

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Coalition of Christian Voices against poverty in Northern Ireland

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Coalition of Christian Voices against poverty in Northern Ireland

East Belfast Mission hosted the “Setting the agenda!” roundtable discussion on 7th May 2024 providing space to consider the key issues that the Coalition seeks to concentrate on.

Setting the scene, Jonny Currie from Trussell Trust and Gerardine Cunningham from St Vincent De Paul (Social Justice) outlined campaigns and research that they have been involved in.

Members were also reminded of the key asks from Christians Against Poverty (CAP) and the CLiff Edge Coalition.

Discussion also focused on the role of the Coalition to educate churches on poverty and its impact on people. In taking the work forward a small group will work through the notes taken on the day and these will be circulated.

A number of meetings with MLA's are being set up and members were invited to participate in these as well.

The purpose of the Coalition of Christian Voices Against Poverty NI (the Coalition) is to facilitate representatives from the Christian faith sector coming together to confer on issues of common interest, share knowledge and

experience, and identify areas of good practice around issues of poverty and economic inequalities.

The Coalition provides a stronger voice and greater representation on relevant issues with policy makers and statutory bodies, through engaging in participative consultation.

Members of the Coalition seek to shape the planning and delivery of relevant statutory services across Northern Ireland.



News

Muckamore MU knit up for Antrim Area Hospital

Well done to all involved in St Jude's Mothers' Union.

The members of Muckamore Parish Branch knit and put together 30 comfort packs, 40 baby hats, 13 Matinee jackets, 20 baby blankets, and 7 knee blankets, which were all donated this week to Antrim Area Hospital by Chairperson Irene Paget.



Belfast rector at Windsor Castle reception

Congratulations to the Rev Canon Kevin Graham MBE DL, who was at Windsor Castle this week to be conferred as a Member of the Order of the British Empire.



The investiture was carried out by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. Canon Graham was accompanied to Windsor by his wife Cheryl and sons Jamie and Luke.

Canon Graham is

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rector of St Bartholomew's, Stranmillis, and a Deputy Lieutenant for the County Borough of Belfast. He was awarded the MBE for services to the Reserve Forces and to the community in Belfast.

NSPCI six churches bus trip

On Wednesday, 15 members of Dunmurry Non-Subscribing PCI and First Church Belfast enjoyed a busy day visiting six churches.

“In the company of our visitors from England - Rev Jim Corrigan, Rev Maria Pap, Rev Laura Dobson and Francis Elliot-Wright - we started with a tour of Dunmurry then went to First Church, All Souls Church, Belfast and Rademon Non Subscribing Presbyterian Church before having lunch in Denvir's in Downpatrick, after which we visited our Downpatrick church and then Clough before returning home.

“We were blessed by good weather and thank Gary Douds for driving us around and all the ministers and members of the different churches who greeted us and opened up the churches.”

King intends to continue his Patronage of The Prayer Book Society

A communication from Buckingham Palace has confirmed that His Majesty the King intends to continue his Patronage of The Prayer Book Society.

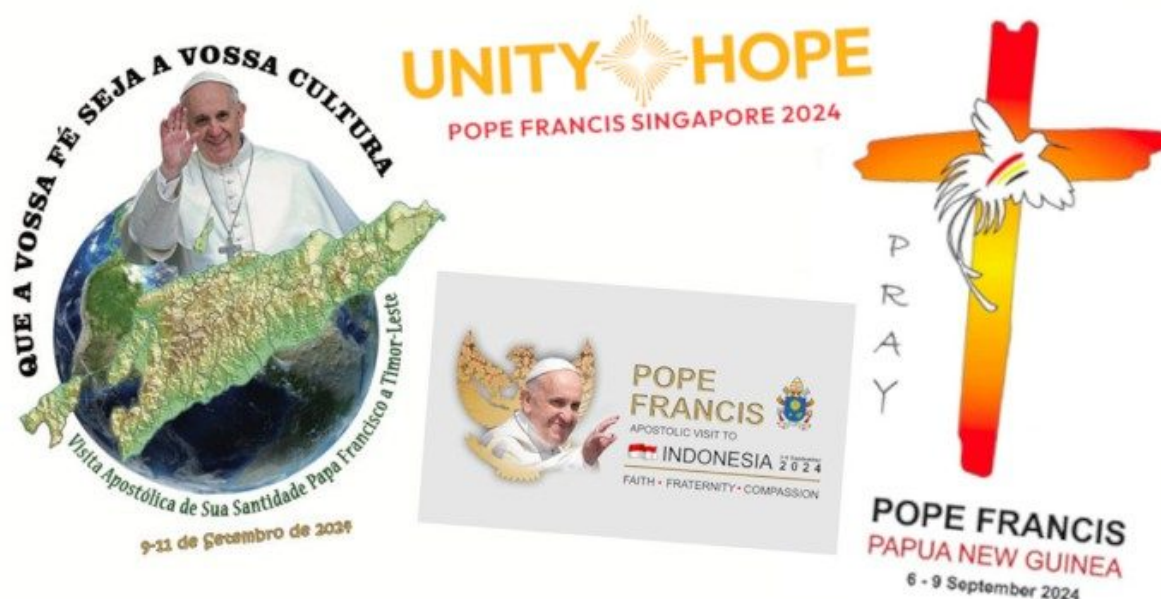


Presentation of Cranmer Awards at Lambeth Palace

His Majesty King Charles at a Prayer Book Society presentation. In 2019, His Majesty, as Prince of Wales, presented the Cranmer Awards at Lambeth Palace and spoke of the Prayer Book as "a vital part of our inheritance".

The Prayer Book Society said “His Majesty has been an enthusiastic and dedicated supporter of the PBS for a number of years, and we are immensely grateful for his work and prayers.”

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Logos and mottos for Pope's visit to Asia released

Ahead of Pope Francis' Apostolic Journey to Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Timor Leste, and Singapore, the Vatican releases the official logos and mottos for these visits, offering a glimpse into the Pope's longest-ever journey.

The Holy See Press Office has released the official logos and mottos for the Pope's upcoming visit to Asia.

The Pope's journey to the continent – which will include stops in Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Timor Leste, and

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Singapore – is scheduled to take place on September 2-13, 2024.

First stop: Indonesia

Pope Francis will land in Jakarta, Indonesia, on September 3, remaining until the 6th.

The logo for this visit features the Pope with his hand raised in blessing, standing in front of a golden “Garuda”, a sacred eagle, which has been depicted in a manner reminiscent of traditional Indonesian “batik” fabric.

Inlaid is a map of Indonesia, an archipelago characterized by a great variety of ethnic and social groups, languages, cultures and religious beliefs.

The Apostolic Journey has been given the motto ‘Faith - Fraternity – Compassion’.

Papua New Guinea: “Teach us to pray”

Next, the Pope will travel to Papua New Guinea, where he will remain until September 9.

The centrepiece of the logo for this visit is a cross, depicted in colours meant to evoke Papua New Guinea’s sunrises and sunsets.

On the cross, a Bird of Paradise, symbolising Papua New Guinea, can be seen.

The motto for this Apostolic Journey is “Pray”, inspired by the disciples’ request to Jesus: “Lord, teach us to pray” (Lk 11:1).

Timor-Leste and the value of inculturation

From Papua New Guinea, Pope Francis will travel to Timor Leste, remaining until September 11.

In the centre of the logo for this journey, we see Pope Francis with his hand raised in blessing. Behind him is the globe, from which a map of Timor Leste emerges.

Above, written in an arc, is the motto of the papal visit, "May your faith be your culture", an exhortation to the Timorese people to live out their faith according to their culture and traditions.

Singapore: Hope for the region's Christians

The Pope's final stop will be the island nation of Singapore, which he will visit on September 11-13.

The logo for this Apostolic Journey depicts a stylized cross, inspired by the star that guided the Magi, by the Eucharist and by the five stars of the flag of Singapore.

On either side of the Cross is the motto of the Apostolic Journey: "Unity—Hope."

"Unity" expresses communion and harmony among believers, both within the Church and in the context of society and family relations.

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“Hope,” meanwhile, suggests that the Apostolic Journey will be a beacon of hope for Christians in the region, especially for those who experience discrimination and persecution.

Cathedral Call



Mark Aiston (left) from New York travelled to York especially to accompany the ledger stone to his city.

Archbishop of York's official visit to New York

On Ascension Day, The Most Revd Michael B. Curry preached at the Evening Mass at St Thomas' Church, New York. The Archbishop of York Stephen Coterrell presided at the service.

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It concluded an official visit to New York which began with Archbishop Stephen preaching and blessing a ledger stone designed by York Minster and commemorating the twinning of York and New York cities.

Masons at York Minster created the ledger stone to mark 100 years of civic partnership between the cities.

The stone slab was unveiled during a civic reception in New York on 5 May.

The Very Rev Dominic Barrington, Dean of York, said the gift would deepen the connections between the two namesake cities.

The stone was designed by Richard Bossons, who was responsible for creating the cathedral's statue of Queen Elizabeth II.

Read more about the visit here 

<https://bit.ly/4bdHOeH>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-york-north-yorkshire-68942916>

Winchester Cathedral statement about the future of music at the Cathedral

Our Music Strategy was presented to key participants of the Choral Foundation back in January 2023 and was warmly received.

It confirmed the full commitment of Winchester Cathedral to a thriving Foundation with, at its heart, the continuing musical excellence of our Cathedral Choirs, including our lay clerks, boys, and girls. Despite the financial pressures of the last two years, the Cathedral has heavily increased investment in music which we have no plans to cut, quite the reverse. What we are doing is spending even more on girls' voices without reducing our commitment to the boys' numbers or to our ambition to increase the number of lay clerks. We are increasing our outreach/access choirs with a view to strengthening the great choral tradition here. By expanding the number of choirs, we can offer participation to many more children who now benefit from the joy of singing in the cathedral. This too is excellence: we are proud that we reach more children who might not otherwise ever consider this was possible.

We enjoy a very good working relationship with The Pilgrims' School and our boy choristers will continue to receive excellent education there. Our plans include increasing the bursaries to children of the parents who would otherwise be unable to afford the fees, so that more boys can enjoy the magnificent benefits and opportunities offered by the school.

The Choral Foundation is a highly valuable spiritual and cultural institution in its own right, and a key feature of worship at the Cathedral. With the additional opportunity that digital brings, the potential for the power of English Cathedral choral music at Winchester to inspire, teach and transform lives in Winchester and beyond is enormous. We will continue the tradition of far-sightedness of previous

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generations to adapt and grow the Choral Foundation to serve everyone in the future.

For the wellbeing and protection of all our clergy and staff, it is Cathedral policy not to comment on confidential HR matters.

Dromore Cathedral - Wedding belles... second outing for 57 bridal gowns spanning 100 years

A report in the Belfast Telegraph by Jessica Rice

Wedding dresses worn by Baroness Arlene Foster and Emma Little Pengelly are to go on display in a Co Down cathedral.

Dromore Cathedral is hosting a Beauty of the Bride Wedding Dress Festival from today until May 12 and included in the display is the former first minister and current Deputy First Minister's dresses.

They form part of a collection of 57 dresses from brides across Northern Ireland over a span of almost 100 years.

The festival's organiser, Jane Russell, said she wanted to give brides the opportunity to display their dresses for an audience.

“I just took a notion about four years ago that I would like to do one,” she said.

“I had seen a Christmas Tree festival but I had never actually been to a Wedding Dress Festival, although I know there have been some in the past. So I just did a bit of research and this is what it has brought us to today.”

Jane said she received a very positive reaction from women within the community when she asked them to donate their dresses.

“Everyone was delighted to donate them, because they loved their dresses so much. I think they wanted to see them out on show again so that other people could see them,” she said.

Other well known figures have also donated their dresses to the festival.

“We have Julia Snodden, wife of Pete Snodden; we have Wendy Austin's, we have doctors and we have business owners from around the area. We tried to include as many people as possible,” she said.

Many women also donated their veils and wedding accessories, so Jane and her team were able to dress each mannequin the way the bride would have looked on the day.

Jane has also displayed information about each of the bride's weddings with a photo also accompanying each wedding dress.

“I emailed everyone that was donating their dress and they were able to give me their maiden name, who was the officiant minister, how many guests they had, their

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honeymoon and they were given the option to maybe say a little quote or include a verse of scripture,” she said.

Jane and her team have also included some special exhibits.

“I think all of the dresses are amazing but my favourite is my wife's,” said Very Rev Geoff Wilson.

“Jane has made a special display showcasing my wife's wedding dress and my daughter's wedding dress and my two daughter in laws' wedding dresses, as well as my grandson's page boy suit and granddaughter's flowergirl dress — so that display is particularly important to me,” he added.

The festival also has a display highlighting three generations of wedding dresses.

“The oldest dress we have is from 1930. We have the grandmother's dress and then her daughter and her granddaughter's dress on display so it is lovely to see the whole family's dresses in one display,” Jane said.

The festival is open to the public from 7.30pm tonight (Wednesday) and ends with a closing service on Sunday at 6pm. Photos at -

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/arlene-foster-and-emma-little-pengelly-wedding-dresses-part-of-beauty-of-the-bride-festival/a1880381088.html>

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Invite to beat parish bounds



Beating the
Bounds Annual
Prayer Walk

Mon 20th May
5.30-8.30 p.m.
Meet at Heyn Hall

The map on the right is titled 'BOUNDARIES OF ST MARK'S DUNDELA PARISH'. It shows a street map of Dundela with a blue line tracing the parish boundary. Key locations labeled include VICTORIA WARD, KNOCKNAGONEY (CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION), ST BRENDAN'S, ST MARK'S DUNDELA, LYCCOCHAN, and ST MOLUA. Other labels include KILLEE, BAI, and various street names like Stranstown, Heanont, and Ballinacorney.

St Mark's, Dundela - Join us for our annual Beating the Bounds prayer walk around the parish boundary on Monday 20th May from 5.30 - 8.30 p.m. when we'll be walking and praying for all who live, work and provide services in the parish.

Canticle Sacred Music Society Summer Concert

The Catholic Chaplaincy at QUB write - We are thrilled to announce details of our forthcoming Summer Concert. The singers and musicians of Canticle Sacred Music Society will provide a rich programme of sacred and traditional music, with contributions from our student string quartet, our Irish traditional ensemble, and celebrated soprano, Eilis Fox Music.

Our good friend, Rev Steve Stockman, will host us in Fitzroy Presbyterian Church, with light refreshments served by Mosaic Cafe afterwards.

All monies raised from ticket sales will help support our choir tour to Italy in June. Please follow the link to secure your ticket early for what is sure to be a popular event!

<https://fixr.co/event/canticle-summer-concert-tickets-82467491>

In the media

Times - Hymns we sing today are 'primary school level', says Rowan Williams

The former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams has said the most popular hymns chosen for weddings

and funerals are like “baby food” in terms of their lyrical content, writes Heather Preston.

Speaking in *The Times*, Lord Williams of Oystermouth lamented at the “bland” song choices used to mark special occasions, saying they are picked because they are what “people remember from primary school”.

The former archbishop remarked that more theologically rich songs seem to have “fallen out of common memory” as hymns have become less prominent in schools and society.

His comments come in response to a letter to *The Times* from Lord Lisvane, chairperson of the Royal College of Organists, in which he referred to the well-known hymn *All Things Bright and Beautiful* as “saccharine doggerel” and “deeply depressing.”

Written in 1848, *All Things Bright and Beautiful* is the first song listed on the Church of England’s recommendations for wedding ceremony hymns and features high on many popular hymn lists for special occasions.

Lord Williams, who has described the song as “very bland, and, at worst in its full version, rather aggressive,” explains that many people in today’s secular society lack a knowledge of hymns and as a result tend to draw upon those which they sang as children.

“The unfortunate effect of that is you have hymns that work at a primary school level,” he said.

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A good hymn “nourishes the spirit” through storytelling, metaphors and pictures, Lord Williams said, citing Love Divine, All Loves Excelling and Come, O Thou Traveller Unknown, both by Charles Wesley, as good examples.

Lord Williams has urged schools to include more hymn-singing and encouraged religious education teachers to explore more singing and chanting.

Poem for today



A Day in Spring

By Robert Frost

Oh, give us pleasure in the flowers to-day;
And give us not to think so far away
As the uncertain harvest; keep us here
All simply in the springing of the year.

Oh, give us pleasure in the orchard white,

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Like nothing else by day, like ghosts by night;
And make us happy in the happy bees,
The swarm dilating round the perfect trees.

And make us happy in the darting bird
That suddenly above the bees is heard,
The meteor that thrusts in with needle bill,
And off a blossom in mid air stands still.

For this is love and nothing else is love,
The which it is reserved for God above
To sanctify to what far ends He will,
But which it only needs that we fulfil.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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