

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Ukrainian baptisms in Youghal

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Ukrainian baptisms in Youghal

Wonderful to be in the Collegiate Church of St Mary the Virgin, Youghal, this evening when the Secretary to the Metropolitan of Kyiv and All Ukraine baptised three children and a baby from the Ukrainian community who've recently arrived in Ireland. - Bishop Paul Colton

News reports

Church of Ireland announces 74 mental health projects on World Mental Health Day 2022

To mark World Mental Health Day 2022, the Church of Ireland has announced a series of seed funding projects that will be taking place across the island.

A total of 74 projects have received funding, through the MindMatters COI project, thanks to the generous sponsorship of Benefact Trust. These projects are spread across all 11 dioceses of the Church and include:

Glendermott Community Garden Project, Londonderry

Developing a community garden where people can come to unwind, relax and interact. The garden is being developed

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by a team of volunteers, helping to reduce social isolation and promoting mental health. Once fully established, the garden will provide members of the community with fresh fruit and vegetables, which will help local people in the light of the escalating cost of living.

Voices of Hope: Songs of Healing, Limerick

Using the community choir model to organise and host 'gently liturgical' musical events. Participation in a casual choir allows the expression of emotions and can help build confidence and resilience. Music and singing have also been shown to promote mental health in other ways, such as improving cognitive performance, managing stress, improving mood and memory, and may reduce symptoms of depression.

Marching to a Different Tune, Armagh

This project is working with the Southern Health and Social Care Trust to train a team of 'Take 5' trainers and ambassadors. This team will then deliver the Take 5 initiative to marching bands throughout Northern Ireland, with a particular emphasis on young men in rural areas – a group that is particularly hard to reach. The Take 5 steps are to connect, be active, take notice, keep learning, and give.

An Oasis by the Sea – A Retreat in Daily Life, Waterford

A series of short retreats aimed at reducing feelings of burnout, stress, isolation and loneliness. Participants can avail of a place for spiritual and mental rest, renewal and



Bishop Andrew Forster opened Glendermott parish's Men's Shed on a reclaimed site behind the parish hall in Londonderry in June this year, as part of its Community Garden Project.

restoration. The retreats will be led by a combination of mental health practitioners, chaplains and spiritual directors, with participants also having time for group discussions and personal reflection.

The launch of these projects marks the beginning of the third year of MindMatters COI. The projects build on initial research carried out by MindMatters COI and a programme of mental health awareness training, in which over 400 members of the clergy and lay people participated, over the last 12 months.

Archbishop John McDowell, Primate of All Ireland, and Bishop Pat Storey, Chair of MindMatters, welcome the practical actions being taken to improve positive mental health across the island. The experiences and lessons learned from the projects will be discussed at the MindMatters all-island conference which will take place in Dublin on Friday, 20th October 2023. The conference, which will be addressed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Revd Justin Welby, will also provide an opportunity to consider the future direction of mental health initiatives within the Church of Ireland.

Andrew Bass, Grants Officer for Benefact Trust, said: “It is fantastic to see that so many amazing and varied projects have received funding through the seed funding initiative. It shows that there are positive actions going on in the Church of Ireland to address mental health needs, and it’s encouraging that the projects represent all dioceses. We’re privileged to fund MindMatters COI and the incredible work it’s doing to promote positive mental health within the church and the wider community.”

Scottish RC archbishop: It’s ‘immoral’ not to keep benefits in line with inflation

Archbishop Nolan of Glasgow has called for the UK Government to end the delay that is causing so many people so much anxiety and stress, and give an assurance that benefits will go up in line with inflation.

He said: “For many decades the UK prided itself on providing a reasonable measure of social security to its



citizens who had fallen on rough times – be that through illness, old age, unemployment or poverty.

“Guaranteeing security for the most vulnerable in society is a sign of a civilized country.

“The proposal that the poorest people in our midst – those relying on benefits – may see a real terms cut in their already meagre support seems so immoral.

“It is essential that Government commit to upgrading benefits to at least keep pace with inflation. The poor must not be sacrificed in an attempt to shore up the Government’s credibility with the markets. Making the poor poorer is not an act of fiscal prudence, it is an act of injustice”.

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“The principle of serving the common good means that the needs of the poorest in society must be given urgent attention. The time for giving priority to factional interests has passed. Today our focus should be on the elderly, families who have the care of children, and all those least able to absorb the huge increases in the cost of living that we face,” the cardinal said.

The bishops of Northern Ireland have also spoken on the issue in a Sept. 27 statement.

“For the poorest in our society, this is an emergency, not a crisis. We call on everyone, from public representatives to parishioners in our parishes, to come together in a spirit of solidarity and active concern for those who are in need among us at this time,” the bishops said.

Archbishop of Dublin presides at Cathedral Eucharist prior to Porvoo anniversary celebration

Archbishop Micheal Jackson presided at the Eucharist in Christ Church Cathedral on Sunday morning October 9 where he prayed for peace and God’s blessing on the people of Creeslough and County Donegal as they face into deeper and deeper sadness arising out of the loss, injury and bereavement of members of their community.

He also prayed God’s blessing on the Porvoo Communion as it celebrates its deferred 25th anniversary in the coming week in Finland. The Porvoo Communion is made up of 15 Anglican and evangelical Lutheran churches in Europe.



Archbishop Michael Jackson with Kalmer Keshula, of Estonia and Dublin, permanent Deacon in Christ Church Cathedral Dublin and Stanley Owanalu, of Nigeria and Dundalk, Lay Reader in Armagh Diocese and Senior Acolyte in Christ Church Cathedral. Between them, Kalmer and Stanley have served almost four decades in the cathedral.

Archbishop Jackson is one of its two co-chairs. He explained to those in Christ Church Cathedral that the Church of Ireland is one of the original signatories of the Porvoo Communion. He reminded the congregation that there is a direct link between the cathedral and Porvoo in the person of its resident deacon, Kalmer Keshula who is a Lutheran from Estonia. His presence enables the community to live that Porvoo connection week by week.



The Archbishop with Kalmer Keshula and Dean Dermot Dunne.

He prayed a blessing on all the diocesan clergy, lay readers and all others who minister across Dublin & Glendalough as well as the laity of the United Dioceses, the parishes, the schools and other institutions. He hoped that as the members of the United Dioceses moved through the coming week that they in their turn would be a blessing on those with whom they meet. He prayed a blessing on all in the cathedral in its service to the diocese and to the city.

The preacher was Canon William Deverell. He explored the Old Testament reading about Naaman the leper who was cured by the prophet Elisha and the Gospel reading about the ten lepers cured by Jesus. He reflected on how Naaman

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had initially believed that he could buy a miracle cure but came to understand that God's grace and healing is freely given and is a divine rather than a worldly human gift. He also reflected on the gratitude of the one leper, the low status Samaritan, who returned to Jesus to thank him. He told of how the cultural diversity of his own parish in Tallaght has been a great gift because his African parishioners have taught him and others how to be grateful to God for every aspect of life rather than taking things for granted in the way that the nine lepers did.

October issue of the Church of Ireland Gazette

The October issue of the Church of Ireland Gazette is out with a wide range of reports, reflections and analysis.

Inevitably there is much about the funeral of Queen Elizabeth. Canon Paul Arbuthnot, a former Minor Canon in Westminster Abbey, and now Rector of St Ann & St Stephen in Dublin, reflects on how the Abbey organises funerals. There are recollections of royal visits, notably to Enniskillen, and a report on the Service of Reflection in St Anne's cathedral, Belfast, and the memorable address by the Archbishop of Armagh.

The Very Revd Stephen Farrell, Dean of Ossory, offers an analysis of the Northern Ireland Census and there is a report of the enthronement of the Bishop of Clogher, Dr Ian Ellis, in St Macartan's cathedral, Clogher.

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Looking to the future there is a preview of the plans to celebrate the 400th anniversary, next year, of Christ Church Cathedral, Lisburn, the cathedral of the Diocese of Connor.

One of the great joys each year is the Petertide ordination photographs in the Church Times – an important annual reminder of the continuity of ministry – and so the photo montage in the Gazette of the autumn ordinations is most welcome.

Subscriptions to the Gazette may be made via gazette@ireland.anglican.org or by telephone at 048 or 028 9266 7580.

Band and choir of An Garda Siochana to star in Malahide Parish concert

Later this month, on Saturday 15 October, the band of An Garda Siochana, together with the Garda Ladies' Choir, will give a Gala Concert in the Golf Links Hotel, Portmarnock. The parish's Director of Music, Rodney Baldwin, is the conductor of the choir. Tickets are available on Eventbrite and from the Parish Centre.

Other events

Today, Tuesday, at 1.15pm there will be a lunchtime concert in St Mary's cathedral, Limerick, when Andreea Banciu (viola) and Aileen Cahill (piano) will play music by Elizabeth Maconchy, Ina Boyle and Rebecca Clarke.

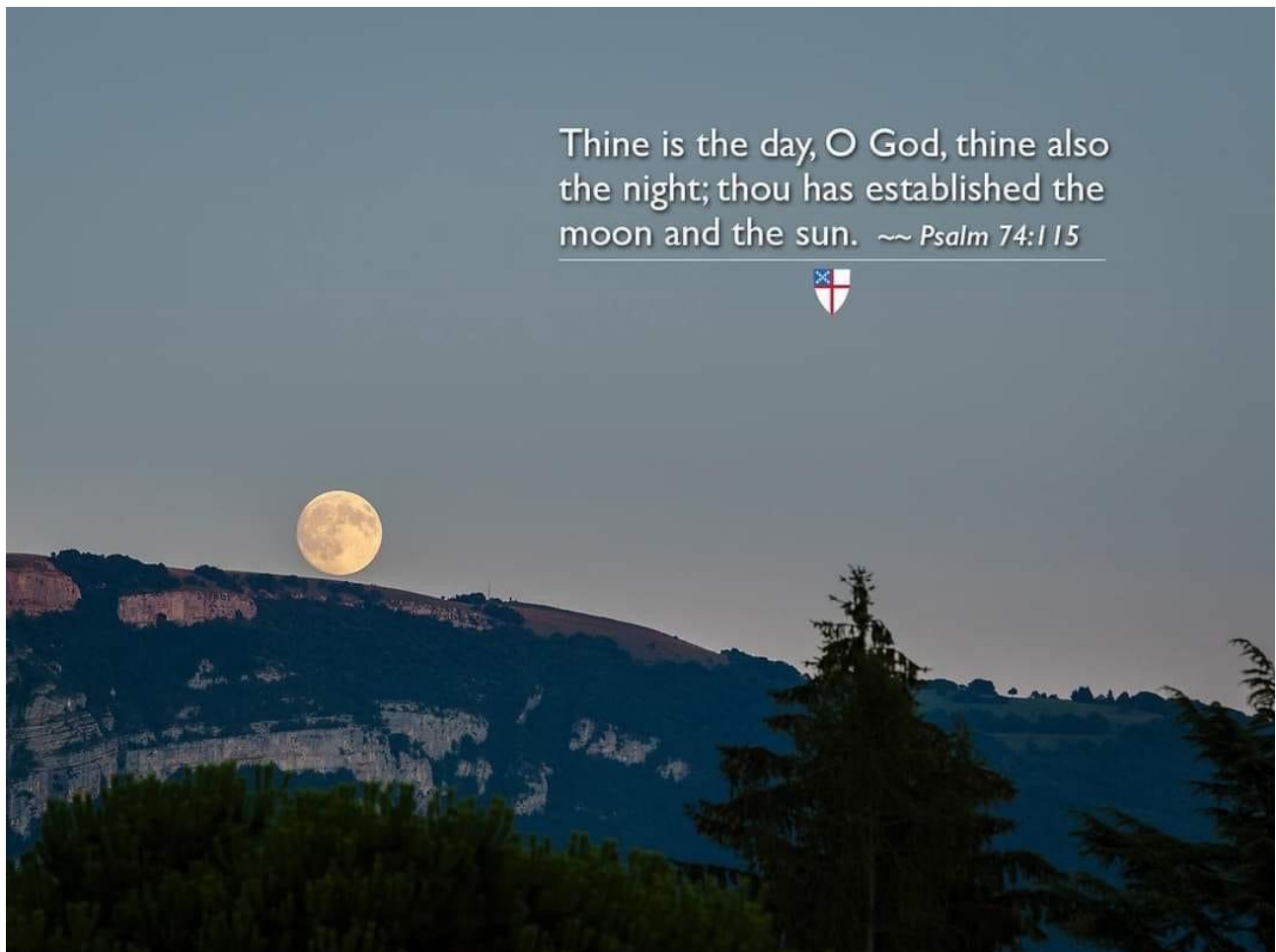
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In St Ann's church, Dublin, on Thursday, there will be a lunchtime recital at 1.20pm when the church's Director of Music, Charles Marshall (organ), and Adele O'Dwyer (cello) will perform works by Peteris, Vasks, Telemann, Bossi and Bach.

Deadline for Certificate in Christian Theology and Practice

The deadline for applications for the Certificate in Christian Theology and Practice offered through the Church of Ireland Theological Institute is 14 October.

The CCTP comprises an introductory weekend, and six modules taught at certificate and diploma level over six



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further weekends. It is directed towards candidates seeking to deepen their exploration of discipleship, to those training as Lay Readers, and to those seeking ordination. All candidates for ordained ministry in the Church of Ireland (both stipendiary and ordained local ministry) must complete the CCTP. For more information, email cctp@theologicalinstitute.ie or visit the CITI website, and under the Exploring Ministry section, click on CCTP.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

In Green Pastures: The Psalms in Prayer and Music

Paula Gooder and Andrew Carwood, online with music from Members of the St Paul's Cathedral Consort

Tuesday 25th October, 6.30-7.30pm

At St Paul's Cathedral, Admission free, All welcome

The psalms contain some of the most beautiful lines in Scripture, lines that inspire and comfort us when we need them most. They draw us into a life of prayer and praise and have been the prayerbook of the church, and often its hymnbook too, for 2,000 years. Jesus himself knew them and prayed them.

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And they are profoundly honest about what human life is really like, from the heights to the depths. They take us on a rollercoaster of emotions, from joy to anguish, praise to fury, torment to a place of deep peace. They teach us that we can bring everything - our real lives, our doubts, joys, and even our very darkest feelings - into the presence of God.

In this reflective evening, Biblical scholar Paula Gooder will introduce some of her favourite psalms and their themes of joy, lament, comfort and reconciliation, and reflect on how they can draw us closer to God.

The evening will also include live music, with members of St Paul's Cathedral Consort performing settings of psalms from across the centuries.

[\[https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/in-green-pastures-the-psalms-in-prayer-and-music-tickets-380939850347\]](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/in-green-pastures-the-psalms-in-prayer-and-music-tickets-380939850347)

Heritage

Guest preacher leads to interesting discovery at Saint Fin Barre's Cathedral

On Sunday, 2nd October, the guest preacher at the morning Choral Eucharist in Saint Fin Barre's Cathedral was Rev. Canon Dr. Peter Babington, priest-in-charge of St Mary le Strand, London.



The Very Rev. Nigel Dunne, Dean of Cork, and the Rev. Peter Babington

His great-grandfather, Richard Babington was Dean of Cork from 1914 to 1951 and therefore ministered at Saint Fin Barre's during tumultuous times in terms of both local and world history.

The Deans' Chapel in the south transept was furnished in his memory and it is where past Deans names are inscribed on the marble walls. Canon Babington told the congregation that whilst family records and memories are scant, it is known that his great-grandfather was known as "Richie" and that he used to write children's stories, none of which have survived. It was also known that he was a boxer in his youth!

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By sheer coincidence, while tidying up some Cathedral records later in the week, a silver medal was found bearing the following inscriptions:

On one side inscribed around part of the diocesan crest, 'Where Fin Barre taught let the praise of Christ be sung'; on the other side, the words of Psalm 87: 1 'His foundation is upon the holy hills' and the Royal School of Church Music motto, 'I will sing with the Spirit and I will sing with the understanding also'; and inscribed on the very thin edge of the medal, 'Ex dono Richardi Babington, Decani Corcaciensis A.C. MCMXXII' – Donated by Richard Babington, Dean of Cork, 1922 AD.

It remains unknown what is the exact purpose of the medal or who was supposed to wear it. An initial theory is that it was given for the newly appointed Organist and Master of the Choristers, the renowned Jock Horne, who held the office from 1922-1977. Further research is currently being conducted.

Perspective

St Augustine: an African Saint

Reflections by Jarel Robinson-Brown

The greatest early Christian thinkers were almost all African. One of the best known among them is St Augustine. And, because African History is Christian History, there is no better time to reflect on the contribution of African

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theologians to the life of the Christian Church than in October, Black History Month. In these reflections I want to help us think about the lives of the Saints particularly through the life of St Augustine.

Just last month I went to see for the first time the ancient ruins of Carthage in modern day Tunisia, a site where some of the earliest Christian martyrs gave up their lives for their belief in Jesus Christ and where some of the earliest texts on prayer were written. Carthage is not all that far from another North African site, Numidia, the birthplace of St Augustine.

Born on 13 November 354 Augustine was born to a pagan father and profoundly Christian mother. He grew up alongside two siblings and after learning grammar he went in about 370 to study rhetoric in Carthage. He grew up to become Bishop of Hippo on the coast of modern-day Algeria where he served from 395 to his death in 430. His writings are some of the most influential and indeed beautiful texts on the spiritual life we have inherited.

From the earliest days of the Church, Africa has been a major centre of Christianity shaping the church's beliefs, preserving its most important documents and establishing and holding in creative tension a diversity of traditions.

People may argue about how African Augustine was but what we cannot argue about is his humanity. He stole pears in his youth, never wanted to be a priest, deserted the mother of his child, struggled to control his sexual lust, and was wracked by grief and shame for much of his life – in

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other words, he was a real human being with the capacity to teach us true humanity.

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Poem for today

Autumn - Poem by Charles Baudelaire

Soon we will plunge ourselves into cold shadows,
And all of summer's stunning afternoons will be gone.
I already hear the dead thuds of logs below
Falling on the cobblestones and the lawn.

All of winter will return to me:
derision, Hate, shuddering, horror, drudgery and vice,
And exiled, like the sun, to a polar prison,
My soul will harden into a block of red ice.

I shiver as I listen to each log crash and slam:
The echoes are as dull as executioners' drums.
My mind is like a tower that slowly succumbs
To the blows of a relentless battering ram.

It seems to me, swaying to these shocks, that someone
Is nailing down a coffin in a hurry somewhere.
For whom? -- It was summer yesterday; now it's autumn.
Echoes of departure keep resounding in the air.

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Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

A prayer for the community of Creeslough - by Archbishop Michael Jackson



Almighty and All-loving God, we cry to you from the darkness of grief and from the depth of bereavement.

We seek your compassion and your embrace for the community of Creeslough and for individuals and families most directly affected by Friday's tragedy.

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We ask your blessing on all who give comfort and on all who provide support in a time when words alone struggle to give voice to sorrow.

This we ask in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Amen

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