

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – 200 years of worship and witness

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200 years of worship and witness in Malahide

Cutting the cake, Canon David Gillespie and Tanya Sewell with Archbishop Michael Jackson and Archbishop John McDowell. Report page 8.

News reports



COME & SING: NINE LESSONS & CAROLS

JOIN OUR 25+ VOICE CHOIR TO SING CHRISTMAS CLASSICS IN A CANDLELIT SETTING
INSTRUMENTALISTS WELCOME

All abilities welcome
Rehearsals: Wednesdays
30/11, 7/12,
7:15 (tea), 7:30-9:30 pm
Heyn Hall
Service: 11/12, 6:30 pm

SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS
St Mark's Church, Dundela, Open Choir - 11th December 2022

The Choristers' Prayer
O Lord, as your servants who delight in your house, Grant that what we sing with our lips, we may believe in our hearts, and what we believe in our hearts, we may show forth in our lives. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Come & Sing at St Mark's Dundela

November 30, 2022

Based on the growing success of their Come & Sing events, all abilities of singers and instrumentalists are welcome to join the folks at St Mark's for their Nine Lessons and Carols service on 11th December at 6:30 p.m.

“Fancy singing without a year's worth of commitment, then this opportunity is for you! We'll sing Christmas classics, including a gorgeous rendition of Silent Night O Holy Night by Patrick M. Liebergen. From Old Basque Noels to Carol of the Bells (in honour of our Ukrainian friends), from Harold Darke, David Iliff and Malcolm Archer, you'll be sure to enjoy singing these easy-to-learn and fulfilling songs of the season! Booklets are available to collect, so let us know if you can make one or both of the rehearsals! Email Beth with any questions: stmarksdundelamusic@gmail.com “

Queen's Chaplaincy congratulates Archbishop Treanor

The Catholic Chaplaincy at Queen's University Belfast paid tribute to the support Archbishop Treanor had given the chaplaincy during his service as Bishop of Down and Connor.

It said ‘ “We congratulate Archbishop Treanor on his appointment by Pope Francis as Apostolic Nuncio to the European Union. We know his expertise and decades of experience in diplomacy will serve well the exigencies of justice and peace at this critical time for our Continent.



“We are immensely grateful to Archbishop Treanor for his support of our students and wider academic community at Queen’s during his time as Bishop of Down and Connor.

“His fresh vision for Chaplaincy and unwavering commitment to deliver ambitious plans for our

November 30, 2022

landmark building and the important ministry to students it serves, will rank high among Archbishop Treanor's enduring pastoral legacies.

"We wish him every blessing."



The Piecemakers of St Cedma's, Larne

The Parish Piecemakers of St Cedma's, Larne, will be hosting an exhibition of their hand-crafted Advent Quilts to raise funds for the parish's Inver Hall Building Fund.

This will take place in St Cedma's on Sunday December 4 from 2-4pm. Refreshments at £2 for tea/coffee and shortbread will be available on the day.

November 30, 2022

This unique collection of handcrafted quilts depicts the Christmas story as revealed in the nine lessons of the traditional carol service.

The quilts were created by the group members back in 2016 and have been a popular display at Christmas each year since that first exhibition – even the pandemic didn't stop the group, who moved the exhibition online in 2020 – their video receiving more than 10,000 views!

Malahide celebrates 200 years of worship and witness



Dr Tom Healy, the Revd Dr Norman Gamble, Archbishop Michael Jackson, Canon David Gillespie, Archbishop John McDowell, the Revd Ken Sherwood and the Revd Kingsley Long.

Two hundred years of worship and witness to God were celebrated in St Andrew's Church in Malahide yesterday morning (Sunday November 27).

There was standing room only in the church as people gathered to mark the bicentenary at the special service which was celebrated by the Archbishop of Dublin, the Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson and at which the Archbishop of Armagh, the Most Revd John McDowell, was the preacher.

The congregation, which included local TD Minister Darragh O'Brien, was welcomed by the Rector, Canon David Gillespie. Prayers were led by Dr Tom Healy. Retired Rector, the Revd Dr Norman Gamble, read the first reading.

St Andrew's was opened for worship in 1822, funded by means of a gift of £830 15s. 4l. 2d. donated by the Board of First Fruits and Tenths, a loan of £276 18s. 53l. 4d. from that Board and a donation of £92 6s. 13l. 4d. from Col Talbot, which came to a total of £1,199 10s.

When the church was built 200 years ago, Archbishop McDowell noted, it changed the landscape of Malahide. "Your calling and my calling is to do the same. To change the landscape where ever we find ourselves, so that the glory of God may be seen in the land," he said.

"Now, you may be looking at the person beside you and saying to yourself 'he/she doesn't look very glorious'. Or you may be looking up at rector and me and thinking "they don't look very glorious either". But this is the glory of God and it is his glory that we reflect in the world – to go to the places where people find it very difficult to be fully

human for whatever reason, and to bring the humanity of Jesus with us. And of course, to search out those places within ourselves which are not fully human either— those elements in ourselves which are self-regarding or ugly and self-satisfied, which are vindictive and devious. We all have them,” he continued.



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He said Christian holiness was to be an “involved goodness” not the goodness that was very often associated with Christianity which was pure and correct and aloof but had no love in it and therefore no redemptive power. “The holiness of God enables people. It helps them to see themselves differently. To see themselves as people who have a part in God and to whom he has joined himself in a solidarity which will never fail. It changes the landscape for them,” the Archbishop said.

Archbishop McDowell spoke of the importance of church buildings, of which the Church of Ireland often complained they had too many.

However, Covid taught the value people put on these places. “When it was possible to travel round churches again as society opened up again, I was struck by the palpable feeling of joyfulness and gratitude in people. They were glad to be together again, but especially they were glad to be together in this place, and hundreds of places like it, because these were the places where they had encountered the holiness of God in one way or another; in darkness as well as in light,” he said.

During the service, Archbishop Jackson dedicated a number of gifts which had been given to the parish. These included the anonymous presentation of a piano; an altar frontal from the Anton family in memory of their mother and grandmother, Kathleen;

a brass cross from the Rector and Tanya Sewell; a set of ribbon Bible markers presented by the clergy and parishioners of St Sylvester’s Parish Church, Malahide,

and a crib and nativity figures presented by the Mothers' Union.

The service was followed by a reception in the parish centre at which a celebratory cake was cut. Those gathered also bade farewell to Diocesan Reader, Dr Tom Healy, who has moved to Kilkenny. Parish treasurer Brian Brown made a presentation to Tom and thanked him for all he had done in the parish saying he had been a friend to all. Tom thanked the parish for their support over the years and for the welcome he and his partner Bridget had been given.

Retired clergy meet in St Columba's Knock

The last meeting of this year of the Retired Clergy Association (Northern Ireland) took place recently in St Columba's, Knock, Belfast.

The morning began with a service of Holy Communion, celebrated by the rector of Knock, Canon John Auchmuty, assisted by the RCA (NI)'s chairperson, Canon Ken Smyth, who serves as one of St Columba's assistant priests.

Canon Auchmuty warmly welcomed members and particularly thanked the retired clergy for their invaluable and faithful ministry, of which he himself was continuing to benefit.

Following light refreshments, Canon Smyth introduced the guest speaker, Dr Joe McKee, Organist and Director of Choral Music at St Columba's, and one of the tutors on the

November 30, 2022

Down and Dromore and Connor Organ Scholarship Scheme. Canon Smyth described Dr Mc Kee's contribution to choral and instrumental music in the wider Church and beyond over many years as "very, very considerable".



In a personal, comprehensive and fascinating talk on the overall theme of 'Music in Liturgy', Dr McKee began by defining music as "an organised system of sounds and silences".

He traced his musical roots from his days at primary school, through his career in a number of working and musical posts to his present-day position in St Columba's in which he saw himself as "part of a team which provides appropriate music enhancing the liturgy and creating moments of beauty".

He went on to express the hope that congregations would feel uplifted by church music, challenged by the sermon and prayers, leave church refreshed and, feeling the better for having attended, want to come back again.

Dr McKee also touched on the changes which he had seen taking place in church music: many churches today don't use organs; there is a shortage of organists; a shift to praise bands and worship groups often leads to a mismatch between organist and praise groups; and there is a lack of expertise of skilled organ builders.

The Ven. John Scott commended Dr McKee for the importance of his contribution to church music and thanked him for a captivating talk of much breadth and depth, presenting him with a small token of members' appreciation.

Canon Auchmuty also added his thanks to Dr McKee, especially for his faithful membership of the St Columba's team and his work in enhancing the church's traditional and musical liturgical worship.

Clogher parochial appointment

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, wife of Revd Stephen McWhirter, recently instituted Rector of Rossorry Parish, is currently Rector of Aughaval Group of Parishes in the Diocese of Tuam.

Bishop Ian Ellis, commenting on the appointment said; "I am very pleased with the appointment of the Revd Canon Jennifer McWhirter as Rector of the parishes of Cleenish and Mullaghduin. Canon Jennifer joins us from the Diocese

November 30, 2022

of Tuam where she is rector of one of the most westerly groups of parishes in Ireland. Her skills, experiences and wide interests will I believe, soon be recognised, and appreciated by her new parishioners’.



Revd Canon McWhirter said she was delighted with the news.

“I am delighted, and indeed honoured, to have been appointed as the Rector of Cleenish and Mullaghduin and I would like to thank the Bishop and nominators for their confidence in me. It has been such an answer to prayer,” she said.

“While Stephen was instituted in Rossorry at the beginning of November I have remained in my current parish in Co. Mayo and this appointment will mean the end to these days of being apart. It is great for us as a family, especially as Kizzy has already settled so well into her new school, Jones Memorial Primary School. I look forward with excitement to the new challenge ahead and to finding my feet in and meeting the people of Cleenish and Mullaghduin.”

A native of Co. Antrim, Revd Canon McWhirter was ordained as a Deacon in 2004 and a year later as priest. She served as Curate Assistant in St. Anne’s Cathedral, Belfast and assistant priest in St. Nicholas Parish, Belfast before being appointed Rector of the United Parishes of Templepatrick and Donegore.

In 2013, Revd. Canon McWhirter she took on the role of Church of Ireland Co-ordinator of CME at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute in Dublin as well as Co-ordinator of Internship Pastoral Studies.

Since going to the west of Ireland, Revd Canon McWhirter has been involved in many spheres of ministry and diocesan life, including being a member of the Diocesan Council, Children and Youth Ministry Co-ordinator as well as various committees and in recent years was appointed the Safeguarding Trust trainer for the diocese and Editor of the diocesan magazine, “Tidings.” She has also represented the diocese on central church bodies in Dublin.

In September this year, Revd Canon McWhirter became a Chapter Canon of St. Patrick’s Cathedral, Dublin.

She has served on numerous educational committees including boards of governors of schools.

She says she values integrity and loyalty in ministry and is passionate about a vision of a ‘ministry of all people.’ Mission work is also important to her.

Revd Canon McWhirter is trained in sign language for the deaf community and has also had close working ecumenical relationships.

Her interests include art, needlecraft, sailing, walking and country pursuits as well as having a love for music.

In the media

Former Archbishop of Canterbury says Just Stop Oil stunts 'not doing many favours' to climate cause - The Telegraph

A former Archbishop of Canterbury, who protested with Extinction Rebellion, has accused Just Stop Oil activists of having “unconstructive” and “unhelpful” tactics. Rowan Williams, 72, said that while he found “that sort of activism understandable”, he would not “be throwing cans of soup on paintings” any time soon.

[<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/11/26/former-archbishop-canterbury-says-just-stop-oil-stunts-not-many/>]

Famous People who share Irish and Jewish backgrounds - IrishCentral

November 30, 2022

It might be a surprise to discover that a number of famous celebrities share an Irish and Jewish heritage. We take a look at the most famous examples. From Ferris Bueller's Day Off to Harry Potter, dozens of Hollywood films feature Irish-Jewish stars. Here are some of the most famous.

[<https://www.irishcentral.com/culture/entertainment/famous-people-irish-jewish-backgrounds>]

John Richard Darley: School-founder and Bishop - Anglo Celt

Jonathan Smyth's latest Times Past columns - Having retired as headmaster of the Royal School, Dungannon, in 1850, the Rev John Richard Darley was offered the position of parochial clergyman in the parish of Drumgoon, Cootehill, Co Cavan. Tragically, his wife Anne died while they were preparing to leave for his new parish. Following her funeral, he moved into the old Glebe Rectory, where he lived for 16 years.

A year later, in 1851, he married his second wife Nannette Plunket. At Cootehill, Darley worked tirelessly for both congregation and the wider community. In 1859, he built and financed the Darley School at Cootehill, which began as a three-teacher school located at Munnilly on the Fairgreen.

[<https://www.anglocelt.ie/2022/11/27/john-richard-darley-school-founder-and-bishop/>]

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Online Advent calendar offers a glimpse into the lives of Holy Land Christians

There's no better place to watch and wait for the birth of Jesus than the Holy Land.

This Advent American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (AFEDJ) invites you to learn about the Christian witness of the current-day followers of Jesus in the place where he was born, lived, and ministered.

Beginning on December 1, visit their online Holy Land Advent calendar for a daily glimpse into the lives of Holy Land Christians and the humanitarian ministries of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem in the West Bank, Gaza, Israel, Jordan, and Lebanon.

On some days you might open a door to a brief video that features a greeting from a bright student at a diocesan school. On other days you might encounter a friend of these remarkable ministries sharing the moment when their heart was filled to bursting by the witness of the indigenous Christians – the living stones – of the Holy Land.

No matter who you find behind each door, the AFEDJ Holy Land Advent calendar offers a way for individuals and families to participate in a meaningful daily Advent devotion.

Who knows what you'll discover behind each new door? Check out the calendar at www.afedj.org/advent. @ @ @

November 30, 2022

Visit the calendar each day beginning December 1 or join American friends from across the Episcopal Church who have signed up to receive a daily email alert.

We hope you'll join us on a daily journey of discovery and inspiration this Advent season.

AFEDJ is a nonpolitical, nonsectarian 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to transforming lives of the vulnerable and displaced in the Middle East through support of the schools, hospitals, and centres for children with disabilities that are owned and operated by the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem in Palestine, Jordan, Israel, Syria and Lebanon. Learn more at www.afedj.org.

Perspective

Violence against women is blasphemy against God - Pope Francis

November 25 was International Day to End Violence against Women.

On many occasions, Pope Francis has stated that our level of humanity is measured by how we treat women. In his 2020 New Year homily, Pope Francis said: "Every form of violence inflicted upon a woman is a blasphemy against God, who was born of a woman.."

"The rebirth of humanity began from a woman..." Women are sources of life. Yet they are continually insulted, beaten,

raped, forced to prostitute themselves and to suppress the life they bear in the womb."

"How often are women's bodies sacrificed on the profane altars of advertising, of profiteering, of pornography, exploited like a canvas to be used," he continued. "Yet women's bodies must be freed from consumerism; they must be respected and honoured. Theirs is the most noble flesh in the world, for it conceived and brought to light the love that has saved us!"

"In our day, too, motherhood is demeaned, because the only growth that interests us is economic growth," the Pope said. "There are mothers who risk difficult journeys desperately seeking to give a better future to the fruit of their womb, yet are deemed redundant by people with full stomachs but hearts empty of love..... And if we want a better world, a world that will be a peaceful home and not a war field, may we take to heart the dignity of each woman," he said. "From a woman was born the Prince of peace."

"Women are givers and mediators of peace and should be fully included in decision-making processes," he said. "Because when women can share their gifts, the world finds itself more united, more peaceful. Hence, every step forward for women is a step forward for humanity as a whole."

The International Day to End Violence against Women has been observed annually on 25 November since 1981. This date was selected to honour the Mirabal sisters, three political activists from the Dominican Republic who were brutally murdered in 1960 by order of the country's ruler, Rafael Trujillo.

November 30, 2022

UN statistics show that on average, a woman or girl is killed by someone in her own family every 11 minutes. Since the outbreak of COVID-19, emerging data and reports from those on the front lines, have shown that all types of violence against women and girls, particularly domestic violence, have intensified.

LINKS

Watch a short film released by Vatican Media:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=6dBbzVY1A40

Read Pope Francis' homily text from 1.1.2020:

www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/homilies/2020/documents/papa-francesco_20200101_omelia-madredidio-pace.html

Poem for today

To Autumn by William Blake

O Autumn, laden with fruit, and stain'd
With the blood of the grape, pass not, but sit
Beneath my shady roof; there thou may'st rest,
And tune thy jolly voice to my fresh pipe,
And all the daughters of the year shall dance!
Sing now the lusty song of fruits and flowers.

“The narrow bud opens her beauties to
The sun, and love runs in her thrilling veins;
Blossoms hang round the brows of Morning, and
Flourish down the bright cheek of modest Eve,
Till clust'ring Summer breaks forth into singing,

November 30, 2022

And feather'd clouds strew flowers round her head.

“The spirits of the air live in the smells
Of fruit; and Joy, with pinions light, roves round
The gardens, or sits singing in the trees.”
Thus sang the jolly Autumn as he sat,
Then rose, girded himself, and o'er the bleak
Hills fled from our sight; but left his golden load.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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