

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Church of the Holy Family**

October 15, 2022

## Image of the day

### Church of the Holy Family, Jasper, Georgia.

This Episcopal Church Choir is practising Choral Evensong for 19th Sunday after Pentecost - October 16 2022 at 5pm

Preces and Responses: Richard Shepard

Psalm 114: chant by George Mursell Garrett

Canticles: Thomas Atwood Walmisley in d minor

Anthem: "O Lord that seest" Charles Wood

## News reports

### Pieta House founder lauds faith's role in mental health

**Pieta House founder Joan Freeman told Joe Duffy on RTÉ's The Meaning of Life that "all of the research in the world" reveals that faith is good and helpful when it comes to mental health.**

Ms Freeman was speaking about the importance of her own faith in God, and she revealed the importance of prayer in her own life.

"I think of the goodness, I think how good he has been to me. I think that the fact that he loves everybody – that to me is the most important part of my faith."

## Institution of Rector of Craigs



The Rev Adrian Halligan, front centre, with his wife Wendy, right, and daughter Abigail, left. Also in the picture are, back row from left: The Rev Canon William Taggart, registrar and the Ven Paul Dundas, Archdeacon of Dalriada; and middle row, from left: The Rev David Ferguson; Bishop George Davison and Dean John Bond.

**The Rev Adrian Halligan was instituted as rector of the Grouped Parishes of Craigs, Dunaghy and Killagan at a service in Craigs Parish Church, near Cullybackey, on Thursday October 13.**

Adrian has been priest-in-charge of the parish since September 2018. He is married to Wendy and they have one daughter, Abigail.

A former Telecommunications Engineer, Adrian was ordained a deacon in January 2011 in All Saints' Parish Church, Antrim.

He served as curate in All Saints' and was ordained there as priest in November 2011. He did his first curacy in Antrim before moving to Skerry, Rathcavan and Newtowncrommelin in Broughshane for three years. During this time, he transferred from Non-Stipendiary to Stipendiary Ministry.



“People are often unreasonable and self-centered. Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.

If you are honest, people may cheat you. Be honest anyway.

If you find happiness, people may be jealous. Be happy anyway.

The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough. Give your best anyway.

For you see, in the end, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway.”

— Mother Teresa

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Adrian said: “It was a lovely night for the community as well as for the parishes. They have known me for a few years, but it was wonderful that the parishes joined together to see the fruits of their work.”

The Very Rev John Bond, former Dean of Connor, was the preacher at the Service of Institution.



## Mothers' Union partnership with Women's Aid

Earlier this week Mothers' Union launched an exciting partnership with Women's Aid, strengthening the United

"For domestic abuse to truly end it requires every part of society to take action. It is wonderful that the 45,000 Mothers' Union members across Britain and Ireland are standing up and being counted, not only taking action as individuals but also sharing information and support with the wider community."

**Jess Phillips MP**  
**Shadow Minister for Domestic Abuse and Safeguarding**

Nations' movement surrounding International Day of the Girl Child.

Mothers' Union expressed gratitude to the Shadow Minister for Domestic Abuse and Safeguarding Jess Phillips MP, for supporting its mission.

"Let's all work together to end domestic abuse!"

## **PCI submission to Seanad Éireann on future constitutional arrangements on the island of Ireland**

**The Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI) published its submission yesterday (14 October) in response to Seanad Éireann's Public Consultation Committee's consultation considering future constitutional arrangements on the island of Ireland.**

Along with others, Rev Daniel Kane, Convener of PCI's Council for Public Affairs, and the denomination's Public Affairs Officer, Karen Jardine, were in Dublin to contribute to this morning's Committee hearing which took place in the Seanad Chamber, Leinster House.

To mark the centenary of the Seanad's establishment, the upper house of the Oireachtas is undertaking a consultation which will give Senators an opportunity to listen to the voice of people across the island from all traditions and opinions. The Council for Public Affairs, authorised by the General Assembly to speak on behalf of the Church and engage with statutory bodies, put forward to the Committee a number of observations, including:

- Careful conversations on the constitutional future of the island of Ireland should not presume a pre-determined direction of travel and must also allow for discussion about the changing nature of relationships across these islands, east and west, as well as north and south.
- Practical considerations regarding constitutional change will be based on unstable foundations if the hurt and pain

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of the past is not acknowledged and recognised alongside very real fears about the future

**Rev Daniel Kane,  
Convener of  
PCI's Council  
for Public  
Affairs**



- A singular focus on practical

considerations risks side-stepping the harder conversations about cultural and social differences, and the even more difficult work of engaging hearts and minds

- Finding ways to include perspectives from ‘New Irish’ communities will enrich the Committee’s process.

Speaking after the hearing, Mr Kane said, “As an all-Ireland denomination our Christian witness and involvement in local communities across our 500-plus congregations is part of the warp and weft of life on the island north and south. That involvement is also part and parcel of the public life in both jurisdictions, demonstrated by for example, by our Moderator’s participation in July’s annual National Day of



Commemoration in Dublin, and last month's State Funeral of her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth in London.

“As we stated in our response to the Seanad's open call for submissions, ‘Given a denomination of such size and geographical spread, there is no ‘one-size-fits-all’ view on the constitutional future of the island of Ireland amongst Presbyterian people. Whilst it may be broadly correct to assume that Presbyterians in the North generally identify with a unionist perspective, and those in the South are more sympathetic to a narrative of constitutional change, it would be wrong to conclude that there is homogeneity among Presbyterians in either jurisdiction.’” he said.

“That was just one of the points we made to the Committee today, as the largest Protestant denomination in Northern Ireland, together with our observation that careful conversations on the constitutional future of the island of Ireland should not presume a pre-determined direction of travel.”

As the Committee undertakes its deliberations and considers submissions from individuals and groups across the island, Mr Kane continued, “PCI has never shied away from these difficult conversations and has a strong track record, actively working in public and in private to build good relationships, across these islands, in order to further peace and reconciliation. It is our desire to engage positively and that the discussion might be broadened out to the changing nature of relationships across these islands.

“Often the rules of engagement in conversations such as these make it difficult, if not impossible for those from a

perceived Protestant/unionist background to participate. Over this past ‘Decade of Centenaries’ as a Church we have sought to create inclusive opportunities to pause, reflect, and consider what society can learn as we think about future relationships across these islands, north and south, east and west.”

“However that future unfolds, one thing is very clear; reconciliation absolutely must be at its heart. And reconciliation is not easy, nor can it be a quick fix. As a Church we haven’t always got this right, and this is reflected in our book *Considering Grace* which catalogues Presbyterian experiences of the Troubles. Without first acknowledging the hurt and pain of the past, and recognising the very real fears about the future, any conversations about constitutional change will be built on unstable shifting sand. The Psalmist reminds us that reconciliation is the space between mercy, truth, justice and peace. No matter the dream, or the aspiration, this must be recognised, acknowledged and understood,” he explained.

“Our own denomination’s Vision for Society statement challenges us to embody grace-filled relationships in a broken and divided world, and to work together for the common good, whatever the constitutional future of these islands. Last September, in an event marking the centenary of the creation of Northern Ireland and the partition of the island of Ireland, former Moderator Very Rev Dr David Bruce said at the time that: ‘North, south, east and west on these islands present us with a web of opportunities to grow – economically, culturally, spiritually, if we have the vision for it... We must work tirelessly to sort out the new configurations of our cultural, commercial and spiritual

connections... Whatever a new Ireland resembles, it will not be because someone was victorious, while another was defeated. If it looks like that, it won't be a new Ireland'.

Mr Kane concluded by saying, "We were grateful to have had the opportunity to present to the Committee today, and look forward to seeing the outcome of its deliberations."

## In the media

### Chant by Irish football team 'turns my stomach', says Methodist minister whose father was shot dead by IRA

**Both the Republic of Ireland manager Vera Pauw and the Football Association of Ireland issued apologies over the incident, Sarah Burns writes the Irish Times, October 14, 2022.**

A Methodist minister whose father was shot dead by the IRA in the 1980s has said to see a successful Irish football team celebrate "by chanting 'Ooh ah, up the 'Ra' turns my stomach".

Rev Dr David Clements has said in building any new future for the island of Ireland, "how can we drain the putrid puss of this revisionist indoctrination that allows a new generation to celebrate the violence of the IRA".

Seanad Éireann held a meeting to listen to unionist and other voices as part of its public consultation on the Constitutional Future of the island of Ireland on Friday.

Rev Clements had been due to attend the meeting as a representative of the Methodist Church in Ireland but could not because of a family bereavement and a statement was read out on his behalf by Rev Steven Foster.

Rev Clements said his father was born and bred on the Shankill Road in Belfast, was a unionist, though “he was happy to be both Irish and British and an Ulsterman as well, but above all he would have labelled himself as Christian,” he said.

“He was shot dead by the IRA on a dark Saturday night in December 1985. I have asked both publicly and privately why he was shot, usually I get no answer. Presumably he was not shot because he was a unionist, a Methodist, a Protestant or a Christian.

“The obvious answer is that he was shot because he wore a bottle green uniform. It has been suggested that the IRA did not want to shoot Bill Clements, they shot at the RUC uniform. I like to think that I am not easily offended or angered but that answer makes me boil.

“My father loved sport, in a competition for a finals place between Scotland, Wales and the Republic of Ireland, he would, like me, have cheered loudest for the Irish.

“To see a successful Irish football team celebrate by chanting ‘Ooh ah, up the ‘Ra’ turns my stomach. If I were able to be with you this morning you would be asking me questions, can I pose a question for you to think about in your deliberations — in building any new future for this

island, how can we drain the putrid puss of this revisionist indoctrination that allows a new generation to celebrate the violence of the IRA.”

A video of the Republic of Ireland’s women’s national team singing ‘Ooh ah, up the ‘Ra’ following their World Cup playoff victory over Scotland in Glasgow on Tuesday night has been widely circulated on social media.

Both the Republic of Ireland manager Vera Pauw and the Football Association of Ireland issued apologies over the incident.

Rev Foster, also a representative from the Methodist Church in Ireland, said he understood the women’s team were “caught up in the emotion of such a joyous occasion and we want to mark and celebrate the positivity of that”.

“But I supposed to step back and look at what lies behind this, I think there’s a real lack of education and understanding of the issues,” he said.

“I think young generations in Ireland today, particularly in the Republic, need to be well educated about their history, about the last 100 years or certainly of others experience and I think it has to happen at an educational level for people to appreciate why a chant like that might be offensive.”

Fianna Fáil senator Mark Daly said people needed to understand that such chants “aren’t simply just a chant”.

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“There are people hurt by such things, they need to understand that there are consequences when they are celebrating in that manner, that it causes hurt,” he said.

“Once people understand it causes hurt I think it will then put a stop to it but they need to understand that in the first place.”

Sarah Burns is a reporter for the Irish Times.



## Heritage

**This statue of St Gerard in Clonard was carved by a German Redemptorist brother in a WWII Prisoner of War camp.**

During the war, all male religious were called up. The brother who carved this statue had the good luck to meet Fr Dan

Cummings C.Ss.R, a Belfast Redemptorist, who had



volunteered as an army chaplain. As a former teacher of Scripture Dan had good German, so was asked to serve as chaplain to the POWs. The brother gave him the statue as a thank-you for his kindness.

This beautiful piece of art is normally kept in the community oratory in the Monastery but is placed on the Sanctuary during these days of triduum.

The feast of St Gerard will be celebrated on Sunday the 16th of October.

# Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

## Meeting God in Matthew by Elaine Storkey

**Meeting God in Matthew is an accessible introduction to Matthews's gospel, full of fresh insight from Elaine Storkey, one of our best-loved theologians and Christian communicators, and a brilliant Lent book for 2023.**

Whether you are completely new to Matthew's Gospel or have read it many times before, Meeting God in Matthew will help you see the First Gospel with fresh eyes and better understand its essential meaning and purpose.

Elaine Storkey, one of the world's most widely respected theologians and author of *Women in a Patriarchal World* and *Scars Across Humanity*, offers an accessible introduction to the main message of Matthew's Gospel. Powerful and absorbing, it is packed full of many compelling observations about the personality and impact of Jesus both in the first century and today.

Meeting God in Matthew explores what the Gospel of Matthew teaches us about the revelation of God in the person of Jesus Christ. An essential reading for anyone



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wanting to understand the gospel message better. It will leave you with a new appreciation of and enthusiasm for the riches of Matthew's writing, and the desire to return to it over and over again. Its straightforward, enlightening approach also means it is brilliantly helpful for new Christians just beginning on their faith journey.

Each chapter includes discussion questions and reflection, making Meeting God in Matthew a perfect book for Bible study both for individuals and small groups. With a focus on the Passion narrative in Matthew's Gospel, it is also ideal for use as a Lent devotional for 2023.

Simple yet profound, Meeting God in Matthew is an invitation to anyone wanting to deepen their understanding of the Gospel of Matthew and through it to meet the God that is revealed in Jesus Christ.

Reviews - This inspiring and challenging book takes the reader on a deep spiritual journey through the Gospel of Matthew . . . A key resource for anyone with an interest in finding out more about Jesus. - Revd Claire Robertson, Lordsbridge Team Vicar, Diocese of Ely

Elaine Storkey leads us gently and winsomely through Matthew's Gospel to meet with Jesus . . . This book is down-to-earth, accessible, illuminating. I loved it. - The Right Reverend Jill Duff, Bishop of Lancaster

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£9.99

October 15, 2022

Publication Date: 17 Nov 2022. Publisher: SPCK Publishing  
Page Count: 192. Author: Elaine Storkey  
ISBN-13: 9780281081950, 9780281081967

## Poem for today

### The Autumn by Elizabeth Barrett Browning

Go, sit upon the lofty hill,  
And turn your eyes around,  
Where waving woods and waters wild  
Do hymn an autumn sound.  
The summer sun is faint on them --  
The summer flowers depart --  
Sit still -- as all transform'd to stone,  
Except your musing heart.

How there you sat in summer-time,  
May yet be in your mind;  
And how you heard the green woods sing  
Beneath the freshening wind.  
Though the same wind now blows around,  
You would its blast recall;  
For every breath that stirs the trees,  
Doth cause a leaf to fall.

Oh! like that wind, is all the mirth  
That flesh and dust impart:  
We cannot bear its visitings,

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When change is on the heart.  
Gay words and jests may make us smile,  
When Sorrow is asleep;  
But other things must make us smile,  
When Sorrow bids us weep!

The dearest hands that clasp our hands, --  
Their presence may be o'er;  
The dearest voice that meets our ear,  
That tone may come no more!  
Youth fades; and then, the joys of youth,  
Which once refresh'd our mind,  
Shall come -- as, on those sighing woods,  
The chilling autumn wind.

Hear not the wind -- view not the woods;  
Look out o'er vale and hill-  
In spring, the sky encircled them --  
The sky is round them still.  
Come autumn's scathe -- come winter's cold --  
Come change -- and human fate!  
Whatever prospect Heaven doth bound,  
Can ne'er be desolate.

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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# Church News Ireland

The publication of Church News Ireland is overseen by Very Rev Dr Houston McKelvey OBE, QVRM, TD. He may be contacted at [houstonmckelvey@mac.com](mailto:houstonmckelvey@mac.com)

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