

Church News Ireland



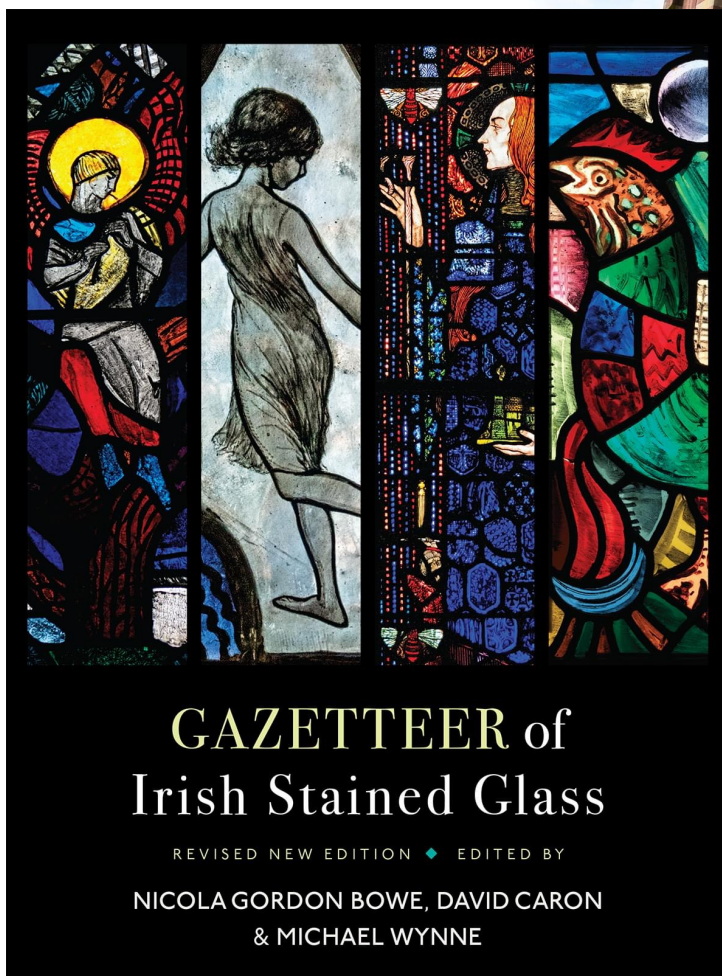
Image of the day – Stained Glass invite

May 15, 2024

Image of the day

Stained Glass invite

Join an unforgettable exploration of art, architecture and literature at St. Mark's, Dundela, Belfast on June 6, 2024. Photo right -



St. Mark's Church, Dundela is celebrated for its artistic, architectural and literary heritage. **Join Dr David Caron at the National Churches Trust first-ever Friends event in Belfast** which will showcase the stained-glass work of Irish artist **Michael Healey, 1873-194**, a member of the An Túr



Gloine's stained-glass cooperative.
Explore the work of Irish artist Michael Healy (1873-1941), a pioneer of An Túr Gloine's stained glass cooperative. Dr.





David Caron will be our guide, unveiling the intricate details and symbolism within Healy's masterpieces, including the renowned window in St Mark's commissioned by C.S. Lewis.

St. Mark's Church, is a gem of high Victorian Gothic revival architecture designed by the renowned William Butterfield, providing the perfect backdrop

for this extraordinary event. Don't miss this rare opportunity to immerse yourself in art, architecture and literature while surrounded by the beauty of St. Mark's.

David Caron's expertise brings Healy's story to life. From Dublin tenements to international acclaim, Healy's journey is a testament to artistic talent and passion.

Enjoy a delightful wine reception amidst the breathtaking beauty of St. Mark's and explore the artistic, literary, and spiritual dimensions of Healy's work.



A huge thank you to St Mark's, Dundela, Belfast for opening the doors and sharing the heritage within.

Reserve your place here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/st-marks-dundela-treasured-connections-to-cs-lewis-tickets-880169690237>

Photo credits -

Lewis Memorial Window courtesy of Jozef Vrtiel.

Laura McIlveen Photography

Nina McNeary

News



GROW - Night 1 with Bishop David of Down & Dromore

“We loved gathering this evening and we can’t wait for the next three nights being held in Willowfield - with the following four nights being hosted by St Saviours, Dollingstown!

“Join us from 7.30pm tomorrow night (CNI - please check dates and details!) as we welcome Eoghan Heaslip - Eoghan is a Worship Leader and the Lead Pastor of St Catherine’s Church, Dublin with a love for the Church and the worship of



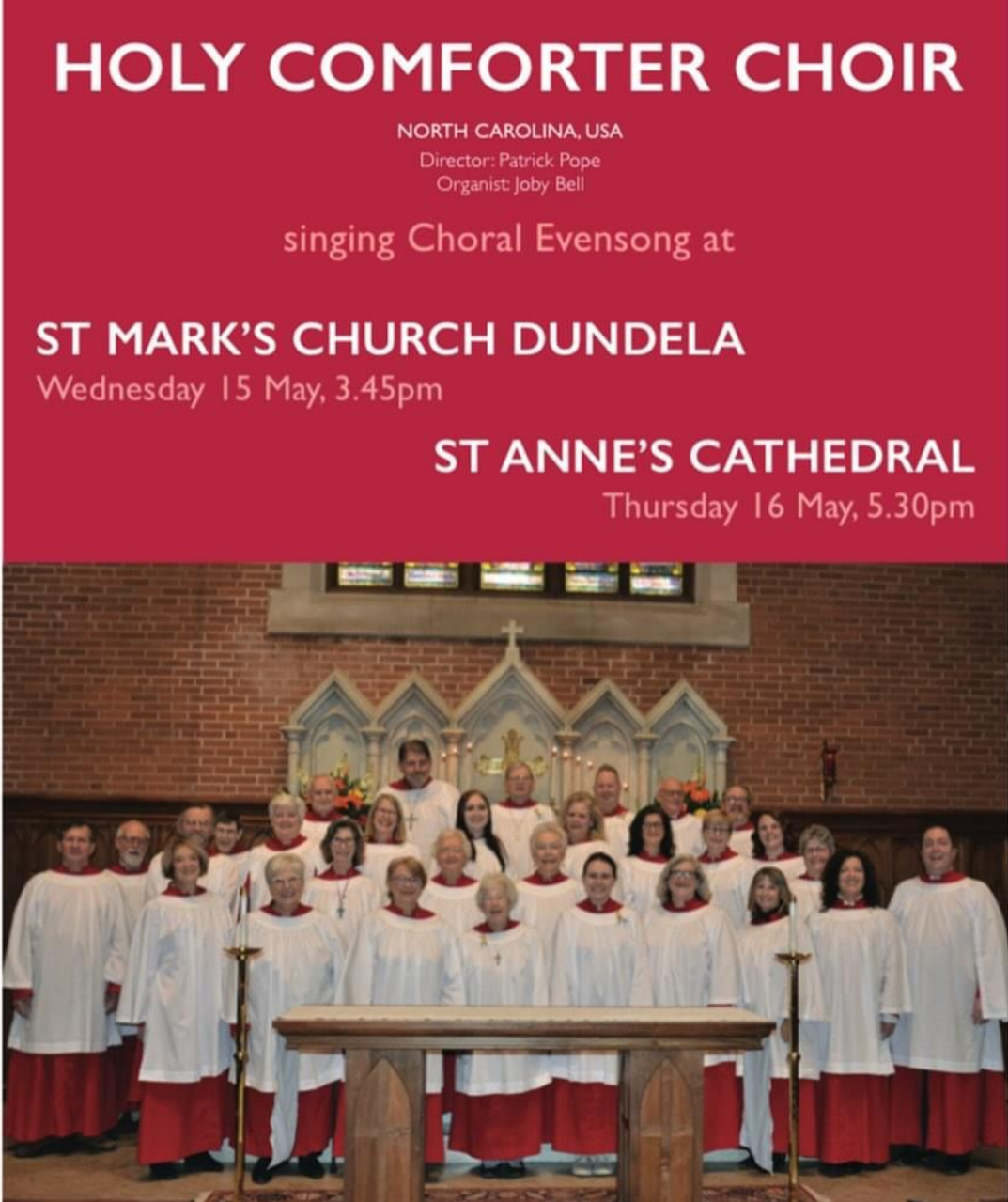
the Church and he will be focusing on ‘Worship Services Full of the Presence of God.’”

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Clonmel Songs of Praise this Sunday

The Clonmel Union will be hosting a Songs of Praise on Sunday, 19 May at 3pm in Old St. Mary's Clonmel.

The parish puff says “We will be inviting the Cashel Union to join us, the Marlfield Village Committee, The Mayor and Councillors and other churches in the locality. Our organist is renowned musician David Butler and the hymns are some well-loved old favourites. Refreshments will be served



HOLY COMFORTER CHOIR

NORTH CAROLINA, USA
Director: Patrick Pope
Organist: Joby Bell

singing Choral Evensong at

ST MARK'S CHURCH DUNDELA
Wednesday 15 May, 3.45pm

ST ANNE'S CATHEDRAL
Thursday 16 May, 5.30pm

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afterwards. Please do come along to join in what should be a great Sing-A-Long !” So please ding-a-long to Clonmel.

Massive support for Pieta House

Tens of thousands of people have taken part in the annual Darkness Into Light fundraiser on Saturday morning in support of suicide and self-harm prevention charity Pieta House.

Various Darkness Into Light events took place in dozens of locations in Ireland and 14 other countries on Saturday. The events kicked off at around 4.15am.

Some 100,000 people are estimated to have attended events around the country.

People took part by walking, running, wheeling, cycling and swimming as dawn broke.

One of the biggest events took place in Phoenix Park in Dublin, with about 10,000 people in attendance.

Last year’s events raised over €4 million for Pieta. This money helped to fund 100,000 helpline calls and texts, 50,946 counselling hours and 6,865 unique therapy journeys.

Darkness Into Light began in 2009, when 400 people set off in the Phoenix Park in Dublin on a 5km walk to raise funds for Pieta.

Memorial to RUC victim rededicated at a service in Castleberg

A vandalised memorial to a young Catholic RUC officer murdered in the Republic of Ireland by the IRA has been rededicated at a service in Castleberg

A service to commemorate a murdered police officer and to dedicate a previously-vandalised memorial stone in his memory has taken place in Castleberg, 50 years after his murder.

John Doherty was a 31-year-old Catholic officer who was murdered by the IRA in Lifford, County Donegal. He was the first RUC officer to be murdered in the Republic of Ireland.

John and his girlfriend were ambushed near his widowed mother's home on 28th October 1973.

The Omagh Branch of the Royal Ulster Constabulary George Cross Association held a service of commemoration and dedication of a memorial stone to mark the police officer's murder.

On the 50th anniversary on 28th October 2023 a memorial stone was dedicated in the Castlefin, St Mary Catholic churchyard. The memorial stone was stolen from the grave the following weekend. The theft was widely condemned and the family spokesman Terry Doherty said at the time "a sacred space had been invaded".

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In January the stone was returned to the grave and the inscription had been destroyed. The RUC crest was defaced and on the back republican propaganda including the phrase 'UP THE RA' was carved into the stone.

Ross Hussey, chairman of the association said: "At the time of the theft and desecration of the hallowed ground where John is buried, I and my committee were appalled at this senseless act of cowardice".

He said until then many similar graves had been considered "out of bounds".

"John was a police officer, well known in the community, his family well known and respected yet these troglodytes who had to work in the shadows of darkness stole a memorial stone defaced it and returned it to the grave," he said.



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“What did they achieve? They are the type of brain dead individuals who wish to see the troubles reignited and they are ‘locked in the past’ where they should remain.”

The service of rededication took place on Sunday in Derg Parish Church, Castlederg. The PSNI was represented by Assistant Chief Constable Bobby Singleton and Superintendent Robert McGowan (Fermanagh and Omagh). Representing the Commissioner Garda Siochana were two officers from Letterkenny.

Cathedral Calls



Carmelite Choral Evensong

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Choral Evensong in St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, on Sunday, May the 12th, marking the election of Dr Simon Nolan O.Carm. as Prior Provincial of the Irish Province of Carmelites.

Carmelite confession - The little Prebendary of Clondalkin is there somewhere!



Cathedral Music Trust - The big reveal

Legendary choral composer John Rutter CBE will be the after-dinner speaker at our conference this Autumn in Salisbury 🎵

19-20 September at Sarum College
More info & booking at bit.ly/cmngp

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

New Church of Scotland Hymnary supplement

A new supplement to the Church Hymnary is being launched later this month which hopes to encourage congregations to renew and reinvigorate their worship.

Titled 'God Welcomes All', it includes over 200 hymns and songs in a wide range of styles by writers from Scotland and around the world in order to represent the breadth of modern worship in the Church of Scotland.

@ @God Welcomes All Cover

The cover of 'God Welcomes All'.

Most of the songs were written in the last twenty years, which reflects a call by the 2019 General Assembly to create a contemporary resource to complement the Church's existing rich musical resources.

Thanks to a generous gift from the Hymnary Trustees there will also be a suite of digital resources produced between 2024 and 2025, including expansion of the existing Church of Scotland music website, streaming functions with further information on each song, and backing tracks. Lyric videos will be on sale with special offers on whole set packages.

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A mammoth 10,000 songs were considered by the editorial team who then worked with a committee of experts in music, ministry and theology to narrow this down to 219 songs.

The Church of Scotland is very broad in its style of worship and the songs selected represent a breadth of approaches and theological perspectives.

It is hoped that everyone will find something that is new and inspiring for their worshipping community.

Supplement co-editor Iain McLarty said: "Singing is a fundamental way in which our faith is shaped and in how we communicate with God.

"This exciting collection of songs will help people to do this in a way that suits our contemporary context and it includes songs that speak into current issues such as the climate crisis, lament, racial justice and poverty."

Phill Mellstrom, also a co-editor, added: "It is really exciting to see the richness of contemporary hymnody and worship song writing.

"As we chose songs for this collection we wanted to encourage the ongoing renewal of worship in the Church of Scotland, and were guided by the principles of hospitality and welcome, and that we felt that the songs really are a gift to the Church".

To celebrate the launch of 'God Welcomes All', an event is being held at St Cuthbert's Church in Edinburgh on Sunday 19 May from 7-9pm.

It will feature special guests who have songs included in the collection as well as a choir gathered from across Church of Scotland congregations, which anyone who reads music is welcome to join.

A Biblical Walk Through the Mass

The Living Church Office will be delivering a training session for new and existing parish leaders who would like to deliver the programme, A Biblical Walk Through the Mass (Edward Sri).

The course focuses on the scriptural roots of the Mass and dives deeper into the words, the gestures, and the rituals of the Mass. It explains how everything we say and do in the Liturgy is steeped in biblical language. It is a series of 5 videos presented by Edward Sri followed by group discussion and teaching input.

There are two training sessions to choose from: Thursday 30th May 7-9pm (in person) Venue: Living Church Office 120 Cliftonville Road, Belfast or Monday 3rd June 7-9pm online via zoom.

Please click on the online registration link to register your place: <https://forms.office.com/e/54ArRs9xby> or contact Aishling at the Living Church Office.

If you would like further information on the course or have any other queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch!
a.steen@downandconnor.org 02890690920

St Martin's in the Fields autumn/winter concert season

St Martin's says - We're thrilled to announce that our autumn/winter concert season is now on sale, including all Christmas concerts!

Some of the most sought-after ensembles will be performing at St Martin's including Tenebrae, I Fagiolini, The Sixteen, Ex Cathedra, The English Concert, La Nuova Musica, The Tallis Scholars, Monteverdi Choir and Orchestras and more...

Explore the full season here:

<https://www.stmartin-in-the-fields.org/autumn-winter/>

In the media

Belfast Telegraph - Jones: Pain of the Troubles' lesser-known victims must be heard too

Unheard ordeals from the Troubles have to be told, according to veteran entertainer George Jones, Noel McAdam writes

The Clubsound leader and veteran broadcaster, who survived the Abercorn bombing in 1972, is now hosting

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shows focused on secret stories from the 1970s to coincide with the release of the book, *The Border Cleansing*.

Compiled by Maurice Wylie, it details harrowing accounts of the 'ethnic cleansing' of Protestants along the border by republican terrorists in the 1970s. And he has witnessed how the no-holds-barred revelations have helped both those reliving their experiences — and the audience.

“We have had an amazing response. There were over 500 at the last one in the Seagoe Hotel in Portadown,” said George.

“These are people who have never told their stories before. They have kept them private for up to 50 years. And yet as I have spoken to them, I have seen a weight coming off their shoulders.”

The well-known comedian and singer was asked to take up the task by publisher Wylie who printed George's biography, *Amazed*.

George conducts the interviews and does a personal introduction which mentions the wars in the world today and the more than 30-year conflict of the Troubles.

But he also admits it is more controversial than other shows he has been involved in.

In his signature band *Clubsound*, George is more renowned for bringing Protestants and Catholics together, even earning an accolade from a government minister, Lord Peter Melchett, and official recognition two years ago from Belfast City Council.

That belated honour was in part due to George's own close shave with terrorism — in the Abercorn bombing in 1972. His book recalled: “We never took any sides, we were always careful, because one night we could be playing in a Protestant hall, the following night in a Catholic hall.”

And the other element which George brings to the show is, of course, music — especially after relatively recently forming gospel band Heart and Soul.

But they steer clear of hymns in favour of inspirational songs such as Jackie Wilson's Higher and Higher, Curtis Mayfield's People Get Ready, and new for the next show, Labi Siffre's Something Inside (So Strong).

Contributors to the show include widow of murdered Ulster Unionist MP Robert Bradford, Norah Bradford, and survivors of the Mountain Lodge Pentecostal church attack, who are among those telling their stories — the next one at Glenmachan Church hall, Glenmachan Road, Belfast next Saturday at 7.30pm.

“Some of these people are telling things which they have kept inside themselves for more than 40 years,” George recounted.

“I really think there are many more stories like these that we have to hear, and that it will be good to get them out there. In fact, I have come to think that people need to hear them.” Other testimonies have included the sole survivor of the Kingsmill massacre, Alan Black (above), and David Hearst, who lost his father and sister in separate border IRA attacks.

George becoming a Christian himself is another element in his involvement. “The people I am talking to for the most part are Christians — some of the events like Darkley even happened in churches — and I think they are more at ease talking to a Christian,” he said.

- Tickets are still available for the Glenmachan show on the door

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
