

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Historic meeting in Rome of Anglican Primates and Pope

May 4, 2024

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Historic meeting in Rome of Anglican Primates and Pope

In a historic meeting, Anglican Communion primates from around the world have attended an audience with Pope Francis at the Vatican, during the morning of May 2.

The Pope shared words of encouragement and affirmation, in conversation with the primates. His address spoke about themes of synodality, church unity and the prioritization of relationships, Christian love and service.

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The Pope said: "Only a love that becomes gratuitous service, only the love that Jesus taught and embodies, will bring separated Christians closer to one another. Only that love, which does not appeal to the past in order to remain aloof or to point a finger, only that love which in God's name puts our brothers and sisters before the ironclad defence of our own religious structures, only that love will unite us. First our brothers and sisters, the structures later."

Justin Welby, The Archbishop of Canterbury spoke of the Pope's address and its significance to the Primates and the Anglican Communion, saying it was: "... a most beautiful address around the nature of unity and synodality and of the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the church – which took our eyes away from ourselves and lifted them to the faithfulness of God in Jesus Christ and the gift of the Spirit."

"This Primates' Meeting has been wonderful and has now become a moment in history where we have seen the closeness of our relationship with Rome at the pastoral, the missional and the spiritual level, which demonstrates the progress made over the last half century from real antipathy, to deep bonds of friendship all round the world. I am so grateful to God for the gift of the Spirit who worked among us this morning and has been working among us all week."

This was a significant moment in the Anglican Primates' Meeting in Rome. They have gathered for pilgrimage, prayer and discussion about joint mission and witness, along with conversation about synodality in the Anglican Communion.

[Read the full story here -](#)

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<https://www.anglicannews.org/news/2024/05/anglican-primates-enjoy-historic-meeting-with-pope-francis.aspx>

“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.”

[Read the Communique from the 2024 Primates’ Meeting in Rome:](#)

<https://www.anglicannews.org/news/2024/05/primates-share-communique-from-the-2024-primates'-meeting.aspx>

[Archbishop of Canterbury’s comment](#)

“This morning we visited the Vatican for a historic audience with Pope Francis – who gave a beautiful address on the nature of unity, synodality, and the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the church.

“The Pope’s words took our eyes away from ourselves, and lifted them to the faithfulness of God in Jesus Christ and the gift of the Spirit.

“Much progress has been made over the last half-century towards deep bonds of friendship between Anglicans and Catholics around the world. This Primates' Meeting has become a moment in history, where we have seen the closeness of our relationship with Rome at the pastoral, missional and spiritual level.

“I am so grateful to God for the gift of the Spirit, who worked among us this morning and all this week.”

News

Drop in recorded Catholic weddings

The number of Catholic weddings made up just 35% of all those taking place in the State – the lowest recorded figure since the year 2000 – with civil ceremonies (32%) catching up quickly, marriage statistics for 2023 show.

The figures are starkest in Ireland's capital, where the 263 Catholic weddings made up just 9% of the 2,898 that took place in Dublin city in 2023. This marks a drop from 27.6% in 2013.

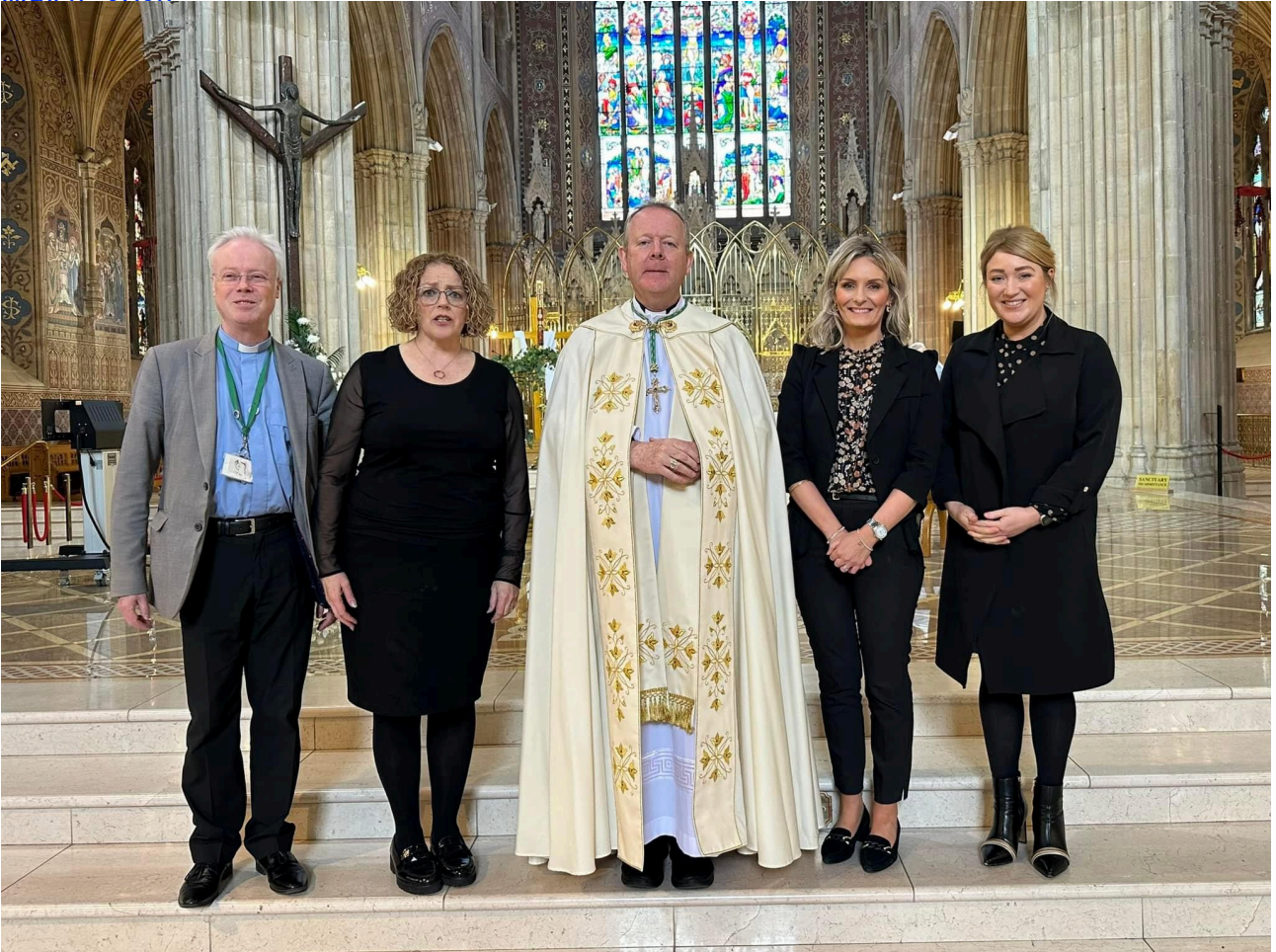
<https://www.irishcatholic.com/proportion-of-catholic-weddings-drops-to-almost-a-third-cso-stats/>

Surprise royal visit to Ukraine

Maybe one of the royals who really deserves more recognition is Sophie, Duchess of Edinburgh. This week she became the first royal to go to Ukraine since the Russian invasion, showing solidarity with those who have suffered during the war, particularly women. Without any fuss, she's made many trips to troubled places a long way from the usual royal tours, including Iraq, Kosovo, Sierra Leone, South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

In Ukraine, she met President Volodymyr Zelensky and First Lady Olena Zelenska, delivering a private message from King Charles and discussing support for survivors of sexual violence in conflicts.

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Armagh and Dromore Schools singing project

“Share what you have with people you love and life gets better. Give what you've got to people who've not and life gets better”



A wonderful culmination to the Schools singing project in the Archdiocese of Armagh and the Diocese of Dromore this

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week as schools gathered in the Cathedral of St Patrick and St Colman in Dromore on Tuesday and in St. Patrick's Cathedral Armagh today to share all they have learned over the past few months.

Thanks were expressed to the teams in both diocese and to St Briege and Sr Marian from the Poor Clare's monastery in Faughart who told the young people about St Brigid in this special year.

Carrickfergus churchman's book

Don Howe, a member of St. Nicholas' Church, Carrickfergus and vice-chairman of the interdenominational Divine Healing

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Ministries, has published a book entitled 'Love God and Love One Another.' Read more at <https://rb.gy/np4os1>

Tobermore Primary School's 90th Celebrations

“The children are so excited and looking forward to performing at our 90th anniversary concert on Wednesday 8th May.

“They have been rehearsing every day under the direction of Mr Hunter and they sound fabulous! If you haven't already got your tickets please don't delay as they're selling like 'hot cakes'”

<https://www.tobermoreps.com/news/tobermore-primary-schools-90th-celebrations-/?cms4563-news-live=2362>

Parish Priests discuss synodality near Rome

Some photos from the meeting of Parish Priests at the Synod, currently underway just outside Rome.

They are meeting for five days of listening, prayer, and discernment to address how local churches can implement synodality.





More here: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/church/news/2024-04/parish-priests-meet-to-share-experiences-of-synodality.html>

Why the Mothers' Union Kingdom Savings is such a game changer

Kingdom Savings is a key programme we have been running for three decades, transforming thousands of lives around the globe.

Our approach enables people to access finance previously out of reach, allowing them to build their own livelihoods for themselves and their families.

Our recent training in project in Tanzania has enabled...

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👉 76% participants can now meet household needs consistently.

👉 75% can now improve their homes.

👉 All groups give a portion of their resources to assist the marginalised and vulnerable in their community.



Mothers' Union savings groups are an integral way to transform individual lives with a ripple effect across their communities too.

Read the full article in the latest edition of Connected.

Don't forget you

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can receive Connected filled with uplifting stories of the impact Mothers' Union has around the corner and around the world twice a year by signing up to become a member or supporter.

Go to mothersunion.org/get-involved/join-us-today

Cathedral Call

Newport Minster on Isle of Wight reopens after £2.6m transformation

Newport Minster, on the Isle of Wight, in the Diocese of Portsmouth, has reopened, after a £2.6-million refurbishment project that set out to bring a “sleeping beauty back to life”.

There has been a place of worship on the site for at least 1000 years, with a medieval structure completed in 1175. It has been closed since 2022 while work on internal refurbishment took place. This followed many phases of a project to conserve its exterior, which began in 2006. In 2023, it was removed from the Historic England “At Risk” register after more than a decade. During the closure of the building, worshippers have been meeting for services in the parish centre near by.

The work, carried out by local tradespeople, has included a complete reshaping of the inside of the building; the installation of an underfloor heating system; and improved



After the reopening service on Wednesday, the chair of the Friends of Newport Minster, Jacque Gazzard, presents The Duke of Edinburgh with a bowl made from one of the old pews. The Bishop of Portsmouth looks on.

lavatories, a new kitchen, new seating, and new meeting rooms. The main worship area includes 300 chairs that can be moved to enable community activities to take place. A press release from the diocese spoke of the building becoming “a magnet for community groups, as well as a spiritual hub for the island”.

The work has been made possible by grants from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Historic England, the National Churches Trust, the Benefact Trust, and others, including a private benefactor who donated £100,000.

More than 400 people attended a reopening service on Wednesday evening, led by the Bishop of Portsmouth, Dr



Jonathan Frost. The Archdeacon of the Isle of Wight, the Ven. Steve Daughtery, preached on the feeding of the 5000, drawing parallels with the overwhelming need that had presented itself and the underwhelming resources that Jesus had transformed. Students from Christ the King College, the joint C of E and Roman Catholic secondary school, also took part.

A Bible reading was given by the Duke of Edinburgh, the patron of the Friends of Newport Minster. Speaking before his reading, he said: "I want to add my thanks to everyone who has been involved in it, everyone who has supported this, for all the wonderful craftsmen who have been involved in restoring this fantastic minster, and to say what a pleasure it is to be here at this event to see it being fully reopened and restored. It is what we set out to do. We are handing it back to you and please make the best use of it."

St Patrick's from Cornwall

"Recently, we were thrilled to welcome Vanessa Bernallick from Cornwall, England, to our beloved Saint Patrick's Cathedral.



Vanessa resides on the very land once inhabited by a remarkable figure in our history—Michael Tregury, a scholar and spiritual leader whose life story weaves through the fabric of both Cornwall and Dublin.”

Michael Tregury, born in St Wenn, Cornwall, was not only the chaplain to Henry VI but also an esteemed scholar who became the first rector of the University of Caen. His journey brought him to Dublin, where he served as Archbishop from 1450 until his death in 1471.

Vanessa and her friend Lyn Northcott had a poignant moment at the resting place of Archbishop Tregury, reflecting on the historic ties that bind us across seas and centuries. Their visit reminds us of the deep, personal

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connections that history harbours, waiting to be rediscovered by those who seek them.



USPG's living link with Liverpool

USPG said - "Congratulations to our friend and trustee Carlton Turner, on his recent installation as Honorary Canon Theologian at Liverpool Cathedral. A wonderful achievement"

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USPG urges - “Join us in prayer for Carlton as he supports the ministry of the cathedral and the wider diocese.”



COME AND SEE!

The bellringers of Saint Columb’s Cathedral extend an invitation to any person (male or female) who would like to know more about bellringing and to experience bellringing for themselves to come to a Taster Session in the Cathedral



SATURDAY 11th MAY
1.00 p.m. – 3.00 p.m.

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Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



Glengormley's community female voice ensemble

Homeward Bound

We invite you to join us for an informal
recital with our special guests



St Brigid's Church Hall, Ballyclare Road, Glengormley
Thursday, 9th May, at 7.30 p.m.

Songs, refreshments and a chance to join in!



Donations to the Martin Residential Trust



ARMAGH DIOCESAN HEALING MINISTRY



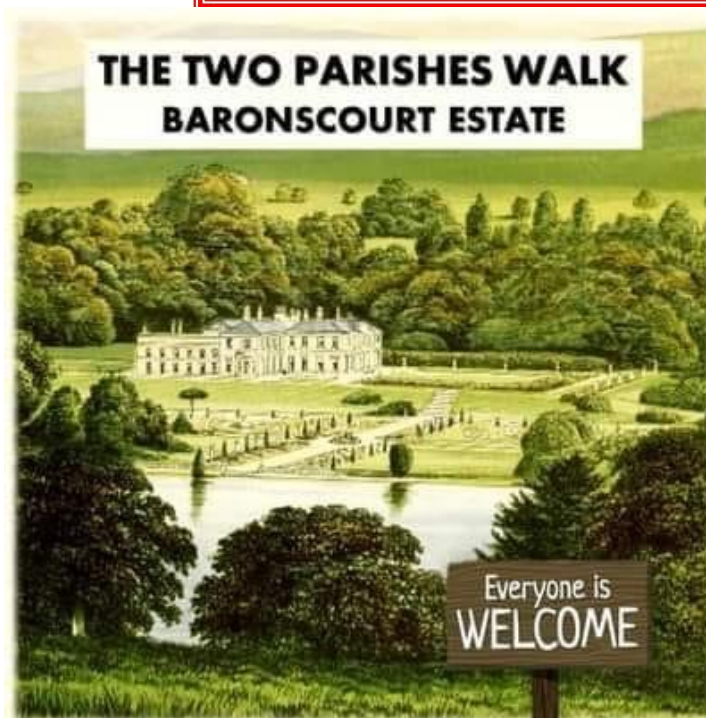
**A SERVICE OF
WHOLENESS AND HEALING**

will be held in
**The Cathedral Church of Saint Patrick,
Armagh**

on the
Day of Pentecost
Sunday 19th May 2024
at 3.15 p.m.

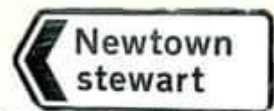
**Preacher: The Very Reverend Shane Forster,
Dean of Armagh**

*There will be an opportunity during the Service to receive the
Ministry of the Laying on of Hands with Prayer for Divine Healing,
if so desired.*



**THE TWO PARISHES WALK
BARONSCOURT ESTATE**

**Sunday
12th May 2024**



55 Baronscourt Road,
Newtown Stewart,
Co. Tyrone, BT78 4EZ



With Fr Roland Colhoun & Rev. Ivan Dinsmore

Proceeds: Both St Eugene's Churches
(Main Street & Glenock)

Registration: Estate Office, 2.30pm

Distance: 3 miles on foot

Terrain: Good flat surface

History: Learn the story from Robert Scott

Donation: £10-£15 pp or £30 per car
**Bring water and a snack*





Hollywood Parish Magazine online

The May magazine with a great cover photograph is now ready. You can download at this link

<https://www.hollywoodparishchurch.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Hollywood-Parish-Magazine-May-2024.pdf>

or pick up a paper copy from the office or church building on Sunday 5th!



ST. CATHERINE'S PARISH CHURCH,
KILLEAD, ALDERGROVE, CRUMLIN,
COUNTY ANTRIM BT29 4EL



YARNS FROM THE BIBLE

Friday 3rd May - Sunday 12th May 2024

An exhibition of hand-crafted knitted tableaux and patchworks depicting familiar scenes from the Bible. The work of sisters Doris Killow and Ethel Parks, this exhibition was first displayed in September 2022 in Tartaraghan Parish Church, Portadown.

OPENING HOURS: MONDAY – FRIDAY: 10.30 AM – 4.00 PM and 7.00 PM – 9.00 PM

SATURDAYS: 10.30 AM – 7.00 PM SUNDAYS: 2.30PM – 5PM

CLOSING SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING: SUNDAY 12TH MAY 7.00 PM

CATERING: Two course meal (salad or soup, dessert & tea/coffee) N.B. Available only for pre-booked groups £12.50 p.p. Walk-in light refreshments (tea/coffee with selection of savoury & sweet items) available throughout exhibition hours, except weekday evening sessions.

CONTACT DETAILS: Any groups/coach parties by prior appointment only, please.

Email: killeadparishevents@gmail.com not later than 24th April 2024.

For further information either email as above or telephone 07762458282

Proceeds to St Catherine's Church Funds

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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

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