

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Marathon churches

May 8, 2024

Image of the day



Marathon churches

Churches in a variety of ways took part in the Belfast Marathon running for a number of charities and hosting facilities for those running.

St John's Parish, on the Falls Road, said "Thank you to all those who volunteered with us today at our Air Ambulance cheer station at St John's. From the youngest to the oldest your presence was greatly appreciated especially by the runners in need or rest or refreshment.

"Team work makes the dream work"

Fast Ferrys rectory marathon team - Congratulations to the Fast Ferrys, the marathon team name for the young

May 8, 2024

members of the family of Rev Malcolm Ferry and his wife Carol, who took part in the Belfast Marathon on May 5.

The team was running to raise funds for Parkinson's UK, a condition Carol was diagnosed with 20 years ago.

Malcolm and Carol's niece Vicky ran the full marathon, while their daughters Sarah and Rebekah, along with El, fiancé of their son James, Sarah's fiancé Max and Vicky's boyfriend Ed did the marathon relay.

Malcolm said it had been 'a great day with a great bunch of young people.'

Through this marathon effort, the Fast Ferrys have to date raised more than £6,500 (plus Gift Aid) for Parkinson's UK. Donations can still be made online.

Not only has the family seen first-hand the debilitating impacts of Parkinson's, but also what research can do. Carol had life-changing Deep Brain Stimulation surgery in 2022 and is now able to enjoy many things that were a challenge or impossible before her surgery.

PARKINSON'S^{UK}
CHANGE ATTITUDES.
FIND A CURE.
JOIN US.



News

Larne Lent Lunches generosity

The Rector Rev David Lockhart welcomed Mr Neville McCormack a Representative" of Barnabas Aid" Charity to St Cedma's on Sunday morning, The proceeds from this years Lent Lunches totalled £1,, 305 . The cheque was presented to Mr McCormack by Mrs Norma Nixon (Lunch Co-ordinator.)

Enniscorthy's MU 80th Anniversary Big Hymn Sing

A large congregation gathered in St. Colman's Church, Templeshanbo (Enniscorthy) for a "Big Hymn Sing" and to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of Killanne/Killegney branch. It was a wonderful occasion with great singing and everyone enjoyed refreshments in the parish hall after the service. The service was conducted by Revd. Canon Trevor Sargent

May 8, 2024

who has pastoral care of the Union during the vacancy. We were delighted too to welcome our Diocesan Chaplain. Revd. Ger James and Revd. Redfern who is providing holiday cover in the Union for the months of May and June. The special preacher was Janet Crampton, a former Rector's wife and Branch Leader. Long service certificates and flowers were presented to Joan and Iris during the service who have been enrolled for 60 & 58 years, and they also cut the celebration cake.

St Paul's Church Lads Brigade display



May 8, 2024

Saint Paul's Church Lads Brigade held its annual display and persuaded their chaplain to take part.

The Commanding Officer of the Ulster Regiment of the CLB, John Williams presented Rt Rev Darren McCartney with his Chaplain's Certificate.



King's openness over cancer 'shows his willingness to help others' - Archbishop

The Archbishop of Canterbury has marked the first anniversary of the King's coronation by praising Charles' "sense of duty" as he returned to public-facing events following his cancer diagnosis.

Justin Welby said anointing and crowning Charles during the Westminster Abbey ceremony was the "privilege of a lifetime", and he paid tribute to the King's "openness in sharing his condition" — a "characteristic of his willingness

May 8, 2024

to help and support others”. The King attended three events last week as he resumed royal engagements, indicating the positive effect of the cancer treatment he is receiving as an outpatient.

Gun salutes were heard across the capital on Monday in celebration of the King's coronation, with 41 volleys fired at noon by the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery from Green Park, and an hour later the Honourable Artillery Company will fire a 62-gun salute from Tower Wharf — an extra 21 for the City of London.

Archbishop Welby said: “It was the privilege of a lifetime to anoint and crown His Majesty, surrounded by so many of the charities and organisations he supports, as well as hundreds of people who are serving their communities.

“The Coronation weekend inspired millions to volunteer, and I'm delighted that the Big Help Out is returning in June, for us to get together and make a difference.

“The past year has presented the King with some great personal challenges. But I have been struck by his continued sense of duty, having recently returned to royal engagements following treatment. His openness in sharing his condition has been characteristic of his willingness to help and support others.”

Church News Ireland

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.

Cathedral Call

The new Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church, Berlin

The walls of the church are made of a concrete honeycomb containing 21,292 stained glass inlays.



The glass, designed by Gabriel Loire, was inspired by the colours of the glass in Chartres Cathedral. The predominant colour is blue, with small areas of ruby red, emerald green and yellow.

A worthy Cathedral Dame

She's best known for playing Hyacinth Bucket in Keeping Up Appearances.

Patricia Routledge has finally been made a Dame at a ceremony at Buckingham Palace on Friday past. Patricia is a lay Canon of Chichester Cathedral and an active member of the cathedral community. Her address to the Deans' Conference when it met in Chichester is memorable.



Coventry Cathedral Choir is recruiting singers

“We are hoping to appoint 1 bass and 2 alto Lay Clerks to begin in September. £6000pa with an average of 7 hours per week usually only within school term time aside from occasional choir tours. Details and application form may be found at the link: [https://](https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/support-us/job-opportunities)

www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/support-us/job-opportunities

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

Cappella Caeciliana and The Titanic

May 8, 2024

Performed by Northern Ireland chamber choir Cappella Caeciliana under the musical direction of Matthew Quinn, this beautiful performance draws upon music and poetry from Celtic, Scandinavian and American folk traditions as well as from traditional choral repertoires.

Act One will commence in The Grand Atrium exploring the hopes and aspirations of emigration while considering what or who you leave behind, with pieces such as Lovland's beautiful 'Sleepsong' and 'The Parting Glass'.

Continuing the journey, guests will move to the spectacular Ship of Dreams gallery, part of our reimagined Titanic Experience, which explores the hopes and dreams of the passengers on board heading to New York to start a new life. Watch out for some special musical nods to RMS Titanic in this atmospheric Act Two!

Following a short interval, the evening will come to a crescendo on The Bridge with panoramic views over the iconic Titanic Slipways. Centring around the 'Songs of Farewell' by C. H. H Parry, Act Three will offer a musical exploration of metaphysical poetry from Henry Vaughn and John Donne.

Guests will receive a complimentary drink on arrival, with a choice of wine, beer or sparkling elderflower pressé. Refreshments available to purchase during the interval.

About Cappella Caeciliana



Celebrating the Gifts of the Breath of Christ A Pentecost Retreat

The Retreat

Pentecost Sunday brings to a close the 50-day season between Jesus' Resurrection and the empowering descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples which marked the birth of the Church.

In this non-residential, contemplative prayer retreat, we consider key moments in Jesus' earthly ministry and his post Resurrection encounters with his followers. In so doing, we will deepen our awareness of our own gifts of the Holy Spirit, embracing them in gratitude and renewing our will to use them in the service of Christ.

Through guided prayer, reflection on pieces of art, private contemplative prayer exercises and journaling, we will gain insight into how to use these gifts within our families, communities, and the world.

Tom Cashman, an Ignatian Spiritual Director from Tucson, Arizona, will present this retreat in six sessions, supported by his wife Rosemary and the BJC team. It begins on Friday evening and concludes with Mass on Sunday at 12noon..



Schedule

-  **Friday 17th May**
7.30pm - 9.00pm
- Saturday 18th May**
 9.30am - 5.00pm
Lunch Included
- Sunday 19th May**
 9.30am concluding with Mass
of Pentecost at 12noon.

Cost

A non refundable deposit of £10 to book your place and a suggested donation of £40-£50 payable during the retreat.

To Book

Visit www.belfastjesuitcentre.co.uk or contact us by email or phone. **Details below.**



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In the media

Belfast Telegraph - Jewish young people

'Our young are careful; they're not too open and watch what they say'

Kurtis Reid, the leader of Belfast's Jewish community has said its young people “are careful” about expressing their identity due to fears of anti-Semitism.

Michael Black is head of the city's 59-member Hebrew Congregation at Northern Ireland's only synagogue, where Rabbi David Kale officiates. There are only around 400 Jews in the region.

Speaking during the Passover holiday, which marks the Exodus of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, Mr Black said while his experience of anti-Semitism locally was small, the war between Israel and Hamas has stoked the fires of hate. “It's been the shock of how quickly anti-Semitism has bubbled to the surface,” he said.

“It's been all over the world; we see so much hatred and ignorance from those who take to the streets.

“It amazes how little they know and how quick they were to condemn, but forget what happened, on the 7th of October.”

That date marked the outbreak of the latest bloody phase of the Palestinian/Israeli conflict going back 75 years when

May 8, 2024

Hamas terrorists broke out of Gaza into Israel, attacking several sites including a music festival, killing thousands and kidnapping hundreds.

The Israelis responded with full force, and over the last seven months thousands of Palestinians — many of them women and children — have died in the land invasion of Gaza and in air strikes.

The death toll has sparked widespread criticism of Israel — and a spike in anti-Semitism.

Since October 7, there has been a 589% increase in the number of such incidents reported in the UK to 4,103, according to The Community Trust.

Mr Black said: “Northern Ireland has experienced little anti-Semitism, but other places have been awful.

“I speak to some of the Jewish students and they are very careful.

“They're not too open, and watch what they say.

“I know of several incidents in schools here, where they have become politically involved in what is going on, and parents have come to me to raise concerns, telling me the schools have dismissed their views.

“This business of 'From the River to the Sea' — that means the end of the State of Israel.

May 8, 2024

“People can claim it doesn't, but it does, and that is what Hamas stands for.

“How do you combat that ideology, an ideology that uses its own people as cannon fodder to destroy Jews and more?

“The term, which is popularly used during pro-Palestinian marches, refers to the Palestinian control over the entire territory of Israel's borders.

“People seem to be blind and deaf to all this.

“But that's not to say what is happening in Gaza isn't horrific, it is — we all see it every night.

“But we're fighting for the release of the hostages, and the removal of this disease (Hamas)... I've yet to see anyone give a solution without that?”

The issue arose again last week when a row broke out over the Metropolitan Police's handling of a pro-Palestinian march in London.

Footage shows an officer stopping anti-Semitism campaigner Gideon Falter from crossing the path of the march.

The cop said Mr Falter, who was wearing a kippah skull cap, was “openly Jewish”, and he was “worried about the reaction” of the crowd.

Met chief Sir Mark Rowley said the actions of the officer were professional, however he admitted the words used were “clumsy and offensive”.

Mr Black said: “That policeman was doing his best, but it's the overall policy over these marches. We've seen people attacked for having anti-Hamas placards.

“I myself would march for peace in the area, but the Jewish people — and not just Jews — many people can see the people to blame here are Hamas.”

He also alluded to “unintentional and intentional” bias from media organisations in their coverage of the conflict.

The dwindling size of the Belfast congregation meant an important part of the Passover celebration had to be dropped.

A Minyan, a religious ceremony and prayer, requires 10 Jewish males over the age of 13 to be performed.

But the planned service couldn't take place after one of the participants had to pull out, meaning the Minyan was short a person.

Another burden is that the Brexit protocol has had a serious impact on the supply of fresh kosher (fit or proper in Hebrew) meats.

The Windsor Framework that replaced the protocol hasn't fixed the issue.

Instead, the local Jewish community relies on biannual deliveries of kosher food, which is then kept in storage.

Mr Black explained: “It's very difficult. We have been trying to fix this right up to Government level — we ask suppliers to jump through a lot of hoops to get to us.”

May 8, 2024

While hate seems to be on the rise globally, at a local level, Mr Black was keen to point to one really positive example in Belfast.

He said: "I know of community groups on the Shankill and the Falls who got together for a project against anti-Semitism, and they even visited Auschwitz.

"One of the nicest things they did was they went to the Jewish graveyard in Belfast City Cemetery, which was attacked in 2021, and cleaned it."

Free event // No booking required

PRINCIPLES ON EQUALITY & LEADERSHIP

A Consideration of Scripture &
the Westminster Confession

Rev Dr Trevor Morrow
Former Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

10-12.30 // Sat 1st June 2024
Malone Presbyterian Church



EQUAL
to lead

Poem for today

A Nation's Strength

By William Ralph Emerson

What makes a nation's pillars high
And its foundations strong?



What makes it mighty to defy
The foes that round it throng?

It is not gold. Its kingdoms grand
Go down in battle shock;
Its shafts are laid on sinking sand,
Not on abiding rock.
Is it the sword? Ask the red dust
Of empires passed away;
The blood has turned their stones to rust,
Their glory to decay.

And is it pride? Ah, that bright crown
Has seemed to nations sweet;
But God has struck its luster down

May 8, 2024

In ashes at his feet.

Not gold but only men can make
A people great and strong;
Men who for truth and honor's sake
Stand fast and suffer long.

Brave men who work while others sleep,
Who dare while others fly...
They build a nation's pillars deep
And lift them to the sky.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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