.

At the stations throughout the walk a choir led the singing of the Taize chant 'The Kingdom of God is Justice and Peace'.

A Life of Grace event highlights Queen's faith shared in her Christmas broadcasts

The parishioners of St Bestius' Church in Killeter (Termonamongan) are looking forward to a special event, 'A life of Grace', on Saturday 10th December.

The focal point will be words from Christmas broadcasts by the Late Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, during which she shared about her deep faith in the Lord Jesus.

There'll be seven separate areas in St Bestius, each dealing with a decade during the late Queen Elizabeth's reign. Each

area will feature items reflecting life during that era, hopefully evoking warm memories of that period in the late Queen's reign.

There will also be vintage teas in the hall for people to enjoy time together after visiting the displays in the church. All proceeds will go to the 'Bright and Beautiful' Campaign to restore St Bestius' Church.

Rediscovery - Discovery Gospel Choir's Christmas Concert 2022

Rediscover joy, peace, connection and life this Christmas with Discovery Gospel Choir.

Discovery Gospel Choir say - "We invite you to come on a journey of Rediscovery with us this Christmas. Experience Discovery Gospel Choir as we bring energy, life and joy filled songs of love and hope from all over the world to you. This will be our first Christmas concert since 2019 and we are so excited to come together to perform with renewed vigour and to rediscover the joy this season brings.

"If you cannot attend yourself you may want to generously gift a ticket to someone who may not otherwise be able to attend. If you choose our Gift a Ticket option we will give the ticket to someone who would love to come to our concert but cannot afford it on your behalf. We will prioritise migrants and refugees ".

Discovery Gospel Choir is Ireland's leading multi-cultural choir, singing songs of hope from all over the world. Its



membership currently spans 14 different nationalities, and we sing in 30 different languages.

The choir's motto is "Discovery Beauty in Everyone", and everywhere we go, we share our vision of a modern, diverse Ireland through our vibrant performances.

The Church of St. George and St. Thomas Cathal Brugha Street 1 Dublin Ireland. Fri, 9 December 2022, 20:00 – 21:30 GMT. See Eventbrite for booking.

New priest in charge of Shinrone

Bishop Michael Burrows of Limerick and Tuam will introduce Rev Jim Wallace as priest in charge of the Shinrone Group. The service will be on Friday 25th November at 7.30pm in Shinrone and Archdeacon Godfrey will be the preacher.

In his mid 40s, having contributed to the life of the church in a number of voluntary roles, Jim felt the call to serve in a

more formalised way and was commissioned as a Diocesan Reader in 2007. Full-time training for ordained ministry soon followed and he was ordained to the diaconate in 2011, serving in Rathfarnham Parish, Dublin. In 2012, having attained a Masters in Theology, he was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Burrows, serving his curacy in Waterford Union.



With regard to his appointment as priest-in-charge of ShinroneGroup, Jim comments: “I’m thoroughly delighted, and look forward to serving the people of Shinrone and the wider community, and of course to contributing to the life of the TLK Diocese. I’m excited to once again have the opportunity to work under Bishop Michael’s guidance and am very grateful for the trust he’s placing in me.”

Jim describes his mother, Rev’d Ann, who passed in 2015, and the late Bishop Roy Warke as the two most inspirational people in his own ministry formation. He has two adult sons and a 3 year-old grandson, all of whom he describes as “utterly grounding and the best fun in the world!”



115 tractors in Connor parish fundraiser

Gartree Parish Church, located on the estate of RLC Langford Lodge Ltd near Crumlin, held a very successful fundraising Tractor Run and Open Day.

All proceeds from the event were in aid of Gartree Parish Church Building Fund, and the RLC Langford Lodge Ltd 2022 charities – Castle Tower School, Fleming Fulton School and Parkview School.

After registration, 115 tractors of different shapes and sizes set off on a short run around the estate, located on the scenic Lough Neagh shore, and which served as Northern Ireland Base Command for United States troops during World War Two. On their return, lunch, included in the

registration fee, was served, and all Tractor Run participants received a commemorative medal. After lunch, there was an auction of farm produce, including hay, silage, power tools, coal, a turkey, straw and much more!

At 2.30pm, Elizabeth McBride, a local history enthusiast, gave a talk in the church on the history of the Pakenham family and Langford Lodge site.

Throughout the day, visitors were able to look around the 19th century church and adjoining graveyard and were entertained in the afternoon by music played on the recently repaired 'Glen Millar' organ.

Dundarave Farm Shop was on site, while Radox was offering health checks. There was hot food, a cart boot sale, tombola, vintage teas in the church hall and an ice cream van. The event raised in the region of £8,000.



Sunday 4th December
2022
2.00 – 4.00pm
St.Cedma's Parish Church
Church Road, Larne

Tea / Coffee and shortbread £2.00
All donations to the
Inver Hall Building Fund

QUILTS FOR ADVENT

St.Cedma's
Parish Piecemakers

Priest-in-Charge, the Rev John Farr, said. “The estate is not normally open to the public, which is why we had such a great response. To get to see around the site is a real privilege.”

He credited parishioner Bertie Graham with the vision for the Tractor Run, held on October 8. “The day was a raging success. There was a lot of work done by a lot of people, but especially Bertie,” John said. “There were prayers for

Archbishops of Armagh express concerns regarding legacy legislation

The Church of Ireland and Roman Catholic Primate of All Ireland, Archbishops John McDowell and Eamon Martin, have written the following piece on legislation relating to the Troubles which is to be considered this week by the House of Lords. The article was published (Tuesday, 22nd November 2022) in the Financial Times.

A good deal of the Church’s pastoral ministry in any society involves being with people who have suffered. In Northern Ireland, too often that has meant supporting those who have suffered the violent death or serious injury of a loved one. Our predecessors through the worst years of the Troubles walked in front of thousands of coffins. Our generation of clergy has comforted and prayed with individuals and families for whom the heartbreak has, in some cases, seeped through generations. The legacy of the Troubles remains an open wound and the frailest of seams in our political and social life.



There is no universal remedy for this great pain, but there can be honesty, integrity and compassion in trying to find the best way forward. Most people in Northern Ireland felt that such a way had been found in 2014, with the provisions on legacy contained in the Stormont House Agreement which was negotiated by local political parties and the British and Irish governments.

Although the provisions were not acted upon, they surfaced again in a later agreement involving the same parties in 2020. On both occasions, most victims' groups welcomed the decisions made.

The promoters of the Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Bill, which begins its journey through the Lords this week, have effectively set aside the toil and goodwill of those who have been journeying with victims for decades. They may say that they are "listening" but the fact

that they have produced a bill so heavily weighted in favour of the perpetrators of violence suggests otherwise.

The bill contains provisions that set the bar for immunity from prosecution pitifully low (effectively granting an amnesty), and will not, in all likelihood, provide relatives with the quality of information for which they have yearned for so long. There are other issues, too. Virtually all independent legal opinion that we have seen casts serious doubt on whether the case “review” provisions of the bill will comply with the provisions of Article 2 of the European Convention on Human Rights which require access to a proper investigation of loss of life. Moreover, anyone with a basic understanding of paramilitary culture in Northern Ireland could not expect many perpetrators to risk offering their accounts for the record.

From an ethical point of view (and not just a Christian one), the inclusion of the word “reconciliation” in the title of the bill – and its liberal scattering like fairy dust throughout the provisions – remains a mystery.

Reconciliation in both the religious and civil senses involves the restoration of relationships; it requires patience, the slow building of trust leading to courageous truth telling, and immense forbearance. Nothing in this bill goes anywhere near providing the environment for that to take place. Perhaps the very opposite.

The individual at the heart of this bill is not “the victim” – rather, they are a strange hybrid of “the perpetrator” and “the secretary of state for Northern Ireland for the time being”. The latter is given powers to appoint personnel, make

regulations regarding its work, issue “guidance” on the immunity process, initiate reviews, direct a response to historical findings, appoint those responsible for the historiographic work and control the overall budget. In other words, it grants the secretary of state the powers of a commissar rather than a minister of the Crown.

Addressing the legacy of the past has been perhaps the greatest failing of both politicians and civil society in Northern Ireland since the signing of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement in 1998. This bill will not achieve any of its purposes. On the contrary, it will deepen division and further demoralise all but a tiny minority of those it purports to help. It seems almost as though it has been designed to fail.

Churches would be better to stick to 'Christmas' than the World Cup - Bishop

As the World Cup kicks off, the Bishop of Burnley has said he is not feeling as enthusiastic about the tournament this year.

Rt Rev Philip North says that Churches would be better to stick to 'Christmas' than to get involved with the World Cup.

He has stated that he feels "really uncomfortable" knowing that more than 6,500 workers have known to have died from building these "glamouros stadiums."

Rt Rev North told Premier News, "I think they should be focusing on Christmas really and the incarnation.

"Often the World Cup is a very, very good evangelistic opportunity and I'm not going to criticise those churches seeking to use it in that way.

"Personally, though, I feel really uncomfortable about this World Cup, the number 6,500 is very much in my head, which is the number of migrant workers reckoned to have died building those glamorous football stadiums.

"I think how many people died building the stadium in Qatar?

"How many people's rights were abused building that. Then of course, it's all the questions over human rights abuses and prejudice in Qatar.

"So the whole thing is just making me feel really uncomfortable.

"It's obviously up to people, individuals, how they, how they deal with that, but the message of Christmas is one of joy and good news, you know, Jesus comes to establish the Kingdom of justice.

"How can we how can we proclaim a kingdom of justice, if we're colluding with that kind of injustice will be very interesting, I think, for himself to deal with."

Rt Rev North said what he thinks is the best response to these issues: "I think we should be reclaiming sport as Christians I think that's the best response, starting church football clubs again. Let's create let's actually re-engage with the world of sport."

In the media

When taking a stand has a point - Daily Telegraph Editorial comment

The political stand taken by the footballers in Qatar as the World Cup got under way was remarkable and courageous. We refer not to England or Wales, whose captains had planned to wear armbands showing solidarity with gay people only to cave in under pressure from the Fifa governing body. We are talking about Iran.

They represent a country where real oppression is taking place and where making a political statement is dangerous, unlike wearing an armband or the ludicrous “taking the knee” gesture, neither of which have consequences but are intended to show that the advocate cares.

In the event, the England team’s moral posturing against Qatar’s repression extended only to the point where they feared Harry Kane might end up with a yellow card, risking his future participation if he received another.

The Iranian players, by contrast, risk far more than that. Protests in their homeland have taken place for months after the death in custody of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old woman arrested by the morality police in Tehran for not wearing a headscarf.

A crackdown by the theocratic state has left 378 people dead, including 44 children, according to the Iran Human

Rights group. If the England players wanted to make a political stand, they should have done so in support of the women of Iran. That country's players declined to sing their own national anthem while their fans booed it. The team was well beaten but the players could be forgiven for having other things on their minds. As Ehsan Hajsafi, Iran's captain, said: "The conditions in our country are not right and our people are not happy."



Those comments could well mean he cannot go home. If he does, he may face the wrath of the Islamic state's rulers. Scores of sportsmen and women, celebrities and journalists have been rounded up in a campaign of mass arrests against public figures who have supported the protests.

While Qatar's attitude to homosexuality and women is unacceptable in the West, this was known long before the teams agreed to go there. If they felt so strongly, why did they not boycott it? But the country that was more worthy of their indignation was Iran, whose government is also helping to arm Russia, which is banned from the World Cup because of its invasion of Ukraine. Why, in that case, is Iran allowed to take part? The double standards are breathtaking.

Daily Telegraph Editorial 22/11/2022

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

A resource for Advent

The Down and Dromore Diocesan Committee of the Church's Ministry of Healing (CMH) has reissued its Advent Devotional Resource for personal use and as an aid to worship leaders.

Using themes generally associated with the Sundays in Advent, each week an acrostic is offered to help in the

teaching of that theme. There is a short meditation each Sunday and the Bible References for each Sunday in Advent are also listed, along with intercessions that can be used throughout the week.

This devotional has been further developed to include a verse and suggested prayers (from the BCP) for each day during Advent, along with some verses midweek from an Advent hymn, and a final thought for the week.

As this resource has been designed for use in any year, a separate reflection thought has been included at the end of the resource specifically for Christmas.

The Revd Canon Gillian Withers, Chair of the Diocesan CMH Committee, said: 'It is our hope that this resource will be a blessing to those who use it for their personal devotions during the season of Advent and to those preparing to lead worship Sunday by Sunday. I am happy to commend it for use.'

See download link at -

[\[https://www.downanddromore.org/news/2022/11/a-resource-for-advent-\]](https://www.downanddromore.org/news/2022/11/a-resource-for-advent-)

Poem for today

Epic by Patrick Kavanagh

I have lived in important places, times
When great events were decided, who owned
That half a rood of rock, a no-man's land

Surrounded by our pitchfork-armed claims.
I heard the Duffys shouting "Damn your soul!"
And old McCabe stripped to the waist, seen
Step the plot defying blue cast-steel -
"Here is the march along these iron stones."
That was the year of the Munich bother. Which
Was more important? I inclined
To lose my faith in Ballyrush and Gortin
Till Homer's ghost came whispering to my mind.
He said: I made the Iliad from such
A local row. Gods make their own importance.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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