

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Little Amal thanks Cathedral

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Image of the day



Little Amal thanks Belfast Cathedral and city

As she spent her third day exploring the city Little Amal said a massive thanks to Belfast.

After she woke from St Anne's Cathedral, Amal was crowned 'The May Queen' leading a magnificent procession to the grounds of City Hall.

She then took part in Gulliver's Eggs-traordinary Tale as part of the annual Lord Mayor's Day, with a dramatic feast of magic, music and circus.



Amal spent this evening at CS Lewis Square where she was transported to the magical land of Narnia.

She's now sound asleep again preparing to spend her final day in the city with with more events. Photos courtesy Carrie Davenport

News

50th year as leader of 7th Dublin BB Company

The 7th Dublin hosted their Display on Saturday. At the display they celebrated Alan Privett's Golden Jubilee as an officer in the 7th Company. It was his 50th consecutive year as a leader.



BB Chief Executive, Jonathan Eales, sent Alan a special certificate and message, which they presented to him along with a card, cake and photos.



Lisburn church's Coffee Dock Café support for Christian Aid

Chair of Christian Aid Ireland,, Rev Dr Liz Hughes was delighted to go along to First Lisburn Presbyterian Church on Sunday 12 May where she told the story of Aline Nibogora in Burundi, the focus story for this year's Christian Aid Week appeal.

Just two days after her visit, CAI's Church and Community Manager Dave Thomas was back at First Lisburn, receiving a cheque for £1,000 - money the members had raised by their Coffee Dock Café.

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Please stay a prayer of thanks to the lovely people at First Lisburn for their generous support.

Assistant Registrar of Connor

The **Rev Canon William Taggart**, who retired as rector of St Katharine's, Belfast, at the end of April, is to continue in his role as Connor Diocesan Registrar for the next three years.

The Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev George Davison, has appointed the **Rev Dr Alan McCann**, rector of Holy Trinity, Woodburn, as Assistant Registrar for the Diocese of Connor.

C of I celebrates 60 years theological education at Braemor Park

Sixty years of theological education at Braemor Park in Dublin were celebrated on Saturday (May 18) with a Service of Thanksgiving and a public lecture in the Church of Ireland Theological Institute.

Both the Archbishop of Armagh, the Most Revd John McDowell and the Archbishop of Dublin, the Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson attended the service. Those in the congregation represented the different pathways to ministry within the Church of Ireland as well as many clergy and friends of CITI.

Introducing the service, the Director of CITI, Canon Dr Maurice Elliott noted that the previous Divinity Hostel was in Mountjoy Square where it had been since 1913. When the



decision was taken by the Adelaide Hospital to close Fetherstonhaugh House, a convalescent home in Rathgar, in 1961, it was bought by the Representative Church Body and became the new location for the Divinity Hostel which was later renamed Braemor Park.

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More at Dublin website: <https://dublin.anglican.org/news/2024/05/20/braemor-park-marks-60-years>

C S Lewis to the fore at Stained Glass Sunday in his home church

The internationally-acclaimed author and academic, C.S. Lewis, has deep-rooted connections to St Mark's Church in Dundela, Belfast.

This beautiful church, designed by the renowned church architect William Butterfield, holds a special place in the heart of Lewis's legacy.

On January 29, 1899, young Clive Staples Lewis was baptized here by his grandfather, the Rev. Thomas Hamilton, who was the Rector of St Mark's at the time.

This event marked the beginning of a lifelong connection to the church for Lewis and his family.





In 1935, C.S. Lewis and his brother, Warren, presented a beautiful window by Michael Healy to St Mark's in memory of their beloved father and mother.

St Mark's also houses other significant windows including one dedicated to Lewis's grandfather by Shrigley & Hunt, Lancaster in 1906. Other windows are dedicated to members of the distinguished William Ewart family: one for Isabella Kelso Mathewson, William Ewart's widow, and another for his son, Sir William Quartus Ewart, the 2nd baronet.

Interestingly, C.S. Lewis himself was a relative of the Ewart family. His mother was a cousin of Mary Warren Heard, who married Sir William Quartus Ewart. Lewis fondly describes these close family ties in his autobiography.



St Mark's Church, Dundela, is not only a place of worship but a living testament to the rich historical and familial connections of one of the world's most beloved authors.

Join us for our first-ever Friends event at St Mark's, Dundela on June 6 when Dr David Caron will illuminate the work of artist Michael Healey with a special focus on the C S Lewis commissioned window. Copies of David's latest book Michael Healey 1873 – 1941 An Túr Gloine's Stained Glass Pioneer will be available on the night.

Reserve your place here:

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

Five per cent increase in weekly C of E attendance is Good News - Archbishop of York

Speaking about the weekly church attendance, up five per cent in third year of consecutive growth, The

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Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, said: “This is very good news. For the first time in a long time we have seen noticeable growth.

“Of course we don't yet know whether this growth is a trend but I take it as a great encouragement that our focus on reaching more people with the good news of Jesus, establishing new Christian communities, wherever they are, revitalising our parishes, and seeking to become a younger and more diverse church, making everyone feel welcome, is beginning to make a difference.

“Most of all it encourages me that our emphasis on being a Christ centred and Jesus Christ shaped church is renewing our confidence in the gospel and our dependence on Christ.

“I hope the whole Church will be encouraged to continue this story of faithfulness, believing it will lead to fruitfulness, not because we want to build the earthly ‘empire’ of the church, but because we want people to come to know Jesus and because we know that the love and compassion they find in Jesus is what the world needs.”

Read more at:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/media/press-releases/weekly-church-attendance-five-cent-third-year-consecutive-growth>

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Cathedral Calls



Belfast Cathedral's Primary School Choir of the Year

The annual St Anne Trust Primary School Choir of the Year event returned to Belfast Cathedral on May 14 and 15, with children from six local schools displaying their singing talents.

On the first day, pupils from Holy Cross Boys' Primary, Cliftonville Integrated and Hazelwood Integrated each sang two songs for an audience including teachers, family and friends. The adjudicator was Cameron Menzies, Artistic Director of Northern Ireland Opera.



On the second day of the event, children from Harberton Special School, Clifton School and Jordanstown School each performed their chosen songs, incorporating sign language and lots of movement and energy. They also enjoyed a workshop in the Cathedral Nave run by freelance choral director Judith Watson, before certificates were presented to representatives of each school.

On both days, the children and all the visitors were welcomed by a representative of the St Anne Trust, and the Very Rev Stephen Forde, Dean of Belfast, who, in his introductory words said: “Singing is one of the most special things that people can do together. When you sing in a choir, you learn to listen to the voices of those singing around you and you blend your voice with those who are singing with you.



“Together you create a unique and special moment in time and place. And together, with your conductor, you will bring pleasure to those who are the audience.”

After all three choirs had sung on the first day of the event, the adjudicator praised every performance, saying he had had a ‘huge amount of fun.’

Bringing the three schools together at the front of the Nave, Mr Menzies encouraged them to act out their feelings and responses to music – resulting in some wonderful drama from all the young people.

“This is why we need the arts, singing, music making and dancing,” Mr Menzies said.

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In his adjudication, he praised the children for their focus, their diction and their story-telling; the way they kept contact with their conductor and their respect of the music.

“To come together to make music really, truly is one of the most important things,” he said. “Choral singing changes the vibrations of the air around us for the better.”

Awards were presented to all three choirs by Councillor Sammy Douglas, High Sheriff of Belfast. Also present was Dame Fionnuala Jay-O’Boyle DBE DStJ DDL, Lord Lieutenant of Belfast, who is Patron of the St Anne Trust.

The 2024 St Anne Trust Primary School Choir of the Year event was dedicated to Mr Joe Watson, founding chair of the Trust, who sadly passed away earlier this year.

London’s new Lord Mayor and link with Derry Cathedral

Councillor Robert Rigby was elected the new Right Worshipful Lord Mayor of Westminster following a vote at Full Council on May 15th.

There is a historic and living link with St Columbus Cathedral, Londonderry which is maintained through annual engagements and other occasions.

The new Lord Mayor of Westminster is a former Catholic Union chairman.

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Councillor Robert Rigby was elected the new Right Worshipful Lord Mayor of Westminster following a vote at Full Council on May 15th.

A practicing Catholic and former Catholic Union chairman, the new Lord Mayor is 63, and his wife Emiko will be the first ever Japanese Lady Mayoress. Cllr Rigby, who studied at Ampleforth College, has lived in St John's Wood for more than 35 years and spent his working life in sales and marketing within the travel industry, including 20 years with Japan Airlines (during which time he met his wife Emiko).

The Lord Mayor's chaplain will be Father Christopher Colven, past Rector of St James's Church, Spanish Place, in Marylebone. Fr Colven is currently the Catholic Chaplain to the Houses of Parliament.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Refreshed Guidelines for Interfaith Events and Dialogue

An updated edition of the Church of Ireland's Guidelines for Interfaith Events and Dialogue was launched at General Synod and is now available for clergy, and other leaders in dioceses and parishes, to consult when considering how best to approach relationships with people who follow other world religions.

The Guidelines – which were first published in 2007 – have been revised by the Commission for Christian Unity and Dialogue (through its Inter Faith Working Group) and the House of Bishops, and are underpinned by five principles emphasising the importance of:

respecting humanity as being made in the image and likeness of God; creating and developing relationships and understanding;
freedom of religious expression as a fundamental human right;
dialogue for enhancing peace and justice, and respecting the dignity of creation; respect for the Christian faith as part of true dialogue and integrity.

The 20-page booklet provides general guidance for occasions when people of other faiths and their leaders are invited to join with members of the Church of Ireland, in the life of our churches (or at events of local or national importance), before discussing several issues for Christians to consider in inter-faith encounters.

Practical guidance is given in relation to situations presented in the contexts of marriage, Baptism, Holy Communion, funerals, church festivals and special services, the festivals of other faiths, community events, hospital chaplaincy, and dealing with objections.

Writing in his introduction for the Guidelines, Bishop Michael Burrows, as Chair of the Commission for Christian Unity and Dialogue, notes: “Few of us in ministry today can avoid the challenge, the questions, the opportunities and the joys which inter-faith engagement can offer. Some will approach

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the matter nervously, others with enthusiasm, and undoubtedly it is an area where our own theological perspectives can be somewhat varied. But upon certain things we can and should agree ... and these principles are rooted in sound concepts such as respect, hospitality, graciousness and attentiveness.”

Guidelines for Interfaith Events and Dialogue is published by Church of Ireland Publishing and available to download from the Church of Ireland website at www.ireland.anglican.org/inter-faith-guidelines

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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