

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Remembrance anniversary

Image of the day

Remembrance anniversary



Towering like a citadel above the slopes that today are covered by a cloak of growing vegetation stands Thiepval Memorial. The great archways surrounded by masonry engraved with the many names that represent a symbol of absence and loss. The Thiepval Memorial was dedicated and inaugurated on 1st August 1932.

This week the Commonwealth War Graves Commission is marking the anniversaries of the unveiling of two of our most recognisable memorials, Arras and Thiepval, in 1932.

You may read the CWGC's latest article to discover the history behind these unveilings:

<https://ow.ly/6BqF50PoPsQ>

Lest We Forget 🌸



People and places

Carrickmacross Short Sunday proved to be a big success

The Short Sunday proved to be a big success. “Many thanks to all who managed to turn up with knees on display, or at least mid calf.

“The idea of the Short Sunday was to keep the service under 30mins (we were so close), with as many people as possible wearing shorts”.

“All short wearers were treated to a free 99 ice-cream courtesy of Keegans Nearby. Not being legalistic rolled up trousers were accepted. The theme for the service developed from a few different sources falling in line with the short theme. 'What would you do if you only had 20 mins



left?' Would you spend it expressing love, or hate? Would you wish to mend or tear apart? Would you pray?

“Massive thanks to Michele who not only has an amazing creative talent, but is willing and delights in sharing it with us. Note no photos of eating ice-cream, they were gone too fast for the camera to catch. As well as knees and lower legs seen for the first time, in one of the photos you will note a shirt, never on display before showing the national colours of Zimbabwe. Looking forward to the next one”.

Blackrock Presbyterian support for Christian Aid

Three cheers for the congregation of St. Andrew's Blackrock Presbyterian Church in Dublin who held a coffee morning recently which raised more than €900 for Christian Aid.



Christian Aid says, “We’re especially grateful to Denis and Cherry Poynton who have been our representatives at St Andrew’s for many years, and to their minister Rev Andrew Gill.

“Congratulations, Denis and Cherry! Your fundraising events are always a success. They are never disa-poynton”.

Portrush Parish thanks retiring former Moderator

Holy Trinity, Portrush posted - “Yesterday our friend and neighbour, the Very Rev'd John Kirkpatrick, celebrated

August 3, 2023

his final Sunday as minister of Portrush Presbyterian Church.

“We are very grateful for John's faithful ministry for over thirty years not just to the members of PPC but the whole community (and not least through his recent service to this island as Moderator of the PCI), and his constant friendship to Holy Trinity. We wish John (photo right) and Joan every joy, health and blessing in their retirement”.



Killylea Brownies get crafty for show success

First Killylea Brownies have again had great success at this year's Armagh County Agricultural Show with their Craftwork entries.

The girls came away with eleven 1st place, six 2nd place, seven 3rd place and one Well Done Ribbons.

The Brownies from St Mark's Parish Church also received five shields and one cup and won the Aghavilly Primary School Shield for the overall winner.

August 3, 2023



Every girl received an award which was a brilliant achievement for all twenty girls.

As Craftwork forms a large part of the Brownie Programme, all the girls have gained Brownie Badges for their excellent craftwork.

Guiding has always been an important part of the local community in Killylea.

This year is very special for 1st Killylea Guiding. Guides have been going for 80 years and Brownies for 50 years.

It's hoped to celebrate these special anniversaries with different events from 23rd-24th September.

For more details, please check out the Facebook page (1st Killylea Guiding Anniversaries). Courtesy the Ulster Gazette.



The Ballys say prayerful Adios to Spain for now

The Parish of Ballynure and Ballyclare report, “Another great day for the youth team in Tarragona, Spain.

Tonight we helped to lead the final outreach event in Cambrilles, with many people coming for the children’s events plus the music.

“Tomorrow (Sunday) will be our final Sunday with the church of Esglesia Cristiana Unida De Valls. We pray for Jonny as he brings God’s word to them. As we begin the countdown to coming home, we thank God for partnerships in the Gospel, for new friends and for lives changed”.



Ballymoyer Sunflower Festival

Opening Saturday 5th August
Open Daily with Honesty Box @ Gate

All Donations in support of

and Ballymoyer & Belleek Parish Funds

News reports



Crowds at the opening Mass of World Youth Day in Lisbon on 1 August

World Youth Day with a difference

Crowds at the opening Mass of World Youth Day in Lisbon on 1 August Pope Francis has arrived in Lisbon for World Youth Day, which is expected to draw a crowd of one million pilgrims making it one the largest gatherings in Portugal's history, Christopher Lamb writes in The Tablet.

August 3, 2023

The man who has been overseeing the event is Bishop Américo Aguiar, the 49-year-old auxiliary in Lisbon who has sought to shape it into something not just for young Catholics but to inspire everyone who attends, regardless of their faith. Organisers have said this World Youth Day will have the largest number of different nationalities attending.

Aguiar was one of the the surprise appointments among the Pope's latest batch of cardinals, and will become one of the youngest members of the College of Cardinals when he receives his red hat on 30 September.

He is one to watch, and given his nomination as a cardinal it's unlikely that he will remain an auxiliary bishop for long.

Aguiar has shown himself to be a talented leader and organiser. Before ordination, he worked in local politics in the Porto region and was a member of the Socialist Party. As a priest and bishop, he has had numerous pastoral roles, has been closely involved in communications and has led the Lisbon patriarchate's safeguarding commission.

Organising a World Youth Day is a huge logistical challenge and reportedly he has been drinking 20 cups of coffee a day. Pope Francis could have plans to appoint him to a Rome-based position.

Unsurprisingly, the cardinal-designate has found himself in the firing line. Soon after the news that the Pope had nominated Aguiar as a cardinal, Catholic outlets critical of Francis gleefully highlighted some of his comments about World Youth Day in an interview he had given to the Portuguese state-owned broadcaster.

He said that the message “of this encounter with the living Christ that the Pope wants to bring to young people” is a sense of “universal fraternity” that sees differences as enriching, adding: “We don’t want to convert young people to Christ, or the Catholic Church.”

Aguiar admitted that this remark “could have caused some perplexity”, but inter-religious dialogue – in which conversion is never the aim – is a focus of the event.

As Pedro Gabriel pointed out in an article for Where Peter Is, it was Pope Benedict XVI who said in 2012 that “dialogue does not aim at conversion, but at understanding”.

World Youth Day, which John Paul II began in 1984, has always been an invitation to all young people from across the world, rather than simply to Catholics, and Cardinal-designate Aguiar has insisted on this point.

Like Francis, Cardinal-designate Aguiar is seeking to translate the Christian message for the contemporary era, even if it means getting into a few scrapes along the way. This is a World Youth Day with a difference. Courtesy The Tablet

Archbishop of York in Lisbon for World Youth Day 2023

Over the next few days the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrel, is in Lisbon for World Youth Day 2023. He will join with His Holiness Pope Francis and others for this gathering of young people from all over the world

Congregation to leave ACNA, seeks new affiliation with Episcopal Diocese of Texas

An Austin, Texas, congregation of the Anglican Church in North America announced July 26 that it was disaffiliating with the breakaway Anglican denomination and would pursue affiliation with The Episcopal Church's Diocese of Texas.

The congregation, Resurrection Anglican Church, was planted in the past decade and led by the Rev. Shawn McCain Tirres. It was not involved in the schisms of the previous decade in The Episcopal Church over theological differences, particularly women's ordination and LGBTQ+ inclusion. The Anglican Church in North America, or ACNA, was founded in 2009 largely by former Episcopalians who adhered to more conservative beliefs.

McCain Tirres, in a message posted on the congregation's website and signed by two other clergy leaders, explained that the decision to align with The Episcopal Church – a decision backed by 80% of the congregation – was rooted in a desire to “welcome everyone in our neighborhood to encounter the love of God.”

“Though our affiliation is undergoing change, more importantly, our commitment to the Gospel of the Kingdom and our mission as a parish will be sustained and strengthened,” the clergy said. “This journey has brought us immense clarity and conviction about what makes our parish



The Rev. Shawn McCain Tirres is rector of Resurrection Anglican Church in Austin, Texas, which is seeking to change its affiliation from the Anglican Church in North America to The Episcopal Church.

so special and given us a new boldness to participate in the mission of God for the sake of South Austin.”

The Houston-based Diocese of Texas released a statement on the news to Episcopal News Service, saying that the diocese and congregation will embark on “pastoral and canonical processes of mutual discernment” that eventually are expected to conclude in the congregation becoming part of the Episcopal diocese. The diocese provided no estimated timeline.

Resurrection had conducted a “thorough examination of its own convictions around a variety of concerns, including \

August 3, 2023

[ACNA's] prohibitions against women in the episcopate and the full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ in the church," the diocese said. "As distance grew between many of the clergy and people of Resurrection on the doctrine and discipline of ACNA, Resurrection approached the Diocese of Texas to explore a discernment process to affiliate with The Episcopal Church."

Bishop Andrew Doyle and Bishop Suffragan Kai Ryan met personally with Resurrection's clergy and congregation before its vote to change its affiliation, according to the diocese's release.

In the media

Republic's government in €15,000 grant for Battle of the Boyne video

Belfast Telegraph. Andrew Madden writes -The production of a video on the Battle of the Boyne is among 16 projects awarded funding totalling €187,015 (£160,171) from the Dublin government.

The Republic's Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media has provided the money under its Cooperation with Northern Ireland Scheme.

Applications were invited for projects that help promote: cooperation and joint initiatives between organisations on a North/South basis; cultural tourism on a North/South basis, and the provision of cultural outreach programmes on a North/South basis.



King William of Orange

Funding of up to €15,000 (£12,846) for each project was offered.

The 16 successful applications range from festivals and film projects to educational programmes.

The Co Kildare-based Irish Military Heritage Foundation has been awarded €15,000 to produce a video on the Battle of the Boyne in collaboration with the Museum of Orange Heritage, the Minstrel Boys Living History Group, Laoch Living History and the Somme Museum.

The Battle of the Boyne saw Protestant King William of Orange defeat Catholic King James II in 1690. It is

August 3, 2023

celebrated annually in Northern Ireland on July 12 by unionists and loyalists.

Another project to receive cash is Electric Circus, which will see three concerts in Londonderry, Letterkenny and Sligo featuring a mix of traditional Irish musical with contemporary.

The South Armagh Lace Collective has also been awarded funding for a video project exploring the tradition of lacemaking in Carrickmacross and Limerick.

Bardic Educational Arts and Media has received money for a project called Building Bridges.

In collaboration with the Clogher Historical Society, it will involve producing postcards showcasing the artwork of participants, which will be distributed to community groups as part of cultural outreach work.

The Cinemagic Film Festival has secured funding for movie screenings for schools, workshops and filmmaking competitions.

The Republic's Tourism Minister Catherine Martin said: “This scheme brings an exchange of ideas and a joint experience that can only serve to further celebrate our culture as an island with a global reach.

“We have a wonderful tapestry of art, music, film and heritage throughout the island of Ireland.

“The Cooperation with Northern Ireland Scheme is an important opportunity to recognise that culture has no

August 3, 2023

borders and to celebrate this across the whole island of Ireland.”

Bethany Firth wins gold at Para Swimming World Championships

Co Down’s Bethany Firth won gold by the narrowest of margins on day two at the Para Swimming World Championships in Manchester.

The Ards Swimming Club star won the 100m Backstroke S14 final by just .07 of a second, beating fellow Team GB athlete Poppy Maskill to the wall with a time of 1:05.80. Georgia Sheffield finished third to complete a British clean sweep of the podium.

Belfast statue of Frederick Douglass black American anti-slavery activist

This week, a bronze statue of Frederick Douglass, prominent black American anti-slavery activist, was erected in Belfast.

Douglass, a former slave, visited Belfast numerous times in the 1840s at the invitation of the Belfast Anti Slavery Society, making various speeches & addresses and attending meetings. He wrote about his positive experiences in Belfast:

"I gaze around in vain for one who will question my equal humanity, claim me as his slave, or offer me an insult. I

August 3, 2023

employ a cab — I am seated beside white people — I reach the hotel — I enter the same door — I am shown into the same parlour — I dine at the same table — and no one is offended"

Douglass, an admirer of the works of Robert Burns, also visited Ayrshire in Scotland, being elated to see the Burns monument in Ayr, which he described as "the finest thing of the kind I ever saw".

Douglass also had the opportunity to meet Burns' last surviving sister Isabella Begg, who kindly showed him some of Burns' handwritten letters. On returning to America, he told of his encounters fondly at a Burns Night address in Rochester, New York in 1849.

The statue is now visible to the public on Belfast's Lombard Street.



August 3, 2023

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