

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Big Sing in Antrim**

## Image of the day

### Connor Mothers Union Big Sing in Antrim

**Mothers' Union members from all parts of Connor Diocese came to All Saints' Parish Church, Antrim, on Sunday May 19, raising their voices in a 'Big Sing' for the Mums in May Fund.**

This fund, which supports MU projects all over Ireland, is replenished every third year, and this year a series of 'Big Sings' are being held. These began in St Canice's Cathedral, Kilkenny, in March and will finish in St Patrick's, Ballymena, on November 16.

Funds raised throughout the year will allow the Mums in May Fund to continue to support projects such as Away from it All holidays, holiday lunch clubs, equipment for those moving out of Women's Refuges and food and fuel vouchers for families struggling to make ends meet.

## News

### Clogher Mothers' Union 120th anniversary

**Tomorrow Thursday 23rd May, there will be a 120th Anniversary Service prior to The Mothers' Union Diocesan Spring Council.**

The Anniversary Service marks the previous service of the Diocesan Council and the present Trustee Board. Members

May 24, 2024

will meet for Holy Communion in St. Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen at 7pm. Address by Bishop Ian Ellis. Following the service, the Diocesan Spring Council Meeting will be held in the Cathedral Hall.

On Sunday 2nd June Trory Mothers' Union 120th anniversary celebration will be held in Trory Church at 3pm, with a special commemorative service including enrolment of new members and followed by light refreshments. All are welcome to attend.

## Connor ordinations in Ballycastle



**Two new priests are to be ordained in Connor Diocese at a service being held in St James' Parish Church, Ramoan, Ballycastle, on Saturday June 29, St Peter's Day.**

May 24, 2024

They are the Rev Cameron Mack, deacon intern in Belfast Cathedral, to be full-time curate in Belfast Cathedral, and the Rev Shona Bell, deacon intern in Holy Trinity, Portrush, to be part-time curate in Ramoan and Culfeightrin.

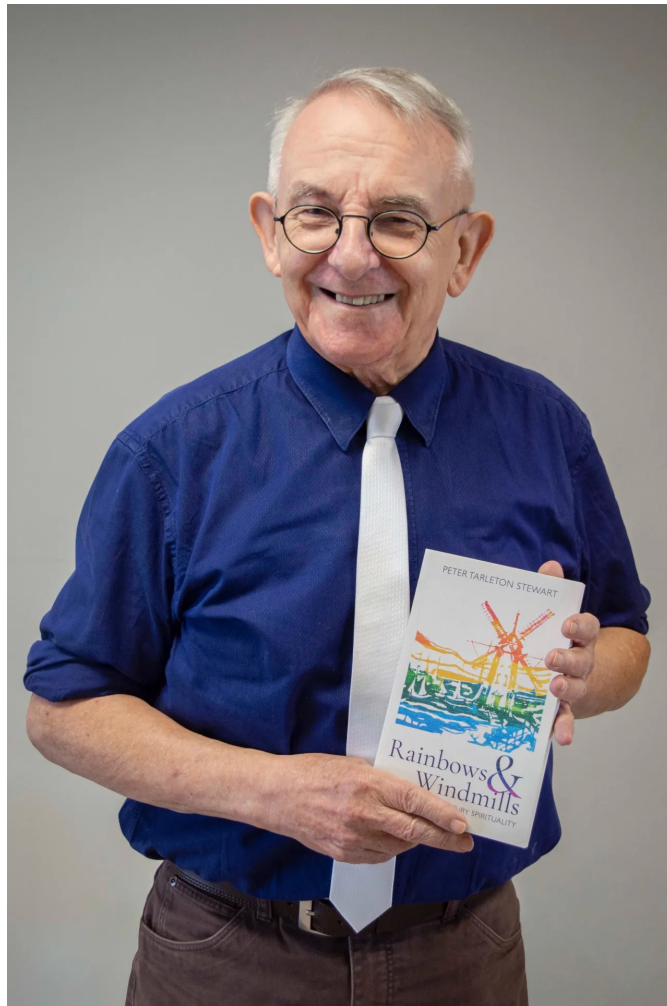
## **Resident chaplain for Kingston College**

**On behalf of the trustees of the Kingston Charity Trust, Mitchelstown, County Cork, the Bishop of Cork, the Right Reverend Dr Paul Colton, is pleased to announce the appointment of the Reverend Peter Tarleton as resident chaplain.**

Kingston Charity Trust owns Kingston College, a residential housing complex at the heart of Mitchelstown, comprising 31 houses and a chapel which were built in the 18th Century.

Peter Tarleton was born in the Rectory of Pallaskenry, Co. Limerick, when his father was Rector of Kilcornan Union. His formal education did not start until they lived in Dromore, Co. Tyrone, and continued when in Monea, near Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh. Peter's university life began in Magee University College, Derry and continued in Trinity College Dublin.

Peter and Jocelyn married in Warrenpoint and have five children. He and Joss separated after 19 years, and she has since passed away. Peter married Chutipas in 2016, and they have the care of Chutipas's 11-year-old grand-nephew at their home in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Peter's children live in the UK, Manchester area, and Australia. His eldest grand-



daughter, Laura, is getting married in Perth, Western Australia, in October this year. Chutiphas and Peter very much hope to attend.

Peter's ordained ministry began in Cork, as Curate in St Luke's, St. Anne's Shandon, and St Mary's, Sunday's Well in June 1973. A second curacy in Drumcondra, North Strand and St Barnabas in Dublin allowed him to study for a teaching qualification at Trinity College Dublin, which equipped him for his next post as Vicar of Limerick, where he also was the first Anglican Chaplain to what is now the University of Limerick, for almost 5 years.

May 24, 2024

During his time as Rector in Cootehill, Co. Cavan, he was diagnosed with a life-threatening illness. He says that ‘by the grace of God, and homeopathy, he came through.’ Peter then felt called to ministry in prison, and as there were no full-time positions in Ireland – North or South – they moved to England where he served as a prison Chaplain for 21 years. After three years as a hospital chaplain in England, Peter returned to parish ministry in Cashel, Ferns and Ossory, in Killeslin 2011-2018 and Portlaoise and Ballyfin 2018-2020. Peter retired during the Covid Pandemic and moved to Chiang Mai, where he has become a writer.

In relation to his appointment at Kingston College, Peter commented:

Hardly “in the bosom of Abraham”, but something serendipitous about returning to the Diocese of my ordination over 50 years later!

### **QUOTE - growth in antisemitism**

“The growth in antisemitism in our society is a danger we cannot be indifferent to.

“We must not be silent in the face of the extremist ideologies of either antisemitism or anti-Muslim hatred.

“The Church of England has a vocation to build bridges between communities – let’s keep calling out hatred and loving our neighbours in these immensely difficult times”.

**Archbishop of Canterbury**



## First female bishop for the Church of North India



May 21 marked a historic moment for the Church of North India (CNI) as they welcomed their first female bishop, the Right Rev'd

May 24, 2024

## **Violet Nayak, for the Diocese of Phulbani.**

The holy consecration was officiated by the Most Rev'd B. K. Nayak, the Moderator of the CNI, on 21 May 2024, at the Cathedral Church of Redemption in New Delhi.

Please pray for God's blessing and guidance on Bishop Violet Nayak's ministry and the wider Church of North India.



### **QUOTE -**

“The unity of the Church, and of our own Communion, is given as a gift by God and offered as a call to which we must respond.”

**Archbishop of Canterbury**



## King to be patron of Council of Christians and Jews



**His Majesty The King will be Patron of the Council of Christians and Jews, it has been announced.**

CCJ, the nation's first interfaith charity and the leading forum for Jewish-Christian dialogue, has been confirmed as a Royal Patronage following a major review of more than 1,000 charity and organisations to mark the first anniversary of Their Majesties' Coronation.

'In an age of interfaith tension in the UK, this news is welcome,' said CCJ Chair Bishop Sarah Bullock. 'Fighting antisemitism and all prejudice needs us all, and His Majesty's patronage signals commitment to this at the highest level.'

CCJ had the distinct honour to confer its annual Bridge Award on His Majesty The King in 2021. This award recognises individuals who have made a significant, exceptional and leading contribution to building bridges between peoples, in a Christian-Jewish or wider setting. CCJ was delighted that His Majesty the King was also able to join them in the presentation ceremony awarding Lord Rothschild in recognition of his work in this field in 2019.

On accepting CCJ's Bridge Award at an event last June, The King said "Never, I would say, has the C.C.J. been more needed in our conflict-torn world." He then movingly quoted the Prophet Isaiah: "Thou wilt keep them in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee."

CCJ also had the extreme honour and privilege of having Her Late Majesty The Queen as its patron for 70 years. "The royal receptions hosted for CCJ since 1952 were particular highlights for many of our members and we were delighted to welcome Her Majesty as a special guest at CCJ's 70th (early) anniversary celebration in 2011".

The Council of Christians and Jews (CCJ) was founded in 1942 by the then Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth and the Archbishop of Canterbury. "We are one of the oldest inter faith organisations in the UK, and by using Christian-Jewish engagement as a springboard we play a much wider role in the inter faith arena. Today, our ten presidents, representing the breadth of Christian and Jewish communities in the UK, are deeply engaged with the work of CCJ. They continue to bolster and support our initiatives and programmes, some of which are open to people of all faiths and none.

May 24, 2024

“Our work is split into three main areas: Dialogue, Education and Social Action. Our flagship Campus Leadership Programme, which launched in 2016, seeks to foster places of inclusion and dialogue at university – a critical task today”.

## Cathedral Calls

### Meath & Kildare diocesan school service packs St Brigid’s Cathedral



**The Diocesan School Service took place in St. Brigid’s Cathedral, Kildare today, 21 May. The service included over 300 children from Church of Ireland National Schools across the Diocese.**

Hosted by the Dean of Kildare, Very Rev Isabel Jackson along with the curate Rev Philip McKinley the service also involved Bishop Pat Storey and our Diocesan Youth Officer, Luke Hawkins.

The cathedral was packed to capacity, with over three hundred pupils and teachers attending, from National Schools around the diocese. They certainly brought an atmosphere of energy, fun and enthusiasm to the Service.

The speaker was Rachael Murphy, the Church of Ireland Children and Families Development Officer, who spoke on the Parable of the Good Samaritan.

## **Staff at Saint Patrick's Cathedral win Great Place to Work certification**

**Staff at Saint Patrick's Cathedral play a crucial role in its operations, from worship services to community programmes.**

Led by Ms. Barbara Whelan, the Human Resource Manager, the team embarked on a journey to achieve certification as a Great Place to Work. Despite challenges, including low engagement in some areas, the Cathedral achieved gold-level accreditation, signaling high satisfaction levels overall.

Moving forward, efforts will focus on addressing areas of improvement highlighted in the survey results, with external HR support and a new appraisal process planned. Although

May 24, 2024

not winning at a recent awards ceremony, the Cathedral's presence at the event reflects its esteemed position in the tourism sector.

## Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

### Just landed: the Iona Abbey Programme 2025!

**If you're already dreaming of next year's holidays, take a look at our big plans for 2025.**

Lots of information still to come but here are some of the highlights so far:

- Time and Space led by our island team
- Creative weeks led by @ionabooks and Wild Goose Resource Group
- Social justice focus on the environment, peace and other common concerns
- Bible gems with John Bell

Find out more at [www.iona.org.uk/visit-and-stay](http://www.iona.org.uk/visit-and-stay)

Discounts are available for

- students
  - anyone on benefits or receiving a state pension
  - anyone paid less than the real living wage
  - large families
  - anyone who is homeless, refugee, or seeking asylum
- Children under 5 go free!



## QUOTE -

On this day last year, I had the immense honour of sharing an audience with **His Holiness Pope Francis**. His words have been an inspiration to me ever since, 'We need to pray together, work together and walk together.'

**Archbishop of York 22/05/2024**

## Perspective

### General election 2024: Invitation to pray for the nation - C of E bishops

**The Bishops of the Church of England have issued a call to put prayer and participation at the heart of the General Election campaign as the UK prepares to go to the polls.**

Speaking after the Prime Minister Rishi Sunak announced he is seeking a dissolution of Parliament ahead of an election on the 4th July, Archbishops Justin Welby and Stephen Cottrell urged people to set aside time amid the heat of the coming campaign to reflect and pray for our nation and our world.

They also issue a plea to everyone to put “good grace and a commitment to truth and integrity” at the heart of the campaign.

The Church of England is launching a campaign known as #PrayYourPart – to promote prayer and participation in the life of our nation and communities, both as voters and as citizens.

A series of daily thematic reflections written by bishops, drawn from the Bible and exploring major themes will be published shortly, covering the final three weeks up to polling day.

They will be available as a booklet, through an app, in audio form for smart speakers, as free opt-in emails and through social media.

Throughout the coming weeks a range of Christian voters from across England, will be invited to share what they are praying for for the nation, through a series of videos under the banner #PrayYourPart.

Archbishops Justin and Stephen said: “The coming General Election is a critical moment in the life of our nation, which will shape our future by electing those who will make decisions affecting generations to come.

“It is a time for us all – people of all faiths and of none - to ask important questions about what kind of country we want to be.

“We are facing epic challenges both in our country and our world: from questions of war and peace to poverty and injustice, and the very future of the Earth God has given us.

“Faced with such huge questions, our instinct as Christians is to turn to God in prayer and so we want to put prayer at the very heart of this campaign.

“We are therefore inviting everyone who is willing to dedicate the next few weeks as a time not just to think about the big questions, but to pray for our nation and our world. And we want to invite everyone to think about how we all can play our part both as voters and, more broadly, as citizens.



“We would add a plea that no matter how big the issues at stake over the next few weeks, this will be a time marked by respect for one another, for good grace and a commitment to truth and integrity.

“It is our prayer that, even in the heat of the debate, we will treat each other with respect and kindness.

“And we give thanks for the dedication of all who stand for public office in service of our communities – often at great personal cost - and those who support the process.”

## In the media

### Gulf widens between religious practise in Northern Ireland and Scotland

#### **Gulf between religious practise in Northern Ireland and Scotland widens further according to latest census results**

The gulf between religious practise in Northern Ireland and Scotland has widened further, with more than half of Scots claiming to have “no religion” in the latest census, Mark Rainey of the Belfast Telegraph and PA write.

That figure of 51.1% is up significantly from the 2011 census when 36.7% of the population of Scotland said they had no religious affiliation.

May 24, 2024

According to the data released by National Records of Scotland (NRS), across Scotland as a whole, 20.4% responded Church of Scotland, down from 32.4% in 2011 while the next largest religious groups were Roman Catholic (13.3%), Other Christian (5.1%) and Muslim (2.2%).

Rev David Cameron, Convener of the Assembly Trustees of the Church of Scotland, said the decline in membership numbers is an area of “considerable concern” to the church and that radical reform is necessary to address this.

In Northern Ireland, the head of the Evangelical Alliance NI said there are several reasons why the gulf has widened.

“Scotland I think would be one of the most secular parts of these islands. In comparison, Northern Ireland is a very different landscape when it comes to religious identification and practise as well,” David Smyth said.

Evangelical Alliance NI recently carried out its own research, which found that one in every two people in NI would describe themselves as practising Christians.

Mr Smyth said: “You have three times as many people saying they have no religion in Scotland as in Northern Ireland, if you just use the government stats, and leave our research aside.

“Whenever we went into those government stats, and our own research which was carried out by a professional polling company as well, we found a few reasons why we have much higher rates of religious identification in Northern Ireland.

May 24, 2024

“One is obviously our history and our geography, and the political situation.

“We also have the highest proportion of Roman Catholics in the UK, and Catholics would be more likely to identify as practising Christians in our research than Protestants were. We also have higher proportions of evangelical Protestants than anywhere else in the UK”.

Dr Lois Lee, from the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Kent, has described the Scottish census finding on religious practise as “very significant – though not a surprising one”.

The senior lecturer said: “It reflects the generational shifts we are seeing across the UK, with younger people much more likely than older people to identify as nonreligious. What it makes quite clear is that institutional religion is increasingly not what Scots are pinning their worldview identities to.

“This doesn’t actually mean that institutional religion plays no role in their lives, but that role is changing – and, crucially, institutional religion is sharing space in people’s lives with the non-institutional worldviews that our surveys fail to account for – humanism is a significant one, but also alternative spirituality, environmentalism, deep scepticism, not to mention the sources of meaning we have no names for”.

Dr Lee added: “Our public conversation and our public records do not at the moment reflect this changing landscape.”

# Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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## Church News Ireland

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