

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Beach art

News reports



Rites of Accession

The Archbishop of Armagh, Most Rev. John McDowell conducts prayers at the County Armagh Proclamation held at The Palace Demesne to Honour Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the Accession of King Charles III.

Service of Reflection at Belfast Cathedral

His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Queen Consort will leave Hillsborough Castle at 1420, travelling along Main



A Service of Reflection and Prayer in St Malachy's, Royal Hillsborough, was conducted by Canon Bryan Follis in the presence of the Bishop of Down and Dromore Rt Rev David McCay, here with Emma Little-Pengelly MLA, Alderman Allan Ewart and Alderman Jim Dillon of Lisburn and Castlereagh Council.

Street and Lisburn Street to attend the Service of Reflection at St Anne's Cathedral, which will begin at 1500.

They will come into Belfast City Centre along Wellington Place, Donegall Square North, Chichester Street and Victoria Street.

The public is very welcome to line the route as His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Queen Consort travel to the

September 13, 2022

Cathedral. Donegall Street and Writers Square will be closed to the public.

The service of reflection at St Anne's Cathedral is by invitation only. A small number of individuals have been invited to observe the proceedings at St Anne's Cathedral from Writers' Square.

Members of the public will not be admitted to Writers' Square or to the service of reflection. Access to the service will be strictly by ticket only.

Outdoor screens will broadcast the service live on a screen in the grounds at Belfast City Hall from 3pm.

St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral, Armagh



The Dean and Chapter invite you to attend

**A SERVICE OF
REMEMBRANCE AND THANKSGIVING
FOR THE LIFE OF HER MAJESTY
QUEEN ELIZABETH II**

Thursday 15th September 2022
At 7.30 p.m.

Service at Armagh Cathedral

September 13, 2022

On Thursday 15th September 2022, the Cathedral will host A Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving for the life of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Representatives from across the community will be present.

Due to the national period of mourning following the death of Her Majesty The Queen, the Service of Installation of Canons this evening has been postponed until a later date.

Tribute from Chief Scout Bear Grylls



Chief Scout Bear Grylls leads the mourning for Scout Association Patron HM The Queen with a tribute:

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/news/2022/september/chief-scout-bear-grylls-remembers-hm-the-queen/>

Caring for the older person theme of Day for Life

Day for Life is celebrated annually by the Catholic Church in Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales.

It is a day dedicated to raising awareness of the meaning and value of human life at every stage and in every condition.

This year's Day for Life will be celebrated in Ireland on Sunday 2 October on the theme 'Caring for the Older Person'.

C of E court rules that rainbow bench must be repainted

A church court has ordered a rainbow NHS bench to be repainted to protect the “thoughts, feelings and emotions of all users of the churchyard”.

The bench was introduced into the Church of Moreton Morrell, also known as the Church of the Holy Cross in the Mid-Fosse Parishes, Warwickshire, in 2002 to mark Queen Elizabeth II's Golden Jubilee.

In June 2021, the dark brown bench was repainted in rainbow colours by an unidentified group of people intending to show support for the NHS during the pandemic.

But, according to the consistory court ruling, this decision was taken “without seeking consent from the priest-in-charge or the parochial church council, let alone from this court” and caused division in the parish.

The case was heard before Glyn Samuel, chancellor of the consistory court, sitting in the Diocese of Coventry, who ruled that not only must the bench be repainted, but also gave a deadline.

The case arose when the Rev Lynda Lilley, the priest-in-charge of the Mid-Fosse parishes, applied for retrospective permission to allow the rainbow bench to stand. In his written ruling, Mr Samuel said that two people had objected to the bench, claiming it was “inappropriate” for mourners “to be faced with an emotive symbol when respective neutrality in such sacred surroundings is a reasonable sign of respect”.

In contrast, there were “a number of messages in support” of it, including from one 12-year-old child.

“I have read all the messages with care,” Mr Samuel said, “but clearly I must have regard to the situation in law, without being swayed by the volume of messages in support or in opposition. It is not a situation where he (or she) who shouts longest and loudest will win through.”

He said the issue centred around the fact that the bench was in consecrated church grounds, had a place of prominence, and that the decision had been taken without permission. Furthermore, no one had considered the

question: “Would the multi-coloured bench convey the same message in 10 years’ time as it is intended to convey now?”

Despite the majority of the community being in support of the bench, Mr Samuel said he had to consider “the legal situation and also the thoughts, feelings and emotions of all users of the churchyard, not just those who support the significant change that was carried out without permission”.

He ordered the bench to be painted in its original brown within two days.

Priest reinstated after ‘unsubstantiated’ historical claim against him

The Archdiocese of Armagh has reinstated a priest after a historical claim made against him was found to be “unsubstantiated”.

Donaghmore parish priest Father Gerard McAleer had voluntarily stepped aside from his position in October 2018.

The archdiocese said the priest had not been prosecuted and their own conclusions found safeguarding concerns against Fr McAleer were groundless.

“Following a full investigation by the relevant authorities, no prosecution for any matter was taken with regard to Father McAleer,” it said.

“[We] then initiated the Church processes that are required in such instances and these have also concluded that the case against Father McAleer is unsubstantiated.

“Father McAleer can therefore immediately return to full and complete ministry as a priest in the Archdiocese of Armagh.

“This has been a difficult time for all involved and we offer our prayers for all concerned.

“The Archdiocese of Armagh continues to recommend anyone who has suffered abuse of any kind to report it immediately to the local Health and Social Care Trust, and to the PSNI in Northern Ireland, or to Tusla and An Garda Síochána in the Republic of Ireland.”

Fr McAleer was a well-known figure in Tyrone GAA. He and Mickey Harte had guided the underage football team to unprecedented success during the 1990s.

When Tyrone won its first All-Ireland Senior Football Championship Final in 2003, Fr McAleer was assistant manager.

The priest was then assistant manager when Tyrone won its first All-Ireland Senior Championship Final in 2003.

No detail was given on the unsubstantiated claim made but it is understood to have related to the priest's behaviour with a minor in the period before he was ordained.

The PSNI and Garda did not respond to requests for comment at the the time, nor now that Fr McAleer has been reinstated.

Report courtesy the Belfast Telegraph

Perspective

Moderator's tribute to Her Majesty the Queen at St Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh

Rt Rev Dr Greenshields spoke at a Service of Thanksgiving at St Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh yesterday afternoon.

King Charles III, the Queen Consort, members of the Royal Family, religious and political leaders including First Minister Nicola Sturgeon MSP and Prime Minister Liz Truss MP were in attendance.

Dr Greenshields said:-

These last few days, as tributes to her Majesty have poured in and we have watched images of her on screen from her earliest years, capturing that remarkable life, yet now beginning to sink in that she is gone from us – "gone home" to express her own words.

Today, we gather in this place of worship and throughout the nation, to express our thanks to God, for her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's extraordinary life.



We are united in sorrow at the death of our Monarch, but we are also so aware that His Majesty King Charles and all his family are not just grieving the loss of their Queen, but their mother, grandmother and great-grandmother too.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth began her reign, like King Solomon by asking for wisdom, something that she demonstrated in large measure and to which was added duty, honour, commitment, and faith.

These are the words that we reach for today to describe the life and reign of Queen Elizabeth, whose passing is mourned not only in her native land but across the Commonwealth and the world, as has been so evident to us in recent days.

Most of us cannot recall a time when she was not our monarch.

Committed to the role she assumed in 1952 upon the death of her beloved father, she has been a constant in all of our lives for over 70 years.

She was determined to see her work as a form of service to others and she maintained that steady course until the end of her life.

People who were in her company always felt that they were being listened to carefully and attentively and with compassion.

She possessed a sharp, intelligent mind, with amazing recall, a kindly heart and a gentle sense of humour.

She understood the breadth of world affairs and also cared about what happened to all of her people.

And although sometimes buffeted by events around her, she continued resolutely and cheerfully fulfilled her responsibilities.

So today we give thanks, not only for the length of her reign, but for the qualities she displayed so steadfastly.

We recall also with gratitude the many who have supported her throughout her reign.

We think especially of the Duke of Edinburgh who stood faithfully beside her through their 73 years of marriage, bringing his own energy and intellect to the service of the monarchy.

Much has been said about the Queen's contribution to the life of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth which



meant so much to her.

But here in Scotland we acknowledge with gratitude her deep links with our land and its people.

Her love of the Balmoral estate is well known and being there latterly brought her great comfort.

There she was valued as a neighbour and a friend and there she drew strength and refreshment during the summer months.

She was active in the life of civic Scotland, travelling across the country to support numerous causes, entertaining guests at Holyrood Palace and presiding at ceremonial events, many of which took place in this Church.

Here she received the Scottish crown in 1953, an event vividly memorialised in the painting by the Orcadian artist Stanley Cursiter.

Her links with the Scottish churches were also deep and lasting.

She was the Supreme Governor of the Church of England, but she worshipped in the Church of Scotland here north of the border, at Canongate Kirk and especially at Crathie Kirk where she took her pew each Sunday morning, prevented from doing so latterly only by infirmity.

She perceived little difficulty in belonging to two Churches and appreciating the strength of each.

It is clearly evident and without doubt that the Queen's Christian faith was genuine, and often gave clear and sincere expression in those remarkable Christmas broadcasts.

She spoke unashamedly of her trust in God and of the example and teaching of Jesus Christ whom she sought to follow as best she could – indeed, of that faith she said she had no regret.

Her focus on family, on community, on reaching across divisions and differences were evident to us through these short yet meaningful festive messages.

For 70 years, she reigned as our Queen.



She has been present amongst us as a follower of Christ and a member of his Church. And for that and much else beside, we give thanks to God together here this day.

Today we mourn her passing but we also celebrate the long and happy reign that we experienced with her.

And we pray God's blessing upon King Charles who will surely draw strength from his mother's example and the many affectionate tributes of these days and from our assurance to him as a Church of our steadfast prayers at all times and of our unstinting support to him as was offered to his mother, the Queen.

Poem for today

The Road Not Taken by Robert Frost

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both

And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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