



**Image of the day -
Mussenden Temple and Downhill Strand
Co. Londonderry**

Reports

Service of Reflection and Hope: a call for prayerful support

The following message was shared by the Church Leaders Group, to encourage prayerful support for the Service of Reflection and Hope which will take place in Armagh on Thursday October 21.

As you may know, a Service of Reflection and Hope to mark the centenaries of the partition of Ireland and the formation of Northern Ireland will take place in Saint Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral, Armagh, on Thursday, 21 October 2021.

The service is being organised by the Church Leaders Group, as part of their wider programme of collective engagement around the 1921 centenaries, with an emphasis on our common Christian commitment to peace, healing and reconciliation.

Armagh has been chosen as the location due to its significance as Ireland's ecclesiastical capital – a status which has its origins in the 5th Century when the present site of the Church of Ireland cathedral was presented to Saint Patrick for building his 'great stone church'.

This Christian act of worship will involve people from across the community, from diverse backgrounds and traditions,



The Rt Revd Dr David Bruce, the Rev Dr Sahr Yambasu, the Very Revd Dr Ivan Patterson, the Most Revd John McDowell and the Most Revd Eamon Martin.

and with different beliefs and aspirations, coming together to pray for the healing of past hurts and to seek God's guidance in a spirit of hope for the future.

BROADCASTS

The ongoing risks of Covid-19 will restrict the space for in-person participation, but the service will be broadcast on both BBC One and RTÉ One from 10.30 am on Thursday October 21.

In addition to encouraging people to view the service, we would be grateful for the prayers of our fellow Christians from across these islands as we offer this space for reflection and hope. You may wish to consider using the following prayer:

CENTENARY PRAYER

Sovereign, wise and gracious God, in whose hands lie the past, present and future, we acknowledge before you our failures, our divisions, and the hurt we have caused you and one another. Forgive, restore, and heal us. The events of partition and formation, which took place one hundred years ago on this island, changed, shaped, and determined the outlook for this place which we all call home.

As we reflect upon those times and bring to mind what happened then and in the years since, we acknowledge before you our different and often polarised interpretations of history.

As we travel onwards in our journey, may we learn from the experiences of the past and from those who trod these roads before us, so that the inheritance we pass on to the next generation is the gift of understanding, peace, and hope. In faith we pray, and humbly ask, in the name of him who is the light of the world and giver of all hope, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

As we continue to deal with the impact of Covid-19, in a context of significant political challenges to relationships and cooperation on these islands, across Europe and beyond, our society needs a message of hope. In particular, our young people, and those who have been the victims of violence and injustice, need to know that they are heard and supported. 'So then let us pursue the things that make for peace and the building up of one another' [Romans 14:19].

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This service is but a moment on a much longer journey towards reconciliation which will require the prayerful support and engagement of Christians across these islands.
Church Leaders Group

The Church Leaders Group comprises the Church of Ireland and Roman Catholic Primate of All Ireland, the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, the President of the Methodist Church in Ireland, and the President of the Irish Council of Churches.

Faiths4Climate Days of Action



Representatives from Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist and Hindu groups in the UK, as part of a global day of action, walked across London to hand in a statement for the Prime Minister at No.10 Downing Street, telling the PM he has a 'unique position to lead the world in tackling the climate crisis' with the COP26 climate talks in Glasgow less than two weeks away.

On the evening of 18 October 2021, from around 8pm, a large message to the Prime Minister will be projected onto the Houses of Parliament.

You can find out more on the Faith for Climate website and by following #Faiths4Climate on social media.

<https://www.faithfortheclimate.org.uk/>

MP's death 'a painful loss in so many lives,' says Cardinal Vincent Nichols

Cardinal Vincent Nichols of Westminster led tributes to the Catholic member of Parliament who was knifed to death while meeting local people in his constituency.

Sir David Amess, a member of the governing Conservative Party and one of the most prominent Catholic politicians in the U.K. Parliament, was stabbed repeatedly by a man who sprinted into his offices at noon Oct. 15.

The father of five died in a hospital about three hours later.

Police arrested a 25-year-old man at the scene and recovered a knife. Officers have released no further details of the suspected attacker but say they are not seeking anyone else in connection with the murder.

Soon afterward, Cardinal Vincent Nichols of Westminster said: "The tragic death of David Amess creates a painful loss in so many lives. I pray for him that he be welcomed



Sir David Amess and Lord Alton of Liverpool with Mother Teresa

into the merciful presence of Our Heavenly Father. I pray for his family and friends, those reeling from shock at this time. I pray for his constituents and those who worked with him in his political career.

“This death throws a sharp light onto the fact that our members of Parliament are servants of the people, available to people in their need, especially in their constituencies,” he said in a statement posted on the website of the Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales.

“This horrific attack ... is an attack on our democratic process and traditions,” he said.

“David carried out his vocation as a Catholic in public life with generosity and integrity. He served in Parliament for

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four decades and was respected by all political parties across the House (of Commons). His untimely death is a great loss.”

The cardinal said Amess “understood the role and importance of the Holy See” and that he was instrumental in the historic visit of Pope Benedict XVI to Parliament in 2010.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson paid tribute to Amess, “All our hearts are full of shock and sadness,” he wrote. “He was one of the kindest, nicest, most gentle people in politics.”

The attack took place at the Belfairs Methodist Church in Leigh-on-Sea, when Amess, 69, was holding a weekly meeting with constituents.

He is the second English lawmaker to be murdered in five years, following Jo Cox, who was repeatedly stabbed and shot when she visited a library in Yorkshire in 2016.

Lord Alton of Liverpool, a Catholic who was baptized in the same church and by the same Franciscan priest as Amess, said he was “devastated” by the murder of his “longstanding friend and parliamentary colleague.”

“This horrific attack has not only robbed David of his life, but its reverberations will have devastating consequences for his family and loved ones,” he said, adding that his thoughts were with Amess’ widow and their children.

Catherine Robinson of Right to Life U.K. describing Amess as “a pro-life champion.”

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“Since he was elected in 1983, he always, where possible, used his position as an MP to stand up for the vulnerable, including championing initiatives to introduce more protections for unborn babies and more support for women facing crisis pregnancies,” she said.

President Biden and Pope Francis Scheduled to meet Oct. 29

President Joe Biden and Pope Francis are seen in this composite photo. The White House announced Oct. 14, 2021, that the two will meet at the Vatican Oct. 29.

President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden will have an audience with Pope Francis Oct. 29, the day before the G20 Leaders’ Summit starts in Rome, White House press secretary Jen Psaki announced Oct. 14.

“They will discuss working together on efforts grounded in respect for fundamental human dignity, including ending the COVID-19 pandemic, tackling the climate crisis and caring for the poor,” she said in a statement.

Biden and Pope Francis previously met in 2016, when Biden was vice president, after they both spoke at a conference on adult stem-cell research at the Vatican.

In recent weeks, there has been speculation that the two leaders would likely meet since Biden would be in Rome.

In a recent interview with Catholic News Service, Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United

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States, said he was helping the Holy See prepare for Biden's first presidential visit to the Vatican, sometime during an Oct. 30-31 Rome summit of leading rich and developed nations.

"It would be an anomaly if he did not meet the pope while in Rome," especially since Biden is the first Catholic to be U.S. president in 58 years, the nuncio said.

On Oct. 9, the pope met privately at the Vatican with U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who was in Rome to speak at a meeting of legislators from around the world in preparation for the U.N. climate summit.

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Pelosi, who is Catholic, said in a statement that it was “a spiritual, personal and official honor” to have an audience with the pope.

Because Pelosi supports legalized abortion, her archbishop, Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone of San Francisco, asked “all Catholics and others of goodwill” to join a prayer and fasting campaign for Pelosi’s “conversion.”

In her keynote address to fellow legislators from around the world meeting in Rome Oct. 8, Pelosi said world governments must take bold action in their own countries and when they meet for COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland, in November.

The pope, who addressed the Pre-COP26 Parliamentary Meeting the next day, spoke of the “important, and indeed, crucial” role of governments in slowing climate change and restoring a healthy environment.

After the G20 Leaders’ Summit in Rome, which ends Oct. 31, Biden will travel to Glasgow, to take part in the Nov. 1-2 World Leader Summit at the start of the climate change gathering.

Pope Francis, who initially planned to attend the COP26 summit, will not be attending. The Holy See delegation will be led by Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state.



People and places

Identity and Belonging: Past, Present, Future - Church Leaders podcasts



Identity and Belonging: Past, Present, Future is a podcast series from the Church Leaders Group (Ireland). In this first episode, Archbishop Eamon Martin reflects on the challenge of marking the centenary of the partition of Ireland from the perspective of the Catholic, Nationalist community.

Archbishop Eamon is joined by Irish language educator and community activist Linda Ervine MBE who shares her experience of working to cultivate an appreciation for the Irish language in the Protestant, Unionist community. Hosted by Judith Hill, the series has been developed with the support of the Community Relations Council NI.

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Search for 'Church Leaders Group Ireland' on your favourite podcast provider and subscribe to hear every episode in the series. Or check out the episodes at www.irishchurches.org/podcast

The Church Leaders' Group (Ireland) are due to release a new podcast series today entitled 'Identity and Belonging: Past, Present, Future' | 18th - 22nd October more visit websites

<https://buff.ly/3AQZ0Up>

www.irishchurches.org/podcast



Stone painters of Shankill Remembrance

'Young at Heart' ladies from St Stephen's and St Luke's parish in Belfast enjoyed a lovely project led by Imelda



called 'Stones to Remember'. They painted these lovely stones for Remembrance Day and they will be used in an art installation in the Shankill Garden of Remembrance.

Former rector returns to Killinchy

Rev. Nigel Kirkpatrick returned to Killinchy parish on Sunday to churchnewsireland@gmail.org



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preach at both churches. Nigel was incumbent from 2001-2007. He is now currently the Rector of Kilroot and Templecorran in the Diocese of Connor. Nigel preached on the parable of the Tax-collector and the Pharisee, and reminded folk of the importance of service and humility while quoting from the music of Bob Dylan.

Books, Broadcasts, Resources and Webinars

Irish church leaders' podcasts

The Church Leaders' Group (Ireland) are due to release a new podcast series today entitled 'Identity and Belonging: Past, Present, Future' | 18th - 22nd October | New Episode Every Day Pushpin To read the full statement + find out more visit our website Rightwards arrow <https://buff.ly/3AQZ0Up>

Two PCI congregational resources

Neil Harrison reminds us of two PCI resources - Another Look? and Share - that can be used by congregations at this time.

For more info on Another Look visit:

<https://www.presbyterianireland.org/Resources/Congregational-Life/Refined/Another-look.aspx>

For more info on Share visit:

<https://www.presbyterianireland.org/share>



Bach, Vierne, Bovet & Parry from Canterbury

Watch now, FREE and ONLINE, a sublime organ recital by the Acting Assistant Organist, Adrian Bawtree, from the Nave of Canterbury Cathedral

WATCH NOW https://youtu.be/HcNlomXB_QQ Theology of Hope for the 21st Century.

Theology of Hope for the 21st Century

A new expanded edition of a theological classic.

Jürgen Moltmann offers a powerful reflection on the nature of hope in our current times.

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Theology of Hope for the 21st Century. Published by SCM
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Press with a new intro by Jamie Hawkey

<https://scmpress.hymnsam.co.uk/books/97803340>

Bach at Twilight with Matthew Owens

This year, the Charles Woods Festival's much-loved Bach at Twilight concert returned with Matthew Owens at the console. You can now enjoy the full performance on your

YouTube channel:

<youtu.be/GdryY3Zsl-Q>

Church Army UK & Ireland Impact Report 20/21 Out now

Here's a 30 second snippet of CA's work across the UK and Ireland!

<http://churcharmy.org/impactreport>



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Craft Fair invite

Craft Fairs will be holding an outdoor Christmas Fair at St Mark's Church in Ballymacash, Lisburn on Friday 3rd December from 4.30 till 7pm.

If you would be interested in hiring a stall to sell your wares, please send an email with photos / link to your page to: paula@bullseye-pest-control.co.uk with your details.

Look forward to hearing from you!

<https://m.facebook.com/groups/286755268189416/permalink/1719242201607375/>

Pre-order the 2021-22 edition of Church of Scotland Yearbook.

This is an essential handbook and directory of vital information and key contacts within the Church of Scotland
<https://standrewpress.hymnsam.co.uk/books/97818008>

Poem for today

We Are Living by Brendan Kennelly

What is this room
But the moments we have lived in it?
When all due has been paid
To gods of wood and stone
And recognition has been made

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Of those who'll breathe here when we are gone
Does it not take its worth from us
Who made it because we were here?

Your words are the only furniture I can remember
Your body the book that told me most.
If this room has a ghost
It will be your laughter in the frank dark
Revealing the world as a room
Loved only for those moments when
We touched the purely human.

I could give water now to thirsty plants,
Dig up the floorboards, the foundation,
Study the worm's confidence,
Challenge his omnipotence
Because my blind eyes have seen through walls
That make safe prisons of the days.

We are living
In ceiling, floor and windows,
We are given to where we have been.
This white door will always open
On what our hands have touched,
Our eyes have seen.

Speaking to the Soul

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

