

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Bishop Walsh

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Image of the day

Bishop Walsh - a lifetime of scholarship and service

Please see tributes to Bishop Walsh in this issue.

People and places

Church members service recognised in Honours List

Diane Ruddock, External Affairs Manager for the National Trust NI and a parishioner of Seapatrick, Banbridge, has been admitted OBE in the New Year's Honours for services to the environment, heritage and the community in Northern Ireland.

She has worked for the National Trust in Northern Ireland in a range of roles for the past 37 years, and plans to retire in March.

Diane is an active member of the Church of Ireland and in particular of her home parish, Seapatrick Parish Church, Banbridge. She was commissioned as a lay reader in June 2023.

She said: "I am truly honoured to receive this award, but I'm also humbled, because in my role I rely constantly on the

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specialist knowledge and expertise of so many committed colleagues, both in the National Trust and the wider environment and heritage sector.

“Caring for God’s creation is also an important part of my faith life, and so it’s a huge privilege that I’ve been able to play a small part in standing up for nature and helping others to care for it and enjoy it. My faith has been the foundation on which I’ve based my working life.”



Limavady man, [Leslie Irvine](#), who's an International Referee Assessor with the Irish Football Association, was awarded an MBE "for services to Association Football".

Leslie, a Drumachose parishioner, has had a long and distinguished career as an official in the sport. He was a senior referee in the Irish League for almost 20 years, until

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his retirement in 2003, and during that time took charge of four Irish Cup Finals.

The Christ Church Limavady parishioner also made the FIFA panel and was one of the officials in the FIFA World Youth Championship final, in 1991, when host nation Portugal beat Brazil on penalties in front of 127,000 spectators at Lisbon's famous Stadium of Light.

Harry Kissock, Information and Communication Technology Service Delivery Manager, PSNI, who becomes a MBE, serves on the Select Vestry of St Dorothea's, Gilnahirk.



Last year Professor Janice Carruthers was made a Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques by the French Ambassador to the UK, Her Excellency Mme Catherine Colonna, at a special ceremony at Queen's University Belfast.

St George's Belfast parishioner, **Professor Janice Carruthers** has been awarded the MBE in recognition of

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her academic work in advancing the learning of Modern Languages.



Trevor Douglas, Belfast Cathedral General Manager, has been awarded the British Empire Medal for "services to peace building and the community in Northern Ireland". Trevor worships in St Saviour's Dollingstown (Magheralin Parish) and is the General Manager at Belfast Cathedral. He was the first manager of the groundbreaking The Jethro Centre which is an outreach of Shankill Parish Lurgan. Trevor said, "I feel both honoured and humbled on receiving the award for work which I am passionate about. I have always believed that we honour God by serving others in whatever way we can."

Canon Martin White a former director of music at Armagh Cathedral also has been awarded the British Empire Medal.

Clergy recognised

The **Rev Canon Kevin Graham DL**, who is rector of St Bartholomew's Parish Church, Belfast, and a chapter

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member of Belfast Cathedral has been awarded an MBE for services to the Reserve Forces and to the community in Belfast.



Roderic West and his wife Joan West said they were "humbled" to be mentioned in the honours list. Roderick is the former Archdeacon of Dromore and Rector of Sea[atr]ick, Banbridge.

Mr and Mrs West, now from Moira, have been married for 44 years and are both awarded British Empire Medals (BEMs) for services to the community.

They were involved in helping to support families during the Covid-19 pandemic, including providing meals for those who were struggling and setting up a free baby clothing and school uniform shop.

Mrs West, a retired nurse, said she "couldn't quite believe it" when she received the news.

"It was just so amazing that somebody would think we were worthy of it," she said.

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"I'm very humbled but I'm accepting it with pleasure on behalf of all those who have volunteered alongside us in all the various initiatives in the community."

Mr West said the pair had "worked very much as a team over the years" and joined his wife's tribute to those who have supported them.

"While it's an honour for us, we do really appreciate all the people who've worked with us over time and acknowledge their contribution and effort," he added.

The **Reverend Derek James Johnston**, lead chaplain at Belfast Health and Social Care Trust - awarded the MBE for services to chaplaincy and wellbeing during Covid-19.

The **Reverend Canon William Matthew Adair**, rector at St Columba's Parish, Portadown - the British Empire Medal for services to the Church of Ireland and to the community in Portadown, County Armagh.

Choir Christmas Concert marks centenary of Cathedral's dedication

The Choir Christmas Concert in St. Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen, marking the 100th anniversary of the dedication of the Cathedral to St. Macartin, also ushered in the Christmas festival in a wonderful manner.

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The original service of dedication took place exactly 100 years to the day on 12 December 1923 when the Parish Church of St. Anne, Enniskillen was elevated to become the second Church of Ireland Cathedral in the Diocese of Clogher the first being St. Macartan's Cathedral in Clogher.

The Parish of Enniskillen was formed in 1622 with St. Anne's Church founded in 1627.

After the opening remarks by Glenn Moore, Organist and Director of Music, the Cathedral Choir sang Silent Night, conducted by David Baxter and accompanied by Glenn Moore.

There followed an instrumental duet by Zinnia and Loveday Beeson playing "Andantino con Grazia" on the piano and a solo by David Baxter, "I wonder as I wander" accompanied by Glenn Moore.

The Beeson family formed a quintet to sing "Joseph and Mary - The Cherry Tree Carol."

One of the classic carols, "In the Bleak Midwinter" was sung by the Cathedral Choir with soloist David Burton, conducted by David Baxter and accompanied on the organ by Glenn Moore.

There was an instrumental solo of the Londonderry Air on the piano by Solenn Beeson and duet by April McGuigan and Finn Maguire accompanied by Soleen Beeson of "Cinque Dieci Venti."

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“Away in a Manger” was sung by the choir followed by a recitation, “Stopping my Woods on a Snowy Evening” by Mark Scott.

There were further recitations by Margaret Owens of “The Alto’s Lament,” and by Mark Scott of “Love’s Labour’s Lost”.

The Cathedral Choir also sang, “Chorale,” “Sir Christemas” and a Christmas Blessing.

Winter Wonderful was a duet by Esther Janzen and Finn Maguire and a solo by Victoria Moore of “Somewhere in my memory” and “Christmas Hallelujah” with Glenn Moore accompanying on the piano.

The Three Kings was sung by the Choir with soloist Glenn Moore and conductor David Baxter.

“O Holy Night” was a duet by April McGuigan and Finn Maguire accompanied by Glenn Moore on the piano and the popular “Joy to the World” was led by the Choir with soloist, Jane McKinley accompanied by Glenn Moore on the organ and conducted by David Baxter.

Jane also sang the solo, “The Little Road to Bethlehem” accompanied by Glenn Moore.

Cork move for Canadian cleric and dog

The Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, the Right Reverend Dr Paul Colton has appointed the Reverend

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Jean Carney to be Bishop's Curate in Moviddy Union of Parishes.



The Reverend Jean Carney with Abbie.

Moviddy Union of Parishes is situated to the west of Cork City and that role encompasses also assistant hospital chaplaincy ministry, principally in Cork University Hospital and the Bon Secours Hospital, Cork alongside the whole-time chaplain, Canon Dr Daniel Nuzum.

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Bishop Colton said: Jean hit the ground running in ministry as curate-assistant in Douglas Union of Parishes, with Frankfield. Four months after she started, with Diocesan supports in place and the guidance both of Canon Elaine Murray in the next door parish, and also of the Dean of Cork, the Very Reverend Nigel Dunne, she found herself at the day to day helm when her rector, then Archdeacon Adrian Wilkinson, was consecrated bishop to serve in Cashel, Ferns and Ossory.

Jean has served a further period as curate alongside the new rector, the Reverend Dr William Olhausen, and now I am appointing her as Bishop's Curate in Moviddy Union where she will complete her curacy before I appoint her, in due course, as Priest-in-Charge there also. Jean's ministry has been hugely valued in the Diocese in general and most especially in Douglas with Frankfield. It is great that she will continue in ministry alongside us here in Cork, Cloyne and Ross.

Jean is originally from Chatham, Ontario, Canada but has lived in Ireland for 29 years. She was married to Wayne for 46 years who unfortunately died suddenly in 2020. Together they have two children, Kathleen and Brian. Kathleen lives in France with her husband William and three children, Owen, Lucien and Blaise. Brian and his wife, Clodagh, live in Jean's hometown of Chatham, with their two children, Eirin and Sean.

Jean says - Since August 2021, I have been serving as curate in Douglas Union of Parishes with Frankfield. When Archdeacon Adrian Wilkinson became Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory, I was left 'in charge' of the parish. I loved

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it! The people were so kind and understanding that it is with deep sadness that Abbie, my little black poodle, and I will be leaving. But I am sure they will all wish me well as I am thrilled and honoured to take up my new position in Moviddy Union and Assistant Healthcare Chaplain in several Cork City Hospitals.

So, as I leave Douglas Union with Frankfield and begin a new chapter in my ministerial life, all I can say is, 'Look out Moviddy, here I come!'

Irish Church Leaders' 2024 New Year Message

If the members (or their predecessors) of the Church Leaders' Group (Ireland) were to write a book, it would be entitled, 'The Long Walk to Peace'.

As they explain in their New Year's Message, it would be taken from the similar title that the late President Nelson Mandela used for his autobiography, 'The Long Walk to Freedom.'

The leaders reflected on the year past, which included the 25th anniversary of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement.

They point out that 'a whole generation has now come and gone and much has changed... Although we have travelled a long way, there is still some distance to go in our journey to peace and much work remains to be done.'

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The senior church leaders were reminded of the fact that Jesus' "life and ministry were based on faith, hope and love. As we try to faithfully follow in the steps of the Master, seeking to love God and our neighbour, may the words of St Paul encourage us to work more closely together for a better future: 'So then let us pursue the things that make for peace and the building up of one another.'"

Text of the Church Leaders' 2024 New Year Message

In his autobiography, 'Long Walk to Freedom', the late Nelson Mandela wrote: 'No one is born hating another person because of the colour of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite.'

If we, as Church Leaders in Ireland, along with our predecessors, were to write a book, it might have a title similar to the one referenced above. We would though probably change the word 'Freedom' to 'Peace'. It has been a 'Long Walk to Peace' in this island and between its peoples.

During 2023 we reflected on the 25 years which have passed since the signing of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement. It has been a long walk, which on occasion picked up pace, at other times was reduced to a crawl, and is still ongoing. Since the signing of the Agreement in 1998 a whole generation has now come and gone and much has changed in our world on a global scale as well as at a local level but very few people living in these islands would want to return to the past.

We therefore need to stay clearly focused on the future, with a renewed commitment to the process of building relationships of mutual respect and trust. Although we have travelled a long way, there is still some distance to go in our journey to peace and much work remains to be done.

As we acknowledged in our 'St Patrick's Day Statement' back in 2021, as 'Christian churches we have often been captive churches; not captive to the Word of God, but to the idols of state and nation.' The shackles of our troubled and difficult past have restrained and hindered us. Relationships have been damaged. Yet we also need to appreciate that healing takes time. Nelson Mandela was right in his observation that people are not born hating others, it is something which they learn.

We need therefore to ensure that we teach our children to love, respect and care for one another so that they learn that love is stronger than hate, good overcomes evil and light scatters the darkness.

We enter a new year in which war, violence and conflict now overshadow so many parts of our world. With our experiences here in this land, may we encourage and support others to take those first steps down the road to peace, to walk in the way of reconciliation, to seek to heal and not hurt.

Our Lord Jesus Christ's life and ministry were based on faith, hope and love. As we try to faithfully follow in the steps of the Master, seeking to love God and our neighbour, may the words of St Paul encourage us to work more closely

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together for a better future: 'So then let us pursue the things that make for peace and the building up of one another'(Romans 14:19).

Let us therefore continue to build relationships, break down barriers, and work for a sustainable and lasting peace and as ambassadors of Christ's message of reconciliation may we model a better way of living and loving now and in the years to come.

May you know God's blessing and peace throughout 2024.

[Most Reverend Eamon Martin](#)

Roman Catholic Archbishop of Armagh & Primate of all Ireland

[Most Reverend John McDowell](#)

Church of Ireland Archbishop of Armagh & Primate of all Ireland

[Right Reverend Dr Sam Mawhinney](#)

Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

[Reverend David Turtle](#)

President of the Methodist Church in Ireland

[Right Reverend Andrew Forster](#)

President of the Irish Council of Churches



Tributes to Bishop Patrick Walsh, Bishop Emeritus of Down and Connor

Bishop Donal McKeown and Archbishop Eamon Martin have paid tribute to Bishop Walsh in statements following his death.

Statement by Bishop Donal McKeown, Apostolic Administrator of Down and Connor.

It is with great sadness that I learned of the death of Bishop Patrick Walsh yesterday evening in Nazareth Care Village, Belfast, where he had resided in his later years of retirement.

I know that you will join me in praying for Bishop Patrick and in offering his brother Michael and sister-in-law Angela, his

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late brother Jack and late sister Mary, his nieces Maria and Jacqueline, his nephew Michael, their families and his wider family and friends, our heartfelt condolences and our prayers over the coming days.

In his early years of ministry, as a gifted academic, Bishop Patrick taught Mathematics at Saint MacNissi's College, Garron Tower (1958 – 1964), served as University Chaplain in Queens University Belfast (1964 – 1970), before being appointed as President of Saint Malachy's College, Belfast (1970 – 1983). He was also Chairperson of the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS). His personal commitment to Catholic education was well known and his robust defence of it will long be remembered. These early years of his priestly ministry taught Bishop Patrick that Catholic education, and the values it espouses, opens up incalculable opportunities for young people and assists the journey towards peace in a society often torn apart by violence and conflict.

Ordained as an Auxiliary Bishop for the Diocese of Down and Connor in 1983, alongside Bishop Anthony Farquhar, whose funeral we celebrated just some weeks ago, these two faithfully served the diocese not only through the sacramental celebration of Confirmation but each played their own role in the peace process.

Their years of episcopal ministry were marked by the many funerals of those who had lost their lives in the midst of conflict. Into that space, they spoke words of faith-filled hope, solidarity and challenge, faith-filled hope in the Risen Christ, solidarity with those who mourned the loss of loved ones and words of challenge to those entrusted with the

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process of peace-making. We should honour both their memories by strengthening our resolve to continue to take forward the peace process in Northern Ireland.

In 1991, Bishop Patrick was appointed as Bishop of Down and Connor and he was utterly dedicated and faithful in his service of the Church. Alongside his diocesan responsibilities, he was a member of various Irish Episcopal Commissions including Justice and Peace, and was a member of the Joint Bio-ethics Committee of the Episcopal Conference of England and Wales, Scotland, and Ireland, ardently seeking to protect human life from the moment of conception to its natural death.

On the day of his episcopal ordination, a bishop chooses a motto upon which to model his life and ministry. Bishop Patrick chose *Ex Animo Operari* (“To work with one’s heart”), from Saint Paul’s Letter to the Colossians (Col. 3:24). In this passage, Saint Paul reminds us that, as Christians, it is Christ that we serve and that we will share, through Baptism, in Christ’s Death and Resurrection. As we give thanks to God for the years of ministry and service of Bishop Patrick Walsh, we entrust him to the heart of Christ.

I commend his soul into the hands of God and pray that he may enjoy eternal rest.

Statement by Archbishop Eamon Martin

I was sad to learn last evening of the death of Bishop Patrick Walsh after a lifetime of dedicated service as a priest and bishop of the Diocese of Down and Connor.

Although Bishop Walsh had retired before I came to serve as Executive Secretary of the Bishops' Conference in the autumn of 2008, he was clearly held in respect and esteem by his former episcopal colleagues, and was often spoken of as a prodigious worker with a keen intellect, matched with an acute ability to quickly grasp complex detail. Even after retirement, Bishop Walsh continued to show great interest in educational developments in the North, as well as in the ongoing Peace Process.

Bishop Walsh was a committed peacemaker. He was deeply passionate about Catholic education and convinced about the positive contribution which faith-based education can bring to building a cohesive society underpinning the common good.

As a member of the Bishops' Conference for twenty-five years, Bishop Walsh served on the Council for Justice and Peace, and held the role as chair of the Commission for Planning, Communications & Resources. He also served as a Trustee of Trócaire, a member of the Bishops' Finance and General Purposes Committee, and as chair of the Commission for Clergy, Seminaries & Vocations. As a member of the Bishops' Committee for Bioethics, he represented Irish bishops on the Joint Bio-ethics Committee of the Episcopal Conferences of England and Wales, Scotland, and of Ireland.

Every Christmas I was humbled to receive a note of encouragement and a promise of prayer from Bishop Walsh. Despite his own frailty and declining health, just a few weeks ago he thoughtfully sent a message of greeting and prayerful good wishes.

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On behalf of the Bishops' Conference, I wish to express my condolences to Bishop Walsh's brother and wide family circle, to Bishop Donal McKeown and to the priests, religious and faithful of the diocese of Down and Connor, and to all who knew and loved him.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dilís.

• Archbishop Eamon Martin is Archbishop of Armagh and President of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference.

Bishop Walsh - a lifetime of scholarship and service

Bishop Patrick Walsh was born in April 1931 in Cobh, Co Cork, but his family moved to Belfast when he was eleven-years-old.

He was educated at Saint Mary's Christian Brothers' Grammar School, Belfast, before attending QUB from 1948 – 1952, where he took a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics.

From there he went to the Pontifical Lateran University, Rome for four years, where he obtained a Licentiate in Theology.

Bishop Walsh was ordained on 25 February 1956 in Rome following the completion of his studies there and this was followed by two years in Christ's College, Cambridge where he obtained a MSc in Mathematics and subsequently also obtained a MSc from Queen's University.

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In 1958 he was appointed to the staff of Saint MacNissi's College, Garron Tower and remained there until 1964, when he was appointed Chaplain to the Catholic students attending Queen's University.

In 1970 he was appointed President of Saint Malachy's College, Belfast.

Bishop Walsh was ordained as Auxiliary Bishop for the Diocese of Down and Connor in 1983 and in 1991 he was appointed Bishop of Down and Connor.

He was a member of various Episcopal Commissions including Justice and Peace, and Chairman of the Department of Planning and Communications. He was a Trustee of Trócaire, a member of the Finance and General Purposes Committee of the Irish Episcopal Conference, Chairman of the Commission for Clergy, Seminaries, Vocations, a member of the Joint Bio-ethics Committee of the Episcopal Conference of England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland, and a member of the Irish Bishops' Committee for Bioethics.

He was a member of the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools and Chairman of the Board of Governors of Saint Mary's University College and Chairman of the Trustees of the four Diocesan Colleges. He was also Chairman of the Trustees of the Mater Hospital.

Bishop Walsh retired on 29 June 2008.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



Christ Church Derry recital

This coming Wednesday (3rd January) Christ Church welcomes Dr Derek Collins, Organist and Master of Choristers at St Columbs Cathedral, to take part in its First Wednesday Series.

Derek will give a short recital on the Organ beginning at

13.10. Everyone is welcome to attend this free concert.

Derek Collins, originally from Lisburn, studied Music at Queen's University, graduating B.Mus (1989) and Ph.D (2001). He was Organ Scholar of Queen's University and St Anne's Cathedral Belfast and studied with Dr Andrew Padmore and Professor Desmond Hunter. He has given

regular concerts and recitals around the province as piano accompanist and organist. He was appointed Musical Director of Altnagelvin Hospital Choir in 2015, became Organist and Master of the Chorister of St Columb's Cathedral Derry in 2018, having been Sub Organist from 2015, and has recently completed twenty years as Head of Music in Limavady Grammar School. He is a former President of the Ulster Society of Organists and Choirmasters.

Dates of 2024 holidays

Below are the dates for 2024 bank holidays for England and Wales.

Monday, January 1 New Year's Day
Friday, March 29 Good Friday
Monday, April 1 Easter Monday
Monday, May 6 early May bank holiday
Monday, May 27 spring bank holiday
Monday, August 26 summer bank holiday
Wednesday, December 25 Christmas Day
Thursday, December 26 Boxing Day

Northern Ireland's bank holidays are largely the same as those for England and Wales but there are two extra days off: St Patrick's Day (the substitute bank holiday is Monday, March 18 in 2024) and a day to mark the anniversary of the Battle of the Boyne (Orangemen's Day) on Friday, July 12.

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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
