

Church News Ireland



**Image of the day – Archbishops tv conversation on
Week Prayer for Christian Unity**

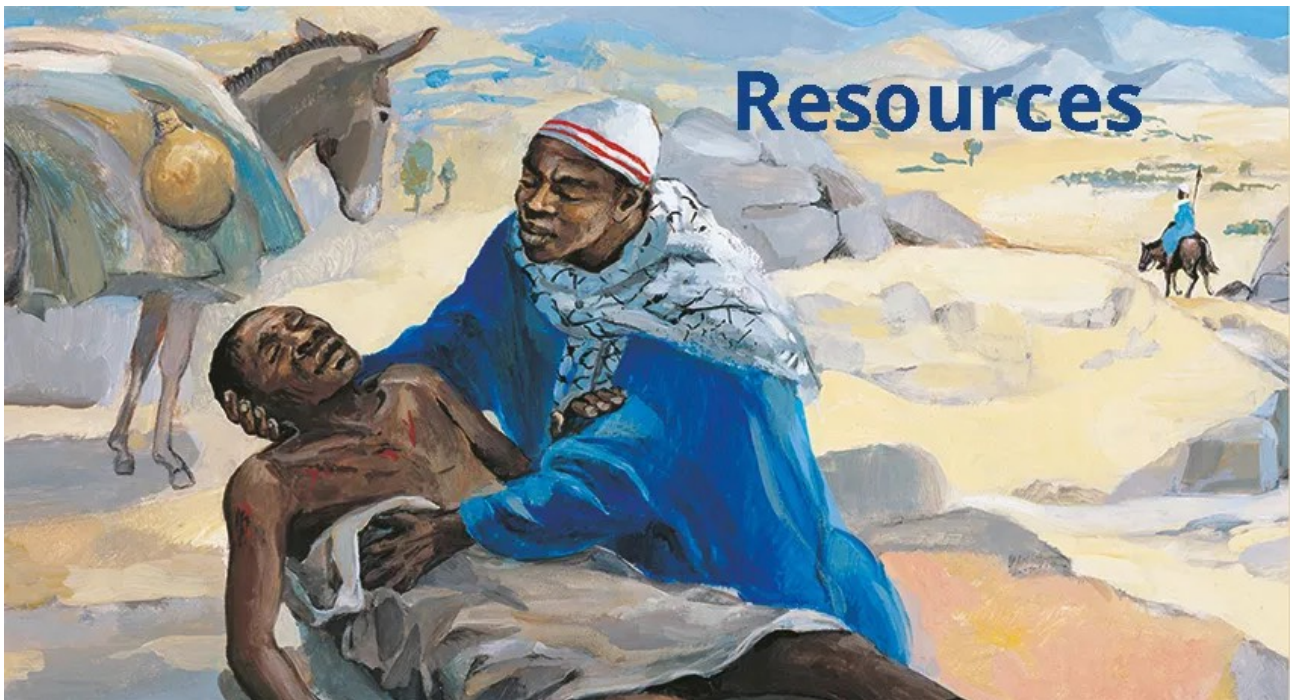
Image of the day

Archbishops tv conversation on Week Prayer for Christian Unity

Archbishop John McDowell, Church of Ireland Archbishop of Armagh, and Archbishop Eamon Martin, Catholic Archbishop of Armagh, are marking the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18th–25th January) with a wide-ranging conversation on this year’s theme, ‘Go and do likewise’.

In the conversation which was recorded recently in Armagh, both archbishops responded to calls from the Christian Churches in Burkina Faso to join with them in self-reflection and consider what it means to love our neighbour in the world today.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed from the 18th to the 25th of January – the octave of St. Peter and St. Paul – and this year’s theme focuses on the parable of the Good Samaritan with its call to ‘love the Lord your God... and your neighbour as yourself’ (Luke 10:27). Christians from the Catholic Archdiocese of Ouagadougou, Protestant Churches, and ecumenical bodies in Burkina Faso collaborated generously in drafting the prayers and reflections for this year’s Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.



The Archbishops encourage everyone to access the resources and reflect also on this year's theme.

The conversation between Archbishop Eamon Martin and Archbishop John McDowell can be viewed below
[<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sz7ES7mHWKw>]

Resources for this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity are available to download here.
[<https://ctbi.org.uk/resources-for-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2024/>]

People and places

Clogher generosity assists Woman's Aid Fermanagh

Revd William Jeffrey of Lisbellaw and Coolbuck handing over a cheque in the sum of £1,430.55 to

January 13, 2024

**Sinead at
the
Woman's
Aid
Fermanagh
offices in
Enniskillen
on
Wednesday.**

Following Mr
Jeffrey's 12
hour Black
Santa Sit-
Out in
support of
both
Woman's Aid
Fermanagh
and Parish
Funds at
Lisbellaw
Parish



Church with Coolbuck prior to Christmas (Wednesday 20
December 2023)- a total sum of £2,861.09 was raised. Half
that amount was presented to Woman's Aid.

The Rector and Parishioners wish to sincerely thank
everyone across the Lisbellaw Village, neighbouring
Parishes and wider Community including family and friends
who so generously got behind and supported our Black
Santa initiative.

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In the media special

**Soul
Music -
Kiran
Young
Wimberly
on the
Psalms -
News
Letter**

**North Coast
based**

Presbyterian

(USA) minister Rev Kiran Young Wimberly will be singing the psalms' praises at upcoming TEDxStormont event.

The psalms, those Bible verses that uplift, inspire and encourage, have always been an integral part of Rev Kiran Young Wimberly's (www.kiranyoungwimberly.com) spiritual life, so much so that even as a child she gravitated towards them for comfort.



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“When I was about 10 or 11, the age of my youngest daughter now, I discovered the psalms as a way to calm myself at times when I felt really upset. I’ve just always turned to them,” says the Presbyterian (USA) minister, musician, podcaster (psalmsforthespirit.substack.com), spiritual director and retreat and pilgrimage leader, who has been living in Ballycastle for the last seven years.

Indeed, such is Kiran’s abiding love for the psalms and for music, that some years ago she joined forces with a family of musicians from Dungannon, The McGraths, and with them has recorded four Celtic Psalms albums (www.celticpsalms.com) (Celtic Psalms Vol. 1, Celtic Psalms: The Lord’s My Shepherd Vol. 2, Celtic Psalms: Rest in the Shelter Vol. 3, and Celtic Psalms: May We Rise Vol.4).

The psalms are set to traditional Irish and Scottish melodies and the group has performed in Ireland and in North America, with their music featured on national TV and radio.

And on January 20, Kiran, 44, will share her passion for the psalms at TEDxStormont as it returns to Parliament Buildings with a stellar line up of speakers.

Without giving away any spoilers, Kiran said her talk is going to be about her journey of what the psalms have meant to her over the years.

“Particularly about the journey of realising that the psalms are a resource for people to find a sense of balance in their lives when things are in upheaval, that they’re a resource for finding hope in difficult times. Also, that there are many tools out there for us to find regulation and balance and resilience



and restoration, and the psalms are actually a tool that we can use. I'll also be focusing a bit more generally on the poetry, the music and the spirituality that are all woven together within that and that brings us a sense of restoration.”

Kiran says she's had many favourite psalms during her lifetime.

“I've been kind of obsessed with them for a long time. There are ones that I would come back to again and again, some of them I've set to music now. I would bring up those psalms in my head. They're a lot easier for me to remember when they're set to songs. I can call to mind any 44 psalms. That really is a gift to me to be able to remember them because I don't have to open the Book of the Psalms, I have them in my head.

“A favourite would be Psalm 63, which says ‘my soul longs for you like a dry land’ – that was something that really

spoke to me at different times when I felt weary and exhausted. Also, ‘as the deer longs for streams of water so my soul longs for you’ – it’s a similar type of psalm, but those have stood out to me. And, ‘the God of Jacob is our hope, our a refuge in times of trouble when the mountains are falling into the heart of the sea’ – in times of upheaval, that would be a good one to turn to.

“There’s so many. There are joyful ones. There are hopeful ones. Probably the ones that I have been drawn to have been more along the lines of longing for some sort of restoration or refreshment at times when I’ve been weary or depleted in the past.”

What she is particularly drawn to is the ‘honesty’ of the psalms.

“What I’ve been exploring over the past few years is what is actually helpful about the psalms and I think one of the main things is the honesty about them, that they just say, well, this is how I feel.....and that is healing. You feel like there are other people who felt that way before in the past. It can give you hope, that there’s something other than the difficult things are going on around you and that there’s still beauty there.”

Faith has always played a huge part in Kiran’s life.

“We grew up going to church and I’ve always loved that. I had a spirituality of my own from a young age, so that was where I developed this love for the psalms and I read them on my own in the privacy of my room. Spirituality has always been a big thing for me.”

Music has also played a huge role in Kiran's life (she sings, plays guitar and 'some' piano).

"I have been a musician for a long time and always loved traditional and folk music. And when I was living in Belfast I started to get involved in learning traditional Irish and Scottish music. Before that I recorded some albums of folk music with a friend of mine in the States.

"When I moved here I was really hoping to hear a bit more of that style of music in the worship setting, in churches, but I realised that that really wasn't done very much and I wasn't really sure why."

Kiran heard the McGrath family singing, loved their harmonies, and eventually they all got together to record.

"That was 10 years ago and it just ended up being such an amazing experience for all of us. And the album was really successful. It was produced by Donal O'Connor, the composer, music teacher and TV presenter and creative director of Belfast TradFest. And we have four albums now.

"The McGraths and I have just continued to sing together and become really dear friends and we have travelled to the States on five different tours and have sung a lot here as well."

Kiran said they've received a lot of positive feedback from people who have been helped by the power of music and the psalms, specifically set to music.

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“We’ve heard back from a lot of people that the music that we’ve put out has really helped them through some difficult times.

“They say they turn on the music and it calms and soothes them. It can accompany people through the ups and downs of life. That’s just a real privilege to hear.”

In terms of the mechanics of the songs, Kiran said she draws on her ministerial and theological training and background to rewrite the psalms in a way that can be sung and fit the tune.

“The work that I put into it has been on the song writing side. I’ve also arranged and co-arranged the songs with these other musicians, but initially the writing of the lyrics and everything has been what I’ve really put my creative effort into,

“There’s a bit of interpretation that goes on, I have paraphrased and also rewritten the psalms in a way that that we can sing them. I’ve picked out and highlighted parts of the psalms that I want to focus on and maybe in the process of song writing, you end up having a refrain that you repeat.....singing and music is a really good way to remember words.

“So if we want to try to remember the psalms, music is a good way to do that.”

Rev Kiran Young Wimberly is married to fellow minister, Rev. Dr. Alexander Wimberly and they have three children aged 15, 13 and 11.

The family live in Ballycastle, which Kiran ‘adores’.

“It’s beautiful. I just look out at the sea every day. I can see it from my window and I walk everyday by the beach. I also like swimming over the winter. It’s so refreshing.”



North West Methodist Mission has been delivering services to the homeless in Derry / Londonderry for 90 years.

We provide temporary accommodation and support, encouraging independent living and progression to permanent accommodation.

Immediate employment opportunities are open for:

**Full-time
SUPPORT WORKERS**

Salary: £23,740.08 per annum (£10.87 per hour)

Applicants must have Essential Skills Level 2 Communication and Application of Number, or equivalent **OR** NVQ Level 2 Health and Social Care, or equivalent **AND** a minimum of 1 years' experience in a formal care/support role.

OR

If the above qualifications are not held, be prepared to complete a relevant qualification within 12 months of appointment **AND** have a minimum of 2 years' experience in a formal care/support role.

Closing Date for Applications: 31st January 2024 @ 5pm

For a full job profile and application form please email:

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Originally from New Jersey, US, Kiran grew up internationally, including in Japan and India as her parents were Presbyterian Church USA missionaries.

She met her husband in Belfast.

“My husband’s parents had lived in Northern Ireland when he was young. He then became a student minister at a church in Belfast. I met him right when he got back from that and he was all aglow about how wonderful Northern Ireland was.

“A few years later we came to visit and then he was offered a job at the church where he had been a student minister. I was also looking for my first position as a minister and then I was offered a position at a different church, so we both came to work at churches in the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. We lived here for about seven years and then went back to the States for about four years as we were doing further studies. And then we we just felt this draw to come back to Northern Ireland. Although our families were in the States this had become home for us – we had community and had done a lot of our professional life here and our kids were all born here.

“And so then we had the opportunity to come back and be involved with Corrymeela. We first started off as volunteers and then Alex went on to staff. I am a member of the Corrymeela community and have been doing freelance work as a minister.”

Kiran also hosts Psalms for the Spirit, a podcast on spirituality and resilience through the lens of the psalms.

“The podcast came about after just after COVID began, because I had taken a training in resilience. This is secular training, but what I found in it was that there was a connection with certain things that I saw to be present in the psalms, like poetry and music and spirituality were all mentioned as ways that people can find resilience in their lives. So I became really curious about starting to talk to people about how the psalms had helped them through difficult times. And this came about during COVID because obviously we were going through a kind of collective trauma as a globe,

“Then it developed into just a hearing people’s stories about how certain psalms have helped them through a time of stress or a time of difficulty of some kind. And so the podcast has been a chance to talk about what brings us resilience, and to hear about certain psalms that have been meaningful to people and how they’ve come through and what brings us joy and strengthens hope and resilience.”

Kiran also leads regular retreats from Corrymeela and pilgrimages around Ireland for international visitors.

“The retreats are open to people from different religious and spiritual backgrounds, and they’re a chance for people to come together and share from their own spiritual traditions and learn from each other and be enriched by each other. We have a stillness retreat coming up next month, and it’s just a way to bring people together to to meet each other

and to share that space together, but also for them to take their own private time to get refreshed and restored and feel they can handle what comes their way when they go back to their lives.”

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Grandparenting for Faith launch and training morning

Grandparents play a significant role in the lives of their grandchildren. How can Christian grandparents use their position to nurture faith in the next generation?

How can Christian grandparents use their position to nurture faith in the next generation? How can church leaders support and empower the grandparents within their communities to help the kids and teens in their life meet and know God?

This event, celebrating the launch of Grandparenting for Faith by Becky Sedgwick, is for all who are grandparents, church leaders or both. During the morning, you will be equipped with research, statistics, inspiration and real-life examples from those who have been working with grandparents in church settings. You'll come away motivated and excited by all that God is doing through grandparents!

Thursday 8 February 2024 @ 10am to 12pm on Zoom.

[<https://www.brfoonline.org.uk/collections/parenting-for-faith-events/products/grandparenting-for-faith-launch-and-training-morning>]

SAMS 'Friday Night Live' Evening Conference

On 2nd February 2024: Theme: Rooted: Standing Firm.

Spreading Hope SAMS Ireland is delighted to extend a warm invitation to the wider church community for its annual evening conference, 'Friday Night Live.' This year's conference, themed 'Rooted: Standing Firm, Spreading Hope,' promises an enriching and spiritually uplifting experience for all attendees. Event Details: – Date: 2nd February 2024 – Time: 7:30 pm – Venue: Annaghmore Parish Church (Armagh)

A Lisburn venue for your conference or outing

The Lisburn Civic Centre is a modern, award-winning building that serves as the headquarters for Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council. It is located on The Island, a large man-made island in the River Lagan, in the heart of Lisburn city centre.

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The Civic Centre was designed by the architectural firm of Todd, Burns & Partners and was completed in 1996. The building is constructed of sandstone and glass and has a distinctive curved facade. It is home to a number of council offices, as well as a number of conference and meeting rooms.

The Civic Centre is also home to the ISLAND Arts Centre, a multi-purpose arts venue that hosts a variety of exhibitions, performances and events. The centre also has a café and a shop.

The Civic Centre is open to the public from 7:30am to 5:30pm Monday to Friday. Admission is free.

Here are some of the things you can do at the Lisburn Civic Centre:

- +Visit the ISLAND Arts Centre
- +Attend a conference or meeting
- +Have lunch at the cafe
- +Browse the shop
- +Take a walk around the grounds

The Lisburn Civic Centre is a popular destination for both locals and tourists. It is a great place to learn about the history and culture of Lisburn, as well as to enjoy a variety of arts and entertainment. — at Lisburn City Council - Civic Centre

Perspective

Cardinal Henry Newman to be a ‘doctor of the church’

There are hopes the 19th century British Cardinal Henry Newman could soon be named a ‘doctor of the church’.

Bishops in the US have backed calls from their UK counterparts. At a national meeting in Maryland, on the east coast recently, US bishops voted to send a letter to Pope Francis expressing their support for the U.K. bishops’ proposal.

Newman, born in 1801, was a highly regarded Protestant academic and priest, in the high Anglican tradition, who led a revival among young intellectual Christian leaders in Oxford, persuading them of the merits of traditional liturgical worship, and then inspiring them to go into working-class communities around the UK to spread the gospel.

The high Anglican tradition typically includes more participation by the laity, including children, serving as servers, acolytes, choristers and altar boys. It’s also a highly sensory experience, with evocative sounds and powerful smells a regular accompaniment in worship. In the days before television and social media, it was Newman’s view that this style of worship would appeal to poorer, more visually starved communities.

Having led what became known as ‘The Oxford Movement’, he then famously converted to Catholicism in 1845, a

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decision which led to backlash and prejudice from his friends and family. His own sister is said to have never spoken to him again.

Nevertheless, today his teachings are admired and read by Protestant and Catholic theologians alike. He was canonized (made a saint), by Pope Francis in 2019.

To become a “doctor of the Church” usually involves three criteria – holiness, eminence in doctrine, and a formal declaration by the Church - usually by a pope.

Bishop Robert Barron of Winona-Rochester, Minnesota, was one of several U.S. bishops who spoke passionately in support the proposal, urging fellow believers to, “study his writings deeply. I think it might help to heal some of the divisions in our Church”.

According to Matthew Bunson, editorial director of the 24/7 Catholic TV network, EWTN, two similar appeals by US bishops have proved successful in recent years. St. John of Avila and St. Irenaeus of Lyon have both been approved as “doctors of the Church”, with their support.

Poem for today

A Stormy Night

By Michael Peterson

Clouds filling the skies
beautiful lighting show in the distance

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flashing like a disco ball, exciting to all
winds picking up, swirling around
a light sprinkle, a thunderous bang
scattering birds from a bird feeder
the rain comes pouring, birds soaring
windows closing, umbrellas opening
the storm is coming to brew
rolling and going the rain keeps flowing
the road become creeks then to rivers
lighting and thundering to a different beat
rain turns to hail. a ting to a ding
it taps to nature's beat
how long the storm
moving rapidly, quickly its gone
how calm it got before dawn
what a beautiful storm.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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