

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Remembrance

Image of the day

Remembrance

Belfast Cathedral

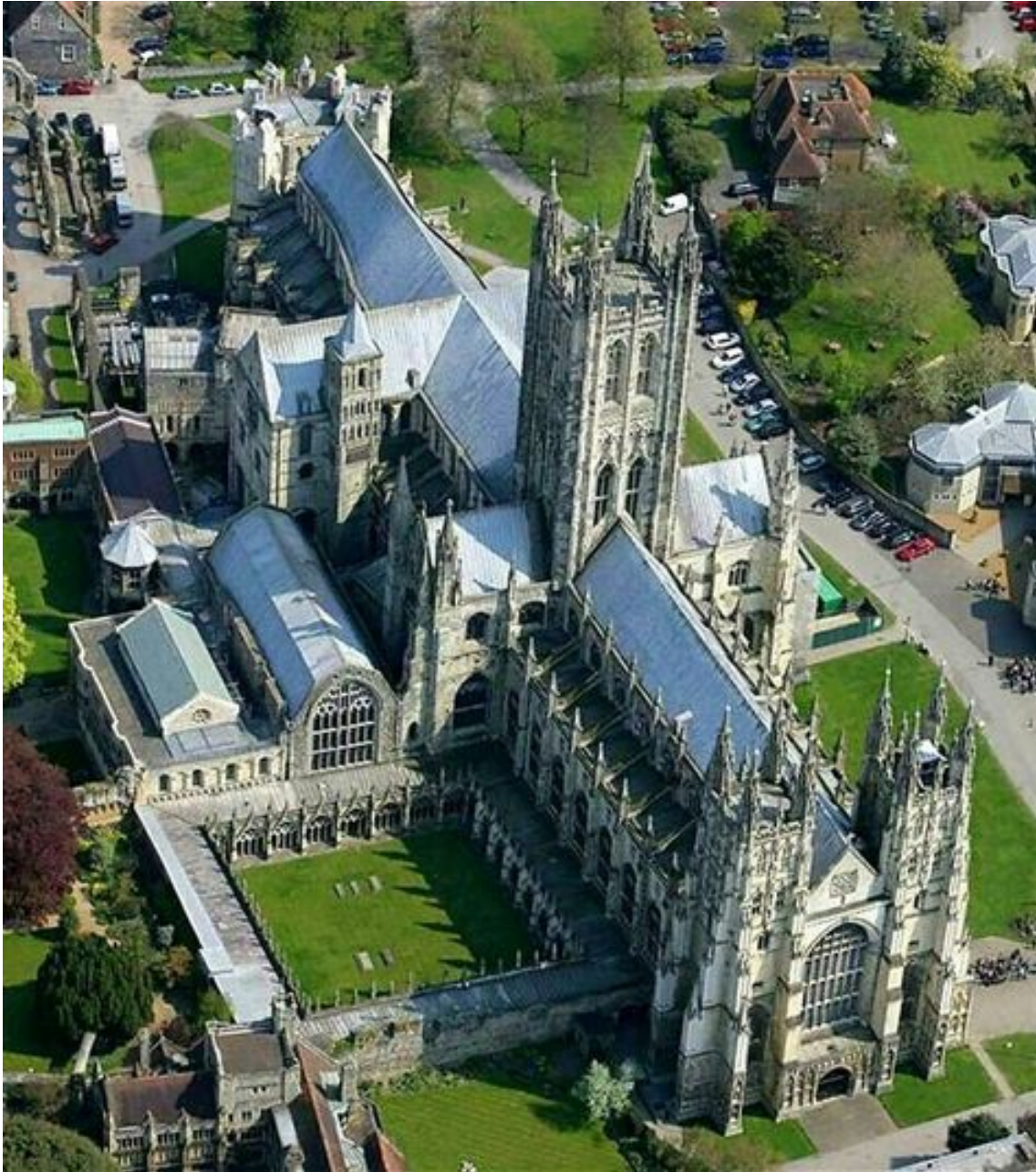
News

Parishes to avail of grants by Benefact Trust, Ireland Remembrance

Benefact Trust, one of the largest funders of Church projects in Ireland, is expanding its commitment here. The Trust has appointed a new dedicated Grants Officer based in Ireland, Heather Pope.

Welcoming Heather's appointment, Céire Sadlier, Grants Officer with the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference, said, "I would like to congratulate Ms Pope on her appointment, and I look forward to working with her to assist parishes with their grant applications. I will continue to work closely with all applicants to ensure their submissions to Benefact Trust meet the highest standards, maximising their chances of success."

Ms Sadlier added, "Applicants are encouraged to connect with Ms Pope to discuss potential projects before submitting their applications. However, I will also continue to proactively identify and secure additional funding opportunities for all projects as they arise. Please feel free



Supporting hope, heritage and happiness

to contact me at ceire.sadlier@iecon.ie or on +353 86 892 3336.”

Having very generously provided UK£9.5 million in grants across the island of Ireland since 2020, Benefact Trust remains keen to significantly increase its giving across Ireland, particularly focusing on community impact and

building improvements. The Trust is passionate about supporting Churches and Christian organisations that are making a real difference in their local communities.

To be eligible for funding, applicants must meet the following criteria:

Church or Christian organisation: Must be a church or registered Christian organisation.

Good governance: Able to demonstrate strong governance and safeguarding practices.

Secured funding: Have at least 30% of the total project costs already secured.

Looking forward to her new role, Ms Pope said, “I strongly encourage everyone to reach out to me before submitting an application to discuss your project and the important work you are doing. I can be contacted at heather.pope@benefacttrust.co.uk, by phone at +353 86 834 2363, or via our website at www.benefacttrust.co.uk.

C of I Statement of Tribute to Sr Stanislaus Kennedy

The Chair of the Church of Ireland’s Church and Society Commission, Archbishop Michael Jackson, has paid tribute to the late Sr Stanislaus Kennedy, the founder of Focus Ireland, who has died at the age of 86.

Archbishop Jackson’s statement is in full as follows.

‘It is with great sadness that we learned today of the death of Sr Stanislaus Kennedy, a lifelong social justice advocate

and founder of Focus Ireland. Sr Stan was a woman of extraordinary dedication, empathy and charity towards those in greatest need. Her courage, vision and determination in embracing those on the margins of society, gave a practical expression to the Gospel call to love thy neighbour.

‘Her legacy will endure in the lives of all who were touched by her ministry. Her ability to see the humanity in all people and to spot inequity in Irish society and, most importantly, work to address it at the highest level was an inspiration to many. Through her work in co-founding Young Social Innovators, she will continue to inspire generations of young people to tackle social problems in their own communities.

‘We offer our condolences to all those who Sr Stan loved and were loved by her, especially to the Religious Sisters of Charity.’

Call to All Christians Message

The Sixth World Conference on Faith and Order has issued a 'Call to All Christians' as it concludes a four-day gathering discussing 'Where now for visible unity?' and marked the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea.

Organised by the Commission on Faith and Order of the World Council of Churches (WCC), the ecumenical conference met at the Logos Papal Center of the Coptic Orthodox Church in Wadi El Natrun, Egypt, between 24-28 October. Several Anglican representatives attended the



event, which gathered around 400 church leaders and theologians of different traditions.

The 'Call to All Christians: Message of the Sixth World Conference on Faith and Order' emphasises the urgent need for Christian unity in a divided world: 'Let us aspire to live the unity for which Christ prayed, that the world may believe and experience God's gifts of healing, justice and abundant life'.

Read more about the 'Call to all Christians' and outcomes of the event: <http://bit.ly/47Kv5Rn>

King and LGBT community come together – with a touch of Abba – at memorial unveiling

The King has unveiled a memorial to the Armed Forces LGBT community during a moving ceremony at the National Memorial Arboretum.



His presence at the occasion marked the first time in British history that a reigning monarch had attended an LGBT-themed event.

Alongside the King, Chief of the Defence Staff Sir Rich Knighton and Veterans and People Minister Louise Sandher-Jones joined serving LGBT personnel and veterans for the dedication of the memorial.

Among the 200 attendees, the mood was poignant yet joyful. The King laid flowers at the foot of the hard-won memorial, while the Band of the Irish Guards performed classic tunes including a medley of ABBA hits.

November 5, 2025

Although homosexuality was decriminalised in England and Wales in 1967, it remained illegal in the Armed Forces until January 2000.

The memorial, while acknowledging those serving today, also stands to commemorate the lives of those who served under the "gay ban".

The King, who is Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, laid flowers at the foot of the memorial, the design of which was chosen by a panel of judges earlier this year.

And in keeping with the celebratory tone of the event, the Band of the Irish Guards performed a programme of music for the more than 200 attendees that included pieces from *The Greatest Showman* and a medley of ABBA hits.

After formally dedicating the memorial, the King spent time talking to veterans – some of whom had been criminalised



under the ban on homosexuality – and to those currently serving.

Able Rate Liam Bell, who serves in the Royal Navy, was one of those in uniform who spoke to the King. "I had a conversation with him. It was absolutely phenomenal to talk to His Majesty," he said.

"For him to be here as his first LGBT community event, to have an understanding of what happened and what we are working to do for the future – he took some time to discuss that with us.

"It was really moving. It really gave us joy."

Veterans and People Minister Mrs Sandher-Jones told BFBS Forces News that the unveiling of a dedicated memorial to the LGBT military community was a hugely significant moment.

"To come here, especially today, to see all the veterans who suffered so much under the ban, to see them side by side with service personnel – serving very proudly, many born after the ban – is just fantastic to see," she said.

BFBS Forces News

Pope Leo: Newman, Doctor of the Church - A light for the new generations

During the Mass on the Solemnity of All Saints, also the culmination of the Jubilee of the World of Education,

Pope Leo XIV proclaimed Saint John Henry Newman a Doctor of the Church.

His legacy, the Pope emphasized, is to form people "so that they may shine like stars in their full dignity."



Church of England bishops at the Mass

Pope Leo XIV presented Saint John Henry Newman as a master of "theory and practice of education", who invites us to offer the 'Kindly Light' of faith in Providence-as in his famous hymn-to "disarm the false reasons for resignation and powerlessness" and to transmit "light and guidance" in this present time, "darkened by so much injustice and uncertainty." Addressing the thousands of faithful-especially students and educators-gathered in Saint Peter's Square for the Mass, the Pope invited educators and students alike, "to ensure that schools, universities and every educational



“

To read Newman is not merely to encounter a great intellect, but to walk with a soul led by the kindly light of God's truth and convinced that heart and mind belong together.

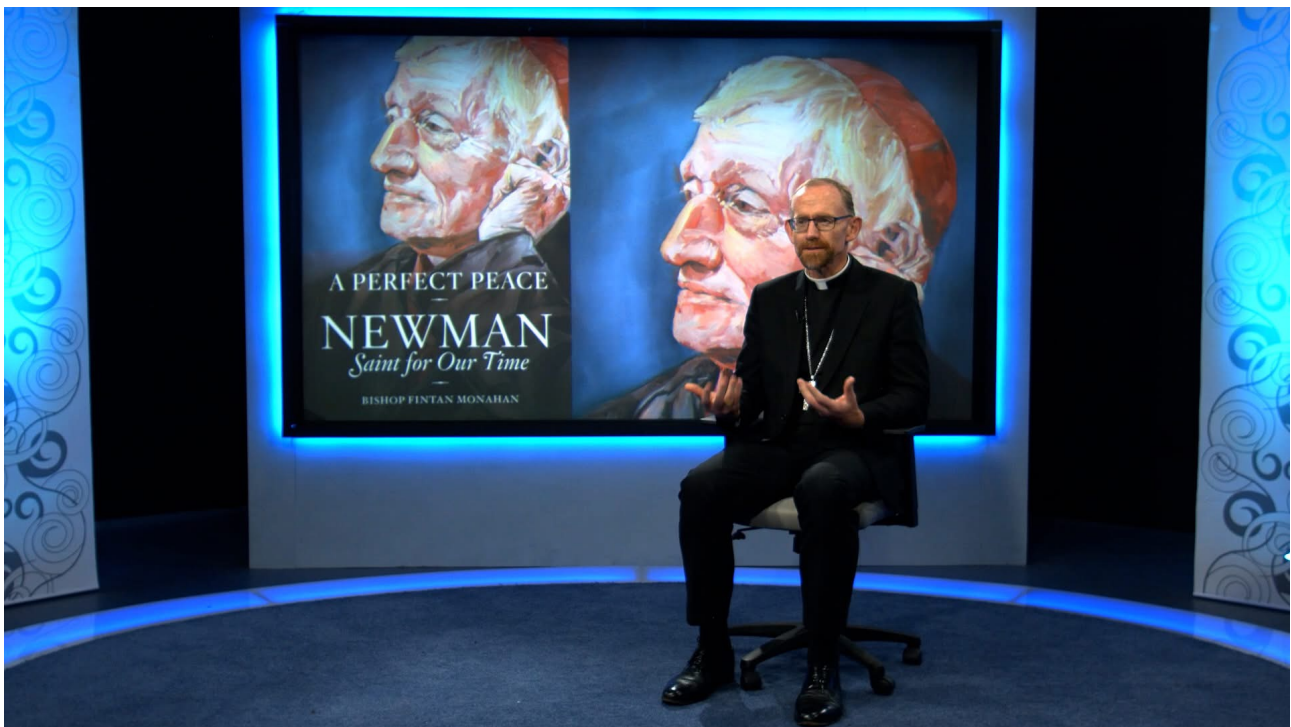
FR MICHAEL LANG

”

context, even those that are informal or street-based, are always gateways to a civilisation of dialogue and peace."At the center of education, real people

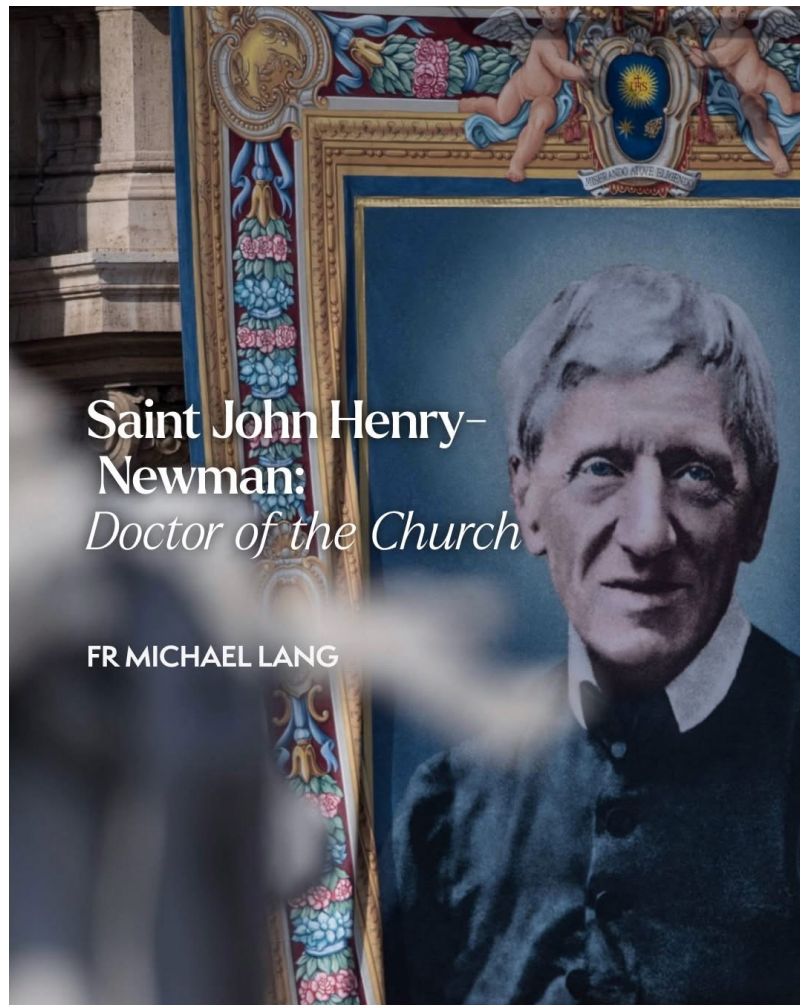
In St Peter's Square, warmed by gentle autumn sunlight, and in the presence of the official delegation of the Church of England led by Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell, the Pope recalled in his homily that the new Doctor of the Church - the 38th - has left us, especially in his Meditations and Devotions, splendid reflections on "mystery of the

dignity of every human person, and also the variety of gifts distributed by God" Life, the Pope said, becomes luminous when one discovers, as Cardinal Newman did, that one has a vocation - a mission - and that "our lives serve something greater than ourselves." The contribution each one has to offer, he added, "is uniquely valuable, and the task of educational communities is to encourage and cherish that contribution."



" Let us not forget that at the heart of the educational journey we do not find abstract individuals but real people, especially those who seem to be underperforming according to the parameters of economies that exclude or even kill them. We are called to form people, so that they may shine like stars in their full dignity. "

At the beginning of his homily, Leo XIV also announced that Saint John Henry Newman has been named co-Patron of



the Church's educational mission alongside Saint Thomas Aquinas.

Cardinal Newman's impressive spiritual and cultural stature, the Pope continued, "will surely serve as an inspiration to new generations whose hearts thirst for the infinite, and who, through research and knowledge, are willing to undertake that journey which, as the ancients said, takes us per aspera ad astra, through difficulties to the stars."

Reflecting on Saint Paul's Letter to the Philippians and the apostolic mandate to "shine like stars in the world," the Pope repeated to educators the words of his Apostolic Exhortation *Dilexi te*.

"Shine today like stars in the world" through your authentic commitment to the collective search for truth and to sharing it with generosity and integrity. Indeed, you do so through your service to young people, especially the poor, and your daily witness to the fact that "Christian love is prophetic: it works miracles"

Pope Leo reaffirmed that, within the Jubilee understood as a pilgrimage of hope, education represents "an indispensable seed" of hope.

"When I reflect on schools and universities, I think of them as laboratories of prophecy, where hope is lived, and constantly discussed and encouraged. "

Read Pope Leo full homily: www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/homilies/2025/documents/20251101-messa-giubileo-formatori.html

Watch the Mass on Vatican Youtube channel:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=eQ46QKdN2yU

Cathedral Calls

Nor the Years Condemn

Contested Histories and the Acts of Remembrance Exhibition at Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin

To mark the month of November, a time traditionally designated for remembrance of those impacted by war and conflict, an exhibition is being hosted in the North Transept



of Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, which explores the act of remembrance and conflict memorial.

While these acts have a long history, with many objects and items remembering those fallen in the First World War, some symbols of remembrance have contested or controversial histories. Flags, poppies, and monuments hold meanings which have at times been misunderstood, misrepresented, or are points of contention as symbols of a colonial past.

The exhibition explores these difficult topics, tracking the history of war remembrance from the 17th Century right through to the watershed period of the First World War, and up to the present day with the annual Poppy Appeal and Remembrance Sunday service. The exhibition seeks to open a dialogue around these symbols and acts, while contextualising and fostering understanding of the long tradition of memorial and remembrance continued in the space to the present day.

The exhibition will run for the month

Clergy and ministry

Remembrance Sunday on BBC Radio Ulster and Radio Foyle

Canon Simon Doogan, Rector of Ballyholme in the Diocese of Down and Dromore, will lead Morning Service this Remembrance Sunday (9th November), on BBC Radio Ulster and Radio Foyle from 9.03am to 9.45am.

Canon Doogan will reflect on this season of Remembrance.

The National Service of Remembrance will be broadcast on BBC Radio Ulster and Radio Foyle, Radio 4 and BBC One later in the morning from 10.30am.

November 5, 2025

The programme can be played back in the UK after broadcast at www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b007cphq

Listeners outside the UK can follow the service live through the BBC Sounds app.

Team member for Urban Junction/Ignite

The Methodist Church in Ireland is seeking to appoint a team member for Urban Junction/Ignite – a welcoming, lively, outward-looking church with a very active community centre in Blackrock, Co. Dublin.

The role is for 10–15 hours a week with a salary of €32,714 – €33,937 pro rata (36 hours per week full-time equivalent). Applications close on Friday, 14th November 2025, and a job description and application form are available at www.irishmethodist.org/vacancies

Please contact Marion Smith at marion.smith@urban-junction.com for more information about the job.

Charity Jobs NI

Looking to give back, learn new skills, or make a difference in your community?

Join us at Northern Ireland's Charity Careers & Volunteer Job Fair on Wednesday 5th November, 10am–2pm at the Assembly Buildings Conference Centre, Belfast.

November 5, 2025

Meet dozens of incredible charities — all ready to welcome new volunteers into their teams. Whether you can give an hour a week or a few days a month, there's a role waiting for you.

Free entry — just bring your enthusiasm!

Meet 25+ charities

Chat directly with volunteer coordinators

Discover roles that fit around your life

Don't miss this chance to find a cause that inspires you.

👉 Book your free ticket today: <http://bit.ly/3L5fSBH>

In the media

Questions for Gafcon podcast by The Living Church

This bonus episode of The Living Church podcast responds to the launch of a Global Anglican Communion, which would be separate from the Anglican Communion as we have known it.

There are Anglicans rejoicing over this news. Anglicans grieving over this news. Anglicans who don't know what to think. And a lot of Anglicans who may not know what's going on, or may not know what this has to do with them.

Today, we explore some of these feelings and questions, and pose some questions of our own.

On Oct 16, a communiqué email went out from a conservative, international fellowship of Anglican churches, representing several major Anglican provinces worldwide, known as GAFCON, announcing the establishment of a Global Anglican Communion.

TLC editor Mark Michael and executive director Matthew Olver join podcast host Amber Noel to ask questions about the meaning and contents of this communiqué, its language and propositions, the history that led up to it, its timing in light of current leadership scandals in the ACNA, and what people who want to move forward with GAFCON might be risking, particularly leaders from the Global South, or what they may still need to know.

We also direct specific questions to GAFCON leaders themselves and invite their response.
Listen to the episode.

(<https://livingchurch.org/podcasts/questions-for-gafcon/>)

Prayers said for Troubles Disappeared at annual All Souls Day silent walk at Stormont

News Letter - Family members took part in their annual silent walk on All Souls Day at Parliament Buildings at Stormont in Belfast on Sunday afternoon.

Those who remain missing include former monk Joe Lynskey, Co Tyrone man Columba McVeigh, soldier Robert Nairac and Seamus Maguire, who were disappeared by

republicans and Co Down woman Lisa Dorrian, who was disappeared by loyalists.

A black wreath with five white lilies representing the five was laid, while Father Joe Gormley led prayers.

<https://app.newsletter.co.uk/story/5384800/content.html>

Nato 'will stand with Ukraine' to get long-lasting peace, senior official tells BBC

Nato "will stand with Ukraine up to the day in which we will have them sitting around the table for a long-lasting peace", a senior official from the military alliance has told the BBC.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/czxng7kxnp9o>

From crisis to global success: Wrightbus drives Northern Ireland's manufacturing revival

Zero-emission bus manufacturer Wrightbus hosted the deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland, Emma Little-Pengelly to show how it has gone from administration to a successful global powerhouse in just six years.

<https://app.newsletter.co.uk/story/5384316/content.html>

China intimidated UK university to ditch human rights research, documents show

November 5, 2025

China waged a campaign of harassment and intimidation directed at a UK university to get it to shut down sensitive research into alleged human rights abuses, documents seen by the BBC show.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cq50j5vwny6o>

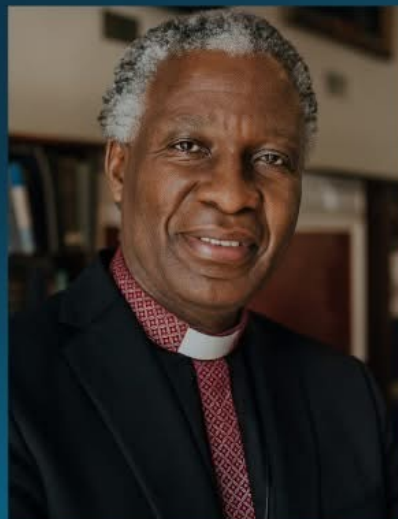
Former Donald Trump advisor heaps criticism on Ireland as report questions whether country is now declining

News Letter - A former advisor to Donald Trump has heaped criticism on the Republic of Ireland over its stance on Israel

Archbishop Thabo Makgoba

IN AN UNEQUAL WORLD - WHAT ALTERNATIVES?

"When power forgets compassion, it turns prosperity into oppression... The key questions we need to ask are not only for Africa, but for the world. How can our riches serve the common good? How can we ensure that the young inherit not debts and disillusionment but dignity and direction?"



LAMBETH
CONFERENCE
God's Church for God's world



and “increasingly activist foreign policy” – something which departs from “everything the Trump administration stands for”.

The comments from Robert C. O’Brien, a US National Security Advisor from 2019 to 2021, come in the foreword to a report from the right-wing think-tank Policy Exchange, published last week.

The report sets out the case for the possibility that Irish prowess on the international stage has now passed its “peak”.

<https://app.newsletter.co.uk/story/5382121/content.html>

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

Justice

Give justice to the poor and the orphan; uphold the rights of the oppressed and the destitute. Rescue the poor and helpless; deliver them from the grasp of evil people. Psalm 82:3-4

When I was in my 20s, I lived in an Indian village for a year. I had the incredible privilege of living with a family of Dalits, who have generally been known as untouchables. Dalits form about a quarter of the Indian population and have always been regarded as the lowest of the low. My Indian family was a typical extended family with a granny, mum, dad, three children and various aunts who would stay with us from time to time. They generously opened their home and their hearts to me and gave me the most amazing insight into their way of life. In doing so, they opened my eyes to injustice on a scale I had never seen before. Every part of their lives was defined by the fact that they were Dalits. Life was a daily struggle as they lived with the certainty that they would never receive fair treatment from society. It was distressing to see how they were constantly disadvantaged in education, employment and even in the justice system.

This is the experience of many people in our world today, and we need to remember that our God is passionate about justice. This psalm, like so many others, focuses its attention on the obligation that God's people have to live justly and to speak up for the oppressed. Here, Asaph refers to the vulnerable members of his own community – the poor, the orphans, the oppressed, the destitute and the helpless. He is scathing about their leaders, who lived in total ignorance “wandering about in the darkness, while the whole world is shaken to the core” (v5). We can't solve all the injustices in the world, but we can all get informed. We live in an age that has more readily available information than ever before. To be ignorant of the issues can only be because we have refused to hear the cries of the vulnerable members of our community. The world is truly being shaken to the core and, for God's sake, we need to act.

QUESTION

In what ways could you work for justice today?

PRAYER

God of justice, I praise you for your love for all people and your passionate desire that everyone should be treated with care and dignity. Amen

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

Church News Ireland

www.churchnewsireland.org

**Link in Monday through Saturday from
early morning**

Please recommend to your friends