

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Eucharist in Seattle

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Eucharist at St Mark's Episcopal cathedral in Seattle

News reports

Service marking new Law Term



Archdeacon David Pierpoint chats to the Chief Justice Donal O'Donnell and Assistant Commissioner Paula Hillman with representatives of An Garda Síochána and the Defence Forces

The commencement of the new Law Term was marked on Monday morning with a service in St Michan's Church in Dublin 7.



Attended by a range of people associated with Ireland's justice system, as well as some from the UK, the Michaelmas New Law Term Service made a comeback after a two year gap. A similar service takes place in the nearby St Michan's Church on Halston Street.

Archbishop Michael Jackson presided with the assistance of the Vicar, Archdeacon David Pierpoint.

They were joined by the Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral, the Very Revd Dr William Morton and the cathedral's Precentor and chaplain of the King's Hospital School, Canon Peter Campion. As is tradition, the choir of the King's Hospital, under the direction of Ciaran Kelly, led the music at the service.

The preacher was the Bishop of Clogher, the Rt Revd Ian Ellis, who focused on the value of wisdom. "Our prayer to God for you in your legal work is for a wise and discerning mind. And further that our society might grow in wisdom and

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enable the young in their education and training to find the gift of wisdom,” he said.

Bishop Ellis spoke about the wisdom literature in the Old Testament, the authors of which contend that wisdom begins with a basic understanding of the fear of the Lord, including recognising that God is behind the creation which was created with wisdom and order.

Having a background in education, he noted that a lot of what school was about was imparting knowledge, skills, personal development, applying continual assessment and gaining qualifications. While these were all laudable, he said that at the core of education should be training in wisdom and helping children and young people gain a shape to their living.

“If a society has a healthy spirit, it cherishes wisdom, and its children should grow up to become adults who are wise and live lives which are based less upon selfishness but more upon love and seeking the common good. In other words, that we become Christ-like in loving of our neighbour as ourselves which St Paul underlines in his letter to the Romans, is to discover that ‘love is the fulfilling of the law’,” Bishop Ellis stated.

He added: “In the meantime, we live in the real world, which you and I re-enter after this service, where many people manifestly fail to act wisely or unselfishly, who err and stray like lost sheep, where rights and freedoms are abused, where there is wilful hurt, destruction, deception, violence and death – in short breaking the law not only of God but of the land. And that’s where the work of your professions

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come to our aid to protect society from its worst tendencies – to thwart evil, uphold justice and to enable righteousness to flourish.”

He concluded by urging those present to seek and find the wisdom of God as they make their assessments and judgements, weigh evidence, present cases, read reports, evaluate character and pursue truth, and by his spirit discern good from evil.



Resources by the Laudato Si Working Group are available online - see link in following report.

Irish bishops welcome Pope Francis' message to world leaders ahead of COP27 urging more ambition to tackle climate crisis

“No one in Ireland should suffer from fuel poverty this Winter” – Bishops

This week in Rome the movie, The Letter, will be premiered. It features Pope Francis and tells the story of how the climate crisis is affecting life on Earth

On the first day of the Autumn General Meeting of the Irish Bishops' Conference, which is taking place in-person at Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth, members discussed the issue of global environmental deterioration, sustainable ecology and the challenge to achieve climate justice for the poorest of humanity. Today, 4 October, also marks the Feast Day of Saint Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of the environment, and this date coincides with the end of the five-week long 'Season of Creation', which has been celebrated throughout the universal Catholic Church.

Pope Francis chose the theme for this year's Season of Creation as 'Listen to the Voice Creation', and this reminds everyone that we are all, as human beings, called to listen to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. The Bishops' Conference commended the efforts of the so many people who volunteer in parishes and religious congregations around the country, as well as those in ecumenical settings,



to further the care of creation at this critical time in the life of our planet.

Bishops welcomed Pope Francis' Season of Creation message wherein the Holy Father calls on world leaders, ahead of COP27 (the UN Climate Conference), in Egypt in November, to "take more ambitious steps", to keep "their promises of financial and technical support for the economically poorer nations, which are already experiencing most of the burden of the climate crisis."

Bishops reflected on the reality that the Season of Creation this year began with the news of devastating floods in Pakistan where approximately 1,500 people have died, 1.7m homes destroyed and 750,000 livestock killed. Together, with the situation in Somalia and the horn of Africa experiencing the worst drought in forty years, we see some

examples of the devastating impact climate change has had on the lives and livelihoods of our sisters and brothers living in developing countries. According to the World Bank, the average GDP per capita in Pakistan is US\$1,200 which is in sharp contrast to US\$84,000 in Ireland.

Similarly, the average citizen in Pakistan is responsible for just over one tonne of greenhouse gas per year, while the average citizen of Ireland is responsible for over twelve tonnes of greenhouse gas. More globally, estimates indicate that greenhouse gas emissions in Africa represent only 4% of the world's total, while 80% come from rich countries, including Ireland.*

Bishops, in praying for all those affected by climate change, reiterated the consistent call of Pope Francis, enshrined in Catholic Social Teaching, that economic systems must not be based on short-term profits but, rather, ought to serve the common good of present and future generations.

Fuel Crisis

In acknowledging the current fuel crisis, and consequent pressures upon consumers, the bishops stated that no one in Ireland should suffer from fuel poverty this Winter. Bishops also recognized that, into the future, the current fuel crisis offers an opportunity to reduce dependency upon fossil fuels.

Bishops also welcomed provision of resources by the Laudato Si Working Group – available on <https://www.catholicbishops.ie/2022/07/11/resources-for-the-season-of-creation-2022/> – and encouraged everyone to

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avail of these resources, which will be continuously reviewed for use by dioceses and parishes.

Bulbs of Hope - Season of Creation celebrated

On Sunday evening, 18th September, Canon Mark Lidwill of the C of I joined Bishop Martin Hayes, Bishop of Kilmore, in an ecumenical prayer event at the Cathedral of Saint Patrick and Saint Felim to celebrate the Season of Creation. Crocus bulbs were planted on the front lawn of the Cathedral. When the bulbs bloom they will spell out the word 'hope'.

Is Dublin and Glendalough willing and wanting to be a diocese that is doing the Lambeth Walk archbishop asks

“It is our calling under God to live in a time of vision, not division,” Archbishop Michael Jackson said on Tuesday evening (October 4).

In his Presidential Address to Dublin & Glendalough’s Diocesan Synods, he called on the people of the dioceses to adopt a “hierarchy of urgency” setting new priorities and shaking up values to look and live beyond ourselves.

The Presidential Address was given during the Synod Service of Holy Communion in Christ Church Taney.



The Archbishop of Canterbury at the Lambeth Conference earlier this year

The Archbishop took the decision to deliver a shortened version in light of the addition of a Bill to the agenda of Diocesan Synod which was received by members yesterday. He said that the Bill sought to discern the mind of Dublin & Glendalough Diocesan Synods in relation to a fresh alignment of the powers of the Diocesan Councils along with the relationship between both bodies for the future. In order to allow for full discussion on the Bill, he offered a synopsis of his Presidential Address, the full version of which you can read below or download [here](#).

In his address, Archbishop Jackson referred to the Lambeth Conference which took place during the summer. He said the Archbishop of Canterbury spoke of two types of renewal



The Archbishop of Dublin delivers his Presidential address

which were apparent at the conference. The first related to the nature of the church and he said an integral part of the Anglican identity is that it is an incomplete part of God's church, meaning that we are ecumenically interdependent with the rest of the Christian church. The second type of renewal identified by the Archbishop of Canterbury was the values that were agreed: solidarity, subsidiarity and global justice.

The Church of Ireland and the Dioceses of Dublin & Glendalough are part of the Anglican Communion and Archbishop Jackson said that communion was at the heart of our identity and expression of faith. "Communion is our individual and shared belonging to God and our shared

expression of this in prayer, worship and community action. Communion is both structural and spiritual. We need to connect as a matter of urgency with other and diverse members of the Communion in order to find our Anglican identity today,” he explained.

Archbishop Jackson said that the shape and style of the Lambeth Conference pointed those present in the direction of receiving just as much as giving. This, he said, would require of the dioceses partnership arrangements with dioceses and parishes in areas of the world that are experiencing the sort of things we are experiencing, although often differently to us. In this way we can learn and grow. The people of Dublin & Glendalough have already experienced this through the diocesan link with the Diocese of Jerusalem.

One of the recurring themes of the Lambeth Calls was the appeal to the Five Marks of Mission of the Anglican Communion. Dublin & Glendalough has done extensive work on the Five Marks and are well placed to move forward with the Lambeth Calls locally if members of the dioceses want to be active members of the Anglican Communion, the Archbishop said.

Having come through Covid–19, forging new personal and spiritual pathways, Archbishop Jackson encouraged people to face the emerging future without fear. “We are living in the midst of an horrific war situation in Ukraine and in Europe, grief–stricken for those at the kernel of such human and societal destruction; we now are also in the eye of the storm of a fuel and a food crisis such as few can imagine. We are called by God to new compassions,” he commented.

A hierarchy of urgency

In urging members to adopt a hierarchy of urgency, the Archbishop said: “The hierarchy of urgency is more than a setting of priorities. It is a shake–up of values. It is the realization and affirmation of the centrality of others in our planning and in our living. It is an individual and the corporate commitment that is capable of transforming our institution, our organization when we turn the lens outwards and let ourselves be viewed primarily through our responsibility for and with others.

The hierarchy of urgency gives us fresh energy to live beyond ourselves and for others. The question is: Does the diocese want to do this? The decisions and the priorities are very much yours. Our calling is to empathy and to activity. This is how we refresh and grow our belonging to Jesus Christ and to the world of God’s creation. This is how we follow in the words of Holy Scripture: Seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you ... and: Go and do likewise ...

“Justice, environment, identity: these were the hierarchy of urgency identified by Archbishop Justin Welby for the Anglican Communion during the summer of 2022. This is an hierarchy quite different from that which forces the pace in the world we inhabit and take for granted. This points to a shift of focus and of direction in the life of The Anglican Communion for the future. This is the new Anglican Communion of which we are part.”

Archbishop Jackson thanked all involved in the smooth running of the dioceses in the past year, which he described

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as three years in one: in–Covid, through–Covid and beyond–Covid. In thanking the staff of the Diocesan Office he paid particular tribute to Diocesan Secretary, Sylvia Heggie, who has announced her intention to retire at the end of the year.

“The debt we owe to Sylvia is incalculable. On my own behalf, I want to say how effective and how professional I have found Sylvia to be throughout my time as archbishop of Dublin and Glendalough. Sylvia’s ethic has been and remains: What can I do to help? It is nothing short of incredible to recognize that Sylvia has done everything she has done through a half–time post. Sylvia has never refused to do everything she can to help those in need of advice, guidance and encouragement. To say that we shall miss Sylvia is the understatement of this synod,” he stated.

He concluded by stating that it is our calling under God to live in a time of vision, not division. Following on from the Lambeth Conference, he said the question for individuals was to discern what the Anglican Communion is and how they can, with urgency of faith, respond to it as part of a communion of Father, Son and Holy Spirit and a communion of faith, hope and love. The question for Dublin & Glendalough was, he said, “Is this diocese willing and wanting to be a diocese that is doing the Lambeth Walk?”

[Link to the full text of the archbishop’s address at -](#)

[\[https://dublin.anglican.org/news/2022/10/04/vision-not-division-presidential-address\]](https://dublin.anglican.org/news/2022/10/04/vision-not-division-presidential-address)

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New Honorary Fellows at Belfast Bible College.



Pictured here with the Principal of Belfast Bible College are Prof. Stephen Williams, Rev John Dickinson, Pastor Philip Emerson and Bishop David McClay. And also appointed are Paul and Priscilla Reid.

New Honorary Fellows have been announced by Belfast Bible College. The College stated - “Each Fellow has been carefully chosen on the basis of their outstanding contribution to the kingdom of God in Ireland, whether in local parish ministry or through academic acumen”.

The role of the Honorary Fellow is threefold: to bring his or her influence on the life of the College, to share in teaching and preaching, and to participate in a new and exciting work of theology of the work of the Holy Spirit in life and congregational ministry which hopefully will become a book.

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The Honorary Fellows will lead a course on the theology of the Holy Spirit at Belfast Bible College, commencing 7th February 2023. Everyone is welcome and more details will follow online in due course.

Scottish bishop's suspension over bullying claims stands after failed Church appeal

The Bishop of Aberdeen and Orkney is considering legal action after the Scottish Episcopal Church's Synod rejected her appeal against her suspension over bullying accusations.

Rt Rev Anne Dyer had been suspended in August after the Church received two formal complaints against her alleging misconduct. However, Bishop Anne was reinstated a day after she appealed.

Now, the Episcopal Church's bishops have decided to re-suspend Bishop Anne from all work at the diocese while the claims are being investigated.

In a statement, Episcopal Church clarified that Bishop Anne's suspension "does not constitute disciplinary action and does not imply any assumption that misconduct has been committed".

The 65-year-old, who became Scotland's first female bishop in 2018, has now hired a legal firm to represent her.

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Her lawyer, Callum Anderson, of Levy & McRae told the BBC: "As a result, an entirely one-sided and self-serving picture has been presented by a handful of people who fundamentally object to same-sex marriage and to Bishop Dyer's appointment as the diocese's first female bishop.

"Whilst Bishop Dyer is hugely grateful for the enormous support she has received from her wider diocese, clergy and congregations, she is clearly frustrated at being unable to respond publicly to the very personal and gruelling attacks on her."

He added: "Following the 3-2 split judgement on her appeal, she is most keen to see a full, prompt and transparent accounting of the entire circumstances of this unsavoury episode.

"The speedy resolution of this matter must now be a priority, not just for the bishop but for the diocese and the wider Church."

The Bishop of Edinburgh, Rt Rev Dr John Armes will serve as Acting Bishop of Aberdeen and Orkney while the complaints are being investigated.

Church cannot write 'killed' on memorial to crash victim

A judge has banned the word "killed" being used on a plaque to commemorate a former curate at St Andrew's Church, Stratford-upon-Avon, who died in a road crash.

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Caroline Harris, deputy chancellor of the diocese of Coventry, acting in her role as a judge of the Church of England's Consistory Court, imposed the ban after deciding the word might "cause discomfort" to people reading it.

However, at the same time, she approved the use of the words "killed in action" on the same plaque in respect of the curate's son, who died fighting with the army in Afghanistan.

The curate, the Rev Peter Whittaker, died in a road crash in April 1990 at the age of 30.

His son, Joe, who was once head chorister at the church, was killed aged 20, in June 2008, while serving in Afghanistan.

The judge said that the term "killed in action" was a "recognised tribute" to those who lost their lives serving in the Armed Forces and was acceptable on the plaque.

But regarding use of the word "killed" in respect of the Rev Whittaker, she said it "engendered an element of blame" and could be open to a wide range of interpretations, generally of a criminal kind.

She said the word killed was "emotive and likely to cause discomfort to those reading the plaque," and that other terms such as "died" or "lost his life" could be used.

She gave consent for the memorial plaque to be installed in the church but on the strict condition that "the word 'killed' shall not be used in respect of Peter Whittaker".

Poem for today

Autumn - by Charles Baudelaire

Soon we will plunge ourselves into cold shadows,
And all of summer's stunning afternoons will be gone.
I already hear the dead thuds of logs below
Falling on the cobblestones and the lawn.

All of winter will return to me:
derision, Hate, shuddering, horror, drudgery and vice,
And exiled, like the sun, to a polar prison,
My soul will harden into a block of red ice.

I shiver as I listen to each log crash and slam:
The echoes are as dull as executioners' drums.
My mind is like a tower that slowly succumbs
To the blows of a relentless battering ram.

It seems to me, swaying to these shocks, that someone
Is nailing down a coffin in a hurry somewhere.
For whom? -- It was summer yesterday; now it's autumn.
Echoes of departure keep resounding in the air.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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