

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Newcastle international kitchen



Image of the day

St John's Newcastle international kitchen

St John's International kitchen was a great event welcoming people from so many different parts of the world. The international food was amazing.



Holiday Bible Club
Church of the Holy Spirit Mossley

WONDER ZONE

DISCOVERING GOD'S WONDERFUL WORLD

Children P1 - P7
TEAM GAMES
CRAFTS
CHALLENGES
SNACKS
QUIZZES
BIBLE STORIES

MON 14TH - THUR 17TH AUG
6.15 PM - 7.30 PM

FRI 18TH AUG -
FREE FAMILY FUN NIGHT
BBQ & INFLATABLES

HELD IN THE PARISH CENTRE, MANSE RD.
REGISTRATION IS ESSENTIAL - THE LINK IS ON OUR WEBSITE
WWW.MOSSLEY.ORG OR
CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT MOSSLEY FACEBOOK PAGE
A REG. CHARITY: NIC103262

People and places

Increase in children's holiday clubs

There would appear to be many more children's holiday clubs in Ireland this summer. It is a children's ministry to which Church Army is not a newcomer.

TREASURE QUEST

Prepare to set sail for stories, crafts, games and fun!

ST JOHN'S CHURCH BALLYCLARE
14-18TH AUGUST
10AM-12PM

TO REGISTER, SCAN HERE

Church Army logo and 'MY FIRST YEAR' logo

Thankfully across the UK and Ireland, Church Army's teams are running children's clubs and family fun days to bring joy into the school holidays.

This is the first time in years that a holiday club has been offered in the Glen Cairn estate in Belfast.

"I believe kids should be the

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life blood of any church. Our children need to be immersed in God's word which is no longer happening in school or home." Karen Webb, Belfast Centre of Mission

"Did you know our generation today is the first missing generation of the church, being absent from Sunday schools, school

prayers and nativity shows, with no knowledge of the stories we take for granted – such as, David & Goliath, Daniel and the Lion's Den, the Parable of the Loaves and Fish?

"This week we have had 40 children register to be part of a Bible Club exploring the Gospel through the Narnia tales. We've played games, watched videos, laughed, and sung our hearts out.



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One child said to his mum, ‘Did you know God made us? Mum, he created us all, can we go and meet him?’

To talk to children about faith, to see their eyes light up and to hear their questions, fuels the God-fire within me and pushes me to be a better Evangelist. Leading children into a life of faith in Christ, will transform our world, our churches, and our communities.”



*You are a Child of God,
You are wonderfully
made,
dearly loved and precious
in His sight. Before God
made you He knew there
is no-one else like you.*

Psalm 139



Just a little reminder for all of us - whatever age you are. You are wonderfully made, dearly loved and precious in His sight . Video at -

<https://facebook.com/23916952843903>



Three missionary families together in First Antrim

It doesn't happen too often! These folk are usually in the Philippines & Japan, but on last Sunday morning three of the congregations missionary families were all together in one place.

Have you memories of Strabane?

Do you have any photographs/ newspaper cuttings or memorabilia from years gone by relating to Christ Church Strabane?

Confirmations, baptisms, weddings, Christmas parties,
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Sunday school outings or prize day,
church activities or celebrations,
Past ministers, days away or drama ect.

The parish would love to have as many as possible gathered together for display on Sunday 17th September when they will have a special service 11.30am, to celebrate those precious memories down through the years and to get into a habit of coming back to church. The church will be open from 1-5pm for viewing on 17th.

Please get in touch if you can help,

Ruth 07731527899

Elaine 07746900356



Emy Osim with her dad Chidibere, her mum Nancy and Rev. Jack Kinkead, after her baptism in Nun's Cross church 6th Aug. 2023

Baptism at Nun's Cross



Dromara and Garvagh parish raise 8K for Daisy Lodge

Fundraisers said it was a great privilege to be part of the presentation of £8,060.40 to Daisy Lodge - Cancer for children.

Daisy Lodge is a purpose-built therapeutic centre located in Newcastle Co. Down for families across the Island of Ireland affected by cancer.

“Thankful to Ben, Irene and Brian Hunter’s family, our local Dromara EuroSpar shop and everyone involved in the fundraising”.

New Bishops' Appeal Education Advisor appointed

Hilary McClay has been appointed as the new Education Advisor for the Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal for World Aid and Development.

The Bishops' Appeal exists to encourage members of the Church of Ireland to engage with, walk alongside and support those people groups and parts of the world who are dealing with the impact of poverty, violence, climate change and suffering.

Through the generosity of members across all the dioceses, Bishops' Appeal supports life-changing development work which helps people to live more of their lives to the full.

For over 20 years Hilary worked in community development in Northern Ireland, supporting local churches to engage with issues of poverty and deprivation as part of their Christian mission and outreach. She has also visited several countries where extreme poverty and climate change has had such a severe impact on the lives of people, and has seen what churches in countries such as Ethiopia and Nepal are doing and how the support of agencies working on the ground such as CMS Ireland and Tearfund makes such a difference.

Speaking about her appointment to Bishops' Appeal, Hilary said: "Taking up this role at this time, when the media is reporting on how cuts to the UK's overseas aid budget will



Hilary McClay Bishops' Appeal Education Advisor

hold back the potential of people living in poverty, is a stark reminder that all our actions have consequences. As Christians we have a particular responsibility to campaign, advocate, respond, give and walk alongside the most vulnerable in our world – which is what Bishops' Appeal is all about."

She added: "I am looking forward to learning more about what Bishops' Appeal does to support the work of Christian agencies on the ground, and to bring positive change to people's lives."

Welcoming Mrs McClay to the post, Bishop Ferran Glenfield, Chair of the Bishops' Appeal Advisory Committee, said: "Hilary comes with a passion for the Church, a track record

in community development, and wide experience of the global south. She is ideally placed to be the advocate for the vital work of Bishops' Appeal in the Church of Ireland.”

Bishops' Appeal has been operating since 1972, when it was set up by the Church of Ireland's bishops in response to the commands in the Bible to bring good news to people living in poverty and relief to the suffering.

In 2022, Bishops' Appeal paid out €788,704 in grants (equivalent to around £675,000) with 78% of donations going toward disaster relief. The most significant recipient country was Ukraine, in response to appeals by Christian Aid, Tearfund and Habitat for Humanity, although sustained support for projects in Africa continued, especially in East and Central Africa. Bishops' Appeal also supported projects in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Lebanon, Nepal, Bangladesh, Haiti and Honduras.

It is a registered charity in both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, and its aims are to:

- \- educate the Church at home about the needs and concerns of people in the less developed world and the causes of poverty;
- \- encourage Church members to examine the reasons for the problems facing the less fortunate in the world and to consider what we can do to change conditions;
- \- reach out in God's name to those who need our help;
- \- encourage informed prayer and prayerful action aimed at strengthening the poor; and

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\- raise the funds needed to allow Bishops' Appeal to support development projects and alleviate the suffering caused by disasters, both natural and man-made.

The role will involve clarifying, strengthening and supporting Bishops' Appeal's strategic vision and aims, consulting with the Advisory Committee regarding best practice when funds from the Bishops' Appeal are to be allocated, and liaising with and advising aid and development charities supported by the appeal as they make funding applications. Hilary McClay succeeds Lydia Monds who moved to a new position in the Church's Ministry of Healing: Ireland in January this year.

Irish Presbyterian Church working for peace in Ukraine

As the war in Ukraine passed the 500-day mark earlier this summer, the Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI), took part in a four-day 'Ukraine Future Conference' in Budapest. Organised by the Reformed Church in Hungary, one of the days was spent with local church representatives in Berehove (Beregszász) in Western Ukraine.

At the request of the leaders of the Reformed Church in Hungary (RCH), in co-operation with the Reformed Church in Transcarpathia (Ukraine), representatives of 15 denominations from Asia, North America, Europe and the Middle East, along with churches from neighbouring countries and organisations from Europe and further afield, came together in the Hungarian capital for a 'partner c



Delegates, including Rev Uel Marrs, Secretary to PCI's Council for Global Mission, at the 'Ukraine Future Conference' held in Ráday House, Budapest, the headquarters of the Reformed Church in Hungary

consultation’.

Representing PCI at the conference was the Rev Uel Marrs, Secretary to the all-Ireland denomination’s Council for Global Mission. On his return to Belfast on Thursday, he said, “Through our partnership with the Hungarian Reformed Church, we have a long association with the Church and the community in the region. When the war began, Irish Presbyterians gave £1.5 million to the humanitarian relief effort through their Moderator’s Appeal. A third of that went directly to Hungarian Reformed Church Aid, with their then Moderator, Dr John Kirkpatrick, spending time in Hungary

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and Ukraine last October observing the relief effort while standing in solidarity with our Hungarian and Ukrainian brothers and sisters in Christ.”

The President of the Synod of the Reformed Church in Hungary, Bishop Zoltán Balog with Bishop Sándor Zán-Fábián, head of the Reformed Church in Transcarpathia (RCT) in Ukraine, initiated the consultation with trusted partners from various church communities across the world. The theme of the gathering was ‘Partner consultation on churches’ responsibility and opportunity to advance ‘just peace’ and to contribute to a prosperous future in Ukraine framed by a Christian vision and principles’.

“The four days were an opportunity to listen, discuss, worship and pray together, while affirming the principles of a ‘just peace’, while outlining opportunities for churches to support its advancement in Ukraine. Churches from our various diverse backgrounds were able to provide unique insights from experiences of conflict, peace and reconciliation, especially from the Middle East and South Korea, but also from our experience on these islands,” he explained.

Mr Marrs continued, “It also gave our colleagues in Transcarpathia and beyond, a platform to share their unique perspectives on the crisis, the impact on their community, and the possibility of reconciliation of all peoples in Ukraine.”

Given the history of that part of central and eastern Europe, the conference also had another dynamic for the Hungarian Reformed Church. As Mr Marrs explained, Ukraine is not only a neighbouring country for the conference hosts, but

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Conference delegates in Berehove, Transcarpathia, Ukraine.

the ‘homeland’ of the Hungarian reformed community in western Ukraine. The Reformed Church in Transcarpathia has 60,000 members in over 100 parishes.

Speaking about his visit to Transcarpathia in western Ukraine, Mr Marris said, “I was very encouraged by what I saw the Reformed Church in Transcarpathia doing. All its ministers and many of its elders had remained in the country to support the thousands of Internally Displaced People who had fled the fighting and the missile attacks, before going on to become refugees in neighbouring countries, and elsewhere. Providing accommodation, food and schooling, it was a well-organised and compassionate community

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response at congregational and institutional levels, especially given the challenges that they have faced as a minority in Ukraine over the years,” he said.

In a special church service in the Transcarpathian town of Nagydobrony, half an hour from the Hungary/Ukraine border, some 1000 local people joined the visitors to worship together. “For me this was probably the most moving and most powerful part of the four days,” Mr Marris said.

“Bishop Sándor Zán-Fábián preached on Psalm 139, emphasising God’s presence with us. We then heard from the President of the World Communion of Reformed Churches, Rev Najla Kassab, who knew what it was to spend time in in bomb shelters during the Lebanese Civil War, and Rev Harout Seliman, President of the Armenian Protestant Community in Syria, who is based in Aleppo. Both spoke with empathy and power out of their personal experiences of war, encouraging their brothers and sisters in Christ with these words: ‘Do not be afraid, the Lord is with you.’

“This was their testament to God’s faithfulness in times of great trouble and hardship. Few other visiting leaders could have said that with the same conviction, passion, and meaning. Given where we were, it was greatly appreciated. As Najla Kassab added, the presence of us all from around the world also demonstrated ‘the power of showing up’, which should never be underestimated,” Mr Marris said.

In a communique released by the conference organisers, they said that the participants had come together ‘to share

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their concerns for Ukraine in the face of the Russian Federation's onslaught of violence and aggression. In addition to condemning the violence, the consultation acted as a unique forum, gathering diverse perspectives to generate a productive discussion on the churches' role in pursuing peace-building efforts in Ukraine...'

It went on to state that, 'Participants emphasised the need to listen to the experiences and expectations of the people of Ukraine, knowing that reconciliation cannot be imposed from the outside. While discussing the situation of minorities in Ukraine, participants underscored that the future of the country includes the wellbeing of all of its citizens. Participants [also] reaffirmed their commitment to journey in continued solidarity with the people of Ukraine.'

In the media

Irish scouts leave Jamboree site ahead of tropical storm landfall

Irish Times - Storm Khanun is expected to strike South Korea as early as Wednesday as teenagers depart for city

Irish scouts have left the World Scout Jamboree site in Buan ahead of the tropical storm Khanun, the organisation confirmed on Tuesday.

South Korea's weather agency reported that the storm Khanun was about 205 miles (330km) northeast of the Japanese island of Okinawa as of 9am local time on



Monday. It was expected to make landfall in South Korea on Thursday morning, packing high winds.

Large swathes of the country's south, including Buan, could be affected by the storm as early as Wednesday, the agency said.

The Irish contingent of the scouts were among the first to leave the site and are relocating to Woosuk University in Jeonju which is out of the path of the coming tropical storm. More at -

https://www.irishtimes.com/ireland/2023/08/08/irish-scouts-leave-jamboree-site-ahead-of-tropical-storm-landfall/?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter

Crowds gathering in Bray for funeral of Sinéad O'Connor

ITV News - Since her death on July 26, people have been leaving flowers and paying their respects at the

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house, which the singer sold in 2021 and which now lies empty.

"Sinead loved living in Bray and the people in it," a statement issued by her family said.

"With this procession, her family would like to acknowledge the outpouring of love for her from the people of Co Wicklow and beyond, since she left last week to go to another place."

The Irish Grammy-winning singer was found unresponsive by police at her south-east London home, aged 56.

A host of tributes have flooded in from fans and famous artists across the world in response to her death, including Russell Crowe, Annie Lennox, Cyndi Lauper and Bob Geldof.

Several gatherings were held in the days since O'Connor's death in Dublin, Belfast and London, where members of the public paid tribute to her legacy as a musician and activist.

O'Connor, who was born in Dublin in December 1966, released her first album *The Lion And The Cobra* in 1987.

<https://www.itv.com/news/utv/2023-08-08/mourners-to-say-final-goodbye-to-sinad-oconnor>

I was loyal to the PSNI but the force has destroyed me, claims officer

Belfast Telegraph

Sam Mc Bride - Another story about the PSNI which would hardly encourage someone to join the police: An officer who has been unable to do his job for years over



an investigation into a minor issue says: “I was loyal to the police. It’s destroyed me”.

Cop tells of mental anguish at marathon disciplinary process over ‘minor misunderstanding a 10-minute phone call could have cleared up’

A police officer has told of the mental anguish of not being able to return to his job for years after an internal investigation into a minor issue.

Subscription at -

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/politics/i-was-loyal-to-the-psni-but-the-force-has-destroyed-me-claims-officer/a1348924488.html?=&=123>



Minimum wage employees face challenges beyond money

Irish Times - People on lower pay work longer shifts at more unsocial times and are less likely to be unionised, says ESRI report

Minimum wage employees tend to work longer, more unsociable hours in jobs that are also more precarious than those that pay more, according to a study by the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI).

The study, funded by the Government-appointed Low Pay Commission, examined the quality of minimum wage jobs in the Republic across a range of different measures. The report was published in advance of a decision on a recommendation by the commission to increase the minimum wage by 12 per cent next year, which would be more than twice the predicted rate of inflation for 2023.

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Dr Paul Redmond, an author of the report, said the findings show that minimum wage employees face further challenges beyond the obvious financial ones.

“When thinking about the labour market we often talk about the number of jobs available,” he said. “However, as well as the quantity of jobs, an important consideration is the quality of jobs. Our research has shown that minimum wage workers, in addition to being on low pay, also face lower job quality as measured by a range of job characteristics. More at -

<https://www.irishtimes.com/business/work/2023/08/08/minimum-wage-employees-face-other-challenges-beyond-money/?>

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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