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**Image of the day - Armagh Cathedral**

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## News Reports

### Services of Light to honour lives lost during pandemic in Dublin & Glendalough

**Two Services of Light acknowledging the impact of the pandemic on loss and bereavement are being held in the United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough in November.**

The first service for prayer and reflection will take place in Christ Church Cathedral on Remembrance Sunday, November 14 at 3.30pm and will include Duruflé's Requiem sung by the cathedral choir. The second service will be in St Saviour's Church, Arklow, on Sunday November 28 at 3pm.

Both services will include the reading of names of those who have passed away since the start of the pandemic and the lighting of candles in their memory. The services are a recognition of the severe impact coronavirus restrictions have had on the grieving process, including the usual funeral rites which have had to be greatly curtailed.

In order for all who have passed away to be honoured, Rectors/clergy are being asked to send in the names of those who have died in their parishes since restrictions began to either the Revd Abigail Sines [abigail@christchurch.ie](mailto:abigail@christchurch.ie) (Dublin Diocese) or the Ven Neal O'Raw [revdoraw@gmail.com](mailto:revdoraw@gmail.com) (Glendalough Diocese) by the Saturday before each service.

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Clergy are invited to attend and robe (choir dress) and representatives of the families of all the deceased are also invited to attend and to light a candle in memory of their loved ones.

For those who are struggling to come to terms with their loss, the Dublin Bereavement Support Service provides free, professional and confidential support [www.bereavementsupport.ie](http://www.bereavementsupport.ie)

Meanwhile, tonight, Thursday , October 21, the Diocesan Council for Mission is hosting a webinar entitled 'Invisible Pain'. This hour-long event should be beneficial to clergy who are caring for bereaved people in

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exceptionally difficult circumstances, as well as those who have lost

loved ones during covid restrictions and have not had a chance to grieve

or lament appropriately. Anyone can book a place by emailing [dgcouncilformission@gmail.com](mailto:dgcouncilformission@gmail.com)

## Service of Reflection and Hope in Armagh today



**On being informed yesterday that on doctor's advice Her Majesty the Queen will not be travelling to Northern Ireland today, the Church Leaders' Group (Ireland) issued the following statement.**

“We are very sorry to learn that it will not be possible for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II to be present for the Service of Reflection and Hope in Armagh tomorrow. We wish to convey to Her Majesty our good wishes and, in doing so, to acknowledge the significance of her commitment to the work

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of peace and reconciliation, which has meant a great deal to people throughout this island. We hope that tomorrow's service will provide an opportunity to further that work, with an emphasis on our shared hopes for the future."

Rt Rev Dr David Bruce

Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Most Rev John McDowell

Church of Ireland Archbishop of Armagh & Primate of all Ireland

Most Rev Eamon Martin

Roman Catholic Archbishop of Armagh & Primate of all Ireland

Very Rev Dr Ivan Patterson

President of the Irish Council of Churches

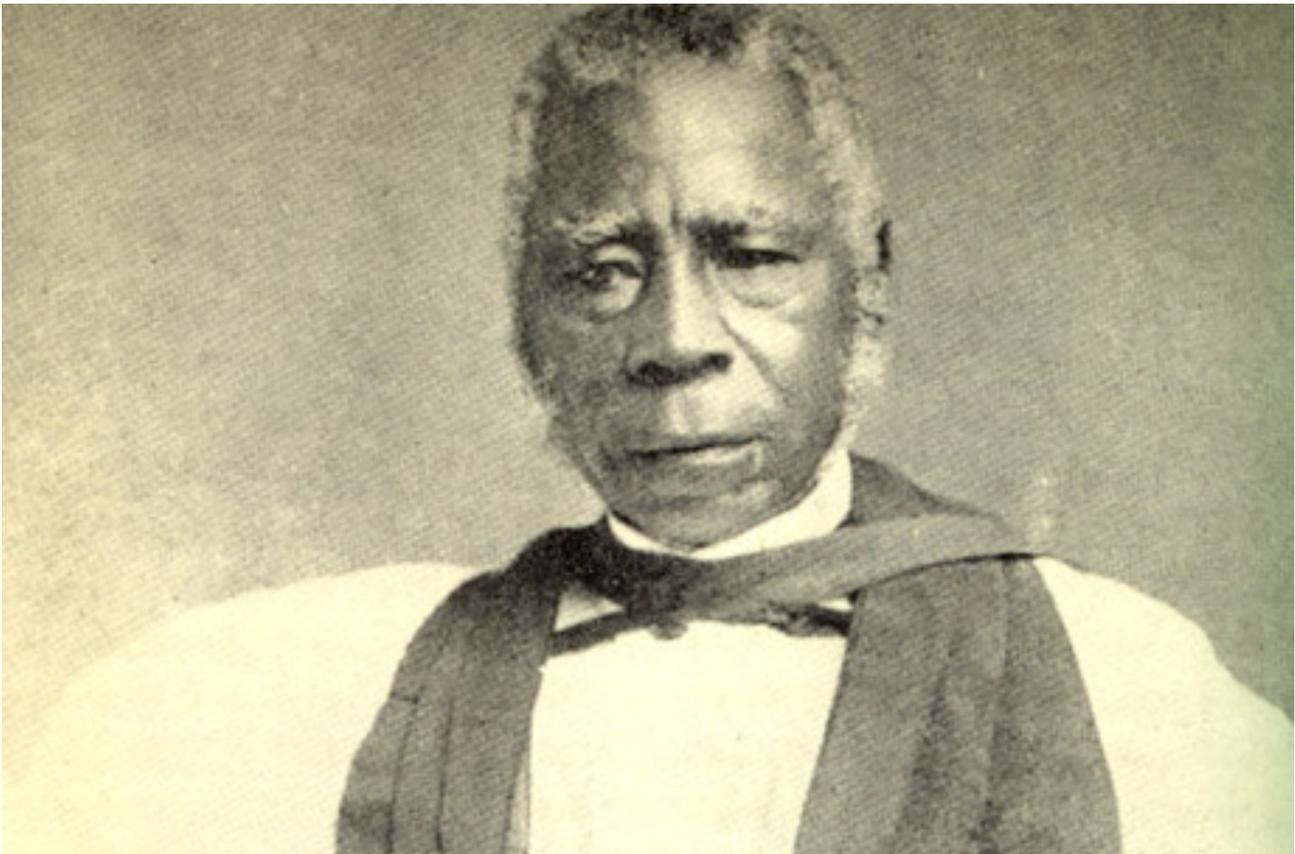
Rev Dr Sahr Yambasu

President of the Methodist Church in Ireland

## **In Black History Month Archbishop Welby recalls those who have fought for justice and peace**

**The Archbishop of Canterbury states, "For Black History Month this week, I'll be remembering some of those who have fought for justice and peace. May God strengthen us to follow their example and bless those who continue to fight for justice today.**

**"Bishop Samuel Ajayi Crowther was the first African Bishop of the Anglican Church, translator of the Yoruba Bible and campaigner against slavery. Bishop Crowther's**



## **Bishop Samuel Ajayi Crowther**

lifelong passion for education and talent for languages helped generations learn and come to Christ.

“**Archbishop Desmond Tutu** is such a great blessing to the Church: he was among the most prominent opponents of apartheid, for which he won the Noble Peace Prize. He organised services and marches, attended protests and called on churches to see the face of Jesus in those who are oppressed and silenced.

“**Fannie Lou Hamer** was one of the most powerful voices of the Civil Rights movement; an organiser who fought for African American voter registration, a speaker who called for political representation and a woman of God who believed in His justice and mercy despite the injustice she endured.

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**“Harriet Tubman**, whose fearless faith was an anchor as she guided slaves to freedom. Thomas Garrett, a fellow abolitionist, said of her: "I never met any person of any colour who had more confidence in the voice of God."

“May these men and women of Christ, and all those whose efforts and sufferings are known only to God, light our way as we walk towards a more just world, one which truly looks like the Kingdom He promises us. Please do share with me in the comments those who have inspired you.”

## People and places

### Dog collars are the order of the day at Castlerock Parish Church

Around 20 new faces – many with their tongues hanging out – put in an appearance at Christ Church, Castlerock on Sunday afternoon for a special Service that was something of a pet project for the local Rector.

Rev Chris MacBruithin had invited the pooches and their owners to come along for the parish’s first Pet Blessing Service. With a few minutes to go, the Rector wasn’t quite sure what kind of response his invitation might elicit – indeed he looked as nervous as a kitten, which wasn’t wise – but he needn’t have worried. The faithful voted with their feet – both on two feet and on four – and justified his confidence in the Service.

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In the event, it proved to be a very ecumenical event – with a wide variety of breeds represented, and even quite a few crossbreeds taking part. Thankfully there was no biting or snapping, either by dogs or their owners, and the Service proved a big hit with the whole congregation.

The Service was held outside Christ Church and, while there was plenty of hand sanitiser (or was that paw sanitiser) available, there was no requirement for masks or muzzles to be worn.

## **Antrim Rural Deanery cycle raises £5,000**

A sponsored cycle around all the churches in Antrim Rural Deanery has raised a whopping £5,000 for Northern Ireland Chest, Heart and Stroke.

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At the presentation of funds raised by the Antrim Rural Deanery sponsored cycle are, from left: The Rev Canon David Humphries (rector of Kilbride Parish), David Holmes (Kilbride), Simon Wells, Yvey Wells and Lisa Holmes (all Christ Church, Ballynure), Peter Gates (All Saints', Antrim) and Valerie Saunders from NI Chest, Heart and Stroke.

The event, held on Saturday September 4, was organised by David Holmes, Parish Reader in St Bride's Parish Church, Kilbride.

Entitled L'Etape du Deanery, the cycle ride started and finished at St Bride's near Doagh and following a route which took the cyclists to all 14 churches in the rural deanery.

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At a recent cheque presentation, the cyclists handed over £5,000 to the NI Chest, Heart and Stroke charity at Kilbride.

David said: “I was overwhelmed by the generosity of so many people in the various churches in the rural deanery and my thanks must go to them for their practical and financial support, making this event so worthwhile in supporting a local charity.”

## **The Cuala Press**

### **A focus on the RCB Library’s collection of books published by the Yeats sisters**

For October’s Archive of the Month, the Representative Church Body Library has turned its attention to its extensive literature section, specifically the collection of some beautiful books published by Cuala Press during the 1930s and 1940s. These came to light during an extensive project to catalogue and accession through the online catalogue the Library’s literature collection which was possible for the first time during the Covid-19 lockdown period. While the Cuala Press collection in the RCB Library is small by comparison with libraries such as TCD Library, it is nevertheless a significant one, each item with its own unique story.

The Cuala Press had its origins in the Dun Emer craft studio founded by Evelyn Gleeson and the Yeats sisters, Elizabeth Corbet (1868-1940) and Lily (1866-1949). The focus for the studio was to provide training and work for women in the fields of embroidery, weaving and of course printing. By the spring of 1903, the Dun Emer studio had been re-organised

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into two distinct parts, with Gleeson operating the Dun Emer Guild, and the Yeats sisters operating Dun Emer Industries. A central part of the Yeats' business was Dun Emer Press, with their brother WB Yeats as its editor from its foundation until his death in 1939.

The work on the literature collection and the online presentation about the Cuala Press has been completed by the Assistant Librarian, Bryan Whelan.

The full article can be viewed at

[ [www.ireland.anglican.org/library/archive](http://www.ireland.anglican.org/library/archive) ]

## **Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts and books**

### **Pumpkin Heroes**

World Vision have put together a Christian resource called Pumpkin Heroes™ to help children aged 4-10 years old in church groups or in families to enjoy autumn half-term halloween fun.

Inspired by their Christian faith, World Vision UK has a long history of taking action that transforms the world. The organisation's focus is on helping the most vulnerable children, in the most difficult places, overcome poverty and experience the fullness of life.

Pumpkin Heroes is a free pack that you can sign up to get from

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[\[https://www.worldvision.org.uk/church-partners/pumpkin-heroes/\]](https://www.worldvision.org.uk/church-partners/pumpkin-heroes/) or [pumpkinheroes.com](http://pumpkinheroes.com).

Whether it's an action-packed Pumpkin Heroes event/party or the children simply watch the brand-new Patch the Pumpkin Show, all include fun-filled games, crafts, activities, Patch's Be Generous Challenge and the new story and film, Patch the Pumpkin, Being Generous.

## **Trace your Presbyterian ancestors tonight**

Dr William Roulston will deliver a talk on "Tracing Your Presbyterian Ancestors" by Zoom on Thursday 21 October 2021 at 8.00pm.

If you are interested in joining the meeting please email [phsilibrarian@pcinet.org](mailto:phsilibrarian@pcinet.org) to request the Zoom details.

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## **This week's Church leaders podcasts**

An overview of the series is provided below. One episode is being released each day from Monday 18 to Friday 22 October. The podcasts can be accessed on [[www.irishchurches.org/podcast](http://www.irishchurches.org/podcast)] by searching for 'Church Leaders Group Ireland' on your favourite podcast provider.

### The Podcasts

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.

Episode Two - Tuesday 19 October

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## **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.”

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.

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

[churchnewsireland@gmail.org](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.org)

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

“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.”

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

## Perspective

### **Nolan holds his BBC bosses' feet to the fire over Stonewall by Charlotte Runcie**

‘The public interest and the BBC’s interest are very different things,’ says the 5 Live and BBC Radio Ulster journalist Stephen Nolan, drily, in the astonishing new series of his Nolan Investigates podcast (BBC Sounds).

It’s one of many asides that sting in his investigation into the influence that Stonewall, the LGBTQ+ campaign group, has had on public life. And the investigation takes aim, first and foremost, squarely at Nolan’s own employer, the national public service broadcaster.

The allegations about how the BBC has interacted with Stonewall are serious, including that the BBC imported its diversity policies directly from Stonewall as part of Stonewall’s Diversity Champions scheme and Workplace Equality Index, adopted Stonewall’s language, and potentially created new journalist jobs with specific remits to please Stonewall.

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But Stonewall is not a politically neutral organisation, and its position on gender identity in particular is a contested issue. Its website makes clear its lobbying aims: “Our campaigns drive positive change in public attitudes and public policy... our work continues until the world we imagine is the world we live in.”

The podcast doesn't seek to make a judgment on whether Stonewall's work is in itself worthwhile. Nolan's team, in fact, praise Stonewall for being extraordinarily effective in their own aims. Instead, Nolan and his fellow investigator, David Thompson, ask some simple questions of their bosses: is there any other lobby group that the BBC would work this closely with? If so, would they tell us?

The BBC refused to put anyone up to respond to the questions posed by Nolan and Thompson, and Stonewall also refused to take part in the podcast. The best we get is the reading out of some defensive statements.

But even without the participation of the main players, Nolan Investigates has much of the pace and urgency of *Serial*, *The Missing Cryptoqueen* or *The Teacher's Pet*, classics of the modern investigative podcast genre. And the BBC isn't the only target: as the podcast demonstrates across its 10 episodes, the NHS, Scottish and Welsh parliaments, and Ofcom are all facing very similar questions.

This isn't the first time the BBC has self-cannibalised in a kind of tortuous flagellation; who could forget the *Panorama* documentary on how the BBC flinched from reporting on the allegations against Jimmy Savile, and the then-director general George Entwistle allowing himself to be interrogated

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by John Humphrys on Today in 2012? BBC impartiality is again at stake in these new allegations, but the fact that Nolan was able to make the podcast with the support of the BBC counts in their favour.

Still, this excoriation of the corporation, with the call coming from inside the house, feels particularly modern and brutal. The podcast method of investigation has some refreshing strengths, including an outsiderish feel; it's not being broadcast on a major radio station, which allows Nolan and Thompson to come across as scrappy observers. The outsiderism is emphasised by the fact that Nolan and Thompson are based in Belfast, and perhaps the distance from Broadcasting House is crucial.

And they adopt the established mannerisms of the podcast format to great effect. Nolan and Thompson present themselves as characters in the investigation, and their relationship with one another is part of the story. We hear about Nolan's ongoing doomed attempts to get fit and Thompson's dogged, often dry journalistic determination to get to the facts. We share their incredulity at the twists and turns of what they discover. There is the inevitable doom-laden music accompanying each revelation.

It's powerful stuff. But it's not primetime TV. Does it risk remaining squirrelled away in the depths of BBC Sounds? Nolan and Thompson have this week appeared on Radio 4 to discuss it, so there are some promising signs that it is breaking through. And, tellingly, since the investigation started, the BBC has reportedly prepared to leave Stonewall's Diversity Champions scheme.

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BBC Sounds, as the corporation's much-trumpeted podcast platform, often seems to be used as an excuse for a lot of money to be thrown at some dubious content, including podcasts that boil down to fluffy discussions of dating hijinks and all-purpose squeeing over favourite TV shows. But if it occasionally allows for a piece of journalism as important as this to come to light, and provide a rare opportunity for the BBC and other major public bodies to be examined in depth, we could become very glad it exists.

Courtesy The Daily Telegraph, October 20, 2021

## Poem for today

### Canal Bank Walk by Patrick Kavanagh

Leafy-with-love banks and the green waters of the canal  
Pouring redemption for me, that I do  
The will of God, wallow in the habitual, the banal,  
Grow with nature again as before I grew.  
The bright stick trapped, the breeze adding a third  
Party to the couple kissing on an old seat,  
And a bird gathering materials for the nest for the Word  
Eloquently new and abandoned to its delirious beat.  
O unworn world enrapture me, encapture me in a web  
Of fabulous grass and eternal voices by a beech,  
Feed the gaping need of my senses, give me ad lib  
To pray unselfconsciously with overflowing speech  
For this soul needs to be honoured with a new dress woven  
From green and blue things and arguments that cannot be  
proven.

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## Speaking to the soul

See separate post on the site each day.

Please share CNI with your friends. Thanks

[www.churchnewsireland.org](http://www.churchnewsireland.org)

