

**The essential daily
brief on the Irish
churches**



During the FIFA World Cup #WCC member churches in the country and the National Council of Churches will help visitors to better understand the Brazilian context and also to experience and share their faith. The programme includes inter-religious celebrations on the theme of peace and building awareness about such issues as human trafficking and sexual abuse of children and adolescents

Pope Francis sends message to World Cup opening

Pope Francis delivered a video message to the organisers, players and fans participating in the 2014 World Cup tournament in Brazil.

Delivered in Portuguese, the message expresses the Holy Father's hope that, in addition to a celebration of sport, this World Cup can be transformed into a festival of solidarity between peoples.

The message goes on to say sport is not only a form of entertainment, but also a tool to communicate the values that promote the good of the human person and help to build a more peaceful and fraternal coexistence.

The Holy Father's message also discusses the importance of sport in moral education, since the sporting spirit is one that teaches the need for discipline, effort and sacrifice to succeed and achieve excellence – becoming a constant reminder of the sacrifices necessary to grow in the virtues that build the character of a person.

Football, the message continues to say, can and should be a school for the formation of a "culture of encounter", leading to harmony and peace among peoples – teaching as it does the value of fair play and authentic team effort – values, the message concludes, without which all of society is damaged.

Video message at -

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Christ Church Cathedral's First Dublin Garden Festival opens today

**The
transformation
of Christ Church
Cathedral has
begun with
designers taking
over to 'bring
the outside
inside' for the
Dublin Garden**



Festival. The festival gets underway at 9.00 am today Friday, June 13, and continues all weekend until 7.00 pm on Sunday evening.

Throughout the weekend the cathedral will be overflowing with stunning classical and contemporary floral arrangements designed by talented and award winning florists.

Among those taking part will be Christopher White who will be displaying his creation 'Twisted and Tangled' that won a Silver medal at Chelsea. This tropical display will include the use of Vanda Orchids, Anthurium Previa, roses, Calla Lillies and Carnations. They will be on a pedestal on an iron stand in the Chancel.

Adonis flowers will have a tree-lined avenue in the nave of the cathedral to create a formal garden. The display will also include a 20 foot tall dried tree that has been decorated by the owner, Paul Berry.

Third class of St Audoen's National School have created innovative and original gardens by themselves and these wonderful designs can be viewed in the niches in the North Ambulatory.

Among the many other wonderful displays will be works by the Mothers' Union, the Friends of Christ Church, the Royal Horticultural Society of Ireland and the ICA to name but a few.

Each day, a number of talks entitled 'Gardening With The Experts' will take place in the cathedral's South Transept featuring a host of prolific expert gardeners discussing everything from money-saving composting to



creating your very own urban garden.

The line-up is as follows:

Friday 13 June 11am: Helen Dillon | 2pm: Matthew Jebb | 3pm: Christopher White | 6pm: Fiann O Nuallain

Saturday 14 June 10am: Kitty Scully | 12.00pm: Fiann O Nuallain | 1.30pm: Dermot O'Neill | 3.00pm: Christopher White | 4.30pm: Gerry Daly | 6.00pm: Jane McCorkell

Sunday 15 June 1pm: Diarmuid Gavin

Music will fill the cathedral each day with recitals, bird song and much more. The stellar voices of Christ Church Cathedral Choir will perform a special concert at 3.30 pm on Sunday with Benjamin Britten's beautiful unaccompanied work, *Five Flower Songs*.

Throughout the weekend there will be music to add to the atmosphere. On Friday the Norwegian Choir Kolbotn Koret will perform a selection of pieces on both English And Norwegian. There will also be jazz on Friday evening with piano and sax duo Nathalia Astramowicz–McGough and Barbara Dunne.

Christ Church Cathedral Choir will perform a special concert at 3.30 pm on Sunday June 15 with Benjamin Britten's beautiful unaccompanied work *Flower Songs*. There will also be a flower themed organ recital performed by Richard Gowers in the evening. The festival will close with Evensong, sung by the Cathedral Choir. There will also be live music in the grounds during the festival.

A market will be held over the weekend in the grounds and the crypt and there will be many activities for children to enjoy.

The festival will be open Friday 13 and Saturday 14 from 9am until 9pm and Sunday 15 from 12.30pm to 7pm. Admission – €12 / €10 conc. 2 Day Pass – €20/€16 conc. 3 Day Pass – 30/€25 conc. Groups of 10 or more: €8.50. Children under 12 go free. Early Bird offer available now on Ticketmaster: €10 / €16; 2 Day Pass: €25. 3 Day Pass – €30. offer ends 6th June. For tickets please visit: <http://www.ticketmaster.ie/Dublin-Garden-Festival-tickets/artist/5132628>

Presbyterian Corkey House celebrates golden anniversary

Services were held to mark the anniversary of one of the Presbyterian's longest established Residential Care Homes. Corkey House based on

**the Forthriver Crescent
in North Belfast
celebrates 50 years
offering care and
support to older people
in a Christian
environment.**



A service was held yesterday evening in the home for the 33 residents lead by Mr. Geogre Lunn, City Missioner at Glencairn City Mission Hall. Newly installed Moderator Dr.

Michael Barry will bring greetings from the Presbyterian Church.

Later in the evening a larger service was hosted in Glencairn City Mission Hall for local ministers, the local Support Committee, representatives from the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, staff of Corkey House and family of residents to give thanks for the House which many have called ‘home’ over the past half century. Local clergy will participate with the Moderator in the service and special music items will be lead by members of the Emmanuel Church.

In 2004, a new purpose built centre on Forthriver Crescent replaced the original Corkey House which was based on the Ballygomartin Road. The House was named after the former Moderator the Very Rev Dr William Corkey who, after the Second World War, founded the Presbyterian Residential Trust so that the Church could give something back to those who had served it well during their active lives.

Reflecting on the occasion, Linda Wray, Residential Services Manager with the Presbyterian’s Board of Social Witness said, “It is important to mark these milestones for Corkey House not only being in their present home for ten years but also to give thanks for the history of the House dating back to 1964.

“Our residents enjoy comfortable accommodation and 24 hour care lead by the Head of Home, Ann Anderson and her team of dedicated staff. The Christian ethos is very important to the residents who come from a range of denominations. Daily devotions and weekly services conducted by staff and local ministers are an important part of the routine at Corkey House.”

Managed by the Presbyterian Board of Social Witness, Corkey House is registered and inspected by the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority and the building is owned by Oaklee/Trinity Housing Association. In addition, a local Support committee plays a vital role in the overall monitoring, made up of representatives from neighbouring congregations and the local community.

The home also has an active 'Friends of Corkey House' which seeks to befriend residents and assist in day trips and various activities.

For more information on the Board of Social witness, visit www.pcibsw.org

Yesterday's Highlights at the Irish Methodist Conference

Cavehill and Jennymount circuits are united

The Cavan & Longford circuit is dissolved, the societies moving to the North Connacht and Upper Erne circuits to facilitate mission

Yesterday we welcomed a Korean Methodist minister to the Irish Church. Today we accepted his people in Dublin as a Methodist society

Conference pauses for a Service of Remembrance for ministers who have died in the past year - Dennis Cooke and George McFarland

Rev Peter Murray, [new] President says, "not the love of buildings but the building of love.

Greetings conveyed to by Bishop Harold Miller, Donald Watts Churches in Ireland, & RuthMGee from the British Methodist Church. Archbishop Richard Clarke led the bible study.



Chopin The Masterworks - Limerick lunchtime piano recitals

A series of four Lunchtime Piano Recitals by Stuart O’Sullivan, featuring the greatest music of Frederic Chopin to celebrate Limerick’s year as City of Culture.

Wednesday 18th June: 4 Scherzi, op. 20, op.31, op. 39 and op. 54.

Wednesday 25th June: 14 Waltzes.

In St Mary’s Cathedral at 1.15 pm. Free admission. Retiring collection in aid of The Companions of St. Mary’s Cathedral music.

Also - Wednesday 2nd July: Lorna Moore (piano) plays music by Scarlatti, Grieg, Debussy and Britten and is joined by violinist Marian Power for Mozart’s Sonata in E minor.



Community Relations Council
Equity Diversity Interdependence

David Stevens Memorial Lecture - Religion and Politics in a Changing NI

The lecture *Religion and Politics in a Changing Northern Ireland* will be delivered by John Brewer, Professor of Post Conflict Studies at Queen’s University.

Wednesday 18 June at 6.00 pm at the Stormont Hotel (Dunmisk Room) Belfast It will be followed at 7.00 pm by the presentation of the CRC Award for Exceptional Achievement

RSVP by 16 June to Ellana Tomasso etomasso@nicrc.org.uk or tel. 028 9022 7500

More at: <http://www.community-relations.org.uk/2014/06/david-stevens-memorial-lecture-religion-politics-changing-ni/#sthash.iIMf9qKw.dpuf>

Steady growth in Moneyreagh church plant

Moneyreagh Community Church - a church plant in Down & Dromore diocese - meets in the village's new Community Centre and is lead by Revd. Mervyn Jamison.



Mr Jamison said, “Our first service was on the 20th October, 2013 and 7 months later we have approximately 50 folk coming along regularly. The exciting thing about the congregation is that we have a great mix of all ages and social backgrounds worshipping together. Our principles are based on those of the early church in Acts 2 who ‘...devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer’.

“The service is loosely based on Cafe Church, with no more than 3 songs, some liturgy and preaching and all completed in 45minutes with a real emphasis on fellowship, before and afterwards. We have people who have never been to church, lapsed church goers and a few well-seasoned worshippers.

“It’s working! In a short period of time, a number of lives have been changed and renewed and in the past 4 weeks we’ve had 2 people who have come to faith. Those who come along seem to stay and there is a real feeling of community and belonging. Just recently I sat down with a family – a Dad and two sons aged 19 and 20 who haven’t been to church in years who are now regular attenders.

“Our mid-week FIT4LIFE program (Physical on Tuesdays and Spiritual on Wednesdays) has been a big hit with all ages. John and Heather, along with a few others have been running a youth club on Friday nights and now there are at least 20 regular teenagers who’ve had very little experience of ‘church’. We hope to run the Alpha Course in the autumn.”

Pupil absence rates in Ulster twice England’s

Rates of unauthorised absence among school children in Northern Ireland are double that in England, a Stormont committee has found.

News Letter - The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) expressed concern the percentage of absence that was not approved rose from 27% to 33% in the four years up to 2012.

Committee members highlighted particular concerns about attendance levels among pupils from socially deprived backgrounds, Traveller children and those in care.

They accused the specialist support body, [Education](#) Welfare Service (EWS), of not being on top of the problem of non-attendance.

The EWS is provided by the Education and Library Boards and it employs 134 Education Welfare Officers at a cost of £8.8 million each year.

The committee found that 16,000 cases of pupils being off for more than six weeks in the year had not been referred to the EWS.

Committee chair Michaela Boyle said: "Education is crucial for our young people and we are very concerned that they are not taking advantage of their opportunities.

"We know that there are complex reasons why a child might be absent from school and it is important that the [education system](#) gets to grips with tackling these issues. This is the only way that the system will manage to break the vicious cycle of underachievement of the most vulnerable groups of our society." More at -

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/regional/pupil-absence-rates-in-ulster-twice-england-s-1-6111600>

Omagh Catholic grammar schools in bid to end academic selection

**Another two Catholic
grammar schools in
Northern Ireland have
signalled that they want
to move away from
academic selection.**

BBC News - Omagh Christian Brothers' School and Loreto Grammar in Omagh, County



Omagh Christian Brothers' Grammar School for boys and the town's Catholic girls' school, Loreto Grammar, are to hold a consultation on their plans to phase out academic selection

Tyrone, are the latest to decide to either phase out or scrap selection outright.

The education minister has welcomed the schools' proposal to start phasing out academic selection from next year.

The schools said a consultation on the move is due to begin in September.

It is understood the schools' authorities do not expect local opposition.

Growing trend

The phasing out of academic selection is likely to start by reducing the intake of selected pupils to a maximum of 75%.

In a joint statement, the schools said: "The board of governors of Loreto Grammar School, Omagh and the board of governors of the Christian Brothers' Grammar School, Omagh, in consultation with their respective trustees, have agreed to work together to move away in a phased process from academic selection.

"The boards of governors envisage that the implementation of the first phase will begin in September 2015 in accordance with an agreed time frame."

The move is part of a growing trend in the Catholic sector.

In March, Education Minister John O'Dowd approved a plan to change St Michael's grammar in Lurgan, County Armagh, to all-ability and the Loreto College in Coleraine, County Londonderry, no longer uses selection.

St Patrick's grammar school in Armagh city will also drop academic selection.

In west Belfast, there is a proposal to cut the proportion of academically selected pupils to St Mary's grammar school and in Portstewart, County Londonderry, the Dominican College wants to completely phase out the use of entrance tests by 2019. More at -

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-27814197>

Urgent prayer needed for Iraqi Christians

Iraqi Christians have requested urgent prayer as the situation in Mosul and surrounding areas deteriorates.

The Anglican diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf states - Islamist militants from the Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS), an al-Qaeda off-shoot group, began their violent take-over on Friday 6th June. ISIS now has full control of Mosul, Iraq's second city. The International Organisation for Migration



estimated on Wednesday 11th that half a million residents had fled from the violence, many attempting to find refuge in the nearby Kurdish provinces of Northern Iraq.

Hundreds of Christian families are amongst those fleeing the area, and at least one Assyrian church in Mosul has been burned down in the recent violence. Christians feel particularly vulnerable, especially in light of the treatment of Christians in the Raqqah province of northern Syria where ISIS has also established its authority. Recall that, in February 2014, ISIS commanders in Raqqah forced Christian community leaders to sign a contract agreeing to a set of stringent conditions. These included the payment of a special tax (known as jizya), conduct of Christian rites only behind closed doors so as to be neither visible nor audible to Muslims, and adherence to Islamic commercial, dress code and dietary regulations.

Mosul and the surrounding Nineveh plain is the traditional heartland of Iraq's Christian communities. Many Christians fled to this region when forced to leave Baghdad and other areas in recent years. Christians are alarmed at the ISIS take-over of Mosul, fearful that this will further accelerate the decline of the Christian presence in Iraq.

Iraqi Christians urge us to pray, asking that:

- The Christians of Mosul will know the close presence of Jesus, the guidance of the Spirit and the protection of the Father
- Those who have chosen to remain in the city would not be subjected to violent or unjust treatment

- Humanitarian assistance would reach all who are in need, whether having been displaced or remaining in Mosul
- Christians throughout Iraq will know the peace and presence of Jesus each day, and will remain faithful to him and clear in their testimony
- The Iraqi authorities will act decisively to improve security for all citizens of Iraq.

Irish bishops pray for Iraq

At their summer general meeting in Maynooth, the Irish bishops offered prayers for the people of Iraq who are facing a humanitarian crisis due to extensive violence in the north of the country, particularly in recent days.

Up to half a million refugees have been displaced as a consequence of this fresh bout of intense conflict led by Islamist militants.

Iraqis living in Ireland, north and south, were remembered by the bishops, as well as Ukrainians.

The Irish Bishops Conference recently received correspondence from Archbishop Sviatoslav, the Major Archbishop of Kyiv-Halych in Ukraine.

Archbishop Sviatoslav thanked the Irish faithful for their “abiding prayer and various works of charity ... [which] has supported with prayer and exhortation the yearning for peace and justice in Ukraine.”

During their three-day meeting in Maynooth, the bishops prayed for peace in Ukraine and for its people who “have suffered greatly over the last six months due to civil unrest in their country.”

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