

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Support for respite at Hope House

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Support for respite at Hope House



Carolyn Moore, right, presents the £3,015 she raised through a coffee morning to Dawn McConnell from Hope House.

Carnmoney parishioner Carolyn Moore recently handed over a cheque for £3,015 to Hope House, a respite facility for adults with cancer, their carers and adult friends.

Carolyn, who received a cancer diagnosis last year, raised the money by organising a coffee morning in the church on October 8.

November 26, 2022

Recently members of J.O.Y. visited Hope House in Islandmagee and were able to hand over a cheque for £3015 to Dawn McConnell the manager of Hope House. Helping with the cheque presentation (Photos front page) to Hope House are some of those involved in the coffee morning in Carnmoney Parish, from left to right: Heather Seeds, Shirley Earley, Jean Scott, Dawn McConnell from Hope House and Lynne Heber.

News reports



Diocese-wide mission in 2023 in Down & Dromore

Down & Dromore parishes will work in a partnership with SOMA (Sharing of Ministries Abroad) for a diocese-wide mission in the two weeks leading up to their Diocesan Synod in June 2023.

November 26, 2022

Bishop David McClay has invited SOMA to send 150 people to his diocese from the Anglican Church worldwide – from Singapore, South Africa, America and England – to help run mission and outreach with enough people for a team in every parish.

Mission teams will be available from Friday 2 June until the Diocesan Synod on Thursday 15 June and can be placed with parishes for a 3, 4, or 7–day mission. Each participant will be making their own way to the diocese, so host parishes need only provide accommodation and food.

YOU ARE INVITED

CHRISTMAS
with Cadenza

CADENZA CHOIR DIRECTED BY MICHAEL MCCRACKEN

MONDAY 12 DECEMBER 2022 | 19:30

ADMISSION AT THE DOOR: £12
CHILDREN UNDER 12: FREE
INCLUDES LIGHT FESTIVE REFRESHMENTS

ST. IGNATIUS' PARISH CHURCH
700 SAINTFIELD RD, CARRYDUFF, BT8 8BU

Christmas with Cadenza at Carryduff

November 26, 2022

The diocese says “Our guests are coming to share Christ, to speak at outreach events, and to be available for whatever mission activities a parish has planned”.

Bishop David invites parishioners and clergy at this stage to pray, to begin to put together a programme and to identify the people in their parishes who could work alongside the SOMA team member(s).

He says, “It’s an exciting opportunity and it’s one that I’m asking all our parishes to grasp. These will be days of blessing and interaction with people from the worldwide church with every parish in our diocese.”

More details will be shared in the New Year.

Find out more about SOMA Ireland: www.somaie.org

Christmas at Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin

Music is at the heart of Worship at Saint Patrick’s Cathedral. At Advent and Christmas the Church uses music to help worship soar. It also enables us to express what we want to say to God for the birth of his Son, Jesus, in the stable at Bethlehem. All are welcome to worship at St Patrick’s.

27 November 6.00pm Advent Carol Service

11 December 3.15pm Carols for All

18 December 3.15pm Nine Lessons & Carols

24 December 4.00pm Nine Lessons & Carols

25 December 11.15am Christmas Day Eucharist

Archbishop's tribute to Bethany Home campaigner Derek Linster

Derek Linster, who campaigned on behalf of survivors of the Bethany Home has died at the age of 81.

Archbishop Michael Jackson has paid tribute to him:

“It is with sadness that we note the death of Derek Linster at his home in Rugby in England on Saturday November 19 2022.

“Derek was a man who stood firmly for his principles. In his role as chairperson of the Bethany Home Survivors’ Group, he spoke for people whose voices needed to be articulated.

Even so, Lord, quickly come, to thy final harvest home; gather thou thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin, there, forever purified, in thy presence to abide; come, with all thine angels come, raise the glorious harvest home. ~ Henry Alford, 1844



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“The memorial which carries the names of the babies who died in the Bethany Home is a sobering and lasting legacy of the work Derek has done throughout his life. Those who pass the memorial will see these children’s names and will know of their existence due to his tireless work.

“As Archbishop of Dublin and Bishop of Glendalough, I want to extend my sympathies to Derek’s family and friends.”

**Georgian Day at
Armagh
with Choral
Evensong**

Georgian Day at the Cathedral

Saturday 26th November 2022

The Cathedral Church of Saint Patrick
will be open for visitors from
10 of the clock until 5 of the clock.

Choral Evensong
will be sung by the Cathedral Choir
at 5 of the clock.

All welcome.



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

C of I Vocation Retreat

**You are invited to book now for the Vocation Retreat at
Dromantine Retreat Centre · Friday, 27th January –
Sunday, 29th January 2023**

November 26, 2022

The organisers state - the word “vocation” means calling. It is a dialogue in which God calls and we listen. Each of us is unique and God calls each one of us in a unique way. In the Church of Ireland ordained ministry is a particular calling to ministry, one which as a church we value highly.

For some the calling to ordination is a moment of decision, for others it is a lengthy process, extending over months and years. We may hear a gentle voice inside us asking questions or we may be prompted by others asking questions of us. What is important is that we take time to listen to God’s voice. One way in which we may allow God to speak to us about vocation is to attend a retreat where we can meet with others who have heard and responded to that call or to meet with those who are questioning their own sense of vocation.



vocation⁺
Retreat

vocations.ireland.anglican.org

As part of its commitment to develop ministry, and endorsed by the House of Bishops, the Commission on Ministry is organizing a series of events to encourage vocations to the ordained ministry within the Church of Ireland.

This retreat is for those who may just be beginning to ask whether God is calling them to the ordained ministry. It is also for those who may be further along the road. Wherever you are on the journey, coming to a retreat to hear others talk about their experiences, learning what that might mean for you personally and practically and, above all, allowing God to speak to you, may just clarify that decision for you. The retreat will be a mixture of informal talks, practical guidance, discussion and times of quiet, all held in the beautiful surroundings of Dromantine Retreat and Conference Centre, near Newry, Co. Down.

Guest Speaker: Bishop Jill Duff

Jill has been Bishop of Lancaster, a Suffragan Bishop in the Diocese of Blackburn, from June 2018. She is a sought-after conference speaker with a particular interest in enabling people to identify their calling and enter into the fullness of everything that God has for them. Prior to becoming Bishop, Jill served as Vocations Development Advisor in the Diocese of Liverpool and then as the first Director of St Mellitus College, North West.

Throughout the retreat there will be times of worship and times for silence and personal reflection. There will also be opportunity for informal chats with members of the clergy and members of the Commission on Ministry.

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Cost: Participants are asked for a contribution towards costs of €75/£65. The retreat is financed through the Commission on Ministry.

Getting there: Dromantine is situated just outside Newry on the A1.

If you are interested in attending and would like to know more, please contact Judy Peters at judith.m.peters@gmail.com

To make a booking, please fill out the booking form at the link below and email to nicole.gallagher@rcbdub.org by Friday, 23rd December 2022:

<https://www.ireland.anglican.org/news/11622/vocation-retreat-2023>

Payment can be made electronically through the Representative Church Body, and banking details will be made available on receipt of the booking form.

‘Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.’

Ephesians 4 v 11-12

Irish Bishops’ Online Advent Calendar

Archbishop Eamon Martin introduces the Irish Conference of Bishops online Advent Calendar



Now in its ninth year, this interactive digital Advent calendar retains a unique and popular online presence. Behind the 28 virtual doors, the calendar offers resources for schools, parishes and the home with short inspirational video messages, some seasonal crafts for children and prayers to help us keep Christ at the centre of our Christmas preparations.

Welcoming this year's Advent Calendar Archbishop Eamon Martin said, "Advent is often described as a journey. Over the next four weeks we will journey towards Christmas while reflecting on the big themes and the personalities of the Advent season. Some of the major themes of Advent are: waiting and preparation, darkness and light, and the promise of comfort and hope. During this season we meet big personalities such as John the Baptist, the Magi and, of course, Mary Our Blessed Mother who embraced God's will completely and made a special place for God in her life.

"The Advent calendar invites each of us to make space for God in our lives every day over the next four weeks. Despite the hectic rushing around, getting the decorations and tree up, visiting and shopping, we are encouraged to

travel on the Advent journey, pausing each day for a few moments to pray, reflect, and take some practical steps to enrich our experience of Christmas.

“2022 has been a tough year for many – the people of Ukraine are going into Christmas with the continued threats to life, of violence and the destruction of war. At home, many are struggling with the pressures of the increased cost of living and energy crisis. Perhaps this year, more than ever, we need an Advent journey filled with hope, promise and peace and, of course, the message of the Christmas angels: do not be afraid!

“I thank all the content contributors to the 2022 Advent calendar. This year’s theme of Synodality nicely complements our Advent journey as the word ‘synod’ conjures up the image of walking or journeying together as a Church.

“This Advent I encourage all to set out, as the Magi did, and grow closer and closer to that moment when we experience the joy of beholding Christ our Saviour, born for us on Christmas Day. During this season we also journey inwards to prepare in our hearts, as Mary did, for the light of Christ.

Archbishop Eamon concluded, “The Synodal journey, and the Advent journey, remind us that we are all pilgrims on a lifelong pathway. So, over the next four weeks, let us walk together with family, friends and community so that everyone can experience the good news of this forthcoming celebration, and in particular those less fortunate than ourselves.”

Connor Advent Calendar



During Advent this year, Connor diocese will once again be posting a short online act of worship each day on the diocesan Facebook page. This will include a reflection on one of the daily readings.

The series will begin on Advent Sunday, November 27, with worship led by our Bishop, the Rt Rev George Davison. Clergy from across the diocese will contribute over the course of the Advent period.

Bishop George said: “Over the last two years, this series has allowed parishioners from across the diocese to spend a few moments each day reflecting on the great themes of

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Advent of repentance and readiness for the coming of Christ.

“As clergy colleagues and staff team members lead us in prayer and worship, we prepare ourselves again to celebrate the love of God made known to us in Jesus Christ – the baby who was ‘God with us’ and the righteous judge who will come again to bring in the kingdom of God in all its fullness.

“Do join us each day and benefit from the perspective and insights of a wide range of speakers who serve the parishes of Connor Diocese.”

To tune in, visit the Church of Ireland Diocese of Connor on Facebook and to ensure you don't miss out, please like and follow the page.

<https://www.facebook.com/DioceseofConnor>



Come Together To End Domestic Abuse in 2022

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Mothers Union (Ireland) is promoting and participating in this world wide initiative “Come Together To End Domestic Abuse in 2022”. Some events are outlined below

RTÉ TV SERVICE at 11.10am on Sunday 3rd December.

The service will be led by Bishop Pat Storey and the address given by Sheran Harper, Mothers' Union Worldwide President.

Cashel, Ferns & Ossory - Zoom services

22nd and 29th of November and 6th and 10th of December, focusing on DV and GBV. All services start at 8.30pm, with room open at 8.15pm. Meeting ID: 6851708835

Passcode: 8nkAht

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6851708835?pwd=T2ZZZS9wVTRRbzlqbjJ4S2ZnTDBwZz09>

Dublin & Glendalough - A 16 Days ZOOM each evening based on a UN theme with specialised speakers – will be available online afterwards

Topic: D & G 16-days Nightly Broadcast at 8pm; 25th November to 10th December

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84528159775?pwd=MGpXRVRXREsvUVZvbnNrVVhjK2F0QT09>

Meeting ID: 845 2815 9775

Passcode: 998641

For in person activities, information and resources visit the Mothers Union Ireland website at

16 Days ... - All-Ireland Mothers' Union (mothersunion.ie)

Winter Madness



The poster features a background image of St. Anne's Cathedral in Belfast, with a mountain range and a lake in the foreground. A hexagonal icon in the top right corner depicts a stylized figure holding a child's hand. The text on the poster includes:

Speaker
Esther Swaffield-Bray

Worship:
Shane Bell

Winter Madness

19 FEBRUARY / 7.30PM
ST. ANNE'S CATHEDRAL, BELFAST

Appreciation

Dean Mervyn Wilson

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Dean Mervyn Wilson was held in Christ Church Parish Church, Lisburn, on November 23.

Dean Wilson, who was 100, joined Christ Church Parish in 1992 along with his wife Betty after he retired from ministry, all of which had been served within the Diocese of Down and Dromore.

The service was led by Archdeacon Paul Dundas, rector of Christ Church, who preached. Archdeacon Roderic West represented the Bishop of Down and Dromore, and the Rev

John Pickering and the Rev Derek Harrington led the prayers of thanksgiving and intercessions.

Mervyn was born 1922 in East Belfast. The family church was St Brendan's. He attended Everton Elementary and Sullivan Upper before joining the Belfast City Treasury Finance Department

He was a keen sportsman, continuing his love of rugby, football, cricket and hockey with Sullivan Old Boys. He always had an interest in youth work, serving the Boys' Brigade.

In the late 1940s, Mervyn felt a strong calling to serve God, and left Belfast to study at Bible Churchman's College, Bristol, with an idea of missionary work in India. Instead he returned to Belfast having been encouraged to consider the role of parish minister.

Once ordained, Mervyn was curate at St Patrick's, Ballymacarrett, from 1952-56, where he met Betty, a member of the church choir. He moved to Donaghcloney/Waringstown as curate from 1956-59, marrying Betty in 1957. Their daughter Pauline was born in 1958, and Mervyn did a third curacy at St Mark's, Newtownards, from 1959-61, when son Geoffrey was born.

Mervyn's first appointment as rector was to Ballyphillip and Ardquin Parishes in Portaferry from 1961-70. He moved to the Parish of St Patrick, Newry, where he served for 22 years from 1970-1992. During this time, he and Betty had a third child, Andrea.

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Mervyn taught religious education at Newry High School, where he is fondly remembered by past pupils.

He was given further diocesan responsibilities as Rural Dean in 1977 and was appointed a canon of Dromore Cathedral in 1983 and then a canon of St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, in 1985. In 1990, Mervyn was appointed Dean of Dromore, a reflection, Archdeacon Dundas said, of his dedication in ministry.

After retirement, he and Betty moved to Old Manor House and Christ Church, Lisburn, where he assisted Canon Sam McComb. He was a dedicated and enthusiastic visitor in the parish, leading worship and preaching the Gospel.

“He fitted in so well to being part of the staff team and parish with that humble nature shining through, but he always walked at pace,” Archdeacon Dundas told mourners.

Mervyn continued to play a role in church services until a macular eyesight condition, coupled later with the onset of dementia, meant he wasn't able deliver his usual quality of ministry.

In all this time, Betty was a faithful member of the choir and Mothers' Union.

In 2022, Mervyn and Betty celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary, Mervyn the 70th year of his ordination, and his 100th Birthday.

“Mervyn loved his work in Christ and had a great faith and trust in God. He loved life, loved people, and took a genuine

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interest in them, loved comedy, loved sport, and made dedicated time for his family. He loved and served the Good Shepherd," Archdeacon Dundas said.

Sympathy is extended to Betty, Pauline, Geoff and Andrea, their spouses and partners Farooq, Perm and John and the wider family circle.

Poem for today

November

by William Cullen Bryant, 1794 - 1878

Yet one smile more, departing, distant sun!
One mellow smile through the soft vapory air,
Ere, o'er the frozen earth, the loud winds run,
Or snows are sifted o'er the meadows bare.
One smile on the brown hills and naked trees,
And the dark rocks whose summer wreaths are cast,
And the blue gentian flower, that, in the breeze,
Nods lonely, of her beauteous race the last.
Yet a few sunny days, in which the bee
Shall murmur by the hedge that skirts the way,
The cricket chirp upon the russet lea,
And man delight to linger in thy ray.
Yet one rich smile, and we will try to bear
The piercing winter frost, and winds, and darkened air.

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
