



All churches in the diocese of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory will worship on Pentecost Sunday using a similar form of service using resources supplied on memory sticks - it is the first time such an initiative has been used in the C of I.

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Public invited to attend Presbyterian Church's traditional worship night



The Moderator elect Rev Dr William Henry of Maze Presbyterian Church.

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI) is inviting members of the public to attend its 'Wednesday Night Celebration' on June 5.

The event at Assembly Buildings in Belfast is part of the week-long PCI General Assembly, which will see Rev Dr William Henry of Maze Presbyterian Church near Lisburn become the 174th Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.



Rev Glen Scrivener.

On the Wednesday night, Dr Henry will lead a time of praise, worship and fellowship, which is expected to be attended by upwards of 1,000 people.

This year's theme for the free event is 'Enjoying God', a subject that is close to the heart of Dr Henry and will play a key part in his year as Moderator.

During the evening, supported by many across the denomination through video presentations and live interviews, he will unpack what it means to enjoy God in different settings and different stages of life and situations: in church, in the family, in the work place and the general busyness of life and in the struggles of life too.

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Looking forward to the evening, Dr Henry said: "It's so easy to be distracted in our day-to-day experience of seeking to know and follow God. Even in the middle of worthy activity and business, like making sure the church and its activities run smoothly - we can forget the best thing, which is to know and love Jesus.

"Often we need to focus and to remind ourselves that daily life can be directed towards God and his Glory. That's all of life, not just the exciting and easy parts! That's a purposeful action and intention. And I look forward to exploring that with the help of a few people who, like the rest of us, have experienced life, but through it have encountered God in a refreshing way."

Drawing everything together will be the evening's keynote speaker, the Australian-born author, speaker, filmmaker and evangelist, Rev Glen Scrivener.

With a passion for people to meet Jesus, the ordained Anglican, and the director of the charity Speak Life, says that to that end, he writes, speaks and makes films that reach millions.

His wife Emma is from Belfast, so he is no stranger to Northern Ireland as they often return to visit family, but also to speak at various events. They live in Eastbourne on the south coast of England with their two young children, Ruby and JJ.

Glen will be speaking on the evening's main theme, 'Enjoying God', linking it with abiding in Christ, from his main text, which will be John 15.

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Members of the public are welcome to attend worship on Wednesday, 5 June at 12.15pm and Thursday, 6 June at 2.45pm to hear Rev Glen Scrivener preach.

Take courageous steps retiring Bishop urges politicians

The retiring Bishop of Derry and Raphoe has urged politicians to "take courageous steps" in the wake of Lyra McKee's murder.

The Right Reverend Ken Good said the killing was one of the darkest days of his 17 years in the role.

"There have been so many dark days, they seem all the more dark because of the brightness that generally pervades our life now."

Ms McKee was shot observing rioting in Londonderry's Creggan estate.

The New IRA said its members were responsible for the April 18 attack in which the journalist was shot.

Support from Archbishops of Armagh for Thy Kingdom Come

The Archbishops of Armagh have issued a joint commendation of the initiative. It states -



A few years ago, Archbishop Justin Welby of Canterbury initiated what he believed would be a relatively small-scale project, asking members of his own Christian tradition to pray “[Thy Kingdom Come](#)” with real effort and focus in the days between the Ascension and Pentecost. These days between Ascension and Pentecost mark a spiritual interlude between Jesus Christ leaving the earth in his physical body at Ascension, and the day when the Holy Spirit came in power on his disciples at Pentecost. And we are told in the Scriptures that the disciples spent these days in Jerusalem in constant prayer.

Praying “Thy Kingdom Come” can be a familiar phrase that trips off the tongue a little too easily, but it should never be such. “The Kingdom of God” can best be understood as being *the realm of God*, that place where God is in full control, where God is completely supreme in the hearts and minds of his people. Praying for God’s Kingdom to come is therefore not simply a prayer for the world (although it is that), but it is also a prayer for our own spiritual renewal and

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a prayer for the Holy Spirit of God to enter the lives of those we know and love in a new and powerful way.

We are asked in these days to make a specific effort within this prayer to “pray for five”. This means praying intentionally for five people, but not necessarily those we instinctively pray for on a regular basis. This “prayer for five” should be that God will bless the people for whom we have prayed and give them a deeper awareness of his infinite love for them. It is not a condescending or judgmental prayer, but a simple act of truly Christian love and friendship. We sometimes wonder what prayer is able to do. There was a lovely reflection on the matter by Archbishop William Temple, “When I pray, coincidences happen; when I don’t, they don’t!”.

By God’s grace, what began as a simple local call for prayer has spread across almost all the Christian traditions and across the world. Pope Francis and Archbishop Welby with other church leaders have asked Christian disciples throughout the world to be part of this focussed wave of prayer. We now join in this call to prayer, coupling it with our own shared prayer to God, “Thy Kingdom Come”.

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French Senate passes bill on rebuilding of Notre Dame

In an effort to quell controversies over the planned rebuilding of Paris' Notre Dame Cathedral, the French Senate passed a bill on May 27 stipulating that it must be rebuilt to the "last known visual state."

After an April 15 fire ravaged the cathedral, resulting in the collapse of its famed spire and rooftop, debate has ensued over whether the restoration efforts would possibly include a modern redesign or whether it will be rebuilt to reflect the last iteration of the 12th century structure.

French President Emmanuel Macron has insisted, and the latest bill affirms, that plans are for the cathedral to be rebuilt before the city plays host to the summer Olympic games in 2024.

More than one billion dollars have been pledged to assist the efforts, but preservation experts have warned against an expedited process for the restoration.

Notre Dame was nationalized in 1789 during the French Revolution, and remains the property of the French State. By law, the Catholic Church has exclusive use of the building, but the government covers the cost of building maintenance and repairs.

In May, the National Assembly, France's main legislative body, debated a bill which was meant to establish a national fund for the restoration and give executive decision-making authority to Macron.

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Following the vote in the French Senate, the upper body of the French parliament, the National Assembly and the Senate must now seek to a common version of the bill that will pass both bodies.

According a poll conducted by YouGov - from Le HuffPost and CNews, 54 percent of French adults seek to restore the cathedral to its original form, with another 25 percent seeking a modern addition. 21 percent of respondents did not have an opinion on the matter.

Pope Francis: Too many Christians think the Holy Spirit is a ‘paralytic’

The Holy Spirit keeps Christians young at heart, supporting them in times of trial and helping them praise God no matter what is going on, Pope Francis said.

Celebrating morning Mass May 28, the Pope told the story of a priest who asked a group of children who the Holy Spirit is. They answered, “The paralytic.”

While their confusion with the word “paraclete” is understandable, the Pope said that too many Christians “think the Holy Spirit is a paralytic.”

“The word ‘paraclete’ means one who is alongside me to support me so that I don’t fall, so that I keep moving forward, so that I preserve the youthfulness of the Spirit,” the Pope said. “A Christian remains young. Always. When the heart of a Christian starts to get old, one’s Christian

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vocation begins to diminish. You are either young at heart, have a young soul, or you are not fully Christian.”

In the day’s Gospel reading, John 16:5-11, the disciples are sad when Jesus tells them he is leaving, but Jesus scolds them because, Pope Francis said, “sadness is not a Christian attitude.”

Of course, the Pope said, trials and difficulties come into everyone’s life, but Christians can rely on the Holy Spirit to help them carry their burdens while continuing to recognize God’s gifts in their lives and to look toward the future with hope.

Today in Christian history

May 30, 339: Eusebius dies at age 74. Author of the 10-volume Ecclesiastical History, he is called the father of church history. In his day, though, he was as much a maker of history as a recorder. At the Council of Nicea, he argued for peace between the heretical Arians and Orthodox leaders like Athanasius. When Arianism became hugely popular after the Council, Eusebius was one of the people to depose Athanasius. Though he wasn't an Arian himself, he strongly opposed anti-Arianism.

May 30, 1416: Jerome of Prague burns at the stake for heresy. When the Council of Constance arrested and tried his fellow Bohemian reformer Jan Hus, Jerome went to defend him, sealing his own fate.

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May 30, 1431: French mystic and revolutionary Joan of Arc burns at the stake for heresy. Her last words were, "Jesus, Jesus".

May 30, 1672: The governor of Rhode Island cordially entertains Quaker founder George Fox. "Most of the pupils had never heard of Friends before," Fox said, "but they were mightily affected with the meeting, and there is a great desire amongst them after the Truth.

May 30, 1822: A slave betrays the plans of African Methodist (and former slave) Denmark Vesey to stage a massive slave uprising on July 14. Of the 131 African Americans arrested in the plot, 35 were executed (including Vesey) and 43 were deported. Vesey's Charleston, South Carolina, church was closed until 1865.

May 30, 1934: The first synod of the Confessing Church at Barmen ends. Influenced by Karl Barth, the synod produced the Barmen Declaration and marks the formal establishment of the "Confessing Church," led by Karl Barth, Martin Niemöller, and Dietrich Bonhoeffer in opposition to the Nazi "German Christian" church.

News briefs

+++ Pope to visit Canterbury? - The Dean of Canterbury, the Very Revd Robert Willis, and the Precentor, the Revd Max Kramer, were warmly received by Pope Francis last week during a visit to Rome to make plans for the Cathedral's celebrations of Becket 2020.

+++ North Belfast churches open for prayer - A number of churches in the North Belfast Rural Deanery will open in turn each evening from 7pm – 9pm for private prayer from

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Ascension Day (Thursday May 30) until Pentecost (Sunday June 9). This begins in St Peter's (Antrim Road) on Ascension Day, and will include Choral Eucharist there at 7.30pm. The churches will then take turns to open for two hours each evening, concluding in St Brigid's (Glengormley) with a joint service at 6.30pm on Pentecost. The Rural Deanery states: "You are warmly invited and encouraged to visit our church buildings, particularly those to which you've never been before. We have a list of prayers which the clergy in each parish have requested, so even if you can't go to a church in person, please do pray for them."

+++ Three significant birthdays celebrated - On Sunday 19th May, three significant birthdays were celebrated in the Church of St Mary & All Saints', Glanmire. The well known and much loved trio of Dorothy Kidney, Anne Geary, and Walter Stansfeld recently celebrated their 70th, 80th, & 90th birthdays. The occasion was marked with tea and a special birthday cake which was presented immediately after Mattins.

+++ Congratulations go to Prof. Michael Mullaney - of St Patrick's, Maynooth, on being elected President of the Administrative Board of The Federation of European Catholic Universities or, in French, Fédération des Universités Catholiques Européennes (FUCE).

+++ Today is the start of Thy Kingdom Come - The Archbishop of Canterbury says - Let's pray to be filled with the Spirit. Let's wait with certain expectation. Then let's go and share the good news of Jesus with the world!
Archbishop of Canterbury

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+++ Ecumenism in Clogher - The Annual Ecumenical Service will be held on Sunday 9th June in St. Molua's Church of Ireland, Magheracloone, Co. Monaghan at 3pm. It will be led by the Bishops of Clogher

+++ Clerical appointment - Revd Dr Peter Munce to be rector of the Parochial Group of Mullabrack and Kilcluney. Peter is currently Curate Assistant in the Parish of St John's, Moira, Diocese of Dromore. A date for the Institution has not yet been arranged.

+++ New Archbishop of West Indies - The Bishop of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, Howard Gregory, has been elected to serve as Archbishop and Primate of the Church of the Province of the West Indies. Archbishop Howard was elected from a shortlist of two – the other candidate was the Bishop of Belize, Phillip Wright. The election took place during the 40th Synod of the province, which is taking place this week at the Cascadia Hotel in the St Ann's district of Port of Spain, Trinidad. He succeeds Archbishop John Holder who retired as Bishop of Barbados in February 2018. Archbishop Howard is the first Jamaican-born Archbishop of the West Indies

+++ Derry Diocesan Ambassadors - Youth respond on what they would like to see in the Church: 'The Church should promote the inclusion of young and lay people regarding all important decisions made within their parish.'

+++ Food for thought - "Most people, if they have really learned to look into their own hearts, would know that they do want, and want acutely, something that cannot be had in this world. There are all sorts of things in this world that offer

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to give it to you, but they never quite keep their promise." C
S Lewis

+++ Please pray for - Naomi Leremore, PCI global mission worker in Kenya, and the team of Women's Guild writers have had their first meeting together. Praise God for the fruitful discussions and planning that took place.

News Links May 30

[Bishop of Derry and Raphoe's parting plea to politicians](#)

BBC News

There was an outrage that was deeper because things have got so much better," the **Church of Ireland** bishop said. "We have got used to peaceful ...

[Ireland's Protestant and Catholic leaders unite for 'Thy Kingdom Come' prayer movement](#)

Premier

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[Ireland Abortion Raises Serious Questions About Inaccuracy of Prenatal Testing](#)

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CHURCH MILITANT premium ... **Ireland** Abortion Raises Serious Questions About Inaccuracy of Prenatal Testing ... You are not signed in as a Premium user; we rely on Premium users to support our **news** reporting. ... Moreover, it is standard practice in **Ireland** for terminations to be decided based on the ...

[Obituary: Alexander Chestnut, Church of Scotland minister and Second World veteran](#)

HeraldScotland

He was ordained in 1948 by the Presbyterian **Church of Ireland** but served for almost 25 years in the Church of Scotland in Greenock. Such was his ...

[Ireland: Archbishop encourages Church to use 'more joyful language'](#)

Independent Catholic News

Archbishop Eamon Martin celebrated Mass yesterday at the National Marian Shrine, Knock in Co Mayo yesterday, for the 'Thy Kingdom Come' prayer ...

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[Offaly choir lands top spot at Mayo International Choral Festival 2019](#)

Offaly Express

After being awarded first place in the “**Choirs from Ireland**” competition at the event, the Academy Chamber **Choir** then went on to finish second in the ...

[Killyon church work shortlisted for architecture award](#)

Meath Chronicle

Two Meath projects are included in the Royal Institute of the Architects of **Ireland** (RIAI) Public Choice vote for **Ireland's** favourite building, place or ...

[Churches Outnumber Pubs in the UK](#)

[ChristianityToday.com](#)

But these local landmarks are closing quickly; only 39,000 are left in **England**, down a quarter from 20 or so years ago. There are now more **church** ...

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