

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Cop 28

Image of the day

COP 28 miscellany



COP28 runs from 30 November to 12 December at the Expo City, Dubai.

On Saturday 9 December, as COP28 the United Nations climate change conference is underway in Dubai, events across the UK and the world, will bring people together to demand action to reduce the harms of climate change.

Here is a miscellany from churches and development agencies

Scottish faith leaders urge politicians to redress harms

Prominent Scottish newspaper “The Herald” reported earlier this week that Scottish faith leaders were urging politicians to “redress harms”

David Bol, the Herald’s Political Correspondent wrote - “Scottish faith leaders are urging politicians to ensure the COP28 climate conference counts, warning that humanity stands “on the brink of untold destruction” without urgent action.



The King has met students and graduates from across the Commonwealth at HWU Dubai

“They are calling on the UK Government to make paying into a loss and damage fund a key priority at the UN climate talks, which begin later this week in Dubai.

“This appeal follows the Scottish Government, under Nicola Sturgeon’s leadership at COP27, helping put the issue of loss and damage on the global agenda.

“Scotland become one of the first nations to make loss and damage payments with a dossier on the issue drawn up by the Scottish Government ahead of last year’s summit.

“The 11 Scottish faith leaders are calling on the UK Government to commit to making the biggest polluters pay

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The King has met entrepreneurs in Dubai to hear about green tech and sustainable innovations.

into the fund, so that it urgently delivers support to communities already experiencing climate breakdown, and to provide loss and damage finance in the form of grants not loans”.


In Edinburgh people will gather outside the Scottish Parliament to demand that decision makers tackle the climate and nature crises, secure sustainable jobs, a fairer, greener, healthier society for everyone in Scotland and justice for those impacted by the climate crisis. The Church of Scotland will be represented and members are invited to join under the Church banner.

Global Day of Action Morning Prayer in Scotland

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Eco-Congregation Scotland will hold a morning prayer at 11am, at the Harry Younger Hall, close to Canongate Kirk, 3 Lochend Close, Edinburgh EH8 8BL All are welcome to attend.

Archbishop of Canterbury's Prayer for COP28



As world leaders gather for COP28 this week, our hearts turn to the millions of people around the world for whom climate change isn't a future threat but a present reality. Rising sea levels, drought, and natural disasters around the world threaten the lives and livelihoods of the most vulnerable people each day. The need for action is urgent: our brothers and sisters cannot wait whilst the shadow of death grows ever darker.

THE ARCHBISHOP
OF CANTERBURY

What will happen at COP28?

An extensive resource produced by the Church of England states -

There will be discussions, presentations and negotiations across a wide range of topics involving people from governments, businesses, communities and faith-based organisations.

Climate change affects many areas of our lives, such as health, trade, energy, transport, buildings, food, education, young people, land, and nature, and these themes will be discussed throughout the fortnight.

But cutting across all these themes, and the ultimate purpose of discussing these issues are **four important outcomes which we need to see:**

- cutting emissions in order to limit the rise in global temperatures to 1.5oC
- making sure there is the money available to make the changes needed and to support countries already facing irreversible loss and damage
- putting nature, people, lives and livelihoods at the heart of climate action
- making sure everyone's voices are included, especially those who are not usually heard
-

The conference starts with the World Climate Action Summit. Here, world leaders come together to discuss. What happens here sets the tone for the rest of the summit.

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Then there are several days covering the themes listed above.

The conference ends with two days of negotiations to come up with the final text of what has been agreed between all the parties. Everyone has to agree everything, so this part of the conference can get very tense, and negotiations often overrun.

How is the Church of England getting involved?

As this is a global conference dealing with a global problem, we will have a global representation at COP28. There will be a delegation which represents the whole Anglican Communion from around the world, led by Archbishop Julio Murray, from Panama.

Archbishop Julio especially wants to be able to share stories from around the Anglican Communion from communities who are already suffering from the impacts of climate change and have been for a long time.

More at -

[\[https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2023-11/cop28-guide.pdf\]](https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2023-11/cop28-guide.pdf)

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People and places



Methody students brave weather for School Aid Romania

On Sunday the School Aid Romania team from Methodist College, Belfast, braved the wind and the rain to complete a team building walk ahead of their trip in January.

Led by their tour guide Dr Crawford and followed by a team of staff, the group walked from Murlough to Newcastle. Along the way the pupils learnt about stepping out of their



comfort zone, being faced with adverse conditions and leaning on each other for support - all of which they will put into practice when visiting Romania in January. Despite the weather the company, craic, coffee and treats were top class!



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If you would like to donate to this great cause you can do so through the school gateway app or if you do not have access to this please contact teacher in charge of School Aid Romania, Miss Lloyd.

C of I Standing Committee's spread of challenges

The Standing Committee of the General Synod met in an online format on Tuesday, 21st November 2023.

The Honorary Secretaries reported that the Bishops' Appeal for World Aid and Development has allocated €10,000 (equivalent to £8,650) in emergency funds to the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem to provide humanitarian relief in the context of the current conflict in the Holy Land.

The Standing Committee approved the printing of a new A4 spiral-bound format of the General Synod Book of Reports for 2024.

Interim reports from the Future of Curacies Working Group and the Chaplaincies Review Group were approved; both will report back to the Standing Committee in early 2024.

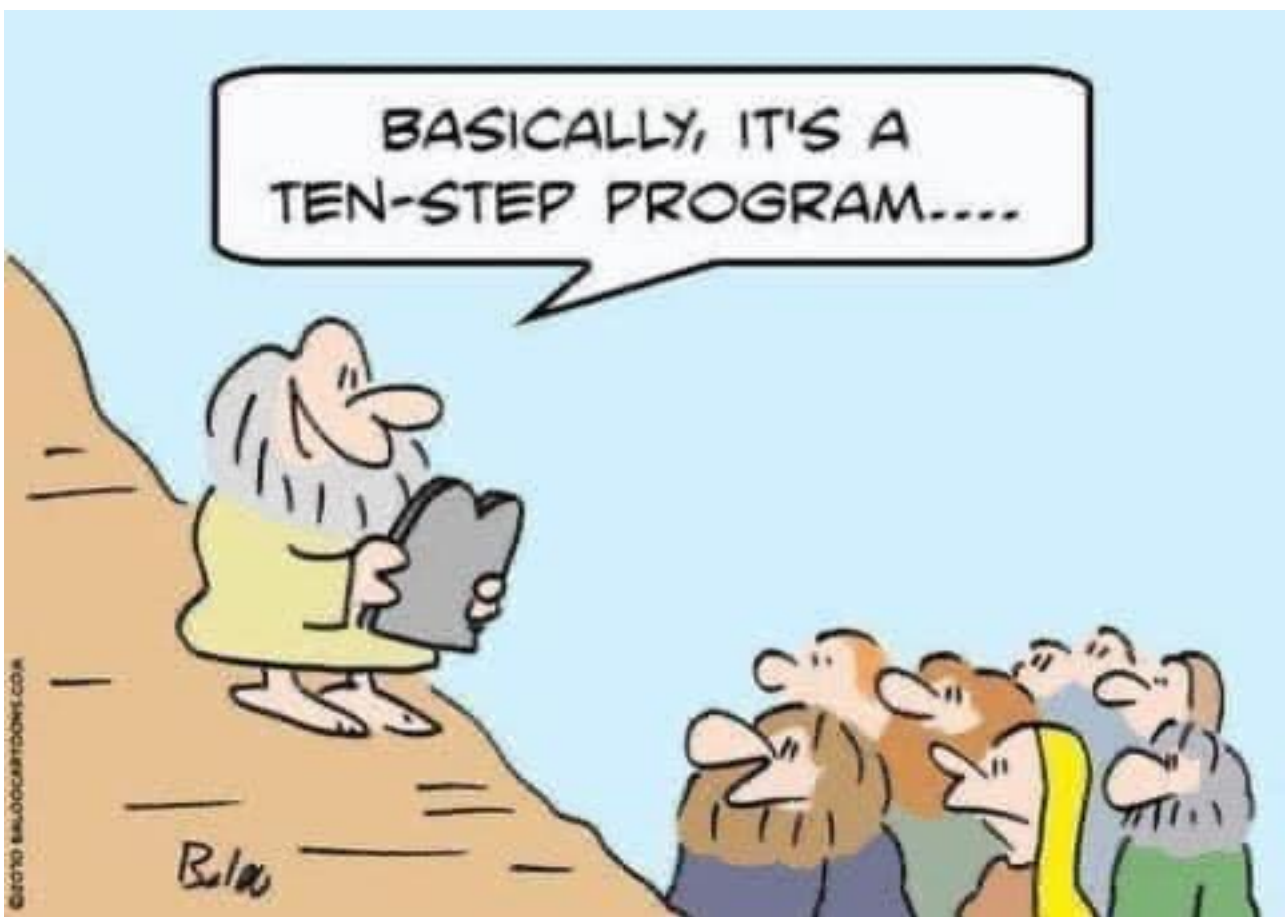
The Future of Curacies Working Group comprises Bishop Andrew Forster; Mr Michael Johnston and Mr William Oliver, as members of the Stipends Committee; Ms Helen Arnopp, as a member of the Allocations Committee; and Canon Malcolm Kingston, as a representative of the Standing Committee.

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The Chaplaincies Review Group comprises Bishop Andrew Forster; Archdeacon Barry Forde and Canon Lynda Peilow, as members of the Standing Committee; Mr Michael Johnston, as a member of the Representative Body and Chair of the Stipends Committee; and the Revd Alan Marley (University College Cork) as a university chaplain.

The Standing Committee approved a request that the Safeguarding Board give due consideration to the issue of gender identity in the revised Child Safeguarding Policy, in particular providing policy direction for contexts where a biological male wishes to use toilets, accommodation and bathroom facilities designated for use by females (or vice versa).

The Honorary Secretaries informed the Standing Committee that the following were approved to attend the Irish Inter–



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Church Meeting which met on 19th and 20th October 2023: Dean Kenneth Hall; Archdeacon Peter Thompson; Mr Glenn Moore; Ms Gina Copty; Ms Cate Turner; and Mrs June Butler.

A report on the MindMatters project, including the recent all-island conference in Dublin on Friday, 20th October 2023, concluding the current phase of the project, was recorded.

CITI Class of 2023 Graduation

The C of I Theological Institute celebrated with its newest MTh graduates at the annual Commencements Ceremony in the Examination Hall of Trinity College, Dublin on Wednesday 29 November.

Addressing all who were gathered, Professor Neville Cox spoke of how deeply the University cherishes its historic relationship with the Church of Ireland and he saluted the courage of those who followed a vocational pathway through all the vagaries of its encouragement and challenge.

The Registrar named Trinity's mission as 'seeking to make the world a better place' through both its commitment to research and the quality of its graduates, and he warmly affirmed the role played by those entering ordained ministry in that regard. The ceremony was presided over by Vice-Chancellor, Professor Shane Allwright, and afterwards those present paraded across Front Square, with the photo below being taken on the steps of the College Chapel.



(From l-r) Rev Canon Dr Maurice Elliott, Rev Gareth Campbell, Rev Andrew Neill, Rev Cosmin Pascu, Rev Timothy Eldon, Rev Stu Armstrong, Rev Jane Burns, Rev Lee Boal, Rev Scott Evans, Dr Katie Heffelfinger.

Dublin's Faith Traditions Unite in Act of Lament Towards Hope

Representatives of Dublin City's faith communities gathered in St Patrick's Cathedral on Monday evening (November 27) to pray for peace and an end to wars around the world.

Dublin City Interfaith Forum (DCIF) organised the 'Act of Lament Towards Hope – From War to Peace' to create a



sacred space to pray for the healing of the soul of our nation and a deepening of compassion throughout our wounded world.

Those attending were welcomed by the Dean of St Patrick's, the Very Revd William Morton, who noted that for over 800 years, the Prayers of the Faithful had been offered in the cathedral, in good times and bad, and before that on the site which dated back to the time of St Patrick.

As the journey towards lament began, DCIF's executive officer, Adrian Cristea, asked participants to remember that

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grief was unspoken and could be shared. He added that as people remembered families and individuals who were traumatised as a result of being caught up in all wars and violence, they should also hold a space for hope.

Archbishop Michael Jackson, chairperson of DCIF, said people came to the service in search of three things: a

**Galloon Parish Church
Newtownbutler
Christmas Tree Festival**

Friday 8th December 7-9pm
Viewing of trees with entertainment
from The Silvertones Choir

Saturday 9th December 10am-5pm
Viewing of trees with entertainment
from various local musicians
Refreshments served.

Sunday 10th December 7pm
Carol Service with
Lisnaskea Silver Band.

All Welcome.

Voluntary donations to Galloon Parish Church

sense of belonging to one another, a sense of shared grief, and a sense of solidarity.

During the service there were prayers and readings from the Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Baha'i, Sikh and Buddhist traditions. Musical interludes, played by the cathedral's organ scholar, provided space for reflection. The representatives of each faith gathered in hope to light candles in the "shared conviction of faiths around the world that light is not suppressed by darkness.

News reports

Celtic manager Rodgers gifts Pope a signed jersey in Rome

Celtic manager Brendan Rodgers gifted Pope Francis a signed Hoops jersey as the pontiff held a private audience with club staff.

The team were in Rome for Tuesday night's Champions League game against Lazio.

In a video of the meeting yesterday, former Liverpool manager Rodgers is seen handing the Pope the jersey which has been adorned with 'Francis' on the back just below the club's sponsorship logo for Magners.

The club also gifted the Catholic Church leader a silver Celtic cross alongside the football top during their visit to the Vatican, where players Callum McGregor, Liam Scales, Stephen Welsh, Mikey Johnston, Anthony Ralston, Paulo



Celtic boss Brendan Rodgers presented the Pope a shirt with 'Francis' on the back

Bernardo and Cameron Carter-Vickers joined Celtic chairman Peter Lawwell.

Rodgers and his club were granted the private audience with the Pope just before flying home. During the visit, the pontiff advised the players to be mindful of their privileged position as role models.

“I am pleased to welcome you here to the Vatican, during your stay in Rome following your Uefa Champions League match with Lazio yesterday evening,” Francis said.

“While it is true that winning rather than losing a match is always preferred, it is not the most important aspect! More vital is the example you give when winning or losing, both

on and off the field. An example that embodies the virtues of courage, perseverance, generosity and respect for the God-given dignity of others.

“Indeed, Celtic Football Club was founded in 1887 with the specific goal of alleviating poverty in the City of Glasgow.

“The valued legacy of your club, then, places a heavy responsibility upon your shoulders, reminding you to be good role-models, especially for young people.

“In this regard, men and women should see in you not just fine footballers but also people of kindness, big-hearted men who know how to be wise stewards of the many benefits you receive from your privileged positions within society.

“With these brief remarks, I pray that you will continue to remember and bear witness to everything that makes sport genuinely good and noble. May Almighty God bless each of you and your families. I wish you a safe journey home to Scotland, and ask you, please, to pray for me!”

Celtic's 2-0 loss in the Champions League match, following substitute [Ciro Immobile's](#) two late goals. means Rodgers' club is now out of Europe.

“It's the overall quality. We need to have our very best players available,” Rodgers told the BBC. “What makes the difference is that bit of experience and genuine quality.” Meanwhile, Lazio are facing punishment from Uefa over fans taunted Hoops supporters with offensive banners.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



Peace in the Holy Land - Advent Prayer Cycle download

Leaders from Churches Beyond Borders call for peace in the Holy Land and offer this 2023 Advent Prayer Cycle for download:

<https://www.anglicanlutheran.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023-CBB-Advent-Cycle-of-Prayer.pdf>

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Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry's prayer is featured for Dec. 3, the first Sunday in Advent.



Carols for Choirs 6 Celebrating 100 years of Oxford music

“On Wednesday night, we held a special concert to mark Oxford Music’s 100th birthday, with appearances from The Choir of Merton College, Oxford, London Voices, 100 schoolchildren from the local area, and John Rutter as guest conductor.

“In the audience were many of the wonderful composers featured in #CarolsforChoirs6, one of our Centenary publications, edited by Bob Chilcott and David Hill. Thanks to all who joined us!

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“And don’t forget, there are still ways to get involved with our Centenary – find out more: oxford.ly/music100

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

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