

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Prayer tree from Ashton School

Image of the day

Prayer tree from Ashton School

A new Prayer Tree is now in St Fachtna's Cathedral, in Rosscarbery. It was made by the students of Ashton School and has been donated by Bishop Colton to St. Fachtna's Cathedral.

It has already been used as part of the 'Souls of our Shoes' exhibition. which This exhibition was on the theme of Domestic Violence and is on display at the cathedral until 20th August 2023.

The prayer tree will remain in Ross Cathedral after the exhibition for visitors to offer prayers when they visit this beautiful historic building.

The Dean and Chapter of Ross Cathedral have thanked Bishop Colton and the students of Ashton School for the prayer tree.

The Very Rev. Cliff Jeffers, Dean of Ross said:

We are delighted that this prayer tree has been donated to St. Fachtna's Cathedral and hope that it will facilitate the prayers of tourists and local people who visit the cathedral for many years to come.

People and places



Happy 100th Billy of Knock

Warmest congratulations to Knock parishioner Billy Geary who has just celebrated his 100th birthday.

The rector, Canon John Auchmuty, pictured with Billy said, “Billy is a most faithful and regular parishioner and generously supports St. Columba’s in so many ways.

There were huge congratulations from his many friends in the church following the Holy Communion service last Sunday morning.

“Billy is a long-standing member of the Rotary Club where he raises significant amount of money for charity. He has many interests including golf and bridge and has a most supportive family around him. His hard work, strong independence, and great support for his family together for those in need is a powerful example to us all.”

See House hospitality for Down & Dromore ordinands

Bishop David and Mrs Hilary McClay hosted this year's ordinands and their families for a celebratory evening meal at the See House this week after they made their declarations in St Molua's.

Also present were Registrar Canon Simon Doogan and DDO Karen Salmon.. As a new chapter begins this August and September, please pray for these eight ordinands and their families and their parishes - Mount Merrion Church, St Brendan's, St Philip and St James, Holywood, St Saviour's in Craigavon, The Gathering - Braniel Community Church, St Patrick's Drumbeg and Knocknagoney Parish

From Ballinamallard to Bushmills

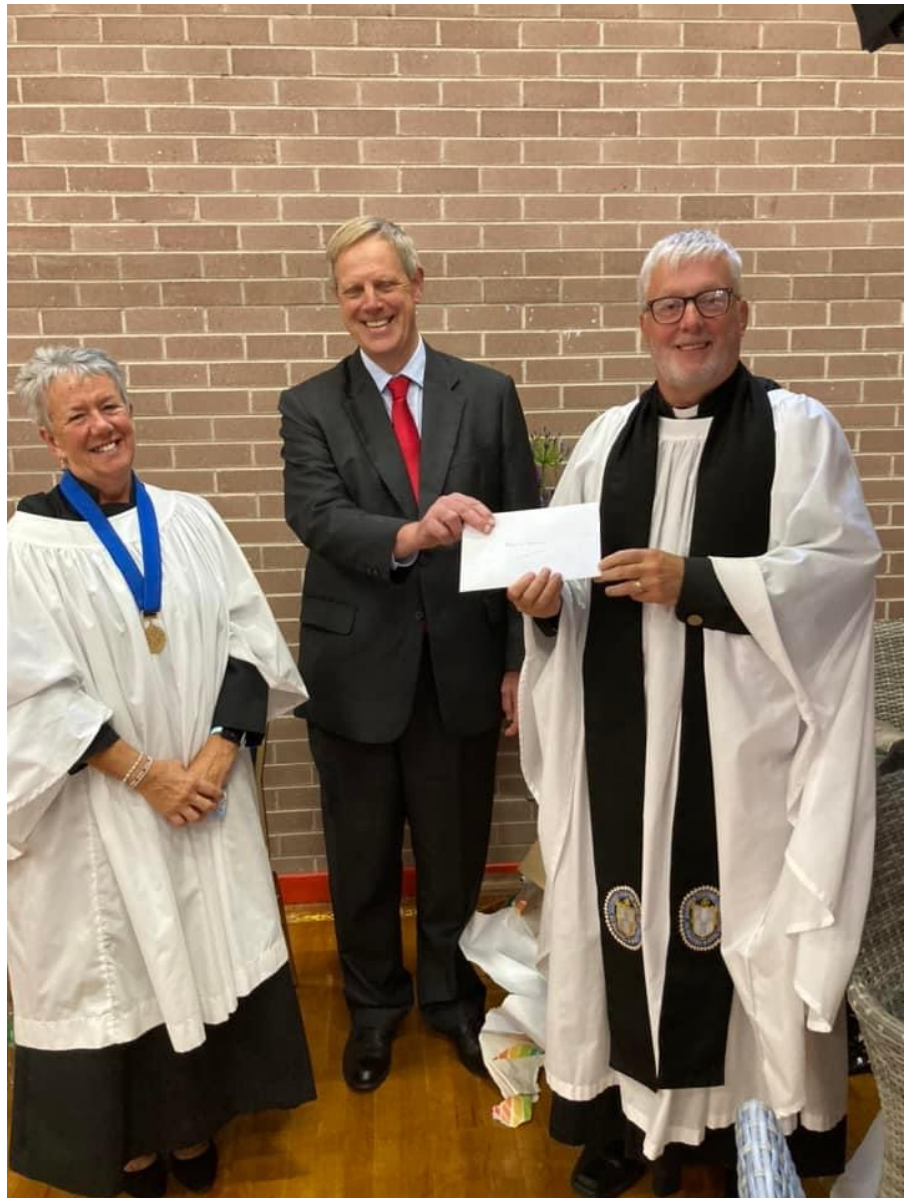
On Sunday last the parishioners of Ballinamallard said goodbye to Archdeacon Brian and Mrs Heather Harper as they left Ballinamallard in Clogher Diocese for Dunluce Parish in Bushmills after 11 years service in Magheracross Parish Church.

The Rev Brian Harper will be instituted in Dunluce Parish today, Friday August 18.

The former Archdeacon of Clogher will be instituted as rector by the Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev George Davison.

August 18, 2023

Charles Loane,
Rector's
Churchwarden
made a
presentation on
behalf of the
Select Vestry
and
Parishioners to
Archdeacon
Harper



The preacher
will be the Rev
Gareth Morgan,
team vicar of
Halewood and
Hunts Cross in
the Diocese of
Liverpool. The
service gets
underway in the Church of St John the Baptist at 7.30pm.

Brian is married to Heather and they have three grown-up children and one granddaughter.

Originally from Dungiven, he attended Limavady Grammar School and has a Degree in Psychology from the University of Liverpool. Following graduation, he began training at the Church of Ireland Theological College in Dublin and was ordained in 1985, when, at the age of 24, he was the youngest Church of Ireland clergyman on the island.

August 18, 2023

The Scouts were one of a number of parish groups to thank the outgoing rector

Brian's first curacy was in St Columba's, Portadown, and this was followed by a second curacy in Drumglass Parish, Dungannon. He was rector in Ballygawley, Errigle

Keerogue and Killeshill before moving to Mullavilly Parish in Tandragee, where he remained incumbent for 19 years.

Having served all his ministry in the Diocese of Armagh, Brian moved to Clogher Diocese in 2012 when he was appointed rector in Magheracross Parish, Ballinamallard. He has been Archdeacon of Clogher since 2016,

Speaking of his move to Connor Diocese and the north coast, Brian said: "I am looking forward to meeting new



August 18, 2023

people and getting to know everyone in Dunluce Parish. It is a lovely part of the world, and I will be closer to my family.”

Brian and Heather are directors of Park Run in Enniskillen and for the past 12 years, Brian has been sports chaplain with Ballinamallard Utd FC.

Brian succeeds the Rev Canon George Graham who retired last October after 17 years as rector of Dunluce. Courtesy The Coleraine Chronicle

Bishop's Curate for Drumcliffe Group of Parishes

The Revd. Luke Pratt has been appointed as Bishop's Curate of the Drumcliffe Group of Parishes (Drumcliffe, Lissadell and Munninane) in Co. Sligo.

Luke grew up in Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo and, after completing his education in Sligo Grammar school in 2001, moved to Belfast to study Music and Film. In early 2014, Luke and his wife, Penelope (Pen or Penny for short) moved to Pen's hometown of Santiago, Chile to be closer to her family. Revd. Luke undertook theological training at the Anglican Centre for Pastoral Studies in Santiago and completed his studies in 2021. After that, he served as a lay minister at Providencia Anglican Church in Santiago and was ordained as deacon in June of this year.

Revd. Luke and his wife, Pen (who is a lawyer by profession) met in 2011 at the Church of the Resurrection Anglican-Methodist church in South Belfast where Luke was

August 18, 2023

a worship leader and Pen had taken up a role serving with the South American Mission Society (SAMS). They have a seven year old daughter, Emily.

Revd. Luke will be welcomed to his new position in the Drumcliffe Group at a service on Sunday the 27th August. Speaking of his move to Ireland Revd. Luke says that, among other things 'he is looking forward to learning more about Ireland and its rich cultural heritage, to making new friends here, and to seeing more people come to know and love the Lord'. He says his main focus over the coming months will be 'to get to know the parishioners of Drumcliffe, Lissadell, and Munninane, to orient myself with regard to their gifts and their spiritual needs, and to promote and encourage the strengthening of fellowship and community here'.

C of I tributes to Bishop Liam MacDaid, former Roman Catholic Bishop of Clogher with 'huge pastoral heart'

Tributes have been paid to Liam MacDaid, a Bishop with a "huge pastoral heart" who died suddenly while on holiday in France.

Archbishop John McDowell has issued the following statement on the announcement of the death of Bishop Liam MacDaid, his former counterpart as Bishop of Clogher:

"It was with great sadness that I learnt of the death of Bishop Liam MacDaid, formerly Roman Catholic Bishop of Clogher. My own service as the Church of Ireland Bishop of



BBC News commented that the Catholic Bishop of Clogher, Liam McDaid, was described as a "compassionate pastor" with a "genuine commitment to God's people"

Clogher coincided almost exactly with that of Bishop Liam's episcopal service. The big difference was that Liam was a native of the diocese, had been a pupil at the Diocesan College in Monaghan, and had served his entire priestly ministry in Clogher. He knew everything, I knew very little.

“So, it was my good fortune that Bishop Liam was prepared to share the riches of his knowledge and experience with me as we worked together in many ways. Anyone who knew him will attest to his quiet wisdom and unobtrusive manner; the word in season was his métier.

“Bishop Liam had been a robust junior footballer in his youth and introduced me to the breathless speed and skill of Gaelic games, but only as a spectator. Our annual outings to Clones in the company of Bishop Joseph Duffy and

August 18, 2023

Monsignor Shane McCaughey for the Senior Football Final, followed by the match analysis over a good meal are days which I will never forget. Warm friendship, wonderful company; much happiness.

“Nor will I ever forget the depth and sincerity of his huge pastoral heart for those in his care, or indeed of anyone who came within his orbit. Always practical and to the point, where he advised he also helped – in many ways a model of the sort of bishop which Pope Francis values – as he said, someone who had the smell of his sheep about him. A true friend with a deep soul.

“Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.
+John Armagh”

Bishop Ian W Ellis, the current Church of Ireland Bishop of Clogher said -

“On behalf of the Church of Ireland Diocese of Clogher, I wish to extend to Bishop Larry Duffy, the clergy, and people of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Clogher our heartfelt sympathy upon the death of Bishop Liam MacDaid, their former bishop. As someone who had spent his entire ministry in the Diocese of Clogher, Bishop Liam was so well known and highly respected in the wider community.

“News of his death has come as a great shock especially to his family and we hold them and his close friends and colleagues in our prayers at this time. May they know the consolation of the loving care of the Good Shepherd at this difficult time.

“+Ian Clogher”

Rev. Dr. Frederick William Nairn 1943 - 2023

Fred Nairn, 79, a beloved husband, father, priest and educator, was born August 20, 1943, in Carrickfergus, Northern Ireland and passed away peacefully on August 13, 2023, surrounded by loved ones.

A man of faith and compassion, Fred was ordained a priest in the Church of Ireland and his ministry spanned 50+ years, touching lives across the globe. He served parishes in Larne, Northern Ireland, as well as Harmston and Coleby in England. Fred also served as a chaplain (rank Squadron Leader) in the Royal Air Force and was stationed in Cyprus.

Fred's path led him to the United States, beginning with a pulpit exchange at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Sycamore, IL. During this time and while serving as a hospital chaplain at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago, he met his first wife, Sarah.

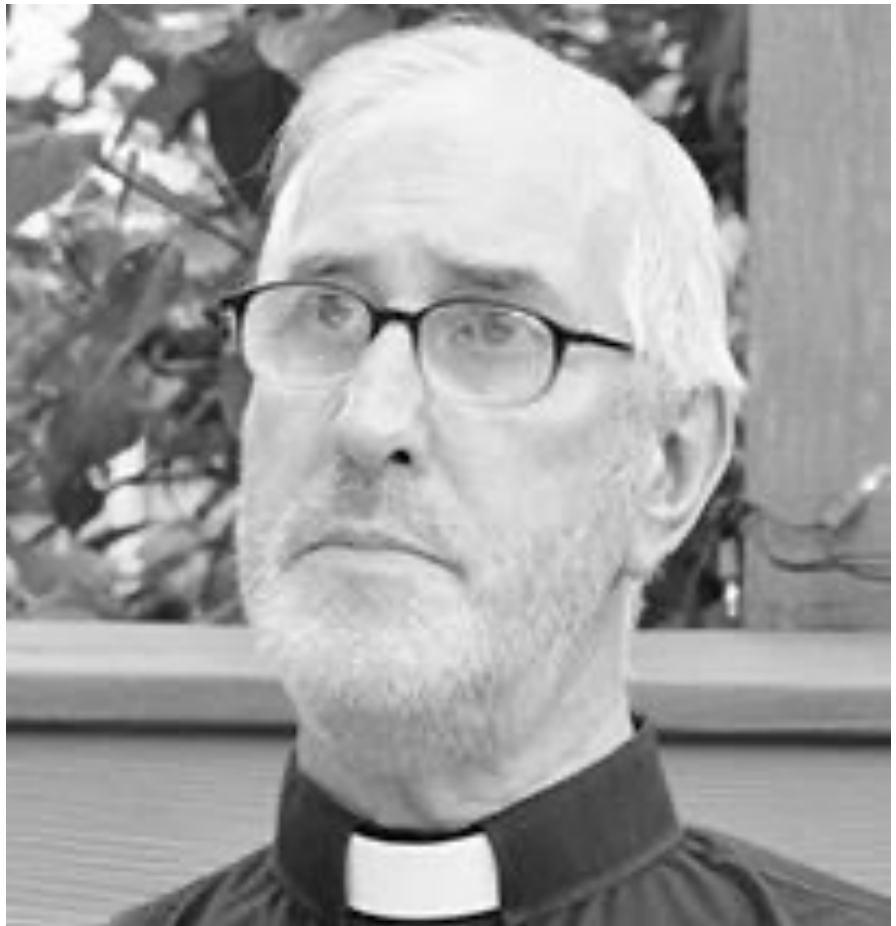
In Minnesota, Fred served the parishes of St. David's Minnetonka, St. George's St. Louis Park, and was the rector of the Church of the Epiphany Plymouth. In his later years, with his beloved wife Mary Jo by his side, Fred continued to serve congregations in Minnesota, supporting the good people of Trinity in Litchfield, St. John's in St. Cloud, and Emmanuel in Alexandria.

Fred's commitment to community extended beyond the pulpit. He was involved with the Children's Program of

August 18, 2023

Northern Ireland (CPNI) and authored a book, "The Sky is Higher", chronicling the CPNI's history.

*Rev. Dr.
Frederick William
Nairn*



For 23 years, he was an adjunct professor of theology at the University of St.

Thomas, inspiring young minds and leaving an indelible mark. His classroom was a space for open discussion, and students admired his wit, wisdom, and genuine care for them.

Fred loved a good scotch and a well-crafted gin & tonic. His diverse interests also included gardening, singing in the choir at Trinity, enjoying the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra and Guthrie Theatre with friends, and tinkering with an old diesel Mercedes.

He and Mary Jo created so many memories through their travels, often visiting his homeland Northern Ireland as well as France, Croatia, Iceland, Italy, Mexico, and especially Paris, where Fred was always on the hunt for a good organ

August 18, 2023

recital, and where they celebrated many Christmases together.

Fred was preceded in death by parents Fred and Maureen, sisters Maureen (Maddy) and Dorothy. He is survived by his loving wife of 21 years, Mary Jo. He also leaves behind son Alistair (Anna) and their daughter Dalriada, brother David (Mary) and their sons Conor and Calum, as well as Mary Jo's daughters Katie, Betsey (Kevin) and their children Harper, Willow and Thomas, and Melanie (Rich).

Fred's dry Irish wit and sense of humor endeared him to everyone he met. His spirit will continue to live on in the hearts of those who knew him, a testament to a life lived fully.

Fred's family thanks the dedicated teams at Park Nicollet who supported him throughout his journey with myelofibrosis as well as the exceptional staff at N. C. Little Hospice in Edina whose tender care for him was truly remarkable. A celebration of Fred's life will take place at 2:30 PM on Saturday, August 19th at Trinity Episcopal Church in Excelsior, MN. Friends and family are invited to visit from 1:00 PM.

Courtesy of Pioneer Press from Aug. 16 to Aug. 18, 2023.

Note - Rev Fred Nairn was made deacon by Rt Rev Cyril Elliott in Belfast Cathedral in June 1967 together with John Bond, Nicholas Cummins, Robin Lavery, the late James Martin, and Houston McKelvey. He was ordained priest the following year on St Peter's Day in St Colman's Parish Church, Dunmurry.

In the media

Same-sex blessing controversy underlines deep divisions within German Catholic Church

Irish Times - Priest censured for including same-sex couple in a blessing of 25 couples as church continues to lose members at a record rate, by Derek Scally in Berlin

Catholic priest Herbert Ullmann spent most of July on a cycling holiday around Lake Constance in southern Germany. Throughout it all, he had a nagging feeling that something was brewing back home.

Returning a fortnight ago to his western German parish in Mettmann, half an hour east of Düsseldorf, Fr Ullmann found out he was headline news. The reason? The response of his church superiors to his “mass of blessing for all loving couples” last March.

It was a ceremony with a “concentrated, calm, warm atmosphere”, he recalls, with one obviously same-sex couple among around 25 heterosexual couples attending.

“It was about blessing and showing respect for all forms of responsible partnerships among people of goodwill,” he told The Irish Times.

While other German Catholic bishops have turned a blind eye to similar services in their dioceses, many widely

August 18, 2023

reported in the media, things worked out differently for Fr Ullmann.

Someone attending the ceremony in March tipped off the Vatican, he believes. How is so he sure? More at - [\[https://www.irishtimes.com/world/europe/2023/08/16/blessing-controversy-underlines-deep-divisions-within-german-catholic-church/\]](https://www.irishtimes.com/world/europe/2023/08/16/blessing-controversy-underlines-deep-divisions-within-german-catholic-church/)

Priest promises planner granting permission for car-park 'will bring her many blessings'

Breaking News.ie - A Co Clare parish priest has promised a female Council planner that if she grants planning permission for a new Church car park it will bring her many blessings.

Parish priest of Lisdoonvarna, Kilshanny, Toovahera and Doolin, Fr Robert McNamara has made the promise to the planner in an email where he stated that he is 'perplexed' why Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) would be objecting to his plans for a new car-park to serve "a little architectural gem' of a Church in the Burren, Co Clare.

Fr McNamara has lodged plans with Clare County Council for the car-park to serve an historic 1878 church, Toovahera at Kilmoone West, Lisdoonvarna.

The car-park scheme is aimed at eliminating the on-road parking during mass times at the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes which has become 'in demand' for smaller weddings.

August 18, 2023

However, in a submission, TII has told the council that the proposal is at variance with national policy in relation to control of frontage development on or affecting national roads. More at -

[<https://www.breakingnews.ie/ireland/priest-promises-planner-granting-permission-for-car-park-will-bring-her-many-blessings-1515821.html>]

Nolan Show: Martina Anderson requests 'all material' including messages from BBC

Belfast Live - Solicitors for former Sinn Fein MEP say they have requested Martina Anderson's personal data from BBC

Solicitors for former Sinn Fein MEP Martina Anderson say they have written to the BBC asking for "all personal data" relating to a reported BBC investigation into the Nolan Show - including messages allegedly circulated between some members of the Nolan Show team.

This follows a report in the Irish News, published on Tuesday, that claimed "disparaging messages, not from Nolan, about politicians" including Ms Anderson had circulated between some Nolan Show team members.

O Muirigh Solicitors say they have written to the BBC under GDPR legislation to request a copy of Ms Anderson's personal data. More at -

[<https://www.belfastlive.co.uk/news/nolan-show-martina-anderson-requests-27533965?>]

Afghanistan bomb survivor to lead Army

Daily Telegraph - The next head of the British Army will be an Afghanistan war hero who survived a Taliban assassination attempt, reports Danielle Sheridan, Defence Editor.

Lieutenant General Roly Walker, a former Special Forces chief, will take on the position next year after General Sir Patrick Sanders, the Chief of the General Staff, steps down.

Lt Gen Walker, who has been described as a “good guy” by many serving with him, will take on the most senior role in the Army as it faces its biggest troop cuts in history. In his role as the Deputy Chief of Defence Staff, Lt Gen Walker, 53, is based in the Ministry of Defence’s main Whitehall building where he has had “a lot of face time” with Ben Wallace, the Defence Secretary.

Lt Gen Walker was in Helmand Province in 2010 when his Army vehicle drove over a bomb.

Whitehall sources said that Lt Gen Walker “earnt his trust” in his role, in which he is responsible for directing all military operations on behalf of Admiral Sir Tony Radakin, the head of the Armed Forces.

It is understood that Mr Wallace and Lt Gen Walker, who were born a day apart in 1970, “get on well”.

Lt Gen Walker has known the Defence Secretary since their Army days 30 years ago, where it has been claimed they shared a room in Belfast as platoon commanders.

“There is mutual respect,” one source said, adding that Lt Gen Walker works “closely with Wallace on a very regular basis”.

Lt Gen Walker is known among colleagues for having an “exceptional career”. He was commissioned into the Irish Guards in 1993 before joining the 22nd Special Air Service Regiment in 1997.

He then moved to the Grenadier Guards and by 2011 he had been promoted to the General Staff. His last appointment before being promoted was as Director Special Forces.

Throughout his career he has spoken of the “monstrous killing” of five of his soldiers in the early days of the Afghan campaign.

In November 2009, Lt Gen Walker was commanding officer of the 1st battalion Grenadier Guards when his men were shot dead inside an Afghan Police Compound known as Blue 25. At the time it was considered one of the most dangerous areas in Helmand.

Police chief must face questions over his future, says DUP leader

Daily Telegraph - Donaldson follows Sinn Fein in calling for accountability over Northern Ireland data leak

Sir Jeffrey Donaldson the leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, failed to back Northern Ireland’s most senior police

August 18, 2023

officer yesterday and said he should face questions over his job after an investigation into the worst data breach in the region's history, writes James Crisp

Sir Jeffrey said he would “suspend judgment” for now on whether Chief Constable Simon Byrne should quit over the leak of details concerning almost 10,000 officers and staff in the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI).

But the DUP leader said that Northern Ireland's Policing Board should look “at the whole question of accountability” once an internal review of the security breach was concluded. The board has the power to sack and replace the chief constable, who has refused to resign.

Sir Jeffrey's demand for accountability over the scandal comes after a similar demand by Sinn Fein's Michelle O'Neill last week after details of the data breach, which has left officers fearing attack by republican dissident terror groups, were revealed.

“I work very closely with the current chief constable and I recognise that he has done some very valuable work, but I'm going to suspend judgment at this stage until we see exactly what has happened. Has there been a systemic failure here and who is responsible for that?” he told BBC Radio 4's Today programme after being asked if had confidence in Mr Byrne.

“The senior commanders of the PSNI, including the chief constable, really need to get to grips with this situation,” Sir Jeffrey said the day after the service confirmed that terror groups had obtained the data that were accidentally

August 18, 2023

published online in response to a freedom of information request.

“Secondly, there is the question of accountability, but I don’t want to leave the PSNI leaderless at this stage. I think it’s important that the chief constable oversees at this stage of the process because that leadership is necessary to ensure stability. Then I think the Policing Board needs to look at the whole question of accountability.”

On Monday, dissident groups posted the data, with names of officers removed, and a threatening message on a wall opposite Sinn Fein’s office on the Falls Road in Belfast.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Concerns of Young Christians in Europe: Key Perspectives

Thursday 14th September, 2pm-4pm (UK), via Zoom.

Faith in Europe is convening young adult speakers from different Christian traditions, with involvement in youth programmes active across Europe, to learn about the concerns and priorities of young Christians in Europe, drawing upon their experiences with the World Student Christian Federation in Europe, the European Methodist Church and the Youth Policy division of The Commission of the Catholic Bishops’ Conferences of the European Union.



Speakers include:

Patrick Ramsey

Patrick Ramsey has been a member of Student Christian Movement Great Britain since 2017 and serves as World Student Christian Federation Europe Vice-chair. He is based in the UK.

Irene Abra

Irene Abra has worked across Methodism in Europe as part of an international project called Climate Justice for All and with the European Methodist Council. She is based in Italy.

Khatia Platchiashvili

Khatia Platchiashvili recently interned with The Commission of the Catholic Bishops' Conferences of the European Union (COMECE) on Education & Culture and Youth Policy. Khatia has carried out recent analyses of EU policy initiatives in the field of Education and Culture and

August 18, 2023

Youth, monitored the activities of the relevant Committees of the European Parliament but also worked in other policy areas, such as Justice, Fundamental Rights & Article 17 TFEU, Migration & Asylum, Social & Economic Affairs and EU External Affairs. Khatia is from Georgia, currently residing in Brussels.

Emilio Dogliani

Emilio Dogliani is COMECE's Policy Adviser for Education, Culture and Youth Policy.

Registration - Registration is free and open to all.

[<https://ctbi.org.uk/concerns-of-young-christians-in-europe-key-perspectives/>]



ORCHESTRA NORTHWEST
Autumn Concert



 Symphony No. 8 ~ Dvořák
Capriol Suite ~ Warlock
Danzón No. 2 ~ Marquez


Tickets
£12/£8
book via Eventbrite

Guildhall
Derry

SUNDAY
24TH SEPTEMBER
7:30 PM

Orchestra NorthWest

August 18, 2023

Come and join Orchestra NorthWest on Sunday 24th September 2023 in Derry's beautiful Guildhall for our Autumn Concert with a programme which includes Dvorák's symphony No. 8 as well as works by Peter Warlock and Arturo Márquez.

Tickets can be booked via the link below:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/orchestra-northwest-autumn-concert-tickets-698575888287>

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