

# Church News Ireland



**Image of the day – Rostrevor, County Down**

# People and places



## Enniscorthy Confirmation group supports Christian Aid

**Well done to the confirmation class of Enniscorthy and Monart Union of Parishes in County Wexford (part of the Diocese of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory) whose Christian**

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## **Aid Week breakfast fundraiser brought in almost €1,250 to support CA's work.**

Six children preparing to make their confirmation served more than 100 full Irish breakfasts to parishioners meeting in the Church Institute in Enniscorthy. They were assisted by two youngsters who made their confirmation last year.

Christian Aid is grateful to the rector of Enniscorthy, Rev Canon Nicola Halford for her dedication to CA's cause, and to all those who helped cook the breakfasts and supported the event with their donations.

CA says in one of its notable puns - We're especially grateful to the youngsters whose breakfast fundraiser is 'bacon' the world a better place.

## **Three peaks climb by son for Air Ambulance NI in tribute to former Co. Antrim Lord Lieutenant**

**The son of Joan Christie CVO OBE, former Co. Antrim Lord Lieutenant who sadly passed away on New Year's Day this year, has climbed three peaks in her memory, raising over £20,000 for local charity Air Ambulance NI.**

Marcus Christie undertook the challenge of climbing the three highest peaks in Scotland, England and Wales: Ben Nevis (1,344m), Scafell Pike (978m) and Snowdon (1,085m) within 24 hours.



In a remarkable feat of perseverance, Marcus managed to safely complete the challenge in 21 hours and 7 minutes.

Marcus raised an impressive total of £20,858 for Air Ambulance NI, funds that are likely to help the next six patients of the air ambulance service.

The service is needed on average twice every day to those who are critically ill or injured.

Marcus said: “I am thrilled and relieved to have completed the 24 hour 3 Peak Challenge and to complete it in a time of 21 hours seven minutes was beyond my wildest expectations!

“It was definitely the hardest challenge I have ever attempted – physically, mentally and emotionally. I have a memory of standing at McDonalds in Chester services at 3.00am on the Sunday morning trying to eat chicken nuggets with a tin of Red Bull while falling asleep standing up; I am sure it was a sight to behold!

“My mum hated exercise but was extremely charitable, so I hope she would have been proud, and I am delighted to

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have raised so much for this fantastic charity; a charity we all hope we never need.”

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an Crowe, Lord Lieutenant of the County Borough of Londonderry and Trustee of Air Ambulance NI, remembered Joan by saying: “I remember Joan very fondly, a wonderful lady who worked tirelessly in her many significant roles including Co. Antrim Lord Lieutenant, private secretary to several secretaries of state, work for Northern Ireland Civil Service, and contributions to our education and charity sector.

“She contributed to our community so much and in many ways; our thoughts are with Joan’s family and we wish them strength in their grief.”

# SUMMER SINGING 2023

Monday 14 August – Friday 18 August



Five-day intensive for young men aged 14–18 years olds with a passion for all styles of singing. Scholarships available on request.

St Dominic’s Grammar School  
135 Falls Road  
Belfast BT12 6AE

For more information email  
[schola@downandconnor.org](mailto:schola@downandconnor.org)

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Kerry Anderson, Head of Fundraising at the charity added: “It’s not widely known that air ambulance is a charity, and to sustain the HEMS service requires £6850 per day in fundraising.

“Marcus has undertaken a huge challenge and a poignant fundraiser in his mums memory, which really is humbling. Everyone at our charity is so grateful for the considerable contribution that will help give the best chance to future patients.”

Joan Christie was a parishioner of Agherton, Portstewart, and on moving of Ballymena.

Report c ourtesy of Johnny McNabb and the News Letter

## **Additional Examining Chaplains for Cork**

**The Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, the Right Reverend Dr Paul Colton has appointed two additional Examining Chaplains. They are the Reverend Dr William Olhausen and the Reverend Terry Mitchell.**

Examining chaplains assist the Bishop, the Archdeacon and the Diocesan Director of Ordinands in their work of testing vocations to ministry as well as in training and examining those who offer themselves for ministry, both ordained and lay. The role predates the setting up of many theological colleges and today works in partnership, on behalf of the Diocese, with, in the case of the Church of Ireland, the Church of Ireland Theological Institute., and also the local

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further education and continuing ministerial education programmes in the Diocese itself.

The Reverend Terry Mitchell is the Diocesan Further Education and Training Officer, based in Kilmoe Union of Parishes, and also, as Chaplain to the Guild of Lay Ministry in the Diocese, oversees and supports all those in lay ministry. The Reverend Dr William Olhausen is incumbent of Douglas Union of Parishes with Frankfield, was a barrister at law, and has particular academic interests in theology, especially, scripture and its interpretation – hermeneutics.

## **Parish turns out to thank ‘people’s priest’**



*Rev. Kevin Conroy, St Brigid’s Stillorgan, Fr Joe Mullan  
Adm. Mount Merrion, Kilmacud and Clonskeagh, Fr Paddy*

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*O'Byrne CC, Fr Peter Ewaoche and Fr Donie O'Connor Fr Joe Mullan, Adm. and Fr Paddy O'Byrne. MHM.*



**Parishioners of St Laurence O'Toole, Kilmacud in Dublin gathered to celebrate and give thanks to Fr Paddy O'Byrne, CC on the occasion of his 80th birthday and to mark his retirement from full time ministry.**

Expressing thanks to Fr Paddy on behalf of parishioners Fr Joe Mullan said; "Paddy, there are no words enough to express our thanks, but please know how much you are appreciated and loved by this community".



## News reports

### Liverpool's forward takes his Bible with him

**Liverpool's forward Cody Gakpo has revealed he takes the Bible with him "everywhere" as he shares more details about his faith.**

Speaking to the Daily Mail, the dutch-born footballer stated religion is a "lifestyle" for him which he has been trying to "get to grips with" for the last four years.

"I was always searching for something. It's about learning how to live your life. There are lots of different passages I like," he continued.

"I was always searching for these kinds of things and now, for the past three or four years, I've been getting deeper into it. It's about learning how to live your life with the gifts that God has given you. There are a lot of passages in the Bible about that."

Gakpo and his fellow national team player Memphis Depay made headlines last year after it was revealed they both led Bible studies for the Netherlands National team during the World Cup.

"I talk a lot about religion with Jurriën Timber, Denzel Dumfries, and a number of other boys. I often take the floor because I am the one who has studied the faith the longest," Gakpo told dutch news outlet NCR.

"We support each other to be better people. Everyone should do what suits them best. Dumfries doesn't get that power from me but from God. It gives him the peace he needs in his head and his heart."

Other famous Liverpool teammates that share Gakpo's faith include goalkeeper Alisson (who famously baptised then-Anfield team-mate Roberto Firmino in his home swimming pool in 2020)

## **Pope vows to keep 'stirring things up' in Church as Portugal visit begins**

**Pope Francis promised on Wednesday to continue to "stir things up" in the Catholic Church as he moves on with reforms and changes that could leave a lasting legacy.**

Francis was speaking at the start of a five-day trip to Portugal to attend a global gathering of young Catholics known as the World Youth Day, held every two or three years in a different city.

The trip is taking place in the shadow of Portugal's huge clergy sexual abuse scandal and local anger at the soaring costs for the event.

Speaking to reporters on the plane from Rome, Francis was reminded of when he urged young people at his first World Youth Day, in Brazil, to not be complacent in the Church but

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to make noise in order to make themselves heard and instil change.

"We will continue to stir things up," he said.

Francis has enacted numerous changes in the Church since his election in 2013, sometimes upsetting conservatives as he has given women more roles and made it more welcoming and less judgmental towards some groups, including members of the LGBT community.

The 86-year-old pope is making his first trip since intestinal surgery in June and uses a wheelchair and cane.

Francis, who seemed in good form as he walked with the help of a cane in the reporters' section of the plane, said he hoped to return to Rome on Sunday "rejuvenated by his encounter with young people".

It is the fourth such event Francis will preside over since he became pope.

In his first speech, to President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa and diplomats at a cultural centre, Francis said the world was currently "sailing amid storms on the ocean of history", including the tempest of the war in Ukraine, and urged Europe to find the resolve to help end it and other conflicts.

## **EDUCATION, NOT WEAPONS**

He said Europe should divert money spent on armaments and use it to boost education and fund family friendly

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legislation to help reverse a falling birth rate aggravated by prohibitive costs of housing for young couples.

He also urged Europe to rise to the challenge of "welcoming, protecting, promoting and integrating" migrants, both for humanitarian reasons and as a means of boosting dwindling populations.

He decried "massive numbers of deaths at sea and empty cradles".

The youth event in Portugal, which is about 80% Catholic, comes less than six months after a report by a Portuguese commission said at least 4,815 minors were sexually abused by clergy - mostly priests - over seven decades.

"There will be young people from all over the world and the reality (of abuse) is present in all continents," said Filipa Almeida, 43, who was abused by a priest when she was 17.

"It's a great opportunity for the Church to do something," said Almeida, a co-founder of Coracao Silenciado (Silenced Heart) an association which helps victims.

Francis is expected to meet privately with abuse victims.

A huge billboard raising awareness of clerical sexual abuse was put up overnight in Lisbon hours before Francis' arrival.

Some Portuguese have criticised the event's costs in one of Western Europe's poorest nations where millions are struggling to make ends meet due to low salaries, inflation and a housing crisis.

Francis will also visit Fatima, the town north of Lisbon where the Church believes that the Virgin Mary appeared to three poor shepherd children in 1917.

## In the media

**Belfast Telegraph**  
 belfasttelegraph.co.uk NEWS WEBSITE OF THE YEAR Thursday August 3 2023 £1.60 (R05 £1.70)

**Derry Girls edges TV battle with the Royal Family**  
 Comedy trumped Queen's funeral and King's speech Pages 8-9

**Wilson hails Good Friday Agreement... 25 years after opposing it**  
 Veteran DUP man recommends that a similar peace accord be used in Cyprus

**PSNI has lost war on drugs, says campaigner**  
 By Kerith Reid  
 THE war on drugs in Belfast has been lost, according to a city councillor who works with those struggling with addiction. Paul McCooker hit out against the city after a haul batch of 100kg of heroin and cocaine was seized for 12 drug seizures. "There's nothing more that they can give people and there's no stopping it," he said. "The PSNI's war on drugs, it's done - they've lost control. This is a serious issue, we see all these figures, and we're just not getting the results we need." The PSNI said it was aware of concerns over drug seizures in Belfast and was working hard to keep people safe. News Page 2

**Crues are gunning for Euro glory**  
 Sports Desk Page 2

**Ex-wonderkid Whiteside is now a doting grandad**  
 News Page 2

**SUMMER CHAMPAGNE GARDEN**  
 26 MAY - 10 SEPT  
 CULLODEN

**Belfast Telegraph** - Sammy Wilson has been singing the praises of the Good Friday Agreement to MPs and peers, and recommending a similar peace deal for Cyprus.

**Irish Examiner** - A steady rise in global warming could be bad for the planet but have positive benefits for the Irish tourism industry, according to a new EU report.

The research on the impact of [climate change](#) on regional tourism across the EU forecasts tourist numbers in Ireland



could increase by more than 9% on current levels if there was an average increase in temperatures of 4C.

In Munster and south Leinster, the projected growth in visitors could reach 14%.

The report by the EU's Joint Research Centre found visitor numbers to the Republic would increase by a more modest 1.4% if average temperatures increased by 1.5C — the target limit set by the legally binding Paris Agreement to combat global warming through reducing [greenhouse gas emissions](#). More -

<https://www.irishexaminer.com/news/arid-41196688.html>

## **Discussion of Ireland's neutrality misses the mark**

[Irish Times op Ed](#) - Una Mullally: Discussion of Ireland's neutrality misses the mark. Because of State policies to transform us into a data island while not bolstering subsea cable protections, it's inevitable we'll become ever more reliant on others.

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Subscription - <https://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/2023/04/24/una-mullally-discussions-on-neutrality-miss-the-mark-when-we-have-subsea-cables-to-protect/>



**Cardinal Parolin: Pope Francis has great expectations for WYD**

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Vatican News - Looking ahead to Pope Francis' Apostolic Journey to Portugal, on 2-6 August, Cardinal Secretary of State Pietro Parolin says World Youth Day offers young people an important opportunity to come into close contact with Jesus.

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2023-08/pope-wyd-lisbon-interview-cardinal-parolin.html>

## Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

### Wee critters at Carrickfergus Castle

Sunday 6th August – Carrickfergus Castle

Surrounded by sea and with its high walls, Carrickfergus Castle was designed to withstand invasion and to protect against incoming dangers.

Come along to learn all about the amazing ways animals are adapted for survival in their habitats. Whether they cause a stink, look sharp or fade into the background, animals have their own unique ways to protect themselves! Check out Arthur the armadillos' very own armour, feel Harry the hedgehog's spikes, find out just what the striped skunk's infamous spray smells like and join us for a fun, interactive and educational experience!

Book your tickets today!



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Interactive animal education sessions will run at the following times on Sunday 6th August:

- 11am to 11.45am
- 12pm to 12.45pm
- 1pm to 1.45pm
- 2pm to 2.45pm

**Tickets are limited so call Carrickfergus Castle on 028 9335 1273 (Tuesday - Sunday) to book your space. Normal admission to Carrickfergus Castle applies. Annual passes can also be used to pre-book!**

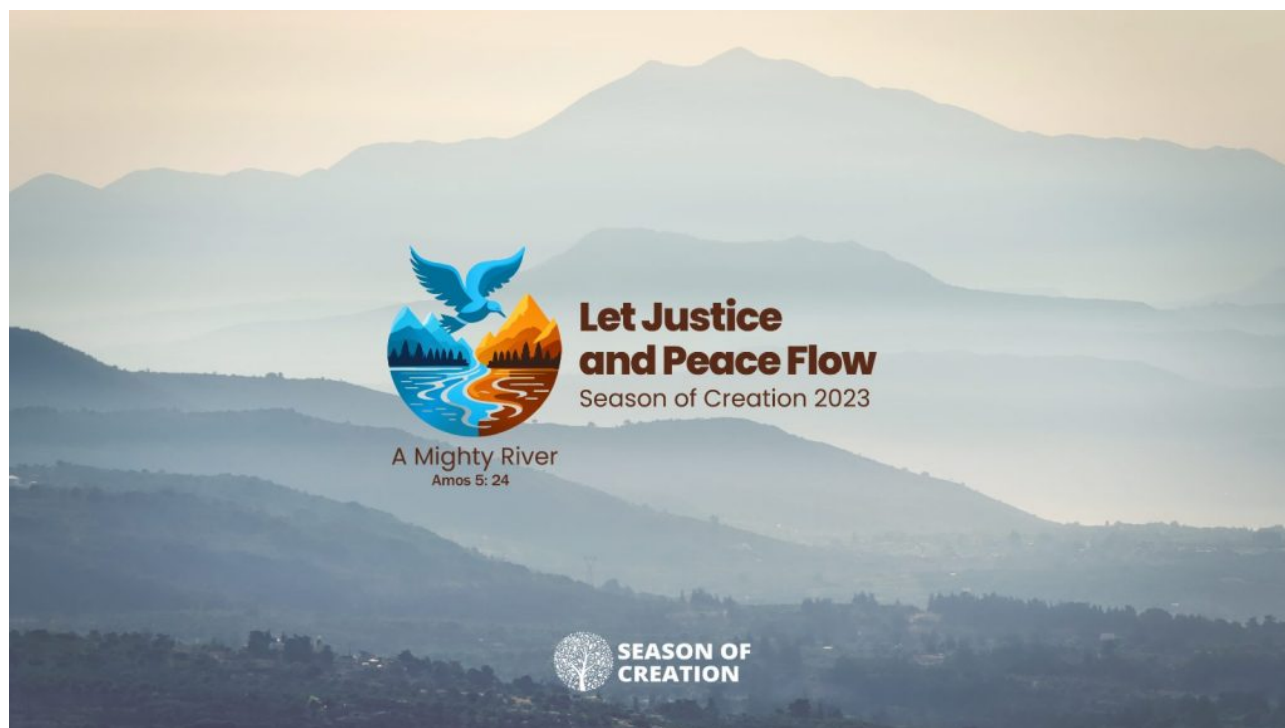
## **Season of Creation / Creation Time**

**Let Justice and Peace Flow” is the theme chosen for Season of Creation 2023, the ecumenical celebration we hold each year from September 1, World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, to October 4th, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi.**

The prophet Amos cries out, “But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!” (Amos 5: 24), and so we are called to join the river of justice and peace, to take up climate and ecological justice, and to speak out with and for communities most impacted by climate injustice and the loss of biodiversity.

Join the river of justice and peace: visit the Season of Creation website

Our prayers must call for justice not only for human beings, but for all creation. In covenant with peace, we are called to



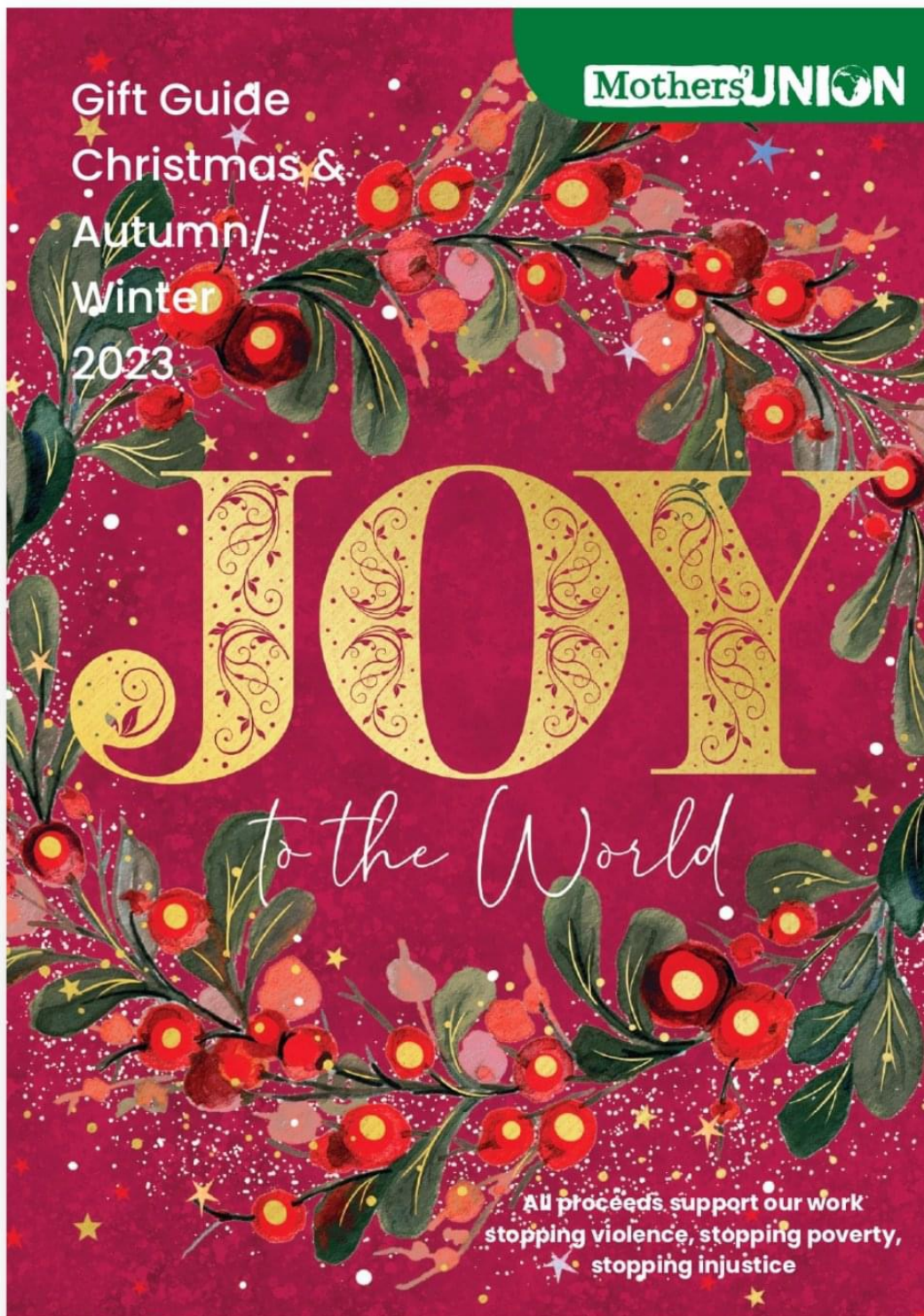
repent of our ecological sins and to change our attitudes and actions.

We begin the “Preparation” of the Season of Creation in March to reach out to local leaders and call our communities to actively participate by raising awareness on the theme, and on how to respond to the cry of creation wherever the Lord calls us in our respective contexts. This stage of “Preparation” is key to creating bonds and relationships as the People of God caring for our common home.

Resources include Season of Creation celebration guide ‘Let Justice and Peace Flow’, plus those from Eco-congregation Scotland (supporting Revised Common Lectionary),

<https://seasonofcreation.org/2023/03/03/we-are-launching-season-of-creation-2023-let-justice-and-peace-flow/>

Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference and Climate Sunday:  
<https://ctbi.org.uk/season-of-creation-2023/>



Mothers Union gifts online. See [www.mueshop.org](http://www.mueshop.org)

# Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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## Church News Ireland

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