

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – St Alban's Copenhagen

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St Alban's Copenhagen

The most English-looking of churches (and known locally as "den engelske kirke"), was consecrated in 1887 with European royalty, including Tsar Alexander III & his wife, Princess Dagmar of Denmark, in attendance.

The Englishness was largely due to the support of the Prince of Wales (later Edward VII) and his Danish wife Alexandra. Her brother was King George I of the Hellenes and her sister was the wife of Tsar Alexander III; royalty turned out in force for the consecration in 1887

St Alban's Copenhagen by A W Blomfield, 1885-7, must be the most English-looking of all English churches in Europe. The use of flint was unknown in Denmark, and although the stone dressings were local the roof tiles came from England.

All the furnishings and fittings were English too, including the reredos, font and pulpit, designed by Blomfield and made by Doulton, with terracotta panels by George Tinworth. Stained glass throughout by Heaton, Butler & Bayne.

Photos: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:St_A

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People and places



Christ Church Carrowdore celebrates 180 years

On Sunday 6 August parishioners and invited guests gathered to give thanks to God and celebrate the 180th anniversary of the consecration of Christ Church, Carrowdore.

The service was led by the Rector, Revd Colin Davis and the Bishop of Down & Dromore Rt Rev David McClay gave the address. It was a delight to welcome friends old and new including past incumbents, Ven Roderic West and Revd



Denise Caddoo, Mrs Eleanor Patterson and Mrs Kathleen Conway also attended, reminding us of the ministries of the late Ven Philip Patterson and the late Revd Tom Conway.

Refreshments were, of course, part of the day and before the service a break in the weather allowed us to enjoy ice-cream from an ice-



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cream van – very popular!



Pictured above L–R: Mrs Kathleen Conway, Mrs Eleanor Patterson, Bishop David McClay, Ven Roderic West, Revd Denise Caddoo and Revd Colin Davis. Photo : Grace Davis

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Afterwards Mrs Maud Harkness, who, in her 98th year is the oldest member, joined the Bishop and the Rector to cut the anniversary cake. This was followed by food and fellowship in the parish hall.

Thank were conveyed to everyone who helped make the day a special one and the parishioners look forward to Christ Church serving God in this parish for at least another 180 years.

New Louth gospel choir to carry on rich tradition at St Joseph's

A new Gospel Choir has been formed at St. Joseph's Redemptorist church, adding to the community's rich musical tradition.

The church has long been home to excellent music, from generations of bell ringers and boys' choirs in the early days to the current popular and accomplished Redemptorist Choir under the direction of Musical Director Trevor Clarke, Margaret Roddy writes in The Argus.

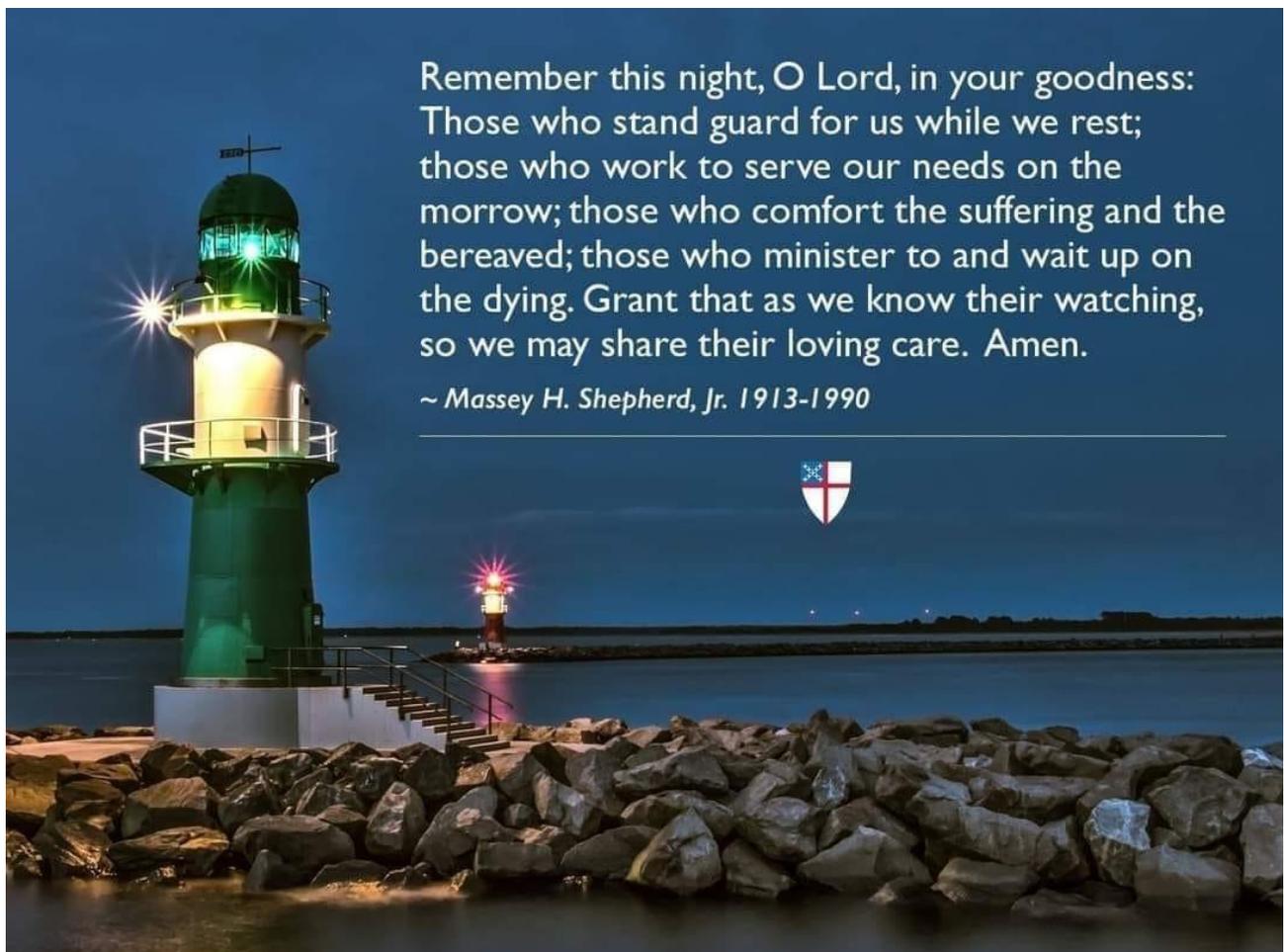
Now, with the new Redemptorist Gospel Choir, anyone with a passion for Gospel music will be able to enjoy uplifting and emotional music.

The choir will be directed by local woman Paula Mullen, who developed a passion for Gospel music when she lived in the US, singing in several different church and semi-professional gospel choirs in Boston and Washington D.C.

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“For me, there’s something magical about singing Gospel music. There’s no doubt that movies like ‘Sister Act’ brought gospel music to a huge international audience, and I think everyone knows songs like ‘Oh Happy Day’. But I love the variety of moods and styles that have emerged through the years within gospel music - from the traditional African American Spiritual, to more classically influenced songs of popular gospel artists, right up to the contemporary pieces that blend gospel and rock,” said Paula.

“To sing Gospel music you need to be versatile, enthusiastic and have a certain ‘zest’! We have always had more than our fair share of musical talent in Dundalk, so I have no doubt that we will be able to build a choir that can create an authentic and uplifting gospel music experience for our listeners.”



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Anyone who is interested in getting involved and giving their time and skills as a singer or musician on a voluntary basis can contact Paula for more information at dundalk.gospelchoir@cssr.ie.

Church in Europe is moving spectacularly from winter to spring



Belfast based Johnny Campbell, Associate National Director of Alpha UK, had a great week in Portimao serving at “Welcome to paradise” with Chemin neuf.jeunes.

Chemin neuf.jeunes. is a charismatic Catholic community from France but now with a presence all over the world.

Johnny comments - with 5,500 young people travelling to Lisbon 2023 it is quite evidently the church in Europe is not dead... but moving spectacularly from winter to spring. It'll be a while processing everything we saw and experienced.



Malone Brownies dyb up for Christian Aid

The girls of the 34th Malone Brownies dyb-dyb-dyb-did their best when they raised £265 for Christian Aid by holding a sponsored cycle ride and cake sale.

We reckon their brownies must have tasted especially good.

They're pictured presenting their cheque to Barbara McQuitty (first left), the CA representative at Malone Church - a Presbyterian congregation in south Belfast and the church to which the brownies pack is attached. Christian Aid grateful to the girls, their parents and their leader, Brown Owl Lara Macfarlane (standing next to Barbara) for their support.

News reports



Delegate members including Mandy Marshall, Bishop Sonia Roulston, GFS President Thembeke Pama and Mothers Union President Sheran Harper

Girls Friendly Society World Council meets in Johannesburg

The Girls Friendly Society (GFS) World Council is well underway in Johannesburg, South Africa, this week.

Speeches during the opening ceremony, which included GFS members from across the Anglican Communion waving flags and banners in a colourful parade, stressed the

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importance of ending Gender Based Violence and the need to include boys.

The Bishop of the Diocese of Newcastle, Australia, Sonia Roulston, said that GFS was the reason she is a Bishop because it was there that she encountered Christ, “the presence and love of God in a deep way.”

Sheran Harper, the Worldwide President of Mothers’ Union, gave the opening address and received a standing ovation. She is impressed and excited with the energy and commitment of GFS and looks forward to how Mothers’ Union might work together more closely. She said: “in a world where women and girls face countless challenges and injustices, the work of the Girls Friendly Society stands as a powerful force for positive change. In the beautiful tapestry of service and compassion, both Mothers’ Union and Girls Friendly Society weave threads of empowerment and love, in a shared mission that uplifts the hearts and souls of women and girls around the world.”

She continued: “we must find ways to support each other prayerfully and practically as we embrace the challenges and celebrate the triumphs that face women and girls today, for our work is a symphony of love and hope, resonating with the transformative power of Christ’s teachings. Hand in hand, we can shape a future where every woman and girl can soar, defying limitations and spreading their wings to embrace their true potential.”

Mandy Marshall, the Anglican Communion’s Director of Gender Justice, gave a keynote speech on gender justice around the Anglican Communion. “Imagine every girl and

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woman being free of sexual abuse, rape and incest and not having to live with the lifelong consequences of that horrific abuse," she said.

During a question-and-answer session after her speech, she said in response to a question about the challenges: "can churches build up a resource for survivors? Are there safe spaces for survivors to go? Are we connected to the local safe houses? Churches can't provide all the needs for a survivor. They are traumatised, they are fearful and there are financial issues. A church cannot respond to all of those issues. You need to link into the service providers that are available. In some areas it is Mothers' Union in some areas it is GFS. We need to be trauma informed about how to work with survivors to do that."

Pope warns against potential dangers of artificial intelligence

Pope Francis on Tuesday called for a global reflection on the potential dangers of artificial intelligence (AI), noting the new technology's "disruptive possibilities and ambivalent effects."

Francis, who is 86 and said in the past he does not know how to use a computer, issued the warning in a message for the next World Day of Peace of the Catholic Church, falling on New Year's Day.

The Vatican released the message well in advance, as it is customary.

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The pope "recalls the need to be vigilant and to work so that a logic of violence and discrimination does not take root in the production and use of such devices, at the expense of the most fragile and excluded," it reads.

"The urgent need to orient the concept and use of artificial intelligence in a responsible way, so that it may be at the service of humanity and the protection of our common home, requires that ethical reflection be extended to the sphere of education and law," it adds.

The fullness of joy is
to behold God in everything.



Julian of Norwich

Back in 2015, Francis acknowledged being "a disaster" with technology, but he has also called the internet, social networks and text messages "a gift of God", provided that they are used wisely.

In 2020, the Vatican joined forces with tech giants Microsoft and IBM to promote the ethical development of AI and call for regulation of intrusive technologies such as facial recognition.

In the media

[Derry Day: Apprentice Boys' annual Relief of Londonderry celebrations promise boost for city's economy](#)

A senior member of the Apprentice Boys of Derry believes that the people of the city have become more respectful and tolerant of the Relief of Londonderry celebrations, which take place on this weekend.

Graeme Cousins writes in the News Letter - Billy Moore, ABOD general secretary, said: "We've got roughly 130 bands participating and membership from Canada and Australia attending along with the usual tartan fraternity from Scotland over in force and our English members as well. We're expected a huge turn out. "Not only does this bring a huge boost to the economy on the day but a huge aspect of our association is that each and every member must come inside the walls of Londonderry to be initiated. Whenever they do that they're

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bringing their families with them, they're spending time in hotels, they're going to restaurants and they're spending money in the shops.

“This is an ongoing year-round thing with our organisation that we're constantly and continually bringing visitors to the city.”

Of the trouble in the Galliagh area of the city following the removal of an anti-internment bonfire, Billy said: “I would believe that that is under control and I would believe that community activists out in that area of the city will be trying to speak words of wisdom to these young people because rioting and setting cars alight and hurting your own community is certainly not anything that anyone would support or promote.”

He believes the Siege museum in Londonderry has helped build a better understanding of ABOD traditions: “We encourage people from all religious backgrounds and political views to visit our museum and understand our history, culture and traditions – that has all been paying dividends. It means that now people are a lot more respectful and tolerant of our parade. I believe that through the medium of the museum they now understand what our history is about and why we commemorate such a significant event.”

This year marks the 334th anniversary of Derry Day, prompting Billy to say: “The Relief of Londonderry took place in 1689, the Battle of the Boyne was 1690, so we're always a year ahead – we lead the way.”

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News Letter - Dissident republicans claim to be in possession of information about police officers circulating on WhatsApp following a data blunder, Northern Ireland's Chief Constable Simon Byrne has said.

<https://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/crime/dissident-republicans-claim-to-possess-leaked-police-information-chief-constable-simon-byrne-4250987>

Mike Nesbitt: A calamitous data breach by the PSNI which has implications for intelligence gathering and raises doubts about the safety of those named

A statement from the Ulster Unionist MLA Mike Nesbitt:

As the Ulster Unionist representative on the Policing Board of Northern Ireland, I feel concern at the outcome of

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yesterday's meeting of the Board with Chief Constable Simon Byrne and senior PSNI colleagues.

On the positive side, the PSNI talked us through how the breach occurred and the new protocols designed to ensure it does not happen again. That is reassuring up to a point, but, of course, you cannot eradicate human error, which was part of the problem. I was more concerned with the fallout of this calamitous error, focusing on the three issues of the safety of those named, the potential cost of the error, and the possible implications for intelligence gathering. Clearly, the most pressing of the three is the wellbeing of the officers and police staff.

The chief constable's statement that dissident republicans are claiming to have at least part of the data is not unexpected. It is in their interests to spread maximum panic and anxiety within the police family and beyond. If – and I stress if – it is true then it poses a challenge to the PSNI of an unprecedented scale, given there are some 10,000 individuals on the spreadsheet.

My question to the PSNI was whether they have the resources and capacity to offer timely risk assessment to that number of people. The fact is they will have to assess and prioritise on a case by case basis, and I encourage every officer and staff member who is worried to request a risk assessment through their line manager. The question of the cost of the error is for another day, but we acknowledged the Information Commissioner has the power to impose a substantial financial penalty, and my understanding is that the General Data Protection

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Regulations (GDPR) affords each and every individual the statutory right to compensation.

The third area of concern is the potential impact on the PSNI's intelligence gathering, a network I imagine the PSNI is currently plugged into to establish the extent to which the dissident republican claim has substance. Informants will not be encouraged to pass on information on the likes of dissidents or criminal gangs posing as loyalists when they see the PSNI cannot secure data concerning their own. The extent to which this is significant will need to be monitored. Yesterday's meeting was merely the start of a process of rebuilding, not only processes but also trust in the PSNI. Confidence has been hit badly among officers and staff, the public and some members of the Board.

Mike Nesbitt MLA, Strangford

Orange Order casts critical eye over coverage of Twelfth on TV

The official newspaper of the Orange Order has praised BBC NI's and UTV's Twelfth highlights shows for focusing on the parades this year rather than "someone eating ice-cream".

Ralph Hewitt writes in the Belfast Telegraph - GB News also aired a two-and-a-half hour live broadcast from Belfast city centre, which was presented by former DUP leader Dame Arlene Foster.

For the second year in a row, BBC NI said it would not screen live coverage of the Twelfth parades.



Instead, it produced a one-hour evening highlights programme presented by Helen Mark.

UTV's Paul Clark fronted a half-hour evening special to include the day's best moments.

In an editorial in this month's Orange Standard newspaper reviewing the three channels' coverage, the Order praised GB News and thanked it for its programming following the BBC's “disappointing” decision to cease live broadcasting.

“The inherent dangers of live broadcasting saw a few unfortunate expletives from some of those interviewed who added their own 'colourful' commentary to the proceedings,” added the Orange Standard.

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Reflecting on BBC NI's and UTV's shows, the editorial said a “regular complaint” is that they spend “more time showing someone eating ice-cream instead of focusing on the bands and lodges”.

“Thankfully, both evening highlights programmes this year seemed to have taken this on board and the majority of their coverage featured the parades themselves,” it added.

The paper said while UTV covered several Twelfth locations, the 30-minute programme only provided a “taste” of the festivities in each area, arguing for an hour-long show.

On the Beeb coverage, the editorial said: “The BBC's hour-long special got off to a bad start with what can best be described as an unnecessary 'trigger warning' to viewers and an apologetic introduction stating that the BBC recognises that not everyone has a positive view of the Twelfth.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this sit

Church News Ireland

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