



Image of the day - Cobh

Reports

Online service and Day of Prayer for Christians in the Media

A special online service celebrating the role of Christians who work in and with the media has been announced for 21 October. Ten days later, churches and Christians are being encouraged to take part in a Day of Prayer for the Media, Peter Crumpler writes.

Both events are of key importance for Christians concerned about integrity in society, and the role a thriving media can play in speaking truth to power.

The service and Day of Prayer come as the vital role of the media was underlined by this year's Nobel Prize for Peace being awarded to campaigning journalists Dmitry Muratov of Russia, and Maria Ressa of the Philippines. The Nobel Prize judges said: "Free, independent and fact-based journalism serves to protect against abuse of power, lies and war propaganda."

The judges' words resonate with the theme of the special online service – 'Integrity: Telling the Truth' – organised by Christians in Media, a UK-based network bringing together Christians who work in and with media in all its forms.

Tim Pemberton, Head of Religion and Ethics for the BBC's audio output, will be the service's main speaker. Others taking part include Tim Levell, programme director of Times Radio; Warren Nettleford of ITV News; Lucy Denyer, of The

October 11, 2021

Telegraph; and BBC broadcaster Sandra Godley. Worship will be led by Andy Smith. The service is open to anyone who wishes to take part online.

It will be hosted by comedian Paul Kerensa, and include interviews with young people on the pioneering Christians in Media mentoring scheme.

On 31st October, the network is inviting Christians to support its annual Day of Prayer for the Media.

Steve Cox, who chairs Christians in Media, is encouraging churches to pray for "their local, regional, national, and social media; those in their congregations who work in, and with, media to be salt and light in this crucial area of public life; for younger Christians to consider entering media to help shape the media landscape and content; and for all Christians working in, and with, media to be Truth Tellers." As part of the resources for the day, here's a prayer I wrote for the media – both for those who work in it, and those who read, listen or watch their output:

Creator God, your Son told his disciples that the Truth would set them free.

Help us to seek after Truth in all we do.

As communicators, may we pursue Truth with diligence and passion.

As readers, listeners and viewers, may we discern Truth from falsehood, and always seek the good of others.

As followers of Christ, may we grow more into His likeness, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

In the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

October 11, 2021

Rev Peter Crumpler is a former Director of Communications with the Church of England, and the author of *Responding to Post-truth* (Grove Books).

From Lisburn to Canada – via BBC Radio 4

The world is a small place – as the Rev Lynne Gibson, rector of Ballymacash, Lisburn,



discovered when her early morning Prayer for the Day of BBC Radio 4 caught the attention of a lady who tuned in from Canada!

Lynne shared a thought on the national radio station each morning last week (October 4-8), and after Thursday's broadcast, she received communication from a lady living on Prince Edward Island, Canada.

The lady said she had been thrilled to hear Lynne talk about *Anne of Green Gables* on Thursday morning. The book is set on Prince Edward Island, and the listener had been alerted to Lynne's prayer by an English cousin.

The lady wrote: "It was wonderful how you connected the season of autumn to Anne and her exuberant love of



October (of pretty well everything!). You see, I have a connection to Anne that is pretty special.

“In 1958, my parents wrote a musical, Anne of Green Gables. In 1964, it became a stage musical in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, and it has been playing there ever since to absolutely packed houses. The musical also did well in New York, and London.”

The writer continued: “Because of the musical, we started to visit Prince Edward Island every summer and in 1972 we bought a beautiful farm on the island. Our family has summered there every year since 1964.”

She enquired if Lynne had heard of the musical, or indeed if her brother (who lives on the island) had seen it.

The lady said the theatre had been closed for two years because of the pandemic but there were hopes the musical would reopen next summer. “It is so beautiful and moving and passionate and is Canada’s longest running musical,” she told Lynne. “My father wrote all the music, and my mother wrote many of the lyrics, including a number called ‘Gee, I’m Glad I’m No One Else But Me!’ – that reminds me of your lovely sermon this morning.”

Lynne plans to reply to the email, letting the lady know that not only has she heard of Anne of Green Gables the musical, but she has visited Prince Edward Island and has seen the show!

There are links to Lynne’s Prayer for the Day broadcasts on BBC Sounds at:

<https://connor.anglican.org/2021/10/08/from-ballymacash-to-canada-via-bbc-radio-4/>

C of I - Methodist relations highlighted by Methodist President

The President of the Methodist Church in Ireland, the Revd Dr Sahr Yambasu, brought greetings to the recent General Synod of the C of I.

He made a plea for the co-operation of all in addressing issues of global warming, climate change, and unpredictable weather conditions, which, he said, had brought the most suffering on the poorest and most vulnerable.

“When we co-operate, we can successfully address threats to our existence,” he said. He warned that, despite the rhetoric of human rights and justice, vaccine injustice had revealed deep-seated divisions between rich and poor.

The Black Lives Matter movement had highlighted as never before “the result of centuries of inhumane interactions with black people”, he said. The global problems of forced migration, war, hunger, and poverty were issues of compassion, but “increasingly draconian measures” were being used to keep migrants out of the countries in which they were seeking refuge.

He rejoiced at the Covenant relationship, referring to the three united Methodist/Church of Ireland congregations as “giving me particular joy at grass-roots level”.

In conversations about closer unity, “we are committed to work through our differences and called to co-operate in ministry and mission.”

On a personal level, Dr Yambasu described himself as “left awestruck” at the level of acceptance, respect, and kindness that he had received from the Church of Ireland. “‘Until all are safe, none are’ is as true of all the issues facing our local and global communities,” he said.



Spectrum of concerns at Catholic Bishops' Conference Autumn Meeting

Members of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference gathered in-person last week in Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth, for their Autumn 2021 General Meeting.

Due to public health restrictions arising from the Covid-19 pandemic, the Bishops' Conference had hosted its previous five plenary meetings *via* video link. The President of the Conference is Archbishop Eamon Martin of Armagh and the Vice-President is Archbishop Dermot Farrell of Dublin. The main issues discussed by the bishops during their Autumn General Meeting included:

- **Bishops' pilgrimage to Knock and Mass in memory of all who died on the island during the Covid 19 pandemic**
- **Housing and homelessness**
- **Bishops call for climate action and support for the 'Healthy Planet, Healthy People' petition ahead of COP15 and COP26**
- **(i) Pope Francis to open Universal Synod on 9 and 10 October (ii) Update on the Synodal Pathway in Ireland**
- **Bishops call for funding for Family Addiction Support Networks**
- **RTÉ to broadcast Mass for World Mission Sunday on 24 October**
- **Bishops special appeal on 6 and 7 November to support Trócaire's work to alleviate the humanitarian crisis in East Africa**
- **Appointments**

- **Bishops' pilgrimage to Knock and Mass in memory of all who died on the island during the Covid-19 pandemic**

During their meeting bishops reflected on the heartbreak suffered many thousands of families throughout Ireland who experienced the death of a loved one during the Covid-19 pandemic. In particular, bishops acknowledged the additional distress caused by the restrictions which, over the past nineteen months, limited the number of people who could mourn together and offer the customary supports at this most sensitive time for families. Bishops commended parishes across Ireland who have been arranging liturgical ceremonies for grieving families, and thereby enabling us to gather as a community of faith to pray for the repose of the souls of our deceased.

To pastorally support everyone who has suffered in this way, and in the context of November being the traditional time that we remember our dead, on Sunday 14 November at 3.00pm, the Bishops of Ireland will undertake a pilgrimage to the International Eucharistic and Marian Shrine in Knock, Co Mayo, in the Archdiocese of Tuam, to concelebrate Mass for all those who have died on the island, and for their families, during the pandemic. At the Mass bishops will offer prayers of thanksgiving for all those who so selflessly sacrificed so much during the pandemic. This Mass will be live-streamed on www.knockshrine.ie and broadcast on the RTÉ News Now digital television channel and online.

Bishops expressed their gratitude to the faithful for their prayers, sacrifice and perseverance during this difficult period for all of society. This commitment, along with the sterling efforts of our clergy, religious and frontline workers, has successfully served to protect human life and health.



- **Housing and homelessness**

Bishops reflected on how the crisis of housing and homelessness is a key social justice challenge for this generation. Catholic social teaching recognises that housing is a universal human right, with corresponding responsibilities on society to honour that right. Bishops discussed the recent correspondence from Mr Darragh O'Brien TD, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, on this issue. It is the bishops' intention to respond to the Minister's letter over the coming days.

- **Bishops call for climate action and support for the 'Healthy Planet, Healthy People' petition ahead of COP15 and COP26**

Bishops encourage the public to support a global campaign 'Healthy Planet, Healthy People', which seeks to encourage political leaders to take strong action on climate change at COP 15 on Biodiversity from 11 – 24 October and at COP26 on Climate Change in Glasgow from 31 October to 12 November. The 'Healthy Planet, Healthy People' petition, which has been endorsed by the Vatican, calls for a joined up, just response to the COVID 19, climate and biodiversity crises, see www.healthyplanetandpeople.org. Guidelines for completion of the petition are available by contacting Brenda Drumm on bdrumm@catholicbishops.ie or jane.mellett@trocaire.org

- **(i) Pope Francis to open Universal Synod on 9 and 10 October (ii) Update on the Synodal Pathway in Ireland**

During their 2020 Winter General Meeting, bishops decided to proceed along a Synodal Pathway and, following their Spring General Meeting, announced that a new Synodal Pathway for the Catholic Church in Ireland is to take place with a view to holding a national synodal assembly, or assemblies, within the next five years. Over 550 submissions have been received from the public as part of the initial phase of the Synodal Pathway. Dr Nicola Brady has been appointed as chair of the Synodal Steering Committee and the vice-chairs are Mr Andrew O'Callaghan and Bishop Brendan Leahy of Limerick.

By a happy coincidence, these first two years of the Synodal Pathway in Ireland will complement the Church's worldwide journey towards the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of Bishops, entitled: *For a synodal Church: communion, participation and mission*. This weekend (9 and 10 October), Pope Francis will officially open the Universal

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Synod. The Holy Father has asked that the whole Church prepare for this Synod which is scheduled to take place in October 2023 in Rome.

In this regard, bishops welcomed the publication on 7 September, by the General Secretariat for the Synod in Rome, of the *Preparatory Document* which indicates the guiding principles of the Synod on Synodality. Bishops agreed that, as the Church in Ireland embarks on its own Synodal Pathway, we can also look forward to letting ourselves be inspired by these guiding principles.

Bishops discussed this *Preparatory Document*, sharing in the goal of its listening process, namely, “not to produce documents, but to plant dreams, prophecies, and hopes.” For the initial preparatory phase of the Universal Synod, the fundamental questions put before us are:

- how does this ‘journeying together’ take place today on different levels (from the local level to the universal one), allowing the Church to proclaim the Gospel? and,
- what steps is the Spirit inviting us to take in order to grow as a synodal Church?

These global questions neatly complement the guiding question facing the Irish Synodal Pathway over the next five years, which is: “What does God want from the Church in Ireland at this time?”

The full membership of the Steering Committee and the Synodal Task Group for the Synodal Pathway will be published as part of the official launch in the coming weeks.

More at -

October 11, 2021

<https://www.catholicbishops.ie/2021/10/06/statement-of-the-autumn-2021-general-meeting-of-the-irish-catholic-bishops-conference/>

Methodist Church sympathy on death of James Brokenshire MP

On hearing of the untimely death of James Brokenshire MP, former Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, the Rev. David Clements, Convener of the Council on Social Responsibility, has issued a Statement on behalf of the Methodist Church in Ireland.

At this sad time, we remember in our prayers Jame's widow Cathy their family and his colleagues.

The full statement can be found on the website
<https://buff.ly/3uVahS8>

News briefs



Boo in the Pews at Dundela

Come along to hear the musicians of St Mark's Church, perform a fun concert of seasonal classics on 23 October from 5–6.00 pm. There will be a costume parade with prizes so come in fun fancy dress! Children of all ages are welcome.

St Mark's Church 220 Holywood Road Belfast BT4 2DR
dundela.down.anglican.org

Rector for Limavady

After an eight-month vacancy, the Parish of Drumachose has a new rector. The Reverend Canon Aonghus Mayes, currently Rector of Moy and Charlemont in the Diocese of Armagh, has been appointed to succeed Canon Sam McVeigh, who retired at the end of January.

The appointment means a return to the Diocese of Derry and Raphoe for the new incumbent. His father, the late Canon John



Mayes, was Rector of All Saints, Clooney from 1985-2007 and Aonghus's mother, Alison, still lives in Londonderry.

Canon Mayes says he is "looking forward" to the next phase in his ministry. "I've loved Moy, but I'm very much looking forward to moving to Limavady, and getting settled in, and getting to know everybody and making it my home."

The former Foyle College pupil, who serves on the Chapter of Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, can expect a warm welcome from his new parishioners. "Canon McVeigh was there [in Limavady] for 32 years," he says. "His predecessor was there for something similar. It says something for a place when clergy stay there that long.

Canon Mayes spent eleven years in Moy. "My parishioners may be delighted [that he is moving] and thinking, 'At last!'

"I've loved it here, though. I couldn't have asked for a more supportive congregation, but the time comes to move."

The new incumbent's Service of Institution is expected to take place early in the new year.

Ordination in Mid-Kerry

Congratulations to the Revd Barbara Buckley whose ordination by the Bishop of Limerick as a deacon took place yesterday. It was a lovely and moving service where the Dean of Cloyne, Susan Green reminded those present of the biblical roots of diaconate where in the early church we already saw deacons preaching, baptising, and bringing the scripture to the community of faith. No doubt that Barbara



will do those things in her own unique way for the time and the place that she has been called to serve in.

Newtownards parishioners tackle extreme poverty with marathon run



Five runners who attend St Mark's Newtownards have completed the Belfast Marathon to raise funds to tackle extreme poverty overseas.

Jane and Paul Beaney, Cathy Allen and Barry and Leah Willis formed a relay team which crossed the finish line in 4 hours 19 minutes. So far, they have raised over £600 for international aid agency, Christian Aid Ireland with donations still coming in.

October 11, 2021

The charity's Chief Executive Rosamond Bennett thanked the team for taking on the challenge:

“We are very grateful for the marathon effort of Jane, Paul, Cathy, Barry and Leah as well as to all those who sponsored them so generously. Their kindness is reaching people who are struggling to feed their families amid the climate crisis, the global hunger emergency and the covid pandemic.”

Anyone wishing to sponsor the runners can do so by visiting their Justgiving page here:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ardscamarathon>

Books, Broadcasts, Resources and Webinars

Exploring the impact of partition 100 years on

Creative Centenaries is delighted to announce the second in a series of events exploring the impact of partition 100 years on.

Join Dr Ryan Mallon, Prof. Crawford Gribben, Dr Gladys Ganiel and Dr Andrew Holmes as they explore how several different facets of Christianity have evolved in Ireland in the last century.

More information and Sign Up <https://bit.ly/2YrpyOk>


Nerve Centre | Special EU Programmes Body - SEUPB |
National Lottery Heritage Fund Northern Ireland | Queen's

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October 11, 2021

University Belfast | History at Queen's University Belfast (QUB)

Conversations About Mission: Invisible Pain – Grief in the Pandemic



Diocesan Council For
MISSION
The United Dioceses of Dublin & Glendalough

CONVERSATIONS
ABOUT
Mission

INVISIBLE *Pain*

Reaching out to those who have not had space to grieve or lament during Covid-19.

OCTOBER 21 | 8PM | ZOOM

Contributors:
LESLEY ROBINSON
DUBLIN BEREAVEMENT
SUPPORT SERVICE
DR. TONY WALSH
PSYCHOTHERAPIST

To book your place, email:
dgcouncilformission@gmail.com

Join the Conversation. Thursday October 21 @ 8pm

Dublin & Glendalough Council for Mission's 'Conversations About Mission' series continues on October 21. This time

October 11, 2021

the online forum will explore Invisible Pain: Reaching out to those who have not had space to grieve, lament during Covid–19.

Conversations About Mission takes place online on Thursday October 21 at 8pm. To book a place email dgcouncilformission@gmail.com.

The contributors will be the Revd Lesley Robinson and the Dublin Bereavement Support Service. The session will seek to equip parishes in reaching out to those who have lost loved ones during the pandemic and who have not been able to grieve their loss in the traditional way.

The Conversations About Mission series focuses on enabling churches to reach out into their communities in a Covid /Post Covid Society. Practitioners start the conversation on their area of expertise and participants have the opportunity to explore how they can take action in their own contexts.

Everyone is welcome to join the conversation from Dublin & Glendalough and beyond.

Video of the Bells at St Fin Barre's Cathedral

The diocesan video series "People and Places" takes us high up into the bell tower of St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork. Steeple keeper Marcus Calvert gives a tour of places which are usually under lock and key.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sprD7YYFYeE>]



Graphic design tips for churches

Do you design flyers for church events or create graphics for your church's social media posts? The C of E's DigitalLabs blog shares three design tips to help you sharpen your creative skills.

Read the blog at [cofe.io/DesignTips]

Webinar: Innovation - the future of sustainable cities

In UrbanOctober, join us for a webinar facilitated by Habitat for Humanity, which explores the role that innovation and technology will play in the future of housing.

As part of One World Festival, hear directly from Jennifer Oomen, the Director of Applied Innovation for the Terwilliger Center for Innovation in Shelter and discover how Habitat for Humanity are funding some ground-breaking technologies and join the conversation yourself.

DATE: Thursday 14th October

TIME: 2.30pm (BST)

churchnewsireland@gmail.org

October 11, 2021

Book your place at this FREE webinar today:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/169817908937>

Irish History from Plantation to Partition: Free online lecture series

Armagh Robinson Library, in collaboration with Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, has organised a six-week lecture series that will explore Irish history from the Plantation of Ulster to Partition.

The free lectures will be delivered by Zoom on Wednesday evenings (7.30pm-8.30pm) from 13 October to 17 November.

Here's the first two parts in the programme:

Wednesday 13 October: The establishment of Ulster's Plantation Towns, with Dr Brendan Scott (Historian-in-Residence, Cavan CoCo)

Wednesday 20 October: From the 1641 Rising to the Restoration, with Dr Robert Armstrong (TCD)

You can reserve your place by email to admin@armgahrobinsonlibrary.co.uk or call 028 3752 3142.



Poem for today

The Wild Swans at Coole by W.B. Yeats

The trees are in their autumn beauty,
The woodland paths are dry,
Under the October twilight the water
Mirrors a still sky;
Upon the brimming water among the stones
Are nine-and-fifty swans.

The nineteenth autumn has come upon me
Since I first made my count;
I saw, before I had well finished,
All suddenly mount
And scatter wheeling in great broken rings
Upon their clamorous wings.

I have looked upon those brilliant creatures,
And now my heart is sore.
All's changed since I, hearing at twilight,
The first time on this shore,
The bell-beat of their wings above my head,
Trod with a lighter tread.

Unwearied still, lover by lover,
They paddle in the cold
Companionable streams or climb the air;
Their hearts have not grown old;
Passion or conquest, wander where they will,
Attend upon them still.

October 11, 2021

But now they drift on the still water,
Mysterious, beautiful;
Among what rushes will they build,
By what lake's edge or pool
Delight men's eyes when I awake some day
To find they have flown away?



Speaking to the Soul

Bible verse, thought for the day and prayers - on site daily

