

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Church Brigade leaders exceptional service recognised**

## Image of the day

### Church Brigade leaders exceptional service recognised

The contribution of two officers was recognised by the Church Lads and Church Girls' Brigade for their exceptional service. See report on page 4

## News reports

### Irish Benedictine to lead Vatican's relations with Anglicans and Methodists



**Pope Francis has appointed an Irish Benedictine to lead the Vatican's dialogue with the Anglican Communion.**

The Irish Catholic reports Fr. Martin Browne OSB, a monk at Glestal Abbey in Murroe, County Limerick, Ireland will shortly take up the post in the Vatican's Dicastery for

Promoting Christian Unity. He succeeds Fr. Anthony Currer as the official for Methodist and Anglican Relations at the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

Fr Browne entered Glenstal Abbey in 2001 and after his novitiate taught history and religion at Glenstal Abbey School and served as a Housemaster and director of the school's choir. After spending three years earning a higher degree, Fr. Browne returned to Glenstal Abbey as headmaster in 2009 and was appointed president of the school in 2022.

Fr. Browne's introduction to the Anglican and Methodist world came during a two year living and studying in St John's College, Durham, England, which incorporated the Cranmer Hall and the Methodist Wesley Study Centre.

<https://anglican.ink/2022/10/07/irish-benedictine-to-lead-vaticans-relations-with-anglicans-and-methodists/>

## **Dean of Canterbury appointed**

**Her Late Majesty The Queen approved the nomination of The Very Reverend Dr David Monteith, Dean of Leicester, for election as Dean of Canterbury.**

Commenting on his new appointment, Dean David said "I am overjoyed and humbled to be entrusted with this opportunity for learning and service. Canterbury Cathedral has played a vital part in our Christian story in England but it is also much loved by so many communities across the Anglican Communion."



David will be installed as Dean of Canterbury at a service in Canterbury Cathedral on Saturday 17 December at 15.00.

Read more [bit.ly/3CmXKLI](https://bit.ly/3CmXKLI)

## Church Brigade leaders exceptional service recognised

**Two members of the Church Lads' and Church Girls' Brigade (CLCGB) were presented with the highest award – The Brigade Cross, for exceptional service.**

Mr Melvyn Lockhart (Deputy Governor) and Mrs Jennifer Lockhart accepted the awards from the Archbishop of Armagh, in the presence of other Regimental staff.





Melvyn began life as a member of Christ Church Lisburn Church Lads' Brigade (CLB) Company and came up through the ranks, eventually becoming an Officer and then a Training Officer.

In 2014 he was appointed Commanding Officer of the CLCGB NI by the Archbishop of Armagh and served in this position for two four year terms. This year, Melvyn was one of the nominees who received Maundy money from His Royal Highness, The Prince of Wales, at Windsor, in recognition of his contribution to the Church and Community.

Jennifer joined St Saviour's Dobbin Church Girls' Brigade Company at primary school age and went up the ranks, eventually promoted to an Officer and then Captain – a position she has held for many years now.

She was a Battalion Commanding Officer from 1985, completing two four year term. For the post ten years she was Communications Officer for the CLCGBNI.



SAINT PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL DUBLIN

# CHORAL EVENSONG

A special sung service  
for Queen Elizabeth II

3.15pm  
Sunday 9 October  
Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin

## **Dublin service recognised Queen Elizabeth II's contribution to reconciliation in Ireland**

**Choral Evensong at Saint Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday, last 9 October, was an Irish response from the Church of Ireland's National Cathedral to the contribution of the late Queen Elizabeth II in terms of reconciliation and healing relationships between Ireland and the UK.**





The address was given by Mr Tommie Gorman, former Northern Editor with RTE, and the two Archbishops of Dublin, Michael Jackson and Dermot Farrell, took part.

## **Vibrant witness of Derry & Raphoe Mothers' Union**

**The Bishop's Curate-in-Charge of the Gweedore group of parishes, Rev Liz Fitzgerald, has been commissioned as the new Diocesan Chaplain of Derry and Raphoe Mothers' Union at a service in St Columb's Cathedral in Londonderry.**

The commissioning happened during the colourful annual Mothers' Union Diocesan Festival Service, which was

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returning to 'normal service' after almost three years' disruption caused by Covid-19.



The afternoon service was led by the Dean of Derry, Very Rev Raymond Stewart, who was assisted by Rev Canon John Merrick, Rev Canon Katie McAteer and Rev Fitzgerald. The address was given by Bishop Andrew Forster, who also commissioned the new diocesan chaplain.

In his address, Bishop Andrew remarked upon how colourful an occasion it was, with the Cathedral decorated for Harvest and the various branch banners adorning the front of the church. "It's good to be here," he said, "and doesn't it feel almost a little bit of 'normal' again that we meet again to have our Festival Service and to enjoy each other's company, and to sit beside each other and chat, and not have to worry about distancing and all those things, so it's



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good to see you.”



The New Testament reading at the service came from Luke 19: 1-10, and told the story of Zacchaeus, the rich Chief Tax



Collector whose life was transformed after an encounter with Jesus. “It’s fascinating, isn’t it,” Bishop Andrew said, “but it’s glorious because what we find in the life of Zacchaeus – this unpopular man, this man who had a few hang-ups and more – but Jesus didn’t miss him; he sees him, he sees him as he truly is, and he begins that process of change for him personally and change that’ll make the world a different place because of him. ‘Transformation Now’ is the story and the theme of Mothers’ Union this year and ‘Transformation Now’ is about the work of God in our lives and the work of God in other lives because of the work he has given us.

“Mothers’ Union have this incredible history,” the Bishop said, “an incredible present and an incredible future, in how they seek to bring transformation into the lives of the poor –



those who are physically, emotionally, economically and spiritually [poor] – and transformation into our world,

because we've seen Jesus, because we have seen the Lord, and the grace that he has brought to bear in our lives is something that we're compelled to share. It's Good News."

Earlier in the service, Templemore MU Branch Leader, Irene Hewitt, lit a candle in an act of remembrance for those loved ones whose lives had been lost during the pandemic. Before observing a short silence, the congregation were also asked to give thanks for the lives of Past Diocesan President, Helen Livingston (who died this year), and for Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, who was a patron of Mothers' Union.

Before the Service began, a former Diocesan President, Mrs Avril McNee, presented the coveted Eileen Moore Memorial Award to Roberta Merrick, (Photo page 9) who received it on behalf of the Clondehorkey Branch. The award is given to the branch which collects the highest amount per member (€60) towards Mothers' Union's Worldwide Projects.

The Diocesan President of MU, Jacqui Armstrong, shared greetings with its members in the Order of Service. "In the Old Testament," she wrote, "banners had special spiritual significance. A banner was not only used to rally the troops; it was used to declare allegiance to a certain person, group or cause. Today we carry our banners and gather together to declare our allegiance to God, to His love and His word."

Ms Armstrong said God's word was the seed they sowed, and they came in thankfulness for the fruitful harvest of the work of Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Derry and Raphoe. "When God calls, He equips. Let's be the change we wish to see in our communities, and let's walk forward flying the

banner of Christ's love with kindness, courage and compassion. May all we are, everything we think, say and do, be blessed by God, constantly renewed and daily transformed through His awesome power and unfailing love."

## **Bishop Miller preaching in New Hartford, USA**

**Bishop Harold Miller, former Bishop of Down in Ireland, was the guest preacher at Christ the King Anglican Mission in New Hartford last Sunday morning.**

The local newspaper reported, "Bishop Miller is a vibrant and gifted speaker with a strong experience in fostering spiritual growth and church growth."

The Anglican Mission meets at Messiah Church, 3810 Oneida St. A healing prayer service was held after the Eucharist. See also - [www.facebook.com/ChristTheKing.Utica](https://www.facebook.com/ChristTheKing.Utica) or [ctkanglican-ny.org](http://ctkanglican-ny.org).

## **Parish Readers commissioned in Donagh**

A large congregation, including family and friends, gathered in Donagh Church, this week, to see Jonathan Smyth, Karen McCracken, Elizabeth Bredin Doherty and Katie Turner commissioned by the Rev Alan McCracken to the office of Parish Reader for the Moville Upper and Lower, Donagh, Cloncha and Culdaff Group of Parishes.





All four readers completed a period of study and training in the Book of Common Prayer, and are now licenced to read the office in worship, lead prayers and assist during Holy Communion.

Rev Alan said, "I was encouraged by the size of the congregation who gathered to show support for the Readers in their new role.

"The Commissioning Service provided a great opportunity for the church community to come together and witness the beginning of a fantastic journey in ministry for the Moville Group of Parishes."

## Archbishop's unease over British embassy switch to Jerusalem

**The Archbishop of Canterbury is “concerned” about Liz Truss’s controversial suggestion that she would - relocate the British embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.**

The Most Rev Justin Welby spoke out against her comments, claiming it would be inappropriate to relocate the embassy. The status of Jerusalem, which both Israelis and Palestinians claim as their capital, is one of the most contentious issues in the long-running conflict. In 2018, there were deadly clashes after Donald Trump, then the US president, relocated the US embassy to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv.

The Archbishop’s comments come after Ms Truss indicated she was considering a “review” of the British embassy in Israel – breaking with decades of foreign policy – when she met Yair Lapid, the prime minister of Israel, at the UN last month.

Lambeth Palace has now joined the growing number of calls from political and faith leaders who have raised concerns about her remarks.

A spokesman for the Archbishop said: “The Archbishop is concerned about the potential impact of moving the British embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem before a negotiated settlement between Palestinians and Israelis has been reached.”

## In the media

### **Creeslough tragedy: Catholic Priest praises support from Northern Ireland and King Charles after explosion which claimed ten lives**

**A curate from Creeslough, Fr John Joe Duffy, has praised support for his community from Northern Ireland - and from King Charles and Camilla, Queen Consort - in the wake of an explosion there which claimed ten lives, the News Letter reported yesterday 11th October..**

Fr John Joe Duffy knew eight of the ten families bereaved in Friday's tragedy in Co Donegal, which has caused international reverberations.

"The initial shock is starting to wear off, the bodies have been brought home this night and the wakes have started and you are seeing the reality of it now," he told the News Letter.

The first two funerals are today, those of Jessica Gallagher, 24, and Martin McGill, 49.

"The consolation we are getting is the whole tidal wave of support that is coming from us first from our own community and then from further afield.

“I am just off the phone with [Church of Ireland] Bishop of Derry and Raphoe Bishop Andrew Forester, who just rang me to see if there was anything he could do for me, and he prayed with me on the phone which left me feeling really strengthened.”

He has also been visited by senior Catholic clerics Archbishop Eamon Martin and Bishop Alan McGuckian.

“The support of people from all around the world is so much appreciated by all the people, from Pope Francis to King Charles and Queen consort, who have sent a message of support and condolences to the President of Ireland.”

The support from Northern Ireland was apparent at the scene of the tragedy to assist Irish emergency services, he noted. The Irish Coastguard helicopters were supported by the NI Air Ambulance.

“We had the Fire Service from Belfast coming to help, the specialist search teams with the dogs and and the Urban Search and Rescue team from Belfast. The way the services blended in so well and the way with the locals that whole cooperation was extraordinary.”

A doctor at Letterkenny hospital said her faith in humanity was restored by the response, he added. “For example, by two off duty paramedics from Northern Ireland jumping into their car and coming here to help.”

He also commended the support from Dunfanaghy Church of Ireland rector Rev Canon David Skuce and Kerrykeel Presbyterian Minister Rev Susan Moore who arrived the



night of the explosion to walk the area with him. Church of Ireland Bishop Andrew Forester also came down on Sunday and walked the area with him and Bishop McGuckian, he added.

The message of support from the British royal family was much appreciated by Creeslough, he said.

“It is very heartening for us to hear that King Charles – who has recently been bereaved himself with the loss of mother – is thinking of us in our grief. It means so very much to us because so many of our people have such links with the UK.”

Asked how his faith is coping with the tragedy and how he can continue to minister in the face of it, he replied that the greatest consolation his community are getting right now is two fold.

“From prayer and community, from their faith in God and community,” he said. “I see God very much in the midst of this.”

The priest sees “God’s love” in the hands and arms of people working together at this time and “when they are reaching out to each other, holding on to each other and hugging each other”.

People are coming together nightly to pray, he said.

“The masses and prayers we have had here each night – people are coming from the very youngest to the very oldest – people are very much clinging to their faith.

“People who do not pray are supported by community and those who do pray are supported by their faith and prayer and God. And I believe God is carrying me through this.”

Church of Ireland Bishop Andrew Forster prayed with him yesterday afternoon. “He prayed with me over the phone – and I felt such a peace thereafter, because I was very emotional throughout the day.”

He found Sunday difficult, he said, because he had known and ministered to so many of those who died.

“I confirmed one of the little children who is dead, the other I knew from passing my house, and I knew the adults. So I believe that prayer and community are helping us.”

## **Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books**

### **Practical Action on the Cost of Living - Booklet shares local responsesl responses**

The Church of Ireland’s Church and Society Commission has published a short booklet with suggestions for how parishes, and other ministries and similar organisations in their local communities, can help to serve people in need at this time.

Practical Action on the Cost of Living summarises a discussion held when representatives from Church of Ireland dioceses around the island shared stories about how their parishes are proactively responding as the cost of living crisis continues (e.g. through recycling surplus clothing, greater support for food banks, making and sharing meals together, and opening up church property as warm spaces). Several examples were put forward about what more can be done over the coming months, along with ideas for the best overall approaches for responding locally.

Archbishop Michael Jackson, Chair of the Church and Society Commission, who organised the meeting, remarks: “The escalation in the cost of living affects everyone. It affects those on modest incomes, on pensions, and those with no money at all most acutely and most immediately. The time of crisis is now. The booklet in a small but heartfelt way seeks to provide some pointers about how help is being made available through local ministries, and where a range of people is ready to come to your assistance. Please avail of what is there. It is there for you as much as it is there for anyone else. Please also ask for any help you need from others if and when you seek support.”

[www.ireland.anglican.org/cost-of-living](http://www.ireland.anglican.org/cost-of-living)

## Perspective

### Homily of Bishop Alan McGuckian in Saint Michael's Church, Creeslough, Co Donegal



Why did it have to happen to this person or that person? Why did they have to be there at that awful moment? The bereaved and the injured have to carry the awful insecurity of these questions ... Jesus is present to us in our need ... Do not be afraid to call on Jesus to help you through the next hour, the coming days. ” – Bishop McGuckian

Copy link to finder -

<https://www.catholicbishops.ie/2022/10/10/homily-of-bishop-alan-mcguckian->

## Church News Ireland

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