

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – The Bells of St Flannan's**

## Image of the day

### The Bells of St Flannan's

The Bells of St Flannan's Cathedral which can be heard each Sunday and on special occasions. The eight bells were cast by Matthew Byrne Bell Foundry in 1896. The largest (tenor ) Bell weighs in at 500 kg. A ninth bell is used as a "call bell" and this dates from 1837. Photo by Rev. Patrick Comerford.

## News reports

### Full Circle – A Story of Ballybay Presbyterians

**Presbyterian people have lived, worshipped and worked in the Ballybay area of Co. Monaghan for well over 300 years.**

23 years ago the story was told with the publication of Full Circle. A Second Edition now brings the story up to date. It includes additional material, corrections and many colour photographs.

It will be launched in Cahans Meeting House, Stranooden, County Monaghan, on Friday December 2 at 8.00 pm. And you are cordially invited.

November 25, 2022

Full Circle traces the social, political and religious contexts in which their story (and individual stories) developed. There were years of division with the coming of the Seceders from Scotland c1750. A second Presbyterian community, Cahans, was formed, then Derryvalley in 1799. Later division led to Second Ballybay, the church in the town.

Famine, emigration, political and economic hardships all played a part in reducing Presbyterian numbers, and in 1972 Cahans, Derryvalley and First Ballybay reunited to form today's First Ballybay - the "full circle" almost complete. The 'circle' has been complete since 2005 with First and Second Ballybay worshipping and working together, and Drumkeen with Rockcorry.

## Going Deeper

*Time aside with the Lord*



DHM

**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](mailto:fergus@divinehealingministries.org)**

November 25, 2022

Full Circle is both a story and a record of people and events, members and ministers, women and men. It shows

- their involvement in linen, such an important part of Ballybay life for many years
- their role in Tenant Right agitation
- their commitment to education at national school, secondary and theological levels
- their support for the 1798 cause

**ADORO**

**Joy To The World**

DIRECTOR ASHLEY FULTON

MAGHERADROLL  
PARISH CHURCH,  
BALLYNAHINCH

WEDNESDAY 21ST  
& THURSDAY 22ND  
DECEMBER 2022  
7.45PM

£15.00 (£12.50 Concession)

Tickets available from ADORO members or  
ashleyfulton72@me.com  
Magheradroll Parishioners please contact  
David Smyth on 07808 078117

- their sufferings during the years of the great famine and in war
- their concern for the poor
- their spiritual life and the influence of renewal movements
- the effects on their lives of more modern developments
- the place of 'lay' people in their church life, together with Christian service in Ireland and other countries.

The story includes the famed 'Cahans Exodus', tells of Hope M. Waddell, the first Irish Presbyterian missionary (who served in Jamaica and west Africa from 1829 - 1858), his brother William Charles Waddell, Monaghan coroner before, during and after the 'famine' years, David Nelson, awarded the Victoria Cross during the first World War, and David Bell, Presbyterian minister and fierce advocate of Tenant Rights who left Derryvalley to pursue his political work.

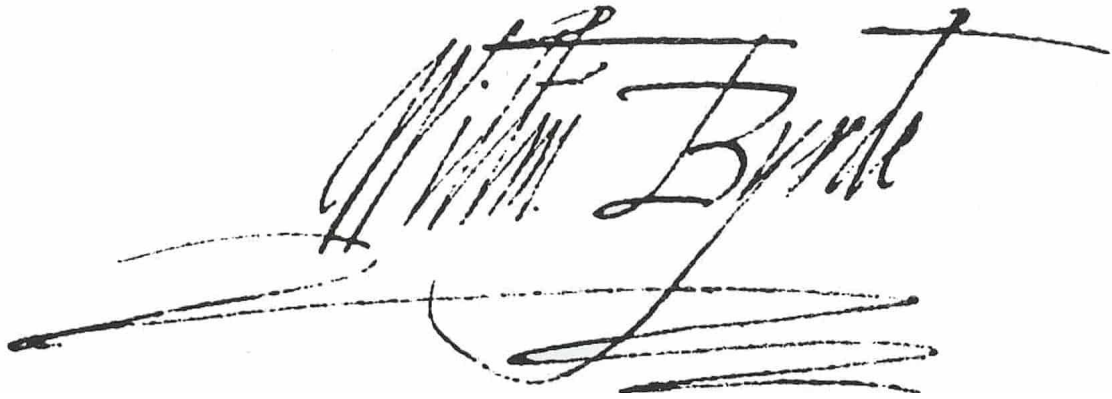
See -

[\[http://www.cahans.ie/\]](http://www.cahans.ie/)

## **Westminster Cathedral Choir to commemorate William Byrd's 400th Anniversary**

**Westminster Cathedral Choir will sing William Byrd's Mass settings to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the death.**

The Choir will perform the entirety of his Gradualia, settings of music for Mass, during choral services at Westminster Cathedral.



William Byrd (1540 - 1623) was an English composer of the late Renaissance period, and considered to be one of the finest and most significant composers of his time and of his nation. He was a Catholic during the religious turbulence of the late 1500s when Catholicism was forbidden and many prominent Catholics were martyred for their beliefs.

The two collections of settings of the Mass Proper that make up the Gradualia were written for clandestine use by English Catholics.

As Cardinal Vincent explains: "William Byrd's settings for the Mass were first heard in secret, in private chapels and back rooms, attended by Catholics who risked their livelihoods and by priests who risked their lives. Yet despite the private nature of these first performances, his music is full of life and emotion and communicates the vitality of a living faith, standing strong against the difficulties of the time. Every note, every phrase, is a prayer. Our prayer today stands in continuity with his."

It is highly symbolic that these settings will be sung during the same Masses for which they were composed, but in the

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very public setting of Westminster Cathedral in the 400th year of Byrd's death.

The music was intended to help Catholics mark the different seasons of the Church's calendar, and all 109 pieces will be performed at the appropriate time of the year.

Highlights include a special Requiem Mass at the Cathedral on Tuesday 4 July 2023 - the very date of Byrd's death in

 *Ballymena Chamber  
Orchestra  
&  
Community Choir*

**Christmas Classics  
By Candlelight**

Saturday 10th December 2022  
St Patrick's Church of Ireland  
Ballymena  
7.30pm  
Tickets - £12  
(Children under 12 - £6)

Tickets available at the door or on  
[Eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk)\*  
\*Online booking fees apply

[www.ballymenachamberorchestra.co.uk](http://www.ballymenachamberorchestra.co.uk)

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1623, as well as 17 Masses with complete Mass settings, sung in the Cathedral for the very first time.

The celebration begins on Sunday 18 December 2022 and will run until Monday 25 December 2023. All are most welcome.

Download the full programme for the commemoration of William Byrd's 400th anniversary here -

[\[https://westminstercathedral.org.uk/music/byrd400/\]](https://westminstercathedral.org.uk/music/byrd400/)

## **Presbyterian Church submission on Safe Access Zones Bill**

**As the Oireachtas Committee for Health undertakes its pre-legislative scrutiny on the General Scheme of Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly TD's Health (Termination of Pregnancy Services (Safe Access Zones)) Bill 2022, the Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI) has taken the opportunity to submit its views on the draft legislation to the Minister and the committee.**

In its submission, the all-Ireland denomination states that while it is important that women seeking to access services should be protected from harassment '... a sincere desire to help women and their families in crisis has arrived at a misguided and unwise proposal'. It goes on to express concern that 'the law as proposed and framed is unnecessary, impractical, and likely to be counter-productive, undermining public order and curtailing the freedoms of expression and religion that are necessary for a constitutional republic.' It concludes by urging the Minister



and the Committee to reconsider the legislation and recommends that it is withdrawn completely.

Explaining the reasoning behind the Church's position, Rev William Hayes, the Convener of PCI's Council for Public Affairs' panel that assesses various aspects of government policy and legislation going through the Oireachtas, summarised its position. "As a church we are committed to a pro-life for the whole-of-life position. We also recognise the matters reflected in the draft legislation are not only



sensitive, but cut across the lives and personal experiences of women and their families who have experienced a crisis pregnancy situation in the past, or who may do so in the future.

“This is not simply a theological or academic exercise for us within PCI, as many of our ministers, and others in congregations, have journeyed alongside women and families who have experienced a pregnancy crisis and been presented with very difficult decisions. That the bill relates to questions of the right to life is distinctly secondary to how it relates to the right of freedom of expression,” he said.

The minister for Tullamore Presbyterian Church in County Offaly continued, “Our opposition to this legislation certainly does not stem from a desire to see women in difficult circumstances intimidated as they seek to access specific support, not at all. As we clearly state in our submission to the Committee, we deplore any situation where a woman seeking a termination, or medical staff involved in the provision of abortion services, are harassed or subjected to behaviour which would compound their distress.

“However, this draft bill seems to create a precedent for the limitation of speech in public, with no measure or right of appeal. We are not seeking space to protect our practices as Presbyterians but rather as Christians, we are motivated to protect others’ freedom of expression.

Mr Hayes concluded by saying, “There are laws in place that allow the authorities to deal with anti-social and harassing behaviour. Protecting the rights to access these services, which are legal, can be achieved without

diminishing the rights to free expression. For this reason and others the broad scope of this draft legislation gives us considerable concern, which is why we have urged the Minister and the Committee to reconsider this well-intentioned but misguided legislation and call for its withdrawal.”

## **Bishop’s pastoral letter on deadly mass shooting at Walmart in Southern Virginia**

**A gunman opened fire at a Walmart in Chesapeake, Virginia, late Nov. 22, killing six and wounding four, before shooting and killing himself.**

Chesapeake is just south of Norfolk, near the North Carolina state line. On Nov. 23, the Diocese of Southern Virginia released the following pastoral letter from Bishop Susan Haynes about the shooting, and a prayer vigil was organised at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Chesapeake.

Bishop Haynes said - “Once again, our world has been plunged into darkness. Last night, as shoppers gathered supplies for upcoming Thanksgiving festivities in Chesapeake, Virginia, a person entered the store and shot six of his former fellow employees before turning the gun on himself and taking his own life. The aftermath of such violence is dark and full of anguish. Our pained cries and laments rise up. We need to see you, God! As the Psalmist cries, so do we: “Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O Lord.” (Psalm 4:6) We need to see you.



A wonderful concert was presented in Bangor Abbey for the Friends of Columbanus. Manuela Bertoncini (in the centre) a great friend and honorary member from Italy, came to Bangor for the Friends of Columbanus festival.

“This Sunday marks the first Sunday of Advent, the Sunday when we light the first candle on our Advent wreaths. As we do so, let us light this candle as an act of defiance against the darkness which falls around us. The Prophet Jeremiah reminds us that weapons of war and violence will be transformed into implements of creativity and growth. The Apostle Paul exhorts us to lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light – the Lord Jesus Christ himself. Jesus tells us that He is coming again and will crash in unexpectedly on our darkness. As we light our Advent candle this Sunday, we are turning on the light in the

world; that light is stronger than the dark and will overpower it.

“Our Baptismal Promises also call us to action. We are called to prayer, we are called to resist evil, we are called to proclaim Jesus, we are called to seek justice and to respect all humanity. This call to action will look different for different people, and all authentic action born of prayer and devotion to God is needed. Say your prayers and get to work.

“As you light your Advent candle against the darkness this Sunday, remember especially in your prayers the City of Chesapeake and the people there. Pray that God would empower the churches there (St. Bride’s and St. Thomas) to be the light and hope of Christ in the face of violence. Pray for the Norfolk and Suffolk convocations (The Very Rev. Stewart Tabb and the Very Rev. Dr. Keith Emerson, Deans) that they will be empowered to be beacons of hope in the face of chaos. Pray that God would empower us all to face this darkness with the light of Christ.

The Bishop’s pastoral concluded with this prayer -  
O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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**Webinars,  
music,  
resources,  
broadcasts,  
and books**

## **Introduction to Prayer Ministry**



The Introduction to Prayer Ministry day explores what it means to pray with others, to intercede on someone's behalf, and to help those who want to respond and spend time in God's presence to receive His love, peace, comfort and healing.

This training is open to all who desire to learn more about this ministry, for refresher training, and will equip participants to provide prayer ministry in a church, event or community setting.

→ 🙏 Register and find out more at: [bit.ly/3SzjD04](https://bit.ly/3SzjD04)

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Saturday 3rd December, 2022

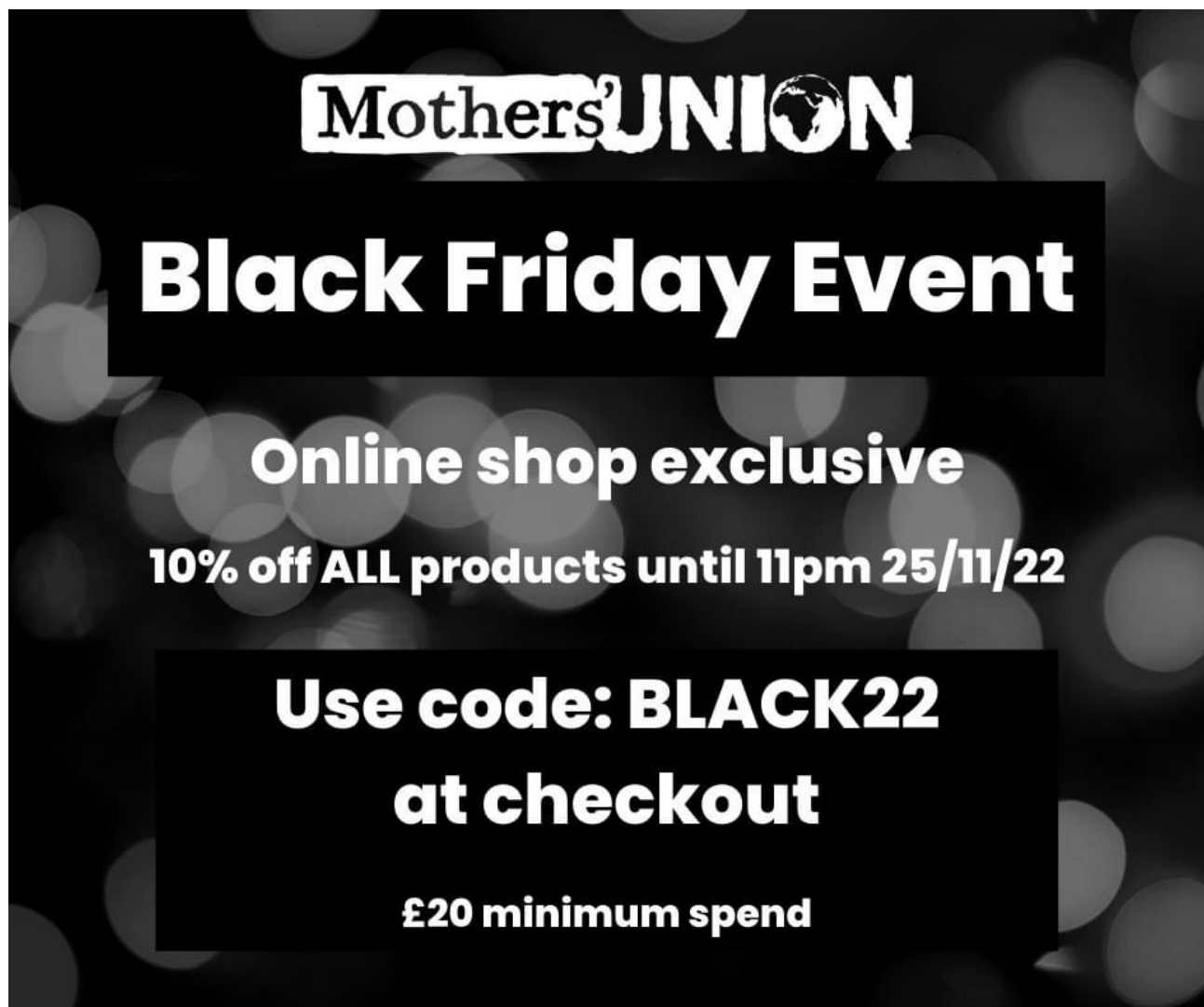
– Newtownabbey Methodist Mission

Saturday 4th February, 2023 – Darling Street Methodist Church

Saturday 6th May, 2023 – Dundrum Methodist Church

## Advent 1 - Sermon

"At the end of time, God, who is the actual source of all joy, all peace, all light, all love, will permeate every fiber of creation."

A promotional graphic for Mothers' UNION. The background is dark with a bokeh effect of light circles. At the top, the text "Mothers' UNION" is displayed in white, with a globe icon integrated into the letter "O" of "UNION". Below this, the words "Black Friday Event" are written in a large, bold, white sans-serif font. Underneath, the text "Online shop exclusive" is written in a smaller white font. This is followed by "10% off ALL products until 11pm 25/11/22" in a bold white font. At the bottom, the text "Use code: BLACK22 at checkout" is written in a large, bold, white font, with "£20 minimum spend" in a smaller white font below it.

**Mothers' UNION**

**Black Friday Event**

Online shop exclusive

**10% off ALL products until 11pm 25/11/22**

**Use code: BLACK22**  
**at checkout**

**£20 minimum spend**

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This Sunday's sermon for Advent 1 was written by the Rev. Bertie Pearson. Read more in Sermons for Advent and Christmas 2022, the annual compilation from Sermons That Work. <https://iam.ec/ac2022>

St. Matthew's Parish Church, Keady

# CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

**9th - 11th December**

**FRIDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER OPENING 6.30PM**  
8.00pm - Opening Service  
Preacher: The Rt Revd Ken Clarke

**SATURDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER OPENING 11.00AM**  
8.00pm - Community Carol Singing with  
Tassagh Silver Band

**SUNDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER OPENING 2.00PM**  
7.30pm - Closing Service  
Preacher: The Most Revd John McDowell

*Seasonal Refreshments Served  
(Saturday & Sunday)*

## ALL WELCOME

Proceeds in aid of  
Southern Area Hospice &  
Keady Church Roof Repair  
Fund

CHURCH STREET, KEADY, BT60 3SD





# Poem for today

## A Memory

by George William (“A. E.”) Russell

You remember, dear, together  
Two children, you and I,  
Sat once in the autumn weather,  
Watching the autumn sky.

There was some one round us straying  
The whole of the long day through,  
Who seemed to say, “I am playing  
At hide and seek with you.”

And one thing after another  
Was whispered out of the air,  
How God was a big, kind brother  
Whose home is in everywhere.

His light like a smile comes glancing  
Through the cool, cool winds as they pass,  
From the flowers in heaven dancing  
To the stars that shine in the grass.

From the clouds in deep blue wreathing  
And most from the mountains tall,  
But God like a wind goes breathing  
A dream of Himself in all.

The heart of the Wise was beating

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Sweet, sweet, in our hearts that day:  
And many a thought came fleeting  
And fancies solemn and gay.

We were grave in our way divining  
How childhood was taking wings,  
And the wonder world was shining  
With vast eternal things.

The solemn twilight fluttered  
Like the plumes of seraphim,  
And we felt what things were uttered  
In the sunset voice of Him.

We lingered long, for dearer  
Than home were the mountain places  
Where God from the stars dropt nearer  
Our pale, dreamy faces.

Our very hearts from beating  
We stilled in awed delight,  
For spirit and children were meeting  
In the purple, ample night.

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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# 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](mailto:houstonmckelvey@mac.com)

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