



**British-Irish
relations
focus of
Corrymeela
Sunday
resources**



Corrymeela has produced resources for St Patrick’s Day which coincides this year with Corrymeela Sunday.

For decades, Corrymeela has been a place of dialogue about British-Irish relations.

A spokesperson for the Community said, “We have been supported by the generosity and stories of people from

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across these islands. Such sharing is difficult: it requires us to reflect on the dynamics of our past - those dynamics that echo our pain, and those dynamics that echo our shame.

“As we approach Corrymeela Sunday (St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 2019), we have produced resources to reflect on the lectionary texts, as well as the narratives of British Irish relations in this time.

“We offer these with love, as well as with hope that the practices that led to the monumental agreements of peace between Britain and Ireland can continue to nurture, guide and support our civic and personal relations as peoples who share territories.” See - www.corrymeela.org/sunday2019

BBC defends controversial Songs of Praise lunchtime slot

The BBC has defended moving Songs of Praise to an earlier regular slot on Sundays after the Corporation was accused on marginalising the faith-based programme.

A member of the Church of England's governing body claimed bringing the programme forward to 1.15pm meant it was missing peak-time evening audiences. The show, which first aired during the early 1960s, previously took early-evening slots.

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Songs of Praise presenters Pam Rhodes, Aled Jones and Diane-Louise Jordan

But a BBC spokesman said: "Songs of Praise has moved to a new time on Sunday's to ensure consistency in scheduling, make it easier to find for viewers and to avoid the programme being displaced by sporting events which can often overrun."

Addressing fellow members of General Synod, Chris Angus from the Diocese of Carlisle was quoted by The Times as asking if leaders "had questioned why the only

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regular religious television programme previously to be broadcast in peak time has these past few months been marginalised to a slot early on Sunday afternoons."

In a written response, Archbishop of York Dr John Sentamu said he had been informed by the BBC that the schedule change meant Songs of Praise episodes were accessible on BBC iPlayer for longer during Sundays.

Last March, it was announced that independent companies would take over production of Songs of Praise from the BBC.

Bishop Burrows welcomed as Chair of Anglican Centre Rome

“We were very pleased to be able to welcome both John Shepherd, our interim director, and Michael Burrows, the new chair of Governors of the Anglican Centre. John and Michael arrived yesterday in Rome, for John to take up his role, and for Michael to visit the Centre for the first time as Chair”, a spokesperson for the Centre said this week.

He continued, “Together with the Rome-based staff, and the advice and counsel of the Communion-based governors, they will help set the direction and culture of the Centre over the coming months until the appointment of a new full-time director. We are very grateful for their presence with us,

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their prayer and efforts for the important work of the Centre, so that we might continue to be a place of encounter, hospitality, pilgrimage, prayer and representation”. The photo shows Joy Shepherd, Michael Burrow, and John Shepherd, in the chapel of St Augustine and St Gregory today after the regular celebration of the eucharist

Launch of “Mind yourself” programme in Meath and Kildare

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Meath and Kildare are launching a new community project to raise awareness of mental health issues.

An article on the diocesan website states - One of the key issues affecting people today is their mental health - there is not a family in Ireland that does not have someone who struggles with mental health issues.

The project aims to raise awareness of mental health issues, point people to where they can find support and help, and do some fundraising for Aware, one of the national mental health charities.

Project launch – with Discovery Gospel Choir

On Sunday 7th April, at 6.30pm) a launch will take place in Kildare Cathedral, with the Discovery Gospel Choir.

A staff member of Aware, a national charity focusing on mental health issues, will also speak at the event.

This will be a 'pay at the door' event only as it was too complicated to issue tickets all around the dioceses – so it will be a 'first come first served' event. The cathedral holds about 300 people at its full capacity and it would be wonderful to see it packed out. The Discovery Gospel choir will be performing at the event and they are a joy to see. You will not be disappointed! any funds raised at the event will go to support the work of Aware.

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Aware will be one of the partners in this venture, as will Bishops' Appeal, which will focus on mental health issues affecting refugees and those in our Direct Provision centres.

Diocesan Healing Service

One of the other partners is the Church's Ministry of Healing. There will also be a diocesan healing service on 9th June, in Trim Cathedral. at 6.30pm. This will be run by the Church's Ministry of Healing. At the service there will be an opportunity to receive prayer, either for yourself or those you love.

Rural Deanery Walks

Rural deaneries will be encouraged to hold walks in the Summer to get people out and about in the fresh air together. The small steering group who are helping to make the project happen are Rev William Steacy, Rev Katharine Poulton, Mark Johnston, Iva Beranek, Carol Casey, and Lydia Monds.

Open day for students at The Hub, Queens

The Church of Ireland and Methodist Chaplaincy at The Hub, Belfast, is holding an Open Day on Saturday March 23 from 10am – 2pm.

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If you are studying at university or college in September 2019, you can apply to live at The Hub, a Christian community on the Queen's University campus, where young adults studying across the city live together and support each other.

Whether hanging out in community, worshipping together during the week or at church, or taking part in any of the outreach opportunities, there are loads of ways which each resident can choose to get involved.

The open day is a brilliant chance to come along, see around, have a cup of coffee and a chat, and see what you think before (or after!) you apply.

If you are a student thinking about living and studying in Belfast next academic year, find out more on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/events/254475238768491/> or visit The Hub website(<https://www.thehubbelfast.org/opensunday>)

Hollywood swaps coasts for weekend

A group from Holywood Parish swapped one coast for another when they headed to Newcastle, County Down for a parish weekend.

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The group was 70 strong and took over the whole of the Glenada Conference Centre from 15–17 February. This was the first parish weekend for a number of years and the next one is already being anticipated!

Diocesan Development Officer, Andrew Brannigan, was the speaker and he facilitated four sessions looking at different aspects of the parish's 'Down to Earth' initiative. Andrew's style is relaxed and interactive with plenty of group work and everyone took part enthusiastically.

The children and young people had their own programme led by parish Children's Worker, Angela Megarry and Youth Worker, Paul O'Neill. A small team from Willowfield Parish helped out on Saturday morning. Saturday afternoon was left free for walking, shopping,

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coffee and family time whilst the highlight of Saturday evening was a table quiz won, in great style, by the kids!

The weekend finished with everyone worshipping together in a Family Communion service.

Large attendance at Dublin MU breakfast meeting



The Mothers' Union breakfast meeting in the Springfield Hotel in Leixlip on Saturday morning (February 16) drew a large attendance from branches from all over the dioceses.

There were also women present from parishes which no longer have a MU branch as well as visitors from other churches and organisations.

The speaker was David Hegarty and the topic was Health and Wellbeing. David, a sprightly 75 year old, talked of the relationship between mind and body, and the

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importance of breathing properly to energise and revitalize our bodies.

There were exercises to teach breathing techniques and improve posture. He stressed the practical benefits and encouraged the members to put the exercises into practice until they become a daily habit.

CL&CGB guests of Lisburn City mayor

On Monday a group of members, parents and officers were the guests of the Mayor of Lisburn City and Castlereagh council in the council chambers.

They were there as representatives of their achievements in the recent 1st and 3rd Battalion's Junior Leaders course and the the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme. There were members from Magheragall, Killinchy, St Hilda's Seymour Hill, St Paul's Lisburn, Lambeg and Christ Church Lisburn, supported by Battalion and Regimental officers.

They were each presented with their certificates by the Mayor and had an opportunity to have photographs taken. Following that the Mayor addressed the gathering and Melvyn Lockhart presented the Mayor with a Brigade plaque to mark the occasion. This was followed by some lovely food in one of the suites.

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There will be a new Junior Leader course starting on Monday 4th March at 7pm in St Hilda's. The Duke of Edinburgh scheme is ongoing with day walks and training sessions including a Gold group.

Death of Father Phelim McKeown, Caledon

Archbishop Eamon Martin was saddened to learn of the sudden death of Father Phelim McKeown, Priest in Residence, Caledon, Co Tyrone, on Saturday, 16 February 2019.

Father Phelim was ordained on 7 July 1996 in Mullaghbawn and served in parishes both North and South of the border including Saint Patrick's Parish, Dundalk, Saint Peter's Parish, Drogheda and Bessbrook. He became Parish Priest of Kilsaran in August 2014 but unfortunately had to take leave due to ill health from 2016.

In recent months, Father Phelim had begun a gradual return to his pastoral duties, all the more reason why his death has come as such a shock to all of us.

Father Phelim will be remembered as a very caring and pastoral priest who had a particular empathy for those who were suffering and struggling in anyway. He was very fondly thought of within his wide family circle and by those in the parishes where he ministered.

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I extend my sympathies to his brother, John, his extended family, his brother priests, and all who knew and loved him.

Father Phelim's funeral will take place in his home parish of Mullaghbawn at 12.00 noon on Wednesday, 20 February 2019.

News briefs

+++WCC Call to Discipleship - At the World Council of Churches Mission and Evangelism Conference in Tanzania which was held between 8–13th March 2018, 'The Arusha Call to Discipleship' was drafted and approved. It is a call to the Church to Transforming Discipleship. Rev. Adam Pullen, the Chairperson of the Church of Ireland Council for Mission attended the conference and was one of the 2,000 delegates from around the world who attended the conference. The text of the 'Arusha Call to Discipleship' is at -

www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/commissions/mission-and-evangelism/the-arusha-call-to-discipleship

+++Olympic cycle support for MU - Cycle the Olympic course with Mothers' Union and support families across the world. We have limited places for the 100 mile cycling fundraiser so contact us now to take part [<https://>

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www.mothersunion.org/ride-london](<https://t.co/HXCHrmLPKX>)

+++ Candlelit Film Series at Christ Church, Dublin -

March 4th will be the start of the 6th Candlelit Film Series with "Jason and the Argonauts" from 1963. The film will be introduced by Professor John Bartlett.

+++ Blarney church toddler's group 20th anniversary - On Saturday 9th February, Carrigrohane

Union of Parishes celebrated 20 years of the toddler group in Blarney with an amazing celebration with guests from near and far, including the Rev Francis and Julie Rutledge and the Rev Ruth Jackson Noble. This



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community initiative was the first by the parish in Blarney when the church building was refurbished. Now it is used nearly every day of the week by church and community groups, and is proving to be a great blessing for the community. The parish thanked especially the leaders over the years, not least Ruth Hockey whose dream it was to establish the group in the area.

+++ Food for thought - “Friendship is born at that moment when one person says to another, ‘What! You too? I thought I was the only one.’” CS Lewis (quoted by Diana Butler Bass in Christianity After Religion)

+++The February Prayer at St Patrick’s Cathedral, Dublin - is triggered by a window in the north choir aisle by C E Kempe (1907) which depicts, in its top half, the sacrament of baptism. Jesus arrived at the Jordan from Galilee, and came to John to be baptised by him. (Matt 3: 13)...Almighty God, at the baptism of your Son you revealed your own Godhead in him; Shed the light of his presence in our hearts, and give us strength to be faithful to our own baptism, that we may show your glory in our lives; Through the same, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. CM

February 20 in Christian history

February 20, 1469: Thomasso de Vio Cajetan, the most learned of the Roman Catholic dignitaries sent to

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silence Martin Luther in the early years of the Protestant Reformation, is born. He was also one of the cardinals who convinced Pope Clement VII to reject Henry VIII's request to divorce Catherine of Aragon
February 20, 1895: Abolitionist Frederick Douglass, the first African-American to hold high political office, dies. After escaping to freedom in 1838, he became the most prominent black abolitionist. Critical of the "Christianity of this land," which accepted (or at least tolerated) slavery, he considered himself a devotee of "the pure, peaceable, and impartial Christianity of Christ"

News links

[Derry fundraiser \(81\) is honoured for 'helping to save millions of lives'](#)

Belfast Telegraph

Albert Smallwoods (81) was commended by **Church of Ireland** Bishop of Derry and Raphoe Ken Good for his work with the world development project.

[Rev Alan Irwin: 'My support for the stand of the Enniskillen families against misinformation about the IRA atrocity'](https://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/opinion/rev-alan-irwin-my-support-for-the-stand-of-the-enniskillen-families-against-misinformation-about-the-ira-atrocity-1-8815787) -

<https://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/opinion/rev-alan-irwin-my-support-for-the-stand-of-the-enniskillen-families-against-misinformation-about-the-ira-atrocity-1-8815787>

[Anti-abortion doctors told not to apply for maternity hospital posts](https://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/anti-abortion-doctors-told-not-to-apply-for-maternity-hospital-posts-1.3797193)

<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/anti-abortion-doctors-told-not-to-apply-for-maternity-hospital-posts-1.3797193>

[Waterford diocese unable to pay priests' Christmas wages due to major decrease in donations](#)

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BreakingNews.ie

The customary "basket collection" is used for **church** maintenance and upkeep and has always been kept separate to the "envelope collection" used to ...

[Dublin's Catholic Archdiocese targets digital collections at Mass](#)

Irish Times

The initiative is being trialled in the **Church of England** and reports last month indicated a 97 per cent increase in donations at church services piloting ...

Alex Kane: We are still repeating the mistakes of the past

<https://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/opinion/alex-kane-we-are-still-repeating-the-mistakes-of-the-past-1-8814111>

[Derry college wins place in semi-final of BBC Northern Ireland School Choir of the Year](#)

Derry Now

Thornhill College in Derry has won a place in the semi-finals of the BBC Northern **Ireland** School **Choir** Of The Year, which will take place at Regent ...

[Choral – Based Music Festival For Coleraine](#)

Causeway Coast Community

Last week councillors approved plans for a **choral** music festival in Coleraine ... The demand for **Choral** based music is strong across Northern **Ireland**, ...

[Anglican Church slammed for excluding same-sex spouses from 2020 conference](#)

Reuters

Canon Jeremy Pemberton, who in 2014 became the first **Church of England** priest to wed his same-sex partner, said the move ... Visit news.trust.org).

[Child abuse in Sussex: new laws 'essential' after decades of Church scandals](#)

Chichester Observer

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The **Church of England** has been the centre of countless high profile scandals across the country and is currently subject of a national inquiry.

How Britain's dark history with Ireland haunts Brexit

<https://www.newstatesman.com/politics/brexit/2019/02/how-britain-s-dark-history-ireland-haunts-brexit>

Vatican confirms secret Catholic Church guidelines for priests who father children

CBS News

CBS **News** correspondent Roxana Saberi spoke with him and other ... Last year, **Ireland's Catholic Church** published ground-breaking guidelines for ...

Report: One in three in UK say Islam threatens British culture

A new report finds that about 35 percent of British people think that Islam is generally "a threat to the British way of life" in the wake of 2017 terrorist attacks. [More from Religion News Service](#)

Southern Baptists should investigate churches that cover up abuse, says SBC president

While blaming the abusers, SBC president J.D. Greear called on the convention as a whole "to repent of a culture that has made abuse, cover-ups, and evading accountability far too easy." [More from Religion News Service](#)

Historic United Methodist church sees 'hopeful' time for LGBTQ Christians

LGBTQ-affirming United Methodists are split over which proposed plan to support at the denomination's special session — and what they'll do if a plan passes that strengthens rules against the full inclusion of LGBTQ people. [More from Religion News Service](#)

Kenyan United Methodists oppose allowing LGBT clergy, pray for church unity worldwide

United Methodist bishops in Africa want to keep the denomination's ban of LGBT clergy in place. But they also want the United

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Methodist Church to stay together no matter what happens at the upcoming General Conference in St. Louis. Delegates at that meeting will discuss possible changes to the denomination's rules.
[More from Religion News Service](#)

[Women wearing tefillin cause a stir in Jerusalem](#)

Women of the Wall is part of an annual campaign spearheaded by American Conservative Jews to encourage women, as well as men, to wear phylacteries during prayer. [More from Religion News Service](#)

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