

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Snow

January 17, 2024

Image of the day

Snow

The snow has melted away maybe, but we still wanted to share this beautiful photo of Bayeux's majestic cathedral with you. Thanks to Ville de Bayeux of the photo.



And Slemish reminds us that it was a cold comfort for our Patron Saint Patrick.





The Mountains of Mourne exhibited a different allure yesterday morning. Thanks to PJ McFarland for sharing.

Across the pond the Church of Epiphany Episcopal, Tunica, MS also had snow yesterday morning. Thanks to Father Rufus for this picture by Hayne Matthews

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People and places

Parish clock in memory of Dean Brian Moller

This fine oak-cased clock was recently installed and dedicated in St

Comgall's Parish Church, Rathcoole, in memory of Dean Brian Moller, who ministered at Rathcoole for some eighteen years during a period of considerable conflict in Northern Ireland.

The memorial was expertly manufactured by Canavan clock maker, Lurgan.

The dedication took place on Sunday 7th January and the first Sunday of the New Year.



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The parish leadership expressed thanks to Dean Moller's son Julian for joining with the parishioners and unveiling the Memorial Clock in memory of his father.

Diocesan Reader Tom Irwin was thanked for preaching at the service and speaking about his own fond memories of Dean Moller. Thanks too to Chris from Canavan Clockmakers of County Armagh for making and supplying the clock.

<https://m.facebook.com/CanavanClockmakers>

Cashel, Ferns and Ossory School boards training

A training session for new primary school boards of management in Cashel, Ferns and Ossory was held in Enniscorthy. It was repeated the following evening in Kilkenny for other schools in the Diocese.



Thanks were expressed to Dr Ken Fennelly and Ms Susan Ellis - the trainers.



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity events

A Service of Prayer to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18th -25th January 2024) for the Diocese of Clonfert and the Diocese of Galway and Kilmacduagh and Kilfenora will take place in the Cathedral of St Brendan, Loughrea on Sunday 21st of January 2024 at 8pm.

The service will be led by Bishop Michael Burrows and the preacher will be Reverend John Godfrey, Rector of Aughrim

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Union of Parishes, Archdeacon of Killaloe and Tuam. All are most welcome.

Priest-in-Charge of four attractive rural churches

The Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory, the Right Reverend Adrian Wilkinson has announced that he has appointed the Reverend Dr Christine O’Dowd-Smyth as part time stipendiary Priest-in-Charge of Fiddown Union.

Fiddown Union is situated in west Waterford along the scenic Suir Valley and has four attractive rural churches.

Christine has been curate-assistant of Waterford Union since July 2021, transferring from non-stipendiary ministry to full time ministry, having taken early retirement from her previous post as lecturer in French in the South East Technological University (SETU). Originally from Westport Co Mayo, Christine taught in France before moving to Waterford in 1992.

She was ordained deacon in 2009 and priest the following year. Her late husband David was a diocesan reader, and she has one daughter, Lily Mei, who graduated last year from SETU and who lives and works in Dublin.

Christine has acted as the Church of Ireland chaplain in University Hospital Waterford and received her CAB chaplaincy accreditation in 2020. Her curacy in Waterford



was under the able guidance of Dean Bruce Hayes and the retired Dean Maria Jansson.

In recent months, Christine has been acting as caretaker priest-in-charge of Fiddown Union and has taken the parishioners there to her heart. Christine will also shortly take up a part time role in palliative pastoral care in Waterford Hospital. She is a member of Diocesan Council, Standing Committee and the Church's Commission for Christian Unity and Dialogue, General Synod, and the Church of Ireland Representative on the International Reuilly Agreement Committee.

Bishop Wilkinson said, 'I am delighted that Christine will be able to combine her ministry in Fiddown Union with her new position in palliative pastoral care at University Hospital Waterford. Christine's ministry has been hugely valued in the Diocese in general and most especially in Waterford Union where she worked closely with the parishioners during the vacancy before the arrival of Dean Hayes. It is

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great that she will continue in ministry alongside us here in Cashel, Ferns and Ossory.'

Christine said 'I would like to thank the Bishop and parishioners of Fiddown Union most gratefully for their trust in me, and for offering this opportunity to fulfil God's calling on my life and ministry at this time.

'I wish to thank the Dean of Waterford, the Very Revd Bruce Hayes, for his wonderful guidance, support and training of me during my curacy in Waterford Union; and to the retired Dean Maria Jansson for all her support and encouragement. I would not be where and who I am today without the love and support of my family, friends, and priestly colleagues in



Plough Sunday Service

Staplestown Church,
Church Road, Staplestown, Co. Carlow R93 W566

Sunday, 11th February, 3pm

It is a privilege for Staplestown to host the Plough Sunday Service on Sunday 11th February at 3pm.

The Guest Speaker will be Anna May McHugh/ Anna Marie McHugh, National Ploughing Association.

This ' Ecumenical Service' will include prayers and blessings for all who are engaged in farming and agriculture.

We will also include prayers and intercessions for those amongst us, who have suffered grief, loss, injury, and bereavement as a result of farming, industrial, domestic and road traffic accidents.

Hospitality/ Refreshments Afterwards

For further information Phone Rev. Paul Fitzpatrick(086) 4113989

Email: paulfitz1000@hotmail.com



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the Diocese and the wider Christian community. Above all, I am grateful to our loving God, who calls each one of us to a life of joyful service to others.'

Fr Seamus O'Connell of Derry Diocese

The death has taken place of Fr Seamus O'Connell of Derry Diocese. Requiem Mass was held in in St Patrick's Church, Glen, Maghera on Tuesday 16th January



Fr O'Connell was born on 16th December 1935 in Kilrea

Co. Derry. After attending Lisnacreagh Primary School and St Columb's College, Derry, he began his priestly studies in St Patrick's College, Maynooth. Fr O'Connell was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Derry on 19th June 1960. His first appointment was to St Patrick's, Pennyburn Derry and in 1961 he served as curate in Ballykelly until 1974. Fr Seamus was appointed the first administrator of the newly

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formed parish of St Brigid's, Carnhill in Derry where he served until 1989. From 1989 until his retirement in 2010, Fr O'Connell was Parish Priest of Maghera. Upon retirement, he took residence in St Mary's, Altinure, Co Derry. He will be greatly missed. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.

News

Vandals smash unique artwork at Guildford Cathedral

A panel of the Angel Door in Guildford Cathedral, engraved by the renowned artist John Hutton, has been smashed by vandals.

“The police were called to the cathedral in the early hours of Friday morning after vandals smashed one of the glass panels and an investigation is under way,” a statement from the cathedral said. The damaged panel is part of the engraved doors at the west front of the cathedral, which are described as “an acclaimed piece of 20th-century art.”

The cathedral's chief operating officer, Matt O'Grady, said: “Everyone at the Cathedral is devastated by this senseless act of vandalism at a holy place.” He said that the glass panel was “irreplaceable”.

“We hope that the whole community will come together to recognise that acts such as this serve no purpose and that places such as our Cathedral need to be preserved as

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shrines of peace, tranquillity, and spirituality in a troubled world.”

The engraved glass doors were put in place in 1961. Hutton died in 1978.

Borders' church completes "fabulous, welcoming and flexible" renovation

An ambitious project to renovate Eyemouth Parish Church in the Borders, which has improved the usable space available for the congregation and wider community, has been completed costing nearly £500,000.

The changes have included installing a more eco-friendly heating system, removing pews with movable chairs now in their place, installing a small kitchen area, as well as ensuring the site is accessible to all and as welcoming as possible.

Plans began after a review in 2016 showed that changes to the layout of the building to make it more adaptable for different purposes were needed.

Rev Andrew Haddow from Eyemouth Parish Church said: "The main church building is now a fabulous, welcoming and flexible space.

"We're excited to be showing it off to our community, to be dreaming together of what might happen in this renewed space and for the church to use this space to help provide

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those in need within our community with much-needed support.

"However none of this would have been possible without the community's support and we are very grateful for all those who supported this work."

The congregation began fundraising, which although delayed by the Covid pandemic, was completed by 2022 with work beginning at the start of 2023 and the contractors leaving in time for Remembrance Sunday in November.

The church has already seen the benefits of the new space over the Christmas period holding a family Christingle service as well as welcoming a few birthday parties who have used the space.

The enhancements, which includes allowing the main space to be split, will relieve pressure on the church hall, which is currently heavily used for toddler groups, dance classes, a fitness club and for film nights as well as by the NHS and the local food bank and food larder.

More children will be able to attend holiday clubs and more adults will be able to take part in some of the groups already running within the church hall, as space is now less restricted.

A good proportion of the finances for the project came directly from the congregation, along with funding from other local churches, the Fallago Environment Fund, National Lottery Community Fund, Garfield Weston Foundation, and the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland.

Street Preachers' Charter in development to prevent more arrests

A new charter is being developed after a number of high profile arrests and prosecutions involving street preachers.

The Christian Institute is drawing up the 'Street Preachers' Charter' in the hopes of reaching "an agreed understanding between police and preachers over freedom of speech, and to encourage 'best practice' on both sides".

Simon Calvert, Deputy Director of The Christian Institute, said: "Over many years, our in-house lawyer, Sam Webster, has provided advice and training to street preachers, working alongside respected organisations such as the Open Air Mission.

"Through the Street Preachers' Charter, we hope to appeal to those whom God has called to this public ministry, and to work with them to ensure they preach knowing their legal rights, and to help them as they witness on behalf of local churches.

"If we can establish a solid and professional charter from the side of the evangelists, this will benefit our discussions with police and local authorities as we try to help them improve religious literacy and the quality of their training for staff in how to engage with street preachers."

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Just last week, street preacher Angus Cameron won a substantial payout from Police Scotland after he was wrongfully arrested while preaching in Glasgow city centre.

The 52-year-old former pastor was arrested in 2022 for 'breach of the peace with homophobic aggravation' following a single unsubstantiated complaint.

He was assisted in his challenge against his arrest by The Christian Institute and was last week vindicated after Police Scotland agreed to pay him £5,500 in damages along with £9,400 in legal costs.

Mr Cameron has donated the full amount of his compensation to The Christian Institute.

Commenting on his arrest, Mr Calvert said, "Angus's preaching was not targeting individuals; he did not use offensive language; he was not aggressive; he did not try to cause offence; he simply quoted the Bible. There was no criminality at all.

"The arresting officer mistakenly believed that because someone claimed to be 'offended' his preaching was therefore illegal. The arrest was wholly unnecessary and was carried out in a heavy-handed and inappropriate manner."

Street evangelists wishing to receive more information on the CI's planned Charter, as well as invitations to free training events, should emailstreetpreachers@christian.org.uk

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In the media



Food bank pressures don't ease - Belfast Telegraph

There used to be times when pressure at the food bank would ease," says Jonny Currie of Trussell Trust NI.

"It's not the case any longer: the crisis is with us all year round." See -

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/life/features/there-used-to-be-times-when-pressure-at-the-food-bank-would-ease-thats-not-the-case-now/a1652745638.html>

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



The Band returns today

**The Band – Series 3 - A new series from DoubleBand
Films returns to BBC Northern Ireland starting**

January 17, 2024

Wednesday 17 January at 10.40pm on BBC One Northern Ireland with all three episodes available after the first episode airs on BBC iPlayer

It takes discipline, commitment and hard work to be part of a marching band with members devoting much of their lives to their music and community.

Co-funded by the Ulster Scots Broadcast Fund, The Band returns to BBC Northern Ireland for a third series, exploring the vibrant musical heritage passed down from generation-to-generation and the dedicated musicians – passionate about their band.

For the first time, the series follows two Northern Ireland bands competing at the World Pipe Band Championships, a piper who overcame huge personal adversity to play again, and a young man with a disability who has gained a sense of identity playing with his band.

Lent with the Beloved Disciple

The 2024 Bloomsbury Lent Book by Michael Marshall (Author)

The 2024 Bloomsbury Lent Book invites you on a six-week journey in the company of the 'beloved disciple' as found in the narrative of the Gospel of St John.

As the only disciple to have stayed close to Jesus at every stage from the Last Supper to the Crucifixion at Calvary, this eagle-eyed eyewitness intentionally records certain subtle

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details and signs which, when perceived with the eyes of faith, indicate a deeper and far lasting significance.

Michael Marshall explores what these signs are and how, with prayerful reflection, they draw us ever more deeply into the personal, eternal and cosmic significance and awareness of all that Christ accomplished by his death and resurrection – the Paschal Mystery.

Ideal for both individual use and for small group study, Lent with the Beloved Disciple takes us into the heart of that Paschal Mystery, by which all things in heaven and earth are ultimately fulfilled in the risen and ascended Christ, who is 'all in all'.

Bishop Michael Marshall is a writer and spiritual director. He was the Vicar of All Saints Margaret Street in London and was Bishop of Woolwich at the age of 39, subsequently moving to the USA where he was the founding Director of the Anglican Institute. On returning to this country in 1992 he was appointed as one of the Advisors to the Archbishops of York and Canterbury for the Decade of Evangelism. He also lists concert pianist among his many accomplishments.

£9.89 RRP £10.99 Website price saving £1.10 (10%)

See -

[\[https://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/lent-with-the-beloved-disciple-9781399404938/\]](https://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/lent-with-the-beloved-disciple-9781399404938/)

Poem for today

To My Daughter Betty

By Tom Kettle

In wiser days, my darling rosebud, blown
To beauty proud as was your Mother's prime.
In that desired, delayed, incredible time,
You'll ask why I abandoned you, my own,
And the dear heart that was your baby throne,
To die with death. And oh! they'll give you rhyme
And reason: some will call the thing sublime,
And some decry it in a knowing tone.
So here, while the mad guns curse overhead,
And tired men sigh with mud for couch and floor,
Know that we fools, now with the foolish dead,
Died not for flag, nor King, nor Emperor,
But for a dream, born in a herdsman shed,
And for the secret Scripture of the poor.

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

