

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – 150 years of service by St Luke's

Image of the day



150 years of service by St Luke's

Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross and the Dean of Cork with the choirs of Ashton School, Bandon Grammar School, Midleton College, and Friends of Midleton College in St. Fin Barre's Cathedral after yesterday's 150th anniversary Service of Thanksgiving for St Lukes Charity & Home, Cork.

CNI

News reports

Swift Symposium

The 20th Dublin International Symposium on Jonathan Swift was held last Saturday afternoon in the Deanery of St. Patrick's cathedral, Dublin.

Professor Andrew Carpenter, Professor Emeritus of English, University College, Dublin, spoke on "Subscription Publishing in Swift's Dublin" followed by Professor Christine Gerrard, Professor of English Literature, Oxford University, on "Swift and Walpole, Revisited". Joseph Hone, Academic Track Fellow in English Literature, University of Newcastle, addressed the topic of "Swift and the Goths", and Sabine Baltes–Ellermann, an Independent Scholar: spoke on 'Go to Ombre, Sirrahs' : Swift and Parlour Games. The respondent was Daniel Cook, Reader in English, University of Dundee.

Brighter Lives mental health funding programme launched

Benefact Trust has launched Brighter Lives – a thematic grants programme focused on helping Christian organisations to respond to mental health issues.

Open for applications until Friday 9th December, at 12 noon, this programme will help enable churches and Christian charities across the UK and Ireland to provide increased mental health support for people and communities most in need.



Further information can be found at this link.

<https://www.ireland.anglican.org/news/11545/brighter-lives-mental-health-funding>

If you have any queries, please contact Andrew Bass, Grants Officer with Benefact Trust, at andrew.bass@benefacttrust.co.uk

Archbishop joins Tallaght parishioners for Harvest Thanksgiving

On Sunday October 16th the Archbishop of Dublin, Most Rev Dr Michael Jackson joined the parishioners of Tallaght and their Rector, the Reverend Canon William Deverell, for a celebration of Holy Communion and thanksgiving for harvest.

The Archbishop spoke of his respect for the parish and its Rector and the ways in which everyone, both in the living



Parishioners of St Maelruain's Tallaght with Archbishop Michael Jackson and their Rector, Canon William Deverell following the Harvest Service. (Photo: Lionel Deverell)

diversity of the membership and in the ways in which worship had continued safely by live-streaming throughout the worst of the Covid-19 pandemic, took to heart the interior of the church in order to be the church. The stonework of the interior is exposed. Every person is reminded that each is a living stone by God appointed, both as they enter the church building to worship God and as they leave to go into God's world. This is very much in the spirit of The First Letter of Peter and binds each one of us to Jesus Christ, he said.

In exploring Deuteronomy 11.10-17, the Archbishop spoke of the hardships that lay ahead of the people of God in entering the promised land. In Egypt there was convenience, sophistication and effortless irrigation of crops. Promise has a totally different landscape physically and emotionally. Harvest is not of our genius but of God's gift;

and it is hard. Moving to St Luke 8.4–15, The Parable of the Sower, he drew the attention of the congregation to The Sower Window, on the south side of the sanctuary in the church building. The parable speaks of the responsibilities and the opportunities of disciples as carriers and ambassadors of The Kingdom of God. He concluded by quoting from a Lutheran bishop whose phrase he had heard recently: We don't need more of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit needs more of us.

Following the service there was an opportunity for all to meet over tea and coffee in the hall and to renew existing friendships and make new friendships.

Introduction of priest-in-charge in Gartree, Connor

The Rev John Farr was introduced as priest-in-charge of Gartree Parish at a service in the church close to the shores of Lough Neagh on Sunday October 16.

John was ordained a deacon in the Non Stipendiary Ministry in 2008, and ordained a priest the following year. He was curate in Muckamore, Killead and Gartree Parishes from June 2008, until moving to Stoneyford Parish as priest-in-charge in 2011. He also also helped out in other parishes in Connor Diocese during vacancies.

John is married to Angela and they have two daughters, Cathy-Ann and Victoria, and one grandson. Prior to ordination, John worked as a farmer and market gardener in the Glenavy area, and since 2012, he and his daughter



Bishop George Davison, the Rev John Farr, and the Rev Ivan Dungan, who preached at the Service of Introduction in Gartree.

Victoria have run Rathlane Care Farm, a social farm and equestrian centre which offers opportunities for people with learning difficulties.

Gartree Parish Church was packed on Sunday for the Service of Introduction, which was also a celebration of Harvest Thanksgiving. John was introduced by the Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev George Davison, and the preacher at the service was the Rev Ivan Dungan.

Supper was served in the parish hall, when John and Angela had the opportunity to cut a specially baked welcome cake.

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John will continue as priest-in-charge of the Grouped Parishes of Stoneyford and Gartree.

General Synod of 2023 in Wexford

It has been agreed that the General Synod of 2023 will take place on Friday, 12th May, and Saturday, 13th May, in White's Hotel, Wexford.

Day 3 will take place remotely on the evening of Tuesday 16th May and the evening of Thursday 18 May (if required). More information will be published nearer to the time on the General Synod website: <https://synod.ireland.anglican.org>

The General Synod of 2024 will take place in Armagh.

Pope Francis extends synod to 2024, urging participation, patience

Pope Francis extended his massive consultation of Catholic faithful around the world by a year, urging patience for the three-year turned four-year process that promises to reform Catholic hierarchies and promote decentralization in the church.

“The fruits of the synodal process that has begun are many, but for them to be fully mature it’s necessary to not be in a hurry,” Pope Francis said during his Angelus address in St. Peter’s Square on Sunday (Oct. 16), following his announcement of the postponement.

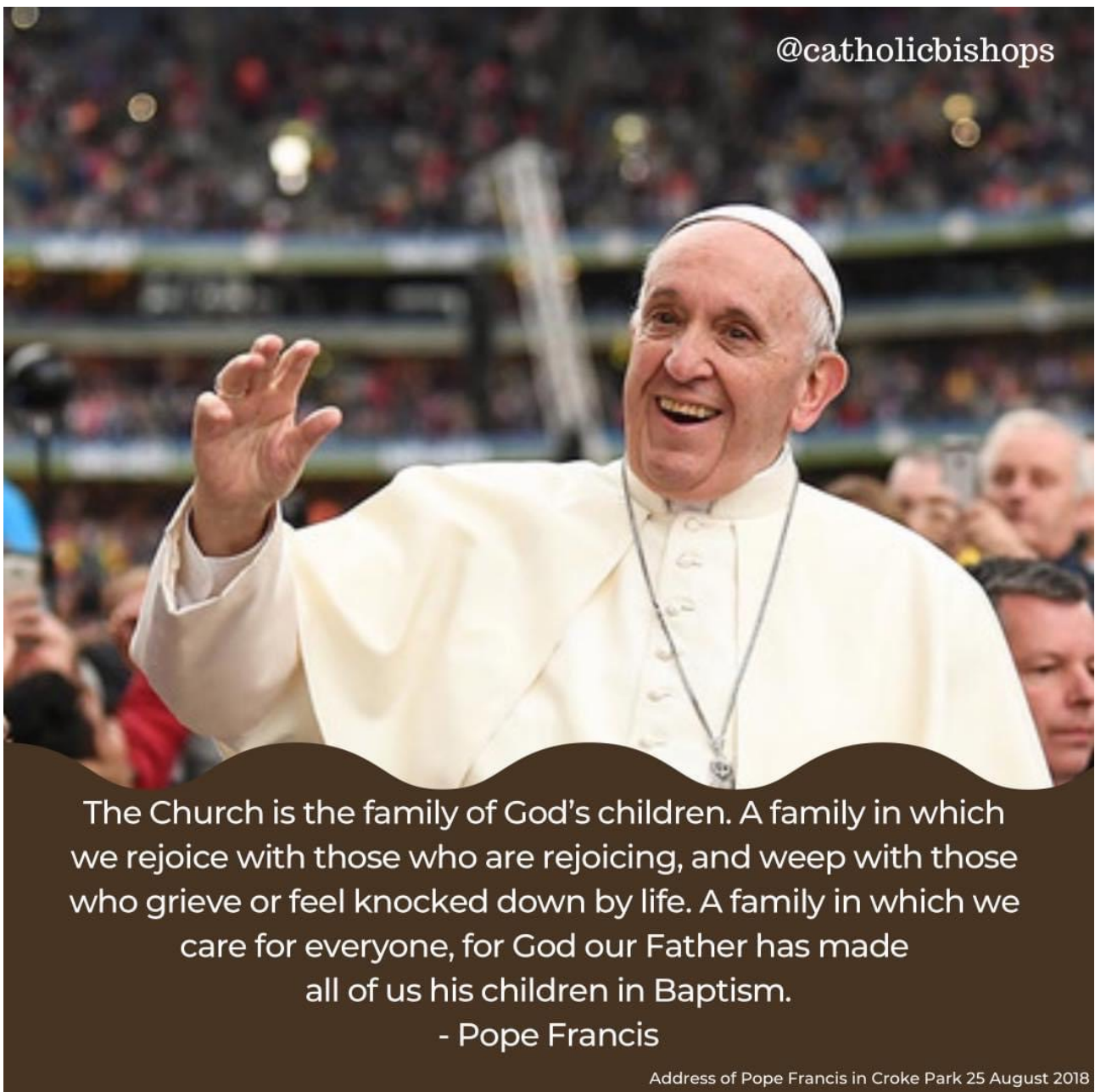
The so-called “Synod on synodality,” originally scheduled in Rome for October 2023, is meant to be the culmination of an ambitious global project to hear from clergy and parishioners at the parish level. The process, though well underway, has had a somewhat halting start.

All Eastern Churches and 112 out of the 114 episcopal conferences in the world took part in the first phase of the synodal process. Participation among rank-and-file Catholics was more patchworked, with many parishes reporting a low level of participation. In the United States, only 10 percent of Catholics took part in the synodal discussions.

The findings from these initial conversations have been submitted to the Vatican’s synod office, and a group of lay and religious experts and academics gathered in Rome last week to draft a document with initial summaries made by the episcopal conferences. The document, which has not been published yet, will be sent to groups of lay and religious leaders divided into seven continents.

“With the purpose of allowing for a longer time for discernment, I have decided that this synodal assembly will take place in two sessions,” the pope said Sunday. The now-delayed synod, “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission,” will end in October 2024. But Bishops will still meet to discuss the findings to date at the Vatican in October of next year, the pope said.

“I hope this decision will favor the understanding of synodality as a constitutive element of the church and will



help everyone experience it as a journey of brothers and sisters who witness the joy of the gospel,” Francis said.

Francis’ decision to split the bishops’ summit in two sessions is not unprecedented. He enshrined the practice in his 2018 document regulating synods “Episcopalis Communnio.” He also divided the synod of bishops on the family into two sessions, between 2014 and 2015, given the wide scope of the topic.

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“The Synod is not an event but a process in which the whole People of God is called to walk together toward what the Holy Spirit helps it to discern as being the Lord’s will for his Church,” read a statement published on the website of the General Secretariat for the Synod at the Vatican on Sunday.

The statement said the continental assemblies will continue the process of listening and discernment within the seven regions of Europe, Latin America, Africa, Asia, Oceania, North America and the Middle East. In March 2023 the seven continental assemblies will submit summaries of their discussions to the Vatican.

Ahead of their final gathering in 2024, the Synod office at the Vatican explained that the summit of bishops in 2023 will “take on a processual dimension, configuring itself as ‘a journey within the journey’ to foster more mature reflection for the greater good of the Church.”

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

John Bell of the Iona Community online

His creative writing process, how he feels when he sings and what miracles are.

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Listen again to John Bell on Radio Scotland Sunday Morning, interview begins at 10:10 and his input throughout the programme is well worth a listen.

[https://
www.bbc.co.uk/
sounds/play/
m001d4qm](https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m001d4qm)



Eco–Congregation’s Autumn 2022 newsletter now available

This issue highlights examples of environmental projects undertaken by churches across the island of Ireland.

These include:

Holy Trinity Westport’s Harvest Service led by Bishop Michael Burrows

Sunflower seeds and pollinator–friendly grounds in Carrigaline

Magheralin’s graveyard bioblitz

CIYD’s new Climate Justice Toolkit

The All–Ireland Pollinator Plan team released a new free resource: a poster of Ireland’s 80 solitary bee species. This

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new poster aims to raise awareness of this important but often overlooked group of bees, who are vitally important to pollination.

One third of our bee species are threatened with extinction from Ireland. This is because we have drastically reduced the amount of food (flowers) and safe nesting sites in our landscapes. The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is about all of us, from farmers to local authorities, to schools, gardeners and businesses, coming together to try to create an Ireland where pollinators can survive and thrive. Find out more at www.pollinators.ie
info@ecocongregationireland.com
www.ecocongregationireland.com

Irish American Presbyterian leader talk

A reminder that the Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland are holding a talk 'The Rev. William Martin, Preacher, Pioneer and Patriot' at Cullybackey Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland this Thursday, 20 October, at 8pm.

William Martin was a clergyman who ministered to the congregation in Kellswater, County Antrim. He is the first Irish Reformed Presbyterian minister who went on to resettle hundreds of his congregation, and others, in South Carolina, USA.

For Ulster-Scots historians, this particular migration event has become a focus for continued research. Between August and October 1772, five ships sailed to America



PRESBYTERIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IRELAND TALKS/LECTURE PROGRAMME FOR 2022-2023

Thursday 20th October 2022 Cullybackey Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland. 8.00pm

The Rev. William Martin, Preacher, Pioneer and Patriot by Geoffrey Allen

William Martin was the first Irish Reformed Presbyterian minister who then resettled hundreds of his congregation and others in South Carolina only to find themselves embroiled in the American Revolution. Twice he carried the witness as the sole Covenanter minister, once in Ireland and then in the United States.

Thursday 2nd February 2023 Cregagh Presbyterian Church, Belfast 8.00pm

'Psalms Hymns and Spiritual Songs' by the Rev S.W. Moore

In 1840 the unaccompanied 150 Psalms of the Scottish Metrical Psalter were the only lawful form of praise but throughout the 19th century and into the 20th century a range of musical features have been accommodated eg using instruments rather than voices alone and lyrics composed rather than scripturally 'inspired'. Each new innovation brought with it disunity, dissension and diversity. These themes will be explored.

Thursday 23rd March 2023 Belmont Presbyterian Church, Belfast 7.00pm AGM/ 8.00pm

'The Auld Meetin'-Hoose Green' by Mr John Erskine.

A relaxed miscellany looking at aspects of life, language and practice in the Presbyterian tradition.

Thursday 4th May 2023 Union Theological College 8.00pm Robert Allen Lecture

'Presbyterians in Print in 18th Century Ulster' by Dr. Robert Whan

This lecture will consider the history and contents of the Antrim Presbytery Library, in the context of the denomination's wider engagement with print.

17th June 2023 Field trip (To be confirmed)

packed with families from the Reformed Presbyterian Church, or Covenanters. This exodus was led by Martin who twice carried the witness as the sole Covenanter minister - once in Ireland and then in the United States.

Everyone is welcome to attend the talk and refreshments will be provided.

C of I Sunday and Weekday Readings 2023 booklet now available

The Season of Advent begins on Sunday, 27th November, and so starts a new liturgical year and a fresh cycle of daily Scripture readings. Church of Ireland Publishing has announced that Sunday and Weekday Readings 2023 is now available.

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This annual booklet is compiled by the Revd Ken Rue, who says: 'Sunday and Weekday Readings is designed to help worship planners and lesson readers know the appointed readings for Sundays and weekdays. It is also beneficial for those who wish to follow a personal course of Scripture readings which is tied in with the Church calendar.'

It may be obtained from the Church of Ireland's online bookstore (<https://store.ireland.anglican.org>) or from Richard Ryan at the Book Well, Belfast (email: info@thebookwell.co.uk; mobile: 07581 143 596). The price is £3.50/€4.00 per booklet.

For further information on Church of Ireland Publishing, visit www.cip.ireland.anglican.org

Perspective

Pope warns war in Ukraine risks nuclear catastrophe

Pope Francis has made another passionate appeal for the world to set aside war and the threat of nuclear destruction. He makes the appeal in a new book due to be launched in Italy tomorrow.

In an excerpt published on Sunday, the Pope begins by recalling that Church teaching refutes the idea that war can solve problems between nations, saying war is "always a defeat for humanity."

Describing the arms trade as "one of the worst moral scandals of our era" along with "the closure of national borders to those who seek a better life", Pope Francis restates that the possession nuclear weapons is immoral.

Pope Francis says the war in Ukraine, which began with Russia's invasion on 24 February, has revealed the horrors that result from war. Recalling the quick succession of the last century's two world wars, he says we are currently experiencing "a third world war fought piecemeal" which threatens to expand into a full-scale global conflict.

"To the explicit rejection of my predecessors, the events of the first two decades of this century compel me to add, unambiguously, that there is no occasion in which a war can be considered just. There is never a place for the barbarism of war, especially not when contention acquires one of its most unjust faces: that of so-called 'preventive wars.'"

War, is never justifiable and can never act as a solution, the Pope says. Rather, nations must engage in "dialogue, negotiations, listening, creative diplomacy, and far-sighted politics which can build a system not based on the power of arms or deterrence."

Peace must always be the goal of good politics and good Christians must always seek to dialogue with others, he adds.

"We must all work together to pave the way for a common hope. We all can, and must, take part in this social process of peace building."

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Reflecting on the diffusion of weapons, Pope Francis said the arms trade is one of the worst moral scandals of our era,



REFLECTIONS

Britannia Concert Band
Musical Director: Stewart Smith
and Dr Derek Collins (Organ)

Saint Columb's Cathedral
WEDNESDAY 9th NOVEMBER
7.30 p.m.
Admission free with voluntary donations towards
Saint Columb's Cathedral Girls' Choir

along with the closure of national borders to those who seek a better life.

He appeals to world leaders to end the arms trade and have the courage and creativity to replace weapons dealers with enterprises that promote the common good, fraternity, and integral human development.

The Pope also expresses concern over the spread of personal firearms, which he said has led to the proliferation of mass shootings and the accidental deaths of young children when guns are improperly stored.

Pope Francis then considers the threat of nuclear destruction, which he says the war in Ukraine risks unleashing. Possessing nuclear weapons is immoral, he repeated, saying their possession undermines the paths of dialogue and respect.

Nuclear arms put at risk humanity's survival on earth, noted the Pope.

"It is unacceptable and unconscionable today that we continue to squander resources to produce these kinds of weapons, while a serious crisis looms that has health, food and climate consequences and about which no amount of investment will ever be enough."

The choice to follow the path of non-violence and continued existence, lies with us, the Pope concludes.

The excerpt was published by Italian newspaper 'La Stampa' on Sunday. Pope Francis's new book, 'I Ask You in

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the Name of God. Ten Prayers for a Future of Hope' the book, edited by Hernan Reyes Alcaide and published by the Edizioni Piemme, comes in preparation for the 10th anniversary of his pontificate, on 13 March 2023.

Poem for today

Follower by Seamus Heaney

My father worked with a horse-plough,
His shoulders globed like a full sail strung
Between the shafts and the furrow.
The horses strained at his clicking tongue.

An expert. He would set the wing
And fit the bright steel-pointed sock.
The sod rolled over without breaking.
At the headrig, with a single pluck

Of reins, the sweating team turned round
And back into the land. His eye
Narrowed and angled at the ground,
Mapping the furrow exactly.

I stumbled in his hobnailed wake,
Fell sometimes on the polished sod;
Sometimes he rode me on his back
Dipping and rising to his plod.

I wanted to grow up and plough,

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To close one eye, stiffen my arm.
All I ever did was follow
In his broad shadow round the farm.

I was a nuisance, tripping, falling,
Yapping always. But today
It is my father who keeps stumbling
Behind me, and will not go away

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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