

Church leaders write prayers and hold vigils ahead of Tuesday's Brexit vote

The Archbishop of York and the Dean of Southwark have written prayers for people to follow as they pray for the future of the UK.

The House of Commons is due to vote on Theresa May's withdrawal agreement on Tuesday. It will be a significant symbol of how much support the Prime Minister has lost

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among her own party over Brexit and will play a big part in what type of deal the country may try to get next.

The Archbishop of York has invited people to join him in a round the clock prayer vigil as MPs prepare to cast their votes on the Government's Brexit deal.

The prayer vigil started at 6am on Sunday and is running until midnight on Tuesday, with Archbishop John Sentamu praying on the hour every hour over the course of the three days.

York Minster will be opening its doors during the vigil for people to come in and pray for the outcome of the key vote, which takes place on Tuesday.

'At this time of uncertainty I have been asked by many people to call for prayer. Please may I encourage you to join me in this prayer vigil as we work for peace and unity at this time,' he said.

The Archbishop has previously expressed support for the deal negotiated by Theresa May, writing in the Yorkshire Post that he would be in the 'content lobby' if it passes.

He also warned that a second referendum could lead to a 'draining away of trust' in Britain's political institutions and put society at risk of 'civil unrest and violence'.

To coincide with the run up to the vote Lichfield Cathedral will host a special time of guided prayer from 1:10–1:30pm on Tuesday and is urging other churches and cathedrals to join them.

**Archbishop of York's prayer ahead of
Brexit deal vote**

God of eternal love and power,
save our Parliamentary Democracy;
protect our High Court of

Parliament and all its members
from partiality and prejudice;
that they may walk the path of
kindness, justice and mercy.

Give them wisdom, insight and a
concern for the common good.

The weight of their calling is too much
to bear in their own strength,
therefore we pray earnestly, Father,
send them help from your Holy Place,
and be their tower of strength.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Amen.

The Dean of Lichfield, the Very Revd Adrian Dorber said: "It seems right therefore to invite people to come and pray in the cathedral, to remember the heavy responsibility on our parliamentarians, and to ask God for wisdom and integrity in our national life."

The Dean of Southwark, the Very Revd Andrew Nunn has written a special prayer for people to use if they wish and the Chair of the Association of English Cathedrals.

The Dean of Lichfield, the Very Revd Adrian Dorber, has urged people to remember their cathedrals were always open for prayer or just to take a moment of stillness and quiet reflection.

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Bear Grylls to release Christian devotional book

The adventurer and television presenter who has his roots in North Down is releasing a daily devotional book for Christians.

Bear Grylls is a Christian and ambassador for the alpha course and is best known for presenting shows about surviving in the wilderness.

He will release his book 'Soul Fuel' in July next year, which will be published by Hodder Faith.

Bear Grylls has been open about his faith, telling the Radio Times in 2015: "I try to start every day by kneeling down and saying, 'Lord Jesus, I ain't got it all right, and I'm nervous about today.

"I will give it my all, but will you help me? It's never more complicated than that. I probably don't go to church enough, but my faith is a quiet, strong backbone in my life, and the glue to our family."

Grylls was also a contributor to the recent Harper Collins publication *In This Light: Thoughts for Christmas*, a collection of musings by the Archbishop of Canterbury from people across the faith world, public life and people with remarkable stories.

According to Christian publishers Zondervan, who are publishing the book in America, the 'Soul Fuel' will "share some of his most exciting exploits and the spiritual insights

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he gained along the way in his first faith-focused book, a unique 365-day devotional.

"Each section explores a theme Bear has lived, including purpose, courage, freedom, and risk."

Writing in his own autobiography *Mud, Sweat and Tears*, Grylls spoke of how he found his faith again and about his journey since then: "To me, my Christian faith is all about being held, comforted, forgiven, strengthened, and loved - yet somehow that message gets lost on most of us, and we tend only to remember the religious nutters or the God of endless school assemblies.

"This is no one's fault, it is just life. Our job is to stay open and gentle, so we can hear the knocking on the door of our heart when it comes. The irony is that I never meet anyone who doesn't want to be loved or held or forgiven. Yet I meet a lot of folk who hate religion. And I so sympathise. But so did Jesus. In fact, He didn't just sympathise, He went much further. It seems more like this Jesus came to destroy religion and to bring life."

Monsignor Lawrence Duffy to be Bishop of Clogher

Pope Francis has appointed Monsignor Lawrence (Larry) Duffy as the new Bishop of Clogher. Since 2013 Bishop-elect Larry Duffy has been Parish Priest of Carrickmacross, Co Monaghan.

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He is a native of the neighbouring parish of Magheracloone where he was born in November 1951. Bishop-elect Duffy's parents were the late Thomas and Elizabeth Duffy. He has three surviving siblings, his sister Anna and brothers Patrick and Peter. Their other brother Brendan died two years ago. Having completed his studies for the priesthood at Saint Patrick's College, Carlow, he was ordained in Saint Macartan's Cathedral, Monaghan, in 1976.

Since then Bishop-elect Duffy has served in various parishes of the Diocese of Clogher including Enniskillen, Castleblayney, Monaghan & Rackwallace, Ederney, Clones and Carrickmacross. In addition, he spent four years ministering in the Diocese of Kitui in Kenya. While in Africa he led the building of a new church in Mwingi in the diocese. Bishop-elect Duffy was also a keen supporter of religious communities in their setting up of schools in the Diocese of Kitui.

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Bishop-elect Duffy was Vicar General of the Diocese of Clogher from 2013 until the retirement of Bishop MacDaid in 2016. A former player with Magheracloone Mitchells GAA, Bishop-elect Duffy is also an avid GAA fan and a keen golfer.

The Episcopal Ordination of Bishop-elect Duffy will take place on Sunday 10 February 2019 in Saint Macartan's Cathedral, Monaghan.



**Welcome by the
Right Revd John
McDowell, the
Church of Ireland
Bishop of Clogher**

The following statement was issued by the Right Revd John McDowell, the Church of Ireland Bishop of Clogher. "I have just learned that Monsignor Lawrence Duffy, currently serving as Parish

Priest of Carrickmacross, has been appointed by His Holiness the Pope to be the next Roman Catholic Bishop of Clogher.

'I want to congratulate Monsignor Duffy on his appointment and assure him of my prayers and those of his many friends within the Church of Ireland community. I share the joy of my

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brothers and sisters in Christ, the Catholic clergy and people of Clogher, that they have a Chief Shepherd to lead them in the years ahead. It is a double blessing that a priest of Clogher Diocese has been chosen to continue to serve the people who he knows and loves. No doubt there will be special rejoicing in Magheracloone that a son of the parish has been called into this vocation.

'I look forward to working with the new Bishop in the same spirit of friendship and service as I was fortunate enough to share with his predecessor Bishop Liam McDaid and pray that Monsignor Duffy will know the presence of the Lord as he prepares for his episcopal ordination". Deo gratias.

Dublin City University Church of Ireland Centre celebrates with 2018 graduates

The Dublin City University Church of Ireland Centre's graduation and prize-giving event took place in Woodlock Hall on the DCU All Hallows campus on Friday morning last (November 30). The newly qualified teachers were the cohort of students who began their studies in CICE in Rathmines in September 2014.

The event included a short service of thanksgiving and the presentation of elective certificates, including the Religious Education in Follow Me Certificate, as well as a range of prizes and awards.

The Church of Ireland Centre was delighted to welcome Niamh McCafferty, Education Official from the INTO, who gave a speech and presented two Vere Foster medals for excellence in teaching to two of the graduates.

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There was a reception afterwards before the graduates and their guests headed into Trinity College for their formal University graduation ceremony. The Revd Prof Anne Lodge, Director of the Church of Ireland Centre, commented on the exceptional achievements of this group, noting that there were an outstanding number of prizes and first class honours.

Warm congratulations were extended to the graduating class of 2018 from all in the Church of Ireland Centre and all those in the DCU Institute of Education who lectured this group.

There were 34 graduates from the following counties: Cavan, Clare, Cork, Donegal, Dublin, Kildare, Kilkenny, Laois, Limerick, Meath, Monaghan, Offaly, Wexford and Wicklow.

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Brother Kevin Crowley receives Oireachtas Human Dignity Award



The Ceann Comhairle of Dáil Éireann, Mr Seán Ó'Feargháil TD, presented Brother Kevin with the award

Brother Kevin Crowley OFMCap, founder and director of the Capuchin Day Centre in Dublin city, was the recipient of the 4th Oireachtas Human Dignity Award in Leinster House last week.

The Ceann Comhairle of Dáil Éireann, Mr Seán Ó'Feargháil TD, presented Brother Kevin with the award, alongside Senator Rónán Mullen of the Oireachtas Human Dignity Group.

On the first day of his visit to Ireland, on 25 August of this year, Pope Francis met with Brother Kevin, his Capuchin Brothers, staff and clients of the Day Centre as part of the Holy Father's pilgrimage to the ninth World Meeting of Families.

News briefs

Rosscarbery young people host supper for Simon Community

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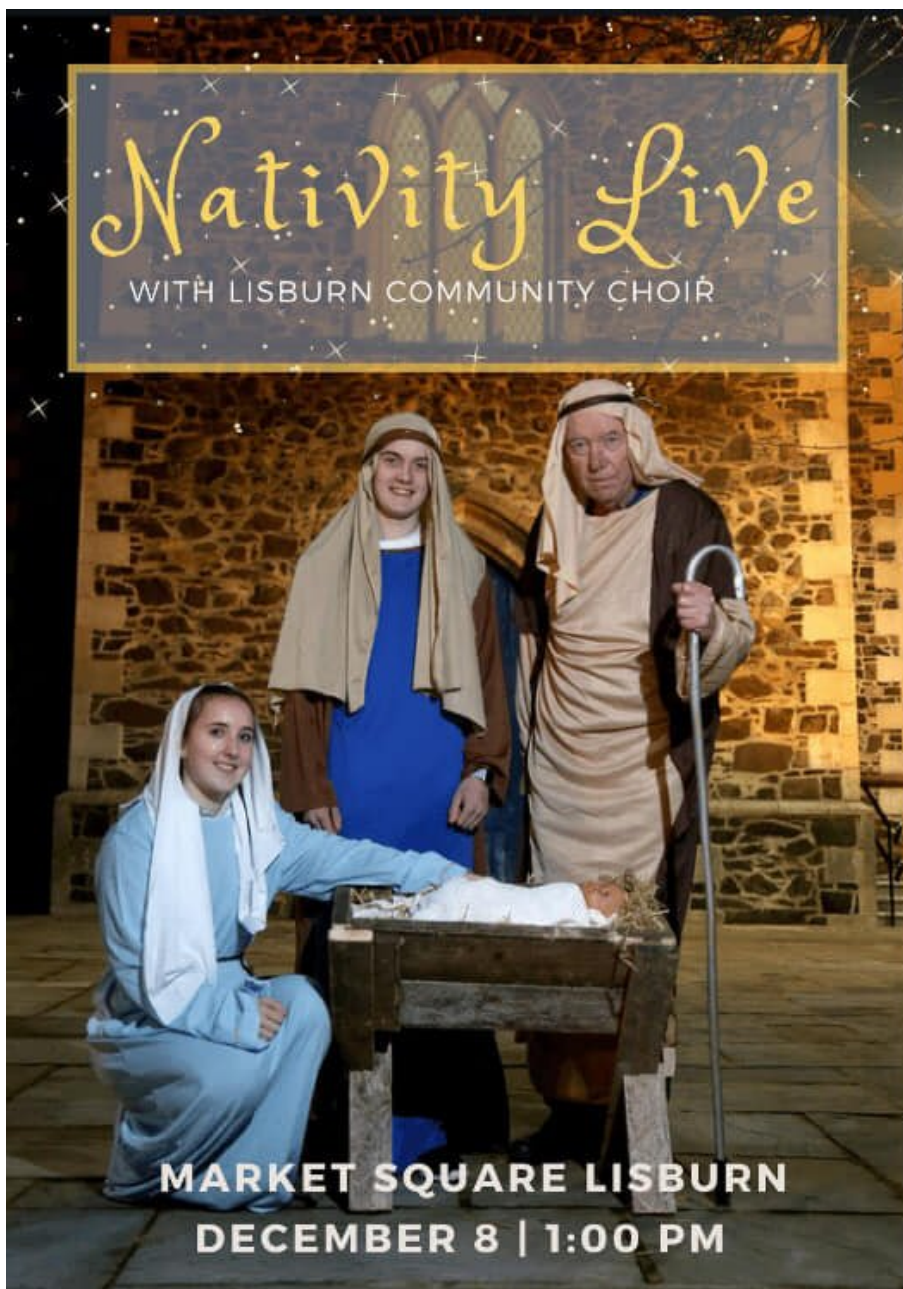
On Saturday 24th November, the Youth Group in Ross Union of Parishes, Rosscarbery, County Cork, held a supper in aid of the Simon Community. The young people prepared and served a two course meal, sold raffle tickets and cleared up afterwards. A total of €708 was raised for Cork Simon. Kerry McMahon from Cork Simon came and spoke of how the projects run in Cork city rely heavily on such fundraising events.

Exhibition to mark the 200th anniversary of 'Silent Night'

A special exhibition to mark the 200th anniversary of 'Silent Night' takes place from December 17th - 21st, and from January 3rd - 7th at the President's Arch in St Patrick's College, Maynooth. The exhibition is free of charge and churchnewsireland@gmail.org

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open from 9am to 6pm. [https://www.facebook.com/events/518359931999303/ ...](https://www.facebook.com/events/518359931999303/)



Carol Service in aid of Peata Therapy Dogs

Dogs of all sizes will be getting into the festive spirit in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, on Tuesday December 11 at 1.15pm when the annual lunchtime Peata Therapy Dog Carol Service takes place.

The cathedral will be filled

On Saturday, Lisburn Cathedral presented a live nativity play in Market Square. Lisburn Community Choir led the singing. The nativity feature da real donkey and a real baby. Afterwards families were invited to the Cathedral for DAZZLE, a free fun event.

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with the sound of barking as Peata dogs, as well as other dogs, will be welcomed to the service during which there will be a pet blessing. Many of the people who benefit from visits by Peata volunteers will also attend the service.

Peata is a voluntary organisation which provides a pet therapy service to caring institutions. Its visiting scheme involves approved volunteers and their dogs who generally pay weekly visits.

A collection will be taken up during the service and divided between Peata and the Peter McVerry Trust.

Tea and mince pies will be served after the service courtesy of the Friends of Christ Church Cathedral.

Black Santa Charity Appeal at St Ann's Church, Dublin

On Thursday at 1pm the Archbishop of Dublin will be in Dawson Street for the official launch of the annual Black Santa Charity Appeal at St Ann's Church.

Christmas Concert and Sing-along at Milltown

On Thursday at 7.30pm in St Philip's Church, Milltown, there will be a Christmas Concert and Sing-along with Sandford and St Philip's Choral Union and Choral Scholars followed by mince pies and mulled wine. Admission is free with a collection in aid of the St Philip's Church Organ Fund.

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C of I Easter residential Easter retreat

Bishop Michael Burrows is to be the leader of a forthcoming retreat for which booking is now open. Organized by the Church of Ireland Commission on Ministry, the retreat is an invitation to journey through Holy Week with a central but under-explored player in the Passion drama – Judas Iscariot. Through addresses, daily worship, silence and contemplation, Bishop Burrows will explore the mystery and problem of Judas. As the week continues, he will challenge participants to ask how meeting Judas in a new way may also be an encounter with some unfamiliar aspects of ourselves. This is a residential retreat, based at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute, beginning with lunch on the Monday of Holy Week and ending on the morning of Good Friday. Some places will be available for non-resident participants at €120 while the residential cost will be €250. For further information please contact Dr Bridget Nichols at bridgetnichols@theologicalinstitute.ie or (00353) (1) 499 7279.

GAA Presbyteries

On a Presbyterian congregations Face Book site...”Then the island is divided into regional bodies that have a reasonable amount of authority over all within their region; the GAA has counties, we have 'presbyteries. They meet a few times a year and each congregation sends their minister and one representative to it .



“Then once a year, just like the GAA, there is what we call 'General Assembly', like the GAA again this meeting is made up of representatives from the congregations and the presbyteries and at it, amongst other things, the basic rule-book can be amended and added to through proposals which are voted on by all who attended.

“XXXX is in the 'XXXXXXXXX Presbytery'. We are meeting tonight. Please pray that truth and love would guide us.”

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News links

[Casting off 'rules and rigidity' won't save the Irish Church](#)

Catholic Herald Online

But one can't help noticing that a Church that took many of these steps would look a lot like the Anglican **Church of Ireland**. So why, one wonders, ...

[Small Irish community seeks help to save a saint's iconic cross](#)

Crux: Covering all things Catholic

Both a Catholic church and a **Church of Ireland** church in the Fahan area are named for the saint. The cross is the only one of its kind to bear an ...

[Row erupts among Catholics; Pope is accused of 'wrecking' the Church](#)

Patheos (blog)

... Ireland's firebrand anti-papist who founded the Free Presbyterian **Church of Ireland** – and a man who branded Pope John Paul II as “the anti-Christ”.

[Festive events galore in the wider Mohill area this year!](#)

Leitrim Observer

Starting at 7.30pm there will be a special Carol Service in St Catherine's **Church of Ireland** in Fenagh. Come along and enjoy the celebrations and the ...

[Irish tenor who sang to Bush sings at his funeral service](#) [NBCNews.com](#)

Irish tenor who sang to Bush sings at his funeral service ... Bush's remains will be transported to St. Martin's Episcopal **Church** for the next phase of NBC **News** asked if he

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plans to run for his old Alabama Senate seat — which he's ...

Archdeacon banned from taking part in services over comments on school-admissions row

Irish Times

A retired **Church of Ireland** archdeacon has been barred from taking part in **church** services by the Archbishop of Dublin for six months after speaking ...

Bigger donations make up for drop in numbers giving at church gate

Independent.ie

"The **church**-gate fundraisers make up about 40pc of our donations, so if they dropped we would have to go to plan B," said Ms ... **Irish** Independent ...

Groups to protest **religious** influence on National Maternity Hospital in Dublin

Irish Examiner

Members of the Irish Council of Civil Liberties, the National Woman's Council of **Ireland** and the Union of Students in **Ireland**, as well as a number of ...

'Top EU diplomat said Northern Ireland the price to pay for Brexit' claims former minister

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/uk/top-eu-diplomat-said-northern-ireland-the-price-to-pay-for-brexit-claims-former-minister-37608318.html>

Nelson McCausland: All across Europe, the old order is changing and the only certainty is uncertainty

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<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/opinion/columnists/nelson-mccausland/nelson-mccausland-all-across-europe-the-old-order-is-changing-and-the-only-certainty-is-uncertainty-37599536.html>

Nesbitt close to tears as injured survivors of the Troubles relive their ordeals and tell of fight for pensions

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/nesbitt-close-to-tears-as-injured-survivors-of-the-troubles-relive-their-ordeals-and-tell-of-fight-for-pensions-37602694.html>

Victims' campaigner McBride tells of faith and regrets

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/victims-campaigner-mcbride-tells-of-faith-and-regrets-37605947.html>

Br Kevin takes aim at homeless strategy on his big day at the Dáil

<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/br-kevin-takes-aim-at-homeless-strategy-on-his-big-day-at-the-dail-1.3722834>

Fr Tony Coote: 'I am the guest of honour at my own funeral'

<https://www.irishtimes.com/culture/tv-radio-web/fr-tony-coote-i-am-the-guest-of-honour-at-my-own-funeral-1.3722985>

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