

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Bangor Abbey art

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Image of the day



Bangor Abbey art

Brilliant photos by David Bradshaw - sun lighting up the Kenneth Webb mural.

Courtesy the Friends of Bangor Abbey.



Hollywood Parish desserting Christian Aid

It was the first day of Christian Aid Week, and in County Down their wonderful supporters at St Philip and St James, Hollywood Parish Church were 'not desserting' them. Their church hall was buzzing all morning as more than 60 parishioners called in to enjoy a cup of coffee and a piece of their favourite dessert in exchange for a donation to support Christian Aid's work.

Pictured here are (L-R) Cheryl Murray, Carol Kennedy and Rosemary Maxwell. Christian Aid says thank you to them and to all those who made a dessert or supported the event

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with their donations. Your kindness is sweetening the lives of some of the world's poorest people.



Jerusalem to Bethlehem run for Christian Aid Week

The Very Rev Canon Richard Sewell is running from Jerusalem to Bethlehem as part of his '70K in May' for Christian Aid Week.

@sgcjerusalem is the Dean of St



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George's College in Jerusalem (in the The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem) and will also run around the city's walls as well as running up the Mount of Olives.

Archbishop Jackson attends Jerusalem Synod in Jordan



Archbishop Michael Jackson attended the Majma – or Synod – of the Diocese of Jerusalem which was held in Amman, Jordan.

He was there at the invitation of Archbishop Hosam Naoum as part of the link of friendship between Dublin and Glendalough and the Diocese of Jerusalem.

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Archbishop Jackson joined clergy from parishes of the five countries encompassed by the diocese – Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon, Syria and Israel – along with other international guests.



Archbishop Michael Jackson with Mrs Sahah Zuralkat headmistress of the Arab Episcopal School for Inclusion of Disabled Children, Irbid, Jordan.

He brought greetings from Dublin and Glendalough to the Majma.

You can read about this and Archbishop Hosam Naoum's address on the Dublin diocesan website here:

<https://dublin.anglican.org/news/2024/05/14/resilience-and-presence-archbishop-of>

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Cleric from Burundi on exchange visit to Diocese of Derry and Raphoe

An Anglican priest from central Africa brought greetings to the Diocese of Derry and Raphoe, all the way from the Republic of Burundi in the African Great Lakes region.

Reverend Arsène Mafurebe is spending time with the Parish of Glendermott and Newbuildings, on an exchange visit supported by the missionary group CMS Ireland.

One morning, the Rector of Glendermott and New Buildings Church of Ireland Rev Canon Robert Boyd accompanied Revd Arsène on a visit to the Diocesan Centre in London Street, where he was welcomed by Bishop Andrew Forster



and sat in on a meeting of the Glebes and Property Committee.

Rev Arsène told the committee he was a priest in the Diocese of Gitega in the middle of Burundi. “Receive the greetings of my Bishop [Rt. Rev.] Aimé Joseph Kimararubgu,” he said. “I’ve really enjoyed the time I’ve spent so far in Ireland. It is really a pleasure to come from a different culture and country but feel welcome. So, this is where I’m really happy to be a member of the Anglican faith and the Anglican Church because wherever you go you know that you will find a welcoming member of the body of the church.”

Rev Arsène said he had learnt a lot so far during his trip to Ireland. He has been to Dublin and Sligo, and also spent time at the recent meeting of the General Synod. He has

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also visited the Balteagh Group of Parishes and was the featured guest at a 'Burundi Focus Event' in Glendermott Hall.



Vision and Mission focus by Mothers Union in Armagh Diocese

"Thy Kingdom Come" was the theme of the Armagh Diocesan Festival Service in St Patrick's Cathedral on Wednesday.

The Address was given by Mrs June Butler MBE, All Ireland President.

During the service two new Trustees were commissioned by The Dean - Jennifer Pillow as Unit Co-ordinator and Eleanor Orr as Database Co-ordinator both for Finance and Central Services. Eleanor and Jennifer read the Old and New Testament readings.

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Debbie the Diocesan President led members in the Re-affirmation of the Vision and Mission of MU.

Prayers were led by members from Kilmore, Brantry and St Columbas branches, together with Claire Smith the diocesan Prayer Rep and Unit Co-ordinator for Faith and Policy and Eleanor Orr who had composed the Annabella Hayes prayer.



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There was a fantastic display of banners from each of our branches. Many people contributed to the success of this wonderful Service, especially The Dean, Rev Alan Cross the Diocesan Chaplain , the organist and choir of St Patrick's Cathedral.

Artificial Intelligence: Religious Friend or Foe?

Church of Ireland Theological Lecture at Queen's 2024

Professor Stephen Williams will deliver the 66th Church of Ireland Annual Theological Lecture at Queen's on Monday, 27th May, at 6.00pm.

The lecture, sponsored by the Church of Ireland Board of Education (Northern Ireland), will be held in the Great Hall at Queen's and is entitled: 'Artificial Intelligence: Religious Friend or Foe?'

Artificial intelligence is changing how we interact with everything, from education to healthcare, food, travel and religion. Robot priests can recite prayers, deliver sermons, and even attempt to comfort those experiencing a spiritual crisis. Doctors are using AI more regularly for diagnostics and provision of care. Christians are left with many questions about the ethics of this cutting-edge technology. How can those who claim to have a personal relationship with the Creator of the Universe engage with or use AI? Can AI replace human or divine creativity? What does it mean to be a human?

The 66th Annual Church of Ireland Theological Lecture at Queen's
sponsored by The Church of Ireland Board of Education

Artificial Intelligence: Religious Friend or Foe?

Professor Stephen Williams
The Great Hall, Queen's University Belfast
Monday 27th May 2024 | 6pm

Artificial intelligence is changing how we interact with everything, from education to healthcare, food, travel and even religion. How can those who claim to have a personal relationship with the Creator of the universe engage with or use AI? Can AI replace human or divine creativity? What does it mean to be a human?



We have invited Professor Stephen Williams to help us explore some of these questions in this year's Annual Theological Lecture.

Book your place:
thehubbelfast.org/annuallecture

Professor Stephen Williams will help us explore some of these questions in this year's Annual Theological Lecture. Professor Williams writes: "The title is provocative: Artificial Intelligence means more than one thing; there are different religious traditions; and 'friend or foe' may be false alternatives. Admitting the complexity of the issues, the lecture sets out the challenge of AI to our understanding of what it is to be human, highlighting its critical nature. It ranges from discussion of the nature of the brain to Western

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culture and to the significance of the Church in an attempt to answer the question posed in the title.”

Stephen N Williams is a theologian, author and lecturer who, after retiring from a teaching career, was appointed Honorary Professor of Theology at Queen's University Belfast in 2017.

Stephen Williams gained his Master of Arts degree in Modern History at the University of Oxford and his Master of Arts degree in Theology from the University of Cambridge. After a period as Henry Fellow in Yale University, he received his PhD through the Department of Religious Studies of the university in 1981. He has mostly spent his professional life in Presbyterian seminaries in the United Kingdom, firstly as Professor of Theology in the United Theological College, Aberystwyth (from 1980 to 1991), and then as Professor of Systematic Theology in Union Theological College in Belfast (from 1994 to 2017). He was appointed Honorary Professor of Theology at Queen's University Belfast in 2017 and elected Fellow of the Learned Society of Wales (FLSW) in 2018.

Although his main professional areas are theology and intellectual history, he has an interest in the field of bioethics. During 2018, he held a Research Fellowship at the Henry Center at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School researching the connection between a Christian understanding of creation and philosophies undergirding developments in artificial intelligence.

Attendees will also have a chance to put their questions directly to Professor Williams in a Q&A session immediately following the lecture.

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The Revd Danielle McCullagh, Church of Ireland and Methodist Chaplain to Queen's University, said: "I am delighted that Professor Williams has accepted my invitation to give this lecture. He is one of the most significant Christian contributors to the conversation on AI on these islands, and will no doubt share with us some helpful insights and strong theological frame work to help our thinking on this topic."

The public lecture will take place in the Great Hall, Lanyon Building, Queen's University Belfast, at 6.00pm on 27th May 2024. Refreshments will be served from 5.30pm.

More information and tickets can be accessed at: www.thehubbelfast.org/annuallecture

Cathedral Calls



Pomegranate present for Peterborough



Steve Murphy from Tudor Tours brought Peterborough Cathedral a pomegranate, all the way from Alhambra in Spain, the home of Katharine of Aragon. Wife of Henry. Many people make the pilgrimage from Spain every year to pay respect at her tomb in the Cathedral.

Malone parish choir to sing in Southwark Cathedral

Members of St John's parish choir (Malone, Belfast) at the successful Bake Sale last Sunday after the Eucharist raising funds for the forthcoming trip to sing in Southwark Cathedral.

See photos next page



Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



Renew Our Hearts - Down & Connor Novena

**Down & Connor Diocesan Novena to The Sacred Heart:
May 30th to June 7th, the feast of the Sacred Heart of
Jesus.**

As Bishop Alan McGuckian SJ begins his time as bishop of the diocese he would love everyone in the diocese to join

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him in nine days of prayer, asking Jesus to give us a new heart. Many people among us are weary or wounded, hurting in one way or another. He wants us to make a novena for each other, aware that we are brothers and sisters in Christ.

The prayers will be available in a booklet you can pick up at Mass or read online; it will also include a piece of scripture and a reflection for each day for those who wish to go a little deeper. Bishop Alan's hope is that this novena will be prayed either individually or together by parishes, groups, schools or families. Even young children can join in with the short prayers!

Solemn Choral Evensong and Benediction for the Feast of Pentecost

**Saint Bartholomew's Church, Clyde Road, Dublin 4,
Sunday 19th May 2024.**

17:00 Solemn Choral Evensong and Benediction for the
Feast of Pentecost.

Introit: Phos Hilaron (Plainsong)

Responses: Bernard Rose.

Office: NEH 138 Psalm 139 vv 1-11 (Plainsong)

Service: Stanford in B Flat

Anthem: The Heavens are Telling (Haydn)

The Office of Benediction

O Salutaris Hostia (Rossini)

Tantum Ergo (de Severac)

Psalm 117 (Plainsong)

Salve Regina (Plainsong)

All Welcome.

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Lambeth Conference Bishops' Spouses Webinar announced

The spouses' programme was a major part of the Lambeth Conference.

Since then, a new spouses' network has been set up. The network is offering regular webinars, to provide bishops' spouses around the world an online space for fellowship, mutual support, prayer and Bible study.

Next week, the network are offering a new series of Bible Study webinars on Zoom, on themes of the Environment and Sustainable Development and Anglican Identity. These will be running during the week commencing May 20, to suit different time zones around the world.

The network warmly invites bishops' spouses to join the next in this popular series - which follows our recent webinar on discipleship.

To Register: If you are a bishops' spouse and want to know more about the Bible studies (and those offered in Spanish, Portuguese and French), email:
bishopspouses@anglicancommunion.org

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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