

Church News Ireland



**Image of the day – Treasure Ireland Church funding
invite**

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Image of the day



TREASURE IRELAND
NATIONAL CHURCHES TRUST

In this free, in-person event, we invite you to learn more about the Treasure Ireland project and our work.

11 am Monday 20 May 2024 NICVA, BELFAST

Treasure Ireland Church funding invite

The National Churches Trust invite you to join them for a meet the funder event in Belfast at NICVA on Monday 20 May from 11 am.

NCT say, “If you work with or look after a place of worship or just love church buildings please come along and say hello. We will be



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showcasing the remarkable churches of Belfast in our #Treasure Ireland Bells of Belfast walking trail.





“You'll hear about our Treasure Ireland project and other funding streams available through the National Churches Trust.

Laura McIlveen
Photography

<https://www.nicva.org/event/meet-the-funder-the-national-churches-trust-treasure-ireland-funding-programme>



News



Cooke Centenary Christian Aid Marathon

Christian Aid has expressed thanks to the members of Cooke Centenary Church in south Belfast for standing in ‘solidari-tea’ with those living in poverty and crisis around the world.

Left to right, Elaine McNeill, Joanie Riddel, Joan Hamilton and Martha Cullen.

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During Sunday's Belfast City Marathon, they offered refreshments to marathon spectators lining the Ormeau Road in exchange for a donation to support our work.

Thanks also to Deborah Herd, our representative at Cooke and their minister Rev Dave Gray.

Ukraine and Orthodox in Athy Methodist

Steven Foster recalls a touching little experience on Sunday...

“I was leading worship services in Portlaoise and Athy Methodist churches. A young Ukrainian couple were with me for a couple days and came with me to both services and then some sightseeing. Sunday was Easter Sunday in the Orthodox tradition and was celebrated this past weekend in much of eastern Europe.

“Before the service in Athy, they sat down near the door, as I greeted people who were coming in. Two people came in but they didn't know any English and attempted to say something. I was thinking I could try the odd phrases I knew in Polish or Romanian but after they said some more, Hordii, my Ukrainian friend and a translator, jumped up and started speaking with them, and then translated for them and me.

“This Ukrainian lady and her teenage grandson wanted to be at church on Easter Sunday even though they knew there was no Orthodox church about and they wouldn't understand the language. On this most special of days when they would normally be celebrating with family, they

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were well away from the in-between generation supporting Ukraine during the war, and family elsewhere. I thought about how we could adapt the service.

“In the service, Hordii read the Easter story from Luke 24 in Ukrainian and then translated phrase by phrase as I led a reflection and prayers for Easter and remembering Ukraine. As well as meaning a lot to the four Ukrainian people there, it was something the church was very glad to facilitate.”



Livestream for Church of Ireland General Synod Service

This year’s General Synod Service of Holy Communion will take place in St Patrick’s Cathedral, Armagh, from Friday 10th May from 10.00am onwards.

Services of Holy Communion are held before the business of each meeting of the Church of Ireland General Synod and its diocesan synods.

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The Bishop of Clogher, the Rt Revd Dr Ian W Ellis, will be the preacher and a livestream will, for the first time, be available on the Cathedral's YouTube channel at the link below.

The proceedings of General Synod will be broadcast through an audio feed on the General Synod website at this link.

Members of General Synod are also welcome to come to Choral Evensong in the Cathedral on Friday evening at 7.00pm, and the Armagh City Choir Concert on Saturday evening at 7.30pm; the concert will be a performance of Antonín Leopold Dvořák's Mass in D, and music by Karl Jenkins (tickets are £20 and payable at the door).

Livestream link at -

<https://www.ireland.anglican.org/news/12326/livestream-for-church-of-ireland>

utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=facebook #coigs

Pope Francis writes letter of “affection” to parish priests regarding Synodality

In his 2 May letter to parish priests who traveled from around the world to the Vatican to take part in the International Meeting ‘Parish Priests for the Synod’, Pope Francis offered his heartfelt thanks saying, “The Church could not go on without your dedication and your pastoral service.”



Addressing the three hundred priests who gathered in Sacrofano, outside of Rome, for the five-day meeting, Pope Francis expressed his gratitude and appreciation for the generous work they do daily to sow seeds of the Gospel throughout the world.

The meeting was dedicated to listening, prayer, and discernment, and to address the question of how to be a local synodal Church on mission.

Pope Francis acknowledged the great diversity of the realities facing the priests, observing that bringing their diverse perspectives and experiences all the more enriches the process of synodality. He said, “For this reason, a synodal Church needs its parish priests,” saying that without priests, we will never be able to learn how to walk together and to set out on the path of synodality.

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The Holy Father called on all priests to accompany the communities they serve in the synodal process, while, at the same time, committing themselves with prayer, discernment and apostolic zeal. Pope Francis went on to offer three suggestions to inspire parish priests in their activity and mission.

Firstly, the Pope urged priests to live out their specific ministerial charism in ever greater service to the varied gifts that the Spirit sows in the People of God. “It is urgent to discover with faith, the many and varied charismatic gifts of the laity, which are indispensable for evangelizing any number of human situations and contexts,” he said, expressing his conviction, that, in doing so, they will bring to light “many hidden treasures,” and “feel less alone in the demanding task of evangelization.”

“You will experience the joy of being true fathers, who do not dominate others,” he said, “but rather bring out in them, men and women alike, great and precious possibilities.”

Secondly, he urged the priests to learn to practise the art of communal discernment, employing for this purpose the method of “conversation in the Spirit”, which has proved so helpful in the synodal journey and in the proceedings of the synodal Assembly itself.

Thirdly, Pope Francis urged the priests to base everything they do on a spirit of sharing and fraternity among themselves and with their bishops: “We cannot be authentic fathers unless we are first sons and brothers,” he said, “And we cannot foster communion and participation in the

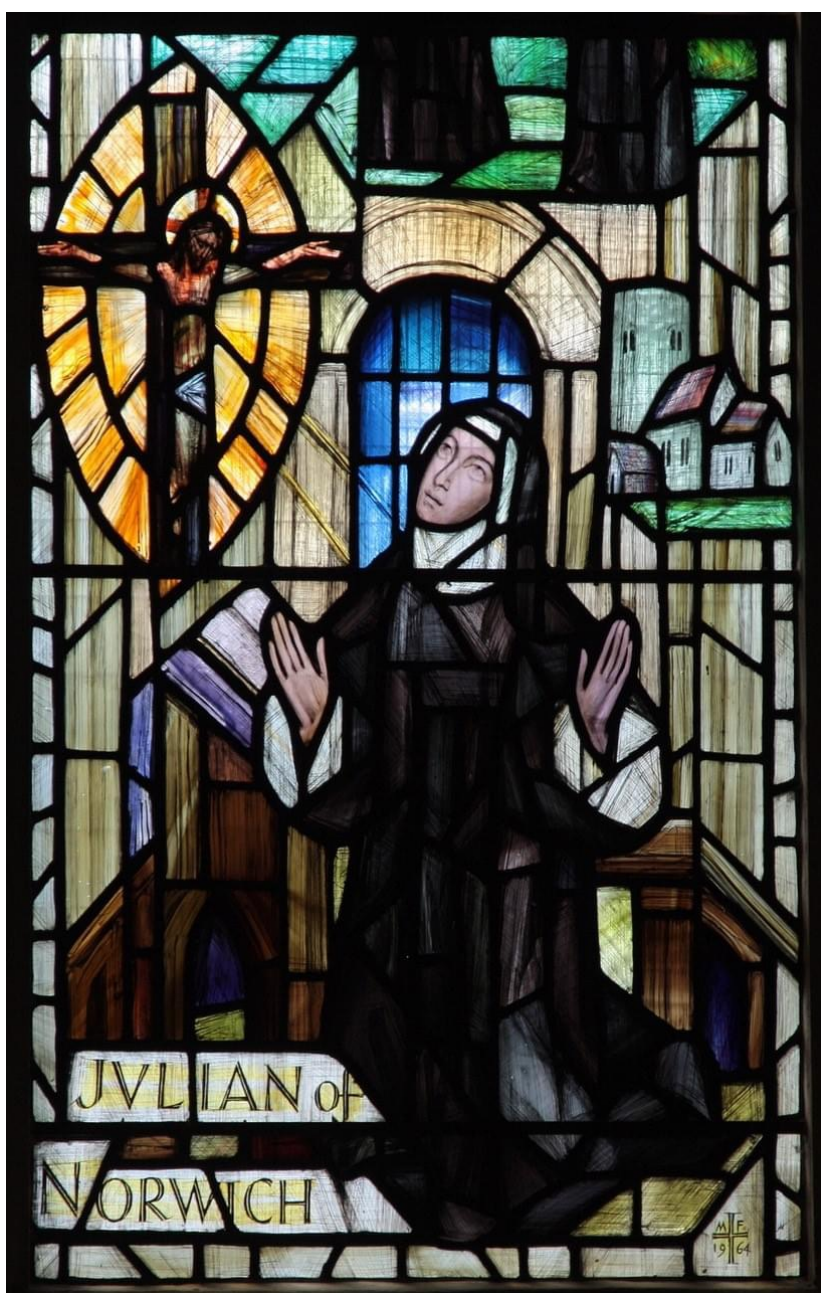
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communities entrusted to our care,” he continued, “unless, before all else, we live out those realities among ourselves.”

To read Pope Francis’ letter please visit here

To learn more about the Irish Synodal Pathway and the Universal Synod, visit: www.synod.ie

Cathedral Calls



Canterbury focus on St Julian of Norwich

This week in 1373, Julian of Norwich experienced the first of sixteen revelations or ‘shewings’ from God, which would lead her to become England’s most widely-known female visionary.


Julian of Norwich is one of the most celebrated figures

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of the English Middle Ages and is esteemed as one of the subtlest writers and profoundest thinkers of the period for her account of the revelations.

Starting Tuesday 21 May, we invite you to join a new Online Book Group with Canon Emma, where over 10 weeks we will read the Revelations of Divine Love by Julian of Norwich. Find out more: <https://ow.ly/SEA050RyvGq>

If you are drawn to silent prayer, please join us for our Julian Prayer Meetings (named after Julian of Norwich):
<https://ow.ly/SEA050RyvGq>

 On Julian's Feast Day, watch Canon Emma's series of videos, created for last year's 650th anniversary:
<https://ow.ly/bSIs50RyvTH>

Julian of Norwich Image used courtesy of Norwich Cathedral. Photographer Mike Dixon.

E mail - Julian of Norwich - julianofnorwich.org

Generous organ donors at Saint Patrick's

“Thanks to the generosity of the Friends of Saint Patrick's Cathedral we recently acquired a second hand digital organ which now resides snugly at the West end of the Hewson Room...

It's only been in its new home for a matter of weeks but is already in daily use as a secondary teaching and practice



instrument when the Cathedral's wonderful Willis or the Cathedral itself is otherwise busy.

We have a number of choristers, former and serving, who have taken up the organ having reached a suitable level of proficiency on the piano first and we hope this will further encourage more to follow in their footsteps.

Pictured here are current Winstanley chorister Lenny, Dean William Morton and Chair of the Friends Albert Fenton.

Bath Abbey organ recitals...

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...Fabulous to hear our wonderful **Assistant Organist, Dewi Rees** play the first of our Tuesdays@1 recital.

Next week we welcome Claire Hobbs.

Do come and hear this fabulous Klais organ every Tuesday until the end of October.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Renewal at Drumalis

Drumalis write - You are warmly invited to our upcoming Day of Reflection "We Drink From Our Own Wells."

The day will be led by Brian McKee, recently appointed as the new Director of Drumalis Retreat Centre.

This day is an opportunity to step back and to identify with others, the signs of hope that are around us in our church and in our world, even in times that seem dark and difficult.

Please share and help us as we grow our new Facebook page. See next page



“We Drink from Our Own Wells”

A Day of Prayer and Reflection for people searching for meaning and purpose in their lives and in their community of faith

**led by Brian McKee on Saturday, 1 June 2024
from 10 am - 4 pm at Drumalis, Larne**

These are difficult days for people in church today. We witness low morale and disconnection, with declining numbers of people in our pews. They are also difficult days for people everywhere searching for some kind of meaning and purpose to their lives. In the midst of so much bad news, where can the Good News find root and expression in our lives?

Faith tells us though that these days are also moments of opportunity.

- ❖ What if our baptism calls us to awaken to who we really are?
- ❖ What if we were awakened to see not just the person we have become, but the person we are called to be?
- ❖ What if we could see ourselves with God’s eyes, and not just our own?
- ❖ What if the call is to “us” and not just to “me”?

The Day of Prayer and Reflection will take place in the beautiful surroundings of Drumalis Retreat and Conference Centre, Larne from 10 am - 4 pm on Saturday, 1 June.

Brian McKee has recently been appointed as Director of Drumalis. He comes with a background in teaching, youth ministry and most recently, working in the area of peace and reconciliation in Holy Cross Parish, Ardoyne.



To book a place, please contact Drumalis by phone 028 2827 2196/2827 6455 (during office hours (Mon-Fri, 9 am-5 pm) or by email drumalis@btconnect.com
Cost: £30 per person (includes lunch and refreshments)

“My ultimate purpose is to say one simple thing to my readers. Whether they know it or not, whether they reflect on it or not, human beings are always and everywhere, in all times and places, oriented and directed to the mystery we call God.” - Karl Rahner



The latest episode of The Organ Podcast

During Episode 7, David Briggs discusses his role at Cathedral of St. John the Divine, NYC.

He also reflects on his work transcribing large scale orchestral works for the organ and the ethical dilemmas he needs to consider.

Daniel Moulton talks about the new organs for the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

<https://bit.ly/4a51MGZ>



The poster features a light blue background. In the top left, the word 'Opening' is written in a large, blue, cursive font, with 'EVENT' in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font below it. To the right is a blue icon of an open book with a cross and a Wi-Fi symbol above it. Below the text is a photograph of two men: on the left, a man in a black clerical suit and glasses; on the right, a man in a blue and white striped shirt and glasses. A globe is visible behind the man in the clerical suit. At the bottom, there are two teal-colored boxes with white text. The left box contains 'TANEY CHURCH OF IRELAND PARISH' and '19TH MAY : 7.00PM'. The right box contains 'ECUMENICAL BIBLE WEEK 2024' and 'WWW.BIBLEWEEK.IE'.

Opening
EVENT

TANEY CHURCH OF
IRELAND PARISH
19TH MAY : 7.00PM

ECUMENICAL
BIBLE WEEK 2024
WWW.BIBLEWEEK.IE

Ecumenical Bible week - Starts Pentecost at Taney

The opening event in Taney Church of Ireland Parish will be hosted by Reverend Nigel Pierpoint and the preacher will be Deacon Kevork Gergees from the Armenian Apostolic Church in Ireland.

You are invited to join them on Pentecost Sunday, 19th May, at 7pm!

In the media

Church Times - Clergy, leave those texts alone, Angela Tilby

I can understand (though I don't approve of) clergy who do all that they can to dispense with a set liturgy. What I find odder is the habit of making one or two small personal changes to texts, which are repeated every time: a kind of liturgical signature.

At the invitation to communion, Robert Runcie used to add the words “and that he lives for you” after “Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you. . .”. John Pritchard, when Bishop of Oxford, used to insert words from non-Anglican liturgy at the same point. And many clergy make a dog's breakfast of the “In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. . .” by replacing it with “In the name of God, who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit”, often with a pious “May I speak. . .” at the front, lest they be deemed presumptuous.

I wonder whether all this comes from some kind of insecurity: a desperate need to stamp one's own personality on to the liturgical text, as though not to do so were to commit the sin of vain and unthinking repetition. Or is it an attempt to keep the congregation awake by introducing a slight variation from what they might be expecting?

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Of course, when you hear the variation over and over again, it is all too expected. Knowing the habits of individuals, I sit waiting for the intrusive words, sometimes grinding my teeth. (Why, dearly beloved colleague of mine, do you have to add an unscripted “and” before “This is the Gospel of the Lord”? What exactly is gained by this unscripted interpolation?)

Of course, it can all be canonically justified by Canon B6, which enables slight variations where there is no doctrinal significance. I am not sure that the habit of some Anglo-Catholic clergy in replacing “Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” with “Behold the Lamb of God. . .”, while holding up the eucharistic host, really counts as being of no doctrinal significance; but at least it has liturgical precedent.

The problem comes when a pious change or addition communicates the opposite of what the original text, rubric, or familiar gesture intends. I attended a licensing service recently and was looking forward to the powerful moment when the Bishop hands over the licence to the new incumbent with the words “Receive the cure of souls which is both yours and mine.” On this occasion, however, the moment was ruined by the Bishop’s adding, with a flourish, “And, above all, His. . .’ — an addition that seemed to me to undermine the whole significance of the exchange. If the cure of souls is, above all, “His”, perhaps we don’t need licensed ministers at all, let alone liturgy.

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Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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