

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – String Band harvest in Clogher

Image of the day

String Band harvest service in Clogher

Slavin Harvest Thanksgiving in Garrison Group of parishes was held with the Strule River String Band from Omagh.

The church was filled to capacity and everyone was very appreciative of the music from the band. A delicious supper was served and a collection taken for the Enniskillen Food Bank.

News reports

Organ World Premiere in Holywood County Down

On Saturday last in the Church of St Philip and St James, Holywood, a recording of pieces played on the Elgar Organ by the parish's organist and choir director, Edwin Gray was launched.

Edwin has created what used to be called an EP - five popular compositions of different styles.

If the organ still sounds this good before its rebuilding we are looking forward to hearing it when it has been refurbished next year.

The recording "Created for Worship" is available as a physical compact disc (remember those) but will also be

available for download if that's your preference. Please contact the parish office.

Cork choir prepares for Christmas

The choir of St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork will be giving two performances of Handel's Messiah on 9th and 10th December this year.

For most of the young choristers this will be the first time that they have sung the popular work and it is a significant milestone in the long-term development of the cathedral choir.

Solos will be sung by Cork soprano Emma Nash, mezzo-soprano Raphaela Mangan, former lay vicar choral the tenor Conor Prendiville and former cathedral chorister the bass Eoghan Desmond. Tickets for Handel's Messiah can be purchased in the cathedral shop.

Youngest priest in Cork & Ross ordained in his home parish

Father Ronan Sheehan (27) was ordained a priest in Newcestown, Co Cork, by Bishop Fintan Gavin, Bishop of Cork and Ross, and he becomes the youngest priest in the diocese.

The congregation included his parents Bud and Denise Sheehan, his sisters Ciara, Leona, Orlaith and Aoibhe, and extended family.



The West Cork church which is 150-years-old, has hosted its first ordination of a priest.

During Father Sheehan's ordination on Sunday 18 September, Bishop Gavin spoke of the service of priesthood, "you are called to act in a unique way in the person of Christ in the Eucharist and the other sacraments. Acting in the person of Christ means that a priest can never put himself or his personal opinion at the centre of his ministry."

On the Sunday evening Father Sheehan celebrated his first Mass at Newcestown Church, the church where he received the sacraments for the first time while in school. On the following Monday evening he celebrated Mass at the second church of the parish in Farnivane where he was baptised.

Connor youth takes the Castle



One hundred and twenty young people and their leaders had a fantastic weekend in Castlewellan as the annual youth residential Connor Takes the Castle returned with a great big splash!

The young people, who had travelled from 12 different parishes, came together over two nights, with some attending for Saturday activities only, to enjoy, fellowship, worship and lots of fun.

There were guided sessions, music, outdoors activities including rounders and paddleboarding on Castlewellan Lake and the ever-popular Connor's got talent.

September 28, 2022

This was the first time the residential has taken place since September 2019 due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and Diocesan Youth Officer Christina Baillie said it was wonderful to get everyone back to castle once again.

Hayley Cullen from GB Youth For Christ was the weekend speaker and the Rev Lee Boal and the Rev Peter Blake led worship.

Christina said: “Connor Takes The Castle was a fantastic opportunity for young people from different parishes to grow in their knowledge of God and have loads of fun together.

“We’re so grateful to all the leaders and young people for coming and making it so special. From spectacular performances at Connor’s Got Talent to conversations over corn flakes, this year was a fantastic return to our diocesan residential.”

Two new Veritas bookstores open

This weekend Veritas, the publishing company of the Bishops’ Conference, opened two new Veritas stores in Letterkenny and in Limerick.

These two openings will bring the total number of Veritas branches to seven, in addition to its webstore.

Bishop Alan McGuckian SJ, Bishop of Raphoe, officially opened the newly relocated Veritas store in Letterkenny, Co Donegal. The official opening will take place in 12-14 Upper Main Street with parishioners and guests in attendance.

September 28, 2022

On Saturday, Bishop Brendan Leahy, Bishop of Limerick, officially opened the new Veritas store in Limerick city. The opening took place at 122 O'Connell Street and once again parishioners and guests will be in attendance.

Both launches were livestreamed via Facebook and Instagram.

Veritas stores stock a wide range of titles from worldwide leading Christian publishers alongside an extensive range of religious goods and gifts which celebrate the sacraments. Veritas published themes cover faith, education, prayer and devotion, health and wellbeing, general interest in non-fiction and children's books.

Veritas stores are located on Lower Abbey Street, Dublin; Blanchardstown Shopping Centre; Cork; Derry; Newry; Letterkenny and in Limerick.

Follow Veritas on Twitter @VeritasIreland, Facebook and on Instagram

Founded in 1899, Veritas, the publishing company of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference, is one of Ireland's oldest brands. Its foray into retail started in 1928 on Abbey Street, Dublin, which continues today as Veritas' flagship retail store.

See - Catholic Shop Online Ireland, Religious Goods Store – Veritas.veritasbooksonline.com

CNI

Church of England bans Archbishop Tutu's daughter from officiating at her godfather's funeral

The Church of England has barred the late Archbishop Desmond Tutu's daughter from officiating at her godfather's funeral because she is in a same-sex relationship.

Mpho Tutu van Furth, an Episcopal priest, is the goddaughter of Martin Kenyon, one of the first men to take a COVID-19 vaccine in the United Kingdom. The 92-year-old died earlier this month. A friend of Archbishop Tutu, Kenyon, requested that Tutu van Furth conduct his funeral.

The Diocese of Hereford turned down the request because Tutu van Furth is in a relationship with a woman.

"We acknowledge this is a difficult situation. Advice was given in line with the House of Bishops current guidance on same sex marriage," the Diocese of Hereford told CNN in a Friday statement.

Queen Elizabeth II gave her "royal ascent" to a bill allowing same-sex marriage in England and Wales in July 2013, after months of debate in the British Parliament. The law permitted homosexual couples to marry as of March 29, 2014. However, the Church of England defines marriage as between one man and one woman and prevents ministers from carrying out same-sex marriages.

Tutu, who died in December 2021, was a pivotal figure in ending apartheid in South Africa.

Tutu van Furth, who was ordained in an Episcopal Church in Alexandria, Virginia, in 2004, stated that she believes the time has come for a change in the Church of England. The Episcopal Church, a member of the Anglican Communion, allows clergy members to engage in same-sex relationships. However, Tutu van Furth acknowledged that the denomination moves at its own pace.

"I don't know when it gets to be enough people who have been abandoned to their grief or when it gets to be enough people who have suffered enough pain that the church changes," she told CNN. "But there will be a moment."

The priest said Kenyon's daughters intended to hold the funeral at their father's place of residence at St. Michael and All Angels Church in the village of Wentnor. Kenyon lived next door and had been a member of the parish for 30 years, according to CNN.

The family opted not to entrust the funeral service to someone else and held the service in the garden of the vicarage next door.

Tutu van Furth's father, Archbishop Tutu, was ordained in the Anglican church in the 1960s and met Kenyon while alternating between London and his native South Africa in the 1960s and 1970s, according to CNN.

"My parents arrived in London in 1962. My father arrived before my mother and my father and Martin became

friends," Tutu van Furth said. "Martin met my mother off the boat from South Africa and when I was born in 1963 my parents asked Martin to be my godfather."

Marceline Tutu van Furth, a pediatric infectious diseases professor and Tutu van Furth's wife who lives with her in the Netherlands, called the decision to prevent the priest from leading the funeral "homophobic" in a Wednesday letter.

The professor described herself as a former atheist welcomed into a religious family through her marriage to Tutu van Furth. The letter featured a quote from her late father-in-law, who said he would not worship a "homophobic God."

Defence is love, says Pope

Pope Francis has said it is morally legitimate for nations to supply weapons to Ukraine because fighting to defend your country is "love".

He commented that self-defence is "an expression of love for the homeland".

"Self-defence is not only licit but also an expression of love for the homeland. Someone who does not defend oneself, who does not defend something, does not love it. Those who defend (something) loves it," he said.

Francis spoke out after a three-day visit to Kazakhstan where he attended a congress of religious leaders from

September 28, 2022

around the world of which Ukraine was the backdrop to the meeting.

During a 45-minute-long airborne news conference, a reporter asked if it was morally right for countries to send weapons to Ukraine.

“This is a political decision which can be moral, morally acceptable, if it is done under conditions of morality,” Francis said.

Explaining the difference between when it is moral or immoral to supply weapons to another country, Francis said it can be immoral if the intention is to provoke more war, or to sell arms or to dump arms that a country no longer needs. “The motivation is what in large part qualifies the morality of this action,” he added.

The Pope was asked whether Ukraine should negotiate with the country that invaded it.

“I would not exclude dialogue with any power that is at war, even if it is with the aggressor. ... Sometimes you have to carry out dialogue like this. It smells but it must be done,” he said.

In the media

Boys' Brigade in NI decides to split from UK and Irish body

BBC News

September 28, 2022

The Boys' Brigade (BB) in Northern Ireland has decided to separate from the organisation in the rest of the UK and Ireland.

It one of Northern Ireland's biggest youth organisations and is connected mainly to Presbyterian churches as well as some other Protestant denominations.

The Northern Ireland branch has said it has "cultural differences" with the wider UK and Ireland organisation.

It is understood that stances on LGBT issues account for some differences.

In a statement to BBC News NI, the BB in Northern Ireland said it had decided to become a "separate autonomous body by mutual agreement".

A resolution to establish a new BB Northern Ireland (BBNI) organisation was also passed at an annual general meeting (AGM) on Tuesday. More at - [\[https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-63044479\]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-63044479)

Ruth Dudley Edwards: A border poll will not be decided by people's religion

See News Letter 27/09/2022

TUV leader Jim Allister reminds Education Minister Michelle McIlveen of duty to provide Christian Religious Education and worship in schools

See News Letter 27/09/2022

Dr Richard Scott: NHS settles case at last minute over his Christian prayer for patients

Daily Telegraph

A doctor who offered to pray with his patients has agreed to attend a course on “boundaries” after settling his case with the NHS.

Dr Richard Scott, 62, a Christian GP at Bethesda Medical Centre in Margate, Kent, had received a number of complaints over the past two decades relating to his offers of spiritual care to some patients.

A tribunal that could have taken away his right to practice was called off after a last-minute settlement with the NHS, but Dr Scott will have to attend a £500 one-day training course on “professional boundaries”. More at -

[\[https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/09/27/christian-gp-richard-scott-accused-praying-patients-forced-attend/\]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/09/27/christian-gp-richard-scott-accused-praying-patients-forced-attend/)

'Heart-breaking': Irish priest says Pakistan flooding still critical

Crux Now

An Irish missionary priest in Pakistan said the “sheer scale” of the flooding disaster is “hard to comprehend” and “the misery of people, camped on the side of the road with their meager belongings, is heart-breaking to see.”

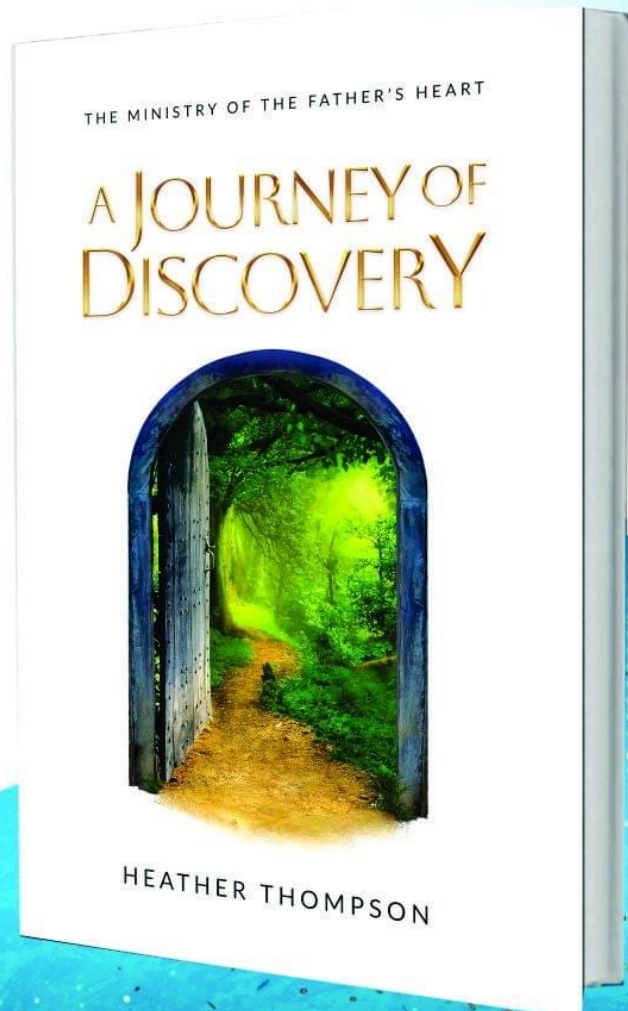
Columban Father Liam O’Callaghan told CNS there was “an urgent need for relief aid,” and he appealed to Catholics worldwide to respond.

[\[https://cruxnow.com/church-in-asia/2022/09/heart-breaking-irish-priest-says-pakistan-flooding-still-critical\]](https://cruxnow.com/church-in-asia/2022/09/heart-breaking-irish-priest-says-pakistan-flooding-still-critical)

September 28, 2022

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Heather not only reveals how God brought her on a journey of discovery, but how you to can discover the Ministry of the Father's Heart through His acceptance.



HEATHER THOMPSON

Bangor woman's first book

Heather Thompson of West Presbyterian Church Bangor releases her first book. Within its pages she shares amazing insight of the journey God has for His people.

September 28, 2022

Heather ministers often within her church and further afield.

Pre-order at

www.Ministryofthefathersheart.com

www.MauriceWylieMedia.com

Your Inspirational Christian Book Publisher

Release date: Oct 22, 2022.

Union College's Bible for All series

You are invited to the Bible for All series, hosted by Union Theological College's Institute for Ministry, taking place over four Thursday evenings in the Autumn.

29 September - How we got our Bible with Rev Dr Marty Cowan

Marty will tell the story of how God's Word in Scripture has come down to us today.

6 October – How to read the Bible with Rev Dr Ben Walker

Ben will offer practical advice and guidance on getting the most from our Bible.

13 October – Those who need the Bible with Wycliffe Bible Translators, Biblica & the Bible Society for Northern Ireland

Partner agencies will explore the impact of the Bible in people's lives and opportunities for getting involved in Bible translation and distribution work in today's world.

20 October – Telling the story of the Bible with Rev Lesley-Ann Wilson

Lesley-Anne will share her passion for oral Bible storytelling and help us discover the power of learning and speaking Scripture.

Please register your interest via the PCI website if you would like to book a place at all four evenings, or any individual evening.

www.presbyterianireland.org/Events

You can listen to a special podcast previewing the event series here:

<https://audioboom.com/posts/8150609-062-bible-for-all>

Poem for today

The Wild Swans at Coole by William Butler Yeats

The trees are in their autumn beauty,
The woodland paths are dry,
Under the October twilight the water
Mirrors a still sky;

September 28, 2022

Upon the brimming water among the stones
Are nine-and-fifty swans.

The nineteenth autumn has come upon me
Since I first made my count;
I saw, before I had well finished,
All suddenly mount
And scatter wheeling in great broken rings
Upon their clamorous wings.

I have looked upon those brilliant creatures,
And now my heart is sore.
All's changed since I, hearing at twilight,
The first time on this shore,
The bell-beat of their wings above my head,
Trode with a lighter tread.

Unwearied still, lover by lover,
They paddle in the cold
Companionable streams or climb the air;
Their hearts have not grown old;
Passion or conquest, wander where they will,
Attend upon them still.

But now they drift on the still water,
Mysterious, beautiful;
Among what rushes will they build,
By what lake's edge or pool
Delight men's eyes when I awake some day
To find they have flown away?

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