

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Remembrance

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Remembrance - Poppy Fields at Winchester Cathedral

CNI presents photos throughout this. Issue from the opening night.

This emotional light and sound show is created by Luxmuralis. It reflects on the end of World War One and World War Two.



This event is sponsored by South Western Railway. Photo credit: Luxmuralis. Created by the Luxmuralis artistic collaboration, Peter Walker Sculptor and David Harper Composer.

<https://www.winchester-cathedral.org.uk/event/luxmuralis/>

People and places

American bells annual special ring in Banbridge

Tuesday was a truly special day for the US descendants of Banbridge benefactor James White (1852 – 1919), as Holy Trinity Parish Church’s bells chimed to the sound



of 'Home Sweet Home', as an annual 'thank you' to the kindly entrepreneur.

And while the annual rendition of his favourite tune is invariably an enchanting event, it took on a whole new dimension on Tuesday as the group of James's US descendants, along with their local cousins, braved Storm Ciarán to join in the spirit of what is a very special tradition at the 'Big Church'.

The bells were erected in James's name by his widow following his passing, a full 103 years ago.

Remarkably, James White gave true meaning and purpose to his entrepreneurial success by becoming a tireless champion of the local linen industry, and he also assisted with planning a memorial in Banbridge to men killed in WW1. Full coverage in this week's Banbridge Chronicle.



Mission insight blesses Garrison Group of Parishes

A correspondent of the grouped parishes writes - “We were blessed to have Rev Andrew Quill and his wife Joanne with us for a service of wholeness and healing in Kiltyclogher church.

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“They shared their story of their calling to Southern Sudan with us as CMSI mission partners. We wish them God's richest blessing on their travels and Missionary work there.

“There was an opportunity in the service for healing and laying on of hands for ourselves and others.”



New audio visual facility in St Jude's Belfast

A new audio visual facility has been set up in the Minor Hall thanks to the generosity of the saints at St. Jude's, Belfast at last year's Harvest Appeal and also the grant awarded this year by Benefact Trust.



“We’ve used it for Prayer Gatherings, St Jude’s Fellowship & The Generosity Project. Looking forward to using the screen at our annual quiz night”.

Armagh and London to link for Police act of Remembrance

On Saturday 11th November 2023 at 10am the RUCGC Association Co Armagh branch will be holding a short Act of Remembrance at the Armagh Wall.

This service is being mirrored at the same time with one at the Garden of Remembrance at Westminster, by colleagues who will be in London for Remembrance weekend.

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The service in Armagh will be concluded before the commencement of the RBL service at the War Memorial in the Mall. An open invitation is extended to all to show your support



Hospital and hospice visit by Bishop of Derry & Raphoe

Staff and patients at Letterkenny University Hospital and the Donegal Hospice were delighted to meet Bishop Andrew Forster when he visited on Tuesday last, 31st October.

The Bishop brought great encouragement and pastoral support to all whom he met, and led Ecumenical Prayer services at both places. At the Hospital he blessed prayer cards for mothers and their babies, while at the Donegal Hospice he blessed knitted hearts which will be given to patients and their relatives.



Bishop Andrew was accompanied on his visits by Rev Heather Houlton.

Plaque unveiled in Co Armagh to commemorate centenary of Cardinal Tomás O'Fiach's birth

The centenary of the birth of former all-Ireland primate Cardinal Tomás Ó Fiaich is to be marked with the unveiling of a blue plaque at his Co Armagh birthplace, the Irish News reports.

Born on November 3 1923 at 'An Chrosbhóthar' on the Kiltybane Road in Cullyhanna, Cardinal O'Fiach was an accomplished gaelgoir and scholar with a profound interest in folk lore and history.

His home parish of Lower Creggan has the unique distinction of producing two cardinals, the other being



Cardinal Tomás Ó Fiaich with Pope John Paul and Mr Jack Lynch TD. Photo courtesy of RTE.

Cardinal John Murphy Farley, Archbishop of New York in the early 20th century.

The Ulster History Circle commemorative plaque will be officially unveiled at noon on Friday by his successor Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of all Ireland Eamon Martin.

Tomás Ó Fiaich was born on 3rd November 1923 as Thomas James Fee, the second son of schoolteacher parents, Patrick Fee and Annie Carragher. At various times both parents taught at Cregganduff public elementary school. His older brother Patrick became the doctor in nearby Crossmaglen.

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As a young boy Tomás entered Cregganduff school where his father was headmaster before attending St Patrick's College Armagh, where in 1940 he gained a scholarship to St Patrick's College Maynooth.



Holy Souls - Archbishop Martin blessing the graves at Armagh of Cardinals Dalton, Conway, O'Fiaich and Daly. May they rest in peace.

He was ordained in July 1948 and continued his studies in UCD and at the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium.

He adopted the Gaelic version of his name while teaching at Maynooth in the early 1950s.

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From 1959-1974 he was professor of modern history and became vice president of Maynooth and latterly president of the college.

In spite of his academic background, Tomás Ó Fiaich was appointed to the vacant archbishopric of Armagh and the Primacy of all Ireland in August 1977. He was raised to cardinal just two years later in 1979 and continued to follow his deep interest in Irish and local history.

In 1980, the cardinal received the Irish American Cultural Institute Award for translating the Bible into Irish and among his publications are *Oliver Plunkett, Dánta* and *Saint Oliver of Armagh*.

Ulster History Circle chair Chris Spurr said Cardinal O'Fiach, who died in 1990 aged 66 while leading a diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes, was renowned for "his dedication to the Church, to Celtic history and to Irish language".

He said he would be remembered as an "inspiring leader and champion".

"On the 100th anniversary of his birth, the Ulster History Circle is pleased to commemorate the archbishop, historian, scholar, and Gael with a blue plaque at his birthplace, and the circle is particularly grateful to Foras na Gaelige for their financial support, and to the Creggan History Society for their kind assistance," he said.' Courtesy the Irish News.

BBC News - "The Tomás, Cardinal Ó Fiaich is renowned for his dedication to the church, to Celtic history and to Irish

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language and he is remembered as an inspiring leader and champion," said Ulster History Circle chairman Chris Spurr.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-67298799>

In the media

New Evangelical group sets out its inclusive manifesto - Church Times

A new network for Evangelicals, committed to both the “high view of scripture” characteristic of their tradition and support for same-sex relationships, is growing fast, a convener reported this week.

“Inclusive Evangelicals” was launched in August, after a group of clergy met to discuss their frustration with recent discussions about sexuality. “The loudest public voices from our tradition were conservative ones,” the Revd David Runcorn, a priest in the diocese of Exeter, writes in an account of the group’s formation. “Indeed, the common perception was that this was the Evangelical position. We knew it wasn’t. A wider theological exploration was needed. So, we decided to create a place where that could happen.”

A private Facebook group was created, and, as of this week, has 1000 members — testament, Mr Runcorn writes, to “the significant presence of open, questioning, and exploratory thinking within our Evangelical world”.

A website has also been created, with the strapline: “We joyfully proclaim the biblical affirmation of equality and

inclusivity.” It includes articles written to help those who “hold, or simply wish to understand further, the biblical basis for including approaches to same-sex relationships and marriage”, and those who are “leading churches towards inclusion and/or managing strongly different viewpoints within their fellowships”.

The group is not a formal organisation, but a network for those with a shared commitment to an “open exploration of the theology of same-sex relationships from an Evangelical Christian perspective”, Mr Runcorn said last week. “We are trying all the time to be positive in our tone rather than combative, campaigning, or reactive.”

The group’s conveners include four members of the General Synod: the Vicar of St Michael and All Angels, Harrow, the Revd Jody Stowell; the Vicar of St Paul’s, Stockingford, Canon Kate Massey; the Archdeacon of Sheffield and Rotherham, the Ven. Malcolm Chamberlain; and the Area Dean of Battersea, Canon Simon Butler, a member of the Archbishops’ Council.

“We respect fellow Evangelicals who disagree with us, and hope for their respect in return,” Ms Stowell says in the written account. “ We do not believe any should be forced to act against their conscience. We are committed to walking together in this. We do not believe it is a matter to divide over.”

While members of the Facebook group say that they are at “different stages in our theological and biblical journeys”, the website states that Inclusive Evangelicals “affirm the decision of General Synod to support the Bishops’ proposals

for services of blessing for same-sex couples. Many of us would support same-sex marriage.” It also argues that, to divide over views on sexuality “is without precedent and founds our ecclesiology on sex. This has no mandate in the Bible, the historic creeds, and councils of the faith.”

Mr Runcorn is a member of the Living in Love and Faith (LLF) implementation group tasked with refining the Prayers of Love and Faith (News, 5 May 2023). The Archdeacon of Dudley, the Ven. Nikki Groarke, referred to his book Love Means Love: Same-sex relationships and the Bible (SPCK, 2020), and The Possibility of Difference (Kevin Mayhew, 2018; Features, 15 February 2019) by the Revd Marcus Green, another Inclusive Evangelicals convener, as key texts on her “journey towards a more inclusive interpretation of scripture” (Comment, 13 November 2020).

She is one of the archdeacons who, alongside other General Synod members, established the Evangelical Forum, after the formal Evangelical Group of the General Synod added to its basis of faith “the unchangeable standard of Christian marriage between one man and one woman as the proper place for sexual intimacy and the basis of the family”, prompting a number of members to resign (News, 12 July 2019; Letters, 3 March). Some of these members are also conveners of Inclusive Evangelicals.

Last week, Mr Runcorn suggested that parts of the Evangelical world needed reminding of the contention of Max Warren (a former general secretary of CMS), that an Evangelical was “no more Christian than others who, in understanding and practice, have worked out a different

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balance, another proportion of faith”. The “historic, creative diversity” of the tradition had become “increasingly narrowed” in recent years, he feared.

He had “often” been told that he was no longer an Evangelical because of his views on same-sex relationships. Yet like many, he wished to stay in the tradition: “For me, in a way I can’t surrender, it is my spiritual home. It is family. This stubborn, passionate, argumentative and diverse way of believing called ‘Evangelical’, keeps drawing me and recalling me to the way of Christ like nowhere else.”

More at -

[\[https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2023/3-november/news/uk/new-evangelical-group-sets-out-its-inclusive-credentials\]](https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2023/3-november/news/uk/new-evangelical-group-sets-out-its-inclusive-credentials)

Sinn Fein's troubling 'solidarity' with Palestinians - The Spectator

Black Mountain, which looms above West Belfast, acts as a blank canvas for Irish republicans to plaster their thoughts across.

Over the years, banners covering a range of subjects, from Irish unity to Brexit, have been draped across it. In recent days, a Palestinian flag was placed there by a group styling itself Gael Force Art, claiming it was in ‘solidarity with the Palestinian people who launched their biggest operation in fifty years against the rogue state of Israel’. Gerry Adams

shared a picture of the flag on Twitter/ X. 'The Mountain Speaks! Free Palestine,' he wrote.

Irish republicanism has always been a reliable well-spring of support for their Palestinian equivalents. In the Troubles, PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation) sympathetic graffiti would occasionally jockey for attention with similar pledges of support for the Basque terrorists ETA on the walls of the Falls Road. In recent years, messages of support for Hamas have appeared alongside so-called street art supporting dissident republican terrorists.

Sinn Fein, with its murky ties to a terrorist organisation, has a genuine chance of taking power

For some Irish republicans, their cause has much in common with that of the Palestinians. They see themselves as kindred spirits in the global battle against the forces of 'imperialism'. It's all about vibes and being on the alleged right side of history. In an example of this superficiality, in Glasgow, a group of self-described anti-fascist Celtic supporters called the Green Brigade, taking a break from their usual veneration of the IRA, hoisted Palestinian flags and a banner proclaiming 'victory to the resistance' on Saturday afternoon. No ambulance is left unpursued in the quest to be viewed as right on.

But the shameful truth is that banners like these were being bandied around while acts of unspeakable violence were taking place. A music festival was being turned into a massacre; children were being butchered in their beds in a kibbutz.

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Such displays fit into a wider pattern of demented behaviour by parts of the Western left, undertaken at a comfortable distance from the horrors of southern Israel. However, in the case of Irish republicanism, it was not limited to the extreme fringes.

Plenty of Sinn Fein representatives – from TDs in the south to Martina Anderson, the former IRA prisoner – were putting out performative displays of ‘solidarity’ with the Palestinian cause on social media while footage of Hamas’s barbarism was already circulating. The party’s youth wing also got in on the act, plastering their Twitter/X profile with Palestinian-style graphics. Little wonder Israeli sources have described the party as the most outwardly anti-Israeli in western Europe.

More at -

[\[https://www.spectator.co.uk/article/sinn-feins-troubling-solidarity-with-palestinians/\]](https://www.spectator.co.uk/article/sinn-feins-troubling-solidarity-with-palestinians/)

London feels less safe for Jews than Israel, says ambassador - Daily Telegraph

London feels less safe for Jews than Israel, the country’s ambassador has said.

Tzipi Hotovely told The Daily Telegraph that the “jihadi ideology” witnessed on Britain’s streets in recent weeks during pro-Palestinian demonstrations was causing fear among the Jewish community. She said that even in a democracy, freedom of speech needed to be limited in order to stop people inciting hatred.

Mrs Hotovely said: “Since those demonstrations started, I keep getting WhatsApp messages from friends in Israel. They ask me, do you feel safe there? Do Jews feel safe?

“They feel like London is less safe during this war than Israel. They see the same jihadi ideology on the streets of London as in Gaza and they wonder what is going on.”

Further pro-Palestinian rallies are set to take place in London tomorrow, and again on Nov 11, which is Armistice Day, and the day before that the National Service of Remembrance will be held at the Cenotaph in Whitehall.

Sir Mark Rowley, the Met Commissioner, acknowledged the deep levels of fear and concern felt among Jews in London, but insisted his force was putting a lot of resources into addressing it.

The Met Commissioner has vowed that any demonstration that takes place will not “collide or interfere” with Remembrance Day commemorations.

Report by Martin Evanstory Diver

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

The Grumpy Owl and the Joy of Christmas

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“There once was an owl who lived in an empty old barn. He was a grumpy Owl. But when a man, woman and their donkey burst into his barn, making a lot of noise, the owl decides to fly further and further away to somewhere quiet where he can be grumpy. Can he find a lonely place? Or will he get back to his barn in time for a big, not-at-all grumpy surprise?”

This fantastic new book includes the nativity story alongside the story of a very Grumpy Owl who sets off on a mission to find some peace and quiet when his barn is filled with noise as a young couple and a donkey descend on his peaceful home.

Created in partnership with the Artless Theatre Company, The Grumpy Owl and the Joy of Christmas is a brilliant storybook that makes the truth of Christmas accessible to children, young people, and families who may never have heard the story of the nativity before.

Now available in packs of 10 for £20! From Scripture Union Britain & Wales

Find out more and get your copies today!

[SU.Org.Uk/Grumpyowl](https://www.su.org.uk/grumpyowl)

RAF Chaplain on Remembrance

As we approach Remembrance Day Padre Mike from RAF Valley shares what Remembrance has meant to him over the years. Methodist Church resources at -

bit.ly/40kFy0G

Keswick at Portstewart pod casts

Listen to Andrew Ollerton on his first Evening Celebration at Keswick Portstewart 23 and much more. See <https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/keswick-portstewart/id1594619199> or where-ever you get your podcasts

Poem for today

In Flanders Fields by John McCrae

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
 That mark our place; and in the sky
 The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
 Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
 In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
 The torch; be yours to hold it high.
 If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
 In Flanders's Fields



Born in Guelph, Ontario, Canadian poet, soldier, and physician John McCrae earned his undergraduate and medical degrees at the University of Toronto, where he received the Gold Medal. As a physician, he worked at Toronto General Hospital, John Hopkins Hospital, McGill

University, the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Montreal General Hospital, and the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal. He served in the Boer War in South Africa as an artillery subaltern in the Canadian Contingent from 1899 to 1900, was promoted to the rank of major in 1904, and reenlisted in the First Canadian Contingent soon after the start of World War I. McCrae became a member of the Royal College of Surgeons and was the first Canadian to be appointed consulting surgeon to the British Army.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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