

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Saviours aligned

Image of the day

Saviours aligned

Saviours aligned at Donaghadee Harbour. Photo courtesy of DP Murphy and the Beautiful Northern Ireland site.



News

The Angel of the North West

You've heard of the Angel of the North but have you heard of the Angel of the North West?

Meet Carol, proprietor of Cromore Halt Guest Inn in Portstewart, County L'derry.

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Each year, she allows bikers watching the North West 200 to use her car park free of charge.

At the weekend, she 'called in the favour' by asking for donations to Christian Aid in lieu.

The generous bikers gave her hundreds of pounds to support our Christian Aid Week appeal.

73 year trip for Cloughfern Parish young members



On Ascension Sunday, the Sunday School children learned about the history of their church -



From 73 years ago in 1951, the first service held in Fernagh Community Centre, through the decades that included four previous Rectors, six Curates and other Auxiliary staff, various building projects, right up to the present time under the guidance of Rev Tim Close!

There was agreement that there was a lot to thank the early pioneers for.

Jewish Community shares insights with District Scouts

North West Belfast District Scouts were delighted to have Lisa Ross from the Belfast Jewish Community with them for an evening. Lisa talked to Cub Scouts from the 45th and 50th Cub Packs about the Jewish



faith and traditions, as part of the Cub World Challenge Award.

Sincere thanks was expressed to Lisa for her time and preparation and a Well Done to William Mills, who put together an excellent programme!

Are you looking for a challenge in 2024?

Join in taking on this amazing challenge for a vital cause: Hosford Homelessness Services.

Hosford is the homeless service of East Belfast Mission based in the Skainos Centre on the Lower Newtownards



Road in East Belfast and for over 20 years Hosford has provided services to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

This year's route is almost entirely off road, traversing the foothills of the Mourne Mountains from Newcastle to Rostrevor on Carlingford Lough. The walk includes a climb to 500m at the summit of Butter Mountain. This walk takes around 10-12 hours to complete. (23.4 miles)

We're asking for £40 as a signup fee and £300 as a fundraising goal.

To sign up follow this link - <https://register.enthuse.com/ps/event/MournesChallenge>

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For more information email klaudia.wall@ebm.org.uk or call 028 9045 8560



New parish priest at St Paul's Belfast

On Sunday 12th May Bishop Alan McGuckian visited St Paul's parish in Belfast to install their new parish priest Fr Darren Brennan.



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Connor Diocesan Readers commissioned



Diocesan Readers were commissioned by Bishop George Davison at a service in St Patrick's, Armoy, on Wednesday May 8.

They are William McCandless of Armoy, Drumtullagh and All Saints' and Keith Gardiner of Lisburn Cathedral. Fiona Uprichard of Armoy, Drumtullagh and All Saints' was commissioned at the same service as a Parish Reader by Connor Warden of Readers, the Rev Peter Jones.



Old tools - wanted by Parish of Dunseverick, Ballintoy and Rathlin

Have you any old tools in your shed gathering dust? How about giving them a new lease of life? Please donate old tools for the "Tool Stall" at the Mount Druid Vintage Rally, Sat 8th June 2024.

Contact James Ramage 07706250419

or Alvin Nichol 07835719160

Can be collected locally (within reason). Thank you

Ethnic diversity

It was good to be part of the Archbishop of Armagh's Ethnic Diversity and Racial Justice Working Group Stall at General Synod in Armagh. We were visited by the President of the Irish Council of Churches, Bishop Sarah Groves from the Moravian Church - [Eileen Cremin](#), [Philip McKinley](#)

King knights archbishop on post-cancer return

The King has knighted the Archbishop of Canterbury in his first investiture ceremony since his cancer diagnosis.

The Archbishop of Canterbury said the King seemed ‘in very good spirits indeed’

The monarch, 75, appeared delighted to honour the Most Rev Sir Justin Welby for the key role he played in the Coronation last May, while the Archbishop beamed proudly as the blue sash of the Royal Victorian Order was placed over his shoulder. Having been granted permission by his doctors to return to public duties last month, the King greeted 52 recipients one by one at Windsor Castle for the event.

Typically, about 60 or 70 people are invested with their honours at the ceremonies, while their guests watch on. But in an apparent nod to the King’s health, the ceremony took place on a slightly smaller scale than usual.

Sir Justin said after the ceremony, in which he was made a Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order, the King seemed in “very good spirits indeed” and was “looking very well”.

As well as conducting the historic Coronation service, the Archbishop had the momentous task of anointing and crowning the King and the Queen.

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Sir Justin said: “I was very keyed up, a lot of adrenaline, but not nervous because we’d rehearsed so much \[and were] very focused.

“The anointing and the crowning were obviously supreme high points, particularly the anointing – [a] great sense of the presence of God, the presence of the Holy Spirit of God.

“It was a really deeply moving moment.”

Sir Justin said being part of such a hugely historical moment was “surreal”, adding: “You sort of keep thinking you’re going to wake up.”

The Archbishop admitted that he had hoped he would never have to lead the Coronation because of his affinity with Elizabeth II, who died in September 2022.

Speaking about the legacy of that day, Sir Justin said: “What I hope is remembered is the solemnity and the authenticity with which the King said to the small boy at the beginning: ‘I come not to be served, but to serve in the battle of Jesus Christ.’”

Awards of the Royal Victorian Order

Awards of the Royal Victorian Order are in the King’s gift and are bestowed independently of Downing Street to people who have served the monarch or the royal family in a personal way.

Singing clerics The Priests mark the end of 'unforgettable' journey with series of farewell concerts

Northern Irish platinum-selling group The Priests have announced a series of farewell concerts after 50 years of a remarkable journey together.

Having performed their first musical collaboration in 1974 as schoolboys in St MacNissi's College, Garron Tower, the trio of Fr Eugene, Fr Martin and Fr David have since achieved millions of record sales, received multiple awards, travelled the globe, and played countless concerts, Helena MCManus writes in Northern Ireland World.

The Priests have announced performances at the end of the year that will celebrate their golden jubilee and close the door on what has been an unexpected adventure.

Fathers Eugene and Martin O'Hagan and David Delargy became known as The Priests when in April 2008 they signed a recording contract in front of Westminster Cathedral.

The event featured in Sir Trevor McDonald's concluding comments that very evening in the national news and subsequently in the international print media, even making the front cover of Time Magazine.

They continue to serve as full time priests in the Diocese of Down and Connor. A former Parish Priest in Ballyclare, Fr

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Eugene is Chancellor and Vicar General of the Diocese. Fr Martin, his brother, is Parish Priest of Newtownards and Comber, while Fr David is Parish Priest of the Loughshore parishes of Greencastle, Whitehouse and St James (incorporating Whiteabbey and Greenisland).

They have been the recipients of numerous awards, including MBEs in the Queen's New Year honours list 2020 in recognition of their contribution to music and charity in Northern Ireland.

The alma mater of all three men, Queen's University Belfast, also recognised them as Graduates of the Year in 2009.

Income from music sales and concerts has funded their charitable trust, The Priests' Foundation, which has helped build schools in Cambodia, Uganda and Thailand, and has also been used to help look after retired priests, the homeless, and supplying schools with music apparatus.

“When we signed our recording contract in 2008, we had a line put in it that said our music career would never encroach on our diocesan work. As times change, and we get a little older, this is becoming more and more difficult to coordinate. Our 50th anniversary seems the right time to step back from performing live as a group,” said Fr Eugene.

“We have had the time of our lives - it has been a dream come true,” added Fr Martin.

The trio are grateful to the unfailing support and encouragement they have received from the bishops and

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priests in Down and Connor Diocese and of the parishioners in those parishes where they have served over the years. “It has been the most unexpected of journeys, an experience we will never forget, with many highlights too numerous to mention,” Fr David said. “There is no doubt we will never stop singing, and we remain lifelong friends, but The Priests as a musical group, will end their voyage here.”

Tour dates include:

Friday, September 27: The Lark, Balbriggan

Friday, November 8: Market Place, Armagh

Saturday, November 16: The Braid, Ballymena

Saturday, December 21: Guildhall, Derry

Sunday, January 5: Ulster Hall, Belfast (with the Ulster Orchestra). Tickets are now on sale via venues.

Cathedral Calls



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Canterbury's Ascension heights

At last Thursday's Morning Prayer (Matins) at 07:30, we gathered in the Cathedral grounds to commemorate the Ascension into Heaven of the Risen Christ.

It's traditional on Ascension Day to sing praise to God from a high place, so during this special service members of the The King's School, Canterbury Choir sang from the top of the Corona tower.



Winchester Cathedral's impressive architecture

Winchester Cathedral is a medieval Anglican cathedral located in Winchester. It is known for its impressive architecture and historical significance.

The cathedral features a stunning 15th-century screen and a Norman crypt that houses modern sculptures.

Visiting Winchester Cathedral is a must for history enthusiasts and architecture lovers. The cathedral's medieval design is a testament to the craftsmanship of the time. Its grandeur and intricate details are awe-inspiring, making it a popular tourist attraction.

One of the highlights of Winchester Cathedral is the 15th-century screen. This ornate structure separates the nave

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from the choir and is adorned with intricate carvings and statues.

The screen is a beautiful example of medieval artistry and craftsmanship, showcasing the talent of the artisans from that era.

Heritage

Henry Cooke pioneering Ulster-Scots Presbyterian

Henry Cooke, the pioneering Ulster-Scots Presbyterian minister and key figure in spearheading "Protestant unity", was born this month in 1788, on 11th May.

Cooke was born to tenant farmer James Maccook, of English Puritan stock, and Jane Howie, who descended from a respectable Scottish Covenanter family.

He was given an unorthodox education at a succession of "hedge schools", where his instructors included two ordained Roman Catholic priests and a Presbyterian probationer, which acquainted him with the classics. He then attended Glasgow University in 1802 to train for the ministry, however he left after four years without a degree.

Nevertheless, he was ordained and ministered at Duneane in County Antrim in 1808, where he advocated the Old Light theology rather than the theological liberalism associated with the New Light teachings.

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At this time, Cooke had also begun a fierce defence of Trinitarianism against those Presbyterians who adhered more to the views of Arianism, in that they rejected the Trinity.

He then ministered at Donegore, then Killyleagh, and finally in Belfast, where the Presbyterian Church at May Street, now Central Church, was built for him. He ministered there for almost forty years, delivering three sermons every Sunday, rarely under an hour in length each.

Henry Cooke has been held responsible for the fusion of conservative evangelicalism and Conservative Unionism and is credited with leading the Presbyterian community away from a liberal past towards a more conservative future.

A statue (pictured) was erected for him outside of the Royal Belfast Academical Institution in 1876. To this day, the statue is referred to locally as "The Black Man", however this is incorrect; the Black Man was a statue of the Earl of Donegall that originally sat in its place until 1868, which now sits in Belfast City Hall. This statue was painted black to protect it from oxidation; the Cooke statue was not painted, hence why it has oxidised and is green, rather than black.

In the media

Daily Telegraph - Dementia will cost country £90bn by 2040 as population ages

Dementia will cost the economy £90 billion by 2040 as the population ages, researchers have said, Michael Searles, Health Correspondent writes

The largest study of the economic impact of the disease on Britain revealed the cost will more than double from £42 billion a year to £90 billion a year without action.

The economic burden includes costs to the NHS and social care, as well as the loss of work and productivity of patients, their families and unpaid carers. Patients and their families are shouldering almost two thirds of the costs of the disease themselves, the analysis of 26,000 people found.

The research, by healthcare consultant Carnall Farrar commissioned by the Alzheimer's Society, found the total costs for dementia care ranges from £29,000 to £81,000 per year depending on the disease's severity.

Around one million people in the UK have dementia, but this is set to rise to 1.6 million by 2040 because of an ageing population. One in three people born today will develop the condition at some point in their lives, according to latest projections.

The growth in patients also means there will be a significant and growing burden on unpaid carers. Unpaid carers already spend more than 100 hours per week providing care, while 16 per cent have had to quit their jobs to take on full-time care of a loved one.

Researchers say demand for unpaid care will increase by 43 per cent within the next 16 years.

A third of people affected have not received a diagnosis, according to the Alzheimer's Society, with just 1.4 per cent of the total healthcare expenditure going on diagnosis.

The majority of costs come from social care, at 40 per cent, and unpaid care, at 50 per cent, the report said.

The charity said families are "left to pick up the pieces" and incur "catastrophic costs further down the line".

Kate Lee, chief executive of Alzheimer's Society, said: "It is the biggest health and care issue of our time, yet it isn't the priority it should be amongst decision-makers. We wouldn't accept this for any other terminal disease, we shouldn't accept it for dementia."

She said that without earlier diagnosis and access to treatment there is "no hope of addressing the major dementia challenges we face".

Paul Kemp, 57, from Kent, whose wife, Sandy, 55, lives with early-onset dementia, explained how her life had changed. "Sandy was so kind and gentle. Her smile lit up the room but dementia has stripped that away. I feel so helpless and isolated," he said.

Mr Kemp said he had been forced to become a full-time carer, selling personal effects to pay for care. He said they had to challenge the doctors "assumption" that Mrs Kemp had depression, and that a two-year delay in diagnosis meant they'd been "robbed of precious time".

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“Two years felt like an agonising lifetime to wait. If an early and accurate diagnosis was given, we could have accessed the right support, but we’ve been robbed of that,” he said.

Vicky McClure, actor and Alzheimer’s Society ambassador, said: “More needs to be done now. Dementia can absolutely devastate families in so many ways but receiving an early diagnosis can be a lifeline.”

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
