

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Christ the King Church, Cork

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Christ the King Church in Turner's Cross, Cork

Designed by world renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright. RTE's Joe Duffy praises the landmark Cork church with its fascinating history as most 'incredible' in Ireland

It is one of the great - but also greatly overlooked - architectural gems of Cork, a striking, stylish, Art Deco church, designed by a student of one of the greatest architects of the 20th century, but mired in controversy from the very first drawings, Joe O'Shea, editor of Cork Beo writes - See In the media in CNI today. Page

News reports

Belfast church forms first girls' choir in its 206-year history

St George's Church in Belfast has established the first girls' choir in its 206-year history.

Rev Brian Stewart, rector since 1994, said two previous attempts to form a girls' choir in 1994 and 2002 had failed — “but we decided to really make an effort this time, and our planning in earnest began in January this year”.

Rev Stewart is more than five years from retirement, but his long-term aim has been to leave a special legacy at the landmark church in High Street.

“I have always been keen to form a girls’ choir because it is only fair that young girls receive the same opportunities as our young men, and I want them to avail of all these opportunities as well,” he explained.

“We have 16 gentlemen singers and 20 choristers, and now we have a girls’ choir of six to complete the picture.

“I look forward to attracting more members and I am confident that our girls will go from strength to strength.”

Report courtesy The Belfast Telegraph and Alf McCreary

Fields of Life first in-person conference since 2019

Fields of Life has expressed its delight to be hosting its first in-person conference since 2019.

There is an open invitation to the annual conference on Wednesday 23rd November 2022 at 8pm at T3 Conference Centre, Lisburn. The conference will also be available to watch online on Facebook and YouTube.

Fields of Life - “Come along to the T3 Conference Centre or tune in online for an evening of inspiring stories featuring interviews with special guests, updates from East Africa and much more!”

www.fieldsoflife.org

You are invited
to Fields of Life's

Inspire

CONFERENCE

Join us in person or online for
our annual conference on
**Wednesday 23rd November
2022 at 8pm!**

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ONLINE:  



Limited tickets available so make sure to reserve your space at the link below!

<https://fieldsoflife.org/inspire-conference-2022/>

Service of Introduction in Craigyhill, Connor

The Rev Arlene Moore was introduced as priest-in-charge of Kilwaughter and Cairncastle with All Saints, Craigyhill, at a service in All Saints' Church on Tuesday October 18.

Arlene was previously part-time priest-in-charge of Rathcoole. She grew up in Glynn and later lived in



At the Service of Introduction in All Saints, Craigyhill, on October 18, are, from left: The Rev Canon William Taggart, Registrar; the Rev Arlene Moore, new priest-in-charge of Kilwaughter and Cairncastle with All Saints, Craigyhill; the Rev Alan Lorimer, Methodist Church in Ireland, who preached; Bishop George Davison; the Rev Canon Mark Taylor, Rural Dean; and the Ven Paul Dundas, Archdeacon of Dalriada.

Craigyhill, before moving to Antrim. She has a BSc Joint Hons in Biochemistry and Pharmacology from Dundee University.

Arlene worked in cancer research in the Department of Medicine and Therapeutics at Aberdeen University before qualifying with a PGCE and teaching in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

She was accepted for ordination in 1992 and during her time at Theological College developed a love of world mission, completing an elective placement in South East Asia. Overseas trips continued throughout Arlene's curacy years in St Mark's, Portadown.

Moving to England in 1999, Arlene worked as a research assistant in a second curacy at St Thomas' Crookes (Sheffield), and then in disabled student support work as an assistant lecturer in both Sheffield and Sheffield Hallam Universities whilst studying for various further qualifications, including two Masters' degrees



Returning to Northern Ireland in 2009, Arlene took up the role of full time NHS chaplain in both the Mater and Musgrave Park Hospitals and priest-in-charge in the Church of the Good Shepherd, Monkstown. In 2016, she moved to St Comgall's, Rathcoole, as part-time priest-in-charge whilst training in the Facilitation of Lectio Divina and qualifying as a Spiritual Director.

The preacher at the Service of Introduction in All Saints, Craighyhill, was the Rev Alan Lorimer, minister in Jennymount, Belfast North, with the Methodist Church in Ireland, and a former colleague of Arlene when she was in Monkstown Parish.

Arlene was introduced by the Rt Rev George Davison, Bishop of Connor.

Ageing Franciscans to leave their Athlone home after 800 years

The Irish Franciscans have announced they will be leaving the town of Athlone after nearly 800 years due to their ageing and falling membership.

It was announced at masses in the Co Westmeath town in recent days that, of the 78 brothers in the country, 52 are aged 75, and they said the houses they have in Athlone are 'not houses for older men'.

Fr Aidan McGrath, Minister Provincial of the Irish Franciscans said that, while it was a 'difficult and sad announcement', they gave it 'much consideration'.



He said: 'Regretfully, we must now face our present-day reality and leave a town where we have enjoyed and valued such support and friendship for close to 800 years.'

'We must make these difficult decisions as we deal with and respond to our ageing and reducing membership.'

The brothers are to leave on January 6 and will be 'engaging immediately in discussions to ensure that the consequences of this announcement are dealt with in the best way possible for all involved'.

A Mass of thanksgiving will be celebrated in Athlone Friary Church on Sunday, January 8.

Courtesy - Ronan Smyth in Extra.ie 19/10/2022.

Next Bishop of Liverpool to be The Right Reverend Doctor John Perumbalath

Downing Street has announced that the Ninth Bishop of Liverpool is to be the Right Reverend Doctor John Perumbalath. Bishop John will join the Diocese of Liverpool from the Diocese of Chelmsford where he has served as Bishop of Bradwell since 2018. He follows Bishop Paul Bayes who retired in February 2022.

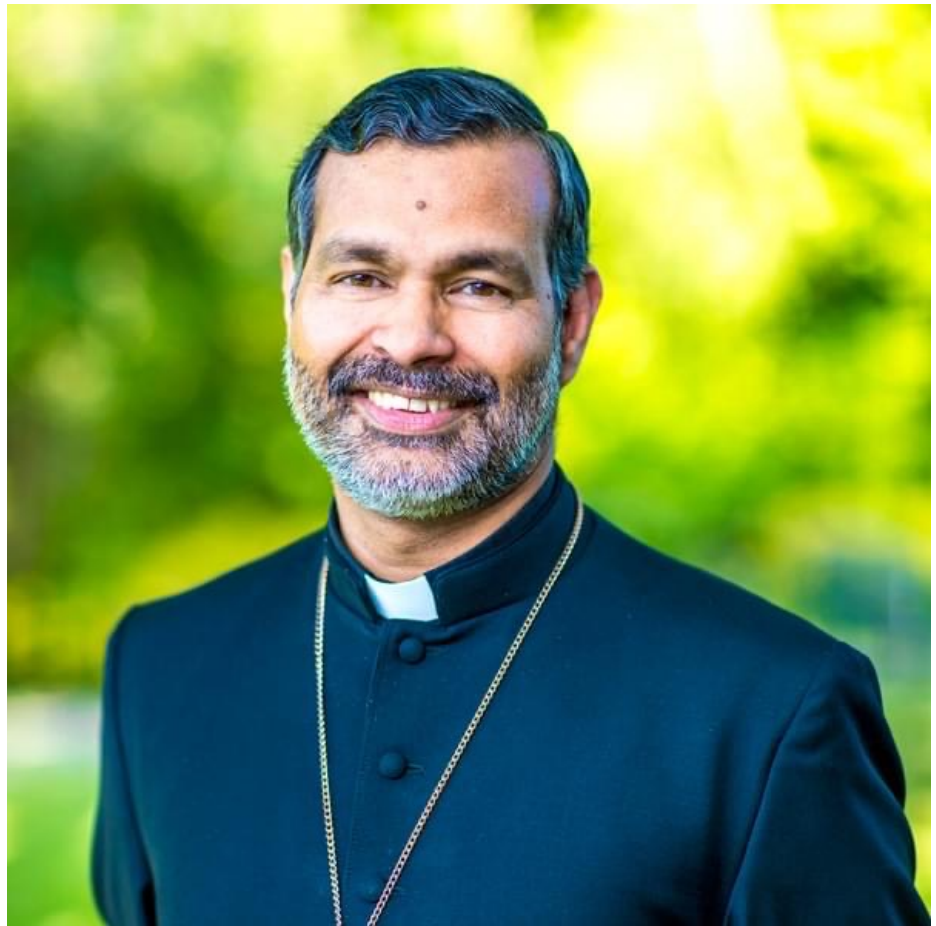
Bishop John comes from the ancient Christian community in Kerala, South India and was ordained into the Church of North India in 1994. He moved to the UK in 2001 taking up positions in the Diocese of Rochester. Bishop John then served as Archdeacon of Barking before becoming the Bishop of Bradwell in 2018.

Amongst other roles, Bishop John is the Chair of Churches Refugee Network of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. He is Church of England's Lead Bishop on Churches Together in Britain and Ireland relations and a trustee of CTBI. He chairs Christians Aware, an educational charity and serves on the Anglican Communion wide Advisory Group of USPG, an Anglican mission society. The Bishop lectures widely on faith and social engagement and in Biblical theology.

Bishop John demonstrates the influence of the evangelical, Anglo-Catholic and Oriental Orthodox traditions that shaped his theology and contributed to his formation and follows a Benedictine framework of spirituality. He has served in catholic and evangelical parishes and has been known as a

unifying leader
in situations of
conflict.

Bishop John is
married with
one adult
daughter. He is
a keen walker
and enjoys
reading poetry
and novels
from various
parts of the
world.



Bishop John
says “I am delighted and humbled to have received this call
to be the next Bishop of Liverpool. I have come to love
Liverpool through my numerous visits when my daughter
was in university here for six years. I look forward to
becoming part of the vibrant and diverse communities
served by the diocese of Liverpool.

We have many challenges ahead of us both in the church
and society. A pandemic has shattered human confidence
and a cost-of-living crisis is staring at our face. Anxiety, fear,
and anger take many forms in such a context.

As a follower of Christ coming to lead a diocese that aspires
to be a bigger church to make a bigger difference, I want to
proclaim and live out a message of hope, peace, and
justice. I pray that I will lead a church that is faithful in

offering our communities the hope that we have in God, serving the communities by working together well and in partnership with others.

The good news in Jesus Christ breaks all barriers and boundaries and is always welcoming and inclusive. I am excited about leading God's people out to proclaim this good news in words and deeds in a new context and to love and care for those I serve".

Welcoming the appointment Bishop Bev, The Bishop of Warrington said "Bishop John is an excellent appointment to our diocese and his wisdom and grace will help guide us as we continue to seek to be fit for mission asking God for a bigger church to make a bigger difference. I look forward to welcoming him and Jessy and working alongside him in our diocese,"

The Archbishop of York, the Most Reverend Stephen Cottrell added: "It is a huge joy to be welcoming John Perumbalath as the next Bishop of Liverpool. John is a person of huge vision and integrity, a biblical scholar, a champion for justice, a loving pastor and a humble and good-humoured disciple of Jesus Christ.

"Strengthened by his care and leadership, the Liverpool diocese will continue to be a bigger church striving to make a bigger difference. Building on the courageous example of previous Bishops of Liverpool, John will be a new and compelling voice for the Christian faith in the Liverpool diocese, across the north and in the life of our nation."

The Bishop of Chelmsford, the Rt Revd Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani said: “Bishop John has made a hugely significant contribution to the life of our Diocese as Bishop of Bradwell and before that as Archdeacon of Barking. I have very much enjoyed getting to know him and serving alongside him since I became Bishop of Chelmsford.

“His leadership in the life of the wider church has also been highly valued during his time in our diocese, particularly as a member of the College of Bishops and more recently the House of Bishops, as Chair of the Churches Refugee Network for Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, and during the period in which he served as Chair of the Committee for Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns.

“His appointment is good news for the Diocese of Liverpool and the Church of England, and I offer John my warm congratulations. But of course, we will miss him in Chelmsford Diocese and particularly on the Bishop’s Leadership Team and in the parishes and the worshipping communities of the Bradwell Episcopal Area. We will be praying for him and for his wife as he prepares for this next step in his ministry.”

Bishop John is expected to be installed in Liverpool Cathedral in a special service early next year. Until that time Bishop Bev, the Bishop of Warrington will remain as Acting Bishop of Liverpool.

CNI

The Revd Canon Stanley Pettigrew 1927–2022

Much loved former Rector of Wicklow and renowned artist, the Revd Canon Stanley Pettigrew, has died in his 95th year.

Born in Chile in 1927 to Irish parents, the Pettigrew family moved back to Sligo in 1930, where Stanley completed his schooling. In 1944, he enrolled as a student in Trinity College, Dublin, where he studied history and then divinity. Ordained in 1950, Stanley began his life in ordained ministry as Curate in the parish of Newcastle in Co. Down. A second curacy followed (in Clontarf) before moving to the parishes of Derralossary, Calary, and Laragh in 1957, where he served for 5 years. In December 1962, Stanley was instituted to the parishes of Wicklow and Killiskey where he would remain beyond retirement (in 1992), only moving from Wicklow town in 2019 to live with family.

As a priest Stanley was dutiful in pastoral ministry & faithful in service, aiming to visit at least 3 households every day, and to visit everyone in the parish at least 3 times per year. Even 30 years after retiring, parishioners in Wicklow & Killiskey still recall sermons he preached; how he drew the listener into a scene, crafting a living picture through his skilful use of language and description. Former Churchwardens recall the high standards he expected regarding the presentation of the church, and former Select Vestry members recall his tireless efforts to maintain and expand educational institutions for local people. Two

achievements in particular stand out: the efforts made to keep Nuns Cross School open, and the building of East Glendalough Comprehensive School (1987). He also oversaw the renovation of Wicklow Parish Church (around 1965), the construction of a new Rectory (1974), and the construction of a new school building for Glebe National School (1980). For Stanley, the spiritual and the practical went hand-in-hand, and he leaves both a spiritual and tangible legacy of which his family can be duly proud.

Beyond his life as a priest of the church, Stanley was a very talented artist, particularly well known for his landscape paintings. Donning the trademark beret and grey coat, Stanley favoured 'wild painting' from within the landscape he sought to capture. He was rarely put off by bad weather, and always sought to completely finish a painting before moving on to anything else. Stanley never stopped painting, and focused on local scenes once his mobility became more restricted.

Stanley was predeceased by his wife, Vera (who died in 2009), whom he married in 1954. Well known as an author of children's books, Vera also wrote a memoir of their time living in Annamoe Rectory (1957–62), which gives a fascinating insight into life in 1950s rural Ireland, as much as into the lifestyle of a Rectory family. Stanley & Vera had 3 children: Judi, John, & Mike, and 5 grandchildren: Sabina, Nikita, Luke, Alannah, and Ashley.

Although he lived a very public life, Stanley was at heart a very private person. He valued the virtues of faith, commitment, and discipline, and did not like to raise a fuss. In faith, he valued being able to participate in the early

celebration of Holy Communion each week in Wicklow Parish Church, while praying the office of Morning Prayer at home daily. Following a short illness, he died in the care of University Hospital Limerick on 15th September of this year, only a short time after the Chaplain had led a service of Morning Prayer with him. By his wishes, a simple funeral service was conducted with only immediate family present, in Shannon crematorium, led by current Rector of Wicklow & Killiskey, Rev Jack Kinhead.

Along with the Largo from Dvorak's symphony number 9, the 'New World' symphony, the first movement of Beethoven's symphony number 6, the 'Pastoral' symphony was played at Stanley's funeral. Entitled 'Awakening of cheerful feelings on arrival in the countryside', it was a more fitting tribute to a life well lived, and the Christian hope of life hereafter, than any eulogy or sermon. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

By the Revd Jack Kinhead, Rector of Wicklow and Killiskey

In the media

RTE's Joe Duffy praises landmark Cork church with fascinating history as most 'incredible' in Ireland

It is one of the great - but also greatly overlooked - architectural gems of Cork, a striking, stylish, Art Deco church, designed by a student of one of the greatest architects of the 20th century, but mired in controversy

from the very first drawings, Joe O'Shea, editor of Cork Beo writes.

Christ the King Church in Turner's Cross in Cork is one of just a handful of churches designed by the Chicago-born Irish-American architect Francis Barry Byrne and is, after decades of obscurity, increasingly celebrated as one of the most unique buildings in Ireland.

Barry Byrne was a student and disciple of the iconic American architect Frank Lloyd Wright and a fellow member of what became known as the Prairie School of American design. He was commissioned to design the new church for Turner's Cross by the Bishop of Cork in the early 1930s.

And now the striking church on Cork's southside has made a new convert, with RTE's Joe Duffy taking to social media to tweet about what he calls 'probably the most incredible piece of ecclesiastical architecture in Ireland'.

The Liveline presenter is just one of a growing number of people drawing attention to the South Parish's 'second church' which was consecrated in 1931 to serve the growing population on the south side of the city.

The striking church has been celebrated in poster form by the Cork arts collective Hurrah Hurrah and is regularly included on history and heritage tours and guides to the city.

However, the church that looks like no other in Ireland really came about by accident, when the Bishop of Cork, the Rev Daniel Cohalan, decided to build a new church on the southside in the late 1920s.

It was the height of the depression, money was scarce and the 'conventional' designs put forward by British and Irish firms specialising in ecclesiastical builders were deemed too expensive by the penny-pinching Bishop. The Bishop had read about an American architect who was using new techniques in concrete to build 'cheaper' churches in the US and he sent for Barry Byrne.

However, the bold Art Deco style proposed by the Yank architect drew a horrified response in deeply conservative church and civil circles in Cork and the terrible reception it got set the tone for the trouble to come.

The budget was cut to just £20,000 for the building and £10,000 for the interior so Byrne had to drastically reduce the scale and quality of the materials used, cutting corners wherever he could in what became a long battle to get the church built at all.

Concrete and pre-cast sections were used almost everywhere - which meant local stone masons in Cork were outraged at not being employed on such a huge project in the middle of a depression and the city took against the American with weird ideas who was building a 'modernist monstrosity' on Leaside.

Byrne was forced to chop and change, to compromise, to fight endless battles and delays only in the end - to be roundly criticised for foisting an 'ugly' church on the faithful of Cork.

The architect, a devout Catholic, was said to be heartbroken by the process - he never returned to Cork to see the finished church, the only church of his where he did not personally watch over the construction and attend the consecration.

It may have been the bad blood, controversy and heart-break around the church that led to the long-running, macabre urban legend, shared for years in the South Parish, that a mason or architect involved in the construction of Christ the King had hung himself from the front of Christ the King after it was completed.

Today, Christ the King is a celebrated church building, rated one of the most interesting and unique in Ireland. A far cry from its troubled start and long years of relative obscurity.

Courtesy of Cork Beo

[\[https://www.corkbeo.ie/news/history/rtes-joe-duffy-praises-landmark-25291852\]](https://www.corkbeo.ie/news/history/rtes-joe-duffy-praises-landmark-25291852)

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Pope backs children's prayers for peace

The Pope has thrown his weight behind an international campaign praying for peace in Ukraine and other war-torn regions of the world.

Following Sunday's Angelus prayer in the Vatican's St Peter's Square, Pope Francis congratulated all the young people joining in today's rosary prayer campaign.

He said: "This Tuesday, 18th October, the foundation Aid to the Church in Need is promoting the campaign 'A Million Children Praying the Rosary'.

"I thank all the children who are participating."

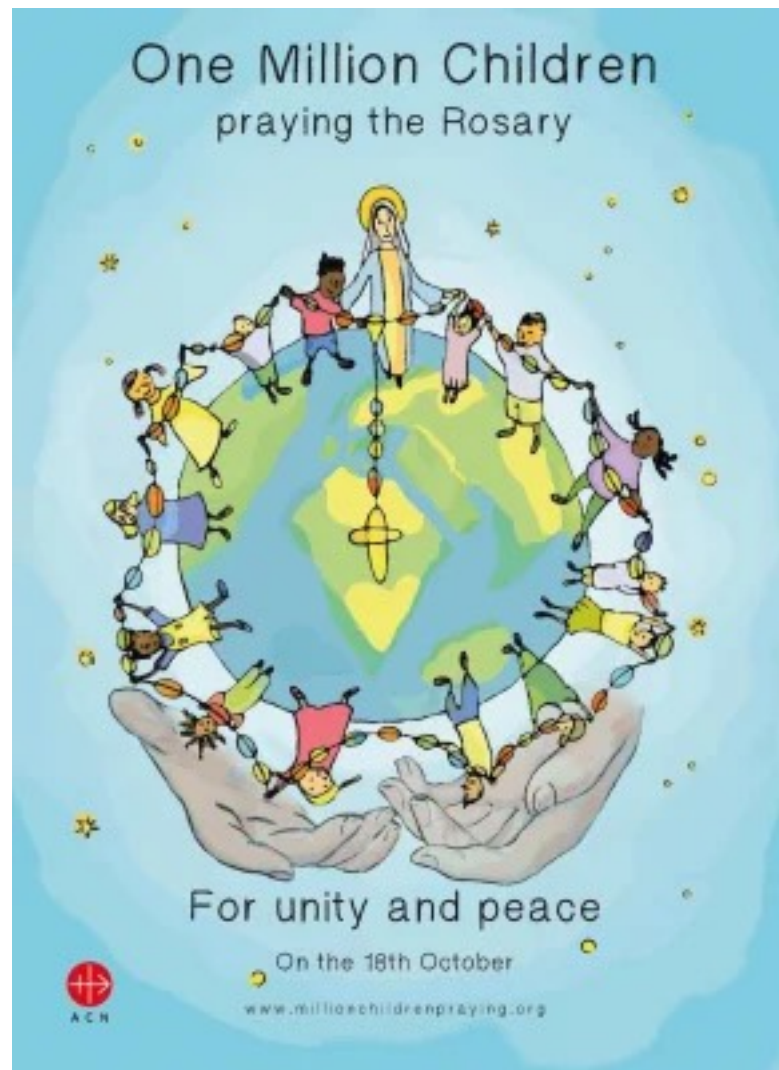
The pontiff asked those taking part to remember Ukraine and all countries experiencing conflict.

He said: "Let us unite ourselves to them and entrust the suffering people of Ukraine, and other people who are suffering due to war and any form of violence and misery, to Our Lady's intercession."

A message from Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) international president Cardinal Mauro Piacenza and ecclesiastical assistant Father Martin Barta underlined that

the charity wanted to put countries consumed by violence into the hands of God the Father, through the intercession of St Mary.

The message read: "Let us especially entrust to the powerful and loving hands of the divine Father and the mighty intercession of the Mother of God those countries where war, violence and deep poverty prevail - as in Ukraine, the Middle East, Nigeria, the Sahel region of Africa and all those places where people are unable to live in peace."



Now in its seventeenth year, 'A Million Children Praying the Rosary' began in Venezuela's capital Caracas in 2005, when a group of children came together to pray.

It was inspired by the words of Padre Pio: "When a million children pray the Rosary, the world will change."

ACN started supporting the campaign in 2008 and began running it in 2018.

October 20, 2022

For online resources copy link to browser - www.acnuk.org/resource/onemillionchildrenprayingtherosary/

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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