

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Playing your part in D Day 80

Image of the day



Playing your part in D Day 80

D Day80 iconic torches will be lighting up the UK before travelling to France in June.

Join in community events when WW2 veterans and young people will come together to shine a light on the stories of heroism from 80 years ago, ensuring these

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stories are kept alive.

Want to catch a torch near you? Follow its journey from the UK to Normandy for the 80th Anniversary of D-Day:

<https://ow.ly/uuil50RuVcf>

News

Executive meeting of Methodist Women

A Meeting of MWI General Executive took place on Saturday in Leeson Street Methodist Church Dublin.

“Thank you to Leeson Street for the use of their premises and thank you Rev Andrew for your support. A lovely lady originally from Germany, who has come to reside in Ireland also joined the meeting and enjoyed a cup of tea! A lot of work covered and concern shared. All home safely but tired after a long and busy day”.

Clerical appointments

The Rev Melanie Sloan has been appointed as the new curate of All Saints' Clooney. Melanie's installation service will be Sunday 23rd June 7.30pm in All Saints Clooney Church.

“Melanie is going to be a great addition to our church and will be joined by her partner Mark and children Josh and



Finn. We hope they will all feel at home here and we look forward to getting to know them”.

Melanie's installation service will be Sunday 23rd June 7.30pm in All Saints Clooney Church.

The Reverend Cameron Mack has been appointed to be the Curate at St Anne’s Cathedral Belfast, subject to achieving his MTh in June. Cameron has been the part time Deacon Intern at Belfast Cathedral since September 2023.

In this new position Cameron will become a full time member of the cathedral staff working closely in support of the Dean in all aspects of the cathedral’s ministry.

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Announcing the appointment of Cameron as Cathedral Curate, the Dean said “I am thrilled that Cameron will be joining us as a core member of the cathedral’s ministry team. I look forward to working closely with Cameron over the coming years as we continue to shape the life and witness of Belfast Cathedral at the heart of this city and community.”



Bishop David McClay of Down & Dromore has appointed Revd Dr Claire Aylward as Priest-in-charge of the Grouped Parishes of Kilmore and Inch in Down Diocese.

The Service of Introduction will take place on Thursday 10 October 2024.

Originally from Tipperary, Claire is currently serving as Curate in St James Thorley in the Diocese of St Albans.



She was ordained in the Church of England following a career as a hospital doctor in the NHS, specialising in anaesthesia and intensive care medicine.

The Archbishop of Armagh has announced that the Rev'd Dr Andrew Campbell, currently Rector of the Parish of Skerry (Broughshane), Rathcavan and Newtowncrommelin, in the Diocese of Connor, has been appointed to become Rector of Magherafelt.



“The date of the Institution Service has yet to be confirmed. In the meantime, may we remember Andrew, Allison and their children in our prayers. We very much look forward to Andrew’s ministry amongst us in the near future”.

Shine a Light for Al Ahli Hospital, Jerusalem - Help Us Reach Our Goal Dublin & Glendalough appeals

Dublin and Glendalough's Shine a Light appeal for Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza City has now raised €210,000. Donations have continued throughout Lent and the season of Easter and our goal of €250,000 is now truly in sight. Please help us reach our target.

A huge thank you to everyone who has donated so far and to parishes and individuals who have organised events or taken part in our Lent campaign. Every Euro makes a difference and every cent donated will go directly to our partners in the Diocese of Jerusalem which owns and runs Al Ahli Hospital.

The Archbishop of Jerusalem, the Most Revd Hossam Naoum, and a number of his clergy will visit Ireland at the end of May for a joint retreat with clergy from Dublin and Glendalough. While here they will attend a service in St Ann's, Dawson Street, to enable us to give thanks for all that The Al Ahli Hospital has done and to pray for its resurgence once reconstruction in Gaza and across the region gets under way.

Appeal History

Our Shine a Light Appeal began shortly after the outbreak of the current war in October 2023. Marathon Sunday 2024



Another year of thousands of runners passing St Jude's Church at mile 24 of the Belfast City Marathon.



Following consultation with our partners in the Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem, our fundraising efforts are focused on three areas.

- First, the solar panels Dublin and Glendalough provided almost 10 years ago are now almost non-operational. We plan to repair and replace them as needed. These will enable a continuity of energy supply when there is no public electricity supply.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Prayer for Christian Aid Week

**God,
this Christian Aid Week,
as we strive to walk alongside the victims of injustice,
may we know we are walking with you.**

**As we campaign for a world that reflects your glory,
may your passion inspire us.
As we raise funds to turn your world the right way up,
may we be witnesses of your delight.**

**As we open our eyes to the plight of others,
open our hearts to your love,
for the poor,
for the planet,
for each other,
and for all creation.**

Amen

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- Secondly, before the war the Diocese of Jerusalem was planning to expand its Cancer Centre at the hospital. The Centre, as with the majority of hospitals in Gaza, no longer functions as a result of the war. This too we urgently want to help to repair.
- Thirdly, the diocese was poised to locate an outreach operation of its rehabilitation facility, the Princess Basma Centre in the Mount of Olives, in the Al Ahli Hospital just as the war started. The sensitive treatment and rehabilitation of children, both physically and psychologically, will be essential and will require substantial investment. Funds put aside by the diocese for this purpose will now need to be enhanced by donations, given the huge increase in need expected.

Our appeal is non-political. It is based on our longstanding link with our fellow Anglicans in the Diocese of Jerusalem who run Al Ahli Hospital for all, regardless of faith, ethnicity or background. Our link began in 2014 when the dioceses raised over €120,000 to provide solar panels and on-call facilities for staff at the hospital. Through our link we also seek to create and maintain bonds of friendship and solidarity between the people and clergy of both dioceses.

How to Donate

A Go Fund Me campaign has been started online for those who want to make a donation that way. You can donate by scanning the QR code or going to this link:
<https://gofund.me/0b2a08e6>

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You can continue to transfer your donations in the traditional way by electronic transfer to: Diocesan Funds of Dublin and Glendalough No 1 A/C Current Account, Bank of Ireland, 2 COLLEGE GREEN DUBLIN 2 IBAN: IE50 BOFI 9000 1769 3548 78, BIC: BOFIE2D. Cheques may be sent to Diocesan Offices of Dublin and Glendalough, Church of Ireland House, Church Avenue, Rathmines, Dublin 6, D06 CF67.

US Catholic leaders urge Biden to act for peace and justice in Holy Land

Cardinal Robert McElroy, Archbishop of San Diego, and Archbishop John Wester of Santa Fe, New Mexico, have joined more than 200 Catholic leaders in a letter to President Biden expressing their "grief and dismay over the horrors that have occurred in Israel/Palestine", calling for a ceasefire in Gaza, the release of hostages and an end to the shipment of weapons to Israel.

They also appeal for an end to the illegal settlements and attacks on Palestinians in the West Bank.

The letter states:

We, Catholics in the United States, express our grief and dismay over the horrors that have occurred in Israel/Palestine over the last six months. We also bear witness to and speak out against the decades of injustice that have plagued the Holy Land.

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As Pope Francis has said, "without justice, there is no peace." The inherent dignity of all persons and their right to life is the basis of our concern for all Palestinian and Israeli lives and our hope for a solution in which systemic injustices are addressed and the rights of both peoples granted and upheld.

In May 2024, when this letter is being released, we continue to plead for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza and adherence to international law by all parties. 71% of US Catholics support a Gaza ceasefire, echoing the position of Pope Francis, the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Society of Jesus, and other US Catholic organizations and leaders.

As of this letter's publication, over 34,000 Palestinians in Gaza-- the majority civilians--have been killed by Israel's military assault marked by indiscriminate bombing. We mourn each life lost. Tens of thousands more are severely injured without access to adequate medical care; half of Gazans are facing famine; and most have been displaced from their homes, 70% of which have been destroyed.

We are also deeply concerned about the recent spike in attacks and killings of Palestinians in the West Bank by Israeli soldiers and settlers.

More at -

[\[https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/49703\]](https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/49703)

Key decisions by United Methodist Church General Conference

Delegates to The United Methodist Church approved four changes to church law that together both end remaining bans related to LGBTQ ministry and protect the rights of pastors to choose which weddings to perform or not to perform.

General Conference has issued a heartfelt apology to all who experienced sexual misconduct in The United Methodist Church. Part of a resolution passed in the last hour of the legislative assembly, the apology is to be offered in the spirit of offering healing for all affected.

The majority of legislation supported by climate justice activists within The United Methodist Church was passed by General Conference on the consent calendar in the early part of its second week. But they were unable to get the body to require that United Methodist institutions, including Wespath — the denomination's pension and benefits agency — divest from fossil fuel company stocks.

Church in Wales lays flowers to commemorate LGBT people harmed by Christians

The Church in Wales is allegedly moving towards enabling same-sex marriages within its churches.

Since 2021, gay couples have had the opportunity for their unions to be blessed in the church following civil ceremonies, yet formal approval for church weddings has not been secured due to constitutional rules that require a two-thirds majority from clergy, bishops, and lay members.

Approval from lay members remains uncertain due to some holding traditional views on marriage.

To foster 'inclusivity and reconciliation', a significant service at Llandaff Cathedral is being organised by OneBodyOneFaith in collaboration with The Gathering. This event aims to commemorate individuals who have felt excluded or harmed by Christian communities due to their sexuality or gender identity.

Participants will engage in acts of remembrance and hope, including laying white flowers for those lost to suicide and purple flowers to symbolise hope for the future, as well as writing in a memory book for loved ones.

Bishop Mary Stallard shared her enthusiasm for the service with Nation Cymru: “I am delighted that this service is happening in Llandaff Cathedral. We value our calling to be an inclusive church, and this work underlines this. It is my firm hope that this service will offer a way-marker on an important journey of healing and transformation, both for those who take part and for our wider church and faith communities.”

Bishop Gregory Cameron spoke on the importance of acknowledging harm. He told the Welsh news outlet: “As the

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Church reassesses its attitude towards LGBT+ persons, we have to recognise not only discrimination but also real harm caused to individuals. This service is intended to contribute something towards acknowledgment of that harm, and to take a step in the direction of healing.”

Luke Dowding, CEO of OneBodyOneFaith, highlighted the significance of this memorial service: “This memorial service is a bold opportunity to speak truthfully about the harm LGBT+ people continue to experience but also of a future where the Christian church is no longer complicit in this. We are grateful for traditions like the Church in Wales who demonstrate clear leadership on this.”

The service welcomes everyone and is scheduled for Sunday 26 May at 5.30 pm at Llandaff Cathedral.

“Heavenly Father, bless the Church in Wales as it moves towards inclusivity, and guide all involved in making loving, biblical decisions for the future of the Church,

“May it be a beacon of healing and reconciliation for all”.

**Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts,
and books**

**St. Brigid 1500 – Family Fun Day, Dundalk
16th June 2024**



Family
FUN DAY

Special Performance by:
MALACHI CUSH

The Archdiocese of Armagh with St. Patrick's Parish Dundalk and K. Allen Events will host a family fun day as part of it's St. Brigid 1500, celebrations.

SUNDAY 16.6.2024 **EVENT TIME** 3pm - 6pm

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH DUNDALK
Roden Place, Dundalk.

For trade stand or entertainment enquiries contact:
kallenevents@hotmail.com

The Archdiocese of Armagh in partnership with the Dundalk parishes, will host a Family Fun Day in the grounds of St. Patrick's Church, Dundalk, on the 16th June 2024 from 3pm – 6pm

The family fun day will be followed by a procession to St. Nicholas' Church, Dundalk, for a special prayer service dedicated to St. Brigid.

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The event is part of the Archdiocese of Armagh's year long celebrations to mark the life and legacy of St. Brigid on this the 1500th anniversary year of her death. All are invited to attend.



St John's College Choir, Cambridge, Choral Graduate Programme

Singers with strong choral experience and excellent musical skills are invited to apply for our new Choral Graduate Programme.

From September 2024 the Choral Graduate Programme takes the place of our established Lay Clerk scheme. In addition to a competitive professional salary, the scheme provides support and mentorship to help young singers get to the next stage in their careers.

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Led by distinguished bass-baritone Alex Ashworth, the Choral Graduate Programme offers bespoke guidance, masterclasses with leading professionals, singing lessons, and an allowance to be spent on musical development.

The closing date for applications is 12pm on Friday 10 May.

Find out more here:

sjcchoir.co.uk/choral-graduate-programme

RCO June events and Webinar

RCO's upcoming June events taking place across the UK include classes on adapting piano accompaniments to the organ with Roger Carter (London), a performance class with David Saint (Newcastle), as well as a masterclass followed by a free recital with Anne Page (Norwich).

“You can also join us online for our next Working Webinar which focusses on how to build an organ teaching practice”.

To see the full list of events for June and beyond, visit:

<https://bit.ly/47Ib4W>

Belfast. Founding members of the choir, The Priests, continue to support Capella's many and varied activities.

Matthew Quinn is a Northern Irish conductor, composer and singer who was appointed Musical Director of the choir in 2022.

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Attention all churches - Get ready for the European Heritage Open Days

European Heritage Open Days - an annual celebration of local architecture, history, and culture.

EHOD is organised by the Department for Communities Love Heritage NI with support from the Council of Europe and the European Commission.

Mark your calendars for September 14th and 15th, 2024! Plus, don't miss out on EHOD digital offerings happening from September 9th to 15th!

Registration closes on May 22nd, 2024. Treasure Ireland grantees are required to open their doors as part of their grant conditions during European Heritage Open Days. Showcase your church's heritage and be part of this remarkable event!

Register your church here: [<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XDDW6SN>]

For more information visit:

<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/articles/european-heritage-open-days>

Let's celebrate our rich heritage together

Poem for today



“Hope” is the thing with feathers by Emily Dickinson

“Hope” is the thing with feathers -
That perches in the soul -
And sings the tune without the words -
And never stops - at all -

And sweetest - in the Gale - is heard -
And sore must be the storm -
That could abash the little Bird
That kept so many warm -

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I've heard it in the chilliest land -
And on the strangest Sea -
Yet - never - in Extremity,
It asked a crumb - of me.

Speaking to the soul

Go

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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