

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Mar Thoma Church Ireland

Image for today - Mar Thoma Church Ireland

News -

Cork storm - rider recognised

Dublin Gay Mens Chorus in Sandford Parish Church

Roscrea raises €600 for Christian Aid's Christmas appeal

Who says men can't cook?

4 in a Bar at Malahide church

Cathedral Calls -

Merry & Bright in Lisburn Cathedral

Clergy and ministry -

Appreciation of Dublin Safeguarding Regulator

Challenging scope from Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books -

Magic of Christmas at Christ Church Derry

Blessed Are The Brave, a Corrymeela highlight

Carols by Candlelight, St Peter's Cathedral Belfast

Poem for today -

Advent by Christina Rossetti

Speaking to the soul -

Short reading and a prayer daily on this site

Image of the day - Mar Thoma Church Ireland



The Mar Thoma church is a church in full communion with the Anglican communion with its origins in Kerala, India.

The Church's title upholds the tradition that Saint Thomas travelled as a missionary to India and in particular to Kerala. For information on the Mar Thoma Church, please visit: <https://marthoma.in/>

The Bishop of Connor Rt Rev George Davison recently was a guest of the Belfast Mar Thoma community. He later



commented, “On Saturday I had the great privilege of joining with the Revd Stanley Matthew John and the wonderful people of the Belfast Mar Thoma congregation for their Christmas celebration. It was a joyful afternoon of music, culture, hospitality and witness to our Saviour Jesus Christ. Thank you for your kind invitation and for making me so welcome!”

Many members of the Belfast congregation serve the community as nurses & doctors in our NHS.

Seagoe Parish in Portadown also recently hosted services for a Mar Thoma congregation.



The church in England is a member of the British Council of Churches and it also has international links throughout its own church.

For information on the Mar Thoma Church, please visit: <https://marthoma.in/>

News

Cork storm - rider recognised

In early October Cork Diocesan Youth Officer, Hilda Connolly, displayed her dedication that, on the day of storms and floods she hitched a ride on her brother-in-law's tractor



December 10, 2024

to get, through the floods, to a meeting in Bandon of CDYC.

Bishop Paul and Mrs Susan Colton couldn't resist a small gift to thank her which was presented after last Sunday night's youth Service in

Ross Union of Parishes. They even sourced one in the right colour but without the log splitter on the back!



Dublin Gay Mens Chorus in Sandford Parish Church

It was another brilliant night with the Dublin Mens Gay Chorus Group. Their Christmas concert in Sandford Church was another sell out performance.

A superb treat opened with Hallelujah to going through some festive favourites like Santa Claus is coming to town and beautiful renditions of Fairytale of New York and O Holy Night, a different languages edition of Silent Night along with getting some audience participation in O Gone all ye faithful, Hark the Herald. If you weren't there you missed another great night.



This was the second night of a two night concert. This group is growing in popularity and soon will probably be doing more than two night concerts. If you get the chance to go see them don't miss out well worth the money.

Roscrea raises €600 for Christian Aid's Christmas appeal

Christian Aid Ireland has conveyed huge thanks to their wonderful supporters in Roscrea, County Tipperary who held a coffee morning on Thursday last which raised €600 for CAI's Christmas appeal.

Special thanks go to Gillian Kingston, CAI's representative at Roscrea Methodist Church (part of North Tipperary



(l-r) Phyllis Gee, Gillian Kingston and Carol Maguire - This is Roscrea

Methodist Church circuit) who was moved by the focus story of CIA's Christmas appeal - the plight of people who have fled from Sudan into neighbouring South Sudan, often with only the clothes on their backs, and are now trying to survive on meagre food rations in refugee camps close to the border.

Gillian asked CAI to thank especially the children from the National School in Roscrea who came along to sing carols, giving the event a festive feel.

December 10, 2024

It's only five weeks ago that Gillian organised a coffee morning which raised over €1,000 to support the efforts of CAI's partners to respond to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and Lebanon.

CAI says Gillian and her helpers are typical of our supporters – giving of their time and talents to raise funds to bring hope to people whose living conditions are unimaginable.

Who says men can't cook?



Carnmoney Parish proclaims - At our Men's breakfast this morning not only did we enjoy a sumptuous and very filling full cooked breakfast; we also raised £355 for the Northern Ireland Air Ambulance.

The men had heard a



presentation about the work of the Northern Ireland Air Ambulance from one of their volunteers Marcus Christie. Many thanks to those who prepared, cooked, attended and gave.

4 in a Bar at Malahide church

4 in a Bar in the Church of Ireland United Parishes of Malahide, Portmarnock & St. Doulagh's.



December 10, 2024



Cathedral Calls Merry & Bright in Lisburn Cathedral

It was an incredibly joyful and festive afternoon at the wonderful Christmas concert, "Merry & Bright" in Lisburn Cathedral presented by the Lisburn Community





Choir and Children's Choir.

A massive well done to all who organised, to Tim and all the team, to the volunteers at the Cathedral and most of all the



December 10, 2024

fantastic singers. It was so lovely to get the opportunity to attend and share with so much joy, laughter, music and song at this most wonderful time of the year.

Clergy and ministry



Appreciation of Dublin Safeguarding Regulator

Dublin and Glendalough's Diocesan Regulator for Safeguarding, Olive Good, will finish up in her role after over 19 years of service at the end of this year.

Members of Diocesan Councils gathered at their final meeting of 2024 last Thursday (December 5) to honour



Olive for her dedication to the role and her service to the diocese and its parishes.

You can read more on the website at:
<https://dublin.anglican.org/news/2024/12/09/diocesan-councils-pay-tribute-to>

Challenging scope from Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference

Members of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference gathered in Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth, for their Winter 2024 General Meeting.

December 10, 2024

The President of the Conference is Archbishop Eamon Martin of Armagh, and the Vice-President is Archbishop Dermot Farrell of Dublin. During their meeting, Mass was celebrated in Saint Mary's Oratory and prayers were offered for persons with disabilities, for vocations to the priesthood, and for peace on earth.

Themes discussed by the bishops during their meeting included parishes becoming involved in the Community Sponsorship Programme, run by the Irish Red Cross, to welcome and host families seeking refuge in Ireland. Other issues included:

Programme for Government of the incoming 34th Dáil needs to prioritise end of life care

Support charities working for families in need and the homeless this Christmas

Child safeguarding in the Catholic Church in Ireland

Discussion on the final document of the XVI Synodal Assembly

Pope Francis' new encyclical *Dilexit Nos* (He loved us) on the human and divine love of Jesus Christ, expressed through the symbol of His Sacred Heart

International Day of Persons with Disabilities

Bishops support call to action to bring peace to the Holy Land

December 10, 2024

Responding to the outcome of COP29

Catholic Schools Week 2025: Alive in Christ!

Participation in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on
18-25 January 2025

Countdown to 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope in Ireland, Rome
and the world

Advent 2024 – the season of hope and preparation
In Memoriam

To read the Bishops' Winter General Meeting full statement
visit -

<https://www.catholicbishops.ie/2024/12/04/statement-of-the-winter-2024-general-meeting-of-the-irish-catholic-bishops-conference/>

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Magic of Christmas at Christ Church Derry

**Get into the holiday spirit with an enchanting evening of
music at "The Magic of Christmas" featuring the
incredible Margaret Keys, a world-renowned classical**

December 10, 2024

singer, who has performed with Andrea Bocelli, for Pope Francis and the Royal Family.

On Friday, December 20th at Christ Church in Derry, Northern Ireland come listen to the magical performances with a string orchestra, choirs and very special guests. This is always an unforgettable Christmas experience and sells out so get your tickets soon!

Blessed Are The Brave a Corrymeela highlight

corrymeela
Together is better

YOU ARE INVITED TO

**BLESSED
ARE
THE
Brave**

17 - 19 January 2025

CORRYMEELA, BALLYCASTLE

**A WEEKEND RETREAT FOR LGBTQ+ FAITHLEADERS &
AFFIRMING ALLIES FROM CHRISTIAN TRADITIONS**

REGISTER BY EMAILING
JONNYCLARK@CORRYMEELA.ORG
BY FRIDAY 3RD JANUARY 2025

December 10, 2024

One of the highlights in the Corrymeela calendar is Blessed Are The Brave.

“Each year we welcome new and repeat participants on a weekend of retreat and inspiration. The weekend is designed specifically for faith leaders from the Christian traditions who are inclusive of the lives, relationships and leadership of the LGBTQIA+ community. Get in touch with us for more details”.

Saint Peter's Cathedral
celebrates

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Sung by the Down & Connor Schola Cantorum,
Cathedral Girls' Choir and the Cathedral Choir

Sunday 15th December 2024
4PM

Everyone is very welcome

 St Peter's
Catholic Cathedral, Belfast

Poem for today



Advent

by Christina Rossetti

This Advent moon shines cold and clear,
These Advent nights are long;
Our lamps have burned year after year
And still their flame is strong.
'Watchman, what of the night?' we cry,
Heart-sick with hope deferred:
'No speaking signs are in the sky,'
Is still the watchman's word.

The Porter watches at the gate,
The servants watch within;
The watch is long betimes and late,
The prize is slow to win.
'Watchman, what of the night?' But still
His answer sounds the same:
'No daybreak tops the utmost hill,
Nor pale our lamps of flame.'

One to another hear them speak
The patient virgins wise:
'Surely He is not far to seek'—
'All night we watch and rise.'
'The days are evil looking back,
The coming days are dim;
Yet count we not His promise slack,
But watch and wait for Him.'

One with another, soul with soul,
They kindle fire from fire:
'Friends watch us who have touched the goal.'
'They urge us, come up higher.'
'With them shall rest our waysore feet,
With them is built our home,
With Christ.'—'They sweet, but He most sweet,
Sweeter than honeycomb.'

There no more parting, no more pain,
The distant ones brought near,
The lost so long are found again,
Long lost but longer dear:
Eye hath not seen, ear hath not heard,
Nor heart conceived that rest,

December 10, 2024

With them our good things long deferred,
With Jesus Christ our Best.

We weep because the night is long,
We laugh for day shall rise,
We sing a slow contented song
And knock at Paradise.

Weeping we hold Him fast, Who wept
For us, we hold Him fast;
And will not let Him go except
He bless us first or last.

Weeping we hold Him fast to-night;
We will not let Him go
Till daybreak smite our wearied sight
And summer smite the snow:
Then figs shall bud, and dove with dove
Shall coo the livelong day;
Then He shall say, 'Arise, My love,
My fair one, come away.'

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

December 10, 2024

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**

Please recommend to your friends