

November 18, 2021

CNI
CHURCH
NEWS
IRELAND



**Image of the
day -**

**Ely
Cathedral**

News Reports

Primate calls for vaccine justice for developing countries

he Most Rev John McDowell, the Church of Ireland's Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All-Ireland, has made a donation to Christian Aid Ireland in thanks for his double dose of the coronavirus vaccine.

The Archbishop's 'gratitude donation' will help the international aid agency as it supports vulnerable people in low-income countries where very few people have received even one dose of a coronavirus vaccine. Christian Aid is also campaigning for people in developing countries to receive their jabs.

Fewer than 5% of people in low-income countries have received at least one vaccine dose, an injustice that Christian Aid says will cost lives and make the emergence of dangerous new variants more likely.

The Archbishop, whose enthronement service was held in September in St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh, added his voice to the charity's campaign for 'vaccine justice'. He said: "I wanted to express how grateful I am to have had the vaccine so quickly and also to urge those who are in decision-making positions to consider how best to share our good fortune with those in other countries who desperately need vaccination."

A photograph of a man in clerical attire, including a white cassock, a red stole, and a green sash, standing in front of a large stone church with Gothic windows. He is holding a small card that reads "Catholic Diocese of South Wales" and "Pope Francis". The card also mentions "Cardinal John Hughes" and "Bishop of South Wales". The background shows a large, historic stone building with multiple windows and a green lawn in front of it.

The agency has responded to the global coronavirus pandemic in 27 countries also coping with extreme poverty.

To give a donation to help Christian Aid protect the most vulnerable while the vaccine remains out of the reach of most people, please visit www.caid.ie/vaccine

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or you can make a telephone donation on 028 9064 8133 (Belfast) or 01 496 7040 (Dublin).

Two Catholic dioceses in west soon to have just one bishop

One Catholic bishop is to be appointed to two west of Ireland dioceses following a Vatican decision that could mean further reductions of such bishops in future.

In a joint message on Tuesday evening Bishop of Galway Brendan Kelly, who is retiring, and Bishop of Clonfert in east Co Galway Michael Duignan, said they had been informed by the papal nuncio Archbishop Jude Okolo that “in the near future” Pope Francis “intends to appoint a single Bishop to the Diocese of Galway, Kilmacduagh and Kilfenora and the Diocese of Clonfert. ” Patsy McGarry reports in the Irish Times.

They continued that “this form of union of two dioceses under one Bishop is not an amalgamation and does not suppress either of the two dioceses. Both dioceses will continue to maintain their own integrity and autonomy as is but will work closer together, where possible, through the person and ministry of a single Bishop.”

They would be “organising meetings at various levels in each diocese” to discuss the decision with the people, the Bishops said.

It follows a similar decision by the Church of Ireland which meant that on November 1st last its diocese of Tuam, Killala

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and Achonry became part of the larger new United Diocese of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe. It means the number of Church of Ireland bishops is reduced by one, to 11.

Currently there are 26 Catholic dioceses in Ireland for a population of approximately 4.5 million faithful on the island as a whole. Currently each diocese has its own bishop with an additional Auxiliary Bishop in Armagh.

Allowing for vacancies now in Ardagh and Clonmacnois, Ossory, and Dromore, it means Ireland at the moment has 24 Catholic bishops for a population equivalent to the number of Catholics in the US Archdiocese of Los Angeles which has just six bishops, including an Archbishop.

Courtesy the Irish Times. 16.11.2021

Nearly 400 ordinands on course to take up stipendiary curacy posts in C of E in 2022

The Church of England has confirmed that 400 stipendiary curacy posts – both full and part time –will be available for ordinands expecting to take up stipendiary title posts from 2022 after leaving theological training.

Of these, 290 posts are fully funded by the dioceses while the Strategic Ministry Fund (SMF), administered by the Strategic Ministry Board, will support an additional 110 posts.

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The SMF was set up in 2019 to help ensure that dioceses are able to support additional curate numbers as part of the drive to increase the number of candidates for ordained ministry.

The Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, Martin Seeley, who is Chair of the Ministry Council, said: “Stipendiary ministry remains core to the work of the Church of England and our Vision and Strategy for the future.

“Once again, we are confident that in spite of the difficulties caused by the pandemic, there is capacity to ensure that those people who are offering themselves for stipendiary ordained ministry will be able to serve their curacy in a paid post.”

The announcement of the funding for stipendiary posts comes after new figures were released showing that 501 people were recommended for training for ordained ministry this year.

Of these, 11.4% are people of UKME heritage, up from 10.9% last year, while once again, 54% are female.

A growing number are young, with 26% of all recommended candidates aged under 32, up from 24% last year.

Revd Helen Fraser, Head of Vocations for the Church of England, said the numbers recommended represented an ‘extraordinary achievement’ by the parishes and dioceses of the Church of England during a year that was affected by the pandemic.

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“I am really grateful for the work of the Diocesan Directors of Ordinands and the vocational advisers across the dioceses and our parish churches. I want to thank them for their extraordinary work in supporting men and women considering their vocations to ordained ministry in the service of the wider church. These outcomes, in an incredibly difficult year, are a testament to their hard work, prayers and support.”

Church of Ireland General Synod Standing Committee news

The Standing Committee of the General Synod met in an online format on Tuesday, 16th November 2021.

Canon Malcolm Kingston opened with a Bible reading, from Matthew chapter 16, and in prayer, remembering current challenges, including the Covid–19 pandemic, climate change and homelessness.

The Archbishop of Armagh welcomed members of the Standing Committee who were attending its meeting for the first time. The following co–opted members have been elected to the Standing Committee: the Very Revd Nigel Dunne; the Revd Canon Dr Maurice Elliott; the Ven Ruth Elmes; the Very Revd Shane Forster; the Very Revd Kenneth Hall; the Ven David Huss; and the Revd David White.

The Standing Committee gave consent to the proposal for the appointment of an Archdeacon of Ardagh, as approved

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by the Diocesan Synod of Kilmore, Elphin, and Ardagh on 16th October 2021.

In 2020, the Standing Committee agreed to ‘roll forward’ the booking with Croke Park for General Synod from 2020 to 2022 when it became apparent that the 2020 General Synod could not be held in-person. Current regulations and the Church of Ireland Constitution require that the 2022 General Synod will be held in-person, in Croke Park, on 5th–7th May 2022. However, the Standing Committee is cognisant that the situation may change, and will respond accordingly. The Standing Committee recorded its thanks to Mr Jonathan Hull, for his work with the AV and IT side of the General Synod of 2021, which enabled its smooth running over Zoom.

The Standing Committee also appointed a sub-group to explore the possibility of using videoconferencing technology for some of the work of the Standing Committee, and to give consideration to its use for part of the session of the General Synod. The sub-group will report its findings to the Standing Committee no later than March 2022 and the following members were appointed: Ms Hilda Connolly; the Revd Nicola Halford; the Ven Robert Miller; Mr Alan Williamson; and the Assessor, Mr Lyndon MacCann SC.

Elections were held for a number of committees and roles in which Standing Committee is represented. These include the Priorities Fund Committee, whose membership is as follows: Mrs Joan Bruton; Ms Hazel Corrigan; the Rt Revd George Davison; the Revd Peter Ferguson; Mr Glenn Moore; the Very Revd Lynda Peilow; Mr Roy Totten; and the Ven Adrian Wilkinson.

The following were elected to serve as members of the Bishops' Appeal Advisory Committee until May 2022: the Revd John Ardis; the Rt Revd Dr Ferran Glenfield; the Revd Claire Henderson; Ms Ruth Hendy; Ms Claire Holmes; the Revd Jono Pierce; and Mrs Iris Suitor.

Bishop Andrew Forster noted that Dr Nicola Brady will be taking up her new role as General Secretary of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland in the new year, having served as General Secretary of the Irish Council of Churches and the Irish Inter Church Meeting; the vacancy for the latter role will be advertised shortly.

The Rt Hon Sir Paul Girvan, an outgoing member and lay judge of the Court of the General Synod, has indicated his wish to step down from the role. The Standing Committee recorded its thanks to Sir Paul for his service.

People and places

New Canon for St Patrick's

A former choral scholar and lay vicar choral of Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, is returning to the National Cathedral as a member of the Chapter.

The Reverend Paul Arbuthnot, who has been Rector of Cobh and Glanmire Union of Parishes in the Dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross since 2018, was elected to the Prebendal Stall of Castleknock in succession to the



Reverend Paul Houston, Rector of Castleknock, Clonsilla and Mulhuddart, who retired at the end of September.

A native of Carrickfergus, County Antrim, the Prebendary-elect of Castleknock became a chorister in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, in 1990. On his admission to Trinity College in 2000, he was appointed a choral scholar and a lay vicar choral of Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin where he remained until 2007 when he was accepted for training for ordination in the Church of Ireland.

Having served a curacy in Saint Paul's, Glenageary, Mr Arbuthnot moved to the Church of England where, from 2012–2015, he served as Precentor of St Alban's Cathedral prior to becoming Minor Canon and Sacrist of Westminster Abbey from 2015–2017. In the latter post he worked closely with the Royal Household, government, civic leaders in Westminster, and the BBC.

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The Dean of Saint Patrick's, Dr William Morton, in welcoming the new Canon to the Chapter, said that Mr Arbuthnot brings a wealth of experience to his new role in a host of ways, and particularly in terms of worship through liturgy and music, and wished him many happy years of a rewarding and fulfilling ministry in the familiar surroundings of Saint Patrick's. The date of the installation will be announced in due course.

Final Service for Dean Chris Peters



The Very Rev. Chris Peters with his wife and family

On Sunday, 31st October 2021, The Very Rev. Chris Peters took his final service as Dean of Ross in St Fachtna's



Cathedral, Rosscarbery, before entering retirement on the following Monday.

Cindy Kingston, member of the Vestry in Rosscarbery, writes: At the end of the service Dean Peters was presented with a watch and a wallet containing a monetary gift, while his wife Judy was presented with a bouquet of flowers and a voucher. The service was live streamed and speeches were made to Dean Peters and Judy to acknowledge all the work they have carried out in the parish in the past 23 years, and to thank them and wish them well for the future.

Speeches were made by Noel Jennings, Averil Cooke and John C.R. Buttimer. Matthew O'Regan, Eric Appelbe and Alice Appelbe presented Judy with her gifts, while Dean Peters was presented with his gifts by Ann Buttimer and

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Vicky O'Regan. Speeches were MC'ed by Averil Allshire-Howe.



Launch of 'It's Your Call'

Well done to QUB postgraduate, Mark McDonnell, and Fr Raymond Donnelly, Vocations Director for Clogher Diocese, on the launch of 'It's Your Call'.

The initiative supports students and young adults discerning the definite service God has called them to in

life. The first event hosted in QUB Chaplaincy focused on priesthood, with other pathways to be explored in the coming months. 'It's Your Call' is supported by the Northern Province of the Knights of St Columbanus.

Christmas gifts from St Patrick's

This Christmas why not gift some of beautiful bespoke Cathedral merchandise? St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, has a range of gifts available on its website, including Christmas hampers.

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<https://st-patricks-cathedral-gift-shop.myshopify.com/collections/christmas-corner>



Co-ordinator of Youth Ministry wanted

Woodlands Presbyterian Church is seeking to appoint a Co-ordinator of Youth Ministry. This exciting opportunity to contribute to the extension of God's Kingdom in the East Antrim area will require the post holder to be a key part of the church's leadership team taking responsibility for the discipleship and pastoral care of the young people within Woodlands.

For more information and to download a job pack:

<https://bit.ly/3FkVMuN>



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Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts and books



Free Bibles for Babies

Registration for 'Bibles for Babies' is now open! The Bible Society want to give every baby born in 2021 in NI a FREE Bible on their 1st and 5th birthdays.

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Check out their website to find out more and how you can register your little one today:

www.biblesocietyni.co.uk/resources/bibles-for-babies/

Eco Journeys – Past and Future

On Saturday 4 December 2021, 10.30am – 12.00pm, Eco–Congregation Ireland is hosting an online gathering for all friends in the Northern Ireland/Ulster region. If you would like to attend, drop a line to info@ecocongregationireland.com to book a place and you will be sent the Zoom link closer to the time.

This event is open to those in the Northern half of the country who are interested in learning how to start their church's eco journey, work towards their ECI Award and develop their work into the future.

Participants will hear from three faith communities who have received their ECI Award. They will tell how they began their journey and how they have continued their work for God's creation. There will be an opportunity for discussion, questions and ideas sharing.

Eco–Congregation Ireland is an initiative of the Irish Inter Church Meeting, and includes members from the Roman Catholic Church, Church of Ireland, Presbyterian Church, Methodist Church and Religious Society of Friends.

Karen Nicholson is the Administrative Officer
+353 (0) 89 974 0744 info@ecocongregationireland.com
www.ecocongregationireland.com

Rhymes frae Rathfriland



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Banbridge Library presents

Rhymes frae Rathfriland

Local Ulster-Scots poet Roy Ferguson will share some poems from his forth coming book 'Rhymes frae Rathfriland'.

Friday 26 November 2021
10:30-11:30am
Booking Essential

Book your place:
t: 028 4062 3973
e: banbridge.library@librariesni.org.uk

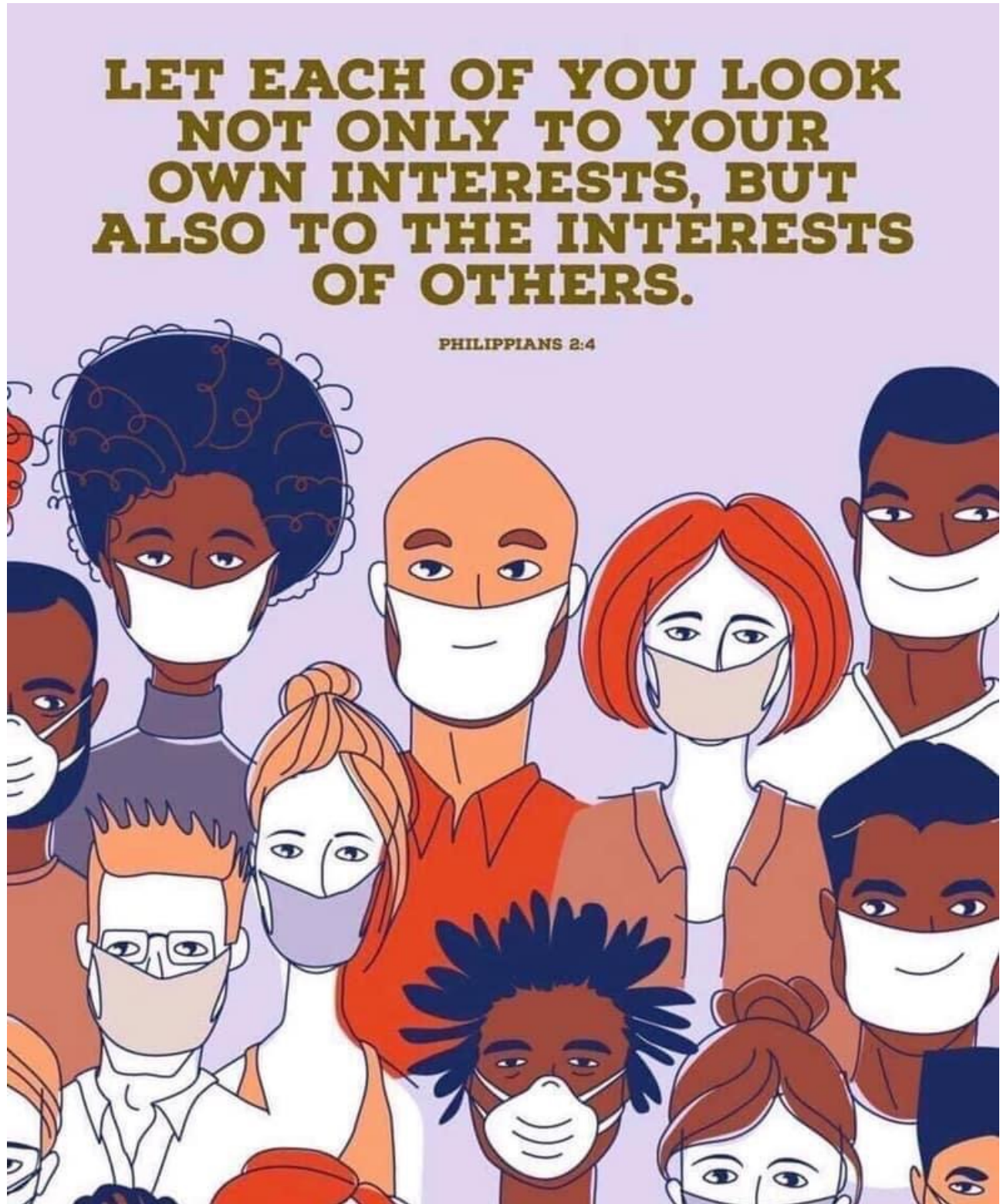
As part of Language Week 2021, Banbridge Library is hosting 'Rhymes frae Rathfriland' on Friday 26 November from 10:30 -11:30am. The session will feature local Ulster-Scots poet Roy Ferguson who will share some poems from his forthcoming book, 'Rhymes frae Rathfriland'.

Connect with us
www.librariesni.org.uk



Tickets are free but places are limited and booking is essential. To book, contact Banbridge Library on 028 4062 3973 or email banbridge.library@librariesni.org.uk

Perspective



Poem for today

When I am among the trees, by Mary Oliver

When I am among the trees,
especially the willows and the honey locust,
equally the beech, the oaks and the pines,
they give off such hints of gladness.
I would almost say that they save me, and daily.

I am so distant from the hope of myself,
in which I have goodness, and discernment,
and never hurry through the world
but walk slowly, and bow often.

Around me the trees stir in their leaves
and call out, "Stay awhile."
The light flows from their branches.

And they call again, "It's simple," they say,
"and you too have come
into the world to do this, to go easy, to be filled
with light, and to shine."

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