

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Advent Jerusalem

December 4, 2024

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Advent by Patrick Kavanagh

Speaking to the soul -

Short reading and a prayer daily on this site

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Image of the day - Advent Jerusalem

Our friends write - A blessed Advent to all of you from St. George's Cathedral, Jerusalem!

You may download an Advent devotional booklet from the Diocese of Jerusalem here:

<https://tinyurl.com/24AdventEP>

News



Confirmation and covenant at C of I - Methodist Covenant Church

Church of the Good Shepherd, Monkstown - “We are a Church of Ireland/Methodist Covenant Church family of all ages, located in the heart of Monkstown Estate.



“We gather each Sunday and throughout the week to worship, learn more about Jesus, and encourage one another as we live for Him.”

“What a joyful service of Confirmation & Membership we had on Sunday morning!

“It was such a joy to celebrate





what God has been doing in the lives of three of our young people and two of our young adults this morning! God has been moving in each of their lives in incredible ways over this year, with four of them giving their lives to Jesus!

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It was great to welcome The Bishop of Connor Rt Rev George Davidson and former District Superintendent Harold Agnew as they led us in worship.

Continue to pray for Jodie, Deacon, Zara, Will, and Laura as they continue to grow in their love for Jesus and serve Him in the family of COGS and the wider community of Monkstown. The minister of COGS is the Reverend Nathan Irvine.

<https://www.cogsmonkstown.org/>

Carlow Christmas Tree Festival launch

It was lovely to see so many people join us for the launch of the Christmas Tree Festival this morning. Bishop Adrian Wilkinson launched the festival with prayer, encouraging words and lighting the big tree. “Come join us as we show you Carlow’s best creativity and imagination”.

Lisburn Light Festival

Lisburn Light Festival is an annual event that takes place in Lisburn city centre during the Christmas season.

It features a variety of light installations and displays, including a light canopy on Bow Street, a Christmas tree in Market Square, and a light trail in Castle Gardens. The festival also includes a number of other activities, such as a Christmas market, live music, and Santa's Grotto.



The light canopy on Bow Street is a series of illuminated arches that create a festive atmosphere. The Christmas tree in Market Square is a large, decorated tree that is the centerpiece of the festival. The light trail in Castle Gardens is a walk-through experience that features a variety of light displays and sculptures.

The Lisburn Light Festival is a popular event for families and people of all ages. It is a great way to get into the Christmas spirit and enjoy the festive activities. Photo by kindness of Gaz Drone

Archdiocese's response to the disruption of Mass in St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh

Statement in response to a group of protesters disrupting Mass yesterday in Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh, a spokesperson for the Archdiocese said:

“While we are very sympathetic to the plight of the people of Gaza, and of all victims of war and violence throughout the world, it was very disappointing that a group of protesters chose to disrupt the celebration of Mass in Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh, on Sunday morning, just as parishioners had received Holy Communion. At a personal level, and together with the other Irish bishops, Archbishop Eamon Martin has spoken out strongly and frequently on the issue of the horrific devastation and loss of life in Gaza, most recently in the Bishops' Conference's pre-election statement^{*} of two weeks ago (a simple internet search will provide access to these statements).

“The bishops have also encouraged humanitarian help for Gaza and the Middle East through locally based charitable outreach, and through Trócaire's ongoing special appeal. In his 2024 New Year Peace message, Archbishop Martin highlighted this issue urging the international community to consider if war crimes are being committed with the merciless bombardment of civilians and the effective blocking of humanitarian aid to the defenceless people of Gaza.

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The appalling situation in Gaza needs prayers and concrete action at all levels to end this inhumane conflict. Disrupting the sacred liturgy in any way is upsetting and an inappropriate form of protest.” Ends.

Excerpt from To be a people of hope! – the Irish Bishops’ statement for the General Election 202

The war in Gaza and the Middle East must stop now. Enough is enough! The plight of the people of the region is horrendous...



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Advent, Christmas & Epiphany at St George's Belfast

...So too is the inability of the international community to act to bring about a ceasefire and a longer-term solution to the questions involved.

Similarly, the international

community has a role to play in bringing peace to Ukraine and to other areas of conflict in our world, including Sudan, Myanmar, and Yemen. War, militarisation and the proliferation of arms, is a stain on our humanity. Pope Francis reminds us that throughout the Bible, justice, peace and faith go together. He invites us to oppose a culture of cruelty and war and, instead, always promote a culture of peace and bear witness to human solidarity and love.

SAINT GEORGE'S BELFAST

ADVENT, CHRISTMAS & EPIPHANY SERVICE LIST 2024 / 2025

SAINT GEORGE'S BELFAST

ALL OTHER SERVICES AS USUAL OVER ADVENT CHRISTMAS & EPIPHANY

Advent Sunday (1 December 2024)
11:00am Choral Eucharist
5:00pm Advent Carol Service

4th Sunday of Advent (22 December 2024)
11:00am Choral Eucharist
5:00pm Nine Lessons and Carols

Christmas Eve (24 December 2024)
11:00pm Midnight Festival Eucharist

Christmas Day (25 December 2024)
9:30am Eucharist
11:00am Choral Festival Eucharist

St Stephen's Day (26 December 2024)
1:00pm Eucharist

St John the Evangelist (27 December 2024)
1:00pm Eucharist

The Holy Innocents (28 December 2024)
1:00pm Eucharist

The First Sunday of Christmas (29 December 2024)
9:30am Eucharist; 11:00am Eucharist
5:00pm Evening Prayer

2nd Sunday of Christmas (5 January 2025)
9:30am Eucharist; 11:00am Choral Eucharist
5:00pm Epiphany Carol Service

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Irish peacekeeping troops operate in many troubled areas of our world. As a nation we contribute also in the area of human development through a number of agencies operating from our country. We ask all political parties to ensure the budget for overseas development aid is maintained and increased over the coming mandate.

Dundela confirmation - Congratulations to the 12 young people and 2 adults who were confirmed last week in St Mark's, Dundela. Please pray for them.

Pope Francis welcome for members of the 'Hidden Christians Research Association' in Japan

Pope Francis welcomed members of the 'Hidden Christians Research Association' to the Vatican on Saturday last, highlighting their significant work in preserving the history and legacy of Japan's Hidden Christian sites.

In his reflection the Pope praised their dedication to ensuring Christian historical sites in Japan remain a testament to the enduring faith of the Japanese Christian community.

Their pilgrimage commemorates the 2018 inclusion of the Hidden Christian sites in the Nagasaki region on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

b
ballymena
chamber
orchestra

*Ballymena Chamber
Orchestra
&
Community Choir*

Christmas Classics
By Candlelight

Friday 6th December 2024
8pm

St Patrick's Church Of Ireland
Ballymena

Tickets - £15
(Children under 12 - £7.50)

Tickets available on the door or online at
Eventbrite.co.uk*

*Online booking fees apply

"The Japanese are a noble people," he said, emphasizing the deep cultural and spiritual significance of this chapter in Church history.

The Hidden Christians Research Association, established to document, preserve, and educate others about the extraordinary story of the 'Hidden Christians' plays an

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important role in safeguarding this heritage. These Christians clandestinely practised their faith during the nearly 250 years of persecution following the Tokugawa shogunate's ban on Christianity in the 17th century.

The association works to keep alive the memory of their resilience and spiritual ingenuity, which allowed them to pass down their faith for generations despite the threat of severe punishment.

Pope Francis highlighted the significance of preserving these sites as both a historical record and a source of inspiration.

"It is my hope that this recognition of the importance of these sites will not only ensure their proper conservation but also serve as a living testimony to the fidelity of so many Japanese Christians," he said.

The Pope also noted the upcoming consistory on December 7, during which he will create a new Japanese cardinal,

Christmas
WITH
Concertio

DEC 02	Stormont Church <i>in aid of</i> The Ben Clark Foundation	8.00 PM
DEC 17	Belfast Cathedral NI Chamber of Commerce & Industry Carol Service	6.30 PM

NO TICKETS REQUIRED
A charitable donation will be received, with thanks, at both events

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further highlighting the continued importance of the Japanese Catholic community in the life of the universal Church.

The gathering took place on the eve of the Memorial of Saint Francis Xavier, one of the first missionaries to bring the Gospel to Japan in the 16th century.

Cathedral Calls

Cashel Advent Carol Service and Installation

Advent Carol Service and Installation of the Very Revd Bruce Hayes as Precentor in Cashel Cathedral.

The start of the season of Advent was marked in Cashel Cathedral with a special evening service of carols, music and readings. During this service, the Very Revd Bruce Hayes, the Dean of Waterford was also installed as Precentor. The installation was conducted by the Dean of Cashel, the Very Revd James Mulhall. The proceedings were overseen by the Registrar, the Very Revd Stephen Farrell. The congregation at the service included members of the Hayes family, some of the diocesan clergy and readers, as well as many parishioners. Photo credit: Linda Harris

Venerable Matt Talbot Pilgrimage at St. Eugene's, Derry



Fr Paul Farren, Administrator of St. Eugene’s Cathedral, Derry celebrated Mass with members of The Order of Knights of St. Columbanus as they journeyed on Pilgrimage with the relic of Venerable Matt Talbot.

For more information please follow the Matt Talbot Prayer Society page.

“Never be too hard on the one who cannot give up drink, it’s as hard to give up drink as it is to raise the dead to life again, but both are possible and even easy for the Lord. We have only to depend on him”.

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Saint Patrick's Cathedral Dublin December - January

Carols for All

Sunday, 15th December, at 3.15pm

A Saint Patrick's Cathedral Christmas

Wednesday, 18th December, at 7.30pm



Miskelly
CHORALE

CHRISTMAS BY CANDLELIGHT



The Miskelly Chorale

**Thursday 5th December 2024
8.00pm**

St Mary's Parish Church, Comber

Suggested Donation:£10

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Join us for an enchanting evening of seasonal music at our annual Christmas concert given by Choristers and Lay Vicars of Saint Patrick's Cathedral Choir & Orchestra, directed by Stuart Nicholson.

Programme includes a veritable feast of Christmas classics including music from Handel's Messiah, Britten's Ceremony of Carols & Vaughan Williams' Fantasia on Christmas Carols. There will also be carols for the audience to join in and raise the roof with (accompanied by David Leigh on the Cathedral's mighty Willis organ, all 4,000 or so pipes of it), and seasonal readings from Bryan Dobson.

Tickets are available from
www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/christmas24

Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday, 22nd December, at 3.15pm & Christmas Eve at 4.00pm

Christmas Day

Festival Choral Eucharist

at 11.15am

Sunday, 5th January

Epiphany Carol Service 3.15pm

Olivier Messiaen: La Nativité du Seigneur 4.30pm

Clergy and ministry



Baptism and Confirmation at Catholic Chaplaincy at QUB

Chaplaincy Mass for the First Sunday of Advent was particularly special as we welcomed into the Church one of our lecturers Anh, together with her newborn baby, Chau.

Anh also received the Sacrament of Confirmation and First Holy Communion. Mother and baby shared the Christian name Maria. One of our students, Sadie, also made Confirmation.



Adopting as her patron, St Genevive, Sadie was joined by family members and friends from England and across Ireland.

“We were honoured to welcome back Bishop Alan McGuckian SJ who, in his homily, encouraged us that the ups and downs of life and the travails of history are made sense of in the final coming of Christ and that in the end, all will be well. After Mass we returned to No. 42 for tea and a slice of celebratory cake!”

Poem for today

Advent

By Patrick Kavanagh

December 4, 2024

We have tested and tasted too much, lover-
Through a chink too wide there comes in no wonder.
But here in the Advent-darkened room
Where the dry black bread and the sugarless tea
Of penance will charm back the luxury
Of a child's soul, we'll return to Doom
The knowledge we stole but could not use.

And the newness that was in every stale thing
When we looked at it as children: the spirit-shocking
Wonder in a black slanting Ulster hill
Or the prophetic astonishment in the tedious talking
Of an old fool will awake for us and bring
You and me to the yard gate to watch the whins
And the bog-holes, cart-tracks, old stables where Time
begins.

O after Christmas we'll have no need to go searching
For the difference that sets an old phrase burning-
We'll hear it in the whispered argument of a churning
Or in the streets where the village boys are lurching.
And we'll hear it among decent men too
Who barrow dung in gardens under trees,
Wherever life pours ordinary plenty.
Won't we be rich, my love and I, and
God we shall not ask for reason's payment,
The why of heart-breaking strangeness in dreeping hedges
Nor analyse God's breath in common statement.
We have thrown into the dust-bin the clay-minted wages
Of pleasure, knowledge and the conscious hour-
And Christ comes with a January flower.

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

Church News Ireland

www.churchnewsireland.org

Link in Monday through Saturday from early morning

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