

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Hillsborough Parish Church

November 2, 2024

Image for today - Hillsborough Parish Church by Gaz Drone Photography

News -

Extensive survey by Methodist World Development and Relief Fund

Archbishop of York: 'The Lord's Prayer needs a health warning'

Newfound support for Bishop Anne Dyer amid bullying allegations

Dungannon explore beyond doors of local churches

Cathedral Calls -

Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin Deanery Mews Project

Light Up The Night - An occasion to remember at Belfast Cathedral

Clergy and ministry -

Transformation Story from Kayleigh at Movilla Abbey Church

Meet Uganda Mission team member

Retirement of Dean Paul Bogle

Life-changing break through Mothers' Union's AFIA scheme

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books -

World Quaker Voices

CS Lewis podcast, Parenting Teens for a Life of Faith, book

In the media -

Daring to dream: Autumn reflection from the Archbishops of Armagh - Belfast Telegraph and Irish News

Poem for today -

In Killarney by Francis Duggan

November 2, 2024

Image of the day

Hillsborough Parish Church

Once again CNI expresses gratitude to Gaz Drone Photography for a boost skilful and artistic scene.

The Parish web site is at -

<https://www.hillsboroughparish.org.uk/>

For information on Royal Hillsborough enter the title in Wikipedia search.

News

Extensive survey by Methodist World Development and Relief Fund

For the first time, WDR is conducting an extensive survey in order to be more effective and understand our potential supporters better.

This survey is for anyone who attends a Methodist church in Ireland in any capacity. We would love to hear from those who already support WDR but also those who don't. The survey is anonymous and takes about 7 minutes to complete!

You can complete the survey here:

<https://forms.office.com/e/pH5qUgtZwM>

Archbishop of York: 'The Lord's Prayer needs a health warning'

The Archbishop of York has said he believes the Lord's Prayer should come with a health warning to emphasise its significance and power.

“Don’t say this prayer unless you’re prepared to make it part of your life,” he said, challenging people to think critically about their intentions, especially with phrases like “Your kingdom come” and “Give us today our daily bread.”

To help avoid reciting it on autopilot, Most Rev Stephen Cottrell advises believers to slow down and take it “a phrase at a time” to reflect deeply on its meaning. He notes that the prayer is brief — less than 70 words — but reflects what it means to live as a disciple of Jesus.

Newfound support for Bishop Anne Dyer amid bullying allegations

Bishop Anne Dyer, Scotland's first female bishop, has received a wave of support as she seeks to resume her duties in the Diocese of Orkney and Aberdeen following allegations of bullying.

Rt Rev Anne Dyer, who was suspended in 2022, had been set to face a disciplinary tribunal after three complaints were filed against her.

November 2, 2024

However, a recent review by the church's independent procurator deemed it unnecessary to proceed, citing that it was not in the public interest.

Bishop Anne, who has consistently denied the allegations, was expected to return to her role last week but is currently on sick leave.



Explore beyond the doors of local churches

Tuesday 12th November 2024. 7.30pm

Presbyterian Church, Dungannon

Scotch Street, Dungannon

Take a historical and cultural tour led by
Valerie Campbell & Rev Tony Davidson
With time for questions and answers

Forthcoming Church Tours

Wednesday 27th November 7.30pm – **Dungannon Methodist**: Rev William Newell

Monday 20th January 2025 7.30pm – **St Anne's**: Rev Matthew Topley

A group of over 20 members from the Scottish Episcopal Church expressed their support for her return in a letter published in Church Times.

This letter reflects the backing she has from clergy and lay members, showing a call for her reinstatement.

According to the BBC, Paul Reid KC, the church's procurator, decided to drop the charges, despite finding enough evidence that could have led to a "realistic prospect" of conviction under church law.

Bishop Anne welcomed this outcome, stating her eagerness to resume her full duties and serve her diocese in the coming days.

However, four bishops, including the Primus, Most Rev Mark Strange, have voiced concerns.

In an open letter, they suggested that Bishop Anne reconsider whether she is the best person to lead the Diocese, which Bishop Anne described as "ill-considered and inflammatory," further accusing her colleagues of acting in an "unprofessional and un-Christian manner."

In response, 23 clergy and lay members from Shetland, alongside a priest from Orkney, issued their own open letter supporting Bishop Anne.

They expressed "deep sorrow" over what they called a "naive, cruel, and utterly disgraceful" intervention, urging the

November 2, 2024

church to engage in "conversation, mediation, and reconciliation" to resolve the situation.

St Patrick's Pontifical University
presents the 2024 Devlin Lecture:



East of Eden: A Critique of Nostalgia

Presented by:

Professor M. Cathleen Kaveny,
*The Darald and Juliet Libby Millennium Professor at Boston
College, in both the Theology Department and the Law School*



Thursday, November 21st 2024, 19:00
Renehan Hall, St Patrick's Pontifical University



To reserve your place for this free event, visit [Eventbrite.ie](https://www.eventbrite.ie)

Faith leaders urge David Lammy to show leadership on climate

Faith leaders have united to call on the UK government to show leadership on climate justice among rich countries, as part of a nationwide week of action.

At a vigil outside the Foreign Office on Tuesday, Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Jewish, Sikh, and Buddhist representatives handed in a letter to Foreign Secretary David Lammy.

The letter asks the foreign secretary to take the initiative at upcoming COP29 by contributing new funding to the International Loss and Damage Fund.

It must do this in the form of grants not loans and by taxing pollution and wealth, rather than repurposing official development assistance, the letter says.

The 21 signatories call on the UK government to champion a new "collective quantified goal" for climate finance for developing countries, including sufficient funding to respond to loss and damage.

"Our call to Make Polluters Pay is partly about our history," the letter says. "When we factor in Britain's colonial past, the UK is the fourth largest contributor to climate change."

It is also about our present, faith leaders including Paul Parker, recording clerk of Quakers in Britain and Roman Catholic Bishop of Salford John Arnold, write.

November 2, 2024

Two fossil fuel giants, Shell and BP, are based here, enjoying record-breaking profits, they write.

"Meanwhile, many British households are struggling to heat their homes. At the same time, communities all around the world are being devastated by extreme weather events, such as flooding, super storms and forest fires.

"These inequalities need to be redressed, to acknowledge the intrinsic value of every living being on our precious and finite earth."

The faith leaders conclude, "It's time for the UK - and its wealthiest polluters - to pay our fair share."

Cathedral Calls

Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin Deanery Mews Project

St Patrick's Cathedral appoints Kelbuild to lead Mews Project restoration and revitalisation effort: Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, has announced the appointment of Kelbuild, a highly regarded conservation contractor, to lead the Deanery Mews Project.

Following a detailed tendering process, Kelbuild was selected to carry out the refurbishment and repurposing of the historic Deanery Mews building. This major project, which will bring new life to the Mews, is expected to be completed within the coming year and will feature state-of-

November 2, 2024

the-art facilities designed to serve the Cathedral's music, community, and education programs.

“The Deanery Mews Project marks a significant step in Saint Patrick’s Cathedral’s ongoing efforts to honour our historic structures while creating modern, sustainable spaces for community use,” said The Very Revd Dr William Morton, the Dean of Saint Patrick’s. “I am thrilled to welcome Kelbuild as our partner in this transformative effort. With their expertise, we are confident the Mews will become a welcoming, resourceful space for both congregation and community alike.”

The project will involve a comprehensive renewal of the Deanery Mews building, preserving the exterior walls while transforming the interior to serve multiple purposes. Once completed, the

The steps to the organ at St Patrick’s Cathedral

Church News Ireland



refurbished Mews will house Saint Patrick's Cathedral's music department, including three cutting-edge tuition rooms and a dedicated classroom on the upper floor. The ground floor will feature a multi-purpose room accommodating up to seventy people, a kitchenette, and accessible facilities, providing a versatile space for events, gatherings, and educational activities.

A key focus of the project is sustainability, a guiding principle for all Cathedral conservation initiatives. The Mews will incorporate innovative energy-efficient features, such as a passive ventilation system, high-insulation flooring with recycled materials, and photovoltaic panels on a newly constructed roof section to maximize energy self-sufficiency. "Ensuring energy efficiency in historic buildings can be challenging, but we are committed to finding sustainable solutions that respect our heritage," said Gavan Woods, Cathedral Administrator.

The design and planning of the project are credited to the Cathedral's architects, Howley Hayes Cooney, led by Project Architect Fionnuala and Chief Designer Ingrid. Their careful planning and attention to historic detail will ensure that the Mews becomes a beautiful, functional space for the entire community. Interactive Project Managers, who oversaw the Cathedral's recent roof project, have also been appointed to oversee this development and ensure it stays on schedule and within budget.

Saint Patrick's Cathedral looks forward to unveiling the completed Mews Project next year and opening this dynamic space to the public.

www.stpatrickscathedral.ie

Light Up The Night - An occasion to remember at Belfast Cathedral

Cruise Bereavement write - “Please join us at a very special candlelight service to remember your loved ones at St. Anne’s Cathedral, Belfast, on Sunday 24th November at 3pm.

“The Service will feature beautiful music, poems and readings all by candlelight. Prior to the Service you will be invited to place a personalised token on our Remembrance trees in memory of your loved one. This event is free of charge, and everyone is welcome. Places are limited, so to reserve your ticket, please visit: <https://shorturl.at/nR75u>
We look forward to welcoming you on 24th November

Clergy and ministry

Transformation Story from Kayleigh at Movilla Abbey Church

Kayleigh first reached out to Movilla Abbey Church through Facebook and is now a youth leader there.

Once an angry teenager, she is now full of 'air and lightness', and speaks confidently about her relationship with Jesus.

November 2, 2024

Watch in now in full on Methodist Church in Ireland YouTube. Also available to download for use in worship services.

→ YouTube: bit.ly/MCI-YT

→ Transformation Stories: bit.ly/mci_stories

Meet Uganda Mission team member



Hello, I am Jill McMullan and I am from Moy.

I love being involved in kids work, I have been in Girls Brigade for 25 years as a girl and now an officer.

I also enjoy being involved in the kids ministry within my own church in various ways.

I am very thankful for the opportunity to travel to Uganda with Mullabrack and Kilcluney Parish Group and Abaana in July.

A mission trip like this one is something I have always wanted to do. I have been made so welcome by the team members and look forward to getting to know them more both in the preparations, and during our trip.

Retirement of Dean Paul Bogle



Warmest good wishes to Dean Paul Bogle as he begins his retirement tomorrow, having served as Dean of St Patrick's Trim and rector of the parishes of Trim and Athboy. His ministry was greatly appreciated, both in his parishes and in the dioceses. May Paul and his wife Jane a long and happy retirement.

Life-changing break through Mothers' Union's AFIA scheme

Sarah and her 10-year-old son, Michael, experienced a life-changing break through the Mothers' Union's "Away From It All" (AFIA) scheme.

November 2, 2024


After years of battling substance misuse, Sarah had finally reached a year of sobriety.

Her social worker saw the AFIA program as the perfect opportunity for Sarah and Michael to reconnect and heal.

The caravan holiday they took allowed them to step away from their struggles and enjoy simple, joyful moments together—swimming, biking, and most importantly, rebuilding their bond.

This trip wasn't just a holiday; it was a turning point in Sarah's and Michael's journey toward a brighter future. Michael could even go back to school and say he had been on holiday for the first time.

There are countless stories of families benefitting from AFIA, since 1961, and we're so thankful for the work of Mothers' Union branches and members gifting these incredible breaks to those who need them the most.



The Church of Ireland
Diocese of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory


**wish to recruit a Safeguarding
and Education Administrator**

The Diocese is seeking an administrator with responsibility for Safeguarding and Education to join the staff team on a flexible part time basis. The role will involve assisting the diocese and parishes in achieving compliance with all Safeguarding requirements. In addition the role will support the Patron of primary schools in the Diocese.

Hours Flexible and Salary Negotiable

The Staff member is expected to support the ethos of the Church of Ireland

For Job description or to apply for the position please email the Diocesan Secretary at palacecoachhouse@gmail.com before Friday 22nd November 2024.



Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

World Quaker Voices

Ever wondered about Friends' experience around the globe? Their history, their varied kinds of worship, their lives as Quakers?

This course brings together Friends from different traditions to understand one another and strengthen our worldwide community.

For more information: <https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/courses/world-quaker-voices/>

CS Lewis podcast

David Clare: Ecstatic experience - How did Lewis approach ecstatic experiences, particularly in light of his Ulster Protestant background?

Dr David Clare of Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick continues his talk given at the C.S. Lewis Group at Ulster's spring mini symposium. He also answers questions from the live audience.

The event was entitled 'C.S. Lewis and the Land of His Birth: Re-rooting Lewis in Ulster & the Island of Ireland'. The title of Dr Clare's talk was "Lit Up Inside": C.S. Lewis's Joy & Ulster Protestant Ecstasy'.

November 2, 2024

To find out more and book tickets for the CS Lewis Symposium in Belfast on 4th November:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cs-lewis-symposium-belfast-tickets-896372122147>

+ Subscribe to The CS Lewis podcast: <https://pod.link/1560959545>

Parenting Teens for a Life of Faith

Parenting teens has its challenges

The once-small children we had are pulling away from us, growing in independence and making decisions with bigger consequences. It can be easy to think we are less influential in their lives, particularly when it comes to faith.

But that is not true. Parents remain the significant spiritual influencer in a teen's life, and they need us to help them navigate the world and faith together.

This book will help all parents, carers, grandparents and others involved in teens' everyday lives to understand the teenage faith journey more and find their place within it.
£9.99 | Paperback | Rachel Turner

Perspective

'Prove all things; hold fast that which is good'
(1 Thessalonians 5:21)

In the media

Daring to dream: Autumn reflection from the Archbishops of Armagh - Belfast Telegraph and Irish News

In recent months our Churches, in our own particular ways, have been giving thanks for what you might call the “coming good” of creation. The season of Creation in the Catholic Tradition, and Harvest Thanksgivings in the Church of Ireland have celebrated the abundance of nature and the welcome cycle of seed time and harvest.

Some, however, refer to this time of the year as “The Fall” — a description that brings to mind the part of the creation that perhaps finds it most difficult to come good — the human element.

Having minds and wills and consciences of our own is glory and our vulnerability.

This season 'of mists and mellow fruitfulness', of the changing of the clocks and the falling of the leaves, invites us to consider how the lives of societies and nations — and our own lives — can also “come good” or at least be on a steady trajectory to do so.

All over the world, governments are coming and going. The EU, UK, US and imminent Irish elections are among many

across the globe; four billion people will exercised their electoral franchise in 2024.

Recently the Irish Church Leaders Group made a short visit to Brussels where we met some of the new faces following the recent elections to the European Parliament. We also encountered familiar faces, including Maros Šefčovič who retains a brief in the Commission for UK/EU relations. In a long meeting, we found him to be very engaged and with a detailed knowledge of the situation in Ireland, north and south. Like us, he is keen to see that the Windsor Framework and Safeguarding the Union Deal are used in good faith to rebuild relationships and jointly iron out the issues which will continue to arise as a result of the complications of Brexit.

Against such a background of global political change and upheaval, perhaps it is no harm that our own Assembly and Executive are not so new. Instead, they are working out a mandate which the parties were given three years ago. Now they have proposed a Programme for Government to help Northern Ireland “come good”. In the constitutional sense, people will have different views about what “coming good” means, yet we can all broadly share the sense of what is for the 'common good' to know what it is we need to be getting on with.

The draft Programme dares to dream of 'opportunity', 'hope' and 'partnership', with priorities given to 'people', 'planet' and 'prosperity', underpinned by a 'cross-cutting commitment to peace'. Its optimistic tone is a welcome change to the often stagnant and stultifying rhetoric that

characterised political commentary here while the Assembly was suspended.

The challenge facing all of us is to ensure that our children and young people are educated and cared for in a way that not only gives them opportunities in the job market but which also deepens their humanity and their desire for wisdom. Caring for the sick has always been an important touchstone of a truly civilised and compassionate society. The most tangible and reassuring way of progress on this front would be in shorter waiting lists and meaningful value and respect both for the carers and the cared-for.

At the far end of our human pilgrimage, there is also the support needed for those whose life is drawing to a close, whose value as producers or consumers may be deemed to have ended long since, but whose intrinsic human worth and dignity are as great and as sacred as ever.

And, of course, nothing can be achieved unless people feel safe and have confidence in the rule of law. We saw just how fragile that can be over the summer when mobs threatened the rule of law, and on occasion took it into their own hands. There is no place for vigilantism or intimidation in a civilised society. The most legitimate concern we can hold is for the safety and equality of our fellow human beings.

This is, at root, why the debate around Legacy issues remains a continuing cause of immense hurt.

Our pastoral work brings us into regular close contact with many in the voluntary and community sector who

generously offer their gifts, day after day, to build hope and support social cohesion. They are the 'glue of society' and we share their concern that the draft Programme for Government does not appear to sufficiently recognise their essential contribution to health, education, peace and reconciliation, to the arts, sports and charitable activities without which the government's key priorities will never come good or bear full fruit.

These are people who make a real difference, especially to the most disadvantaged among us, by daring to dream with their eyes open and feet on the ground. In recent years many such groups and organisations have had to suspend their activities or have struggled to survive because their contribution is so taken for granted that they find themselves competing with each other for the funding scraps left over.

In a world of deepening flux, the draft Programme for Government seeks to reach out and 'do what matters'. Our task is to not wallow in disillusionment or cynicism but to do our bit to encourage, work and pray for "the coming good". In doing so, it is important to ask ourselves, as Keats once did: 'Where are the songs of Spring?'

There are certain "goods" which are only good when they are held in common. Are we a people who respect and acknowledge the humanity of one another sufficiently to stand up for each other's well-being?

Can our institutions rise to the enormous challenges of envisioning a new sort of society, or are they resigned to be a slow-motion re-run of the past?

November 2, 2024

In searching together for the answers to these questions, all of us, as ordinary citizens must have the confidence in ourselves and in the leaders of political and civic life to give them space to take risks and to dream dreams.

Joint op-ed from Archbishop Eamon Martin, the Catholic Archbishop of Armagh, and Archbishop John McDowell, the Church of Ireland Archbishop of Armagh

Poem for today

In Killarney

by Francis Duggan

Rain clouds like dark woolly fleeces are in the southern sky
Where the pied oystercatchers are piping as they fly
Above the beach at Killarney on Sunday the first of May
In the grayness before sunset in the fading light of day
Autumn in south western Victoria is a pleasant time of year
The weather not too chilly though the Winter days are near
The humidity of Summer died in the Autumn rain
From a personal point of view it is nice to have the cooler
weather back with us again

A calm Autumn evening by the ocean the weather nice and
cool

In Killarney between Port Fairy and the City of Warrnambool
On the beach a woman walking her golden Labrador the only
person apart from me

It is usually a quiet old place Killarney by the Pacific Sea
The silver gulls are mewling and the pied oystercatchers call
On Mayday in south west Victoria in Killarney in the Fall.

November 2, 2024

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 McKelvey OBE, QVRM, TD. He may be contacted at houstonmckelvey@mac.com

Church News Ireland

www.churchnewsireland.org

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