

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – the Bishop of Peregrinations

Image of the day



The Bishop of Peregrinations

Bishop Michael's Peregrination got off to a windy start this week with the Rev Suzanne Cousins leading the brave crew out to Holy Trinity Church on Inisbiggle Island, Co Mayo.

Parishioners from Aughaval Parishes - Westport & Dugort, Castlebar, Turlough - accompanied Bishop Burrows in the boat and with others met at the church on the island for an act of worship.

Read more about the initiative at tlk.ie/new-lamps-being-lit



and if you can, make a contribution via [tlk.ie/donate/](https://www.tlk.ie/donate/).

People and places

108 Xmas shoeboxes for needy children given by Ahoghill and Portglenone parishes

On Monday morning 108 shoeboxes were loaded and ready to be dropped off at West Church, Ballymena, the parishes' regional collection centre



44 boxes from Portglenone and 64 boxes from Ahoghill. The Ahoghill boxes include 10 extra boxes that the parish was able to fill due to the very kind and generous donation from proceeds from the knitting groups stall at the pre-loved clothes sale held in September.

The parishes say a big thank you to everyone who packed a box,

donated money or packed a box or donated online. Another great effort this year! Thanks again for your continued support Gillian.

Kilbride Primary School visits parish church's Remembrance display

Mrs Paula Spence is the Principal of Kilbride Central Primary School and she had noticed the publicity that the poppy display in St Bride's has been getting in the last few weeks.



Given the approach of Remembrance Sunday she thought it would be interesting for the P7 class to visit the church in Connor diocese to see these beautiful poppies and to learn something more about what remembrance means, and to have a class in the church.

She contacted the church and it was gladly opened on Friday afternoon

to allow their visit and after a good look around the numerous lovely arrangements of poppies Mrs Spence read a poem and a book to the fifteen young people.

Then she asked them to imagine how life might have been for a young soldier during World War 1, perhaps sitting in a trench trying to write to his family back home. The children thought about the problems the young soldier might have had, damp paper, poor light, the sound of guns, the constant threat of shelling, and they then wrote 'home' to their



families. To sit amongst so many handmade poppies and the many memories that are held within Kilbride Parish Church was the perfect setting for them to try and write their own versions of these precious letters and postcards.

Mrs Spence commented, “As we left the church the children were thanking me for taking them, saying what a lovely place to visit, so calm and relaxing.

“And as I said if we were in a classroom sitting at our desks it would not have been the same.

“It was lovely to see them sitting trying to write on their knee with a tiny pencil, or leaning up against each others' backs.”



**Remembrance
Sunday at the
National Cathedral
& Collegiate
Church of St
Patrick.**

Lt Col Ken Martin,
President RBL
Republic of Ireland
with Very Revd
William Morton greet
President Higgins
on his arrival at
Saint Patrick's

Cathedral, Dublin for the Service of Remembrance.



ROI Legion President Lt Col Ken Martin and Chairman Paul Stephenson with RBLNI Chairman Sam Hudson and Standards at St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin.

Londonderry remembers

Leaders of the four main Churches in Londonderry took part in a joint Act of Remembrance at The War Memorial, in The Diamond on Sunday morning.

The annual event is held on the Sunday nearest Armistice Day to commemorate those who sacrificed their lives for freedom in the two World Wars and in more recent conflicts.

Sunday morning's Service was led by the Pastoral Assistant at St Columb's Cathedral, Rev Canon John Merrick, who was joined by the Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Rt Rev Andrew Forster; the Bishop of Derry, Most Rev Dr Donal McKeown; the Minister of First Derry Presbyterian Church, Rev Colin Jones; and the Chairperson of the NW Methodist Mission, Rev Dr Stephen Skuce. All five clergymen led those present in prayer.

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Soft rain fell throughout the event, during which wreaths were laid by His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for the County Borough of Londonderry, Mr Ian Crowe MBE DL; political and civic dignitaries; and representatives of various policing and military services.

The Britannia and William King Bands provided music for the ceremony, including a rendition of the National Anthem, and there was a poignant playing of The Last Post by a solitary bugler.

The event in the Diamond was followed by a Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving at St Columb's Cathedral.



Enniskillen remembrance



At 1100hrs on Sunday morning Service personnel from the Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force payed their respects at ceremonies across Northern Ireland.

Senior military representatives attended the Service of Remembrance and wreath laying in Enniskillen, also attended by Chris Heaton Harris, the Secretary of State for NI and Leo Varadkar, Irish Taoiseach.

News reports

Same-sex blessings will take centre stage at the Church of England's General Synod this week

At the Church of England's General Synod this week, same-sex blessings will take centre stage, with most of the time allocated to discussing the Living in Love and Faith (LLF) proposals.

Over the course of two and a half days, members of the General Synod will consider the final motion allowing priests to bless couples in same-sex relationships, as previously agreed in February.

The motion proposes the endorsement of the Prayers of Love and Faith (PLF) immediately after the Synod's conclusion, along with the issuance of new Pastoral Guidance outlining the rules for using these prayers.

Additionally, the motion recommends that standalone same-sex blessing services undergo a more extended canonical process, which is expected to conclude in 2025. "Further work" on pastoral guidance permitting priests to marry their same-sex partners is also deemed necessary and will not be immediately published after the meeting.

Since the plans were made public last month, there has been a more pronounced division among bishops who, for the most part, had attempted to publicly unite in finding a



Archbishop of York - Over the next few days, we'll be debating and voting on a number of important items. Pray for all involved, that we may come together well and be granted wisdom in our discussions and decisions.

way forward that considers both liberal and conservative viewpoints.

Twelve bishops signed a letter expressing their discontent, arguing that the proposals failed to "safeguard the pastoral stability, mission, and unity of the church." For another 44 bishops, the sticking point was the delay in issuing guidance for priests to marry same-sex partners.

The plans will be presented to the General Synod as a motion, allowing members to propose amendments subject to a vote by Houses—Laity, Clergy, and Bishops. In

February, only one amendment out of more than two dozen passed the threshold.

Although the number and nature of amendments will not be disclosed until the meeting begins, there is speculation about potential points of contention. One possible sticking point could be the issuance of pastoral guidance for ministers, with liberals advocating for immediate publication while conservatives push for the opposite.

Other amendments might include seeking further clarity on whether the prayers deviate from the Church's doctrine of marriage.

Last week, the Archbishop of Canterbury met with representatives from both groups, with the question of his resignation arising, as neither side seems satisfied.

Writing in *The Times*, Jayne Ozanne, an LGBT evangelical Christian, called for Welby's resignation after meeting with him at Lambeth Palace. Rev Dr Lee Gatis, director of the Church Society, also admitted to sharing this view during a meeting with 25 conservatives.

In a statement to *The Times*, a spokesperson for Archbishop Justin said he was "thankful for the honesty and courage of all those who shared their stories, concerns and deeply-held beliefs" and remained "focused on serving the church as it navigates these challenging times".

In very rare move, Pope dismisses conservative US bishop



Pope Francis has dismissed Bishop Joseph E. Strickland of Tyler, Texas, one of his fiercest critics among U.S. Catholic conservatives, a Vatican statement said.

It is very rare for a Roman Catholic bishop to be relieved of his duties outright. Usually bishops in trouble with the Vatican are asked to resign before submitting a resignation, which the pope accepts.

Popes make such moves, considered drastic, when a bishop refuses a request to resign. Strickland is 65, 10 years shy of the usual retirement age for bishops.

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Strickland, a prolific user of social media who had been bishop of the diocese since 2012, tweeted earlier this year that he rejected the pope's "program undermining the Deposit of Faith".

The dismissal followed a Vatican investigation earlier this year into the administration of the Tyler diocese, which Catholic media reports said included a review of his handling of financial affairs.

The dismissal was announced simultaneously by the Vatican and the U.S. Bishops Conference. Neither statement gave a reason. There was no immediate response from Strickland.

Francis named the bishop of Austin, Texas, Joe Vasquez, as the interim administrator of the diocese, the statement said.

In the media

Church leaders renew pledge to mark 25th anniversary of Island of Ireland Peace Park - Irish News

Irish church leaders joined their voices on Saturday in renewing a peace pledge to mark the 25th anniversary of the Island of Ireland Peace Park in Messines, Belgium.

The park was opened in 1998 as a memorial to the 200,000 soldiers from the island of Ireland who fought with the British

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Army in World War I, and the estimated 35,000 who lost their lives.

It was developed on the back of work of former Donegal Fine Gael TD Paddy Harte and Derry man Glenn Barr, a former UDA leader turned peace activist.

They were moved to create a lasting memorial to the First World War and to the Troubles after visiting the Somme in 1996.

The park was officially unveiled two years later by then Irish President Mary McAleese, Queen Elizabeth II and King Albert II and Queen Paola of the Belgians.

The replica Irish round tower stands close to the site of the June 1917 battle of Messines Ridge, during which the 16th (Irish) Division fought alongside the 36th (Ulster) Division.

Mr Barr died in 2017, while Mr Harte passed away the following year.

Relatives of both men returned to the site on Saturday, where they read the peace pledge first made when the park was opened in 1998.

The same pledge was also read by the leaders of the four main Irish churches: Catholic Primate Archbishop Eamon Martin; Moderator of the Presbyterian Church Dr John Kirkpatrick; Church of Ireland Primate Archbishop John McDowell; and President of the Methodist Church Rev David Turtle.

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A video of the reading was posted on social media by Archbishop Eamon Martin.



Brothers in Arms

The event was also attended by Education Minister Norma Foley, who represented the Irish Government; parliamentary under-secretary of state for Northern Ireland, Lord Caine, who represented the UK government; and Jayne Brady, who represented the Northern Ireland Civil Service.

Speaking after the service, Ms Foley said: “The Island of Island Peace Park was inspired by Paddy Harte, a former

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Irish politician, who had been asked by an elderly neighbour to find the grave of his brother who had died in World War One.

“He fulfilled that promise by discovering the grave of Henry Taylor, a 21-year old man from Lifford in Donegal, during a private visit to the battlefields.

“And he worked tirelessly with Glen Barr, a prominent loyalist leader, to develop the Peace Park in memory of fallen soldiers like Henry Taylor from across the Island of Ireland.

“The presence of representatives of Ireland, Great Britain and Northern Ireland, on the 25th anniversary of the inauguration of the peace park, attests to the power of this place to continue to inspire us all to strive for peace and reconciliation.”

The event also saw young people from both sides of the Irish border join with others from England, Wales, Ukraine, Germany, Australia and New Zealand in reading a new peace pledge in the hope of inspiring the spirit of reconciliation across generations.

Original Peace Pledge - Paddy Harte & Glen Barr

“From the crest of this ridge - which was the scene of terrific carnage in the First World War on which we have built a peace park and Round Tower to commemorate the thousands of young men from all parts of Ireland who fought a common enemy, defended democracy and the rights of all nations, whose graves are in shockingly uncountable

numbers and those who have no graves, we condemn war and the futility of war. We repudiate and denounce violence, aggression, intimidation, threats and unfriendly behaviour.

"As Protestants and Catholics, we apologise for the terrible deeds we have done to each other and ask forgiveness. From this sacred shrine of remembrance, where soldiers of all nationalities, creeds and political allegiances were united in death, we appeal to all people in Ireland to help build a peaceful and tolerant society. Let us remember the solidarity and trust that developed between Protestant and Catholic Soldiers when they served together in these trenches.

"As we jointly thank the armistice of 11 November 1918 – when the guns fell silent along this western front - we affirm that a fitting tribute to the principles for which men and women from the Island of Ireland died in both World Wars would be permanent peace."

Heritage

Lord Kelvin and his brother

This week in 1786, James Thomson was born in Annaghmore near Ballynahinch, County Down. The family were originally Presbyterians from Scotland who were forced to leave Ayrshire during the 1640s during the Covenanter struggle, settling in Ulster.

From a young age, Thomson showed great mathematical skills, creating sundials as well as a night dial, which allowed the time to be found out by using the positions of



Thomson and his family are buried in the Glasgow Necropolis; a modern monument to Lord Kelvin can be found beside the family gravestone.

the stars. After school, he began to teach at the same school at which he was educated, using his free time to teach himself Latin and Greek. This allowed him to enter the University of Glasgow, with a view to becoming a minister. He graduated in 1812 with an MA, after which he continued to take classes in Medicine and Divinity.

In 1814 Thomson began teaching arithmetic, geography and bookkeeping at the Belfast Academical Institution before becoming professor of mathematics there. While in Belfast he wrote numerous mathematical textbooks which gave him

fame as a mathematician across the British isles. As a result, the university of Glasgow gave him an honorary doctorate, and he would go on to be professor of mathematics there from 1832 until his death in 1849.

Thomson had seven children. One child, also named James Thomson, would go on to become a civil engineering professor at Queen's University, Belfast, and later at the University of Glasgow. A second child, William Thomson, later known as Lord Kelvin, was a renowned mathematician and scientist known for formalising the first and second Laws of Thermodynamics,; absolute temperatures are measured in units of kelvins in his honour.

Thomson and his family are buried in the Glasgow Necropolis; a modern monument to Lord Kelvin can be found beside the family gravestone.

Poem for today

Soliloquy by Francis Ledwidge

When I was young I had a care
Lest I should cheat me of my share
Of that which makes it sweet to strive
For life, and dying still survive,
A name in sunshine written higher
Than lark or poet dare aspire.

But I grew weary doing well.
Besides, 'twas sweeter in that hell,



Down with the loud banditti people
Who robbed the orchards, climbed the steeple
For jackdaws' eyes and made the cock
Crow ere 'twas daylight on the clock.
I was so very bad the neighbours
Spoke of me at their daily labours.

And now I'm drinking wine in France,
The helpless child of circumstance.
To-morrow will be loud with war,
How will I be accounted for?

It is too late now to retrieve
A fallen dream, too late to grieve
A name unmade, but not too late
To thank the gods for what is great;
A keen-edged sword, a soldier's heart,
Is greater than a poet's art.
And greater than a poet's fame
A little grave that has no name.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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