



**Image of the day - Promotion
from Probationers to Choristers of Derry Cathedral**

Reports



US Presiding Bishop's heavy heart at passing of General Colin Powell

The Presiding Bishop Michael Curry of the Episcopal Church in America, Most Rev Michael Curry said his heart was heavy at the passing of former secretary of state General. Colin Powell

Bishop Curry said - "My heart is heavy today with the news of the death of Colin Powell, former secretary of state, four-star general, and lifelong Episcopalian. I pray for his family and all his many loved ones, and I give thanks for his model of integrity, faithful service to our nation, and his witness to the impact of a quiet, dignified faith in public life.

October 20, 2021

“Powell also dedicated himself to service in his retirement. I recall fondly having breakfast with him a couple years ago. He became energized and passionate about his work with the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership, which is part of his alma mater, The City College of New York.

“He cared about people deeply. He served his country and humanity nobly. He loved his family and his God unswervingly. As Jesus says in the New Testament, “Well done, good and faithful servant.

“May he rest in peace and rise in glory.”

Pope’s mission society rebrands as Missio Ireland

The Irish branch of the Pontifical Mission Societies, formerly known as World Missions Ireland, is being rebranded today as ‘Missio Ireland’ at a media launch in the Veritas headquarters in Dublin.

The rebranding of the Pope’s official charity for overseas mission takes place ahead of the annual collection on World Mission Sunday this weekend which helps to fund the work of missionaries abroad.

At the launch Father Michael O’Sullivan, the National Director for Missio Ireland, said, “I am delighted to announce the rebrand in time for this year’s celebration of World Mission Sunday on 24 October. ‘Missio Ireland’ is part of a global network of charities, serving the Church in over



official launch of



120 countries. Many of these are already known as Missio and, to honour the continued collaboration and union between all the Missio offices, and to harness the energy of the Missio family worldwide, it makes sense to adopt the Missio name.”

Reflecting on the message of World Mission Sunday and the work of Missio Ireland, missionary sister and Missio Ireland board member, Sister Kathleen McGarvey OLA said “This year’s World Mission Sunday message is: ‘We Cannot Remain Silent – we cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard’ (Acts 4:20). This message is a challenge to stand up and speak out on behalf of those whose voices may not always be heard. The spiritual and financial support shown on World Mission Sunday is greatly needed and appreciated by overseas missionaries. It offers us the strength that we need to keep serving and promoting God’s love, justice and peace with others.”

October 20, 2021

Sister Kathleen also spoke about Sister Veronica Onyeansi, the missionary sister based in Kaduna in northern Nigeria, and who is the face of this year's World Mission Sunday appeal. Sister Kathleen said, "Like me, Sister Veronica is an OLA Sister. I know her to be a missionary of great courage and strength. Sister Veronica is leading the Women's Interfaith Council which has brought thousands of Christian and Muslim women together with a vision for a society where both faiths can live in peace and attempt to break the vicious cycle of religiously framed violence and intolerance. I encourage everyone to learn about the vital work of Sister Veronica and Missio Ireland by visiting missio.ie."

The chairperson of Missio Ireland, Archbishop Kieran O'Reilly SMA, said, "Missio Ireland' is a positive name change as it embraces its global nature. As a global Church community, we depend on one another, on our shared prayer, solidarity, and generosity. World Mission Sunday, and the mission month of October, calls on every person, in every parish, in every corner of the world to stand together to share what they can, no matter how little. It also challenges the traditional idea that mission work is solely done by overseas missionaries. Mission is at the heart of every Christian's baptismal call. It invites each one of us to consider the part we can play in changing our own lives and the lives of others."

Web site - [<https://missio.ie/>]

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/missioireland>

Young Christians on 1200-mile walk to COP26 reach Scotland

A group of young Christian climate activists who are walking a 1,200-mile route from Cornwall to the COP26 in Glasgow have been officially welcomed into Scotland by representatives from Christian Aid and the Church of Scotland.

Walkers made up of the Young Christian Climate Network, the Church of Scotland and Christian Aid Walkers made up of the Young Christian Climate Network, the Church of Scotland and Christian Aid cross the border into Scotland. The Young Christian Climate Network (YCCN) Relay to COP26, which began from the G7 conference in June, set out from Berwick-upon-Tweed along the coastal path and were met by a welcome party including bagpiper.

Working in partnership with Christian Aid, Tearfund, Quakers Britain, the Church of Scotland, United Reformed Church, Passionists, the Church of England, as well as local churches along the way, the group aims to highlight the effects of climate change on the world's poorest communities.

Along their journey they have had residencies in Exeter, Bristol, Reading, London, Birmingham, Manchester, York, and Newcastle, with plans to stop off in Edinburgh before arriving in Glasgow, for COP26, on the 30 October.



Walkers made up of the Young Christian Climate Network, the Church of Scotland and Christian Aid cross the border into Scotland.

Jen Morris, a member of the YCCN, said: "Many of the world's poorest countries are facing the double threat of a global pandemic and the ongoing effects of climate chan"YCCN is calling on the UK to use its pivotal role as the host of COP26, as an opportunity to push for an inclusive, green, and just economic recovery for all countries not just rich ones.

"The UK government must put pressure on rich countries to meet and exceed the decade-old promise of \$100 bn of climate finance.

"No country should be pushed into debt fighting the effects of climate change, especially the countries who have

October 20, 2021

contributed least to global emissions but are being affected the most by climate change."

Along their journey, YCCN have been asking participants and the public to engage with their local leaders, especially MPs and MSPs, around the issue of climate finance.

Michael Nazir-Ali says he had 'no choice' but to leave Church of England

Former Church of England bishop Michael Nazir-Ali has defended his decision to join the Catholic Church.

Nazir-Ali was the Bishop of Rochester for 15 years and a leading figure in Anglican evangelicalism, helping to found the Gafcon orthodox fellowship.

Last week, he announced he had joined the Catholic Ordinariate established by Pope Benedict to receive disillusioned Anglican clergy, including those who are married.

Nazir-Ali writes in the Daily Mail that he "could never have imagined" at the time of his ordination 45 years ago that he would one day become a Catholic, but that he had been driven to the decision after being left "deeply saddened" by developments in the Church of England.

He expressed frustration at "endless self-lacerating about Britain's imperial past", and church councils and synods "permeated by activists who each have a single-issue, often faddish agenda, whether it is about cultural correctness,



'climate change', identity politics, multi-culturalism (which actually encourages communities to live separately) or critical theory on race, religion and gender – a neo-Marxist theory developed to create conflict by dividing people into victims and villains".

He further maintained that he had "no choice" but to join the Catholic fold because the Church of England had become "splintered" into "a loose collection of churches", many of which have "conflicting interpretations of Christianity".

"The Church's values were everything I believed in: helping others to come to faith and be formed by it, tolerance and freedom, the sanctity of the person, of marriage and the importance of the family," he said.

"Back then the Church celebrated and defended those values. It wasn't reticent, apologetic or ashamed of them."

He said the change was "a bittersweet moment" because of his regret over the current Church of England, mixed with optimism about the opportunities he sees for upholding human rights and advocating for persecuted Christians as part of the Catholic Church.

October 20, 2021

"I have wrestled with this for several years, but reluctantly realised that I have no choice," he said.

"Too often I have felt alone, at odds with the Church. Sometimes it is better to have "the wind at your back rather than constantly battle against it.

"It is a deeply personal decision. I am moving from one Church to another, in a fulfilment of my spiritual needs. It is not a 'conversion' from one religion to another."

He added, "The Catholic Church has had its share of problems, but the faith and values are those that I also hold and which I feel are being eroded in the Church of England."

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-10101671/Former-Bishop-Rochester-Dr-Michael-Nazir-Ali-explains-defection-CofE-Catholic-church.html>

People and places

On the Muddy Church trail in Muckamore

There really can't be a more aptly named place for a Muddy Church celebration than Muckamore!

On Sunday October 17, St Jude's Parish organised a special family service and Muddy Church event to celebrate the return of the parish Sunday School, and lots of families donned their wellies to join in.



The family service focused on creation, and there was no shortage of fun, with the children acting out the story of creation, action songs and a creation-themed team quiz which encouraged lots of healthy competition!

After the service, everyone enjoyed the ice cream van and then made their way into the wooded playground area beside St Jude's – a perfect location for Muddy Church.

Families followed a trail, taking time to ask questions and wonder about God's creation. The children hunted for pieces of a memory verse and then took part in canvas crafts and making 'leaf hedgehogs.'

Connor Children's Ministry Development Officer Victoria Jackson said: "A huge well done to all of the leaders who

October 20, 2021

put the event together, especially to Carol and Andrew who worked so hard to plan and prepare the day!

“It was brilliant to see the church full of families and the children catching up with the Sunday School friends.”

Early Christmas with Black Santa

Members of a walking tour group were delighted to show their support for Black Santa during his preparatory photoshoot recently

With Christmas just around the corner, Belfast’s Black Santa was busy making vital preparations for the annual charity sit-out. Dean Stephen’s Forde’s publicity photoshoot attracted quite a lot of attention!

“Have you started already?” one man asked in awe, as he popped some money into Black Santa’s barrel. Another crossed Writers’ Square looking at his watch in a confused manner, as if that might have some answers!

And members of a walking tour group, visiting the Cathedral Quarter as part of a Belfast International Arts Festival event, were delighted to chance upon one of Belfast most well-known seasonal characters, and to offer some early support for the annual appeal.

The 2021 Sit-out, continuing a great Belfast tradition now in its 45th year, gets underway on the steps of St Anne’s Cathedral in Donegall Street on Monday December 13, and continues until Christmas Eve.

Applications for grants from the sit-out are currently open, and this year the Dean especially welcomes applications from registered charities working directly with refugee communities settling in Northern Ireland and people with disabilities. See Cathedral web site.

Man U Fan Lucy welcomed (back) to Mount Merrion

Welcome (back) to Revd Lucy Burden who was introduced as Bishop's Curate in Mount Merrion Parish on Monday 18 October.

She is no stranger to the Cregagh church, having served her deacon internship there following ordination in 2016.

Lucy comes to Mount Merrion (Down & Dromore) from St Mark's Portadown, where she has been Curate Assistant for the last four years. St Mark's Rector, Revd William Orr, preached at the service.

Lucy said: "It has been a privilege to serve as Curate in St Mark's Portadown, and as I move into this new season of ministry as Bishop's Curate, I do so with a thankful heart. I am excited about living and ministering alongside the people of Cregagh, and under God, I will do my best to encourage the people of Mount Merrion and the wider community to grow in faith and discipleship.

"Over the years, I have been reminded that one of the most powerful tools in building the Kingdom is to share stories of



how God is at work in the lives of individuals. As I begin this new role, I hope to get the opportunity to share my story, to hear yours, and to encourage one another in the process.”

Lucy is from Lisburn where her home church was Lisburn Cathedral. She became a Christian in Germany whilst working with a British forces family. After a short spell of volunteering in Nepal, Lucy returned to Northern Ireland and took a theology degree at Belfast Bible College. Her sense of vocation strengthened, and she was accepted for ordination training in the Church of Ireland.

Lucy describes herself as, ‘Super–competitive with a love for the simple things in life, like playing the guitar, eating good food, cycling, listening to music and spending time with friends’. She is also a Manchester United fan.



Books, Broadcasts, Resources and Webinars

A Famine of Grace - New online event from St Paul's Cathedral

This event hosted by Jarel Robinson-Brown and Dr Paula Gooder premieres online on Tuesday 16 November from 7-7.45pm

Is my life worth living? Am I loved? No human being should have to ask themselves these questions, but many Black and Queer Christians have done so and continue to do so, not least in response to a church which frequently divides God's children into those who can bask immediately in the

joy of God's love, and those it treats as if they were beyond God's grace.



Jarel Robinson-Brown (photo left) says there is a famine of grace in the church. He and Paula Gooder will be in conversation about what grace is, the deadliness

October 20, 2021

of bad theology, narratives of inclusion and exclusion in the church and in the Bible, and where wisdom and justice can be found.

The Revd Jarel Robinson-Brown is an Anglican minister who has served in churches in Wales and London and as a Chaplain at King's College London. He is the author of *Black, Gay, British, Christian, Queer: The church and the famine of grace* (SCM Press 2021) and is the Vice-Chair of OneBodyOneFaith.

Dr Paula Gooder is a renowned Biblical Scholar and Canon Chancellor of St Paul's Cathedral. Her many bestselling books include *Heaven, Body, and Phoebe: A Story*.

[[] <https://www.stpauls.co.uk/learning-faith/adult-learning/new-online-events/a-famine-of-grace>]

Irish Church leaders podcasts this week

Episode One

Monday 18 October

Most Rev Eamon Martin, Archbishop of Armagh & Primate of All Ireland

"I feel a sadness that courageous people [like Linda] who just gently try to inch us forward meet with such misrepresentation, misunderstanding... but I do believe that when people want to do good things, to bring people closer together, to build reconciliation, that the Lord will be with them."



This episode features Archbishop of Armagh, Most Rev Eamon Martin, reflecting 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 about her experience of working to cultivate and appreciation for the Irish language in the Protestant, Unionist community.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/cyda481ord0a94x/Eamon%20Martin%2003.mp3?dl=0>

Episode Two

Tuesday 19 October

Right Reverend Dr David Bruce, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

“That is the difficulty with violence. It toxifies relationships. It closes down conversation. It makes it difficult for genuine personal connection to happen.”

October 20, 2021

This episode features Rt Rev Dr David Bruce, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, reflecting on the impact of violence and our duty of care to those living with the trauma of its aftermath. Dr Bruce is joined by Beryl Quigley, whose husband was murdered in 1984, and by Dr Gilly Carson, who worked in A&E during some of the worst years of violence.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/g1ff3cqo41vyl1l/David%20Bruce%2002.mp3?dl=0>

Episode Three

Wednesday 20 October

Very Rev Dr Ivan Patterson, President of the Irish Council of Churches

“The future is in the hands of [our young people]... we need to engage with our youth and bring them into those spaces where they can engage and cross borders.”

This episode features a conversation between Very Rev Dr Ivan Patterson, President of the Irish Council of Churches, and two youth workers from Youth Link NI, Chris Clague and Aoibhin McNeill. Rev Patterson was a trustee of Youth Link NI in the early years of its work and reflects on the significance of that for him as he learns about the challenges and opportunities for those who continue that work with young people today.

Episode Four

Thursday 21 October

Rev Dr Sahr Yambasu, President of the Methodist Church in Ireland

October 20, 2021

“Because we are leaders there are many in our churches who actually trust us and who look to us for leadership. If we do cooperate. If we send a message not just by word in the pulpit but through the way we engage with others and encourage our parishioners and our congregations to engage with others, I think we can have a huge amount of influence.”

This episode features Rev Dr Sahr Yambasu, President of the Methodist Church in Ireland, in conversation with Bishop Sarah Groves of the Moravian Church. Both Dr Yambasu and Bishop Sarah have come from elsewhere to positions of church leadership on the island of Ireland. They reflect on their experiences and the importance of inter-church relationships in helping to bring people together with respect for diversity.

Episode Five

Friday 22 October

Most Rev John McDowell, Archbishop of Armagh & Primate of All Ireland

“We in the churches in Ireland for years felt that we had the first word and the last word and now we just have to say that we think we have a word that’s distinctive and we think we can contribute to the common good, the idea that there are certain things that will not benefit me unless you also have them, and that’s how political democracy properly works, around that idea of the common good.”

This episode features Most Rev John McDowell, Archbishop of Armagh, discussing the challenges posed by Brexit for the future of Northern Ireland. Archbishop John is joined by churchnewsireland@gmail.org

Aodhán Connolly to reflect on the leadership role of the business community in this context.

Perspective -

Armagh service one moment on journey towards reconciliation by Archbishop John McDowell

Archbishop John McDowell writes on the Service of Reflection and Hope, which will be taking place in St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh, tomorrow Thursday.

There are two libraries closely associated with the Catholic and Church of Ireland Cathedrals here in Armagh. Both are named after previous archbishops; the Cardinal Tomás Ó Fiaich Library and the Robinson Library. Anyone researching in those archives for the years surrounding Partition and the formation of Northern Ireland would come away with the impression that the atmosphere at the time was filled with bitterness, hurt, recrimination, and all expressed in harsh, uncompromising words.

In more modern times Archbishops from both traditions, and the leaders of other Churches have been able to adopt a different tone, not because they carry their convictions any less strongly, but because they have become friends. It is relatively easy for people from differing religious or cultural traditions to do things on their own. It takes a bit more time and patience to do anything together, even on a modest scale.

So, in relation to the 2021 centenary year the Church Leaders knew we had to start listening to one another as early as we could. In fact we started the process of planning our little programme of events in 2020, meeting online much more frequently than we could have done if all the meetings had been in person. Like most of the rest of society we moved from being “baby zoomers” to feeling relaxed using the online medium. These meetings became much more than business sessions. They turned into heart to heart conversations. People who were acquainted with one another began to know one another.

It became obvious too from very early in our discussions that we each felt that what we were doing and thinking would be worthwhile sharing more widely. Not because it was revolutionary or grand, but because it was ordinary. A group of people with a similar vocation, each of us, in one way or another spiritually descended from St Patrick, servants of the Gospel and of our Churches, now learning to become servants of one another (we hoped) for the common good.

We issued a statement early in the New Year to say we intended to have a series of events in 2021 and followed this up on St Patrick’s Day with a much more substantial piece in which we laid out our rationale and our aims. We acknowledged our shortcomings and mistakes in the past, especially in often failing to bring the Gospel message of peace and human solidarity to a divided society and a divided island. Through the year we have taken part together in broadcast services contributing personal reflections, and we have just completed a series of podcasts

October 20, 2021

introduced by the journalist Jude Hill, in which each of us is in conversation with an invited guest.

Hoping and praying that in-person worship would be possible again before the year ended, we began planning back in March for A Service of Refection and Hope, to be held in St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral in Armagh, but hosted by the Irish Churches. It is very important to all of the Church Leaders that this service is understood as our initiative – a moment of prayer, listening and lament in the presence of the undivided God.

Although organised by the Church Leaders the service will include voices, words and music from across the island; its different traditions and ages.

Covid restrictions and our vocation of care towards one another will mean that the numbers able to be in the Cathedral will be limited. However as we offer this space for reflection and hope, we would be grateful for the prayers of our fellow believers across these islands and further afield. As we continue to deal with the impact of Covid-19, and as we face significant political challenges to relationships 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 they are heard and supported.

Of course the service is only one moment on a much longer journey towards reconciliation which will require the prayers and the support of many across these islands. When this moment and this year have passed, the Church Leaders will continue to talk and act and pray together; disagreeing often; challenging each other with honesty and tact;

October 20, 2021

conscious always of the presence of Holy Spirit as we struggle to “pursue the things that make for peace and the building up of one another”.

The Most Revd John McDowell is the Church of Ireland Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland.

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.

Poem for today

October by Hilaire Belloc

Look, how those steep woods on the mountain's face
Burn, burn against the sunset; now the cold
Invades our very noon: the year's grown old,
Mornings are dark, and evenings come apace.
The vines below have lost their purple grace,
And in Forreze the white wrack backward rolled,
Hangs to the hills tempestuous, fold on fold,
And moaning gusts make desolate all the place.

Mine host the month, at thy good hostelry,
Tired limbs I'll stretch and steaming beast I'll tether;

October 20, 2021

Pile on great logs with Gascon hand and free,
And pour the Gascon stuff that laughs at weather;
Swell your tough lungs, north wind, no whit care we,
Singing old songs and drinking wine together.



Speaking to the Soul

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

