

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Chief Rabbi in private audience

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Chief Rabbi in private audience



The King has received Chief Rabbi Sir Ephraim Mirvis for a private audience at Buckingham Palace.

It is thought His Majesty expressed his deep care and concern for the Jewish community in the UK who are suffering grief, fear and anguish.

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It is understood they spoke of the horrors of recent events in Israel, on ways to support interfaith harmony in Britain, and on the continued hope that a path to peace can be found internationally.

People and places



Women's Night of Worship at Sion Mills

Rev Danielle McCullagh, the Chaplain at The Hub, Belfast (the Church of Ireland / Methodist Chaplaincy at Queen's University and Stranmillis College) will be the guest speaker at a 'Women's Night of Worship' in the Church of the Good Shepherd

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in Sion Mills on Friday 19th November at half past seven.

There will be an opportunity for fellowship over tea and cupcakes after the service.

Northern Ireland Healthcare Chaplaincy Association meets



Mr Michael McMillan - NIHCA Director of Training, Rev Dr Ewan Kelly and Rev Derek Johnston - NIHCA President.

NIHCA members have been attending - A Training Residential facilitated by Rev Dr Ewan Kelly - Wednesday 11th & Thursday 12th October in Drumalis Retreat Centre.

The future of Healthcare Chaplaincy in Northern Ireland: Thriving as Individuals and as a Profession (Part 2)

Association members were delighted to welcoming Rev Dr Ewan Kelly back for the second instalment of this training.

Range of topics at TLK Clergy Conference

The Tuam, Limerick and Killala Clergy Conference took place at the Dunraven Arms, Adare, Co Limerick last week.

DCO Stephen Fletcher reports here on the special guests in attendance who spoke to those gathered:-



Dr Rita Kelly, language development officer with **Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise**, spoke of her plans for developing more Irish language services. Dr Rita presented Bishop Michael with the BCP Services featuring the liturgy in Irish on the left-hand page opposite the same service in English



on the right-hand page. Bishop Michael hoped this book would enable clergy to be more confident in conducting services in Irish and perhaps even moving between both languages during a service.

Rachael Murphy the Church of Ireland Children's and Family Ministry Officer and spoke of the new website which is full of ideas and resources for those leading worship.

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Revd Rob Jones is the C of I National Director for Pioneer Ministry who spoke about the church-wide plan to develop Pioneer Ministry from the grass roots in parishes over the next 10 years. This project has received substantial funding from RCB and will start with a big promotion during the 2nd week of November.

Operations Executive Catherine Smith and Ministry Leader Lydia Monds spoke about the **Church's Ministry of Healing**. Their role is to educate, encourage, coordinate, provide and resource the Church of Ireland in the promotion of Christ's health and healing.

The last speaker was the **Revd Bruce Pierce, the Director of Education and COE Supervisor, St Luke's Home, Cork**. He gave a talk on **clergy Self Care**.

Marking the 140th anniversary of the Boys' Brigade movement

The Boys' Brigade in the United Kingdom, the world's first uniformed youth organisation, is celebrating a landmark 140th anniversary early next month, Billy Kennedy writes in the News Letter

Founded in Glasgow on October 4, 1883, by Sir William Alexander Smith, the Brigade has been unwavering in its mission to instil Christian values in young lives.

From its modest beginnings, the Boys' Brigade has grown into an international movement with over half a million members across 60 countries. Despite this expansion, the

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organisation remains true to its founding ideals of integrating Christian principles into its youth-focused programmes.

The Brigade's original objective, as stated by founder Sir William Smith, is "the advancement of Christ's Kingdom among boys and the promotion of habits of obedience,



SAINT COLUMBA'S LONG TOWER

NOVENA

TO OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP, MOTHER OF PRIESTS

<p>Sunday 22nd October:</p>  <p>'Why a 'Year of Vocations to Diocesan Priesthood'</p> <p>Bishop Phonsie Cullinan, chair of Irish Bishops' Council for year of vocations.</p>	 <p>Sunday 29th October:</p> <p>'St Patrick and Vocations'</p> <p>Martina Purdy and Elaine Kelly</p>
<p>Sunday 5th November:</p>  <p>'Nurturing seeds of vocations'</p> <p>Aoife O'Neill, Youth Coordinator, Termonlacken and one of the original 'Terry Girls'</p>	<p>Sunday 12th November:</p>  <p>'Priests serving People'</p> <p>Fr John Joe Duffy, Crosslough, Co Donegal</p>
<p>Sunday 19th November:</p>  <p>'Praying for Priests'</p> <p>Seánán Zaltrom (née Ciegán), Apostolate of Prayer for Priests</p>	<p>Sunday 26th November:</p>  <p>'Light the Fire' of Vocations'</p> <p>Diana Rosemary Scallon</p>
<p>Sunday 3rd December:</p>  <p>'To the future - Vocations in Derry Diocese'</p> <p>Fr Pat O'Hagan, Derry Diocesan Vocations' Director</p>	<p>Sunday 10th December:</p>  <p>'The Journey to Priesthood'</p> <p>Fr Stephen Ward, CC Long Tower</p>
<p>Sunday 17th December:</p>  <p>'Mary, Mother of Priests'</p> <p>Christmas Reflection with Carols by Candlelight</p>	

Sunday 22nd October - 17th December 2023

Annual Solemn Novena in honour of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Nine Sundays before Christmas in Long Tower Church at 6.00pm. Each night will comprise of the Rosary, Novena prayer and petitions, talk given by various guest speakers and Eucharistic Healing Ceremony with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Take The Risk for Christ - Year of Vocations to Diocesan Priesthood



Belfast Boys Model School Bursary fund evening - Great night at the Europa with Sir Ronnie Flannigan, Col Bob, Frankie Fieghan, Giuseppe Masalla and Bruce Crompton.

reverence, discipline, self-respect and all that tends towards a true Christian manliness”.

This ethos continues to drive their activities today, under the motto “Sure & Steadfast”, taken from Hebrews 6:19.

In Northern Ireland, the Boys’ Brigade currently has around 15,000 enrolled members supported by 2,000 volunteers in 247 companies across the province. The BB companies are affiliated mostly with Presbyterian churches and some Methodist churches. While the BB in the Irish Republic is

still affiliated with the BB in the UK, there are three companies in Co Donegal that are part of BBNI, which is autonomous from the UK mainland organisation.

The Northern Ireland BB website asserts:

+ “We are a Christian youth organisation, equipping leaders to make a difference in the lives of children and young people from all communities, all faiths, and none;

+ “The Northern Ireland Boys’ Brigade is a dynamic, flexible, and inspiring church ministry that offers out-of-school activities for the age group 4–18 in over 240 church groups across all six counties in NI. BB is a ministry of the local church available in many faith denominations in NI;

+ “BB welcomes children and young people from all communities, all faiths, and none. BBNI groups are run locally by trained, dedicated and caring church volunteers who are committed to creating a safe and fun environment for every child and young person;

”We aim to help children and young people grow in confidence, gain a sense of belonging as part of a team, try new things, develop new skills, discover their potential, and learn about God’s love.

”BB groups meet in the evenings September to April each year. Many also run an informal summer programme with outdoor activities included. All members earn badges and other awards, and rewards appropriate to their age group.”

Regular BB meetings incorporate Bible studies, prayer sessions, church services, and a wide range of recreational activities. The late Queen Elizabeth II, professing a firm Christian faith, was their patron until she died.

News reports

Church still has a ‘considerable distance’ to cover on racial justice, says Archbishop

Church of England still has ‘considerable distance’ to cover on racial justice, Archbishop of York tells conference

The Church of England still has a ‘considerable distance’ to cover before it achieves racial justice, the Archbishop of York has told a gathering of more than 100 lay ministers and clergy at a conference.

The **Being Built Together Conference**, hosted by the Church of England’s Racial Justice Unit, will inspire work towards a church that “fully represents all God’s people,” Archbishop Stephen said.

“We find ourselves on a profound path in our endeavours to build a church that fosters equal participation, and by God’s grace, we are closer to achieving that than ever before,” he said in a video message to the conference.

“And yet we must acknowledge that there is still a considerable distance to cover.”

More than 130 clergy and lay ministers from Global Majority Heritage backgrounds gathered for the first time for five years at the two-day conference in the Hayes Conference centre in Swanwick, Derbyshire.



The Church of England’s Racial Justice Director, Rev Guy Hewitt (above), addressing the conference, urged those attending to become ‘bolder and stronger’ in working together towards racial justice.

“Our commitment as a church to racial justice isn’t simply because of demographic trends or that it is socially responsible in the pursuit of equality, diversity or inclusion, both of which are commendable goals,” he said.

“But rather we choose to stand against the evil and pernicious sin of racism. Our racial justice mandate does not flow from any identity politics, but from our identity in Christ in terms of reflecting the Imago Dei and being truly united in him as brothers and sisters in Christ.”

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The conference heard from the Rev Canon Dr Chigor Chike, and Rev Sonia Barron, members of the Archbishops Racial Justice Commission.

Rev Sonia Barron said the conference was providing a space for people of Global Majority Heritage to worship and share stories.

“My prayer is that we will leave here and set up smaller groups in dioceses to support each other and encourage one another,” she said.

Dr Chike told the conference that they were united in combating the ‘lie’ and ‘false narrative’ of racism.

Other speakers due to address the conference include representatives from the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Friendly Churches, the Zimbabwe National Anglican Fellowship and ordinands and curates from Global Majority heritage backgrounds.

Several bishops from Global Majority Heritage backgrounds are due to attend the conference including The Bishop of Huddersfield Smitha Prasadam and The Bishop of Willesden, Lusa Nsenga-Ngoy.

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Archbishop unveils new plans to evangelise North of England

The Archbishop of York has outlined plans to celebrate stories of faith in the north, as part of renewing the missionary purpose of the Church in the North over the coming years.

Rt Rev Stephen Cottrell held a launch event for Faith in the North at Dewsbury Minster, remembering the life of St Paulinus who established the Church of Saint Peter in York in the year 627 and who became the first bishop of York. Archbishop Stephen, now the 98th Archbishop of York, led a time of prayer in the Chapel at Dewsbury Minster which is dedicated to St Paulinus. He was joined by many church leaders from across the North.

The Faith in the North project will be a large focus of the Archbishop's mission over the next five years. 2027 will be the 1400th anniversary of the baptism in York of Edwin (the first Christian King of Northumbria) by the missionary bishop Paulinus.

Archbishop Stephen said: "I'm so inspired by the forthcoming anniversary of the establishment of the See of York. This is a small beginning of something which we hope will grow and grow, encouraging churches, dioceses, cathedrals, to think about their history and to think about how we can connect with people today.



Rev Neil Walpole and Rt Rev Stephen Cottrell

“Paulinus came in dark and difficult times in the seventh century. And he established something which has shaped the life of our nation. I think it's what our nation needs today.

“If I had to sum up faith in the north in a couple of phrases, it will be about encouraging the church to tell its story and to reconnect with that story, which is, of course the story of Jesus. But it's also the story of the saints who brought the Christian faith here, and it's about doing that ourselves today.

“Exploring our spiritual roots in this way offers a wonderful opportunity to share the Christian faith in churches, schools and in all the communities we serve. I hope we can equip the Church for its service and mission today, find ways of

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reaching out to others, and plant new Christian communities.”

As part of the launch, the Archbishop blessed the outreach ministry of a bus known as the Destination 211 Bus. This is part of his teaching and preaching ministry, praying along the routes he walks with others.

Rev Neil Walpole, Associate Priest at Dewsbury Team Parish said:

“Destination 211 bus ministry reaches out to communities that struggle from high deprivation with the love of Jesus. It provides a warm space and a listening ear for the community in winter as well as offering emergency food. It is an after school drop in where real discipleship takes place with craft and a Bible study for parents and children, and we have our worship ‘Thrive on the bus’, where all can learn and grow in faith. Time and time again we see children sprint down the hill with parents following to join us for drinks, cakes, conversations and to hear the good news of Jesus.”

In the media

**The BBC’s moral cowardice is shocking
Describing Hamas as terrorists is not a subjective act,
but legal fact**

Daily Telegraph - Simon Heffer

I admire John Simpson, the BBC’s world affairs editor, for his expertise and for the courage he has shown reporting from war zones. For 30 years I have counted him as a

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friend. However, I simply cannot agree with the defence he has made of the Corporation's decision not to call Hamas "terrorists" or to describe the savagery with which it butchered babies, elderly women and others as "terrorism".

Parliament designated Hamas in its entirety as "a proscribed terrorist organisation" in November 2021. Its members or anyone recruiting for it in the UK risk up to 14 years in prison. Simpson notes that, in the Second World War, BBC staff were told not to call the Nazis "evil or wicked", but could call them "the enemy". He makes my point for me. The Nazi regime was the enemy because we had declared war on it, legitimising the term. Hamas is proscribed in the UK – the country the BBC serves, and whose citizens fund it. That legitimises calling Hamas "terrorists". Otherwise, we might as well debate whether the Pope should be called "Catholic". More at

<http://digitaleditions.telegraph.co.uk/data/1482/reader/reader.html?social#!preferred/0/package/1482/pub/1482/page/67/article/NaN>

Schoolchildren stage 'abhorrent' protest to back Palestinians and shout IRA slogans

Daily Telegraph - A School in Belfast has faced a backlash after pupils staged a "completely inappropriate" lunchtime protest in support of Palestinians and repeated IRA slogans.

Photographs shared and later deleted by Coláiste Feirste school on Twitter showed a group of at least 50 students demonstrating in the playground with teachers appearing to monitor them.

The organiser of the protest, sixth former Pádraig de Brún, addressed the demonstration and ended his speech by quoting Bobby Sands, the IRA hunger striker: “Our revenge will be the laughter of our children”. More at -

<http://digitaleditions.telegraph.co.uk/data/1482/reader/reader.html?social#!preferred/0/package/1482/pub/1482/page/24/article/NaN>

How to talk to children about the Israeli-Hamas conflict - advice from experts

ITV News

https://www.itv.com/news/2023-10-14/how-to-talk-to-your-children-about-the-israeli-hamas-conflict?utm_source=NewsApp&utm_medium=SocialShare

Booksellers say expansion of free schoolbook scheme will have 'devastating effect' on shops

The Journal.ie - There are both financial and logistic concerns about how the scheme will operate successfully.

<https://www.thejournal.ie/expansion-of-free-school-books-scheme-will-have-devastating-effect-on-book-sellers-6195720-Oct2023/>

Over 1,000 people attend service honouring organ donors

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RTE.ie - A service of remembrance and thanksgiving for organ donors has taken place in Mullingar, Co Westmeath.

More than 1,000 people attended the event organised by the Irish Kidney Association (IKA), which is now in its 38th year.

The service honouring organ donors took place in the Cathedral of Christ the King, however the IKA said that people from all faiths and non-religious backgrounds came together for the event.

Music from Mullingar Choral Society and Uilleann piper Aoife Nally formed a part of the service.

A Book of Remembrance was on view for the families of donors to see the name of their deceased loved ones inscribed on a roll of honours.

Family members, organ recipients, medical, surgical and nursing staff took part in the ceremony.

It is the first time the service has been held in the midlands and only the second time it has been held outside Dublin.

It is also the first in-person service in three years due to Covid-19.

<https://www.rte.ie/news/leinster/2023/1014/1410918-organ-donation/>

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Advent Talks 2023 at Carlow Union of Parishes

The theme is 'Treasure in our midst'.

1. Thursday 30th November, 7.30pm - **Fr. Peter McVerry**, Saint Mary's Haymarket, Carlow. (The Series will be launched by Bishop Adrian Wilkinson). Peter is the founder of the McVerry Trust, Advocate of the homeless and advocate for the marginalised and voiceless.

2. **Leona O'Callaghan** - Thursday 7th December, 7.30pm. Leona is an extraordinary lady. An acute abuse survivor, who has used her trauma and pain to support and assist others. She is the founder of the Haven Hub Support Network. She offers hope, light in time of great calamity and trauma.

Thursday 14th December, 7.30pm - **Concert**, featuring Mary Almond O' Brien, Saint Mary's Choral and Music Group with friends, highlighting Mindfulness, wellbeing, wellness and Mental Health. This event is sponsored by the Church of Ireland MindMatters Initiative/Campaign.

4. 7.30pm Sunday 14th December - **Fr. Bernard Lynch**, international LGBTQ+ advocate and campaigner. Bernard offers incredible insight into incarnation and the meaning of God's Love within our midst.



Magical Evening of Seasonal Songs for SVP

BUY TICKET NOW:

<https://www.svp.ie/an-evening-of-seasonal-songs/>

Don't forget to mark your calendar for a memorable night at Clonard Monastery this November. Join us for enchanting performances by Northern Ireland's musical talents!

Featuring :

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Malachi Cush

Fr Martin O'Hagan

Margaret Keys

St Clare's and St Dominic's choirs

Hosted by Claire McCollum, this event launches our Christmas Appeal. Let's unite, savor beautiful music, and create a positive impact in our community.

Date: Sunday, November 19th. Time: 7:00 PM. Location: Clonard Monastery, Belfast. Tickets: £20

Don't miss this unforgettable evening of music and giving! Reserve your spot now:

<https://www.svp.ie/an-evening-of-seasonal-songs/>

Heritage

Edith Cavell Nurse, 1915

Edith Cavell was born the eldest of four children on December 4, 1865, in a small village near Norwich, England, where her father held a long tenure as vicar.

Edith received a classical English boarding school education and spent a period after her schooling serving as a governess in Brussels.

After caring for her father following a grave illness, Edith became a nurse at the London Hospital in 1896. In addition to working at hospitals and infirmaries throughout England, Edith served as a private traveling nurse, visiting and caring

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for patients in their own homes. In 1907, Edith assumed a position as matron at the newly founded L'École Belge d'Infirmières Diplômées (known in English as the Berkendae



Patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness for anyone.' These words, spoken by Edith Cavell to a British chaplain on the night before her execution, early on 12th October 1915, are quoted on the memorial to her erected in 1920 on St Martin's Place, London



for patients in their own homes. In 1907, Edith assumed a position as matron at the newly founded L'École Belge d'Infirmières Diplômées (known in English as the Berkendael Medical Institute) in Brussels. While serving as matron at the Berkendael Medical Institute, Edith launched a nursing journal, L'infirmière, and taught nursing in many schools throughout Belgium.

World War I broke out while Edith was in England visiting family, which precipitated an immediate return to Belgium where she began serving as a Red Cross nurse. Following the German occupation of Brussels in 1914, Cavell began collaborating with others to shelter and smuggle Allied



Memorial window in St Mary the Virgin, Swardeston, Norfolk, to Edith Cavell, 'born and brought up in this parish of which her father was vicar from 1863-1909'. Photo by Kim Smith, via IWM

soldiers out of Belgium and into the Netherlands. Motivated by deeply held Christian faith, Edith insisted on treating wounded soldiers on both sides of the war effort, which,

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combined with her outspokenness against the war and the occupation, placed her in violation of German military law. Edith Cavell was arrested on August 3, 1915. During her depositions to the German police, Edith confessed to smuggling more than 60 British and 15 French soldiers, as well as 100 French and British draftable civilians out of Belgium and into neutral countries.

The evening before she was executed, Edith spoke to Father Stirling Gahan, the Anglican prison chaplain, these words which are inscribed on her memorial near Trafalgar Square in London: "Patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness towards anyone." On the morning of her execution, she asked Pastor Paul Le Seur, the Lutheran prison chaplain, to ask "Father Gahan to tell my loved ones later on that my soul, as I believe, is safe, and that I am glad to die for my country." Edith Cavell was executed by the German government on October 12, 1915.

Collect on The Feast of Edith Cavell

Living God, the source of all healing and wholeness: we bless you for the compassionate witness of your servant Edith Cavell. Inspire us to be agents of peace and reconciliation in a world beset by injustice, poverty, and war. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, to the ages of ages. Amen.

The hagiography is from Lesser Feasts and Fasts 2022, p. 462.

The Collect of the Day is from Lesser Feasts and Fasts 2022, p. 463.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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