

Church News Ireland



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November 18, 2024

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Image of the day



Mothers Union final All Ireland Big Sing

The final All Ireland Big Sing 2014 was held on Saturday in St Patrick's Parish Church, Ballymena.

Excellent congregational singing was enhanced by The Clare Chorale who led the singing and also presented two sets with three pieces in each.

The Most Revd John McDowell, Archbishop of Armagh in his address paid tribute to outgoing All Ireland President, Mrs June Butler who had conceived and enabled the Big Sing programme throughout Ireland.

The Revd Canon Mark McConnell, Rector of the Parish of Kilconriola (Ballymena) and The Ven Dr Stephen McBride, All Ireland MU Chaplain, also officiated.

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The lesson was read by June Butler, All Ireland President. Iris Suitor, All Ireland Zonal Trustee, spoke about the work of Mum's In May. Prayers were led by the All Ireland Unit Co-ordinators Clare Stewart, Kay Clarke, Kaye Nesbitt and Margaret Jacob.



June also gave a personal reflection on her favourite hymn "Guide me, O thou great Jehovah".

The MU members of St Patrick's served refreshments afterwards.

And there were ancillary activities. Armagh diocese reports, "Before the Service we had an opportunity for some retail therapy including some Christmas shopping.

"On our way home we

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MOTHERS' UNION
BIG HYMN SING

Saturday 16th November 2024
at 2.00 p.m.



St Patrick's Parish Church Ballymena

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families
Province of All Ireland

16 Nov 2024, 14:06



stopped at the Grouse for our evening meal. Lots of fun, food and fellowship together! Thanks were also extended to Mark and Mark, our two coach drivers from Agnew's for getting us there and back safely,"

Left top - the Archbishop of Armagh moving to the pulpit for. His address.



Left - Fifty one members

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from the Mothers' Union in Clogher Diocese MU travelled to St Patrick's Church in Ballymena for the 'Big Sing' and finished the day with a delicious meal in the Royal Hotel in Cookstown. They were accompanied by their Bishop, Rt Rev Ian Ellis

“Mums in May” is an All-Ireland Fund which was established in 2012 in celebration of 125 years of MU in Ireland. The Fund supports new and on-going MU projects throughout Ireland as well as specific important overseas projects. Every third year the MIM Fund is replenished through the efforts of members in Ireland and 2024 is the fifth occasion when MU fundraising focussed on the Fund.

News

Launch of 2024 Belfast Black Santa Sitout Appeal

2024 is the 48th year of the Belfast Cathedral Black Santa Appeal. The appeal has become a Belfast institution since first launched by Dean Sammy Crooks in December 1976.

In two year's time, the Black Santa Appeal will celebrate its 50th anniversary year. Over those years, millions of pounds has been raised on the steps of St Anne's Cathedral, with every penny given away again to support local and international charities, large and small.



Dean Stephen Forde - For me, this will be my 7th year as “Black Santa”. I look forward to exceeding the amazing total which was achieved last year in 2023, when, through the generosity of so many people, £171,000 was raised. That sum was distributed at the Good Samaritans Service, held last February, to some 120 different charities. This year, in 2024, the need from local charities is greater than ever. I hope that through your generosity and by our continued partnership with professional services firm PwC, we will be able to raise even more than we did last year.

To donate now please follow this link:
<https://belfastcathedral.enthuse.com/cf/belfast-black-santa-sitout-appeal-2024>

Cork's new Number 25

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Bishop Paul Colton of Cork - I had a lovely welcome to Garryduff Sports Centre today where I planted an oak tree



to mark my 25 years as Patron of the association and the club. Afterwards, Club President, Shane Treacy, presented me with a

number 25 club hockey shirt.

Inst's Eco Club

Last week, Eco Club boys at RBAI

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enjoyed making their Bug Hotels in the Eco Garden.

The construction of these habitats is part of their Outdoor Learning Project as they work towards the Green Flag Award.

Banking on Men's Breakfast in Banbridge

Former Danske Bank Executive,

Stephen Bloomfield, was the special guest at Down & Dromore's Men's Breakfast in Banbridge Church of Ireland.



Stephen, who has recently retired, held several senior roles in the bank, the last of which was Head of Customer Experience and Conduct. In conversation with Keith Gardiner, Stephen spoke about living out his faith among his colleagues and how it influenced his approach in supporting some of the bank's most vulnerable customers. Thanks were conveyed to the great team in Banbridge for serving and hosting members and to Raymond McClure for leading the men in worship.



Mullavilly Parish Church
'Sing for your Supper'
Sunday 17th November 2024
at 6.30pm

Various Artists and Singers
taking part

*Everyone will be welcome
to join us for a delicious supper
after our Service of Praise*

Collection to be divided between
Chest, Heart and Stroke and Church Funds

Stunning support for Shoebox Appeal

What incredible support for the Shoebox Appeal from the Limavady Parish members.

110 filled shoeboxes from Christ Church will be collected and along with all the others from around the world, will be delivered to some of the most needy children this Christmas. "Thank you for your generosity and support to such a worthy cause".



The Sanctuary Singers
CHRISTMAS CONCERT
Sunday Dec 8th 7.30pm
The Agápe Centre, Lisburn Rd

Loreto McAuley ~ Conductor
Ciara Bowman ~ Piano
Hayley Howe ~ Violin

TICKETS:
Suggested donation £12
[includes tea/coffee]
In aid of the
Agape Christmas Appeal

Tickets available from the website
thesanctuarysingers.org
t: 07979 868152 e: loreto@thesanctuarysingers.org

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Cathedral Calls

Installation of Lay Canon

During Choral Evensong on Sunday 24th November 2024, Mr Geoffrey Perrin will be installed as a Lay Canon in the Cathedral Church of Saint Patrick, Armagh.

Mr Perrin succeeds to the stall formerly occupied by the late Canon C. Garrett Walker. Armagh

Cathedral has six Lay Canons – the first were appointed in 1997 and Mr Perrin will be the thirteenth to take up office.

Welcoming the appointment of the new Lay Canon, the Dean of Armagh, the Very Reverend Shane Forster, said, “Geoffrey Perrin served the Representative Church Body with distinction over many years, and I am delighted that he is being honoured by the Archbishop for his work. He is assured of a warm welcome on the Hill of Armagh.”

In response to the news of his appointment Mr Perrin said, “My father, a clergyman, told me years ago that the Church



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needed good lay people. I have been very fortunate over the years to be in a position to try and follow his advice.”

Choral Evensong, which begins at 3.15pm, will include the hymn ‘Give us the wings of faith to rise’, specially chosen by the new Lay Canon. The setting of the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis (in C minor) which will be sung in the service, is by Charles Wood, a famous past chorister of the Cathedral in Armagh. Clergy and Readers are invited to robe.

FREE LUNCHTIME CONCERT
Tuesday 26th
November,
1.15pm
Celia Donoghue
(clarinet)
and
Ethna Tinney
(piano)

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FREE

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CATHEDRAL
LIMERICK

Clergy and ministry

Remembering Fr Myles Kavanagh

A proud legacy in north Belfast and beyond. This Passionist priest founded Flax Trust and was the driving force behind many other community initiatives

Our brother Fr Myles Kavanagh, a Dubliner and member of the Passionist congregation, spent most of his priestly life



Ulster University Choir
in collaboration with All Saints'

Community Carol Service
Tuesday 3rd December
7:00 PM

All Saints' Clooney Church

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ministering in and around north Belfast, although his outreach was felt way beyond this island.

He founded the Flax Trust in 1977. Passing the derelict Brookfield Mill on the Crumlin Road in his parish of Holy Cross almost daily, he thought that with investment the site could be used to help the people of the local area from both sides of the religious divide.

**Christmas Displays
from Schools, Community Groups,
Charity Organisations
& Commercial Businesses**

**Taking part in the Entertainment for the
Christmas Festival
School Choirs, Adult Choirs,
Musical Ensembles & Groups**

**Doodles Delights Coffee Dock
available on 14th December
outside the main entrance to the Cathedral**

**Cathedral Quarter Initiative Christmas
Markets 11th-14th December 11am-7pm
stalls in Cathedral Carpark,
London Street, Pump Street, Artillery Street,
Society Street**

In the wonderful surroundings of our

**CHRISTMAS
FESTIVAL 2024**
2ND - 21ST DECEMBER

VISITING CHOIRS - SOLOISTS - MUSICAL ENSEMBLES - VICTORIAN VILLAGE WITH TRAIN STATION - RETRO CHRISTMAS SITTING ROOM
CHRISTMAS TREES - QUILTS - WREATHS - TREE SHIRTS - TABLE CENTRES - CRUMBLE HOUSES - STOCKINGS - STAINED GLASS - COFFEE DOOR SATURDAYS

NORTHLANDS

**CATHEDRAL
QUARTER INITIATIVE**

ALSO INCORPORATING...
**THE CATHEDRAL QUARTER INITIATIVE
CHRISTMAS MARKET 11TH-14TH DECEMBER**

Gathering a group of movers and shakers with fellow trustees Maura Lundy, John Patterson and Sr Mary Turley, they turned the 150,000 sq ft Brookfield Mill into the largest and strongest community economic development project in Northern Ireland, providing training, education, an arts centre, art gallery, theatre, dance studio, meals on wheels, and a small business incubation project on the site.

This led to the building of a local shopping mall, a supermarket, healthcare centre, pharmacy, florist shop and a bar and restaurant.

In the late 1980s, in a joint venture with Bombardier Aerospace, he developed the derelict Belfast Co-Operative department store into a 180,000 sq ft 'neutral' city centre block.

Interpoint, on York Street, housed the Patten policing commission, the Criminal Justice Review, the Novatech initiative which developed new technology-based ventures, the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure, and the Ulster Community Investment Trust, now known as Community Finance Ireland.

The new Ulster University campus in Belfast city centre is now a Flax Trust dream come true on the original site of its Interpoint building.

In 1982 Fr Myles and Sr Mary Turley went to the USA and with help from Irish America, the Flax Trust/America was born.

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His vision for a better social and economic future for the local area also had him founding Ardoyne Association, impacting all sections of public and community life, and the Flax Trust Housing Association to provide a high standard housing in an area which was overcrowded and using pre and post-war stock.

As chairman he oversaw the building of sheltered accommodation for the elderly and accommodation for homeless youth, with training and life skills as part of this project.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Hugo Duncan's very special guest

A very special guest was on radio last week with Hugo Duncan, and we don't just mean Pudsey!



The one and only Dana dropped by for song and chat on BBC Children in Need day.

Available now on BBC Sounds: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m0024wm0>

Portadown focus on Reformed belief and the Holy Spirit

Sinclair Ferguson is coming to speak at The Armagh Academy.



The poster features a red background. At the top, the name 'SINCLAIR FERGUSON' is written in large, white, sans-serif capital letters. To the right of the name is the logo for 'THE ACADEMY', which includes a circular emblem with an open book and the Latin motto 'ARDENS SED VIRENS'. Below the name, the text 'WHAT DO THE REFORMED BELIEVE ABOUT...THE HOLY SPIRIT?' is written in smaller white capital letters. Further down, the event details are listed: 'First Portadown Presbyterian', 'Tuesday 10th Dec', and '7.30 pm'. On the right side of the poster is a portrait of Sinclair Ferguson, an older man with glasses, wearing a dark suit and a light blue shirt.

Subject - What do the Reformed believe about the Holy Spirit?

Location - First Portadown Presbyterian

Doors will open from 7pm with the event beginning at 7.30pm. Please do spread the word. Everyone welcome.

Ballylesson Concert series

The series continues with a Festive Christmas Concert which will take place at 7 p.m. on Saturday 14 December at Ballylesson Church.

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“Join us for a festive evening of music making with talented musicians, local performers, audience singalongs and mince pies!”

Special guests include Catherine Hamilton, Soprano and Harpist and Sara Dylan.

£10 tickets can be bought on Eventbrite ('Festive Christmas Concert') or at the door. U18s go free.

'Light of the World' in Kilrea

The Kilrea Group of Parishes will brighten up one dark evening, at least, when they celebrate 30 years of their Vintage Rally and Fair at a special event, 'Light of the World', in Tamlaght O'Crilly Parish Church on Friday 29th November.

The TOC Community Choir will be joined by guest soloists and instrumentalists to entertain the audience, and the church will be lit up spectacularly for the occasion.

All are welcome and proceeds will go to Abaana and Church funds

In the media

Bishop of Winchester on abuse in the Church of England

Daily Telegraph - A long comprehensive report - It has been quite a week for Philip Mounstephen, Bishop of Winchester,

one of the five most senior dioceses in England. First came the publication of the long-delayed Makin Report into almost 50 years of safeguarding failures by the Church of England, some of which occurred in Winchester (all took place prior to his incumbency). They concerned the abuse committed against children and young men by John Smyth, a well-connected barrister and lay reader in his local church.

“The date of publication was trailed maybe a month ago,” says the 65-year-old bishop as he downs his morning mug of coffee in the clubbable members’ area of a café in the Palace of Westminster, where he is a member of the House of Lords. His mood is sombre and his face drawn.

“Then we heard it was being leaked, so it was released ahead of schedule, but I didn’t know what was in it or what was coming. It was a shock when I read it cover-to-cover. It is appalling.”

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/11/17/bishop-of-winchester-interview/>

'Anointed by God': The Christians who see Trump as their saviour

BBC News In-Depth - Standing on a podium in a Florida convention centre on the night of the election, a row of American flags behind him and a jubilant crowd looking on, Donald Trump declared: “Many people have told me that God spared my life for a reason, and that reason was to save our country and to restore America to greatness.”

[<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c20g1zvqj4do>]

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Rachel Reeves's attack on the family farm is a recipe for a latter day peasants' revolt

Daily Telegraph. Charles Moore writes - Inheritance tax changes that threaten the rural way of life have the potential to create a coalition of the discontented

<http://digitaleditions.telegraph.co.uk/data/1885/reader/reader.html?social#!preferred/0/package/1885/pub/1885/page/47/article/NaN>

Speaking to the soul

Go

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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