

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – President with church leaders**

# Image of the day

## President with church leaders



The Leaders the of the Church of Ireland, the Roman Catholic Church, and the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches in Ireland met the President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins, yesterday at Áras an Uachtaráin in Dublin.

Afterwards, the Church Leaders issued the following statement:

“We were delighted to accept the President’s invitation and very much welcomed the opportunity to spend time with him in what has been a focussed, but relaxed and informal conversation across a wide range of issues. The context for





today's meeting was our shared commitment to reconciliation and peacebuilding on the island of Ireland. While recognising the obvious challenges, we acknowledged that the important and vital work of peace is still an unfinished work, but one we are all committed to actively pursuing for the common good of all the people of Ireland.

“We were also keen to discuss together the difficult economic situation and its impact across the island. At the same time we spoke of its wider international implications, especially for the Global South, when coupled with the devastating effects of climate change and famine, including in the Horn of Africa, which is particularly close to the President's heart.

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“At the start of this Advent Season, when as disciples of Jesus Christ we look forward to celebrating the arrival of the Prince of Peace, it was positive and worthwhile to meet with the President and his wife Sabina today.”

Attending today’s meeting were the Rt Rev Andrew Forster, President of the Irish Council of Churches (and Church of Ireland Bishop of Derry and Raphoe); the Rt Rev Dr John Kirkpatrick, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland; the Most Rev John McDowell, Church of Ireland Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of all Ireland; the Most Rev Eamon Martin, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of all Ireland; and the Rev David Nixon, President of the Methodist Church in Ireland.

Also in attendance were the Co–Secretaries of the Church



UU Chaplaincy free weekly lunch

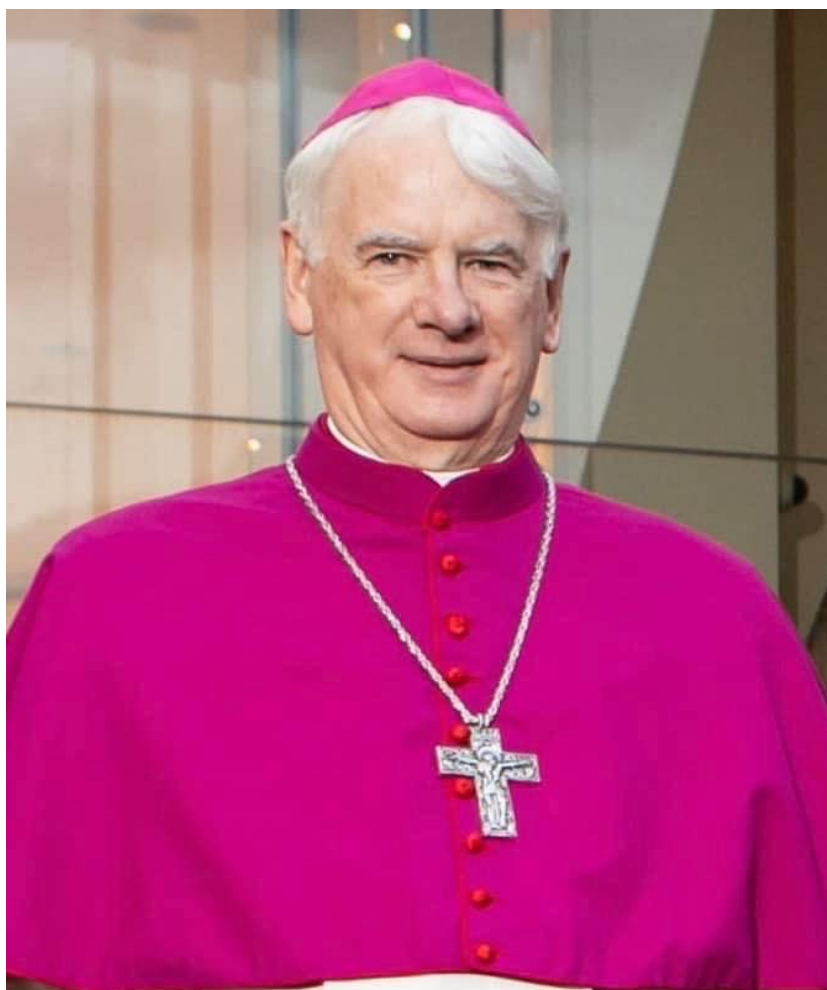


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Leaders' Group (Ireland) - the Rev Trevor Gribben, Clerk of the General Assembly and General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland; and the Rev Dr Heather Morris, General Secretary of the Methodist Church in Ireland.

The Church Leaders Group comprises the Church of Ireland and Roman Catholic Primates of All Ireland, the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, the President of the Methodist Church in Ireland and the President of the Irish Council of Churches.

## News reports



### **C of I Bishop of Connor congratulates Bishop of Down and Connor**

The Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev George Davison, has congratulated the Most Rev Noël Treanor, Bishop of Down and Connor, on his appointment

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by Pope Francis as Apostolic Nuncio to the European Union.

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.

Bishop George said: “We offer our sincere congratulations to Bishop Noël as he prepares to take up his new role as Apostolic Nuncio to the European Union.

“He has been a valued friend to the Diocese of Connor over his 14 years as Bishop of Down and Connor and we will miss him greatly.”

Bishop Noël said he was honoured that His Holiness, Pope Francis, had appointed him as Apostolic Nuncio to the European Union. “I have accepted this appointment and, with God’s grace, I will seek to carry out this mission which has been entrusted to me.” (See CNI November 28 on this site)

## **Archbishop of Dublin and Glendalough congratulates World Rugby Player of the year**

“I am delighted on behalf of the United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough to offer congratulations to Josh van der Flier on being chosen World Rugby Player of the year, said the Most Rev Dr Michael Jackson. He continued -

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Josh has endeared himself to generations of players, officials and spectators by his demeanour and his work rate along with his humility in the face of his own greatness.

Many will recently have read of his unashamed belief in God in 'FAITH – In Search of Greater Glory in Sport' where he says: "My youth pastor would always tell me, you can honour God by playing rugby. I know God gave me a gift and I honour that by playing to the best of my ability."  
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Hearty congratulations once again to Josh, his wife and family for an achievement that reflects his dedication and service, his ability and humility.

## **Br David's 80th Birthday Celebration**

Br David Jardine's 80th Birthday Celebration will take place at 7pm Friday 9th December at the CCN Building, 468 Shore Road, Whiteabbey.

Divine Healing Ministries says - This will be an opportunity to honour Br David and to thank God for the gift he is to us and to many. It will be helpful to have numbers attending for catering purposes, so please send an email to [fergus@divinehealingministries.org](mailto:fergus@divinehealingministries.org)

A generous benefactor has contributed towards this celebration, so just bring yourself and a great sense of expectancy as we worship, eat and celebrate together with Br. David.

## **Bishops' Appeal to match fund Down & Dromore Lent Appeal**

As Christmas approaches and Select Vestries make their final allocations for the year, the diocese is appealing for final donations to the Down & Dromore Lent Appeal 2022.

The great news is that Bishops' Appeal has set aside £8000 to match your donations pound for pound. That means £500 will become £1000.

In March and April this year Bishop David McClay cycled into every parish in the diocese to highlight Bishops' Appeal and to raise money for two projects: Christian Aid's work in the climate affected dry corridor of Honduras and Tearfund's work supporting Christian ministry in Jordan, Palestine and Israel.

£34,000 has already been raised in the diocese specifically for the Bike Ride projects, and money received has already made a difference.

Revd Colin Darling, Bishops' Appeal Rep for Down and Dromore said:

“The Bishop's Big Bike Ride in Lent highlighted the work of Bishops' Appeal, our church's World Aid and Development Programme. Throughout 2022, more and more parishes and individuals in the diocese have supported Bishops' Appeal with donations rising considerably on previous years.





“At a time when there’s constant news about the general cost of living rising, can I say a huge thank you to all in our parishes who supported both World Aid emergency issues such as the Ukraine relief fund (an incredible £79,958) and development issues, such as the projects being funded by Bike Ride donations. By coming together and pooling our donations, we have made and can continue to make a meaningful difference through the coordination of Bishops’ Appeal.

“So with the generous offering of match funding the final donations to our Lent Appeal for 2022, let’s make one last push, remembering that these projects will continue and would welcome your ongoing support.”

How to give

Please clearly mark how your donation is to be allocated.

If giving through your bank, please put the Bike Ride code (CO036) in your reference and/or email [bishopsappeal@ireland.anglican.org](mailto:bishopsappeal@ireland.anglican.org) to say where you want the funds allocated.

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Banking details may be found  
at [www.bishopsappeal.ireland.anglican.org/give](http://www.bishopsappeal.ireland.anglican.org/give)

Or send a sterling cheque, payable to Church of Ireland  
Bishops' Appeal to: Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal  
Church of Ireland House Church Avenue Rathmines Dublin  
6 Ireland

If you would like more information about Bishops' Appeal,  
please get in touch with Colin at [colin.darling@talktalk.net](mailto:colin.darling@talktalk.net).

## In the media

**Daniel O'Donnell tells Creeslough prayers were said  
around the world for tragic community - Belfast Live**  
[<https://www.belfastlive.co.uk/news/daniel-odonnell-tells-creeslough-prayers-25617513>]

**The Disappeared: Meath Mass hears appeal for  
information - BBC News**  
[<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-63770084>]

**Limavady High School wins UK secondary of the year  
award - BBC News**  
[<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-63776197>]

# CNI



**THE PRIESTS**  
IN CONCERT AT  
ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES CHURCH,  
CHURCH ROAD, HOLYWOOD  
FRIDAY 3RD FEBRUARY - 7.30PM

WITH  
BALLYCLARE  
MALE CHOIR



February will come around very quickly- and perhaps you might like to get tickets for this concert with The Priests and Ballyclare Male Choir as Christmas presents. Contacts on next page...



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You can reserve tickets by contacting the parish office- or buy online at this link:

<https://holywood-parish-church.sumupstore.com/>

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

### Digital Advent Calendar

Archbishop Eamon Martin has launched this year's interactive digital Advent calendar. Behind the 28 virtual doors, it 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. See: [www.indcatholicnews.com/news/45962](http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/45962)

### An Eco Advent

URC Minister, David Coleman, is chaplain to Eco Congregations Scotland and has co-ordinated a wide range of people to write short Advent video reflections. They can be seen here -

<https://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/advent-calendar-2022/>

### Hallow Prayer App - with cast of The Chosen

Daily reflections and prayers. See:

<https://hallow.com/advent/>

### Churches for Middle East Peace Advent reflections

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See: <https://cmep.salsalabs.org/advent2022-resistinginjustice?wvpld=d91d2cf4-2687-4c62-80db-caae8d3ff821>

## **Advent Reflection Resources for 2022 from Anne O'Connor**

Prepared for the National Justice and Peace Network of England and Wales. An A4 sheet for each week of Advent on the themes: living in harmony with nature; inviting Christ into our lives; waiting with joyful expectation; and bringing hope. <https://paxchristi.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/ADVENT-REFLECTIONS-2022.pdf>

## **An Advent Journey with Pax Christi**

'Daily actions and reflections based on the scripture reading for each day'. <https://paxchristi.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/AN-ADVENT-JOURNEY-A4.pdf>

## **Knock Shrine**

Throughout Advent there are many events online and in-person

See: [www.knockshrine.ie/](http://www.knockshrine.ie/)

## **Ss Alban and Stephen parish in St Albans**

Ss Alban and Stephen parish in St Albans, Westminster Diocese, offers weekly reflections. The parish is currently considering whether, as a parish community, they should commit to living simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the poor. Reflecting on the Sunday readings for each week during this season of Advent is part of that discernment. See:

[www.albanstephen.org/advent\\_2022\\_live\\_simply/](http://www.albanstephen.org/advent_2022_live_simply/)

## **CAFOD Advent prayers and resources**

CAFOD 'Pray this Advent' and 'Prayers for Christmas' Daily Advent calendar reflections straight to your inbox if you sign up. Eee: <https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Prayer-resources>

## **Southwark Archdiocese Advent Reflections 2022**

Daily emails from the first Sunday of Advent. Produced by the Southwark Diocesan Spirituality Commission. See: [www.southwarkdsc.org.uk/](http://www.southwarkdsc.org.uk/)

# Poem for today

## **The Hollow Men by T S Eliot**

Mistah Kurtz—he dead.  
A penny for the Old Guy

We are the hollow men  
We are the stuffed men  
Leaning together  
Headpiece filled with straw. Alas!  
Our dried voices, when  
We whisper together  
Are quiet and meaningless  
As wind in dry grass  
Or rats' feet over broken glass  
In our dry cellar

Shape without form, shade without colour,  
Paralysed force, gesture without motion;



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Those who have crossed  
With direct eyes, to death's other Kingdom  
Remember us—if at all—not as lost  
Violent souls, but only  
As the hollow men  
The stuffed men.

Eyes I dare not meet in dreams  
In death's dream kingdom  
These do not appear:  
There, the eyes are  
Sunlight on a broken column  
There, is a tree swinging  
And voices are  
In the wind's singing  
More distant and more solemn  
Than a fading star.

Let me be no nearer  
In death's dream kingdom  
Let me also wear  
Such deliberate disguises  
Rat's coat, crowskin, crossed staves  
In a field  
Behaving as the wind behaves  
No nearer—

Not that final meeting  
In the twilight kingdom

This is the dead land  
This is cactus land  
Here the stone images

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Are raised, here they receive  
The supplication of a dead man's hand  
Under the twinkle of a fading star.

Is it like this  
In death's other kingdom  
Waking alone  
At the hour when we are  
Trembling with tenderness  
Lips that would kiss  
Form prayers to broken stone.

The eyes are not here  
There are no eyes here  
In this valley of dying stars  
In this hollow valley  
This broken jaw of our lost kingdoms

In this last of meeting places  
We grope together  
And avoid speech  
Gathered on this beach of the tumid river

Sightless, unless  
The eyes reappear  
As the perpetual star  
Multifoliate rose  
Of death's twilight kingdom  
The hope only  
Of empty men.

Here we go round the prickly pear  
Prickly pear prickly pear

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Here we go round the prickly pear  
At five o'clock in the morning.

Between the idea  
And the reality  
Between the motion  
And the act  
Falls the Shadow  
For Thine is the Kingdom

Between the conception  
And the creation  
Between the emotion  
And the response  
Falls the Shadow  
Life is very long

Between the desire  
And the spasm  
Between the potency  
And the existence  
Between the essence  
And the descent  
Falls the Shadow  
For Thine is the Kingdom

For Thine is  
Life is  
For Thine is the

This is the way the world ends  
This is the way the world ends  
This is the way the world ends



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Not with a bang but a whimper.

## 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)