

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – St Patrick's Garrison Church

March 21, 2024

Image of the day

St Patrick's Garrison Church Renmore



Bishop Michael Duignan after Holy Mass with Military Police Corporal Paul Glynn, Acting BSM John Moylan, Tánaiste Comdt Jamie Feeley, and Pte Henry McCafferty

The Most Reverend Michael G. Duignan, Bishop of the Diocese of Galway, Kilmacduagh & Kilfenora, and Bishop of Clonfert, visited Saint Patrick's Garrison Church, Renmore, to celebrate Holy Mass on the patronal feast day.

March 21, 2024

The Deputy Mayor of Galway City Council, along with City and County Councillors, members of both Houses of the Oireachtas, the Garda Chief Superintendent and Superintendent, the Chief Fire Officer, Veterans, neighbours and friends, were also present with Lt Col Edward McDonagh, Ceannasaí of An Chéad Chathlán Coisithe, Brigadier General Kevin Campion, and members of the Permanent and Reserve Defence Forces to celebrate the feast day of our National Patron, during the Centenary Year of the establishment of our Battalion.

The Bishop and Deputy Mayor were welcomed with Honour Guards, after which Holy Mass was celebrated in Irish with a packed congregation. The beautiful music for Mass was sung by the dedicated church choir. Shamrock was blessed in the church at the end of Mass and distributed to the congregation before all present attended a reception hosted by the Ceannasaí at the Officers Mess. “Thanks was expressed to all who participated in the celebrations and prayed with for our troops on their various tasking at home and overseas, and for our deceased comrades.

“Beannachtaí na Fhéile Pádraig oraibh go léir.”

News

New administrator for Mothers Union Ireland

Introducing herself Hannah Tate writes, “I grew up in Co. Cavan where I now live with my husband, Tom, and 3 chickens.

March 21, 2024

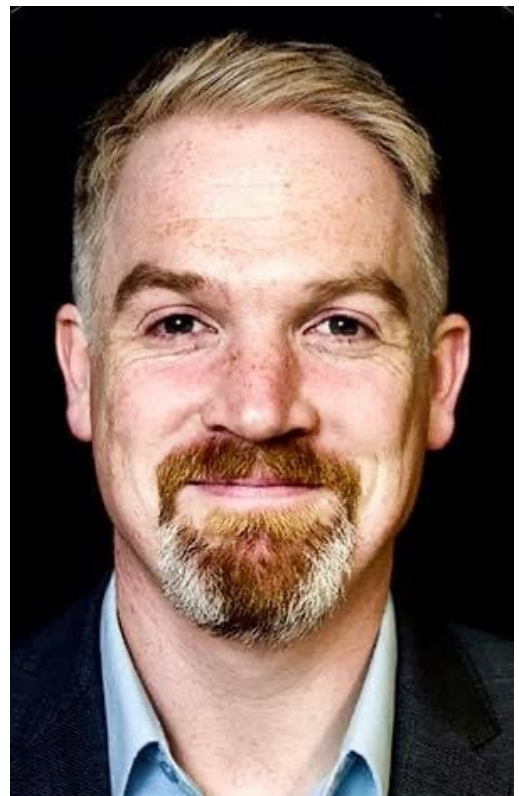
“I studied a Business Administration Diploma in Belfast Metropolitan College and finished the degree in Dundee, Scotland. I then moved to Dublin and worked with various charities. I met my husband, Tom, in Dublin and we moved to Cavan in 2020.”



Director of Music in St Andrew’s Church, Malahide

Eoin Conway has been appointed to the newly created post of Director of Music in St Andrew’s Church, Malahide.

In addition to his duties on a Sunday, Eoin will be responsible for fostering a culture of music centred around St Andrew’s Church involving the wider Malahide community.



March 21, 2024

Eoin is a singer, conductor, pianist and arranger/composer and is currently organist in St Fintan's Church, Sutton.

You can read more about this on the diocesan website: <https://dublin.anglican.org/news/2024/03/19/director-of-music-appointed-at>

Bell ringers compete at Blessington

St Mary's Church in Blessington recently hosted eight teams of bell ringers who competed for the Lindoff Cup and the chance to compete in the All-Ireland final taking place in Northern Ireland in May.

The eight teams each featured six ringers from ten bell towers located in the east of Ireland, from Drogheda to Rowe Street in Wexford.

The annual event tests the ringing skills of teams throughout the Leinster area and the Lindoff Cup is named in honour of Gabriel Lindoff, who was an instructor at St Patrick's Cathedral, and was one of the founder members of the Irish Association of Change Ringers and a composer of a great many methods.

St Mary's Church was an apt setting for the competition as it also contains the original bell tower from the late 1600s, with the bells never having been recast, and are considered the oldest ring in Ireland.

After some skilled bell ringing, Christchurch Taney from Dundrum ended up winning the Lindoff Cup.

The ringers and their families from Blessington tower catered for the visiting teams, providing them with tea, sandwiches and cake before and after the competition.



Greystones Presbyterian Church celebrates St Patrick's Day 2023

Rev Gary McDowell comments - "When I first arrived in Greystones, almost nine years ago, I was invited, along with leaders from two other churches, to sit on the viewing platform and watch the floats pass by.

But after a couple of years, we thought – rather than view the parade, our churches should enter it.



There are five churches in Greystones. The leaders meet monthly and we work together, when we can, to provide a strong Christian presence in the town, particularly at key times of the year like Easter and Christmas. And our collaborative approach was recognised by the local council when we received an award a few years ago.

Last year our theme was 'We are All God's Children' – a celebration of the international make up of our land and also of God's kingdom. We invited local school principals to our planning meeting and encouraged their school's participation in the event. Children, during school time, produced the flags of various countries that they could hold and wave as part of our float. The children could also dress up according to the theme.

March 21, 2024

Working together has had so many positive benefits. It has developed relationships between members of the churches. It has developed our faith and stimulated outreach to our town. It has broadened our vision of who we are and who God is.

The churches working together has not gone unnoticed. People comment on it and are positive towards it. And, at a deeper level, we are lifting high the name of Jesus.

To read the article in full, download the March edition of the Presbyterian Herald: www.presbyterianireland.org/herald

Visit of Garda Commissioner to C of I Theological Institute

The Church of Ireland Theological Institute was delighted to welcome Garda Commissioner Drew Harris on 12th March to address students, staff and a wider group of local clergy and supporters of the Institute.

The Commissioner's presentation covered current crime statistics, comparisons with police forces in the rest of Europe, recruitment patterns, and the changing circumstances to which An Garda Síochána must respond. Some headlines include the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially on cybercrime and domestic violence, and the increasing use of opioid drugs as heroin supplies decline.



From (l–r) Rev Daniel Fleming, Rev Mike Buchanan, Dr, Bridget Nichols, Garda Commissioner Drew Harris, Rev Canon Dr Maurice Elliott, Rev Caroline Brennan, Rev Cameron Mack.

Those present described a number of examples of very effective relationships with local Garda stations and expressed their appreciation for the presence of Community Gardai. This was a rare opportunity and the vigorous audience engagement is an encouragement to continue to connect theological education and training with public life wherever that is possible.

The Commissioner and the Principal are from Lisburn.



St Ann's parishioners and members of Eire Dialogue enjoying an Iftar meal in the parish hall.

St Ann's, Dawson Street, hosts Iftar meal with Eire Dialogue

On Friday evening last (March 15) the parishioners of St Ann's, Dawson Street, Dublin, welcomed members of Eire Dialogue to an Iftar meal in the parish hall.

Iftar is the meal which breaks the fast for Muslims during Ramadan. Eire Dialogue is a group committed to facilitating friendships and understanding across the cultural divides which exist in Ireland.

March 21, 2024

The meal was well attended by members of the congregation of St Ann's and by the local Muslim community. The Archbishop of Dublin, the Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson was in attendance.



[Enjoying Iftar with the Archbishop and the Vicar.](#)

“This event brought together people with a shared concern for the wellbeing of the people of the world and for creation itself,” the Archbishop commented.

“We shared food and conversation in a generous and convivial atmosphere and exchanged aspects of the things that matter to us deeply in our own Faith tradition.”

He added: “I thank Eire Dialogue for their hospitality. I also thank the Rector, Select Vestry and parishioners of St Ann’s for their welcome. Once more St Ann’s through its open heartedness shows itself to be the parish at the heart of the city of Dublin as it witnesses to the Christian faith in action”.

The Vicar of St Ann’s, the Revd Canon Paul Arbuthnot said: “The sharing of Iftar between our communities is a positive development. As a result of this event, new friendships have been forged across inter faith boundaries and a new and better understanding of each other has been developed. We hope that our friendships with Eire Dialogue and all who came to the Iftar can be developed and strengthened in the months and years to come”.

Mashun Aydogan and members of Eire Dialogue with Canon Prof Anne Lodge, Archbishop Michael Jackson and Canon Paul Arbuthnot with members of Eire Dialogue.

Cathedral call

St Mark Passion at Down Cathedral

Down Cathedral is hosting a special evening of music on the Monday of Holy Week, 25 March. Cathedra, the combined choirs of Down Cathedral and Cadenza (both under the direction of Cathedral Organist Michael McCracken) will present the St Mark Passion by Charles

Wood along with other music appropriate for the days leading to Easter.

This atmospheric piece will feature baritone soloist Ryan Garnham, a Ballynahinch man and graduate of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. He is a recent finalist in the Glenarm Festival of Voice and has performed with the Northern Ireland Opera and Anúna (of Riverdance fame). Joining Ryan is Aaron O'Hare, who has also worked with Northern Ireland Opera and the Irish National Opera. Aaron is a graduate of the Royal Northern College of Music, and he is a recipient of the BBC NI/Arts Council NI Young Musician's Platform Award. Gareth Lewis will be the Organist on the evening.

Michael McCracken, a graduate of the Royal Scottish Academy of Music, has been Organist and Director of Music in Down Cathedral for over 30 years. He is a highly-regarded organist, accompanist and conductor who regularly works with the BBC.

Speaking about the event, Revd Adrian Dorrian from Down Cathedral said, "Cathedra's recital on the Monday of Holy Week each year is a really important part of Holy Week in the Cathedral and in the LAMP group of Churches. I am looking forward to joining Michael and the Choirs, and welcoming people to join us as we use this glorious music to help us reflect on such sombre and significant events."

The St Mark Passion by Charles Wood takes place in Down Cathedral on Monday 25 March at 7.45pm. Tickets, which include light refreshments, are £15 and available at the door.



Invitation to the Diocese of Derry Mass of Chrism

Bishop McKeown will celebrate the annual Mass of Chrism with the priests of the diocese in St Eugene's Cathedral, Derry, on Holy Thursday morning (28th March) at 10 o'clock.

During Mass the holy Oils for Baptism, Confirmation, Anointing of the Sick and Ordination are blessed. Also, the priests renew their Ordination promises.

It is the only Mass celebrated in the diocese on Holy Thursday morning.

March 21, 2024

Everyone is welcome to attend the Chrism Mass, or you are welcome join in it via the St Eugene's parish webcam:
<http://www.steugenescathedral.com/webcam.html>

Sermon series for Holy Week at York Minster

The Archbishop of York, Most Rev Dr Stephen Cotterrel writes - “In a special sermon series for Holy Week at York Minster, award-winning writer and broadcaster, Rhidian Brook, will lead people through the last days of Jesus.



“Beginning on Palm Sunday (24 March), Rhidian will be giving a sermon on each day of Holy Week. He will cover the events from Jesus’s entry to Jerusalem through to The Last Supper, via Jesus’s brilliant and confrontational teaching in The Temple.

On Good Friday (29 March), Rhidian will give two meditations and a main sermon on the crucifixion. He will complete the series with a final sermon on Easter Eve (30 March)”.

March 21, 2024

Rhidian said: “I want us to follow Jesus from his arrival in Jerusalem to his execution, to be contemporary to the moment as reported, by trying to imagine the events unfolding as though for the first time, in real time, without relying on the after-the-event wisdom that we carry.

“I want to help us imagine being a follower, not always knowing what comes next, or how it ends, and without possessing the weight or comfort of the theological or cultural understanding that has gathered the far side of history – and the far side of His Story. I am putting my trust in the gospel accounts – Mark in particular – and any inspiration that the Holy Spirit may give.”

The Very Revd Dominic Barrington, Dean of York said: “I am enormously excited to welcome Rhidian to York Minster. For a quarter of a century, he has inspired many people around the country with his Thoughts for the Day on Radio 4, and we are uniquely privileged that he will be helping to bring the events of Holy Week to life in this sermon series.”

Find out details of the services here: <https://bit.ly/4advZ7l>

Church News Ireland

March 21, 2024

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Walled City Passion returns

The Walled City Passion returns to Londonderry this Easter with a new script exploring the many themes in the Greatest Story Ever Told.

This year, director Jonathan Burgess is focusing on the impact of Mary Magdalene and the role women played in the Easter story.

This will be explored further at Easter Monday's fringe festival Passion+ at which Bishop Andrew Forster and Rev Canon Judi McGaffin will discuss "Walled City Passion" as the narrative at the heart of Christianity and help us reflect on the women we meet, the role they play and what that says to us in today's world.

Email robsmiller@me.com to secure your place.

Safe Church next theme in the Anglican Communion's Lambeth Call series

Announced this week, Safe Church will be the next theme in the Anglican Communion's Lambeth Call series.

March 21, 2024

The series will also profile the work of the Anglican Communion Safe Church Commission and include webinars on April 17 and 18.

The Lambeth Calls were shared by the bishops of the Lambeth Conference in 2022.

Read the full story here: <https://bit.ly/48YFc2q>

Perspective

African-American spirituals in Drumcree Parish Church

‘On 19th March 1944, Drumcree Parish Church, Portadown was the setting for a service featuring music by a choir of black U.S. Army troops. They performed African-American spirituals such as ‘Steal Away To Jesus’ and ‘Swing Low Sweet Chariot’ - Wartime NI writes.

The African-American spiritual is an important genre of folksong from the United States of America. Popular across parts of the U.S. from the 19th century, they would have still been something of a novelty in churches in Northern Ireland by the 1940s, despite the popularity of performers such as Paul Robeson and Sister Rosetta Tharpe across the Atlantic. The arrival in Ulster of segregated regiments and battalions of black U.S. Army soldiers between 1942 and 1944 brought the spirituals to local churches.

March 21, 2024

On 19th March 1944, Drumcree Parish Church on the outskirts of Portadown was the setting for an evening service featuring music by a choir of black U.S. Army troops. They performed well-known African-American spirituals such as 'Steal Away To Jesus', 'Swing Low Sweet Chariot', and 'Oh To Have A Little Talk With God'. Afterward, the soldiers and members of the congregation enjoyed supper together in the Parochial Hall.

Some weeks later, on 2nd April 1944, another choir of black soldiers from a segregated U.S. Army regiment arrived at Armagh Road Presbyterian Church in the town. Reverend G.F.H. Wynne B.A. – a chaplain to the Royal Air Force – preached the evening sermon but the congregation of around 600 noted the absence of the much-anticipated choir. They were, however, waylaid. Lost somewhere in Co. Antrim and attempting to find a telephone to let the Armagh Road congregation know of their late arrival.

Soon after their arrival at around 2100hrs, the U.S. troops enjoyed supper in the schoolroom next to the church building. The ladies of the congregation put on quite a spread for around 200 members who eagerly waited after the service for the soldiers' arrival. The remaining 400 attendees who left only 15 minutes earlier missed out on an evening of entertainment. Among the works performed by the choir, led by Sergeant Quentin Syrus, were the popular 'Steal Away To Jesus', and 'Oh To Have A Little Talk With God'.

Reverend J.S. Woods thanked the choir and Mr. Ed McCullough of Ballylum who had secured their services for the evening. Following their performance, the choir

March 21, 2024

requested some entertainment of their own. Pianist Mr. W.D. Morrow gave a short recital of popular African-American spirituals including 'Steal Away to Jesus', 'Goin' To Walk All Over God's Heaven', 'Deep River', 'Swing Low Sweet Chariot', 'Nobody Knows The Trouble I've Seen', and by special request 'Tell Me The Old Old Story'.

It wasn't just Sunday services attended by black soldiers in and around Portadown. On Wednesday 10th May 1944, a musical group from the U.S. Army stopped by the Reading Room of the Quaker Meeting House in Moyallon on the outskirts of the town. Invited by Mr. R.H. Stephens Richardson D.L., the soldiers performed popular songs like 'Down By The Riverside' and 'Over My Head', accompanied by Reverend J. Allen of Donacloney and Mr. J.W. Burns of Moyallon on the organ.

Mr. Harry Gordon sang 'The Lord's Prayer' and 'Where'er You Walk'. Mr. Jack Pentland, Miss Dawson, and Miss Buchanan of Gilford, Co. Down performed solos during the evening. The service ended with Mr. Richardson thanking the soldiers for the part they were playing in the war effort before Reverend J. Nimmons B.A. gave the benediction. Before a supper served by the ladies of the local Religious Society of Friends, those congregated sang the national anthem and 'The Star-Spangled Banner'.

Two nationalities, men and women of differing religious backgrounds, black soldiers, and white preachers all brought together in celebrating their faith and praying for a swift end to the war which had brought them together.

March 21, 2024

For tracks of the various spirituals highlighted in the text above see -

<https://wartimenei.com/article/spirituals-in-portadown/>

Poem for today



The Song of Wandering Aengus by William Butler Yeats

I went out to the hazel wood,
Because a fire was in my head,
And cut and peeled a hazel wand,
And hooked a berry to a thread;
And when white moths were on the wing,

March 21, 2024

And moth-like stars were flickering out,
I dropped the berry in a stream
And caught a little silver trout.

When I had laid it on the floor
I went to blow the fire a-flame,
But something rustled on the floor,
And someone called me by my name:
It had become a glimmering girl
With apple blossom in her hair
Who called me by my name and ran
And faded through the brightening air.

Though I am old with wandering
Through hollow lands and hilly lands,
I will find out where she has gone,
And kiss her lips and take her hands;
And walk among long dappled grass,
And pluck till time and times are done,
The silver apples of the moon,
The golden apples of the sun.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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