

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Nativity photo opportunity with Denver the donkey**

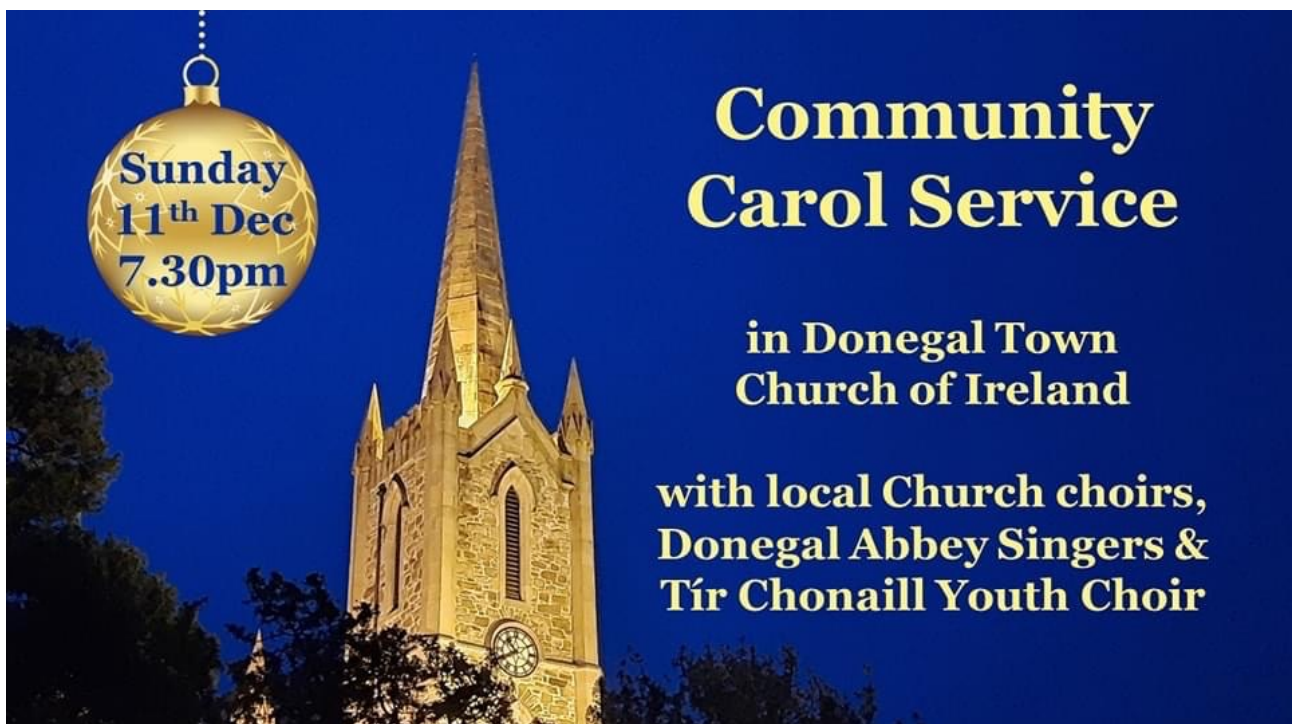
## Image of the day

### Nativity photo opportunity with Denver the donkey

**There are only days to go until the start of the St. Canice's Nativity Festival 2-4 December at Eglinton.**

One highlight of the Festival is the chance to meet Denver the donkey (who the organisers are assured is a relative of the donkey that accompanied Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem that first Christmas) and to have your photo taken with him in a manger setting.

If you wish you can put on one of the nativity costumes for your photo shoot - there are costumes to fit all the family. Of course, you can stay modern too if you prefer.



**Sunday  
11<sup>th</sup> Dec  
7.30pm**

**Community  
Carol Service**

**in Donegal Town  
Church of Ireland**

**with local Church choirs,  
Donegal Abbey Singers &  
Tír Chonail Youth Choir**



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Denver will be at the parish church from 3-4pm on both the Saturday and the Sunday of the Festival and would just love to have his picture taken beside you!

## News reports

### Honorary doctorate for church historian

On Tuesday Dublin City University will confer an honorary doctorate on Dr Kenneth Milne. A sometime history teacher in the High School, Secretary of the General Synod Board of Education, Principal of the Church of Ireland College of



### Georgian Day at Armagh on Saturday past

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Education and still the Historiographer of the Church of Ireland, Dr Milne has made a notable contribution to the spheres of education and history.

## **Armagh lunchtime lecture series via Zoom**

To mark the 250th anniversary of the building of No 5 Vicars' Hill, Armagh Robinson Library has arranged an online lunchtime lecture series via Zoom, at 1pm from Tuesday until Friday. The speakers will be historians Katherine Simms, Alan Ford and Steven Ellis and the staff of PRONI. Places can be booked online at <https://armagh-robinson->



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library.arttickets.org.uk or by emailing  
admin@armaghrobinsonlibrary.co.uk

## **Blackrock Charity Concert**

On Friday evening at 8pm there will be a Charity Concert at All Saints' church, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, by the St Cecilia Singers with Denise Kelly (harp) and Ruby Boland (soprano) in aid of Ukraine. Tickets are available from Michael Orr at 086 6017313.

## **St Columb's School of Music present The Swingles on a Tour of Ireland**

The Swingles will perform two concerts for the St Columb's School of Music and are one of the world's most admired and loved vocal groups. With a natural flair as entertainers, their stylish, classy shows take them to venues and festival stages across the world.

Concert Dates:

Thursday 2nd March: St Columb's Hall, Derry/Londonderry - 7.30pm

Saturday 4th March: Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin - 8pm

You can purchase tickets, for either concert, from website:  
[www.stcolumbsschoolofmusic.com](http://www.stcolumbsschoolofmusic.com)



 **ST. COLUMB'S**  
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

PRESENTS

# THE SWINGLES

**THURSDAY 2ND MARCH**  
**ST. COLUMB'S HALL**  
**DERRY**  
**7.30PM**

**SATURDAY 4TH MARCH**  
**ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL**  
**DUBLIN**  
**8.00PM**

**PRICES FROM £5**

**PRICES FROM €10**

**PURCHASE TICKETS AT: [WWW.STCOLUMBSSCHOOLOFMUSIC.COM](http://WWW.STCOLUMBSSCHOOLOFMUSIC.COM)**



**".. never less than dazzling" – Washington Post**

**"superhero singing" – The Guardian**



**SAINT:FIN:BARRE'S**  
CATHEDRAL

# *Advent Carols in Procession*

*A liturgical journey around the Cathedral representing the  
movement of God's people through history,  
from Creation and Fall to Redemption in Christ.*

*Music by the Cathedral Choir*

*Sunday 27th November 2022  
(The First Sunday of Advent)  
at 3.30pm*

*All Welcome*



## **Study weekend at Church of Ireland Theological Institute**

A total of 25 students were in attendance for the third cycle of the Certificate in Christian Theology and Practice which began last weekend at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute. The programme, 'Fit for the Purpose', takes as its theme a personal and biblical exploration of various matters to do with vocation. The leaders were Canon Christina Baxter, former Principal of St John's College Nottingham, and Canon Maurice Elliott, Director of CITI. The Revd Dr Patrick McGlinchey was the Course Co-ordinator, and group facilitators were the Revd Ruth Noble, the Revd Simon Genoe and the Revd Ken Rue.

## **Rector for Cleenish and Mullaghduin Parishes**

The Revd Canon Jennifer McWhirter has been nominated by the Board of Nomination and appointed by the Bishop of Clogher to be Rector of Cleenish and Mullaghduin. Canon McWhirter is currently Rector of Aughaval Group of Parishes in the diocese of Tuam. Date of institution to be confirmed.

## **C of I Standing Committee appointments**

The Standing Committee of the General Synod met on Tuesday, 22nd November 2022, in an online format.

The following appointments were made:



Ms Hazel Corrigan, the Ven Stephen McBride, and Ms Judy Peters to serve on the working group to review the Dignity in Church Life Prevention of Bullying and Harassment Policy:

the Ven Barry Forde, the Very Revd Lynda Peilow, and the Revd Christine O'Dowd–Smyth to serve on the working group on the future provision of chaplaincy services to third level educational institutions;

Canon Malcolm Kingston, the Very Revd Lynda Peilow, and the Ven Roderic West to serve on the working group on the future of curacies;

Ms Georgina Coptly as a member of the Commission for Christian Unity and Dialogue;

The Cathedral Church of St Patrick, Armagh



The Dean and Chapter invite you to attend

**CHORAL EVENSONG & THE INSTALLATION**

of

**Dr Kenneth Milne** as a Lay Canon

&

**The Reverend Dr Heather Morris** as an Ecumenical Canon

on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at 3.15 p.m.

Sermon: The Right Reverend Dr Richard Clarke

Dr Bridget Nichols as a Church of Ireland member of the Irish Council of Churches Executive Committee;

the Very Revd Niall Sloane to represent the Church of Ireland at the Conference of European Churches, taking place in June 2023 in Estonia; and

the Revd Catherine Simpson as a member of the Governing Council of the Church of Ireland Theological Institute.

## **Pope Francis appoints Bishop Noel Treanor as Apostolic Nuncio to European Union**

**His Holiness Pope Francis has appointed Most Reverend Noël Treanor, Bishop of Down and Connor, as Apostolic Nuncio to the European Union.**

In response to his appointment, Bishop Noel Treanor has issued the following Letter addressed to Clergy and Parishioners:

Bishop Treanor will continue to govern as Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Down and Connor, as sede vacante, until he takes up appointment in Brussels in mid to late January 2023.

My dear friends, I am honoured that His Holiness, Pope Francis has appointed me as Apostolic Nuncio to the.



have accepted this appointment and, with God's grace, I will seek to carry out this mission which has been entrusted to me.

Over the last 14 years, I have served you as Bishop in the Diocese of Down and Connor and it is with a very heavy



heart that I take up this new appointment. I have so many fond memories of my time here and particularly of all the clergy, religious and the people whom I have met and who have supported me with their advice and expertise. I will always value and consider my time in Down and Connor as a blessing from God. I remember and am so grateful for your warm welcome upon my arrival in the diocese. It has been a privilege and a blessing to have been a Bishop with you and for you.

I have been deeply inspired by the faith, hope and resilience of the clergy and people of this Diocese over these years. Understandably, I shall be sad to move on, but as I take up this new appointment, I am encouraged by the friendship and support of parishioners, the countless volunteers who support the life of the Church in our Diocese in so many areas, as well as of friends and family. The pastoral initiatives that we crafted and took together over those years will, I hope, continue to sustain the life of our diocese and its parishes into the future. My heartfelt thanks go to one and all, for your many kindnesses.

I am profoundly appreciative of all the friendship and guidance I have received in my ministry from fellow bishops, especially Bishop Patrick Walsh, Bishop Anthony Farquhar and Bishop Donal McKeown with whom I have served. I have valued greatly the fraternity and pastoral support of the clergy and religious, priests and deacons, of the Diocese. Notwithstanding the challenges we all face on a daily basis with declining numbers of clergy and increasing pastoral pressures, they demonstrate a faith-filled commitment and self-less determination to serving the people of God and those in need. From my heart, I thank them all, bishops,

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clergy, religious and laity and I ask God's continued blessing on their ministries. My thoughts are also with all those in formation as they discern their calling to ministry within the Diocese.

I pay tribute to the work of the 'Living Church' project, and all who have developed this pastoral initiative. This project, linked to other initiatives such as the work of the Vicars Forane, has nurtured a shared sense of mission among our parishes to ensure that the diocese continues to meet the pastoral and sacramental needs of parishioners for decades to come.

I acknowledge the professional expertise and guidance I have received from all those who have worked in and with the Diocesan Safeguarding Office and services since their

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

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establishment. I appreciate and salute the countless volunteers across the diocese who tirelessly and continually give of their time and energy to ensure that the Church is a safer place for children and adults at risk.

I thank the Diocesan Trustee Board, my colleagues within the diocesan Curia and all those within the various diocesan agencies, its Councils and Commissions, and all the dedicated staff, past and present, with whom I have worked over the years in the diocesan offices, its services and at the Bishop's House, Lisbreen. These diocesan agencies and personnel have established strong foundations for the future of the diocese and I pray that God may continue to bless this work in the years ahead.

I am deeply appreciative of the work of the many voluntary agencies, organisations, associations and lay apostolates who continue to enrich the pastoral life of the Diocese.

I have enjoyed the friendship of Church leaders, clergy and parishioners of other Christian churches and representatives of other world faiths. Their commitment to the ongoing work of encounter and dialogue has made such a significant contribution to the pathway of conflict resolution and peace in Northern Ireland.

I thank all those in public office, government departments, the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, and the many public representatives with whom I have had the privilege to collaborate over the last 14 years for their co-operation in discerning and addressing the needs and concerns of all citizens.



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For many years, I have followed closely the work of the European Union, having served first as a staff member of the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Union (COMECE) and then as its General Secretary (1993-2008). Since 2009, I have represented the Irish Bishops as a member of COMECE and as one of its Vice-Presidents. Since 2018, I have also served as President of Justice and Peace Europe.

This appointment as Apostolic Nuncio to the European Union comes at a time when the world and the EU, in particular, face great challenges. In the midst of war, political and financial instability, conflict and societal change, diplomacy plays a key role in facilitating peace, understanding and goodwill among peoples and nations.

I ask for your continued prayers as I take up this appointment in January. I especially invite you to pray for and stand in solidarity with all those who work for peace and the resolution of conflict, protecting human rights and addressing issues of humanitarian need in Europe and throughout the world.

Yours in Christ,

+ Noël Treanor

Bishop Treanor was ordained priest 13th June 1976. He was appointed Bishop of Down and Connor on 22nd February 2008. He was ordained Bishop of Down and Connor in St Peter's Cathedral, Belfast on 29th June 2008. Several bishops who had previously worked with Bishop Treanor in the Church's office to the EU in Brussels attended the

service and conveyed their greetings. Bishop Treanor thanked each one of them in their own language at which ecumenical clergy from other Irish churches were also guests.

## Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

### Porvoo Prayer Diary for 2023 now available

**The 2023 Prayer Diary for the Porvoo Communion, which brings together Anglican and Lutheran Churches in Europe, is now available.**

The Porvoo Declaration commits the Churches which have signed it to share a common life and to pray for and with one another. An important way of doing this is to pray through the year for the Porvoo Churches and their dioceses.

The Prayer Diary is a list of Porvoo Communion dioceses or Churches covering each Sunday of the year, mindful of the many calls upon compilers of intercessions, and the environmental and production costs of printing a more elaborate list.

Those using the calendar are invited to choose one day each week on which they will pray for the Porvoo Churches.

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It is hoped that individuals and parishes, cathedrals and religious orders will make use of the calendar in their own cycle of prayer week by week.

In addition to the Churches which have approved the Porvoo Declaration, we continue to pray for Churches with observer status. Observers attend all the meetings held under the Agreement. The calendar may be freely copied or emailed for wider circulation.

[<https://porvoocommunion.org/porvoo-prayer-diary/>]

The calendar may be freely copied or emailed for wider circulation and readers can find out more about the Porvoo Communion on its website: [www.porvoocommunion.org](http://www.porvoocommunion.org)

## Perspective

### Scripture is immersive for Bangor Parish Church

Discipleship is one of the three strands in Bishop David McClay's 10 Year Vision for the diocese of Down & Dromore and personal Bible reading is one aspect of that. The diocese invited Revd Nigel Parker, rector of Bangor Parish Church, to talk about the impact that the Immerse Bible Reading Experience has had on his church family.

“During the challenges of the global pandemic, we began in the parish to hunger for a more robust faith. These words of Scripture seemed to sum up the invitation that we received



from the Lord, ‘let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think’, (Romans 12.2 NLT). So, we immersed ourselves as a whole church family in the story of the Lord’s love.

“The tool we have used to help us engage with the big story of Scripture is Immerse: The Bible Reading Experience. It’s a high-quality resource which has been developed through decades of prayer and research. The Bible is presented in straight-forward literary form, (New Living Translation), without chapters, verses, dual columns or footnotes. The New Testament is delivered in one Immerse book called Messiah. The Old Testament comprises five Immerse books; Beginnings, Kingdoms, Prophets, Poets and Chronicles.

“We invited our parishioners to read Immerse: Messiah over eight weeks – about 25 minutes of Scripture reading a day. Then to meet each week for eight weeks in Immerse Groups, ideally of 8–10 people, to discuss what we’d read. There was also an Immerse Group on Zoom.

“As we rose to the challenge of reading together the New Testament in eight weeks, we were refreshed, surprised, challenged and sometimes puzzled. We were caught up in the overall flow of the story and glimpsed the bigger picture. Above all, we were confronted with the love of God, the magnificence of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit.

“The style of the Immerse Groups is like a book club, so that family, friends, work colleagues and neighbours can be invited along. People are also only asked to commit for 8

weeks at a time and participation has been very good indeed with around 120–130 engaging.

“We have found that conversations around church more frequently gravitate towards what we’ve recently been reading in the Scriptures. Members of our in–person and online Immerse groups come full of questions and comments. Group leaders have found their task light as members are excited, ready to engage and curious as to how to apply God’s truth.

“So far at BPC we have read Messiah, Beginnings and are reading Kingdoms. So, we are nearly halfway through. The Old Testament has thrown up different challenges as we encounter passages full of conflict and bloodshed. We are thinking (and preaching) more deeply about the authority of scripture and our understanding of God’s character as we let the Bible speak for itself.

“In His generosity, our Lord Jesus Christ is renewing us by His Spirit and equipping us for His glorious purposes as we immerse ourselves in His great story of making all things new. I would be very glad to share more about our experience with anyone who would like to know more.”

## **The Resource**

Premier promotes and represents Tyndale’s Immerse within the UK and Richard McChesney of Premier has been very helpful in giving guidance and in helping to order resources.

Immerse comes in several formats including large print and e–book and an audio version.

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There is also a Family Guide, which provides a daily reading over 40 days (five days per week for eight weeks). This could sit on the kitchen table and help all ages to be immersed in Scripture, by reading the bible aloud and chatting for a few minutes, using the Talking Together section to promote conversation between generations.

For more information visit  
[www.tyndale.com/sites/immersebible](http://www.tyndale.com/sites/immersebible)

Or email Richard: [richard.mcchesney@premier.org.uk](mailto:richard.mcchesney@premier.org.uk)

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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# Church News Ireland

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