

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Constabulary duty being done

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Image of the day



Constabulary duty being done on Human Trafficking

Front page - Bishop Alan McGuckian of Down & Connor with the Garda Commissioner and PSNI Chief Constable. in Cork for a conference on Human Trafficking organised by An Garda Síochána and Santa Marta group.

Above - With Kevin Hyland of Santa Marta, Cardinal Vincent Nichols of Westminster, Bishop Fintan Gavin of Cork & Ross, Gary Carville.

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News



Parish teams climb UK's four highest peaks

The UK's four highest peaks were climbed by parish teams from nine parishes in Down & Dromore diocese.

The group climbed the 4 highest peaks of Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland in one weekend. They started with Ben Nevis on Friday, Scafell Pike and Snowdon on Saturday (yes, two in one day!) before travelling back to Newcastle to climb Slieve Donard on Sunday afternoon.

[Hikers on a rare level section](#)

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The challenge involved a lot of miles walked, metres climbed, hours on buses, sore limbs and precious little sleep. However, not only were the group able to summit each mountain safely but also raise thousands of pounds for church projects.

Last Sunday evening the group of 24 hikers were greeted by friends and family as they returned from the summit of Slieve Donard.

The St Mark's, Dundela team posted, "It was lovely to be greeted by parishioners, family members and friends as we descended Slieve Donard in glorious sunshine. Thank you for cheers and treats on arrival in Newcastle. Thank you for

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prayers and sponsorship to the 543 Challenge. Now time for rest!”

The welcome home team below Slieve Donard summit

The intrepid climbers came from 9 parishes. Congratulations to (in no order of hiking speed): Lynn Wilson, Helene Steed, Frank Dillon, Michael

Dillon, Benjamin Irish, Liz Given, Lucy Burden, Rachel Irish-Colligan, Wendy Gardiner, Christine Connolly, Iain Uprichard, Andy Williamson, Peter Smith, Stephanie Duke, Jill Hamilton, Alison Annett, Eben Grobbelaar, Jana Walsh, Scott North and Simon Newell.

And special thanks to their drivers (who also climbed): Stuart Paulin, Andrew Frame, Tim Burns and Andrew Brannigan.

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The St Mark's Dundela team

Portrait of the Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross to mark 25th Anniversary

A portrait of the Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, the Right Rev'd Dr Paul Colton was unveiled last Thursday at the Bishop's Palace in Cork. The portrait was commissioned by the Diocesan Council of Cork, Cloyne and Ross.

The portrait artist is Jack Hickey, a local artist from Cobh, and graduate of the Crawford College of Art & Design in Cork. Jack has had numerous commissions, including



portraits of Professor Mary Horgan, President of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, Commodore Hugh Tully, former Flag Officer Commanding of the Irish Naval Service, and Professor Marie Cassidy, former State Pathologist. Jack won several Portrait Prizes, including The Hennessy Portrait Prize 2017, and his paintings have been exhibited in the National Art Gallery of Ireland, among others.

The portrait was revealed in what will be its new home, the Bishop's residence, The Bishop's Palace in Cork.

Invited guests in attendance included the Deputy Lord Mayor of Cork, Cllr. Colette Finn, the Director of the Crawford Art Gallery, Mary McCarthy, and the Head of MTU Crawford College of Art & Design, Rose McGrath and the members of the Cork, Cloyne and Ross Diocesan Council.

West Belfast mass-goers have a laugh as priest prays for England to ‘get put out of Euros’

While England football fans have been praying for football to ‘come home’ for the last 56 years, one parishioner in west Belfast sought some help from her own church for quite the opposite.

In a video that has since gained a lot of traction on social media, a priest at Clonard Monastery is seen reading out the prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary during Mass, on behalf of one of the locals.

The priest announces: “Dear Mother of Perpetual Help - and this is a funny last one, but very serious too - put England out of the Euros.

“We are still getting 1966. Please, you would never hear the end of it.

“[From] A loving daughter, with a sense of humour. P.S. I Have been praying to Pio as well.”

The reading was met by laughter from the crowd in attendance, and has garnered some comical reactions online too.

The mystery writer’s prayers might be answered sooner than she thinks, as Gareth Southgate’s England international squad has been delivering dismal displays at Euro 2024 so far.

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The team is through to the last-16 of the European championship, and topped Group C despite a lacklustre draw against Slovenia, but fans and pundits have not been left impressed.

*Courtesy Niamh Campbell and Belfast Telegraph
27/06/2024*



Methodist Church excited by number of young people across the church who have recently become members

Thomas Street Methodist Church recently welcomed Sarah, Sam, Faith and Sophie into full membership of the Methodist church.

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Each of them shared about how they came to know Jesus and how they seek to wholeheartedly follow him everyday. They did brilliant and were inspiring for the whole church.

We continue to pray for them as they grow in love and knowledge of God.

In the membership service, the congregation promise to support and uplift the to be members in prayer, will you do the same?

If you are considering membership classes, check out the Wholehearted membership resource on the IMYC website

<https://irishmethodist.org/wholehearted>

Saintfield Road boots were made for walking

Christian Aid supporters at one church in south Belfast didn't spend long 'mullen' over how to raise funds to help tackle poverty. They just laced up their boots and completed their '70k in May' walking challenge.

Several members of Saintfield Road Presbyterian Church climbed Slieve Croob near Dromara and hiked around the beautiful lake at Castlewellan Forest Park, both in County Down.

The walks were organised by Christian Aid representative Ian Mullen (wearing the pale grey hoodie).

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Altogether the congregation raised almost £1,400 towards our Christian Aid Week appeal.

Please join Christian Aid in thanking Ian and everyone who took part, as well as all those who sponsored their effort.

But this isn't the last you'll hear of Ian. Christian Aid will have more stories about him over the coming days and weeks:

Ian completed speaker training this year and spoke about our Christian Aid Week story at Cregagh Presbyterian Church in east Belfast.

In July, Ian will travel to Zimbabwe at his own expense to see the difference your donations are making in the lives of people on the frontline of the climate crisis.

Northern Ireland's Catholic bishops urge people to get out and vote in election

The Catholic bishops of Northern Ireland have exhorted politicians and the public to continue to find reasons for hope ahead of the general election on 4 July.

In a pastoral reflection titled Give Reasons to Hope, the Irish Catholic Bishop's Conference encouraged believers to vote, and laid out a list of areas in today's society where hope is desperately needed, offering solutions rooted in the teachings of Jesus and reflecting Catholic social teaching.

Their statement began by emphasising the importance of voting, even when believers had differences of principle with the governments of the land, saying that exercising their franchise was the only way to work for change and bring about a better future for Britain.

"We are appealing to everyone who has the ability to do so, to participate in the democratic process by exercising their hard-won right to vote," the statement read.

"Even where there is no candidate who reflects the full range of a voter's values or aspirations, it is still a fundamental Christian duty to maximise the good we can do by taking part in the democratic process."

However, the bishops also reminded politicians that 'without a vision, the people perish!' and said that political leaders needed to give people concrete reasons for hope or risk a fracturing of society as confidence in politics erodes.

"People are constantly saying to us things like 'society is fractured', 'politics is broken', 'life has never been so stressful', and 'every day is a struggle, like never before'," the bishops said

"It is no coincidence that in this environment, our society is also reporting an unprecedented crisis in mental health, not least among younger people and children."

Calling on politicians to offer a vision for society built on the basic needs, dignity, and inherent worth of all, the bishops offered a list of key areas where voters should be calling on the government to implement policies that would restore hope, holding them to account at the ballot box.

"As Christian leaders, we continue to be inspired, and driven in our steadfast hope for society, by the vision of Jesus, that we might have life, and have it to the full (Jn. 10:10)," the statement continued.

Expressing their concern that there had been a progressive decline in respect for the fundamental right to life, the bishops warned of the dangers of a worldview that determined a human being's value based on their position in society rather than on their inherent dignity as God's creation.

The statement also reinforced society's duty to protect the most vulnerable, whether at the beginning or end of their life, and stated that the greatest crisis society faced was not

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an ecological or economic one, but a growing breakdown in social cohesion.

The bishops described a Biblical vision of society based on a foundation of hope, one where everyone is treated with dignity, can find a place to live where they are welcome and secure, where the faith, community, and voluntary sectors are valued, and, above all, where there is justice and reconciliation for all.

"In this short reflection, with deep gratitude and respect for all those who put themselves forward, with courage, and commitment to public service, for elected office, we express our sincere hope that, if elected, they can shape a better future for us all," they concluded.

"We also express our conviction, rooted in the promise of Jesus to be with us to the end of time, that even yet, there are many reasons to hope!"

American and Maori to lead Anglican Women's Network

The Rev. Canon Helen Van Koevering, a rector in the Diocese of Lexington, has been elected chair of the International Anglican Women's Network (IAWN). Hera Clarke-Dancer of the Province of Aotearoa, New Zealand, and Polynesia, was elected deputy chair.

Van Koevering (D.Min.) is rector of St. Raphael's Church in Lexington. She was a missionary in the Diocese of Niassa, Mozambique, from 1990 to 2015. She joined IAWN in 2019.



Hera Clarke-Dancer, left, of the Province of Aotearoa, New Zealand, and Polynesia and the Rev. Helen Van Koevering of the Episcopal Church

“I will be very keen to hear and raise up new voices and angles of view on the intergenerational and real experience of women globally,” Van Koevering said. “Women hold up half the sky,’ as I’ve known African women theologians to say. Listening for and learning from women’s faith, hope, resistance, and dignity as beloved of God is as vital today for the church and the world as ever.”

The IAWN serves as a global voice of Anglican women, links women from around the world, and is a network of the worldwide Anglican Communion. Its mission statement says: “We are a bold and prophetic voice for all women throughout the Anglican Communion working to uphold the

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God-given dignity of women and girls, to eradicate gender-based inequality and violence, and to promote just relationships among all people.”

The IAWN Steering Group Committee met in person for the first time in six years at the Anglican Communion Office in London earlier in June.

“It was so encouraging to host the IAWN Steering group recently at the Anglican Communion Office, sharing our stories together and the pain of working towards bringing gender equality and justice around the Anglican Communion, said Mandy Marshall, director of gender justice for the Anglican Communion Office and the Anglican Alliance.

“It is so important that the steering group reflects the diversity of the Anglican Communion, and this has been achieved with this new group. I look forward to working with and alongside them.”

Cathedral Calls

Late opening coming soon at St Patrick's

Special late opening hours have been announce dat Saint Patrick's Cathedral from today, Monday, 1st July through to Friday, 16th August.

The Cathedral says this is “For those who wish to experience the serene beauty of the cathedral in a quieter,

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more peaceful setting, these evening hours provide the perfect opportunity.

“Reopening at 6.15pm with the last admission at 7.15pm, these extended hours allow you to explore the cathedral without the usual daytime crowds. Stroll through the hallowed halls, admire the stunning architecture, and soak in the tranquil atmosphere at your own pace. Don't miss this chance to see Saint Patrick's Cathedral in a different light. We look forward to welcoming you for an evening of quiet contemplation and awe-inspiring beauty.”

Choristers and Choral Scholars of St Andrew's Cathedral School in Sydney, Australia

From a CNI reader - “Joined by the men of the choir, as they do every Thursday during School term, they sang Psalm 85, Gibbons Short Service Magnificat & Nunc Dimittus, Radcliffe Responses and, for the anthem, Herbert Howell's Te Deum (Collegium Regale). After a very well-delivered, interactive (with choristers asked questions throughout) and very personal Homily from the Cathedral's Director of Music, the service concluded with a great congregational hymn (with chorister descant) - "Praise my Soul the King of Heaven".

A delightful merging of "Beauty and Truth" in the early hours of the evening. Thank you men and boys.

Please note Evensong by the St Andrew's Cathedral Choir Sydney has returned this week at 5.15pm on Thursday, 25 July 2024.

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Do stop by if you are "down under".... Evensong at St Andrew's Cathedral Sydney is a real hidden oasis in the heart of Sydney's CBD.

Canterbury Cathedral offers Prayers of Love and Faith

Same-sex couples already in civil partnerships or civil marriages, or who have sealed a covenanted friendship, can now be offered Prayers of Love and Faith at Canterbury Cathedral, following a unanimous decision by the Dean and governing Chapter.

These prayers will be offered within regular services of public worship for same-sex couples who love one another and who wish to give thanks for and mark that love in faith before God, and who are part of the Cathedral community.

Belfast in Cobh and Cork

This was the final weekend of Choral Services before the Belfast Cathedral Choir take a break during July and August.

However, if you find yourself in or around Cork, they are delighted to be singing in St Colman's Cathedral, Cobh, on Sat 27th July and St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork, on Sun 28th July.



Celebrations in St Donards

There were celebrations in St Donards Church, Bloomfield as Revd Jan Stevenson was instituted as Rector on Thursday 27 June.

Jan's husband Sam is a Diocesan Evangelist and has been assigned to the parish. The diocese posted - "We wish them and their family every blessing as they begin their ministry in East Belfast.

Thanks also to Canon Myrtle Morrison for her address St John's Parish Church Newcastle Co Down and Archdeacon Jim, St Mary's, Ballybeen."



Canon Albert Ogle

Ordained 47 years ago on June 29th 1977 by Bishop Arthur Butler (centre) and Curate to Rev. Norman Barr(right), Derriaghy parish, Belfast.

Albert posted, “Blessings and many thanks to all who share in this amazing journey. Happy to be back in my former parish of St. Peter's Lithgow (USA) this weekend”.

A big day in Ballycastle

It was a big day in Ballycastle C of I parishes on Saturday when The Rev Shona Bell and Rev Cameron Mack were ordained Priest by the Bishop of Connor.



Shona has been appointed to serve as curate assistant in the Ballycastle Parishes. Rev Cameron Mack will serve in Belfast Cathedral

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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