

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Primate's visit to Ukrainian families

Image of the day

Primate's visit to Ukrainian families in Mitchelstown

The Bishop of Cork, RT Rev Dr Paul Colton was joined by the Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, the Most Rev. John McDowell and also by Fiona Finn of the One Foundation on a visit to some of the Ukrainian families hosted by Cork Diocese at Kingston College, Mitchelstown today.

News reports

Boo in the Pews at Dundela

It was Boo in the Pews last Saturday at St Mark's, Dundela, Belfast. "A fun, friendly, festive concert followed by trick or treating inside the church (moved indoors because of expected rain)". It was a





free event, doors opened at 4.45 p.m. Foodbank donations were welcomed.



Plan for Kilkenny Christmas Tree Festival

The organisers say “Have you started to put your thinking cap on about what tree you are going to put together for this year’s Kilkenny Christmas Tree Festival. Now is the time to get the gang, work colleagues, groups of friends, clubs and societies to start planning your entry for this year”.

For more information or application form, check out St Canice’s website for more details
www.stcanicecathedral.com



PSNI stroke victim speaker at Colebrooke Mothers Union visitors night

A wonderful evening was spent in the presence of Clodagh Dunlop (above right) at Colebrooke/Cooneen's Visitors Night.

Clodagh is a detective for the Police Service of Northern Ireland. In April 2015, her life was turned upside down after suffering a brainstem stroke, which left her with locked-in syndrome.

There is no cure for locked-in syndrome and she was expected to be a prisoner in her own body forever. However, against all odds, Clodagh astonished her doctors, family and



colleagues with her recovery and the courage she displayed when faced with such a life-changing condition.





New £8.3million Saint Patrick's Primary School in Belfast

Education Minister Michelle McIlveen has officially opened the new £8.3million Saint Patrick's Primary School in Belfast.

The new school was formed following the amalgamation of Edmund Rice Christian Brothers and Star of the Sea primary schools.

Read more: <https://education-ni.gov.uk/news/saint-patricks-primary-school-celebrates-official-opening>

Church of England and Anglican Communion respond to inaccurate press statements

Statements issued this week by the “GSFA Steering Committee” and the “Gafcon Primates Council” contain several inaccuracies, including the nature of the Anglican Communion, the appointment of the Dean of Canterbury, and the understanding of civil partnerships in England, a Church of England spokesperson has said.

The statements criticise the appointment of the new Dean of Canterbury Cathedral, the Very Revd David Montieth, because he is in a civil partnership. Much of the criticism levelled against the Dean-designate appears to be based on international confusion about the nature of such civil partnerships.

“A civil partnership in English law dates from 5 December 2005”, a C of E spokesperson said. “Civil partnerships are not recognised as marriage but are a legal means, not involving any church, by which two people (of the same or different gender) can create a bond which, for the purposes of secular law, gives them the same legal entitlements as if they were married.

“Some gay and lesbian English clergy have entered civil partnerships from near the beginning in 2005. They are still bound by the rule that sexual relationships must only be within marriage as recognised by the Church, and are not

allowed by being in a civil partnership. Abstention from sexual relationships (celibacy) is required of all unmarried clergy, whatever their sexuality.

“Since 2005, in the Church of England, appointments have not been refused simply because the person concerned is in a civil partnership, so long as they obey the discipline of the church.”

At the Lambeth Conference of Anglican bishops, held earlier this year in Canterbury, the Archbishop of Canterbury said: “I neither have, nor do I seek, the authority to discipline or exclude a church of the Anglican Communion. I will not do so.”

The GSFA statement described this as “a lamentable position”; but an Anglican Communion Office spokesperson said today that “in saying this, the Archbishop was merely setting out the factual position of the nature of the Anglican Communion. None of the four Instrument of Communion has power over any single Anglican province. This has always been true.

“To change the Communion into a body with a central authority to discipline provinces would require the consent of all provinces concerned.

“The Churches of the Anglican Communion rejected such a central disciplinary body when they rejected a proposed Anglican Communion Covenant.”

The C of E spokesperson added: “Let us pray that the commitment made by bishops at the Lambeth Conference

October 24, 2022

to walk together to the maximum degree possible despite our deeply-held differences will endure. Let us continue to build up our common life together on the solid rock of Jesus Christ who calls us to unity so that the world may know His love.”

His Holiness Patriarch Kirill and WCC acting general secretary meet in Moscow, agreeing that war cannot be holy

His Holiness Patriarch Kirill and World Council of Churches (WCC) acting general secretary Fr Ioan Sauca met on 17 October in Moscow, discussing how churches are called to be peacemakers

Also attending the meeting, which took place at the Patriarchal Residence in St Daniel’s Monastery, were Metropolitan Anthony of Volokolamsk, chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate’s Department for External Church Relations; Archimandrite Philaret (Bulekov), DECR vice-chairman; Fr Mikhail Gundyayev, representative of the Moscow Patriarchate to the WCC and international organisations in Geneva; Hieromonk Stefan (Igumnov), DECR secretary for inter-Christian relations; and Rev. Prof. Dr Benjamin Simon, WCC programme executive for Church Relations.

In addition to a public conversation, Patriarch Kirill and Fr Sauca had their own private audience to discuss Orthodox matters.

Patriarch Kirill welcomed the guests, saying: “I appreciate that you have come to Russia in these hard times to meet with me and my people and talk about the difficult international relations we live in and are confronted with today which naturally affects our inter-church relations, as well.”

Fr. Sauca thanked the Primate of the Russian Orthodox Church for the meeting, and said: “The members of our fellowship are looking with great interest and hope to this visit,” explaining that the WCC delegation came to Moscow because of a mandate from the WCC central committee to visit WCC member churches with “bleeding wounds.” Those visits have included the Middle East—Syria, Lebanon, Israel, and Palestine—and then Ukraine, and now Russia.

“You are aware of the concerns” that WCC member churches have with regard to the war between Russia and Ukraine, said Fr Sauca, “and of our statements that condemn the war and violence which we made in our governing bodies – the statements which were elaborated with the participation of delegates from the Russian Orthodox Church.”

Fr Sauca expressed his gratitude for previous correspondence with Patriarch Kirill.

“The reason for coming here is to see what we can do together to build bridges of peace and reconciliation and stop the bloodshed and the danger of nuclear conflagration,” Fr Sauca said. “I think it would very helpful now to make the same statement, saying clearly to the world what you told us, here, today: stop the bloodshed, stop the killing, stop the

October 24, 2022

destruction of infrastructure, look for peace and reconciliation.”



WCC acting general secretary Rev. Prof. Dr Ioan Sauca meets patriarch Kirill, head of the Russian Orthodox Church at the Patriarchal Residence in St Daniel’s Monastery, Moscow.

This will help greatly the world and the Orthodox Church as well, Fr Sauca said to Patriarch Kirill, “and will make it clear what is your personal position to the war.”

The patriarch stated that he does not think that any church or Christian can have a supporting position to wars and killings, and that churches “...are called to be peacemakers and to defend and protect life,” he said. “War cannot be holy.”

But when one has to defend himself and his life or to give his life for the lives of the others, things look different, stated Patriarch Kirill. “We have so many examples in our Christian history,” he said. “Yet, as peacemakers we have to make all efforts to bring peace through dialogue and avoid any conflict or violence.”

Patriarch Kirill added that the times in which we live today are very difficult—yet these difficulties do not come from the churches, “but from the political context, and this context constitutes an extreme danger today,” he said.

Churches today “must not add fuel to the fire,” he added. “On the contrary, we must do everything within our power to put out the fire. In this regard, the World Council of Churches has a very important function.”

Heritage

Lord Carson's Nunc Dimittis

Last week in 1935 The Right Honourable The Lord Carson KC PC, died peacefully at Cleve Court, a Queen Anne house near Minster in the Isle of Thanet, Kent.

He had contracted bronchial pneumonia that June, but had made a recovery in July. During that time he was visited by Dr Charles D'Arcy, Archbishop of Armagh.

The very ill and weak old man confided to his fellow Dubliner, "In my life I have seen much to shake my faith, and what remains with me is no more than I learned at my



mother's knee, that 'God so loved the world He sent His only Son that whosoever believes on Him should not perish, but have eternal life', is this enough?" Dr D'Arcy's reply was: "It is enough."

In the media

Mad to think Assembly election will help solve our problems, but lunacy is the norm under Tories - Jon Tonge

Another day, another Conservative leadership contest.

It's why I've given up reading fiction. Why bother when the facts are so much more dramatic?

The 81,236 Conservative Party members and 113 MPs who voted for Liz Truss should be ashamed.

October 24, 2022

They backed a candidate so demonstrably out of her depth it was unreal.

What was it they saw in the ex-Liberal Democrat, ex-anti-monarchist, ex-Remainer Truss that suggested reliability?

At no point during the contest did 'Trussonomics' appear credible — and so it proved.

The decision to rush through a huge economic programme without reference to the Office for Budget Responsibility was a disgrace.

The 54-day braggadocio of the Truss leadership campaign proved significantly longer than her premiership.

Everything Rishi Sunak warned about during that summer leadership contest duly came to pass.

Unfunded tax cuts and increasing borrowing at a time of high inflation are reckless, said the ex-Chancellor, the only adult in the room.

Scandalously, Truss proceeded apace, coming close to crashing the economy.

Equally outrageously, after her U-turn, she made Kwasi Kwarteng, her hand-picked Chancellor, the fall guy for her idiocy. Everyone could see the position of both was untenable.

Lunacy did not begin with Truss of course. The chaos of the Johnson era set new records, with a record 59 ministerial

resignations in one evening. And a Boris boomerang may be in play as he threatens to join the race to replace the void that was his brief predecessor.

Many Conservative members would reinstall their former leader in a heartbeat. Johnson is an election winner. Ironically, though, many MPs may be more reluctant even though their jobs are at stake.

Despite the vaulting ambition of many MPs, there are few serious contenders.

Penny Mordaunt could be Truss Mark II.

We may be far from done with the implausible.

“Sources close to Brandon Lewis say MPs are starting to call Brandon urging him to stand,” reported BBC political editor Chris Mason. Hmmm. Wonder who those 'sources' close to the former Secretary of State could possibly be?

This is the Lewis whose grandstanding legislation, with its 24-week Executive formation deadline, might still force upon Northern Ireland the absurdity of Assembly elections as frequent as his party's leadership contests.

Instead of looking at how the Assembly and Executive might usefully be reformed, legislation shoved them to the cliff-edge.

Blame the DUP all you wish for staying out of the Executive. Fair enough if you are a consistent opponent of abstention.

October 24, 2022

But at least previous Secretaries of State kept the legislation vague on the calling of an election if there was no devolved government. That way Sinn Féin's three-year absence did at least not plunge the place back to a pointless poll.

Legally, the requirement for Chris Heaton-Harris to call a fresh Assembly election is unaffected by the latest outbreak of nonsense at the top of the Conservative Party.

The Government may be too distracted to pass emergency legislation postponing a poll. An election makes zero sense whether a Prime Minister is in place or absent. But we now risk the tomfoolery of a Stormont contest being called on the same day the new Prime Minister is installed.

The PM will be confronted by a problem reinforced by an electoral verdict confirming the stayaway DUP as the dominant voice of unionism.

It is a particular type of madness that thinks that having more elections solves the issues of mandatory coalition and the protocol. But madness has become normal under this government.

Jon Tonge is Professor of Politics at the University of Liverpool

Courtesy The Belfast Telegraph

CNI

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Online Service for Harvest Season

Recorded by the C of E at Abbeydore Deanery, Hereford - a Service for Harvest Season, led by Rev Luci Morriss. Preacher Rev Cate Thomson.

This week's C of E service broadcast live on Sunday 23 October is available for playback. All of the service content is manually subtitled and contains British Sign Language (BSL) interpretation throughout. Link at - [\[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GNmDR7dCyL4\]](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GNmDR7dCyL4)

Archbishop of Canterbury's visit to Australia

The Ecumenical Service held at St Carthages Cathedral Lismore on the occasion of the Archbishop of Canterbury's visit can now be seen on YouTube.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=4hZAh7LsIFw#>

CNI

Poem for today

What the Sea Brings by Brendan Kennelly

What will it bring this evening?
There was a girl once, she wrote a poem.
The sea brought it in.

The priests said it was a sin.
The toll sergeant
Read it to my mother.
"Look" he said "at what the sea brings"

It brings foam secrets
And trinkets and letters from the dead,
Boys and girls in my father's head

It brings first editions of songs
And lays them at my feet
Like whispered words of encouragement
On a cold morning going to school.

It brings the image of my daughter
Twinkling in my mind
Running up steps to me,
Electric with mischief

She thinks the sea is a mod, not a punk.

October 24, 2022

What the sea brings is the sea's business,
The cliffs are important, the rocks lumpy and wet.

I take what I get.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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