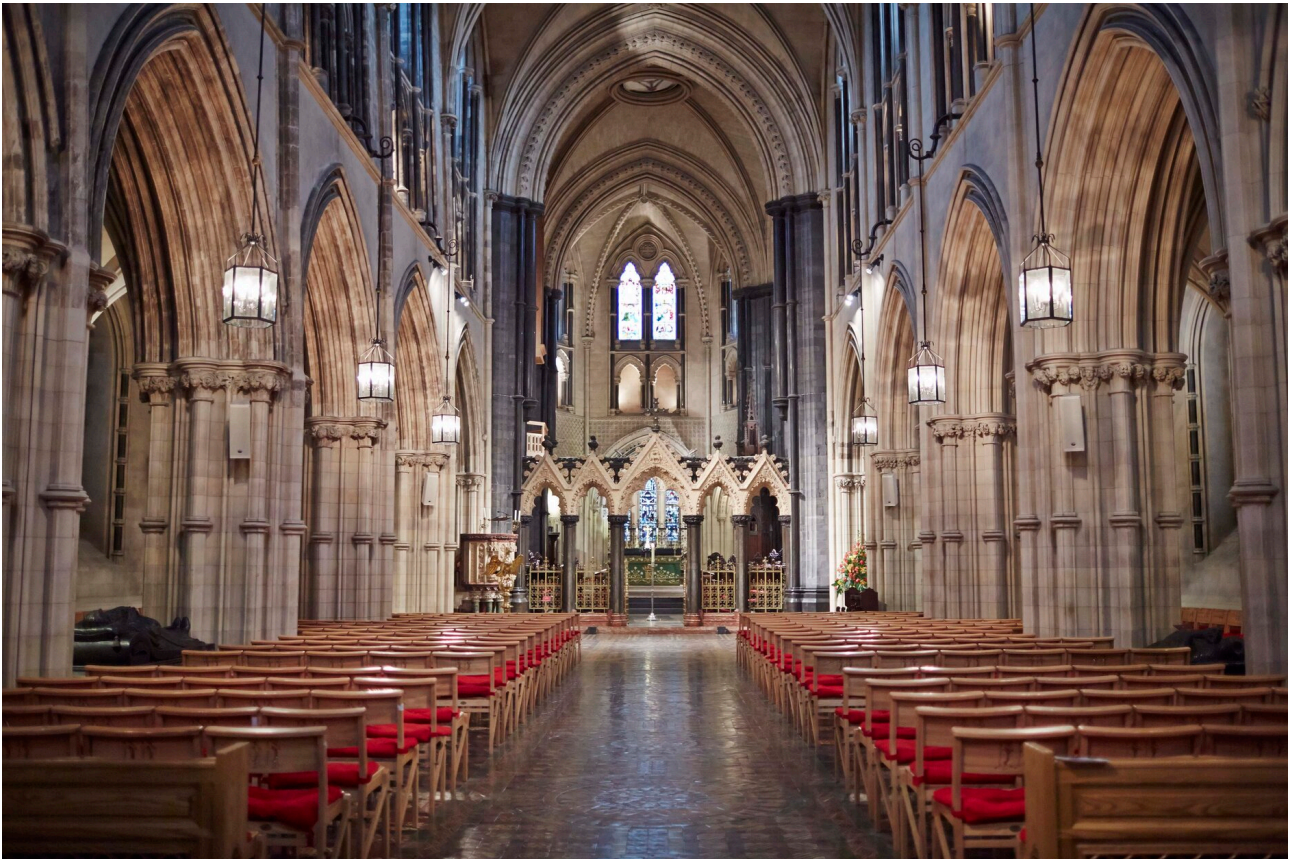


# Church News Ireland



## Image of the day – Exploring the treasures of Christ Church, Dublin

## Image of the day

# Exploring the treasures of Christ Church, Dublin

## **Book and new video invite visitors to explore Dublin landmark.**

As Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, approaches its millennium in 2028, it is bringing its amazing historical collection into the light for a wider audience to enjoy.

Treasures of Christ Church Cathedral Dublin, published by Scala Press, gives a commentary on 50 special items from around the Cathedral, and is available at €12.50 from the Cathedral gift shop and £9.50 from Scala at <https://scalapublishers.com/treasures-of-christ-church-cathedral-dublin>

In a video interview, Ruth Kenny, the Cathedral's Head of Learning and Interpretation, draws out some of the highlights of these treasures which range from a wig-curler to the patterned tiles making up "one of the most beautiful floors in Ireland." These objects, she relates, "tell our story for us in an incredible way" and span the centuries from Christ Church's beginnings as a Viking church through the Middle Ages and up to its Victorian-era restoration.

The interview, which is part of the Church of Ireland's Inspiring Angles podcast series can be viewed below or on any of the Church of Ireland's social media channels.

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Some 230,000 visitors call in every year – mainly from overseas – and it's a fascinating place to explore for anyone visiting Dublin city centre, from home and abroad alike. You can find out more about visiting Christ Church on the Cathedral's website at [www.christchurchcathedral.ie](http://www.christchurchcathedral.ie)

## News



### 543 Challenge

June 21st - 23rd

Five people climbing four peaks in three days.  
(Did we mention they're the four highest peaks in the UK?)

Goal: Kick-off event to raise £25,000 over three years to appoint a Parish Development Coordinator who will help us grow in faith; grow in numbers; and increase our service to the community.



## Dundela challenges the peaks

**Dundela parish writes - The 543 challenge started on Thursday night 20th with our intrepid climbers catching the boat to Scotland.**



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The first challenge is a five-hour climb of Ben Nevis on Friday morning followed by a minibus to England and a four-hour evening climb of Scafell Peak. Then it's back on the bus to Wales and a five-hour climb of Snowdon (starting around 3am on Sunday morning). Finally, after a good nap on the boat, the crew will tackle a five-hour climb of Slieve Donard on Sunday.

There are many ways to support our brave adventurers. Pray for them. Pack a picnic and join us at Slieve Donard carpark at 5pm on Sunday to cheer them over the finish line. Support them financially and help us expand our outreach and service to a brilliant community. Click here for more details: <http://dundela.down.anglican.org/admin.html>



## Breakfast battle at St Paul's Lisburn



**What a fantastic morning at St. Paul's Mens Breakfast where members were joined by Veterans for a great fry up and a brilliant talk on WW1 - The Battle of the Somme by Tom Saunders QGM.**

A big shout out to the Catering Team at St. Paul's without whom this definitely could not happen.

## **C of I Mou with Maynooth on Christian Studies**

**The Bishop of Cashel and the Bishop of Tuam sign a MoU - a Memorandum of Understanding - with St Patrick's Pontifical University, Maynooth**

- to collaborate on delivering the Certificate in Christian Studies for adult learners across the two Dioceses of Tuam,



Limerick & Killaloe and Diocese of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory.

## **Carnmoney Parishioners visit Sikh Gudwara**

**Carnmoney Parish Church enjoyed a fascinating evening at the Sikh Gudwara in Duncairn Gardens this month as part of their "Exploring Other Faiths and Denominations" course.**

“We learnt a lot about the Sikh religion and were made really welcome, even enjoying some Sikh delicacies”.

## **Mothers Union celebrates their first ever awards ceremony for their RISE UP**





## Against Domestic Abuse campaign

In 2023, Mothers Union launched RISE UP! rolling it out across Britain and Ireland, calling for you, our members, to help bring the stronghold of domestic abuse out from the shadows and into the light.

Since then, we've seen...

100+ dioceses register to take part. 89 dioceses and branches have been awarded the Bronze level.

3 have already been awarded Silver.

3 have reached the Gold award.



“While this marks a significant moment in our campaign, our work is far from over yet. Bring RISE UP! to your church and community.

Go to <https://www.mothersunion.org/riseup>

## **Bishops: There must be justice for all. People who come to Ireland for refuge cannot be abandoned**

**At their 2024 Summer General Meeting held in Maynooth, bishops discussed the plight of migrants and refugees in Ireland as well as writing a pastoral letter on immigration.**

Bishops again prayed for all immigrants and refugees and all who are forced to seek asylum due to wars, persecution or economic necessity. During the meeting, bishops heard reports from various Councils and Agencies of the Bishops' Conference, whose members are engaged with newcomers to Ireland. These reports highlighted the important part that



a great many are playing in the life of the country and in the life of the Church, north and south. Bishops have decided to write a Pastoral Letter on this pressing subject.

Bishops said, “this is one of the most compelling issues of our time and it is critical that we as a people create and sustain a pathway for the future of migrants in Ireland. As a society we need to equip newcomers and thereby support them to contribute positively to our country in a way that promotes responsibility, encounter and integration. We are already seeing positive realities of this in our Catholic schools and in every parish across the island.

Notwithstanding the pressures and challenges that Ireland faces in terms of housing, public services and infrastructural deficits, there must be a welcome for all. There must be justice for all. People who come to Ireland for refuge cannot be abandoned.”

Bishops noted that the presence of so many people from other nations and cultures in Ireland also raises the need for greater dialogue at both inter-Church and inter-faith levels.

To that end, bishops welcomed the recent publication of a handbook entitled *From Every Nation?* by the Irish Council of Churches and the Irish Inter-Church Meeting. This resource is aimed at encouraging and guiding parishes and congregations to engage in conversations about race and racism, and invites them to embrace a more wholesome approach to increasing the participation of people from other nations and cultures in the life of the Church. It encourages a move from simply welcoming people to making them truly belong. The handbook is available to download via

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Churches & Belonging – Irish Council of Churches and Irish Inter Church Meeting ([irishchurches.org](http://irishchurches.org))

## Cathedral Calls



## New souvenir guide book at St Patrick's Cathedral

**This week Clark, the Education Officer, at St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, Clark, flew to London to authorise the proofs of our brand new souvenir guide book.**





We have worked with Memory Lane — a UK-based publisher — on this high quality production, which will arrive in our shop later this summer.

Here's a sneak preview!

## **Spring at Salisbury Cathedral**

**Spring has brought lots of nature to our Cathedral, from the blooms around the Bell Tower Tea Rooms to the flowering trees along our paths.**

As we look forward to the summer season, we are excited to see what other nature crops up around our Cathedral and local area.



‘A waving elm, a sleepy river, and a silvery ‘needle in the sky’ compose the English ideal of a Cathedral’ – Simon Jenkins, Europe’s 100 Best Cathedrals. Photography - Martin Cook

## **Volunteers sought for new Belfast Cathedral Fundraising Sub-Committee**

**“Belfast Cathedral is a vibrant place of worship, a living symbol of Belfast’s heritage, and an amazing venue at the heart of our city’s cultural and civic life.**

“To celebrate our 120th anniversary we are launching an ambitious three-year fundraising campaign (BC120) to secure the future of the Cathedral we love. Our mission: ‘Preserving the Past, Building for the Future.’



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“We are currently seeking up to three volunteers to join our new Belfast Cathedral Fundraising Sub-Committee. Ideally, we are looking for individuals who can volunteer their time and skills for either half or a full day per month, July – December 2024.

Volunteers can work online from home (there is no requirement to be based in the Cathedral).

These volunteers will work directly with the Fundraising Manager, with the primary purpose of helping to raise funds. The fundraising activity includes event planning and networking with Belfast’s businesses.

“Ideal candidates both know and love the Cathedral, and know and love Belfast civic life (or have translatable experience). If you are interested to find out more and meet up with our (very friendly and approachable!) Fundraising Manager over a coffee, please email her at [laura@belfastcathedral.org](mailto:laura@belfastcathedral.org)



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## Clergy

### New Indian priest for Killaloe

A warm welcome has greeted Fr. Jofin Jose, a new Indian priest, to the Killaloe Diocese, where he will be serving the Nenagh Parish. Wishing him all the best in his new ministry.

### Golden Jubilee of ordination

Celebrations took place in Dungloe on Saturday last to mark the Golden Jubilee of Fr Michael McCullagh, a native of the town.

Fr McCullagh is a priest of the Congregation of the Mission (Vincentians) and was the first Parish Priest of Knock where he still serves.

He is a published author and has travelled extensively as part of his ministry.

Mass was celebrated in St Crona's Church in Dungloe to mark his 50 years of service and refreshments were served





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afterwards to around 200 people in St Crona's National School Hall.

His ministries have included teaching, prison ministry and spiritual direction in Britain, USA and Ethiopia and with the seminarians in St.

Patrick's College, Maynooth. Fr McCullagh is a founder member of the Vincentian Lay Missionary (VLM), a volunteer sending organisation working with disadvantaged adults and children in Ethiopia, Ghana Kenya and Burkina Faso.

All of their projects strive to serve the poorest most marginalised people in their communities.

In 2013 he famously organised a fundraising vintage motorbike tour of Ireland which finished in Ionad Naomh Padraig in Gaoth Dobhair. Courtesy - Donegal News

## **Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books**

### **Have a good day out at the Ulster Aviation Society**

**“A great day out at the Ulster Aviation Society located at the old Maze Prison site near Lisburn.**

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“Book in advance at [www.ulsteraviationsociety.org](http://www.ulsteraviationsociety.org) for a brilliant informative tour - free entry and donations accepted to the society’s work.




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“Truly recommend it if you have an interest in military aircraft, planes, and helicopters - from early days ‘till the present.” Photography - Peter Hayes

## You rely on seafarers but they need your help also


More than 90% of the world’s goods and fuels are transported around the world, thanks to seafarers.



**THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF TANZANIA  
DIOCESES OF TABORA**

# NOTICE TO PUBLIC

**On this day 18th June 2024  
the 12th Synod of the  
Anglican Church of Tanzania ,  
Diocese of Tabora has  
unanimously voted to accept  
an ordination of women! For  
the last thirty years the  
agenda of women ordination  
had been discussed in every  
Synod but today the agenda  
has reached to its climax. We  
really thank God for that.**



**RT. REV. DR. ELIAS CHAKUPEWA, BISHOP OF  
ANGLICAN CHURCH, DIOCESE OF TABORA**



Without them the world economy would grind to a halt. This would place businesses and millions of jobs around the world in jeopardy.

Day and night for 365 days per year, the Mission To Seafarers is on call providing help for seafarers in over 200 ports around the world.

Join with the Mission to Seafarers to celebrate seafarers across the globe this Sea Sunday on 14th July 2024.

Order your free Sea Sunday pack now to find out how you can celebrate and help.

[<https://www.missiontoseafarers.org/sea-sunday>]

## In the media

### **Irish Times - Are we to believe God is still deciding whether women are fit to be appointed church leaders?**

**For quite some time the Presbyterian Church has been backing itself into a fundamentalist cul-de-sac from which it may not escape, Alf McCreary writes in Rite & Reason.**

Rev Richard Murray, who will be installed as the moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland on Friday, immediately

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raised eyebrows inside and outside the church shortly after his selection as moderator-elect last February.

He told the Belfast Telegraph: “Ultimately the Lord of the Church determines who is the moderator. If the Lord wants a woman minister to be moderator next year then that will happen.” That has to be one of the least persuasive reasons ever offered for the non-appointment of a female moderator in the church’s long history.

Murray, who is minister of Drumreagh Presbyterian Church in Co Antrim, is entitled to his view, and some Presbyterians may agree with him, but other observers may see in this approach a spectacular washing of hands. In modern parlance, this is akin to the old excuse: “Not our fault, guv, don’t blame us. That’s up to God.”

Are we therefore to believe that God is satisfied that the other main Protestant denominations in Ireland, including the Anglicans and Methodists, are right to have female leaders, but that He is still deciding whether a Presbyterian woman would be fit to be appointed moderator? Are Presbyterians a cut above, or below, the others?

People will no doubt make up their own minds about this. Sadly, however, the stiff-necked stance of those clergy and laity who refuse to countenance a female moderator is all the more regrettable because the Presbyterian Church was the first main Protestant denomination in Ireland to ordain a female minister, the Rev Ruth Patterson, in 1976.

Since then the Presbyterian Church in Ireland has backtracked, with the fundamentalists cleverly creating for

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themselves a let-out conscience clause. Several excellent female candidates have allowed their names to go forward for election in the past half-century or so but all have been rejected by the church.

They include the pioneering Ruth Patterson herself, but she was turned down twice, and on the latter occasion she did not receive even a single vote from any of the 19 presbyteries in Ireland. Such lack of grace from the church at large was appalling.

This year another very good candidate, the Rev Mairisine Stanfield, received two of the 19 votes. She also stood in 2019 when she received only three votes, and the next year she stood again and was given only one vote. Her courage is commendable, but the fundamentalists close ranks every time.

The only year that a woman almost broke through the glass ceiling was in 2014 when the Rev Liz Hughes came joint second with the Rev Ian McNie, closely behind the victorious candidate, the Rev Michael Barry. This was because the conservatives had mixed up their numbers, and almost let a female through by mistake.

The Rev Hughes stood again the following year but McNie was elected with a large majority. In previous decades, when Presbyterianism was a broad church, a “liberal” or a “conservative” candidate was elected moderator every second year but sadly those generous-spirited days have long gone.



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For quite some time the Presbyterian Church has been backing itself into a fundamentalist cul-de-sac from which it may not escape, and it is on track to end up as a narrow sect of ultra-conservatives with little or no appeal to the dwindling liberals in the church at large.

It has repeatedly shown its unwillingness to move with the times by stubbornly refusing to appoint a female moderator in an age when women are now playing leadership roles in all aspects of modern life. Despite this the Presbyterian Church plods on regardless, looking steadfastly inwards and rarely outside to the world of today.

For many years I was a member of the church, which was then broadly welcoming. There are still many decent people in the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, which also carries out good work in society for which it deserves recognition, but in recent years it has changed beyond all recognition. It has become one of the most conservative and, to some people, the least appealing of churches on this island. In my lifetime it has changed beyond recognition, and not necessarily for the better.

What makes the Presbyterians' attitude even more regrettable is that for several years they have been assuring women that their time will come, and that one day there will indeed be a female moderator.

Women are the backbone of Irish Presbyterianism. They deserve much better from their male colleagues

The Presbyterian Clerk of Assembly, the Rev Trevor Gribben, who was runner-up in this year's election,

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acknowledged that “leaders are far from perfect” and that people on both sides of this debate “can be less than sensible”. He also admitted that “women have been hurt sometimes by what has been said, and that is wrong. Women are every bit as eligible for leadership as men – that’s our position. There is no doubt that there will be a woman moderator some time.”

Despite this, many are asking when will this happen, and there is a view that it is time for the church either to “put up or shut up”.

The current moderator, Rev Sam Mawhinney, made it clear that he does not approve of the ordination of women. Against such a background of relentless Presbyterian conservatism, it is a wonder that any female Presbyterian has the courage to even consider becoming a minister, much less a moderator – and that cannot be good for the church.

Women are the backbone of Irish Presbyterianism. They deserve much better from their male colleagues. Meanwhile, many broader-minded Presbyterians are leaving to join other Reformed denominations that treat women leaders and potential leaders with the respect and understanding to which they are entitled.

This year the General Assembly dates have been changed for the first time. It will take place from Thursday to Saturday, June 20th-22nd. The new moderator will be installed at 4.30pm on Friday, which is the Summer Solstice. These historic administrative changes have been made with good reason, to expedite the business of the Assembly, but

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the real change needed is a more tolerant and caring attitude from those Presbyterians who take a hard line against others who in their opinion do not match their own “high” standards.

This is not likely to change any time soon. How sad it is that there seems to be little or no room for dissenters in a church where dissent used to be a part of its very life blood.

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Alf McCreary is a Belfast-based author and journalist who, for more than two decades was religion correspondent of the Belfast Telegraph. He was PCI elder until his resignation some years ago. His latest book, *Keeping the Faith*, was published recently by Messenger Publications

## Poem for today

### Month of June

by Hilaire Belloc

Rise up, and do begin the day's adorning;  
The Summer dark is but the dawn of day.  
The last of sunset fades into the morning,  
The morning calls you from the dark away.  
The holy mist, the white mist of the morning,  
Was wreathing upward on my lonely way.  
The way was waiting for your own adorning  
That should complete the broad adorned day.

Rise up, and do begin the day's adorning;  
The little eastern clouds are dapple grey:



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There will be wind among the leaves to-day;  
It is the very promise of the morning.  
Lux Tua Via Mea: your light's my way -  
Then do rise up and make it perfect day.

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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## 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](mailto:houstonmckelvey@mac.com)

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# Church News Ireland

[www.churchnewsireland.org](http://www.churchnewsireland.org)

**Please commend to your friends**