

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Church flowers Dunmurry

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Church flowers Dunmurry

Artistry in St Colman's Parish Church, Dunmurry.

News reports

Australian professorship for Irish priest

Fr Eamonn Conway has been appointed the Professor for Integral Human Development at the University of Notre Dame Australia.

Heading Theology and Religious Studies at Mary Immaculate College in Limerick until recently, Prof. Conway will be relocating to Perth to take up his new role in October.

"I very much welcome the opportunity this new role affords me, to develop an appreciation of the Christian understanding of the dignity of the human person in all its dimensions," Fr Conway said.

NICVA Faith Leadership Conference

Some information about next week's Leadership Conference.

The speakers helping shape the conversation are Neil Harrison - PCI Mission Development Officer and Rev. Alan

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Lorimer Psychologist and Accredited Cognitive Behavioural Psychotherapist. NICVA would love you to join them for For more info or to register. Email: diane@thriveireland.org

SOULS OF OUR SHOES



"These shoes speak on behalf of abused individuals"

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Souls of Our Shoes

The 2017 Annual Gathering of the Mothers' Union in Edinburgh introduced the Souls of Our Shoes Exhibition collated by the Scottish Interfaith Group.

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The first All-Ireland Souls of Our Shoes Exhibition was mounted in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin for the duration of the World Meeting of Families in 2018.

The physical shoes in the 'Souls of our Shoes' exhibition are accompanied by comments from those that have walked away from abuse, and those who journey with them. Read the full article on the MU website:

<https://www.mothersunion.org/news/souls-our-shoes>

Massive Theo Slam final online

Due to popular demand the organisers are going to be streaming this year's Theology Slam from live from Leeds.

If you aren't there in person, you'll be able to watch online FOR FREE. 27th Sept, 7pm - get it in your diaries...

Details: churchtimes.co.uk/theology-slam

Meet the Finalists

Stephanie Addenbrooke, a doctoral student at the University of Oxford. Her talk will be on the theme of “work”, reflecting on her experience of prolonged sickness while working as an associate youth pastor, and asking “how the Church might respond to a culture obsessed with productivity”.



View from RNLI station, Red Bay, Cushendall, yesterday

Alex Clare-Young, a pioneer minister in the United Reformed Church, currently serving in Cambridge, who is in the final stages of submitting a thesis for a Ph.D. in queer theologies at the University of Birmingham. Alex’s talk will be on the topic of “body”. “As a trans non-binary person, I am painfully aware that our lives are often reduced to objects of debate,” Alex Clare-Young says. “Our voices must be heard beyond debating our existence because we have lots to contribute to wider understandings of theology and anthropology.”

Amanda Higgin, who is in her second year of training as a Baptist minister at Regent’s Park College, Oxford, alongside working towards a Master’s degree in New Testament

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theology, with a focus on the Letter to the Hebrews. Her talk will be on the topic of “recovery”. “I was forced to suspend my studies in 2022 to recover from mental illness, which caused me to reflect on how Hebrews’ model of preaching to a traumatised community might help to lead people like me to recover new life from our familiar traditions,” she says.

Victoria Turner, who is in the final stages of her Ph.D. in World Christianity at the University of Edinburgh, where she is exploring developments in Christian mission. She is a member of the United Reformed Church and has published on youth, class, and ecumenism. “My interest in justice stems from my working-class background and exploration of World Christianity and liberation theology,” she says. “I’ve participated in and taught peace-making courses and believe justice the core of our discipleship and mission.”

Meet the Judges

Professor Anthony Reddie, director of the Oxford Centre for Religion and Culture

Canon Rachel Mann, Area Dean of Bury and Rossendale, Assistant Curate of St Mary’s, Bury, a Visiting Teaching Fellow of the Manchester Writing School at Manchester Met University, and a Visiting Scholar of Sarum College, Salisbury.

Prebendary Isabelle Hamley, Secretary for Ecumenical Relations and Theology and Theological Adviser to the House of Bishops

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Revd Dr Sam Wells, Vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields, London, and contributor to Radio 4's Thought for the Day

Vatican's post on women is unacceptable, says McAleese

Former Irish President desc robes material as “outrageous, misogynistic claptrap,” Sarah MacDonald reports in the Irish News.

Former Irish President Mary McAleese has strongly criticised a top Vatican department for posting “misogynistic claptrap” about women on its website.

The Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life is the curial office which promotes the traditional model of the family based on marriage between a man and a woman.

It is led by Irish cardinal, Kevin Farrell, who in 2018, refused to grant permission to Prof McAleese, who is originally from Ardoyne in north Belfast, and two other women to speak at a Voices of Faith conference in the Vatican on International Women's Day.

In a section providing source material from early church theologians, the Dicastery's website quotes extensively from the Christian writer Tertullian, known as “the founder of Western theology”.

Writing about women's apparel in the third century, Tertullian suggests women caused human perdition through Eve.



In the Glens of Antrim

He states: “You are the devil's gateway: you are the unsealer of that (forbidden) tree: you are the first deserter of the divine law: you are she who persuaded him whom the devil was not valiant enough to attack. You destroyed so easily God's image, man. On account of your desert — that is, death — even the Son of God had to die.”

Prof McAleese described the material as “outrageous, ignorant, unacceptable” and said it should be removed “immediately” unless the church considers it in line with its teachings.

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She said: “Is every woman born really an Eve? Is every woman carrying the shame of Eve. Is every woman under a duty to fully expiate for Eve's ignominy?

“Is Eve the cause of human perdition according to the magisterium? Have women been sentenced by God in perpetuity for Eve's sin? Are women to blame for Christ's death?”

Referring to Tertullian's writings as “awful”, Prof McAleese added: “It absolutely beggars belief that this misogynistic claptrap is highlighted, reproduced in the 21st century and offered from the heartland of the magisterium because, it claims: 'The Fathers of the first four centuries, whose works were full of the spirit of the primitive Christian community, help us to better understand the mission of the family, its essence, and the unbreakable bond between man and woman'.”

C of E Chaplain who disputed LGBT policies ‘a risk to children’

A school chaplain was deemed a risk to children by his Church of England diocese for defending the right to question LGBT policies.

The Rev Dr Bernard Randall, 49, is suing the Bishop of Derby and Trent College, Nottingham, over alleged religious discrimination after he was sacked by the fee-paying school and reported to terrorism watchdogs.

Dr Randall is claiming £120,000 in damages at an employment tribunal that begins today.



In Antrim Castle grounds

The University of Oxford graduate and former chaplain of Christ's College, Cambridge, was dismayed when his diocese launched its own investigation and conducted a risk

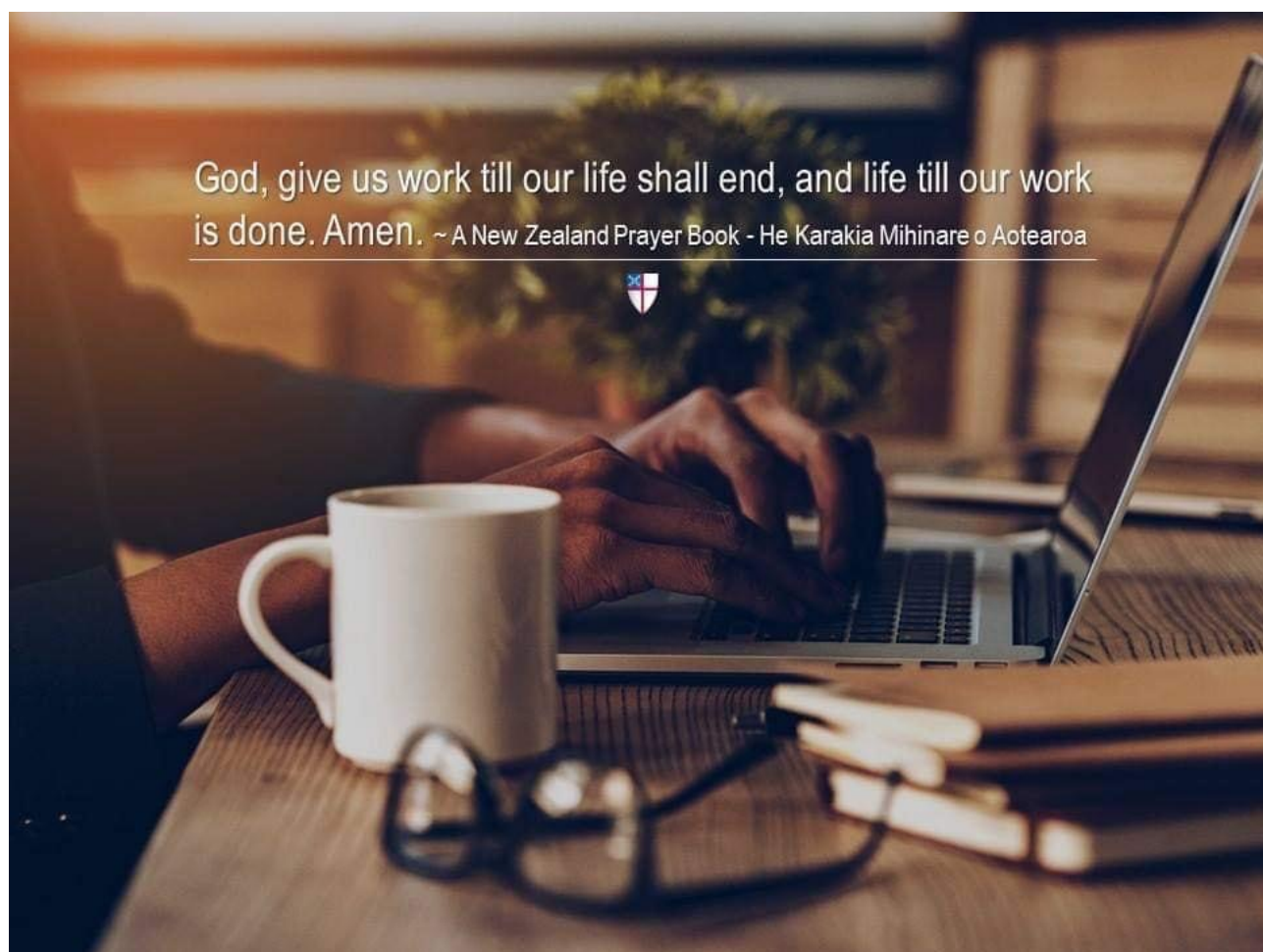
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assessment that concluded that he posed a “moderate” risk, and might cause children “anxiety” if they came to him with “a sexuality or relationship” issue.

Dr Randall says he will be claiming damages including for hurt feelings and lost earnings from the school and the Bishop of Derby, the Rt Rev Libby Lane.

He will ask for reinstatement to his post and when asked if he thought members of the diocese should resign, said Bishop Lane was among those “that might find that they need to repent” and that he sought “forgiveness” instead.

“If it wasn’t so serious, it would be funny that the Church is being alleged to have discriminated against one of its



officers on the basis that that officer holds its teachings,” he added.

“It shouldn’t be possible but here it is and that’s why it’s for [the] good of the Church to deal with these things.”

Dr Randall was appointed in 2015 to provide pastoral care, share the Christian faith and lead services in Trent School’s chapel.

In his sermon Dr Randall outlined the Anglican Church’s view of marriage as being between a man and a woman and was delivered after students questioned the school’s new policy on sexual-orientation diversity.

The Diocese of Derby said in a statement: “Mr Randall has never been an employee of the diocese and the licence he held was as a result of his employment by Trent College. The Bishop of Derby is saddened that Mr Randall is bringing these grievances and has tried to ensure pastoral care for him.

“Given that he has started legal processes against the Diocese and the Bishop of Derby, it would be inappropriate to comment further.”

Andrea Williams, chief executive of the Christian Legal Centre, said: “The Church of England’s wholesale misuse of safeguarding to suggest that Bernard is a risk to children is one of them most distasteful and objectionable elements of [this] case.”

Gambling reforms should be priority of incoming PM, says Christian advocates

A Christian advocacy group is concerned that the new Prime Minister may let assurances surrounding gambling reforms slip down the agenda - or drop them entirely.

In 2019, the Government promised to publish a whitepaper on gambling reforms; as of yet, no such document has been shared.

In the years since the last set of gambling reforms - presented in 2015 - the online world has seen rates of gambling rocket.

Care's Jamie Gillies stressed that Christians have a duty to show concern.

He said: "An emphasis in Scripture is always on God's care for the vulnerable, for the oppressed in society, for people who are victims of injustice.

"...Part of our call to follow Christ involves self-emptying love, and concern for people in our church, and also the society around us.

"We're called to pray for people who are victims of injustice, like people who are being targeted by a greedy industry."

The leadership race reached its conclusion yesterday Monday, 5th September.



THE ROYAL MILITARY CHAPEL (THE GUARDS' CHAPEL)

Sunday 4th September

The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity
1100 - Choral Holy Communion
Preacher: The Reverend Richard Begg CF,
Chaplain,
1st Battalion, The Princess of Wales's
Royal Regiment
The Band of the Irish Guards

Sunday 11th September

The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity
1100 - Choral Matins
Preacher: The Reverend Mark Speeks CF,
Chaplain,
The Honourable Artillery Company
The Band of the Honourable
Artillery Company

1500 - Choral Holy Communion and
Collation of the Reverend Stephen
Dunwoody CF as the Archdeacon
for the Army
Preacher: The Right Reverend Hugh Nelson,
Bishop to the Forces

Sunday 18th September

The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity
1100 - Choral Holy Communion
Preacher: The Chaplain
The Band of the Coldstream Guards

Tuesday 20th September

1310 - How can I keep from singing?
A Recital by members of the
Guards' Chapel Choir, with music ranging from
Mendelssohn to Broadway

Friday 23rd September

1900 - The Harp and Crown
A Concert by the Band of the Irish Guards.

Sunday 25th September

The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity
1100 - Choral Matins
Preacher: The Reverend Antony Feltham-White
OBE QHC CF, Chaplain
HQ 1st (UK) Division
The Countess of Wessex's
String Orchestra

Tuesday 27th September

1310 - Guards' Chapel Recital Series
A Recital by the Wind Ensemble of the
Band of the Irish Guards

ALL ARE WELCOME

Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, London SW1E 6HQ
For more information: www.householddivision.org.uk/guards-chapel

Find us on   @TheGuardsChapel

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Care is urging people to speak to politicians to ensure the issue is a priority of the incoming PM.

"What we can do most obviously, is pray and act," said Jamie.

"And in terms of action, we can all write to MPs about this. Regardless of what party your MP is in, they will have the ability to speak out on this issue."

Closure of Scottish Highlands churches a worrying feature

Twenty-six churches could close across parts of the Scottish Highlands and Moray under radical cost-cutting plans by the Church of Scotland.

Among the sites at risk of being sold off are the picturesque St Laurence in Forres, St Ninians in Nairn and St Stephen's in Inverness.

Under draft plans, the number of parishes in Inverness presbytery area would be reduced by about half, with some congregations merged.

The Church of Scotland said the proposals formed part of its wider five-year mission plan, and would help to ensure its limited resources could meet 21st century needs.

Daviot church, built in 1826, is a well-known landmark on the A9 south of Inverness, while the site of Forres' St Laurence church has been a place of worship for 700 years.

Rev Mike Robertson, convener of Inverness presbytery's mission planning group, said: "We recognise that throughout the Inverness presbytery and beyond, there are buildings where congregations are engaging in positive outreach work to support their communities, so we know that some of these decisions will be difficult.

"However, a proposed closure of a particular building is not a judgement on the congregation, but part of a mission plan for the whole of the presbytery."

Poem for today

Among the Rocks by Robert Browning

Oh, good gigantic smile o' the brown old earth,
This autumn morning! How he sets his bones
To bask i' the sun, and thrusts out knees and feet
For the ripple to run over in its mirth;
Listening the while, where on the heap of stones
The white breast of the sea-lark twitters sweet.

That is the doctrine, simple, ancient, true;
Such is life's trial, as old earth smiles and knows.
If you loved only what were worth your love,
Love were clear gain, and wholly well for you:
Make the low nature better by your throes!
Give earth yourself, go up for gain above!

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Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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