

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Dean's Vicar for St Fin Barre's

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Dean's Vicar for St Fin Barre's

During Eucharist on Sunday, 6th August 2023, the Rev. Martin Steele was installed as the new Dean's Vicar at St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork.

Martin commented, "I am delighted to be a part of the team at St Fin Barre's Cathedral and I look forward to working with the Dean and everyone else. I have received a great welcome at the cathedral and also in the wider Diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross. I thank everyone for their support and prayer as I enter this new phase of my ministry and prepare for ordination to the priesthood".

The Dean of Cork, the Very Rev. Nigel Dunne said: "I was delighted to welcome Martin to the ministry team here at the Cathedral and to have installed him as Dean's Vicar this morning. I have no doubt that he will bring many skills and fresh perspectives to the life and witness of the Cathedral and look forward to working with him in the coming months and years. Please pray for him as he settles in and prepares for ordination to the priesthood on the Feast of Saint Fin Barre, 25th September".

Members of Eglantine the home parish of the Dean's Vicar in Connor Diocese travelled to the service.

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A video of the Installation of Rev Martin as Dean's Vicar of St Fin Barre's Cathedral, is at -

[<https://www.churchservices.tv/corkstfinbarre?fbclid=IwAR1oj8nssvmTHKJvhv9OycilasshJRH7JI4USavJh8GYp5j3kWPneJ39D3c>]

People and places

Fr John CR has his running shoes on

**Fr John of the
Community of the
Resurrection,
Mirfield, has his
running shoes on,
is training hard
and is almost
ready to go!**

Belfast man John
Gribben is
preparing to
compete in the
Northern Ireland
Masters Athletics
Association



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Championships, on the 19th August.

He will be heading to Mary Peter's Track, in Belfast, and is competing in the 100 and 200 metres. His brother George will be competing in the Javelin.

Fr John is a former curate-assistant of St Colman's Parish, Dunmurry. Good luck Fr John, we will be praying for you and George.



Evening Prayer at Maynooth Liturgy and Ecumenism Congress

Bishop Pat Storey led Evening Prayer in the College Chapel for delegates at the 2023 Congress of Societas Liturgica. Comprising delegates from many denominations

worldwide, the congress is being held in St Patrick's College, Maynooth.

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Rev Philip McKinley was Crucifer at the Service. Rev Christopher Woods, now serving in the diocese of Oxford but originally from the Church of Ireland, was also involved in the worship.

Societas Liturgica is “an association for the promotion of ecumenical dialogue on worship, based on solid research, with the perspective of renewal and unity.”

The Congress began on the afternoon of Monday, 7 August and continues to this evening of Thursday, 10 August. The Theme of the Congress is Liturgy and Ecumenism.

Christian Aid’s wonderful supporters in County Sligo

Herbie and Marion Watt held their annual coffee fundraiser at their home near Skreen recently, this time raising over €2,000 to support our work.

Dozens of neighbours and friends enjoyed a cuppa and some of Marion’s home baking in exchange for a donation to Christian Aid.

Although Marion described her event as a coffee morning, she had a steady stream of visitors throughout the day (10am til 9pm).

Herbie and Marion are members of the Methodist community in County Sligo and are the parents of Rev Ruth Watt, minister of Inishowen Methodist Churches in east Donegal.

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They were delighted that their fundraiser was supported by people of all denominations.



The pair have been holding their coffee event every year since around 2000, during which time they have raised nearly €30,000 to bring hope and justice to people living in extreme poverty.

Perhaps it's because of their name that the Watts can't help lighting up lives all over the world.

Killaloe ruby jubilarians

Some of Killaloe diocese's ruby jubilarians are pictured as they celebrate 40 years since their ordination to the priesthood on July 19:

Fr Tom Fitzpatrick, Doorra-Barefield, Archbishop Eugene Nugent, Papal Nuncio to Kuwait, Fr Pat Gilbert, Nenagh, & Fr Brendan Kyne, Ballycorick. Courtesy Irish Catholic Newspaper



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Irish Touch Rugby captain

Parishioners of St Columba's, Knock, Belfast have conveyed congratulations to Henry Auchmuty following his selection to the Irish Mixed Open Touch Rugby Team at the European Championships in France this week where he is also one of the two team captains.



Henry is the son of the Rector of St Columba's. Quiz masters are encouraged to send CNI names of sons of clergy who have played international rugby...Paddy Johns to get them going!

News reports

WCC reiterates the need for a nuclear weapons-free world

As 6 August and 9 August mark the anniversaries of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, respectively, the World Council of Churches joined the [International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons](#) and other religious and civic groups in urging nuclear-armed and nuclear

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umbrella states to join the [Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons](#).



“Though the destruction of Nagasaki still stands as the last time an atomic bomb was used in conflict, it was followed by decades of nuclear weapon testing programmes involving thousands of nuclear detonations around the world, in faraway places where the Indigenous populations and environments continue to suffer the consequences,” noted Peter Prove, director of the World Council of Churches Commission of the Churches on International Affairs. “And now the unlikely combination of the Russian invasion of Ukraine and a Hollywood ‘blockbuster’ have thrust the existential threat of nuclear conflagration back into the public consciousness.”



Archbishop Nolan witnessed at the gates of Faslane Nuclear Base on the Clyde on 24/6/23, joined by the Moderator of the Church of Scotland. We thank them for speaking up & for their ongoing support in the campaign for peace. youtu.be/8ey2GpZ0H4g

Prove urged: “It's finally time for the stupidest and most catastrophically destructive weapons ever invented by human beings—or more specifically, men—to be eliminated. So let's do it.”

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New group asked to provide ‘insight’ on C of E prayers to bless same-sex couples

A new group created by the co-chairs of the Living in Love and Faith (LLF) Steering Group is to meet next month. It will discuss proposals, which will be brought to the Church of England General Synod in November, for providing prayers for same-sex couples in church.

The co-chairs of the steering group — the Bishop of London, the Rt Revd Sarah Mullally, and the Bishop of Truro, the Rt Revd Philip Mounstephen — have sent invitations to people “across different traditions of the Church” to join three facilitated conversations.

The group, whose members have been involved in the LLF process before or have “lived experience” of the issues, will be asked to “provide their insight and reflections” on the proposals.

A notice on the Church of England website explains that the outcomes of these conversations will “feed into discussions” at meetings of the College and House of Bishops in the autumn.

Bishop Mullally said that the creation of the group was part of a consultation process promised at the meeting of the Synod last month (News, 14 July). “The House and the College of Bishops have a real desire to create a loving, generous, ecclesial, and pastoral space, despite deeply held differences of opinion, in which we can share our ministry and implement the motion agreed by the Synod in February,” she said.

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“There is a desire to joyfully offer a pastoral response to loving, faithful, and long-term same-sex relationships. There is at the same time no intention of changing the doctrine of marriage as expressed in the canons and the authorised liturgy of the Church of England.”

She continued: “Holding these commitments together is at times painful and complex. As part of this we are seeking to listen to people’s hopes and concerns, and to ensure that they are satisfied that their views have been taken into consideration.”

In the media

Young, Faithful and Christian – A devout Catholic youth in Europe

Theo Think Tank - In the wake of the recent World Youth Day event in Portugal, Marianne Rozario looks at the state of faith amongst young people in Europe. 07/08/2023

Ten years ago, I stood on Copacabana beach in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, alongside three million other young people at World Youth Day – a global Catholic youth event with a faith-filled festival atmosphere, sessions to explore Catholicism, and Mass with the pope.

Experiencing the excitement as Pope Francis drove by, and equally the silence of millions praying, I was taken aback by the magnitude of young people ignited by faith. Yesterday, an estimated [one and a half million young people attended World Youth Day in Lisbon](#) Portugal. I am sure that same feeling was evident.



Karl Rahner famously suggested that “the devout Christian of the future will either be a ‘mystic’... or he will cease to be anything at all”[i]. The jury is still out on Rahner’s mystical Christian of the future. However, there are claims that younger Catholics in Europe today tend to be increasingly more devout, even if numbers overall are declining.

Catholicism in Europe is facing a profound change. In the last 50 years, the Church has been eroding in Europe and the Western world, prompting its centre to move towards the Global South[ii]. But in the midst of this change, as [Coutinho, Conway and Zrinščak \(2023\)](#) explore, “a small but visible minority of young people are becoming ever more fervent in their faith, frequently even more pious than older birth cohorts”. More at -

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<https://www.theosthinktank.co.uk/comment/2023/08/07/young-faithful-and-christian-a-devout-catholic-youth-in-europe>

PSNI is hit by almost 1,000 complaints in three months

Belfast Telegraph - Complaints against the PSNI have risen steeply in recent months.

Reports to the Police Ombudsman rose by 13% between April and June, compared to the same period last year, Andrew Madden writes 08/08/2023

The police watchdog's office received 926 complaints in those three months — up from 819 over the same period in 2022.

That represents a five-year high for complaints filed in the first quarter of a financial year.

Policing Board member Mark H Durkan MLA said the figures represented a “significant rise” that “should prompt concern among the PSNI leadership”.

Chief Superintendent Simon Walls, head of the PSNI Professional Standards Department, said: “Every day the police service deals with almost 2,500 requests for service and, unfortunately, in a minority of cases there can be occasion for complaint.”

Meanwhile, another PSNI officer has come forward to talk about the mental anguish of not being able to return to his job for years after an internal investigation into a minor issue.



He said: “This could have been dealt with in a 10-minute phone call.

“All that I can think is that I must have annoyed someone somewhere down the line.”

Massive PSNI blunder identifies every serving officer and civilian employee

The PSNI is desperately attempting to contact its officers after a massive data breach meant the force mistakenly published the names, ranks, locations and other personal data of every serving police officer and civilian employee. Sam McBride 09/08/2023

The data from the PSNI's ultra-confidential human resources system is a gold mine for terrorists, offering

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details of officers working in intelligence and other highly sensitive areas — including almost 40 PSNI staff based with MI5.

Assistant Chief Constable Chris Todd said there are no immediate security concerns, but politicians and police representatives expressed dismay. Mr Todd has informed the Information Commissioner “of a significant data breach that we're responsible for”.

The material published on the internet yesterday by the PSNI contained statistical information on the strength of the PSNI, with details of how many officers it has at each rank.

However, a second tab in the spreadsheet contained multiple entries in relation to more than 10,000 individuals. For each individual, there are 32 pieces of data meaning that in total, there are about 345,000 pieces of data in the file.

RTE News

<https://www.rte.ie/news/ireland/2023/0809/1398806-psni-data/>

Varadkar travels to Belfast for talks after calling out London's 'reluctance' to work with State

Irish Times - Taoiseach to push 'pressing need' to get Stormont institutions in place again during meetings with party leaders. 09/08/2023

Taoiseach Leo Varadkar will travel to Belfast for talks with political leaders on Wednesday after calling out

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Westminster’s “reluctance” to involve Dublin in work to end months of political crisis in Northern Ireland.



Mr Varadkar will use meetings with the leadership of Sinn Féin, the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), Ulster Unionist Party (UUP), Alliance Party and SDLP to push the “pressing need” to get Stormont institutions in place again.

The Taoiseach is also likely to be asked to elaborate on remarks he gave to the Financial Times newspaper on Tuesday, where he said there was a “reluctance” in Downing Street to work in a “hand in glove” manner and to “apply both pressure and support” in a co-ordinated fashion.

Despite a noticeable thaw in relations between Dublin and London since prime minister Rishi Sunak came to power, Mr Varadkar’s remarks are thought to be directly addressed to the stance of the current administration, rather than solely being applicable to the high-stakes brinkmanship often engaged in by Boris Johnson over Northern Ireland and the protocol during his time as prime minister. More at -

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<https://www.irishtimes.com/politics/2023/08/09/varadkar-travels-to-belfast-for-talks-after-calling-out-londons-reluctance-to-work-with-state/>

BBC News

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-66445450>

Donaldson: We will work with Dublin in a spirit of co-operation

Belfast Telegraph - DUP leader Sir Jeffrey Donaldson has said his party will discuss matters of mutual interest with the Irish government in efforts to restore power-sharing “in a spirit of co-operation”. Andrew Madden 08/08/2023

Sir Jeffrey was speaking after Taoiseach Leo Varadkar spoke about London's “reluctance” to work with Dublin hindering the prospect of getting Stormont back up and running.

The Taoiseach is due to meet the Stormont parties in Belfast today, and will also conduct a series of engagements, visiting Linfield Football Club at Windsor Park, the GAA Ulster Council, Federation of Small Businesses and Women in Business.

SDLP leader Colum Eastwood, meanwhile, said if the situation continues then some form of joint authority will have to be considered.

In an interview with the Financial Times, Mr Varadkar said that if a solution to the political impasse is not found soon, it could be after the next Westminster elections before power-sharing is restored. Former Stormont First Minister Paul

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Givan resigned back in February of last year, with ministers remaining in place in shadow form until October 27.

'BBC could have avoided spending £200k fighting my case had it been settled sooner'

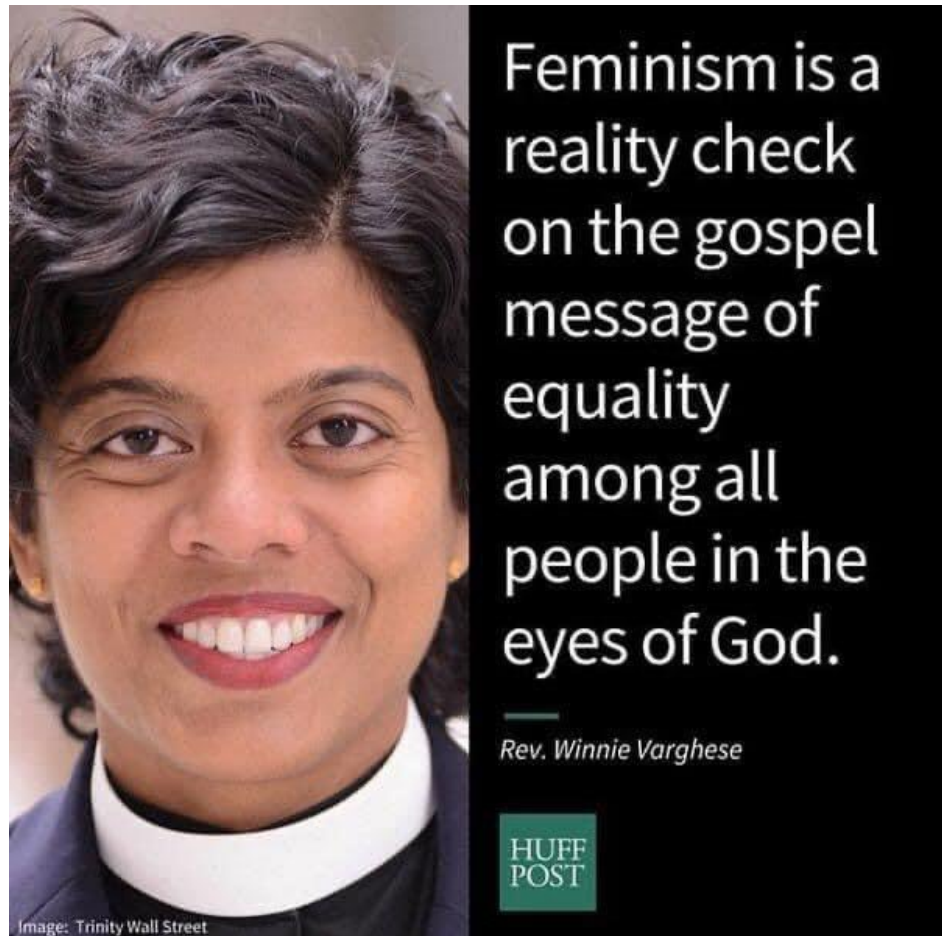
Belfast Telegraph - A former BBC employee has said a three-year legal battle that leaves the

corporation facing a potential £500,000 bill could have been avoided, Adrian Rutherford writes 08/08/2023

Lena Ferguson, who had sued the BBC over alleged bullying, settled her case in June.

Yesterday, the Belfast Telegraph reported that the corporation had spent £207,884 in legal fees fighting the claim from when it was lodged in April 2020 until June this year, when it finally ended.

Ms Ferguson has said it could have been settled at a fraction of the cost.



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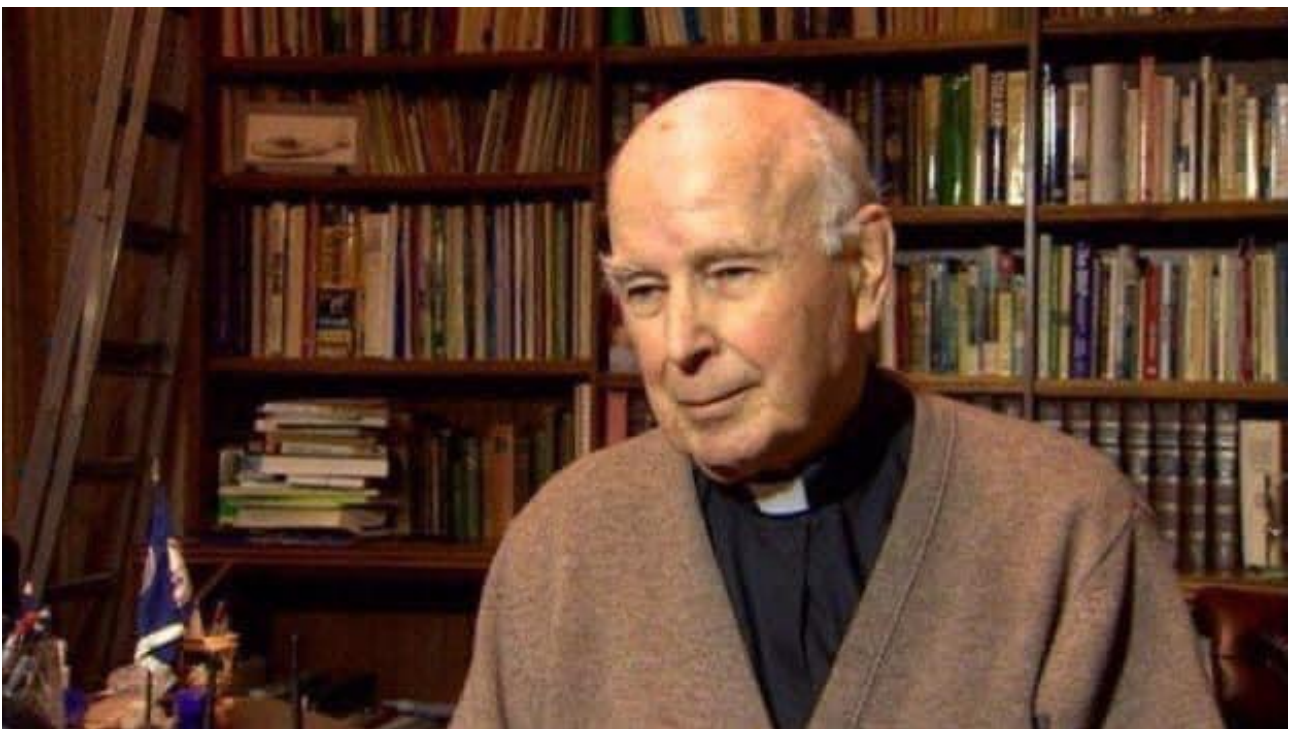
The BBC also spent £256,231 fighting a second workplace dispute involving former Newsline presenter Donna Traynor, who claimed she suffered age, sex and disability discrimination.

Both cases resulted in undisclosed payments being made to the claimants, without the BBC admitting liability.

Poem for today

Always for Others

By Easter Almuena



In memory of Bishop Edward Daly who died August 8, 2016.

You are the image and likeness of God
But with you the morning awakens
With the call to rise
Not for you

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But always for others.

God handpicked you from a myriad of souls
Molded you since you were a babe
To prepare you for a journey
Not for you
But always for others.

God blessed you with wisdom
To use to give form to his plans
And love to carry them out
Not for you
But always for others.

Mary walks with you
Guiding and loving you
For to her you are a Christ
Not for you
But always for others.

You hold the Body of Christ
Embrace his name and proclaim it
And a father and counselor you have become
Not for you
But always for others.

God forever bless you
Walk and carry you when your feet are weary
Bring peace and joy to your heart
For though your life is never for you
It is Christ's and he delights in you.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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