

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Belfast Christmas Market

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News -

Dubin reflections on Remembrance
BBC - Baby Basics Craigs
Champion boxer explains how faith was hit following daughter's death
Moderator encourages Presbyterians to vote
Insight from Women, Faith and Climate Network at COP29
Christian Aid reaction to launch of Global Clean Power Alliance

Cathedral Calls -

Canterbury Cathedral
So is Canterbury Cathedral like the Anglican Vatican?

Clergy and ministry -

New Community Care Hub run by Dublin Central Mission
Welcome to Kilcolman Union
God is growing his Church

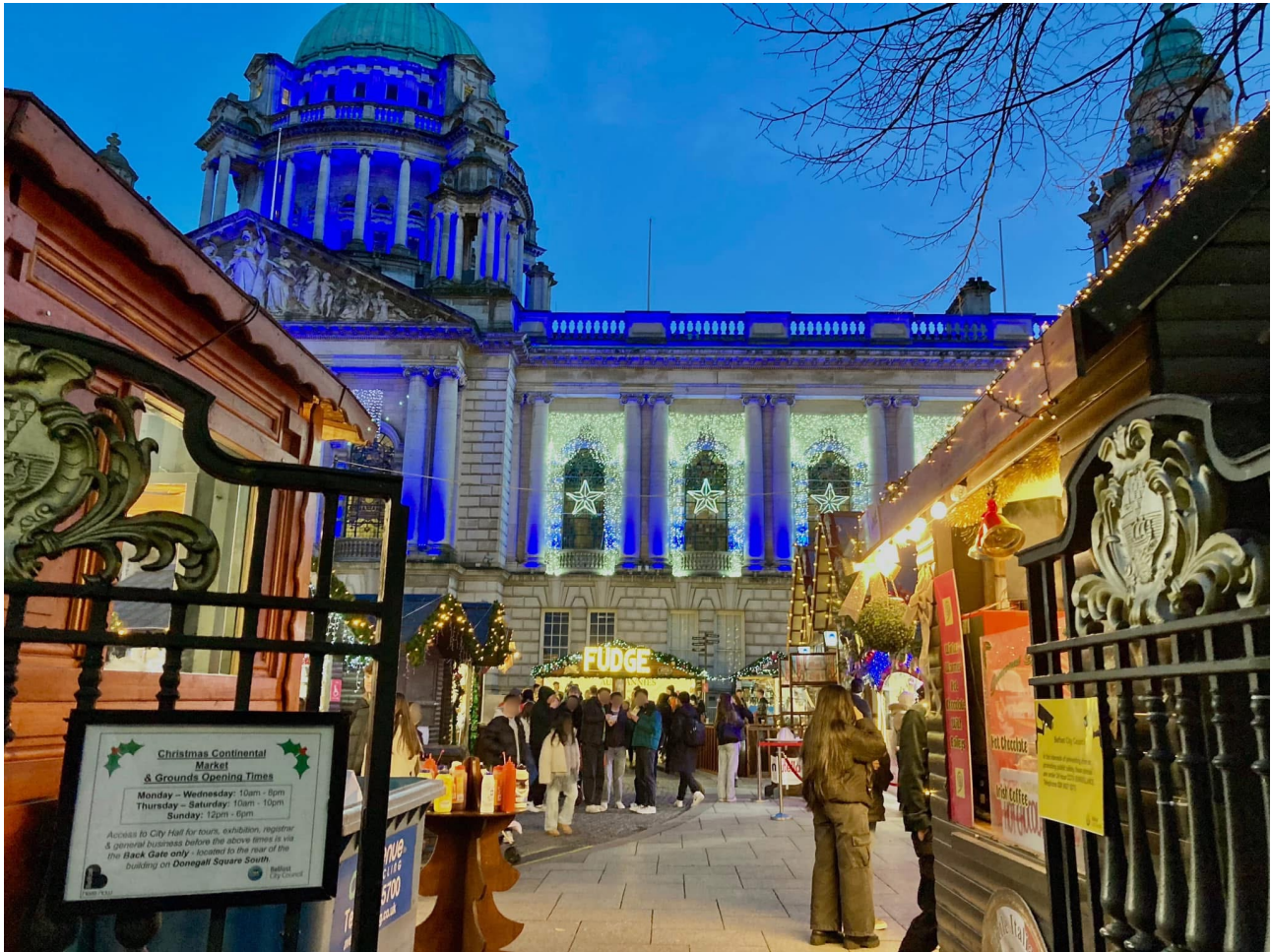
Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books -

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Advent Talks 2024, St.Mary's Carlow
Winter Fair, Celbridge
Louisburg Voices, Westport
Carols and Coffee, Christ Church Limavady
Christmas Tree Festival, Ballyshannon

Speaking to the soul -

Short reading and a prayer daily on this site

Image of the day



Gaz Drone did a little bit of night time flying at the Belfast Christmas Market

Belfast Christmas Market

The Belfast Christmas Market is a beloved annual event that transforms the grounds of Belfast City Hall into a festive wonderland. It's a great place to soak up the Christmas atmosphere, enjoy delicious food and drink, and find unique gifts for loved ones.

Key features:

+Over 100 stalls: Browse a wide variety of handcrafted goods, artisan products, and festive treats from local and international traders.

+ Festive food and drink: Indulge in seasonal favorites like mulled wine, gingerbread, and roasted nuts, or try something new from around the world.

+Family fun: Enjoy live music, festive entertainment, and a visit to Santa's Grotto.

+Dickensian theme: This year, the market is celebrating its 20th anniversary with a Victorian twist, featuring characters from Charles Dickens's novels and enchanting storytelling.
Dates and times:



+Dates: November 16th to December 22nd, 2024

Opening times:

Monday to Wednesday: 10am to 8pm

Thursday to Saturday: 10am to 10pm

Sunday: 12 noon to 6pm



+Getting there:

The market is located in the heart of Belfast, making it easily accessible by public transport.

+Parking is available in nearby car parks, and free on-street parking is available after 6pm.

+Additional information:

The market is free to enter.

November 23 2024

Late-night bus services are available on Fridays and Saturdays in the lead-up to Christmas.

For more information, visit the official website of the Belfast Christmas Market.

Overall, the Belfast Christmas Market is a must-visit for anyone looking to experience the magic of Christmas in Northern Ireland. Thanks to Gaz Drone once more for the photography.

#belfast #christmas2024 #christmasmarket Visit Belfast Q
Radio Belfast

News

Dubin reflections on Remembrance



Fortitude: Wesley College Male Voice Choir



Given that Fortitude honours those past pupils of Wesley College, Dublin, who died in the First World War, it was the most perfect symmetry that the College's Male Voice Choir performed at the dedication service in the G. B. Shaw Auditorium.

A unique choir whose membership runs from first to sixth year, they gave a very moving and polished performance of Abide with Me. The men were joined by violinist Junhyung Kang (second year) whose sophisticated musicality matched that of the choir to produce a stunning rendering of this hymn, long associated with remembrance, which stirred the emotions of the assembled crowd. We will remember them.

St George and St Thomas Boy's Brigade travelled to Ypres in Belgium in 1927

November 23 2024

"In 1927, a large party from the 14th Dublin Company of the Boy's Brigade in St George's travelled to Ypres in Belgium and laid a wreath at the cenotaph. A significant number of parishioners from St George and St Thomas had fought in the First World War and the 1927 group therefore featured many family members and friends of those affected".



BBC - Baby Basics Craigs

At their monthly Mothers' Union meeting in Craigs Dunaghy & Killigan parish, members had Vera and Frances from Baby Basics Ballyclare.

They gave the Connor members a lovely talk about Baby Basics and what they do and expressed thanks to all the

ladies that collected knitted items toiletries, clothes and nappies.

Champion boxer explains how faith was hit following daughter's death

Former boxing champion Barry McGuigan has spoken about how his Christian faith suffered following the death of his daughter.

Nika died following her second bout of cancer aged just 33.

McGuigan, who's taking part in ITV show 'I'm a Celebrity' opened up on the ordeal with his fellow contestants.

Asked whether he goes to church, he said: "I used to go incessantly...but then after my daughter, not as much.

"It was hard for weeks in the hospital, just watching, shocking," he said tearfully.

He was supported by his campmates. Former popstar Tulisa Contostavlos said: "You're a man going through pain and you're vulnerable about it, that takes strength.

"There is no rules to grieving... it's a reflection of your love."

Moderator encourages Presbyterians to vote

On the eve of the Irish General Election, the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church, Right Reverend Dr Richard

Murray, has joined with many other leaders in church and society in highlighting the importance of engaging and participating in this democratic process.

The principal public representative of the all-Ireland church said, “There are many significant issues currently confronting Irish society - healthcare, housing and homelessness, along-with the challenges and opportunities of caring for and integrating newcomers in our towns and communities. At this particular time there is also the very

Venue:
Primrose Hill National School
W23 YE97

Primrose Hill N. S.
Parish of Celbridge & Straffan
with Newcastle-Lyons

Winter Fair

Saturday 30th November
11am -3pm

Christmas Clothes Swap Shop

Refreshments Available

Santa Arriving at 12pm

Face Painting & Games

Toys Crafts Bric-a-brac Cakes

Santa's Grotto

Raffle with Huge Christmas Hamper as First Prize

November 23 2024

real threat to the sanctity of life posed by likely moves to legalise assisted suicide and euthanasia and this will no

Louisburgh Voices

A Medieval Christmas



Medieval carols and music for the Christmas season, from Ireland, France, Italy, Spain & Germany.

11th December 2024, 8pm
Holy Trinity Church, Westport

Louisburgh Voices

- ❖ Pauline Graham
director
- ❖ Michael Quinn
organ
- ❖ Vocal students from
Louisburgh Music School

Holy Trinity Church

Newport Road, Westport

Wednesday 11th December 2024, 8pm

Tickets €20 (concessions: €18) available from

Seamus Duffy's Bookshop, Westport and Gala, Louisburgh (cash only)

Further information: Tel: 087 367 4260

Louisburgh Voices



Illustration: Book of Hours of Jean Dunois, Paris. © The British Library. Used with permission. Yates Thompson 3, f81v

doubt be to the forefront of the minds of Christians and many others as they examine the policy position of parties and individuals seeking election to the Dáil.”

Dr Murray said, “The Presbyterian Church in Ireland’s Vision for Society statement reminds Christians of our calling to be ‘ambassadors of Christ’s Kingdom in a broken and divided world’ and to seek the peace and prosperity of the places – cities, towns and villages – to which we have been called. Therefore, while I would obviously encourage everyone to exercise their right to vote in this week’s election, I would especially urge all members of our Presbyterian Church to approach this responsibility prayerfully, and to vote taking account of Biblical values, in the hope that those elected will work with a generosity of spirit towards one another, and with a genuine commitment to the common good.”

Dr Murray concluded by saying, “As Christians we are called to pray for those in authority, and when the 34th Dáil Éireann convenes after the election, to elect a Taoiseach and form a government, returning and new TDs can be assured of my prayers and the prayers of many throughout our Church.”

Insight from Women, Faith and Climate Network at COP29

Martha Jarvis, the Anglican Communion’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations, attended the launch of the Women, Faith and Climate Network at the Faith Pavilion during COP29.



This initiative brings together women faith leaders from eight major faiths and 15 countries to accelerate climate action through collaboration.

Reflecting on the event, Martha Jarvis stated: "Women across the Anglican Communion are mobilising in response to climate change and in opposition to the systems driving it. We are honoured to be represented in this wider network, committing to practical action, new ways of collaborating and recognising the transformation possible through women of faith, as Jesus did."

With a combined reach of over 73 million people, the network aims to scale up women-led climate initiatives, foster partnerships, and advocate for change at key events such as COP30 in 2025.

Learn more about our COP29 advocacy:
anglicancommunion.org/COP29

Christian Aid reaction to launch of Global Clean Power Alliance

Responding to the launch of the Global Clean Power Alliance by the UK government yesterday, Sophie Powell, Christian Aid's Chief of UK Advocacy, said:

"Global decarbonisation is essential, as a species we're currently cooking ourselves with our addiction to dirty energy. Last year was the hottest year on record and 2024 is expected to beat that. It's vital that we accelerate the global energy transition away from fossil fuels so any initiative that helps do that is welcome in principle.

"The details are currently pretty sketchy so it's vital that this initiative includes human rights and environmental



Carols & Coffee *at Christ Church*

(In aid of Christ Church Building Fund)



a Musical Evening with

Limavady Big Band, Roe Valley Singers
Christ Church Choir, Congregational Singing, and Others

Friday 13th December at 7.30pm

Suggested Donation £10 pp

safeguards, especially as it seeks to promote the accelerated use of critical minerals, like lithium and cobalt.

"In order to effectively promote energy access for the most marginalised it must come with public finance. It's easy for the private sector to make money investing in renewable energy in easy to reach, middle income countries. But for



Christmas Tree Festival
St. Annes Church, Ballyshannon

Thursday 5th - Monday 9th December 2024

Opening Times

Thursday 5th December Official Opening at 7.00pm

Friday 6th December: 11.00am - 6.00pm

7.00pm School Concert & Abbey Arts Centre Panto —

Alice in Wonderland Characters

Saturday 7th December: 11.00am - 8.00pm

Sunday 8th December: 11.00am - 7.00pm

7.00pm Community Carol Service

Monday 9th December: 11.00am - 3.00pm

Teas will be available Friday, Saturday & Sunday — St. Anne's Church Hall

All Proceeds in Aid of the Church Bells



the remotest parts of the poorest countries, it will require grant funding to get the technology up and running.

"What has been announced today appears to be primarily focused on private finance initiatives. We agree these have a role to play but this is not in any way a substitute for the UK significantly stepping up on public finance. Attention must come back to the UK's responsibility to push for an ambitious new finance goal at COP29, with public finance at its core, and a strong contribution from the UK itself, which can be raised through taxing the richest and biggest polluters."

LINK - Global Clean Power Alliance:

www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-launches-clean-power-alliance-as-uk-leads-the-global-energy-transition

Cathedral Calls

Canterbury Cathedral

So is Canterbury Cathedral like the Anglican Vatican?

Yes, in a way, Canterbury Cathedral can be seen as the Anglican equivalent of the Vatican, but with important differences. It is the spiritual heart of the Church of England and the seat of the Archbishop of Canterbury, who is the senior bishop and principal leader of the worldwide Anglican Communion. Like the Vatican's significance to Roman

Catholics, Canterbury is a central place of worship, pilgrimage, and authority within the Anglican tradition.

However, unlike the Vatican, which is both a religious and political entity (as the independent city-state of Vatican City), Canterbury Cathedral is not a political center. The Archbishop of Canterbury holds a position of religious leadership, but the Church of England is part of the broader structure of the British monarchy, and the archbishop's authority is more ecclesiastical than governmental.

While not an exact parallel, Canterbury Cathedral plays a similar spiritual role for the Anglican Communion as the Vatican does for Roman Catholics. Here's why:

1. Spiritual Leadership

Canterbury is the seat of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the highest-ranking bishop in the Church of England and a key figure in the global Anglican Communion. Much like the Pope in Roman Catholicism, the Archbishop holds a position of spiritual authority, though with different responsibilities and scope.

2. Place of Pilgrimage

Canterbury Cathedral has been a major site of Christian pilgrimage for centuries, dating back to the martyrdom of Thomas Becket in 1170. Pilgrims have journeyed here, much like Catholics travel to the Vatican, seeking spiritual reflection, healing, and connection.

3. Ecclesiastical, Not Political

While the Vatican is a sovereign city-state, Canterbury Cathedral is part of the Church of England, which, though it

has historical ties to the British monarchy, is not a political entity. The Archbishop of Canterbury holds a primarily religious role and does not have the same political influence as the Pope.

4. Global Reach

The Anglican Communion spans across many countries, with the Archbishop of Canterbury serving as a symbolic leader for over 80 million Anglicans worldwide. However, unlike the Pope, the Archbishop has no direct governing authority over the global Anglican churches; his role is more about fostering unity and spiritual leadership.

In Short:

Canterbury Cathedral is the heart of the Church of England and a pivotal symbol in the Anglican Communion, much like the Vatican is to Roman Catholicism. However, its influence is primarily spiritual, not political, and it is rooted in a different historical and theological tradition.

Brief history:

Canterbury Cathedral, located in Kent, England, is one of the oldest and most famous Christian structures in the country. Its history spans over 1,400 years and has been central to the development of Christianity in England.

Founded in 597 AD:

The cathedral's origins trace back to St. Augustine, who was sent by Pope Gregory the Great to convert the Anglo-Saxons to Christianity. In 597, Augustine established a Christian mission in Canterbury and became the first

Archbishop of Canterbury. The original church was built on the site of what is now the cathedral.

Norman Rebuilding (1070s):

The original structure was destroyed in a fire in 1067, shortly after the Norman Conquest. In the late 1070s, Archbishop Lanfranc began the rebuilding process in a grand Norman style, and the cathedral became a key symbol of Norman power and Christianity.

The Murder of Thomas Becket (1170):

One of the most significant events in the cathedral's history was the murder of Archbishop Thomas Becket in 1170. Becket, a former friend of King Henry II, was killed by knights loyal to the king, sparking outrage and leading to Becket's canonization as a saint. The cathedral became a major site of pilgrimage, and its shrine to Becket attracted thousands of visitors from across medieval Europe.

The Medieval and Modern Eras:

Over the centuries, the cathedral has undergone numerous renovations, expansions, and repairs, with the most notable being the construction of the stunning Gothic nave in the 14th century. It has survived fires, storms, and even the dissolution of the monasteries under Henry VIII in the 1530s.

World War II and Restoration:

In 1942, Canterbury Cathedral was severely damaged during World War II by German bombing. The cathedral was restored after the war, ensuring its continued role as a place of worship and pilgrimage.

November 23 2024

Today, Canterbury Cathedral remains a UNESCO World Heritage site and the spiritual heart of the Church of England, attracting millions of visitors annually. Its rich history continues to make it a symbol of Christian faith and resilience.

Clergy and ministry

New Community Care Hub run by Dublin Central Mission

Next Wednesday sees the beginning of a new Community Care Hub which will be run by Dublin Central Mission (Methodist) in St George and St Thomas Church.

It is a wonderful service for those in the community who need to avail of free services.

Welcome to Kilcolman Union

Welcome to the Revd Mark Blakely who will be introduced as Priest-in-Charge of the Kilcolman Union of Parishes at the Church of Saint Michael, Kilorglin, Co Kerry on Friday 29th November, 2024 at 7.30pm, by Bishop Burrows.

All are welcome to attend. In the meantime, listen to Revd Blakely In Conversation with our DCO, Stephen Fletcher by clicking on the link below.

Church of Ireland Mid Kerry - Kilcolman Union of Parishes

November 23 2024

You'll find this and all of Stephen's podcasts at TLK.ie/podcasts/



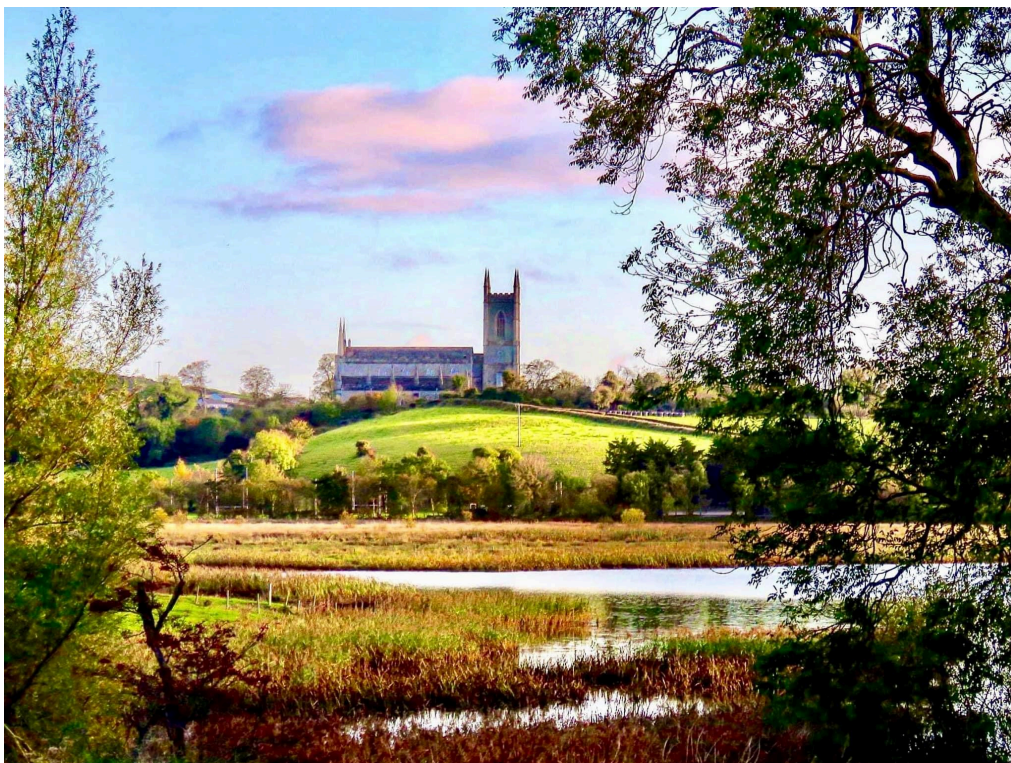
God is growing his Church

Parish leaders, lay and ordained, from Down & Dromore gathered at the T3 Conference & Event Centre recently for an evening focused on church growth.

“It was an opportunity to be encouraged by what God is doing in our parishes and to think strategically together.” The event featured speakers from Knocknagoney Parish Christ Church Primacy Church of Ireland and Magherally & Annaclone Church, Banbridge. Thank you to Archdeacon Mark (Shankill Parish Lurgan) for hosting. We were sorry to



hear that the traffic gridlock meant some cars had to turn back. Thank you for trying!



Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



Theme : ' Be alert at all times' Luke 21:36a



Wednesday 27th November, 7.30pm - Revd. Steven Foster

Revd. Steven Foster is Minister with the Methodist Church in Ireland working as a Pioneer Mission Leader in County Galway and is also Chairperson of Amach le Dia.



Wednesday 4th December, 7.30pm - Maram Salah

Born and raised in Gaza, Palestine, Maram Salah is a 24 year old Student who has recently completed a Masters Degree in Marketing and Analytics through SETU Carlow. Maram arrived in Carlow one month before the genocide began, rescuing her brother but leaving 8 family members behind. Maram offers incredible personal insight into Middle Eastern affairs and suffering.

Please note this talk is scheduled to take place in the Community House, Eircode R93E427.



Wednesday 11th December, 7.30pm - Bishop Adrian Wilkinson

Bishop Adrian Wilkinson, Bishop of Cashel Ferns & Ossory



Wednesday 18th December, 8pm ' Festive and Reflective Songs of Prayer and Praise -

Join Carlow Community Choir and Choir Director Mary Amond O'Brien with special guests HSE Carlow Melodies Choir led by Clara Hutchinson.



For further information

Phone: (086) 4113989

Email: paulfitz1000@hotmail.com

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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