

Church News Ireland



**Image of the day – The Chapel Royal
at Hampton Court Palace**



Image of the day

The Chapel Royal at Hampton Court Palace

The Chapel Royal at Hampton Court Palace is a part of the ecclesiastical Household of Her Majesty The Queen.

Her Majesty provides this beautiful place of worship and its establishment of a Chaplain, a Director of Music and a full-time Choir for all who may wish to worship here.

The Chapel Royal is a living, vibrant church with heavenly music, located at the heart of the historic palace. Everyone is welcome to attend the sung religious services at The Chapel Royal or to visit the place where Kings and Queens have worshipped for centuries.

The Chapel Royal has always been an active church within the Church of England: its services are traditional, according to the Book of Common Prayer of 1662.

[\[https://www.chapelroyalhamptoncourt.org.uk/worship/\]](https://www.chapelroyalhamptoncourt.org.uk/worship/)

News reports

Alpha Ireland conference

Alpha Ireland is holding a conference in Dublin on Saturday September 24.

Alpha Ireland engages with those in all Christian denominations and churches to equip and enable people to share their faith with others and to impact the communities they serve.

The Alpha conference, AIC22: MULTIPLY, will gather speakers alongside those engaged in church leadership in Ireland to encourage churches with new ways of engaging with the communities around them and communicating our Christian faith. It will also bring together a panel of leaders

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who are reaching out to young people across Ireland in churches, schools and communities.

Alpha invites you to join the conference to meet with others and hear about new initiatives and stories of personal faith from around Ireland.

Tickets are €25 (to include lunch) and discounted parking can be booked nearby after registration.

Conference takes place on Saturday September 24 from 9.30am – 4.30pm in St Catherine's Church, Thomas Street, Dublin 8 D08 DNA7

To book places, please register here -
[<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/aic22-multiply-tickets-327174576967>]

[<https://alphaireland.org/multiply>]

Wilson's Hospital teacher who refused to use gender neutral pronouns jailed for contempt of court

A teacher has been sent to prison for contempt of court following a dispute with his school over the use of transgender pronouns, Christian Today reports.

Enoch Burke was suspended by Wilson's Hospital School, a Church of Ireland-run boarding school in County Westmeath, Ireland, after he refused to use the preferred pronouns of a transgender student.

The student, with school and parental support, requested in May that the pronoun 'they' be used instead of 'he'.

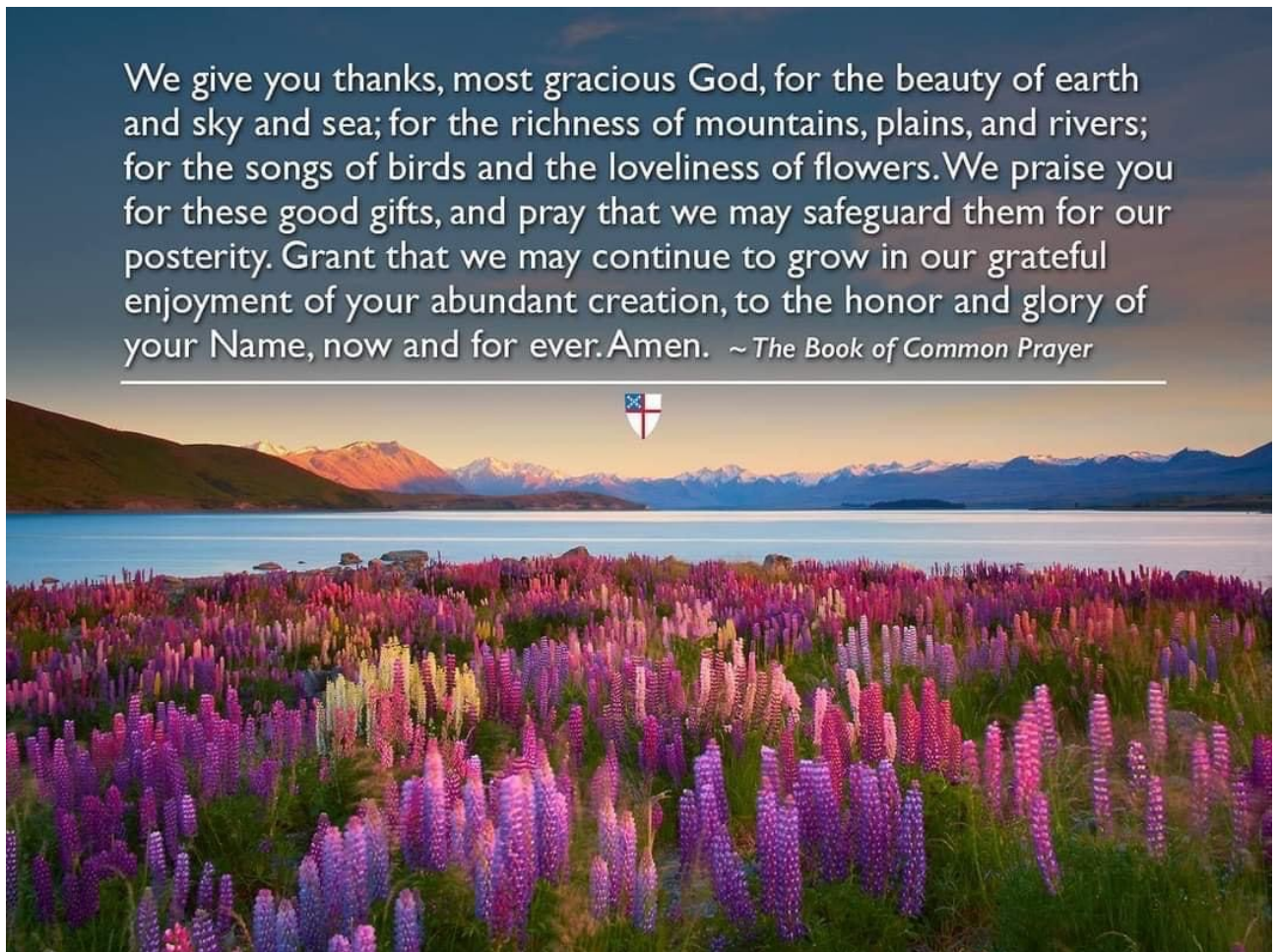
When Mr Burke refused to comply with the request, the school began disciplinary proceedings and he was suspended, the Daily Mail reports.

The court heard that despite his suspension, Mr Burke continued to come to the school and sit in an empty classroom, claiming that he was there to work.

A court order issued last week stipulated that he must not teach or be physically present at the school.

Mr Burke was arrested on Monday for breaching the court order and sent to Mountjoy prison for contempt of court.

We give you thanks, most gracious God, for the beauty of earth and sky and sea; for the richness of mountains, plains, and rivers; for the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers. We praise you for these good gifts, and pray that we may safeguard them for our posterity. Grant that we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation, to the honor and glory of your Name, now and for ever. Amen. ~ *The Book of Common Prayer*



He said his imprisonment was "insanity" but added that it would not make him change his stance.

Mr Burke said that transgenderism went against his Christian beliefs and that he should not be forced to violate his conscience.

"It is contrary to the Scriptures, contrary to the ethos of the Church of Ireland and of my school," he said.

Mr Burke went on to claim that across Ireland, teachers are being "forced" to use gender neutral pronouns.

"It is extraordinary and reprehensible that someone's religious beliefs on this matter could ever be taken as grounds for an allegation of misconduct," he continued.

"My religious beliefs are not misconduct. They are not gross misconduct. They never will be.

"They are dear to me. I will never deny them and never betray them, and I will never bow to an order that would require me to do so.

"It is just not possible for me to do that."

Rosemary Mallon BL, representing the school's board of management, told the court that they wanted Mr Burke to comply with the court order.

"...Mr Burke is knowingly in breach of this order, he is therefore in contempt and he has made it clear that if he is not committed to prison he will attend at the school [today],

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and the concerns of the school regarding the ongoing disruption to the students remain," she said.

Judge Michael Quinn told Mr Burke that he could be released if he agrees to comply with the court order.

Report courtesy Christian Today, September 6, 2022.

Rededication of St Patrick's, Ballymena, after major works

The Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev George Davison, formally rededicated St Patrick's Parish Church, Ballymena, on Sunday September 4, following major building works to remove a dry rot infestation.

Bishop George joined parishioners, representatives of the project's major contractors and community leaders for the morning service.

The rector, the Rev Canon Mark McConnell, said: "This represents a wonderful achievement, in difficult times – most of the fundraising and work was carried out while Covid-19 restrictions were still in place – and many were rightly thanked for all their hard work, generosity and encouragements along the duration of the project."

He continued: "Bishop George thoughtfully provoked all present to consider what following Christ means from the various strong images within Luke Chapter 14."



Bishop George Davison in St Patrick's, Ballymena, for the rededication of the Church following major works.

Anyone who would like to visit St Patrick's Church can contact the Church Office on 028 2563 0741 or come along worship any Sunday (see Ballymena Parish Facebook page for details).

Presbyterian Moderator congratulates the UK's next Prime Minister

With the announcement yesterday that Liz Truss is to be the United Kingdom's next Prime Minister, the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Right Reverend Dr John Kirkpatrick, has offered his congratulations to her as she assumes office saying, 'the in-tray awaiting the new Prime Minister contains some of the most difficult and complex

issues that have faced the UK and farther afield in a generation.’

“On behalf of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, I would like to offer my congratulations to Ms Truss as she assumes the UK’s highest political office”, Dr Kirkpatrick said.

“The in-tray awaiting the new Prime Minister contains some of the most difficult and complex issues that have faced the UK and farther afield in a generation. From the cost of living crisis to the war in Ukraine, industrial unrest in Great Britain to record levels of inflation, I recognise that this will be a very challenging time for any new Prime Minister. Alongside these important issues, I would urge the new government to encourage the formation of the Northern Ireland Executive and resolve matters relating to the Northern Ireland Protocol.”

Dr Kirkpatrick continued, “For those of us who are disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, we are called to pray for those in authority. Ms Truss can be assured of my prayers and those of many throughout our Church across the island of Ireland as she begins the work of government and starts to deal with the vast array of issues before it.

“The Bible also reminds us that the ‘one in authority is God’s servant for good’ (Romans 13:4). Bearing that in mind, it is my hope and prayer that Ms Truss will prioritise those who are vulnerable and in need, while at the same time, upholding with dignity and respect the office that she has been entrusted with.”



Methodist Church's call to pray for new Prime Minister

The Council on Social Welfare of the Methodist Church in Ireland has offered prayerful support to the new Prime Minister Liz Truss.

Liz Truss has promised to deal with rising energy costs and to cut taxes.

She will succeed outgoing PM Boris Johnson.

The 47-year-old is the UK's third female Prime Minister and becomes the new leader of the Conservative and Unionist Party.

In a statement, the church said, “The Methodist Church in Ireland wishes the new Prime Minister well and encourages all our people to pray for her and her new Cabinet as they embark on this enormous task at this critical time. Following our Lord, we have particular concern for those who are the most vulnerable in our society and we will pray for our new Prime Minister as she leads the Government in tackling the ‘cost of living crisis’, with its potentially devastating impact on millions of poorer families.

“We also offer her prayerful support in dealing urgently with the political logjam in Northern Ireland. It is vital that she helps in finding an agreed way of dealing with the Protocol and the return of a functioning Executive at Stormont.”

Message for the new Prime Minister from Moderator of Church of Scotland

The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland and the Principal Clerk of the General Assembly have sent an open letter of congratulations to the new Prime Minister.

Rt Rev Dr Iain Greenshields and Rev Fiona Smith welcomed Liz Truss MP to her new role as the leader of the UK Government and the Conservative Party south of the border.

She is under immediate pressure to tackle soaring energy costs facing millions of people and the cost of living crisis more generally, an issue that the Church has repeatedly urged the UK Government to take urgent action on.



Rt Rev Dr Iain Greenshields

Congregations are currently discussing what more they can do to help low-income families and individuals and on Saturday, Fife Presbytery is holding an emergency Poverty Hearing at Wellesley Parish Church Centre in Methil.

Dear Prime Minister

Congratulations on your election as leader of the Conservative Party and for your appointment as Prime Minister.

Our prayers – and those of members of the Church of Scotland – are with you as you undertake your new responsibilities.



Rev Fiona Smith

The Church regularly prays for those in positions of political authority, recognising the often difficult decisions you have to make on behalf of all of us.

We also pray that wisdom, compassion, justice and mercy might touch the hearts of those in government and that God will be with them.

Our political debate has become increasingly polarised and acrimonious in recent years; robust disagreement is normal in a healthy democracy, but being disagreeable is not.

A tone has developed whereby it is commonplace for political opponents to traduce rivals personally, rather than focus on the substance of debate.

We've seen people from all parts of the political landscape and media commentators use tactics of name-calling, belittling and bullying people who have a different point of view.

Our plea to you as you take up the office of Prime Minister is to do what you can do to restore civility and respect in our political discourse – allowing for deep disagreement, but in a way which treats everyone with dignity and respect.

We hope your visit to Scotland to meet Her Majesty the Queen was blessed with peace.

We look forward to meeting you in London later in the autumn.

Dominican Sister's first profession

This week Sr Cooley made her first profession, for three years, as a Dominican Sister of St Joseph.

The Sisters commented - "Our hearts are so full of joy on this wonderful occasion! Thank you to everyone for your love, prayers, and support! Please continue to keep our Sr Cooley in your prayers as she goes forward in this next phase of her religious life".

The Catholic Chaplaincy at Queen's University said - "Many congratulations to Ciara Fowler, an alumna of St Mary's University College, which is a partner of Queen's University Belfast. Ciara today made first profession with the Dominican Sisters of St Joseph, an important milestone on



her journey to serve God and his people as a religious sister. Ciara was earlier given the name, Sr Cooley, after a local saint venerated in her home village of Portaferry. We wish her every blessing and assure her of our prayers and support”.

Jane Burns reflects on her journey to ordination

As I sit at home in Athy, Co. Kildare on a beautiful August morning, I am awaiting in joyful anticipation the beginning of my Deacon Intern placement in Taney Parish in September 2022.

I live on the edge of what was my parent's and is now my brother's farm, so my identity is rooted in a rural farming



Jane Burns will be ordained to the Diaconate on Sunday September 18 in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, at 3.30pm by Archbishop Michael Jackson. She will serve as Deacon Intern in Taney Parish in Dublin. Here she talks of her background and her call to ordination.

family. Growing up, we were deeply immersed in Parish life in Athy Union. My faith was established and nurtured through children's Parish activities and further developed during my secondary school life in Kilkenny College.

I have worked in administration in The Representative Church Body, an Irish Insurance Company and with Christian Aid Ireland. I am married to Dermot, he works in the financial sector, and we have three children, Jamie is at College, Ellen has just completed her Leaving Certificate and Kate is about to commence Transition Year. When I reflect on a sense of vocational calling, I can discern that

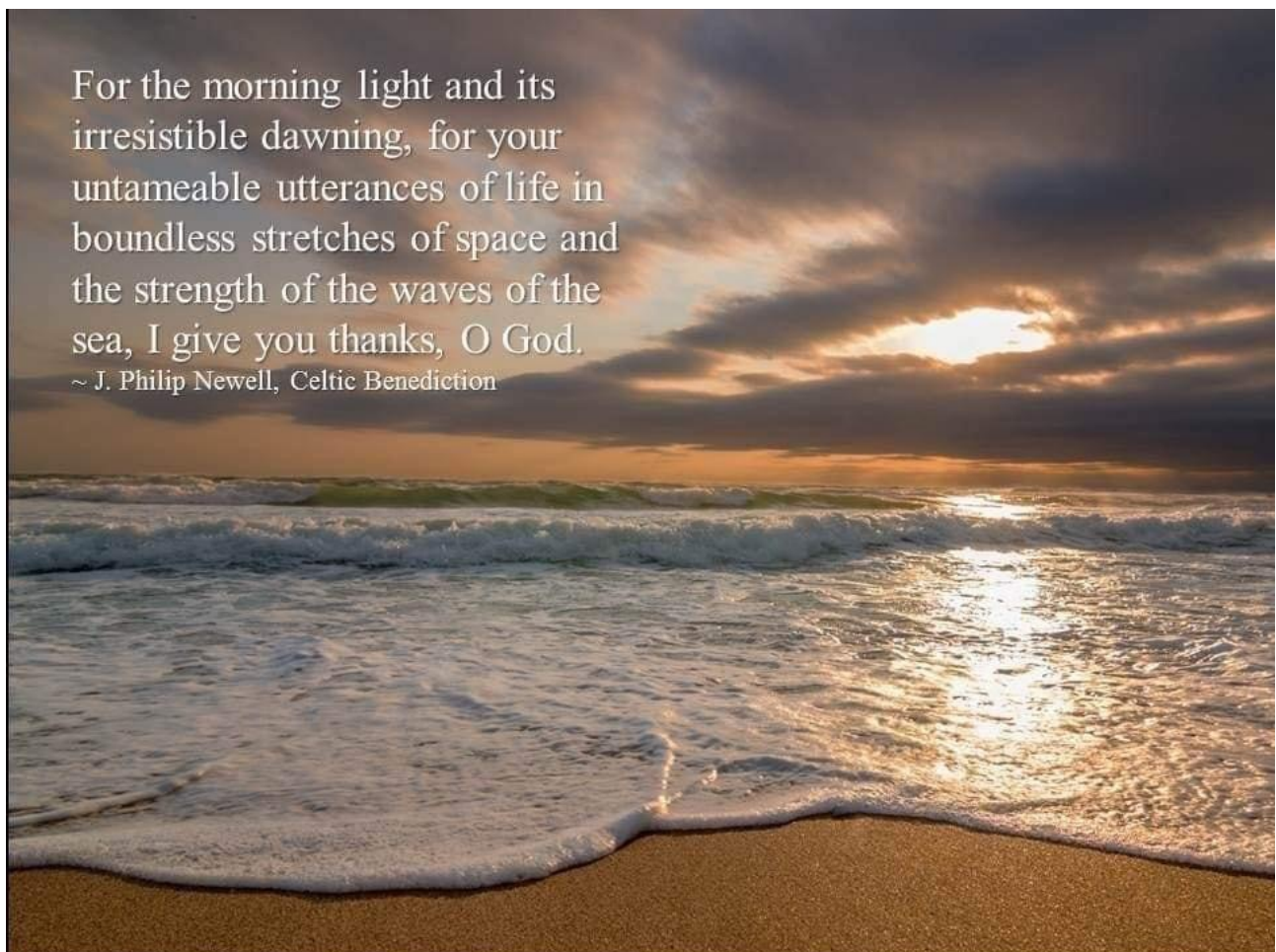
God's calling has been consistently present in my life since my teenage years. Encouraged by my Rector, Cliff Jeffers I undertook The Archbishops Course in Theology between 2008 and 2010. This course was instrumental in developing the sense of calling but as a mother of three young children, I also knew deep down that the time was not right at that point.

After an eight-year period at home fulltime with the children, during which time I was very active in volunteer roles in the Parish, the school and in Christian Aid I began a part time role as Church and Community Officer with Christian Aid Ireland in 2015. I have travelled overseas twice with Christian Aid to Zimbabwe and India, both experiences having a profound impact on my personality. Christ's command in Matthew 22:37–39, to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind and our neighbour as ourselves sums up the basis of my personal faith, my absolute love for God and my desire to serve him in all that I do. This foundation in my faith easily aligned with Christian Aid's belief in equality, dignity, and freedom for all people, recognising the image of God in every person and responding to Christ's command to love our global neighbour.

My role in Christian Aid ensured that I spent lots of time with Church congregations and my sense of God gently guiding me towards exploring Ordained Ministry was a feeling I could no longer delay. I was encouraged and supported in the discernment process by my Rector, Olive Donohoe and by members of the congregation in Athy Union, as well as the Diocesan Vocations Group. The Archbishop sent me to Selection Conference in 2019, after which I began in the Part-Time MTh in the Church of Ireland Theological

Institute. I have been truly blessed in the people I have encountered through this process and the experiences I have had on placements in Kildare and Newbridge Union, Crumlin and Chapelizod and Christ Church Cathedral.

Throughout my training my faith continues to deepen and my desire to see others develop their personal relationship with God motivates me. I look forward to humbly serving God this year under the guidance and experience of Rev Nigel Pierpoint and his Ministry Team alongside the congregations in Christ Church, Taney, and St Nahi's. In the words of Saint Paul to the Romans, my desire is to; '... rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who are weeping.' (Romans 12:15).



In a lighter vein



Today is the feast day of Saint Aidan of Lindisfarne. To help fund his mission he sold ice creams to the tourists who visited the island. This is commemorated today by the statue of the holy man which stands in the ruins of the medieval priory. He is portrayed handing over a double scoop cone (probably mead flavoured) without flake.

Poem for today

St. Martin's Summer by Robert Louis Stevenson

As swallows turning backward
When half-way o'er the sea,

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At one word's trumpet summons
They came again to me -
The hopes I had forgotten
Came back again to me.

I know not which to credit,
O lady of my heart!
Your eyes that bade me linger,
Your words that bade us part -
I know not which to credit,
My reason or my heart.

But be my hopes rewarded,
Or be they but in vain,
I have dreamed a golden vision,
I have gathered in the grain -
I have dreamed a golden vision,
I have not lived in vain.

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

