

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – World wide welcome at Queen’s University chaplaincy

Image of the day

World wide welcome at Queen's University chaplaincy

An evening of celebration to welcome students from around the world to Belfast, Northern Ireland was hosted with love by the C of I and Methodist members of The Church of the Resurrection at The Hub Chaplaincy.

News reports

Winter coat giveaway in Belfast parish

St Michael's Parish, Belfast, in partnership with ROC NI and the Church of Ireland & Methodist Chaplaincy at Queen's University are hosting a Winter Coat Giveaway.

They have lots of lovely pre-loved coats, hats, scarves and gloves for all ages, donated by local church congregations and volunteers from 'Equipping for Life'. Call into St Michael's Hall on Friday 30th September between 10.30am-6.30pm for a cup of tea/coffee and pick up a free pre-loved coat, scarf, hat, gloves.

Ordination in Armagh

Congratulations best wishes and blessings to the Reverend David Murphy who was ordained priest by the



**Rt Revd Ian Ellis,
Bishop of Clogher
on Sunday 18th
September 2022.**

The Archbishop of Armagh was unable to be present as he was in London to attend the State Funeral of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The preacher at the service was the Venerable Stephen McBride.



Celebrating an organist's service

The Ulster Society of Organists and Choir directors celebrated 40 years of the Kenenth Jones organ in Dundrod Presbyterian Church (above), last Saturday 24 Septembe.

Organ builder Trevor Crowe shared recollections of the design and installation, and Phillip Elliot will play some organ music to demonstrate the instrument.

Cynthia retires after 21 years as hon treasurer

A presentation has been made to All Saints', Antrim, parishioner Cynthia Cherry MBE, who has retired after 21 years as honorary treasurer.



Cynthia Cherry MBE with Archdeacon Stephen McBride and the Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev George Davison, following the presentation on September 18.

The presentation was made by the Ven Dr Stephen McBride, vicar of Antrim, in church on Sunday September 18.

The Archdeacon said Cynthia had been a tremendous support to him, the Select Vestry and parishioners since taking on the role. “Cynthia has given herself tirelessly to the role and over the years has taken on many fundraising projects that ensured our parish finances are some of the best and strongest in the Diocese of Connor,” Archdeacon McBride said. “The warmth of Cynthia’s engaging personality has been a great asset to all that she has undertaken in her duties as hon treasurer.”

Cynthia has served the Church at a diocesan and national level. In the Diocese of Connor, she is a member of Diocesan Council and serves on the Finance Committee. She is one of two people who represent the Diocese on the Representative Church Body, which is the body which governs the finances of the Church. She also serves on the Pensions Board, Stipend Committee and is on the governing body of the Church of Ireland Theological Institute.

Outside of her church commitments, Cynthia has been one of Macmillan's foremost fundraisers. She is also a friend of Dame Mary Peters, and helped her with several projects. She was awarded the MBE in 2000.

Derry service of thanksgiving for Queen Elizabeth II

In Derry, St Columb's Cathedral will host a diocesan and civic Service of Reflection and Thanksgiving for the life of Queen Elizabeth II on Thursday at 7.30pm.

The service will be led by the Dean of Derry, the Very



September 26, 2022

Rev Raymond Stewart. Leaders from the main local Churches will take part and the Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, the Rt Rev Andrew Forster, will preach the sermon.

New Associate Minister welcomed in Blarney



The Rev. Robert Ferris, Rector of Carrigrohane Union, the Rev. Abigail Sines, Associate Minister in Carrigrohane Union, and the Very Rev. Dermot Dunne, Dean of Christ Church Cathedral, after the service.

Carrigrohane Union of Parishes welcomed the Rev. Abigail Sines and a Service of Welcome was held at the Church of the Resurrection in Blarney.

September 26, 2022

The Rev. Robert Ferris, Rector of Carrigrohane Union, led the service and the Very Rev. Dermot Dunne, Dean at Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, preached the sermon.



Both, the community in Blarney as well as visitors from Dublin attended the service.

The Rev. Robert Ferris said:

It was a joy and delight to welcome Abigail to the parish, both at the welcome service and the subsequent Sunday services.

The service on Saturday was bittersweet for those who came to Blarney to support and encourage Abigail from Christ Church Cathedral. We took time to pray for Abigail and sought God's blessing upon her as she begins a new phase of pastoral ministry in our parish and Diocese.

Armagh appointment

The Archbishop of Armagh has appointed Rev Matthew Hagan, Rector of Tynan, Middletown and Aghavilly to be Rector of Brackaville, Donaghendry & Ballyclog. The service of institution of Rev Hagan will be held on Tuesday 15 November 2022.

Unsung heroes of Limerick

The Dean of Limerick, the Very Revd Niall J. Sloane, has announced the 2022 Cathedral Community Awards Scheme.

The Awards Scheme, which was established in 2018, hopes to highlight the ‘unsung heroes’ of Limerick and will awarded in February 2023. Nomination forms are available from the Cathedral Office until the closing date of 30 November 2022.

‘We are all labourers in God’s Church’

Ordination of Deacons in Dublin and Glendalough

People flocked from the far reaches of both Dublin and Glendalough to Christ Church Cathedral (on September 18) to support the Revd Jane Burns and the Revd Scott Evans who were ordained Deacons. The cathedral welcomed a large congregation for the service.



Newly ordained Deacons, the Revd Jane Burns and the Revd Scott Evans with Archbishop Michael Jackson.

Jane and Scott were joined by their families, friends and sponsors as well as a great number of their new clerical colleagues. The service was sung by the Cathedral Choir and the preacher was the Archdeacon of Dublin, the Ven David Pierpoint.

Jane has been a lifelong parishioner of the Athy Union and in a special announcement before the service, Dean Dermot Dunne brought greetings from the retired Rector of Athy, Canon Olive Donohoe, who was unable to attend the C

September 26, 2022

service. She previously worked with the Representative Church Body, an insurance company and with Christian Aid. Jane is married to Dermot and they have three children, Jamie, Ellen and Kate. She will serve as Deacon Intern this year with Taney Parish.



The Revd Scott Evans with his family after his ordination.

Scott grew up in Bangladesh and later in Greystones. He has been involved with Holy Trinity, Rathmines, for the last number of years. He began his ministry in youth ministry and worked with Scripture Union before taking the role as Diocesan Youth Officer in Cashel and Ossory.

For the last seven years he has been the Church of Ireland chaplain in UCD. Scott is married to Christina and they have one son, Daniel. He will serve as Deacon Intern in Kiltarnan Parish this year.

Opening the service, Archbishop Jackson welcomed the congregation to celebrate a “day of tremendous significance in the lives of two individuals”. He thanked all who had come for giving the sense of a full church and thanked the Archdeacon of Glendalough for leading the pre-ordination retreat and the Archdeacon of Dublin for preaching. He also thanked the Dean, the director of music, the choir and all at the cathedral for bringing the service together.

In his sermon, Archdeacon Pierpoint said that all Christians needed spiritual nourishment to sustain them throughout their lives and all needed advice on how to go further in their Christian living. He added that St Peter said that we are all like living stones being built into a spiritual house with Christ as the living cornerstone.

C of I Rector queued for 13 hours at the Queen’s Lying-in-State

Canon Robert Howard, rector of Annahilt & Magherahamlet, spent 13 hours in the queue to see Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II lying in state (he is pictured above, standing before the coffin).

Robert shares his reflections on the momentous events of the last two weeks.

When viewing the photographs taken of HM The Queen at Balmoral when she appointed the new Prime Minister one was immediately struck by how ‘old age’ was catching up with the elderly monarch. Nevertheless, despite her obvious physical frailty she looked well for her 96 years and was

reported to be mentally very alert and in excellent spirits. Her declining health over recent months and her advancing years indicated that she was in the twilight days of her long reign. Yet, the Royal Family, the Nation and Commonwealth as well as the whole world were completely caught 'on the hop' by what transpired two days later on 8 September. The lunchtime statement of 'concern' for the Queen's health followed later by the announcement of her death was in one sense expected yet also somehow shocking.

The passing of Queen Elizabeth II was momentous after a reign of over 70 years. Most people have no memory of any other British monarch. It was also historic with the end of the second Elizabethan age. Her people had felt a comfortable familiarity with the presence of Her Majesty on the balcony of Buckingham Palace during the recent Platinum Jubilee celebrations and on other national occasions over the years. Now they are experiencing an acute sense of grief and loss. Of course, she was not only our Sovereign but also a beloved wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother and it is her family who will experience those feelings the most.

I have always recognised and appreciated The Queen's long life of duty and service as well as her deep Christian Faith. I had a great desire to mark the period of national mourning by paying my respects in person at the Lying-in-State at Westminster Hall. I joined the queue early on Friday afternoon and was admitted to the Hall 13 hours later early on Saturday morning. Without in any way being presumptuous or wanting to assume liberties I felt I was representing my family, friends and parishioners who could not travel.



There was a big physical effort involved in attending but I was sustained by the comradery of those nearby in the queue. There were so many different age groups, backgrounds, races and cultures which were all united in gratitude and respect. There was much friendly chat and there were recollections of seeing the Queen albeit at a distance. I met a lady from Northern Ireland who after her marriage 40 years ago to a gentleman from Belfast came to live in London and had remained there ever since. I was able to share that although I was never presented to the Queen, I was at a Garden Party hosted by her at Buckingham Palace at which I was accompanied by my late mother.

At Westminster Hall I was fortunate to see the Changing of the Guard before slowly walking down the steps and standing before the coffin. I prayed in remembrance of Her late Majesty and for the new King Charles III and all the Royal family. It was a deeply moving and religious experience which I will very gratefully remember as long as my memory lasts.

With thanks to Revd Canon Robert Howard and Down & Dromore diocese.

In the media

Churches must keep faith role in Northern Ireland schools

A leading Church of Ireland cleric has praised the positive contribution of the mainstream churches in NI education over the past 100 years and says the present settled fabric of Christian religious input in schools must be maintained, Billy Kennedy writes in the News Letter

Former Church of Ireland Dean of Belfast the Rev Dr Houston McKelvey OBE, who was once Church of Ireland education spokesman, was responding to a radical report from academics at the Ulster University calling for the diminution of religion and Christian faith teaching in both the state-controlled and Catholic-maintained schools.

Putting Northern Ireland's emphasis on faith teaching in an historical context, Dr McKelvey said: "The modern foundation of education in the UK was a 1944 wartime education reform act.

"It was shaped by government minister RA Butler and Rev William Temple, a former headmaster and archbishop of Canterbury.

"Christian values were felt to be intrinsic to the nature of British society, and this fortified it in the hour of difficulty and

therefore must find expression in the reconstruction of its educational system.

“Unionist dictum since the creation of Northern Ireland was that of parity with Great Britain.

“But the leaders here had the good sense to let GB proceed and then reflect on the advantages or mistakes which ensued.

“Northern Ireland, therefore, had the benefit of using England and Wales as a pilot scheme.

“Thus, the 1944 act in GB influenced but not slavishly the NI 1947 Education Reform Act.

“The 1947 act gave for the first time to many in this society the possibility of a university education.

“The education sector referred to currently as controlled schools could not have been created without the generosity, support and consent of the three main Protestant churches (Presbyterian, Church of Ireland and Methodist) in the transference of their schools into a partnership with the state.

“A major part of this were securities regarding the role of religious education within the school.

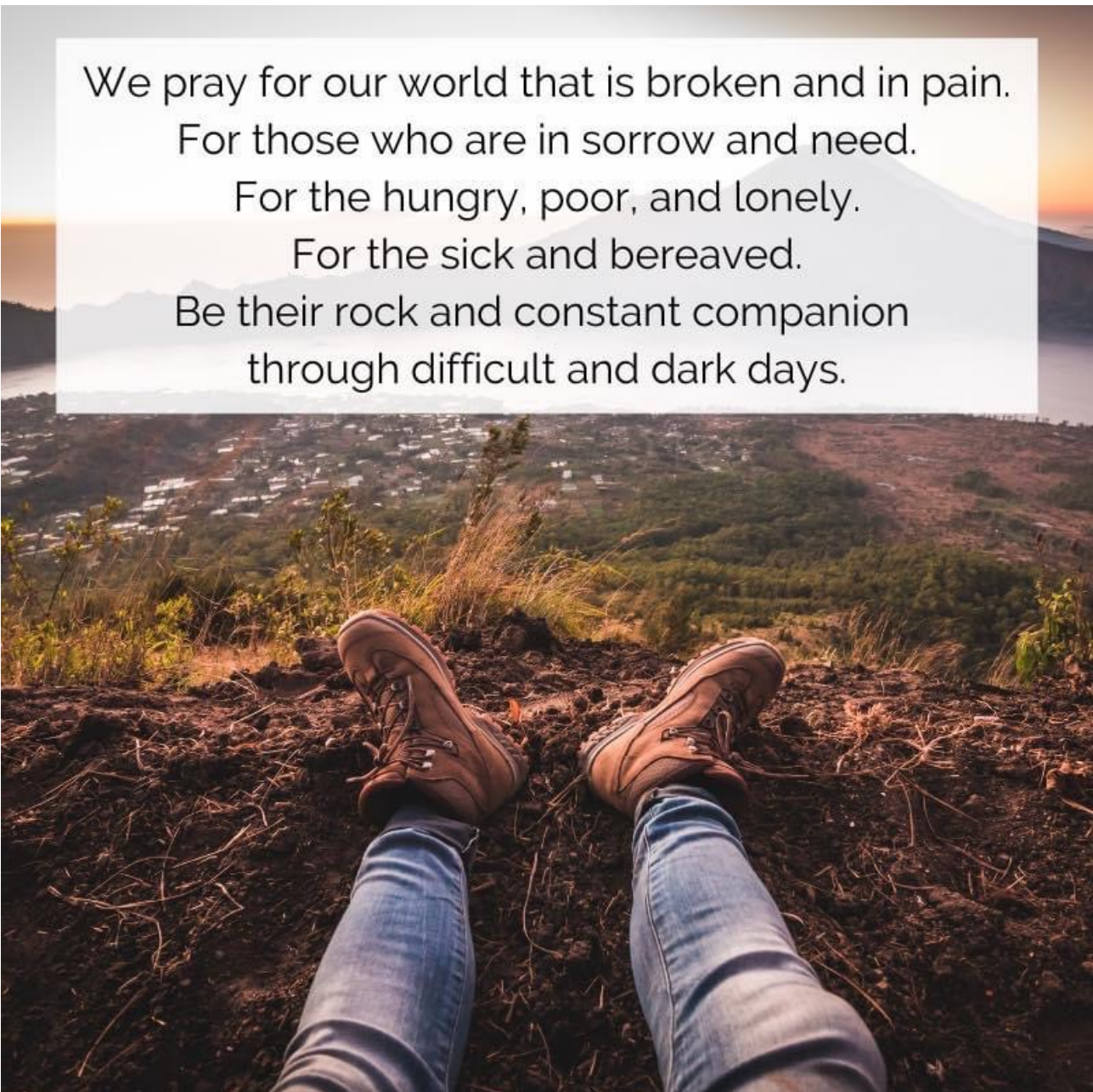
“To ensure this transferring churches were to have not less than half of the members of a school board of governors.

September 26, 2022

“Later, the churches voluntarily gave up this majority to provide and ensure a position for a teachers’ representative on a board.

“Transferring churches, however, never did get the representation to which they were due on local education authorities.

“And it is only since the recent establishment of the Transferrors’ Representative Council that the churches have

A photograph showing a person's legs in blue jeans and brown boots, sitting on a dark, rocky hillside. The person is looking out over a valley with a town and mountains in the distance under a sunset sky. A white text box is overlaid on the image.

We pray for our world that is broken and in pain.
For those who are in sorrow and need.
For the hungry, poor, and lonely.
For the sick and bereaved.
Be their rock and constant companion
through difficult and dark days.

September 26, 2022

had a state-supported focus unlike their Roman Catholic neighbours who much earlier were granted the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools.

“Most important, when proposals are made from whatever quarter their bona fides must take recognition of this endeavour. Northern Ireland churches should at the least be granted the same role and support as they do in England and Wales.

“Parity of esteem is required.

“It is not a provincial issue. It is one of national UK standards, one of constitutional safeguarding and effective support of the churches’ legitimate role.”

Courtesy the News Letter, Saturday September 24, 2022

Poem for today

A Beautiful Night in September by Francis Duggan

The moon did appear from behind dark clouds
Only again for to steal out of sight
And boobook owl called in the Parkland
His voice echoing in the calm night.

Lovers arm in arm under the street lamps
They stop to embrace as they walk along

September 26, 2022

And the nesting magpies are fluting
They warble a beautiful song.

A beautiful night in September
And balmy the calm evening air
The Spring is Mother Nature's young Season
And than her there is none so fair.

Were I a poet I'd capture some of this beauty
And on paper in words jot it down
Of this beautiful night in the Springtime
In a park of a southern town.

The moon behind the clouds is hiding
And the flute of the magpie sounds melodious and clear
And young lovers out arm in arm courting
And the cry of the boobook I hear.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

The publication of Church News Ireland is overseen by Very Rev Dr Houston McKelvey OBE, QVRM, TD. He may be contacted at houstonmckelvey@mac.com

