

January 18, 2019

CNI
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IRELAND



“Justice and only justice you shall pursue” – international prayer for week of Christian unity

The Annual Service for the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity hosted by the cathedrals in Belfast will be held at 7pm
churchnewsireland@gmail.org

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on Tue, 22 January in St Peter's Cathedral. The preacher at the Service will be Bishop Ken Good, Church of Ireland Bishop of Derry & Raphoe. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Churches in many parts of the world will be taking part in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity from today, Friday, under the theme "Justice and only justice you shall pursue". This year's material, published jointly by the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity (PCPCU) and the World Council of Churches'

Commission on Faith and Order, was prepared by Christians in Indonesia.

With a population of 265 million, 86 per cent of whom are reckoned to be Muslim, Indonesia is well known as having the largest Muslim population of any country. However, about 10 per cent of the population are



Bray Churches Together

Ecumenical Worship Service

for

Week of Christian Unity

Wednesday 23rd January 2019

at 8.00pm

Christ Church

Bray

Guest Speaker:

Rev. Fr. Michael O'Kelly

Theme: "Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue"

(Deuteronomy 16: 18-20)

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Christian from various traditions.

“In terms of both population and the vast extension of the country Indonesia is the biggest nation in South East Asia”, the WCC said. “The nation is founded on five principles called Pancasila, with the motto Bhineka Tunggal Ika (Unity in Diversity). Across the diversity of ethnicity, language and religion, Indonesians have lived by the principle of gotong

royong which is to live in solidarity and by collaboration.

“This always fragile harmony is today threatened in new ways. Much of the economic growth that Indonesia has experienced in recent decades has been built on a system that has competition at its heart. This is in stark contrast to the collaboration of gotong royong. Corruption is experienced in many forms. It infects politics and business, often with devastating consequences for



Youth Mass

CELEBRATING WORLD YOUTH
DAY PANAMA 2019

Sunday 27th January
@ 5.30pm

St Patrick's Cathedral
Armagh

ADYC FORWARD IN FAITH

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the environment. In particular, corruption undermines justice and the implementation of law.

Moved by these concerns, the Christians of Indonesia found that the words of Deuteronomy, ‘Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue . . . ’ (Deut 16: 18-20) spoke powerfully to their situation and needs. Before the people of God enter the land God has promised them they renew their commitment to the Covenant God established with them.”

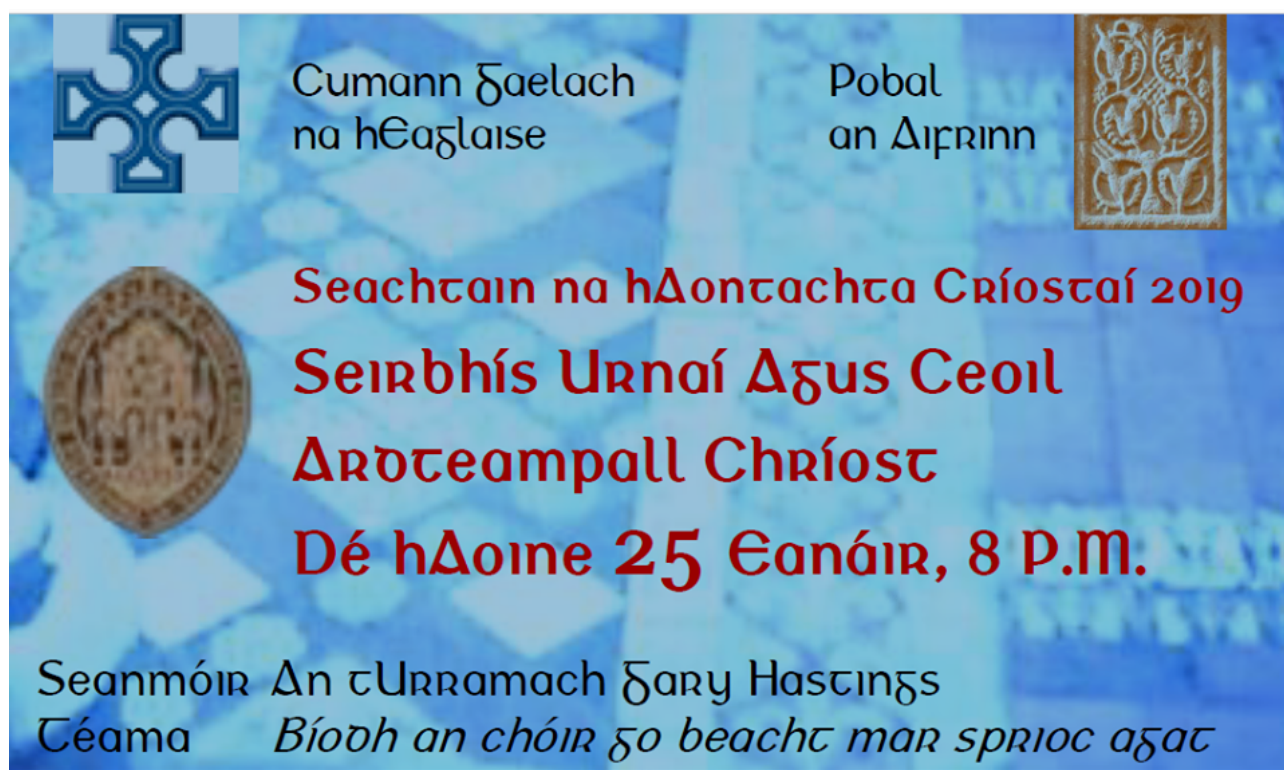
The annual season of prayer is usually scheduled to take place between the feasts of St Peter and St Paul (18 – 25 January) in the northern hemisphere. In the southern hemisphere, where, in many places, January is a traditional holiday time, the week is usually scheduled around Pentecost. “Mindful of the need for flexibility, we invite you to use this material throughout the whole year to express the degree of communion which the churches have already reached, and to pray together for that full unity which is Christ’s will”, the WCC and PCPCU said.

This year’s material has followed the usual production process. It begins with a group of ecumenical partners in a particular region producing a basic liturgical text on a biblical theme. Then an international editorial team of WCC and Roman Catholic representatives refines this text to ensure that it can be prayed throughout the world, and to link it with the search for the visible unity of the church. The international text is jointly published by the two bodies and made available to WCC member churches and Roman Catholic episcopal conferences, where they are translated, contextualised and adapted for local use.

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Speaking on Wednesday during his General Audience in the Vatican, Pope Francis said that “ecumenism is not something optional”. Extolling the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, he said: “again, this year we are called to pray so that all Christians may once again be a single family, according to God’s will ‘so that they may all be one’”.

- [Click here](#) to download the international texts for the 2019 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (pdf)



Cumann Gaelach
na hEaglaise

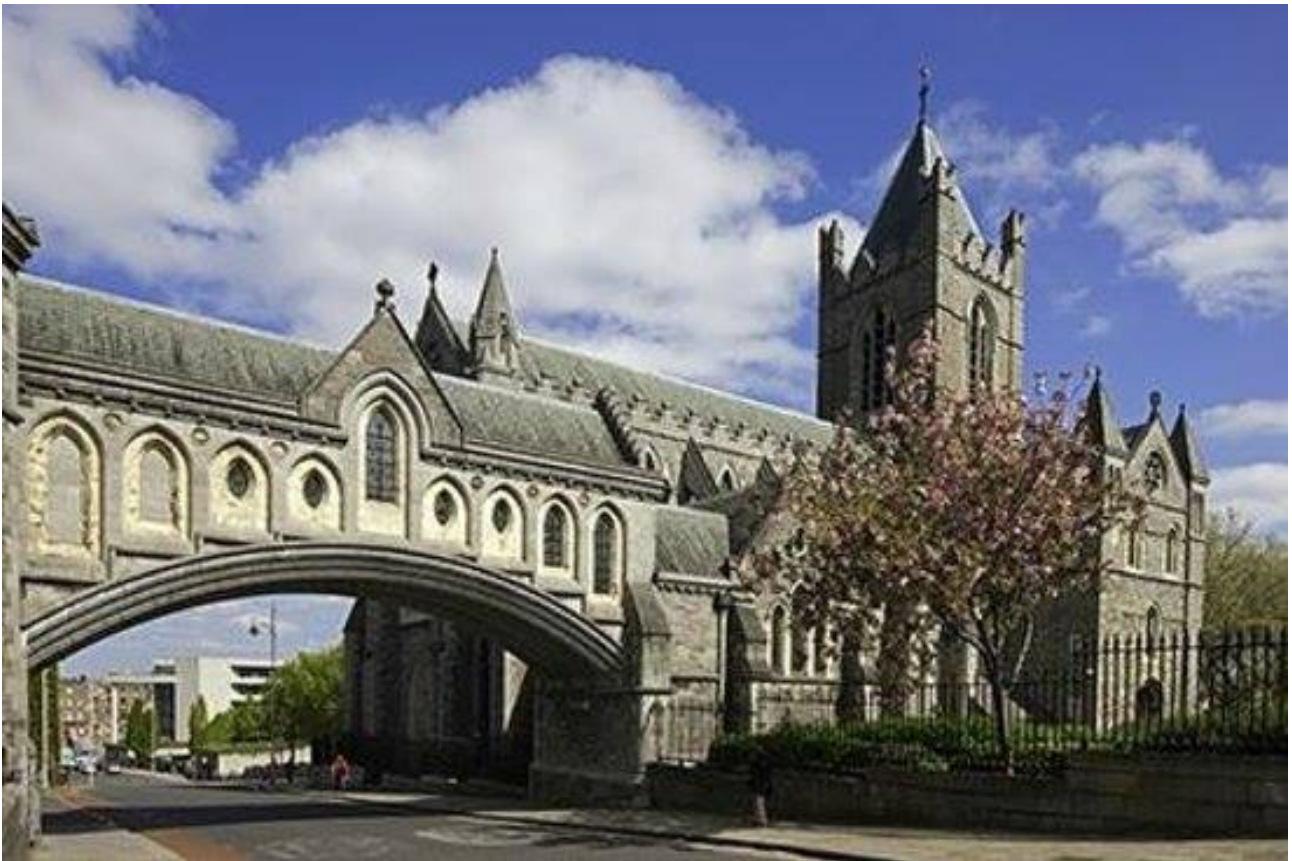
Pobal
an Aifrin

Seachtain na hAontachta Críostaí 2019
Seirbhís Urnaí agus Ceoil
Ardeampall Chríost
Dé hAoine 25 Eanáir, 8 P.M.

Seanmóir An tUrramach Gary Hastings
Céama *Bíodh an chóir go beacht mar sprioc agat*

Book launch on Irish language in the history of the Church of Ireland

Cuman Gaelach na hEaglaise's annual interdenominational service takes place on Friday January 25 at 8pm in Christ Church Cathedral.

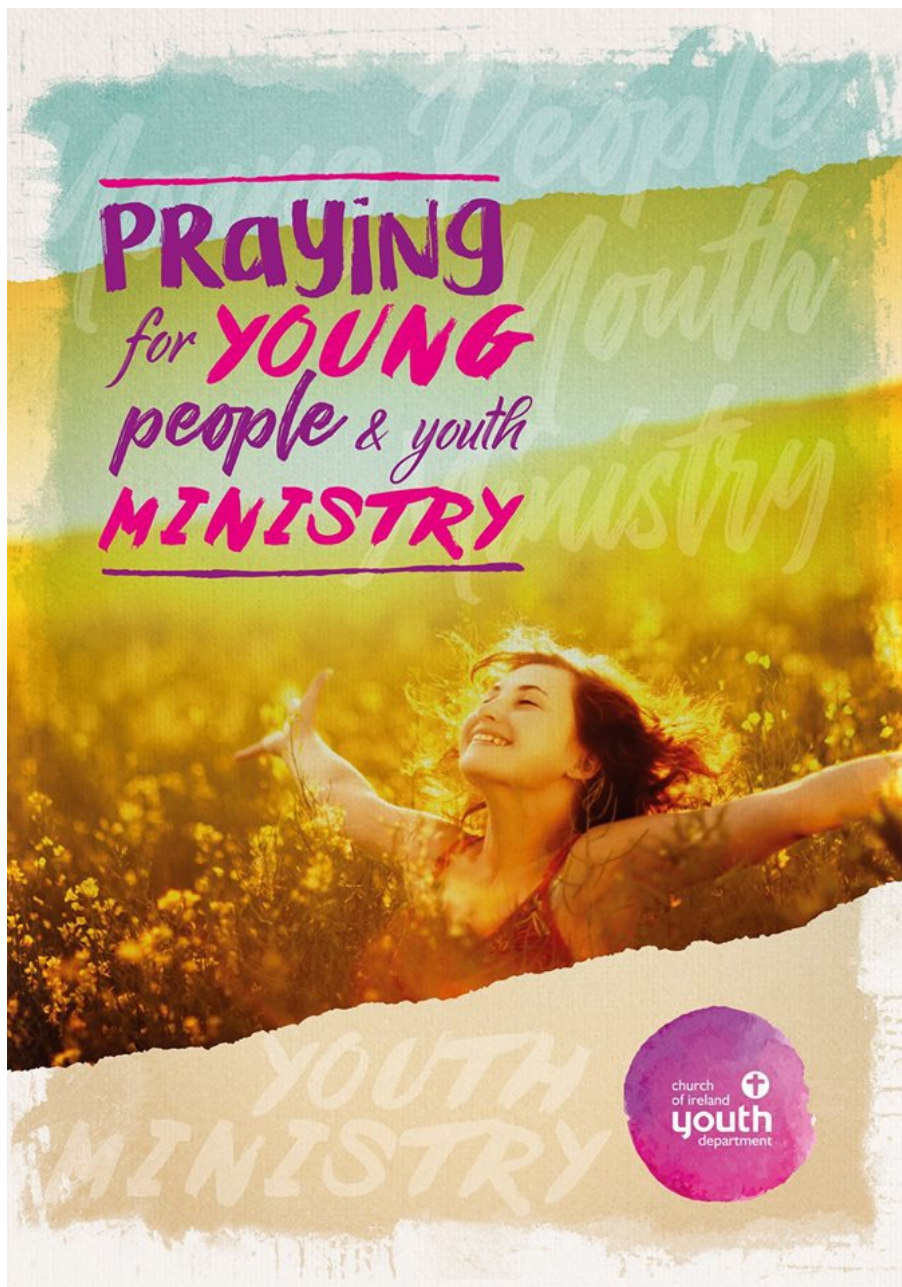


The service will conclude with the relaunch of the first book to chronicle the role of the Irish language in the history of the Church of Ireland. ‘An Ghaeilge in Eaglais na hÉireann’, has been re-published by Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise thirty years since it was written by Risteárd Giltrap. It is bilingual with the Irish and English text on opposite pages and will now be more accessible to both Irish and English readers. Broadcaster Bibi Baskin will launch the book.

Helping young peoples’ prayer

The C of I Youth Department (CIYD) is launching its new resource on praying for young people and youth ministry this Saturday. 2019 marks the fifth CIYD day of prayer on this theme; the House of Bishops has approved the Sunday before Lent each year for this purpose (this year being

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Sunday, 3rd
March 2019).

In previous years, a number of dioceses across the island have organised events and services to pray for the needs of our young people. The booklet – available free of charge – contains a selection of prayer ideas that can be used during a service or

events or also at other times of the year as appropriate.

It will be launched at the CIYD Youth Forum, which brings young people together from all over the island, and copies will be available for parishes, clergy, and youth leaders from diocesan offices and youth officers or from CIYD directly after Saturday's launch.

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Church hails 'mini-miracle' as stolen records are found in bog

Church hails 'mini-miracle' as stolen records are found in bog, the Belfast Telegraph reports

The 'irreplaceable' baptism, death and marriage documents were contained in a safe taken from the Church of Ireland Rectory in Derrylin, Co Fermanagh, last November.

They were later discovered abandoned in bogland between counties Offaly and Kildare.

It is thought they may have been there for up to two months.

The robbery took place on Thursday, November 8, at the home of the rector of Kinawley and Holy Trinity Parish Church, the Rev Alastair Donaldson.

While the safe taken contained nothing of monetary value, within it were decades' worth of church administration records.

The theft of the documents sparked a public outcry and led to a cross-community appeal within the village, close to the border with Co Cavan, for their safe return.

Rev Donaldson told the Belfast Telegraph that the documents were of no value to an ordinary person but of huge significance to the parish.

"There was nothing of any monetary value in the safe as we don't keep money on the premises," he said.



From left: Simon Bullock, church warden; Paul Cooke from Co Kildare, the Rev Alastair Donaldson and Charlie Suphlis, church warden, with the recovered church records

"Those who took it probably thought they had struck gold at the time, but when they opened it I'm sure they were disappointed.

"For us it contained irreplaceable and precious information that all the money in the world could not replace.

"People were very upset at the time to think that records of significant events in their family history could be gone forever."

News that the records had been found in bogland over 80 miles away in the Republic reached parishioners on Christmas morning.

They were finally returned to Derrylin in recent days.

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Mr Donaldson said it was a "mini-Christmas miracle" when he heard the news that the priceless records had been discovered.

"An initial message was sent to me just before midnight on Christmas Eve night saying that a man had found our records in some bogland along the Offaly/Kildare border," he added.

"We were all sleeping so I didn't get the message until Christmas morning, but it was a lovely and remarkable conclusion to the whole episode.

"At the time of the robbery we were hopeful that the records might come back to us, but we wondered what the chances were.

"I even said that they were probably at the bottom of Lough Erne, but in the end they were a bit further away than that.

"It has been known for miracles to happen on Christmas Day so when I told the congregation at church that morning the records had been found, they nearly fell out of their seats.

"Derrylin certainly had its own mini-Christmas miracle and it also goes to show that wonderful things really can happen."

Paul Cooke from Newbridge in Kildare was the man who discovered the records while out walking his dog a few days before Christmas.

He kept in touch with Rev Donaldson over the festive period and last week made the journey to Derrylin with a friend to return the records to their rightful owners.

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The minister explained: "The records were quite far down in the bog when they were found so Paul did very well to get them at all.

"Luckily he had an interest in old records so he knew what to do with them.

"Over the past few weeks, he went the extra mile by drying them out and photocopying them. Given the time between when the records were taken and their discovery, they may have been lying there in the bog in all weather conditions for around eight weeks."

Despite this, Rev Donaldson said most of the records had been fairly well preserved.

"The ink has run on some of the pages making them difficult to read so they may need to be looked at by an expert or pieced together and also possibly rebound," he explained.

"Around 80% of them are legible, but if they had been down there much longer they would have been in a terrible state.

"Up until a few weeks ago, Paul had never heard of Derrylin, but the chance discovery brought us unto his radar. Now it has become a precious place to him and we hope to build on that friendship."

'Born again' Border Fox O'Hare conned me, admits Willie Frazer

Protestant victims' campaigner Willie Frazer has revealed how he "feels conned" by notorious INLA killer Dessie O'Hare, who convinced him he had become a born again Christian.

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He described O'Hare, known as the Border Fox and suspected of involvement in around 30 killings, as "a master of deception".

Mr Frazer said that a number of years ago he had heard O'Hare had turned his life around and was attending Christian fellowship meeting in the Armagh area.

He said he went along to one "seeking an honest conversation with O'Hare".

The two had discussed what brought them to faith, with O'Hare denouncing his terrorist past and Mr Frazer extending "the hand of Christian friendship".

But he now feels conned, proclaiming that Dessie O'Hare never was a man of God.

"Not only is O'Hare a hardened criminal, he is a convincing liar," he said.

"I've no doubt that many were conned by his profession of faith."

Mr Frazer, who said he went later to confront O'Hare, urged gardai to investigate O'Hare's former and current links with terrorism.

He added: "Trying to use God as a cover in the end will prove more devastating to him than any past activity."

January 18 in Christian History

January 18, 1562: The counter-reformation Council of Trent reconvenes after a 10-year break caused by the revolt of Protestant princes against Emperor Charles V. During the

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break, all hope of reconciliation between Catholics and Protestants had vanished.

January 18, 1815: Konstantin von Tischendorf, the biblical critic known for discovering and deciphering the "Codex Sinaiticus" (a fifth-century manuscript of Paul's epistles), is born in Germany.

January 18, 1830: Baptism of Tauta'ahau Tupou. King of Tonga by a western missionary. Beginning of a strongly missionary Christian Kingdom.

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