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750th anniversary of Armagh Cathedral



Left to right: The Dean of Armagh, Gregory Dunstan; Bishop Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Chelmsford, preacher at the service; Lord Mayor of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon, Councillor Julie Flaherty; the Lord Lieutenant for County Armagh, the Earl of Caledon; and Archbishop of Armagh, Richard Clarke.

The congregation was swelled to capacity for Choral Evensong on Sunday 23 September 2018 at St Patrick's

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Cathedral, Armagh. This was no ordinary service; this was a celebration to mark 750 years of the present cathedral building. The Dean of Armagh, the Very Reverend Gregory Dunstan, welcomed those present – the many visitors, clergy, readers and special guests, including the Earl of Caledon, Lord Lieutenant for County Armagh; Councillor Julie Flaherty, Lord Mayor of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon; and the Bishop of Chelmsford, the Right Reverend Stephen Cottrell, the preacher at the service.

The Cathedral Choir led the worship, directed by the Master of Choristers, Dr Stephen Timpany, and the Assistant Organist, the Revd Dr Peter Thompson. The Bible readings were brought by Lady Sheil, a Lay Canon of the Cathedral, and Dom Mark–Ephrem Nolan, an Ecumenical Canon. Prayers of Intercession were led by Diocesan and Parish Readers representing the six Rural Deaneries in the Armagh Diocese.

For his Sermon, Bishop Stephen Cottrell used the following text from Hebrews chapter 12 and verses 22–24: “You have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant.”

Bishop Stephen spoke of how it was “profoundly moving to be standing and proclaiming the gospel in the footsteps of St Patrick” and he said: “What an inspiration, simply to stand at the plaque in your Cathedral with the name of Patrick at the top left–hand corner and the name Richard at the bottom right. This alone demonstrates the continuity

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and the particularity of our faith. The God who is everywhere has chosen to be somewhere. And when we find God somewhere – even here in this cathedral this afternoon – we can then find God everywhere. The very stones sing out.”

But he reminded us he had been asked to speak about the future life and witness of this Cathedral Church and its part in the mission of God’s Church in this land in the years which are to come. Bishop Stephen went on to say: “But there is a big challenge. As I told the Chapter of Peterborough Cathedral all those years ago: the stones that sing out the glory of God are speaking in a language that fewer and fewer people understand. People growing up in Ireland today have less and less knowledge of the Christian tradition and less contact with the Christian Church. Therefore, when they do encounter the Christian faith and when they come into our great buildings, they are not able read or understand what they say and they are not able to interpret the stones. Therefore, the first task of mission for this Cathedral Church and for every church is to translate the Christian faith into the languages and cultures of the people we are called to serve.”

In closing, Bishop Stephen left the congregation with these words: “This is the way we will really engage with the world. It will be through the beauty of the gospel, and the beauty of Christ, reflected and communicated through the beauty of our own lives. Whether the church grows or not is of course a matter for God. He is the Lord of the harvest not us! But in the Scriptures, fruitfulness always flows from faithfulness. Therefore I can think of no better way to celebrate the 750th anniversary of this cathedral than by asking you, the people of God in this place, churches

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together in this land, and people of goodwill from all walks of life who care about the life of this nation, these islands and this continent of Europe, to give yourselves to the task of translating the unchanging gospel of Jesus Christ into the languages and cultures of today; and into your own life, so that your life may speak of the beauty of the gospel and sing out; for the very best way of communicating the Christian gospel is through a Christian life and you are called to be living stones.”

Consecration of chapel at Saint Luke's Home, Cork



The Bishop of Cork has consecrated a chapel at Saint Luke's Home, Cork.

When Saint Luke's Home, Cork, relocated in 1994 from Military Hill to Mahon in the south suburbs of Cork City it

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was a 90–bed care home and a small chapel was consecrated at the time by the Right Reverend Roy Warke, Bishop of Cork.

In 2000 a day–care facility was added and a fourth unit (30 additional beds) was opened in 2004. The chapel was extended to take in an adjoining room, and the chapel was realigned. Major refurbishment and upgrading work was completed on the original units in 2005 and, three years later the main corridors and dining room were upgraded, and the kitchen was extended. In 2011 the Education and Research Centre at Northridge House was opened.

All in all, the original chapel was proving too small for the greatly enlarged facility and when, in 2017 the Fire Officer required alterations to the ceiling it was decided to extend and redevelop the original chapel space and completely to renew it. The Service of Dedication of Memorial Gifts and Consecration took place on Friday, 7th September, in the presence of the management of the charity, the directors, representatives of the residents and staff, the people who worked on the project, the architect, the chaplaincy team, and donors of the principal items of furniture.

The Bishop of Cork, the Right Reverend Dr Paul Colton, presided at the liturgy, in the course of which he congratulated the charity, thanked donors, and paid tribute to the ministry and creativity of the Reverend Sarah Marry, Chaplain to the Home, for all her work on the chapel project.

On Saturday 8th September there was an open day for all residents and donors. The Reverend Sarah Marry and the Bishop were on hand throughout the day to conduct

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At the consecration of the St Luke's Home Chapel were (left to right) Anthony Aylward (sanctuary furniture maker), the Reverend Sarah Marry, Eoin Turner (stained glass artist), Brian McKeown (architect) and the Bishop.

memorial prayers. The first use of the chapel for residents was a celebration of Mass for Roman Catholic residents that afternoon. Bishop Colton returned to celebrate the Eucharist for residents at the usual Sunday Service on Sunday, 9th September.

Bishop Colton commented afterwards: 'We had a wonderful weekend at the home and, in its wake, I wish to take the opportunity, with two hats on – as chairperson and as bishop – to thank the directors of the charity for running with and providing the funds for the chapel expansion and redevelopment, to thank management for overseeing it, to thank staff and residents for their patience throughout the project, to thank all who worked on it for what they have achieved, to thank all the donors who responded to the appeal I sent out, and, especially, to thank the Reverend Sarah Marry and everyone she drew in to the design and reflection about this project.

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‘The response has been overwhelming and here are just some examples: “After Church yesterday one relative said to me ‘this is a real sign to the residents that we don’t only look after them, but that we are prepared to do something extra special for them.’”

“As one visitor said: ‘You have transformed a room into a chapel; now we have somewhere where I feel I really can go to say a prayer.’” Comments on twitter and facebook included ‘serene’, ‘beautiful’, ‘wow’, ‘so calm’.”

Launch of Live to Give youth resource

The Church of Ireland Youth Department has launched *Live to Give* – a resource on generosity, giving and money, and what the Bible has to say about those issues. The resource has been written by CIYD National Youth Officer Simon Henry, Nicola Brown from the Church of Ireland’s Generous Giving Programme, and Jonny Farrell from Stand By Me – a charity working with children in the developing world.

Live to Give seeks to help young people to think seriously about how they give their time, talents and money, to carefully and prayerfully consider how their decisions may affect others, and to learn more of God’s generosity. Its four sessions cover:

1. Where the heart is – to explore what brings us joy and happiness, the importance of gratitude, and the challenge of putting God first;

2. A God of plenty – the nature of our generous God who gave everything for us, and what it means to be stewards of what we have been given;

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Nicola Brown (Church of Ireland Generous Giving Programme)
Jonny Farrell (Stand By Me NI Regional Manager)

3. More than enough – to look at the ways in which God has equipped young people to make a practical impact for His Kingdom in the world around them;

4. Money talks – covering what we have to give, what happens when we give, and practical tools, advice and biblical principles for handling money.

Simon Henry said: '*Live to Give* is a resource that aims to a blessing to youth leaders and young people alike. It has been wonderful to have partnership at the heart of it, working alongside Jonny and Nicola to create something new to engage young people in following biblical commands to be generous and to serve people with what they have been given.

'We really hope this resource will be used widely by groups and to learn and have fun together. The ready to run

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sessions are very accessible with a lot of interactive activities, Bible study, prayer challenges and games. I hope and pray that by using this resource, groups will be impacted in their biblical understanding of generosity, giving and money and what a generous God we serve.'

Live to Give is free and copies are available from the CIYD offices in Belfast (028 9082 8890) and Dublin (01 497 8422), and from The Book Well bookshop, in Belfast (www.thebookwell.co.uk). Orders can also be placed by email at admin@ciyd.org

The resource is also available [online](#) in PDF format.

Pope to youth: Be part of Jesus' revolution of tenderness

Pope Francis encounters young people in Vilnius, telling them to never give up when faced with difficulties and to be part of Jesus' revolution of tenderness.

"Your lives are not a piece of theatre; they are real and concrete". Those were the words of Pope Francis on Saturday to young people gathered in Cathedral Square in the Lithuanian capital Vilnius. He explained to them that, "if life were a piece theatre or a video game, it would be limited to a precise time, and have a beginning and an end, when the curtain falls or one team wins the game." But, the Pope added, "life measures time differently; it follows God's heartbeat."

Having heard the testimonies of two young people, Monica and Jonas, the Holy Father told the youth present, that there are times "when you think you are falling apart, fires



Pope Francis greets young people in Vilnius

from which you think you can never rebuild.” But, he continued, “think of all the times this Cathedral went up in flames and fell apart. Yet there were always people ready to start rebuilding; they refused to let themselves be overwhelmed by hardship: they never gave up.”

Addressing both Monica and Jonas, he said, that their hardships which included the life and death of Monica’s father and Jonas’ illness could have been devastating for them. “Yet here you are, sharing your experience, seeing it with the eyes of faith...”

We are all interconnected

Pope Francis stressed to the young people in the square the importance of community, family and friends, “don’t let the world make you believe that it is better to do everything on your own”, he said. “Don’t yield to the temptation of getting caught up in yourself, ending up selfish or superficial in the face of sorrow, difficulty or temporary

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success.” We are all interconnected, “networked”. Who we really are has to do with our being part of a people. Identity is not the product of a laboratory; it is not concocted in a test tube. Aim for holiness through your encounters and your fellowship with other people; be attentive to their needs.”

Referring again to the testimonies of the two young people, the Pope commended their willingness to help others which, he said, in turn gave them support and put their difficulties into perspective. “Seeing the frailty of others gives us perspective; it helps us not to go through life licking own wounds”, he commented.

Prayer and Song

During his discourse the Holy Father also noted the power of prayer and song. Embracing music, the Pope explained, was a way to open oneself to the interior life, and he added, that prayer, as well as being an experience of “spiritual warfare”, was also how “we learn to listen to the Spirit”.

Pope Francis then urged all the young people gathered, “not to be afraid to take part in the revolution to which Jesus invites us: the revolution of tenderness.” He invites us, “to step out of ourselves and to risk a face-to-face encounter with others.” “Don’t ever be afraid to put your trust in Jesus”, the Pope said, “to embrace his cause, the cause of the Gospel. Because he never jumps off the ship of our life; he is always there at life’s crossroads. Even when our lives go up in flames, he is always there to rebuild them.”

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'Come & Sing' Community Choir Day in Derry Cathedral

On Saturday 29th September, St. Columb's Cathedral plays host to the 'Come & Sing' Community Choir Day.

The events are open to all singers of all ages and levels of experience and consist of a 'workshop' style rehearsal followed by an informal concert, all led by Musical Directors Louis Fields and Nicky Morton, in the setting of St. Columb's Cathedral.

You don't have to have choral experience and music is provided on the day. We also

COME & SING
COMMUNITY CHOIR DAY

SATURDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER
St. Columb's Cathedral

LUNTIME CONCERT
12.00-1.00pm. Admission Free
Rosemount Male Voice Choir
Conductor: Raymond Kelly Accompanist: Maurice Kelly

COME & SING CHOIR WORKSHOP
3.30-5.00pm
Louis Fields and Nicky Morton
Open to everyone to come and learn the songs to perform at the evening concert

EVENING CONCERT PRACTICE
5.30-7.00pm
Open Rehearsals for the evening concert. Directed by Louis Fields and Nicky Morton

EVENING CONCERT
7.30-9.00pm. Admission Free
The Come & Sing Choir, St. Columb's Cathedral Boy Choristers, The Mood Swings, U3A, Agherton Parish Choir, Thornhill Alumni, The Malvern Singers and the St. Columb's Cathedral Chamber Choir

For more information contact:
music@stcolumbsschoolofmusic.com

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have tea, coffee and biscuits during the rehearsal for people to socialise and get to know each other. It's a great way to get a taste for music and singing in a choir, with the informal atmosphere ensuring that it is a lot of fun. You're also welcome to bring your own packed lunch!

The day gives you an opportunity to 'listen' to other choirs, 'learn' at the afternoon workshops and 'perform' at the evening concert. Anyone can make a noise and nobody is rejected in these 'come and sing' events. Singing is very inclusive, relaxed and fun, a low-commitment, and is a low-cost tool for your mental health within the community because it gives participants a feeling of belonging and wellbeing, so bring all your family and friends to as many events that you can make!

The concert will take place in the St. Columb's Cathedral and admission is free and open to the public. Featuring Rosemount Male Voice Choir, The Come & Sing Choir, St. Columb's Cathedral Boy Choristers, The Mood Swings, U3A, Agherton Parish Choir, Thornhill Alumni, The Malvern Singers and the St. Columb's Cathedral Chamber Choir.

Organ Scholarship annual Evensong in Belfast

The annual Evensong of the Down & Dromore and Connor Organ Scholarship Scheme took place in Belfast Cathedral on Sunday September 23.

The Dean of Belfast, the Very Rev Stephen Forde, awarded certificates on behalf of the Organ Scholarship Board to those scholars who had completed the three-year

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course: Mathew Greenaway, Beth Aiken, Ronnie Drury, Vivien McCullough, Melanie Campbell and Mathew Greenaway. The sixth graduating scholar, Jamie Howe, was unable to attend as he currently studying at Chetham's School of Music in Manchester.



The leaving scholars, from left: Mathew Greenaway, Beth Aiken, Melanie Campbell, Vivien McCullough, Ronnie Drury. They are pictured with the Rev Canon David Humphries; Dean Stephen Forde and the Rev Canon John Auchmuty.

As a new innovation, three of the finishing scholars – Mathew Greenaway, Beth Aiken and Vivien McCullough – gave a short organ recital before the Choral Evensong.

During the service, new scholars were also welcomed to the course: Natalie Bell, Glenn English, Tanya Hanna, Jack McCabe and Sean Turner.

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The congregation included the scholars, their families and friends, the tutors (Michael McCracken, Dr Joe McKee and the Rev Dr Ian Mills), members of the Board of Management and members of the Cathedral community.

Several changes were announced following the service: The Rev Amanda Adams has resigned as secretary to the Board of Management after several years of dedicated work, and the Rev Canon David Humphries stood down as chair, having completed six years in that role.

The new secretary is Mr Timothy Wilson, Organist and Choirmaster at Jordanstown, and the new chair is to be Canon John Auchmuty, Rector of Knock.

Over refreshments, Canon Humphries thanked Dean Forde for allowing the Board to hold the service in the Cathedral and for his support. Canon Humphries also gave some words of encouragement to the new scholars.

For roll of current scholars see -

<http://www.belfastcathedral.org/2018/09/24/cathedral-hosts-annual-organ-scholarship-evensong/>

News briefs

+++Connor institution - The Rev Canon Stephen Fielding will be instituted as rector of St John's, Malone, Belfast, on Wednesday September 26.

+++First profession in Belfast - Bishop of Down and Connor Noel Treanor presided as Sr Anne of the Divine

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Mercy, from Tipperary, made her First Profession in the Adoration Chapel, Falls Road in Belfast.

+++Cork Come and Sing choral evensong - Almost 40 singers attended an afternoon at St Fin Barre's Cathedral organised by Peter Stobart and the Cork, Cloyne and Ross Diocesan Church Music Scheme on Saturday 15th September. The challenge was to sing Choral Evensong from scratch, and with just two hours of rehearsal. Evensong is a service which is largely sung by the choir and it has a variety of choral styles embedded within it. The afternoon began with one of the hymns, followed by chanting the psalm which is a huge challenge in uniform singing for a new group. The Canticles were by the Armagh-born Charles Wood and the anthem was 'The Lord hath been mindful of us' by S. S. Wesley. A well deserved cup of tea gave the singers a short break before the atmospheric service began. Guests from St Mary's

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Cathedral in Limerick were amongst the participants along with singers from Bantry and others closer to Cork City.

+++Methodist minister condemns attack - Commenting on the horrendous attack on a teenager in Ballymoney, the Rev. Stephen Woods, the local Methodist Minister said: "This was a brutal and despicable act that has no place in any civil society. I'm sure I speak for all our local church leaders in saying that these vigilante attacks need to be condemned and challenged by all members of our community. I would appeal to anyone with information about this attack to support and assist police in their investigation"

+++Moderator's visit to former congregation - The Moderator tweeted: Back in Legacurry today, my first congregation. So good to catch up with many friends. A packed, vibrant congregation under the wonderful leadership of Bobby Liddle. A joy to share communion and have lunch afterwards in the manse. It has done very well since I left!!

+++Limerick chapter appointments - Bishop Kenneth Keirnan has announced two appointments to the Joint Chapter of St Mary's (Limerick), St Flannan's (Killaloe) and St Brendan's (Clonfert) – Canon Liz Beasley as Chancellor and Rev'd Jim Stephens as Prebend (Canon) of St Munchin and Tulloh. Liz Beasley has been Rector of the Adare and Kilmallock Group of Parishes since 2014. She moved to Ireland with her husband, Kirk, from the Diocese of Hawaii in the Episcopal Church, where she served since her ordination in 1998. After having served several parishes, her last position there was as Canon to the Ordinary. She holds theological degrees from Harvard Divinity School and

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Sewanee: The University of the South. Jim Stephens is from Kerry, was ordained in 1991 and has served all of his ministry there as an NSM, combining this with work in a pharmaceutical plant in Killorglin as a Quality Manager in finished product and stability listing. Recently he transferred to the stipendiary ministry, became bishop's curate in Tralee Group of Parishes. He is married to Elsie who is a teacher in Killorglin and they have three daughters, Sophie, Ava and Isabel. Their installation will take place on Sunday 25th November, during Evensong in St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick at 4.00 p.m.

+++Organ Marathon in Eglinton - The Rector of Faughanvale, the Revd Canon Paul Hoey, has completed a 12-hour 'Organ Marathon' to raise funds for a new church hall. Canon Hoey played non-stop in St Canice's Church in Eglinton from 9am-9pm on Saturday. Members of the Select Vestry and parishioners joined him at various points throughout the day to offer encouragement. Among them were people from the all the main Christian denominations.

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Visitors were asked to make a cash donation in return for a hymn request being played.

More than 30 people were in church, hymn-singing with Canon Hoey, as the marathon drew to a close on Saturday evening. Afterwards he thanked those who had joined him during the event to lend their support. The rector – who said his fingers had “cramped up” for a time in the afternoon – said he was looking forward to a hot bath as soon as he got home. St Canice’s Church re-opened in June after an extensive restoration project to repair damage sustained in last year’s flooding in the North West. The nearby church hall suffered even worse damage and has to be rebuilt.

The logo for CNI Church News Ireland is displayed within a white rounded square with a blue glow. The text is in a blue serif font, arranged in four lines: 'CNI' in the largest font, followed by 'CHURCH', 'NEWS', and 'IRELAND' in smaller sizes.

CNI
CHURCH
NEWS
IRELAND