

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Monty at Mount Stewart

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Short reading and a prayer daily on this site



Image of the day – Monty at Mount Stewart

Last summer National Trust had the privilege of hosting Monty Don at Mount Stewart, who was filming his new show Monty Don's British Gardens.

The time has come and the episode featuring Mount Stewart airs today Friday 17 Jan (8pm) BBC2. If you can't wait you can find the whole series on the iPlayer.

News

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity



Anglican Centre in Rome

In the lead up to the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Dr Christopher Wells, Director of Unity, Faith and Order at the Anglican Communion Office is in Rome.

He is teaching a course on Anglican Ecclesiology and




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Ecumenism, in partnership with The Living Church Foundation and Nashotah House Theological Seminary.

Based at the Anglican Centre in Rome, the 25 students will study the history of Anglican ecumenical engagement with particular attention to the dialogue with the Roman Catholic Church.

The course is also designed as a pilgrimage, with opportunities to pray with other Christians and participate in the events of the Week of Prayer, including the Ecumenical Vespers on the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul on 25

To celebrate *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025* you are invited to an





Exhibition of Icons
in St. Eugene's Cathedral Hall
Monday 20 - Wednesday 22
January 2025

including

Practical Workshops in Christ Church
and Guided Prayer in St. Eugene's Cathedral

Exhibition times 10.30am – 8.30pm

THE ASSOCIATION OF ICONOGRAPHERS, IRELAND
Cumann Samhail Na hCircann



Derry Exhibition of Icons for Week of Prayer
Christ Church Derry will be linking up with its neighbour, St Eugene's Cathedral, for a series of events

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celebrating this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

They include an Exhibition of Icons in St Eugene's Cathedral Hall, which will be launched on Saturday 18th January at 3pm. The exhibition will be open to the public from Monday 20th to Wednesday 22nd January between 10.30am and 8.30pm.

The churches' programme for the week includes practical workshops in Christ Church and guided prayer in St Eugene's Cathedral.

Cathedral service tonight

You are invited to The Cathedral of St Brendan on Friday 17th January at 6pm for an Ecumenical Service of Prayer...

... with Bishop Michael Burrows, Bishop of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe and Bishop Michael Duignan, Bishop of Galway, Kilmacduagh and Bishop of Clonfert

Call out to Methody alumni in New York

Methodist College Belfast writes - We are very excited that our Chapel Choir will soon be taking off to New York to take part in the One World: The Music of Sir Karl Jenkins on Monday 20 January 2025 in Carnegie Hall.

Attention Alumni! We would love to connect with you during our trip to New York. If you're interested in joining us for a



meal on Friday 17 January at 6.30pm at Trattoria Dell 'Arte, and a meet-up before the concert on Monday 20 January evening, or to arrange another time, please complete the form below:

<https://www.methody.org/community/alumni-new-york-visit>

Scouts and Cubs new facilities at St Columba's Belfast

St Columba's said -We are delighted to welcome the 4th Belfast Cubs to St. Columba's tonight and hope they will settle into their new surroundings using our Halls.



The Rector warmly greeted their Akela, Gareth McAuley along with the Scout Leader, Iain Hall. It is a great delight that we now have Cubs and Scouts availing of our Halls.



*Former
President of
the Royal
Institute of
British
Architects:
The
Reverend
Professor
(deacon)
Maxwell
Hutchinson.*

‘Laudato Si’ invites all to Mallow for a biodiversity conference

With the backdrop of recent environmental crises like flooding in Spain and fires in Los Angeles, what does care for creation mean for parish communities in Ireland? How can faith communities be witnesses of hope to our neighbours?

The Laudato Si Working Group of the Bishops’ Conference invites everyone to join them in Mallow, Springfort Hall Hotel, Co Cork on Saturday, 25 January 2025, from 10.00am to 4.00pm for a conference entitled: Seeds of Hope; Returning Biodiversity to our Parishes.

Key speakers include Bishop Martin Hayes of Kilmore and the Irish Catholic Bishops’ Conference Laudato Si’ coordinator, Nellie McLaughlin RSM, an environmental activist, author and founding member of Green Sod Land Trust Ireland and Kate Chandler, Communities and Engagement Pollinator Officer for the National Biodiversity Data Centre. The speakers have been actively involved in supporting communities around Ireland engage with the call in Laudato Si’ to care for creation.

Workshops in the afternoon will offer a range of areas to delve deeper into, from ‘Returning to Nature in Killaloe Diocese’ with the Clare biodiversity officer Barry O’Loughlin and ‘Mapping your church grounds’ with Niamh Ní Dhúill from Oideachas an Dúlra. Sister Betty Baker will explore the rich menu of eco-spirituality that can encourage and

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sustain this journey, and Siobhan from the Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice will speak on “The Parish as Oasis”.

The presence of varied groups active in the sector will encourage participants in the building up of their parish as a hub of support for biodiversity and that can then inspire others with these seeds of hope. As this year marks the 10th anniversary of *Laudato Si'*, this event is an opportunity for parish communities to learn about care for creation and take actions that bear witness to the hope they are called to create in this Jubilee year.

Laudato Si' is a bestselling encyclical letter of Pope Francis, published in 2015, which expresses Church teaching on care for our common home in an accessible way to all people of all ages, and that reminds each of us that we collectively hold a responsibility to be guardians of creation in the interest of future generations of humanity.

To register, please email: maria.murphy@trocaire.org.
Suggested donation of €10 on the day.

Cut the carbon - Nice day for a warm wedding - thanks to new eco-friendly heating

Wedding guests at St Mary's, Embsay in Leeds diocese had a warm, green welcome recently, thanks to a newly installed eco-friendly heating system that was switched on for the first time.

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The old gas boiler had been turned off and the new Zero Carbon system of underpew heating and wall mounted FAR infra-red units worked wonderfully, said Revd Canon Marion Russell.

“On its very first use for a wedding, the guests asked for part of the heating to be turned off as it was becoming too warm!” Revd Marion said.

St Mary’s ‘Cut the Carbon’ project has been running for more than two years and it is committed to try to reach net zero by 2025, ahead of the Church of England’s target.

“Our biggest source of carbon emissions by far was found to be our gas boiler, which emitted 10 tonnes of carbon each year. We therefore decided to replace this with a zero-carbon heating system, powered by electricity sourced through Green Journey, the ‘green electricity’ supplier endorsed by the Diocese of Leeds,” said Revd Marion (pictured).

She said this goal has been made possible through a collaboration between local people, together with diocesan advice and support, plus substantial external fundraising.

Diocesan Advisory Committee Secretary Lisa McIntyre offered her congratulations: “It’s brilliant to see this heating upgrade is proving so effective for the church. The people at St Mary’s have been so dedicated to finding a heating solution that would meet the needs of the building users while reducing the church’s carbon footprint.

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“It’s been a pleasure supporting people who have been so enthusiastic in their environmental mission and desire to engage others in their journey – both in seeking advice from the DAC and their architect throughout and in sharing their learning with other churches with similar ambitions.”

Revd Marion thanked all those involved in this successful project: “I am deeply grateful for everyone – within the congregation and in all our various partners – who have addressed the considerable practicalities of this vision and made it possible here. God’s work of ongoing creation is seen in people, in things, and in vision and targets – a BIG THANK YOU!”

Clergy and ministry

Connecting Through Coffee – Crinken Reaches Out to Growing Community

Crinken Church is continuing to explore ways of connecting with new residents of the rapidly developing area around their church between Shankill and Bray. Houses and apartment buildings have sprung up in Shanganagh and Woodbrook, and many more are to come, resulting in a huge influx of people.

There will be an estimated 5,400 new people in the area and St James’s Church is right in the heart of it. The church’s latest initiative, their ‘coffee truck ministry’, was



Daniela O'Brien, Tara-Rose O'Brien and Simon Jennings serve coffee to Archbishop Michael Jackson.

dedicated on Sunday (January 12) by Archbishop Michael Jackson and aims to build connections with these new residents and foster a sense of community.

Connected@Crinken is a bright red coffee truck located on the beautiful grounds of Crinken Church. But it is more than just a coffee dock –

it's a place to gather, unwind, and connect. Serving barista-quality coffee and fresh pastries, the outdoor area is dog friendly for those passing by on their daily walks with their K9 friends. For those seeking a warmer experience in cooler weather, the cosy indoor area of the church building is



Connected@Crinten coffee truck is dedicated by Archbishop Michael Jackson who is pictured with Canon Tom O'Brien, Daniela O'Brien who is heading up the Ministry, and volunteer Tara-Rose O'Brien.

available to relax in. They operate on a donation basis with suggested donations for each type of coffee.

The church's outreach plans aim to meet the new residents with open arms, providing support systems that encourage a sense of belonging.

This includes essential services such as access to mental health counselling, health courses and English classes. Their coffee truck, where hospitality and pastoral care will be provided by staff and volunteers headed up by Daniela

O'Brien, is part of the vision. All projects are designed to bridge the gap between new residents and their local community.

The service of dedication celebrated the connections the parish is building and the Archbishop highlighted them in his sermon. From the Gospel reading [Luke 3: 15–17, 21–22] he said that Jesus's baptism by John in the River Jordan alongside countless other people held together the connection that Christmas has given us: between heaven and earth; between Creator and creation; between God and humanity – by offering the threads of a connection that is particularly important for us today: the connection of Father, Son and Holy Spirit with the life of belonging and empowerment to serve and to lead. This was particularly important, he stated, in 2025 as the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed is marked.

All creeds need actions to live them out, the Archbishop said, and the Christian faith is no different. “The local connections which we recognize and celebrate in St James's Church today are signs and pointers to a Creedal life lived for others. What is more, you have taken this theme of connections as a title for your forthcoming year's work. Already you have up and running the ministry that operates in and through The Coffee Cart which we are here to dedicate; the healthy food and eating programmes with local community groups; the range of activities for everyone such as art, health and wellbeing, exercise, programmes for those carrying dementia and Christian-based accredited counselling; and then we must always remember and celebrate The Storehouse and its response to needs that never have and never will go away,” he said.



A cup with a message.

He pointed to a new connection, the historic Camino which gave St James's its name and connects Crinken with Compostela. "Perhaps one of the most delightful touches is the gate which connects new housing and the grounds of the church and its being called St James's gate. This visually and emotionally connects us directly with the entry point to that ancient medieval part of the city of Dublin right along Thomas Street where pilgrims, generation after generation, gathered to make the journey by sea to Compostela whereas today we can do this by a combination of Ryanair and walking boots. To this double connection we hope to add the adventure of pioneering and connecting yet again in unforeseen ways with those who know not Jesus," he commented.

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Archbishop Jackson thanked the Rector, Canon Tom O'Brien, his predecessor Trevor, the trustees, parishioners and supporters of Crinken for having the vision, doing the work and sustaining the witness.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Online introduction to youth mental health

The Church of Ireland Youth Department (CIYD) is running an online introduction to youth mental health next Monday, 20th

January, from 7pm to 9pm, which will be delivered by Action Mental Health.



“Mental health and well-being is one of the biggest challenges facing our young people in the modern world,” says CIYD Youth Ministry Development Officer Luke

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Hawkins, who is organising the event. “We are thrilled that so many people have already signed up for this free webinar, and hope to provide more like it in the future.”

The Zoom event, funded by the MindMattersCOI mental health awareness programme, is aimed at the parents of teenagers but any youth volunteer or worker, lay person or clergyperson, will also be welcome to attend.

Please go to the following link sign up and find out more.
<https://forms.gle/znYEkdTorkj53PXb7>

Simon Henry Church of Ireland Youth Officer
Church of Ireland Youth Department - 028 9082 8890
admin@ciyd.org www.ciyd.org

Community Health Fair at St Finians

Date for the diary - next Thursday at St Finians, Cregagh, “we're delighted to be hosting a Community Health Fair in our church hall as part of our Mind Matters programme...

Come along to access advice and support from 20 different health and social care organisations in the voluntary and health care sectors, and enjoy a cup of tea and a chat.

This event is open to everyone in the local community and we hope to see you there. Please share”.

Bible study and fellowship for Bishops' Spouses

The Anglican Communion Network of Bishops' Spouses will be continuing to meet in 2025 for bible study and fellowship. Spouses who met in 2024 found these meetings encouraging, enriching and supportive.

If you are married to a bishop in the Anglican Communion you are invited to email bishopspouse@anglicancommunion.org to find out more and to register.

Pope Francis' widely-anticipated autobiography 'Hope'

The pope's newest book was released this week in more than 80 countries, in several languages, in print and audiobook format.

This first memoir published by a sitting pontiff, written by the Pope in collaboration with Italian writer Carlo Musso, took six years to complete. Originally it was intended to be published after the Pope's passing, but the announcement of the new Jubilee of Hope in 2025 inspired him to make this legacy available now.

"The book of my life is the story of a journey of hope, a journey that I cannot separate from the journey of my family, of my people, of all God's people. In every page, in every passage, it is also the book of those who have traveled with

me, of those who came before, of those who will follow," says Pope Francis.

"An autobiography is not our own private story, but rather the baggage we carry with us. And memory is not just what we recall, but what surrounds us. It doesn't speak only about what has been, but about what will be. It seems like yesterday, and yet it's tomorrow. All is born to blossom in an eternal springtime. In the end, we will say only: I don't recall anything in which You are not there."

With a wealth of revelations and unpublished stories, moving and very human, poignant and dramatic, some very humorous, Francis's memoir begins in the early years of the twentieth century with the story of his Italian roots and his grandparents courageous emigration to Latin America. It moves on to his childhood, adolescence, choice of vocation, adult life, covering the whole of his papacy up to the present day.

Narrating his memories, the Holy Father addresses crucial moments of his papacy and various important and controversial questions of our present times, including wars plaguing the world, the future of the Church and religion, social policy, migration, the environmental crisis, women, technological developments, and sexuality.

The publisher calls it "a touching moral and spiritual testament that will fascinate readers throughout the world and will be Pope Francis's legacy of hope for future generations."

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The English language version of Hope is published by Random House. Italian publisher Mondadori is managing world rights.

For more information see: www.penguinrandomhouse.com/authors/2018233/pope-francis/

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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Church News Ireland

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**Link in Monday through Saturday from
early morning**

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