

Church News Ireland



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Short reading and a prayer daily on this site

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Image of the day

Uganda Mission Trip support

There was a massive turnout on Friday night at a Craft fair at



Mullabrack and Kilcluney Parish Group with the stall holders having some amazing gifts, products, hand made goods and treats on sale.



The team commented - "Thank you to our Cafe Claus team - for providing and making the food - it was absolutely delicious ... and cooked to perfection."



“And to the music and singing groups ... just listen to that choir and the younger musicians.

“And a massive thank you to our car park attendants who braved the cold and to sound and lighting people who kept us all connected”.

News



St Malachy's students hear firsthand of persecuted Christians

Last week A Level Religious Studies students hosted Archbishop Linus Neli, Harry Casey, and Michael Kelly.

The boys had the privilege of hearing firsthand the Archbishop's experience of the persecution of Christians in Imphal, north east India. His visit was part of @acn_ireland where church leaders travel around the world raising awareness of Christian persecution and challenges to

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religious freedom. The boys found this a worthwhile and enlightening experience and something which is relevant to their A Level course. Thank you, Archbishop Neli.

We need more people locally attending church, Archbishop Michael Jackson

As we approach Advent, Archbishop Michael Jackson reflects on the Church of Ireland census figures and urges people to rekindle their connection to their parish.

"We need more people locally attending church to function in a way that we can share with those beyond the church. We need more people locally in church in order to engage the wider population confident of being able to offer welcome and involvement. We need more people attending church to maintain and develop local churches for the use by future generations of Christians whoever they may be and however change comes to bear on us. This is why we need to go to church."

Link to full text: <https://dublin.anglican.org/news/2024/11/22/why-go-to-church-a>

Portadown College Centenary Prize Day

The Portadown College community was delighted to gather in First Portadown Presbyterian Church for its Centenary Prize Day 2024.



A central theme of this year's event was the recognition of 100 years of educational excellence in the service of our community.

On behalf of guests, the College Chairman, Mr Peter H Aiken, extended a sincere welcome to Guest of Honour and past student, Dr David Blevins. In a warm and entertaining address, David inspired the audience with his reflections on the value of happiness and success in all aspects of life, personal and professional.

The audience was uplifted by a variety of marvellous musical pieces conducted by Head of Music, Mrs Linda Doogan, and performed by the College orchestra, choir and chamber choir respectively.



During an afternoon of celebration showcasing the praiseworthy achievements of the GCSE, AS and A Level 2024 cohorts, Principal Gillian Gibb spoke about PC's pride at the range of achievements, individual and collective, secured by students inside and outside the classroom.

Miss Gibb went on to refer to the postscript to the 1946-47 College magazine in which Mr Donald Woodman, PC's legendary Headmaster from 1946 - 1973, wrote: "Portadown College has great traditions. May these pages show, year by year, how the present proves worthy of the past, and pioneers the way to an even brighter future."

Reflecting on the significance of PC's centenary, Miss Gibb observed:

"The living manifestation of that 'great future' is before us today in the shape of our wonderful students. For amongst

us this afternoon are so many gifted and talented young people who will go on to make their distinctive mark in the arenas of culture, sport, science, law, education, medicine, business, industry, charity, faith and politics, to name but some.

“Friends of PC, I trust that today will also show how the present does indeed prove worthy of the past, and pioneers the way to an even brighter future.”

Presidents give keynote at Council for Christians and Jews AGM

Members and friends from across the UK gathered for CCJ’s AGM at The Central Synagogue in London last week.

Two of CCJs Presidents spoke at the keynote session. This was a conversation between the Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth Sir Ephraim Mirvis KBE, and Revd Fiona Smith, Principal Clerk of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

The Chief Rabbi and Revd Fiona were also joined by Rabbi David Mason, Executive Director of HIAS+JCORE, and Mirella Yandoli, Interfaith & Equality Officer at the Church of Scotland.

These leaders revisited their groundbreaking Jewish-Christian Glossary project, and AGM attendees participated in a workshop modelling the same form of dialogue which informed this inspirational initiative.

CCJ was delighted to present the James Leek Award to Dr Ann Conway-Jones, co-chair of the Birmingham CCJ branch. This well-deserved award recognised Dr Conway-Jones' contribution to Jewish-Christian dialogue through her long-standing involvement in the CCJ branch.

CCJ expressed gratitude to all its members who attended this year's AGM, and for their ongoing support of its work.

Church of Ireland minister, jailed for £11,000 fraud, is freed due to impact of jail time on his children

A minister jailed for conning his church and a grieving parishioner out of a total of £11,000 is to be released due to the impact on his two children, the Court of Appeal ruled today, the Belfast News Letter reports 23/11/2024.

Adrian McLaughlin's 12-month sentence was suspended based on the exceptional circumstances of his teenage son and daughter having been left to fend for themselves.

Senior judges also ordered him to pay £1,000 compensation to the widowed member of the congregation he deceived at St Colman's Church of Ireland in Dunmurry, Co Antrim.

Lady Chief Justice Dame Siobhan Keegan stressed 50-year-old McLaughlin was not entitled to any personal credit for the abuse of trust.

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McLaughlin was originally sent to prison in September after being found guilty of defrauding £10,000 from the church.



He was also convicted of defrauding a member of the congregation whose husband had died of a further £1,000. The offences were committed on dates in 2016 at the church where he had served as minister since 2014.

At the time a fund was set up to help cover restoration costs following a fire which caused extensive damage to the building.

With no treasurer in place during that period, cheques issued from the church's account required signatures from the minister and another nominated individual.

McLaughlin, from Church Avenue in Dunmurry, asked that person to co-sign a cheque for £10,000 which he claimed was to purchase a replacement church organ.

In November 2016 a member of the congregation appointed treasurer discovered the cheque stub for that amount bore the name Northern Ireland Organs Limited, previous courts heard.

But it later emerged that McLaughlin had instead made the cheque out to himself.

He was also given £1,000 by a bereaved parishioner who had just lost her husband.

She made the donation on the understanding the money would be used to purchase memorial items in honour of her late partner.

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McLaughlin asked for the payee line to be left blank on the cheque, and instead of following the widow's requests filled in his own name and pocketed the £1,000.

The disgraced clergyman has since lost his position as part of separate disciplinary proceedings.



Join us for...

CHRISTMAS AT ALL SAINTS' CLOONEY

Advent Carols by Candle Light Sunday 1st December 7pm

Community Carol Concert with UU Choir Tuesday 3rd December 7pm

Evening Advent Service Wednesday 4th/11th/18th Dec 7.30pm

Bereavement Service Sunday 8th December 7pm

The Christmas Grace Hour Thursday 12th December 11.30am

Volunteers Christmas Party Night Friday 13th December 8pm

Christmas Extravaganza with Britannia Band and Amy Smith
Sunday 15th December 7pm

Sunday School Nativity Sunday 22nd December 11am

9 Lessons & Carols Sunday 22nd December 7pm

Christmas Eve Community Nativity
24th December 4pm

Christmas Eve Holy Communion
24th December 11pm

Christmas Day Holy Communion
25th December 10am

He was originally ordered to serve six months behind bars and a further six months on licence after being told that he had treated the parish like his own “personal fiefdom”.

At the Court of Appeal today, defence lawyers claimed McLaughlin’s sentence was manifestly excessive due to the disproportionate hardship on the two children he has sole custody of.

Richard McConkey KC said his client’s 19-year-old daughter has put her own fledgling career on hold to act as a parent for her 16-year-old brother studying for GCSE exams.

He told the court she has also been forced to sell her clothes to help pay off loans and make ends meet.

“It’s a terrible situation that she has found herself in,” Mr McConkey submitted.

The barrister added: “It is not the conviction that has caused the hardship, it is the incarceration.”

Prosecution counsel responded that the need for a deterrent sentence outweighed the difficulties which the defendant’s children have faced.

However, after reading a new statement from McLaughlin’s daughter, the Lady Chief Justice described defence arguments as compelling.

Citing private rights to family life under European law, she identified a stark impact on a son and daughter left to “fend for themselves financially and emotionally”.

“This case has a unique feature where the child and young person are left with no parental figure,” the judge said.

“This is not something the court has had to consider in our collective experience.”

With McLaughlin having already served more than two months in prison, Dame Siobhan confirmed that the rest of his 12-month sentence is to be suspended for a period of two years.

She added: “In addition, we consider it appropriate to make a compensation order in the sum of £1,000 which represents the money (the victim) put forward for her husband’s memorial.

“We will give Mr McLaughlin the maximum time to pay, which is 26 weeks.”



Cathedral Calls

A Red Cathedral for a Red Book

**Dr Ann Buckley,
who gave a
lecture on the Red**



The Dean, Dr Buckley and members of the choir with the Red Book of Ossory, currently on display at the Cathedral.

Book of Ossory's Cantilenae, which set sacred texts composed by then Bishop of Ossory Richard Ledrede to the secular tunes of the 13th and 14th centuries.

Members of the choir



sang Ledrede's cantilena, Peperit Virgo, and also the secular song Mayde in the Moor to the tune Brid one Briere, on which the music for Peperit is based, bringing the sound world of the Red Book of Ossory to life.

Second photo above - At the tomb of Bishop Ledrede in the Cathedral chancel.

Christ Church Cathedral secures renewable electricity from Wind Farm in Leitrim

Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, has signed a one-year Corporate Power Purchase Agreement (CPPA) with Pinery, a leading energy transition company.

This agreement will enable the iconic Dublin cathedral to power its operations using renewable energy sourced from Moneenatieve Wind Farm in County Leitrim.

With this agreement, Christ Church Cathedral becomes the first cathedral or church in Ireland to sign a CPPA. This CPPA will meet 100% of the cathedral's annual energy requirements and support its sustainability ambitions to reduce its carbon emissions.

The CPPA forms part of Pinery's Guarantee of Origin offering, which allows companies to purchase electricity generated from wind or solar farms based in Ireland that is feeding into the national grid.



Commenting on the CPPA, cathedral CEO Susanne Reid stated: “Pinery’s ‘Guarantee of Origin’ offering provides an excellent opportunity for Christ Church Cathedral and other historically unique buildings to improve our sustainability credentials while preserving the authenticity of our historic building”.

Colm Foley, Pinery Commercial Energy Manager added: “We are pleased to announce this new CPPA with Christ Church Cathedral, a well-known landmark in the heart of Dublin city. This agreement demonstrates the cathedral’s commitment to sustainability and shows that they are pioneers in this space. Ireland has lots of beautiful historic buildings and we believe it’s crucial to help these historically significant buildings transition to renewable energy, so they don’t get left behind in the energy transition”.

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Pinergy's Guarantee of Origin offering supports companies as they look to reduce their carbon footprint ensuring they now have a traceable energy system in place for their portfolio from a chosen renewable facility in Ireland.

Clergy and ministry

Oscar Winner James Martin is Corrymeela's Shine a Light for Peace Ambassador for 2024 ✨

James and his dad Ivan recently visited the Corrymeela Centre in Ballycastle, two decades after his first visit.

James first visited Corrymeela when he was just 11 years old. His experience during that week at our Ballycastle residential centre marked the beginning of an incredible journey to Hollywood success.



"That week at Corrymeela brought me out of my shell," James recalls. "It's easy to be in the wrong space in your

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head – but it was lovely to be fun and silly in front of your friends."

From performing the 'Cheeky Song' in our end-of-week concert to winning an Academy Award, James's story shows how Corrymeela can reveal unexpected gifts and change people's lives.



Read more here: <https://www.corrymeela.org/donate/shine-a-light-for-peace>

Cross of St. Augustine for Toronto cleric

Congratulations to the Ven. Paul Feheley, of the Diocese of Toronto, who has been awarded the Cross of St. Augustine for Services to the Anglican Communion.

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Lambeth Palace conferred the award for his outstanding and effective love, knowledge, wisdom and dedication to communicating the gospel in the Anglican Church worldwide.

Pioneer Ministry Gathering for Diocesan Advocates



“A fantastic day at our Pioneer Ministry Gathering for Diocesan Advocates in Cavan Crystal Hotel as we shared stories about what is happening across the island of Ireland and the plans each diocese has for reaching those with little or no connection to church.

“So glad to have Phil Potter and Michael Mitton with us and looking forward to our day with Diocesan Hubs tomorrow.”

Funeral of Fr Desmond Campion, SDB CF



Naval Service officers accompany Fr Des' mortal remains to the gate of the Naval Base for the last time. A huge funeral cortège followed behind.

Requiem Mass for Fr Des was celebrated on Wednesday by Very Revd Fr Paschal Hanrahan, Head Chaplain to the Forces, and concelebrated by Most Revd Dr John Buckley, Bishop Emeritus of Cork and Ross, military chaplains, Salesian priests and other clergy in the Church of Our Lady, Star of the Sea, at the Irish Naval Service Base on Haulbowline Island, County Cork.

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The Bishop Emeritus of Cork and Ross, Most Revd Dr John Buckley, blesses Fr Des' mortal remains as they are carried by Naval personnel from the Church of Our Lady, Star of the Sea, assisted by Very Revd Fr Paschal Hanrahan, HCF.



The huge congregation could not be contained within the walls of the church, such was the regard people had for the long-standing Naval Service chaplain. Military honours were rendered as Fr Des' remains were escorted to the gates of the base, where the chaplains sang Salve Regina, before Fr Des left the place, which had been his home for 36 years, for the final time.

Another concelebrated Requiem Mass was celebrated last Friday, 22nd November, at 11.30am in the Church of Our Lady of Good Counsel, Mourne Road, Drimnagh, Dublin D12 CF5X, followed by burial in Palmerstown Cemetery.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Getting started with family history

**Aghalee Parish Heritage Project - Tuesday 26th
November, 7:30pm in the Youth Hall at Soldierstown
Church.**

Gillian Hunt of the Ulster Historical Foundation will give a talk on the topic - 'Getting started with family history'. Gillian will share information and point us to resources that can help in genealogical research. If you have ever wondered about your family roots, or tried to trace your family tree, then this information evening may help you to shed light on the subject .
All welcome - invite a friend.

Drama - The Marian Hotel...

At The Lyric Theatre, Belfast - The play 'The Marian Hotel' is based on Caitriona Cunningham's lived experience of being in Marianvale Mother and Baby home in Newry.

It was developed over a year with Dramaturg Emily DeDakis and a cast of stellar local actors. It is a searing portrayal of a dark time in Irish history with a 70s/80s soundtrack. The Inquiry in the North of Ireland has just begun. This play is a

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call to all impacted to come forward and raise their voices so that they may never again be silenced and shamed for being human. The magnificent cast lead by Aoibh Johnson (writer and performer of acclaimed play *The Daughters of Róisín*) will take you on a journey that is mesmerising and intensely moving.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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