

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – National Arboretum

May 3, 2024

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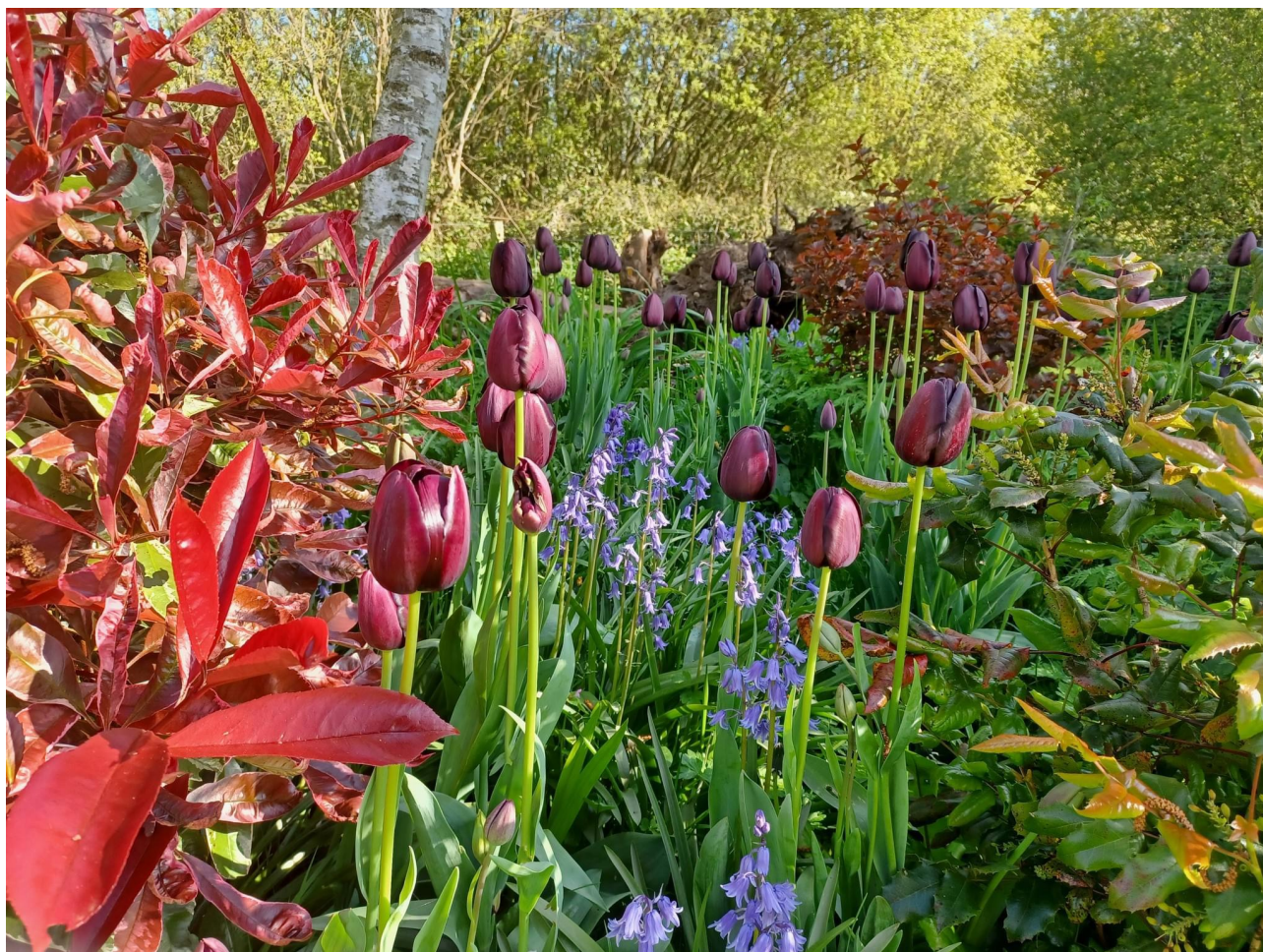


The National Arboretum

The National Arboretum welcomes over 300,000 visitors to site each year, including over 20,000 young people for formal and informal learning visits.

Visitors can enjoy discovering over 400 memorials nestled amongst some 25,000 trees, experience riverside walks and participate in a wide variety of daily activities: guided walks, land train tours, memorial talks, exhibitions and buggy tours.

Each year around 250 events take place on site, from small intimate services of Remembrance to set piece events like



Armistice Day, Remembrance Sunday, a summer proms and Armed Forces Day.

The National Arboretum is a UK registered charity and 150-acre visitor site on the edge of the National Forest in Staffordshire. It is part of the Royal British Legion, but a separate legal body.

It states - we exist to ensure that:

the unique contribution of those who have served and sacrificed is never forgotten

the baton of Remembrance is passed on through the generations

there is a year-round space to celebrate lives lived and commemorate lives lost.

[\[https://www.thenma.org.uk/\]](https://www.thenma.org.uk/)

News briefs



Second Kilrea Sunday School raised £500 at their annual Tearfund lunch

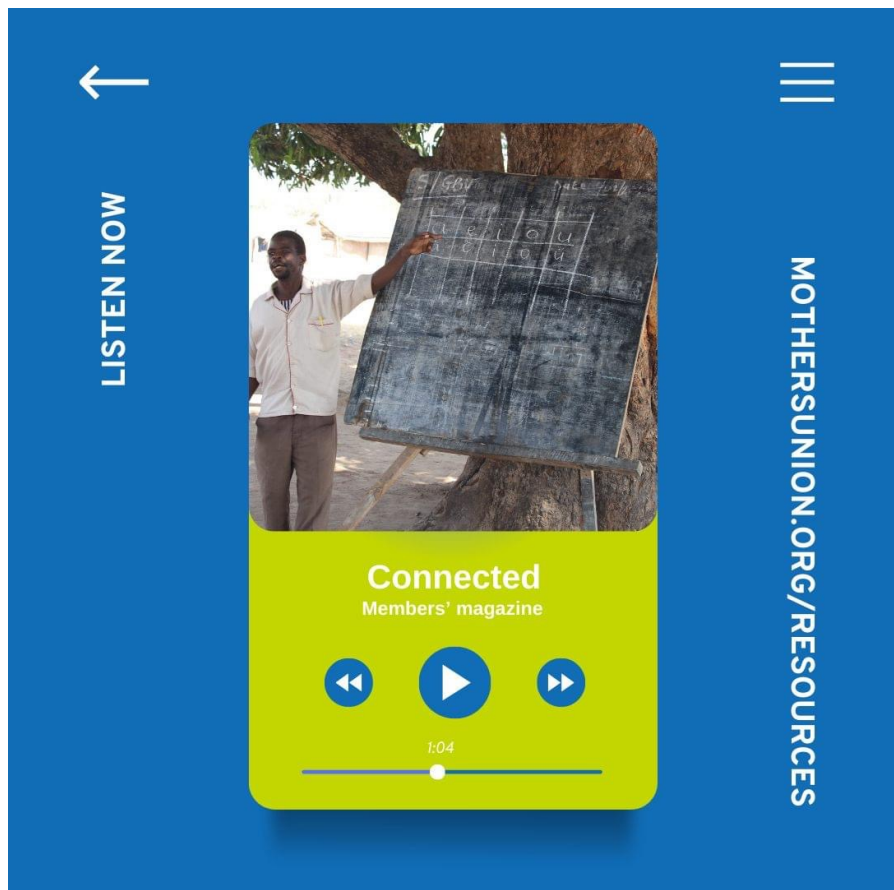
They said, 'Many of us are privileged and blessed with more than enough and we support and raise money for Tearfund to help others in need globally.'

Rwanda Row - “We can’t have cherry-picking of international agreements.” - PM’s message to the Irish Gov.

He tells pre-polling day PMQs that the NI SoS is “seeking urgent clarification that there will be no disruption or police checkpoints at or near the border”.

Mothers Union new audio version of members' magazine Connected

“Be inspired by all God is doing through Mothers’ Union while you commute, run or drive!”



Members can access the latest edition by going to mothersunion.org/resources then search for ‘Connected Spring 2024 Audio’. “You can receive Connected, our inspiring members’ magazine filled with good news stories and updates straight to your doorstep twice a year by signing up to become a member”.

Take your next step. Go to mothersunion.org/get-involved/join-us-today

Pope Francis - The three theological virtues are great gifts of God.

“...Without them, we might be prudent, just, strong, and temperate, but we would not have a heart that loves even when it is not loved, nor would we have hope that dares against all hope”. General audience

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St Colmanells and Portglenone LIFT for South Sudan

Well done to all the ladies from Ahighill and and Portglenone churchs'LIFT group who took part in an evening's sponsored walk and sponsored silence. The group raised £900 towards the upcoming short-term mission trip to Ibba in South Sudan. Dennis, Niall and Stephen, who will be flying out in August, were there on the evening to thank everyone. And well done to everyone, and “ especially our Heather, who managed to stay silent for so long!”

News

Concern for RE & Collective Worship in Northern Ireland's controlled primary schools

Dr Andy Brown, Chair of the Transferor Representatives' Council (TRC), said this week, “The Court of Appeal Judgement is detailed and merits careful consideration.

“However, we are heartened by the Court's view that there was no breach of the relevant Protocol of the European Convention on Human Rights.”

Last year in the TRC commented on the appeal hearing with regards to Justice Colton's decision in respect of JR87 on the delivery of Religious Education and provision of Collective Worship in primary schools in Northern Ireland,

In this week's comment Dr Brown continued, “The TRC intervened in support of the Department of Education's

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appeal to give important historical and contextual information which we felt had been overlooked in the original case.

Dr Andy Brown



This included apprising the court that the churches had recognised areas in the RE Curriculum which need addressed and how TRC had, for some time, pressed the Department, successive Ministers of Education, elected representatives, and officials to remedy this.

We are therefore pleased that the court recognised and referred to the work that is ongoing to refresh the Northern Ireland curriculum which will, of course, include consideration of ‘the complexion and changing needs of our modern society’, as recommended in yesterday’s ruling.”

Dr Brown concluded by saying, “The teaching of RE is a vital component of the primary curriculum in Northern Ireland, an area in which children are able to explore and consider life’s big questions, in preparation for life outside the classroom. Given the history and context of our society and education system, RE gives space for children to learn about faith within the Christian ethos of our schools, which

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encourages and promotes the importance of recognising and respecting the different views of those of other faiths and none.

“We will continue to work together with all relevant agencies to ensure that children and young people across Northern Ireland have access to high quality Religious Education, which will enrich their learning and understanding of the world in which they live”.

Sant’Egidio Community on Anglican Primates pilgrim route

On the second day of the Primates’ Meeting in Rome, the primates pilgrimaged to the Community of Sant’Egidio and also attended evening prayer at Santa Maria in Trastevere.

Sant’Egidio is a Christian community of lay people, established in 1968, that has become a network of communities in more than 70 countries of the world.

The community works to prioritise prayer, the poor and peace.

During their visit, the primates visited different services provided by the centre, which includes health, legal and housing support for vulnerable people.

The community is also a major advocate for social justice and is providing a humanitarian corridor for refugees.

USA's United Methodist Conference approves full communion with the Episcopal Church

In the US, delegates to the United Methodist General Conference have approved full communion with the Episcopal Church on April 30. The agreement needs the approval of the Episcopalians before going into effect.

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During the conference's "Ecumenical Day," the morning plenary session was halted briefly to acknowledge the vote.

"We want to lift up and recognize this moment, which is an incredibly significant moment, especially on this day as we celebrate our ecumenical relations," said the Rev. Gary Graves, secretary of the General Conference.

"As you adopted that resolution," he noted, "you adopted the full communion relationship with the Episcopal Church in the United States, that has been worked on for many years."

Presiding over the plenary, Bishop Lanette Plambeck said, "That feels pretty good, doesn't it?" She serves the Dakotas-Minnesota Episcopal Area. "What a beautiful moment this is for our connectional relationship, our ecumenical relationship and our witness to the world."

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The resolution was on the day's consent calendar, which allows the lawmaking assembly to approve multiple pieces of legislation in bulk. To make it onto the consent calendar, petitions must receive no more than 10 "no" votes in legislative committee and have no implications for the denomination's budget or constitution.

If the Episcopalian Church affirms the agreement, which might not happen until meetings scheduled for 2027, it will mean that the two denominations recognize each other as "one, holy, catholic and apostolic church in which the Gospel is rightly preached and taught."

"We're excited," said retired Bishop Sally Dyck, the ecumenical officer of the Council of Bishops. "A lot of people have been working on it for a long time."

One practical benefit of full communion would be that pastors could serve in the churches of the other denomination. In a time when some rural and even urban communities have no Christian churches, there would be an opportunity for a joining of forces as a remedy, Dyck said.

"Once we make that full communion, then all of us have full communion with each other — the Episcopalians, the Lutherans, the Moravians and us," she said. "Then we don't have to have all these individual coordinating (joint) committees. We could all be one coordinating committee, perhaps, that would be cheaper and far more creative and interactive."

Communion would also mean that Methodists and Episcopalians would recognize the authenticity of each

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other's baptism and Eucharist; extend sacramental hospitality to one another's members; recognize ordination of each other's priests, elders and deacons; report regularly to one another; formulate joint educational materials and encourage continuing education opportunities for lay and clergy leaders regarding full communion; and agree to cultivate and maintain active partnership and consultation with each other.

On April 29, another ecumenical relationship deepened, this one with the Moravian Church, Dyck said earlier in the plenary.

“The General Conference approved a new, full communal relationship between our church and the northern and southern provinces of the Moravian Church,” Dyck announced.

“It's natural that we now find ourselves coming closer together,” she said. “The Moravians were a shining example to John and Charles Wesley of the possibilities of freedom through God's grace.”

Former Deputy Principal of Bandon Grammar School

**The death has been announced of former Deputy
Principal Seán Crowley.**

A tribute from the school stated - “Seán worked in Bandon Grammar School from 1973 - 2015. A gifted Maths teacher with an infectious energy and enthusiasm for school life,

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Seán made an immense contribution to the development of Bandon Grammar School and its community.

“Seán was a superb sportsman and coached hockey, rugby, and athletics teams to provincial and national success. Seán's leadership skills were recognised on a national level, and he served on the executive of the National Association of Principals & Deputy Principals as a wonderful mentor and confidante to so many. Seán retired last Summer after 50 years of service with the State Examinations Commission, where he was the Chief Advising Examiner for Maths for the last 15 years.

“The great artist Picasso said: "The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away." All of us today in Bandon Grammar School have benefitted from Seán's generous gifts and talents. At this sad time our thoughts and prayers are with all of Seán's family and friends, especially his wife Anne, his children Alan, David, Laura and Colin.

“May Seán rest in peace and rise in glory.”

Cathedral Call

Cities of York and New York celebrate a Century of Transatlantic Friendship

The historic cities of York, England, and New York City, USA, will celebrate a century as twin cities this week (May 5, 2024), with a message from His Majesty King

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Charles III marking the occasion, and dignitaries from both sides of the Atlantic Ocean coming together for an historic ceremony.

Four days of activity in New York City, celebrating the two cities' shared values, will culminate in a special service at **Saint Thomas Church, New York**, on Sunday May 5 at 4pm, when a ledger stone designed and carved at York Minster in England will be unveiled. The ledger stone has been placed in Saint Thomas Church as it shares a close relationship with York Minster through its liturgy and music.

Marking the special occasion on Fifth Avenue will be The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Stephen Cottrell, the Archbishop of York, The Revd Canon Carl Turner, and British Consul General to New York, Hannah Young, who will read a message from His Majesty King Charles III.

The **Revd Canon Carl Turner, Rector of Saint Thomas**, said:

“In its bicentennial year, Saint Thomas Church is delighted to celebrate the historic relationship between old York and New York, as it were, and to uplift our Anglican heritage from which we draw so much tradition and strength. We feel privileged to house this historic ledger stone in our nave and look forward to welcoming delegations from York and the British Embassy.”

The long-standing relationship between New York City and York stretches back to 1924, when citizens of New York presented York with a memorial tablet during a service in England, alongside a message from the then President of the United States.

Over the last century, the two cities have gone from strength to strength, forging partnerships across education, the arts, business, and tourism. The Revd Canon Carl Turner, Rector of Saint Thomas will be joined by **the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell** for the service and unveiling.

The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell said:

“I’m delighted to be part of this moment when York and New York renew their connection. In a world where there is much division, reaching out across different cultures fosters goodwill and understanding, breaks down barriers and recognizes we are all part of one humanity.”

Hannah Young, British Consul General to New York, said:

“For 100 years, York and New York have shared a special bond, and as Consul General to New York, I have seen firsthand at how our countries have learnt from one another’s rich histories, our shared values to promote tourism, and foster business connections that benefit both cities.”

The Very Revd Dominic Barrington, Dean of York, said:

“We’re extremely excited that we’ve reached the next step in the program of celebration marking the centenary of this historic moment as we look to further develop connections between the two cities. It comes at a time where work on our Centre of Excellence is well underway, a project that will establish the York Minster Precinct as a world class campus facility for heritage craft skills, so we’re delighted to be able to showcase the talent of our stonemasons and the scheme on an international scale through this gift.”

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Evensong Service Livestream Link available here -
<https://www.saintthomaschurch.org/events/festal-evensong-2024-05-05/>

The message from His Majesty King Charles III will be available in full from the Order of Service and at www.SaintThomasChurch.org.

Devon's first Eco Church celebration at Exeter Cathedral

The first Eco Church celebration has taken place at Exeter Cathedral.

The event included an awards ceremony for 21 churches in Devon who have achieved bronze or silver Eco Church status.

Rt Revd Jackie Searle, the Acting Bishop of Exeter, said: "The event was a wonderful gathering of people who are playing their part in 'sustaining and renewing the life of the earth' (the Fifth Mark of Mission).

"The stories told were inspiring, and reminded me again that our efforts can and do make a difference."

One church which won a bronze awards was St Peter's in Uplowman. They were presented their award for their Creation hub work, which encourages mid Devon churches

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and their communities to consider what changes they could make to become environmentally friendly.

Steph Packham, Churchwarden at St Peter's Church, said: "To tend and to treasure is a core part of what we are called to do. If we could make just one change each, what an impact that would make!"

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



St Malachy's College and the Great War

A new book exploring the role that Alumni from St Malachy's College in north Belfast played in the First World War has been launched.



Entitled *St Malachy's College and the Great War*, the book provides a collection of stories detailing the roles of more than 20 former pupils who served in a wide range of regiments and units on several fronts.

Published jointly by St Malachy's College and the Ulster Historical Foundation, the book provides a voice for men who enlisted in the British Army over a century ago and reveals part of the nationalist narrative of a history that has not been told since the creation of the Northern Ireland state.

The book, and a forthcoming series of exhibitions, is the result of a research project into past pupils at the Catholic grammar school for boys, undertaken by current lower-sixth

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form students as part of their enrichment education, designed to broaden their academic experiences.

The boys combed through the St Malachy's College archives, censuses, newspapers, death certificates, wills, army records and more to piece together the stories and personal sacrifices of the men featured.

Copies of St Malachy's College and the Great War are available from the College Office priced £10.



Beaver Scouts award resource

The Harry Scott Award pays homage to Harry's infectious enthusiasm and enduring impact on generations of young people.

It encourages Cub Scouts to embrace creativity and camaraderie through campfire sing-songs, fostering an atmosphere of imagination and storytelling.

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This badge stands as a testament to Harry's enduring legacy, ensuring that his spirit lives on! Join us in commemorating Harry Scott's enduring legacy and empowering future generations of Cubs by downloading the booklet and incorporating it into your programme.

Click the link below to find out more!

 <https://shorturl.at/lquzS>



Trans-Atlantic insights on Organ Podcast

In the latest episode of The Organ Podcast David Briggs talks about his role at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, NYC and gives some fascinating insights into his approach to improvising and transcriptions.

Daniel Moul, Head of Organ at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire demonstrates how the mechanical design of an organ is often the greatest teacher and explains how a

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'fleet' of new organs he's commissioning will transform the musicianship of his students.

Tune in wherever you find your podcasts, or listen at www.buzzsprout.com/2278771

Poem for Today

The Ministry of Fear by Seamus Heaney



Well, as Kavanagh said, we have lived
In important places. The lonely scarp
Of St Columb's College, where I billeted
For six years, overlooked your Bogside.
I gazed into new worlds: the inflamed throat
Of Brandywell, its floodlit dogtrack,
The throttle of the hare. In the first week
I was so homesick I couldn't even eat
The biscuits left to sweeten my exile.
I threw them over the fence one night
In September 1951
When the lights of houses in the Lecky Road
Were amber in the fog. It was an act
Of stealth.

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Parked at a gable, the engine running,
My fingers tight as ivy on her shoulders,
A light left burning for her in the kitchen.
And heading back for home, the summer's
Freedom dwindling night by night, the air
All moonlight and a scent of hay, policemen
Swung their crimson flashlamps, crowding round
The car like black cattle, snuffing and pointing
The muzzle of a Sten gun in my eye:
'What's your name, driver?'

'Seamus ...'

Seamus?

They once read my letters at a roadblock
And shone their torches on your hieroglyphics,
'Svelte dictions' in a very florid hand.

Ulster was British, but with no rights on
The English lyric: all around us, though
We hadn't named it, the ministry of fear.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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