

# Church News Ireland

---



**Image of the day – Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Killala**



## Image of the day

## Peregrination to Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Killala

On Monday (Part 2 of Day 13 ) of Bishop Michael Burrow's Peregrinations - he was joined by Stephen Fletcher, the diocesan Communications Officer and visited Ballina at 1pm; Killala Cathedral at 3.15pm; Ballycastle at 4.15pm and last stop of the day, Crossmolina at 5.30pm. On Tuesday they moved on to the Aughaval Group. "Thanks to everyone today for the wonderful support" said the Peregrinator.



November 29, 2023



Parishioners and Clergy sing with Bishop Michael - at Ballycastle Church (the Rev Canon Alex Morahan, the Rev Clive Moore and the Rev Karen Duignan pictured)

Donations are being received to support Feed the Minds Mothers' Union Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal

Contributions can be made to -  
[tlk.ie/new-lamps-being-lit](http://tlk.ie/new-lamps-being-lit)  
[tlk.ie/donate/](http://tlk.ie/donate/)

## People and places



### **Mid Connor MU prayer breakfast marking Activism Against Gender Based Violence**

**Mid Connor Area MU held a very successful prayer breakfast to mark 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence in St Patrick's Church Hall in Ballymena on Saturday 25th November.**



The morning was organised by the Diocesan F&P Social Policy Contact Jacqui. Although there was no charge for the breakfast a retiring collection raised £300, which will be used for Mothers' Union and Women's Aid joint practical projects.

The Area Chair, Joyce started the event with a reflection and prayer before the members enjoyed their breakfast which had been generously sponsored by Lidl, Tesco and Sainbury's stores in Ballymena.

The speaker was Arlene Creighton from Women's Aid who gave a very passionate talk about the work of Women's Aid and how the support of Mothers' Union is vital to that work.

The morning finished with midday prayers led by the Diocesan President, Sally.

Thanks to F&C Enterprise Rep for Mid & North Connor, Irene for providing and looking after the MU Enterprise



November 29, 2023

stand, also the Rector and Select Vestry of St Patrick's Parish Church, Ballymena for the use of their hall.



## **Airport and Garden Centre outreach by East Antrim congregations**

**Some of the parishioners of Kilbride Parish Church will be joining their friends in Ballyclare Presbyterian**

November 29, 2023

## Church for some Carol singing at Belfast International airport and Coleman's Garden Centre.

So if you feel like bringing some festive cheer to weary travellers or Christmas shoppers then do come along and join in with the fun! The songsters will be raising some much-needed funds for two wonderful charities.

Details are as shown on the poster on. Previous page. More information on the last date when confirmed by the airport.

## Two Readers licensed



The two newly licensed Readers, Síle Hunt (front left) and Hilary Dring (front right) after the service with the Bishop, the Right Rev. Dr Paul Colton, and (back left to right) the Archdeacon of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, the Ven. Andrew Orr, the Chaplain to the Guild of Lay Ministry, the Rev, Terry Mitchell, the Dean of Cork, the Very Rev. Nigel Dunne, and the Bishop's Domestic Chaplain, the Rev. Meghan Farr.

November 29, 2023

On Sunday, 19th November 2023, during the Diocesan Celebration of Lay Ministry at St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork, the Bishop of Cork, Dr Paul Colton, licensed two new Readers to serve in the Diocese.

Hilary Dring and Síle Hunt were licensed, having completed one of the courses approved by the House of Bishops, namely the Certificate in Christian Studies validated by the Pontifical University at Maynooth. Hilary did the course in Cork, Cloyne and Ross while Síle completed it recently in partnership with the United Dioceses of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory.

## Music for Advent Sunday at St Canice's Cathedral



### Advent Procession

Music and Readings for the Season of Advent

The Seven Great 'O' Antiphons  
Music by Palestrina, Tallis, Praetorius and  
Shephard

**Sunday 3 December 5pm**





## In the media

### 'I raise a Hallelujah': Worship song inspires boxer to become undisputed world champion - Premier News

**Irish boxer Katie Taylor raised a Hallelujah as she became a two-weight undisputed world champion in Dublin on Sunday night.**

The lightweight title-holder, who has spoken often about her Christian faith, won by a majority decision in a revenge match against England's Chantelle Cameron. She had been defeated by Cameron in May, in the only defeat of her 19 match professional career.

On the night, Taylor walked out into the ring at the 3Arena to the worship song 'I Raise A Hallelujah' by Bethel Music – in front of a TV audience of millions.

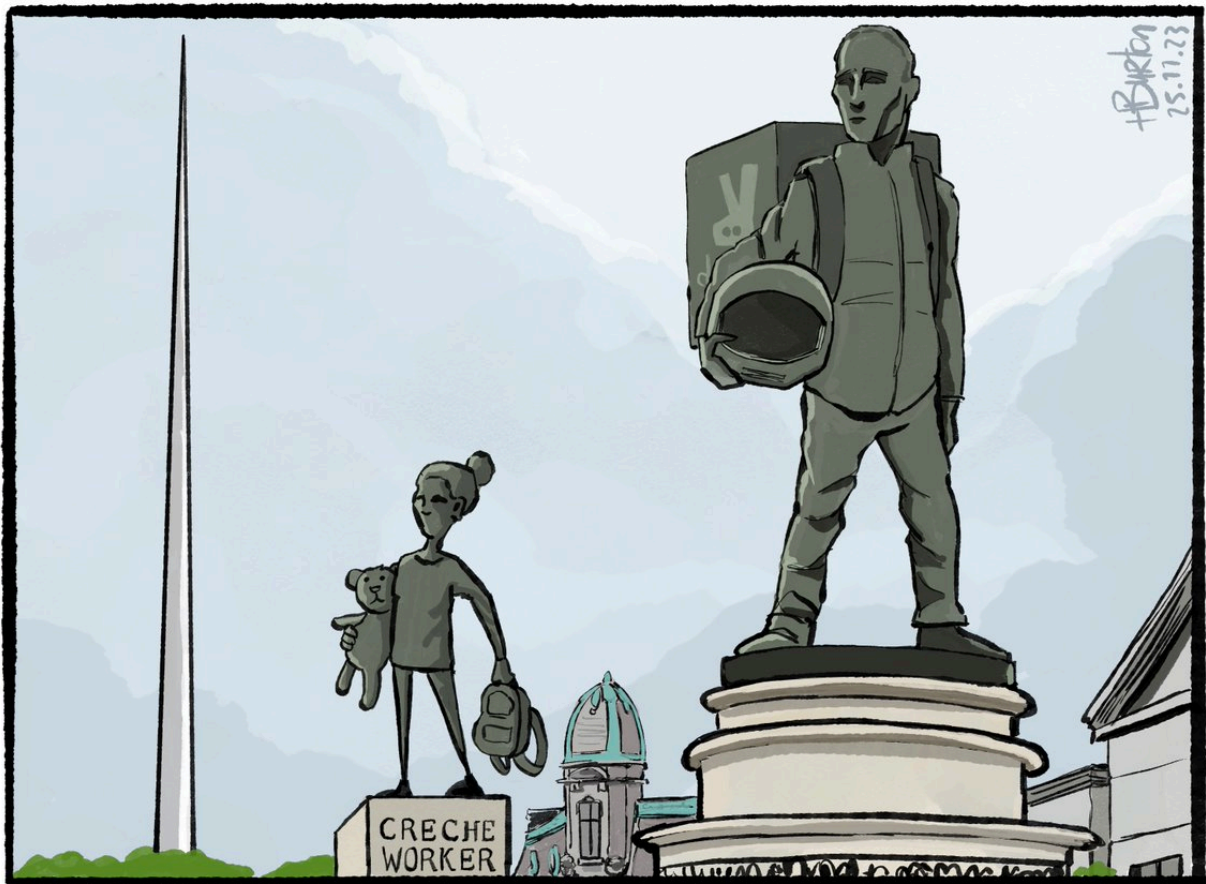
The 37 year old has previously spoken about the impact her Christian faith has on her life, saying her mother prays with her ahead of every match. Speaking to the Irish Times, she said: "I actually don't know how people get through difficult moments without God in their life.

"That's my anchor, my rock and there are definitely times I cling onto the word of God.

"One of my favourite verses is in the Book of Romans and the gist of it is that whatever you're going through there's a

November 29, 2023

defining moment you can actually use for your benefit. I believe that.”



**Harry Burton’s cartoon in the Irish Examiner after the events in Dublin last week.**

Taylor also draws inspiration from Psalm 18, which her mother encouraged her to read when she was 17. She says it has now become her mantra which she reads before every fight:

“ The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.



“ I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.”

Commentators say Taylor produced one of the best performances of her career to seal what is likely to go down as her greatest victory.

## **Amid tensions, Irish Christians can show how diverse communities live together - Evangelical Focus**

**Evangelicals in Dublin condemn the riots of last week. Christians must make a difference as debates around housing prices and migration increase social division, says the leader of the Evangelical Alliance Ireland.**

Christians in Ireland have expressed their clear opposition to the violence that erupted in Dublin last week.

Riots unfolded on Thursday 23 November after it was known that a man had stabbed three children and a school assistant outside a primary school. That evening, crowds convened through social media under the hashtag ‘#IrelandIsFull’ took the streets of the city centre with messages against migrants.

Around 300 people threw bottles at the police, destroyed public vehicles and looted shops, causing heavy damage in the city centre.

“The riot is shocking as Dublin is a very peaceful city”, a senior member of an evangelical church in the city told Evangelical Focus the day after.

Several evangelical pastors in the capital of Ireland came together to pray on the morning after the riots.

Authorities described the violence as the worst in modern Ireland, as over 45 people were arrested. A day later, members of Street Pastors Dublin, a ministry serving people outdoors on weekend nights, described the “city slowly returning to its normal”.

## **What caused the violence? - Evangelical Focus**

Nick Park, the director of the Evangelical Alliance Ireland, said “the horrible attack directed at children” had been used by far-right groups that are “opportunistic at seizing on any number of issues to recruit anyone who is disaffected to their cause”.

In a reflection sent to Evangelical Focus, the pastor addressed the fact that in Ireland there is “frustration by people, largely from the lower socio-economic sectors of Irish society”, who feel that their “standards of living have been eroded over recent years by the effects of Covid, rising prices, and a lack of affordable housing”.

“These people have been cynically exploited over a period of time by a small, but vocal far-right element who use conspiracy theories and disinformation on social media to make immigrants scapegoats for all the nation’s problems”, added Park.



A senior member of an evangelical church in Dublin agreed: “The housing crisis clearly affects many, and the authorities are struggling to deal with it”, he said, but this should never “justify attacks” against migrants and asylum seekers using “radical and anti-immigrant” narratives, he continued.

## **A Christian approach to the underlying situation**

In a context of very emotional debates in society (on issues like abortion, Covid-19 restrictions or gender ideology in schools), Christians should use their words “carefully”, says Nick Park, making sure “that we don’t inadvertently sow disunity and anger that would inflame tensions”.

Believers should also clear in “reject the political extremists on either side and not to allow ourselves to be used by them to speak words of division”.

In Ireland, the latest figures show that 18% of the population was born outside the country. Christian communities can best show how to include people from all backgrounds, since evangelical churches in cities like Dublin are “very diverse” and have an even higher percentage of immigrants.

“Many non-Irish workers support vital public services such as the health and transport services, and are an important part of our communities”, says the church leader in Dublin. “There are many among us who are fleeing war or persecution, including many from Ukraine, and we endeavour to welcome and provide support to them”.

@ @ @

# Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

## **Fr Eugene O'Hagan soloist with Portadown choirs at Christmas Carols from St. Mark's concert**

The annual and much-anticipated Christmas Concert at St Mark's Church in Portadown will this year feature celebrated tenor Eugene O'Hagan of 'The Priests' fame.

Fr Eugene O'Hagan will be the tenor soloist at the annual 'Christmas Carols from St. Mark's' concert which will be held on Friday 1st December at 8 pm.

The concert also features Portadown Ladies Choir, Portadown Male Voice Choir and guest organist Richard Campbell.

Proceeds this year will go to Craigavon Cardiac Care Association and The Mandeville Unit at Craigavon Area Hospital. Admission is by programme costing £10. These are available from choir members and at Winnie's Newsagents, Woodhouse Street, Portadown.

## **You Tube of installation of The Ven Mark Harvey as Archdeacon of Dromore.**

You can watch the service here - <https://www.youtube.com/live/3TI-yS1R3Lw?si=fLDIzzlyudY3TrJz>

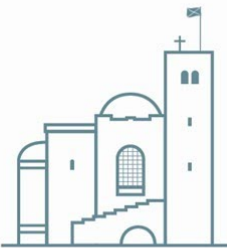


## St Andrew's Day - Edinburgh church service live-streamed

**A special St Andrew's Day service is being held at St Cuthbert's Church in Edinburgh in conjunction with The Friends of St Andrew's Jerusalem & Tiberias this Thursday (30th November).**

The service, which will be livestreamed from 2pm here, will be led by the Very Rev Dr Andrew McLellan, convener of The Friends of St Andrew's.

Livestream at -



**The Friends  
of St Andrew's  
Jerusalem & Tiberias**

**Celebrate  
St Andrew's Day**  
Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November at 2.00pm  
at St Cuthbert's Church

**Preacher : Very Rev Dr Iain Greenshields**

If you are unable to join in person, why not join  
online through live streaming?  
*Details of the service on [www.friendsofstandrews.com](http://www.friendsofstandrews.com)*

This year our offering will support EAPPI, an international programme bringing together human rights monitors in the West Bank. You can find more about their work at [www.quaker.org.uk/our-work/eappi](http://www.quaker.org.uk/our-work/eappi) or through **The Friends' website.**

**BACS** donations can be made to:  
Church of Scotland : Account No : 00134859 Sort code : 83-06-08 Reference : FSAJ EAP

If there are difficulties - see -  
<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2023/articles/st-andrews-day-church-service-to-be-live-streamed>

This year the offering from the service will be donated to the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI), a programme of the World Council of Churches which brings people from around the world to the West Bank to serve for three months as human rights monitors.

Dr McLellan said the service holds a heightened significance this year.

"Our annual service is usually a hopeful event full of thanksgiving for the life and work of the congregation of St Andrew's Jerusalem and Tiberias," he said.

"This year it will inevitably be so very different. But perhaps our annual service has never been more important than it will be this year.

"This is an opportunity for us to join together in worship and pray for all those who have been so devastated by the war in the region. A chance to pray for peace and healing.

"This is your invitation. Please come."

Last year's moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, the Very Rev Dr Iain Greenshields, will preach at the service.

Also taking part in the service will be ministers of St Andrew's Jerusalem & Tibertius Rev Dr Stewart Gillan and Rev Muriel Pearson, Morley Whitehead playing the organ and Caroline Trutz as the soloist.

November 29, 2023

As well as this, members of the committee of The Friends of St Andrew's Jerusalem & Tiberias will recite prayers and readings.

You will be able to watch the service from 2pm this Thursday.



Celebrate church music in all its glory at a weekend full of music, worship, talks and workshops.

**SPEAKERS INCLUDE** Archbishop Stephen Cottrell, Roxanna Panufnik, Joanna Forbes L'Estrange and Victoria Johnson.

**26 - 28 April 2024, York | [faithandmusic.hymnsam.co.uk](https://faithandmusic.hymnsam.co.uk)**

Celebrate church music in all its glory! Church Times Festival of Faith and Music is a brand-new venture, created in partnership with RSCM. They offer you a stunning programme of music and worship, talks and workshops in York. Early bird tickets available

<https://faithandmusic.hymnsam.co.uk>

### **Christmas has come early...**

Lucy Walker is such a talented composer - beautiful melodies, sensitively harmonised. Her new 'Away in a Manger' released with The Choirs of Pembroke College,





**Sandford  
Christmas Market**

Saturday, 2nd December 11am—1.30pm  
in the grounds of  
**Sandford Parish Church**

Christmas Crafts      Deli Stall  
Cakes      Waffles      Hot Dogs  
Hot Chocolate  
Santa Claus and more

**RAFFLE!**

All welcome  
Luas Green Line Ranelagh or Beechwood  
No. 11 Bus

Cambridge you can stream and download here: <https://AnnaLapwood.Ink.to/InTheStillnessAW>

## Poem for today

### Raglan Road

By Patrick Kavanagh

November 29, 2023

On Raglan Road of an autumn day  
I saw her first and knew  
That her dark hair would weave a snare  
That I might one day rue  
I saw the danger and I passed  
Along the enchanted way  
And I said, let grief be a falling leaf  
At the dawning of the day  
On Grafton Street in November  
We tripped lightly along the ledge  
Of a deep ravine where can be seen  
The worth of passions pledged  
The Queen of Hearts still making tarts  
And I not making hay  
Oh, I loved too much and by such, by such  
Is happiness thrown away  
I gave her gifts of the mind  
I gave her the secret sign  
That's known to the artists who have known  
The true gods of sound and stone  
And her words and tint without stint  
I gave her poems to say


Patrick Kavanagh

## 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](mailto:houstonmckelvey@mac.com)



**Community  
Carol Service**

**Thursday  
7th December 2023  
from 7pm**

**St. Macartan's Cathedral,  
Clogher**


Festive refreshments served  
from 6.30pm – 7pm

Local Choirs and Musicians taking part.


The town's Christmas Lights will  
be switched on during the service.

**Augher & Clogher  
Cancer Focus Group.**

Donations in support of



**Cancer  
Focus**  
NORTHERN IRELAND



Registered with  
**FUNDRAISING  
REGULATOR**



