

Church News Ireland

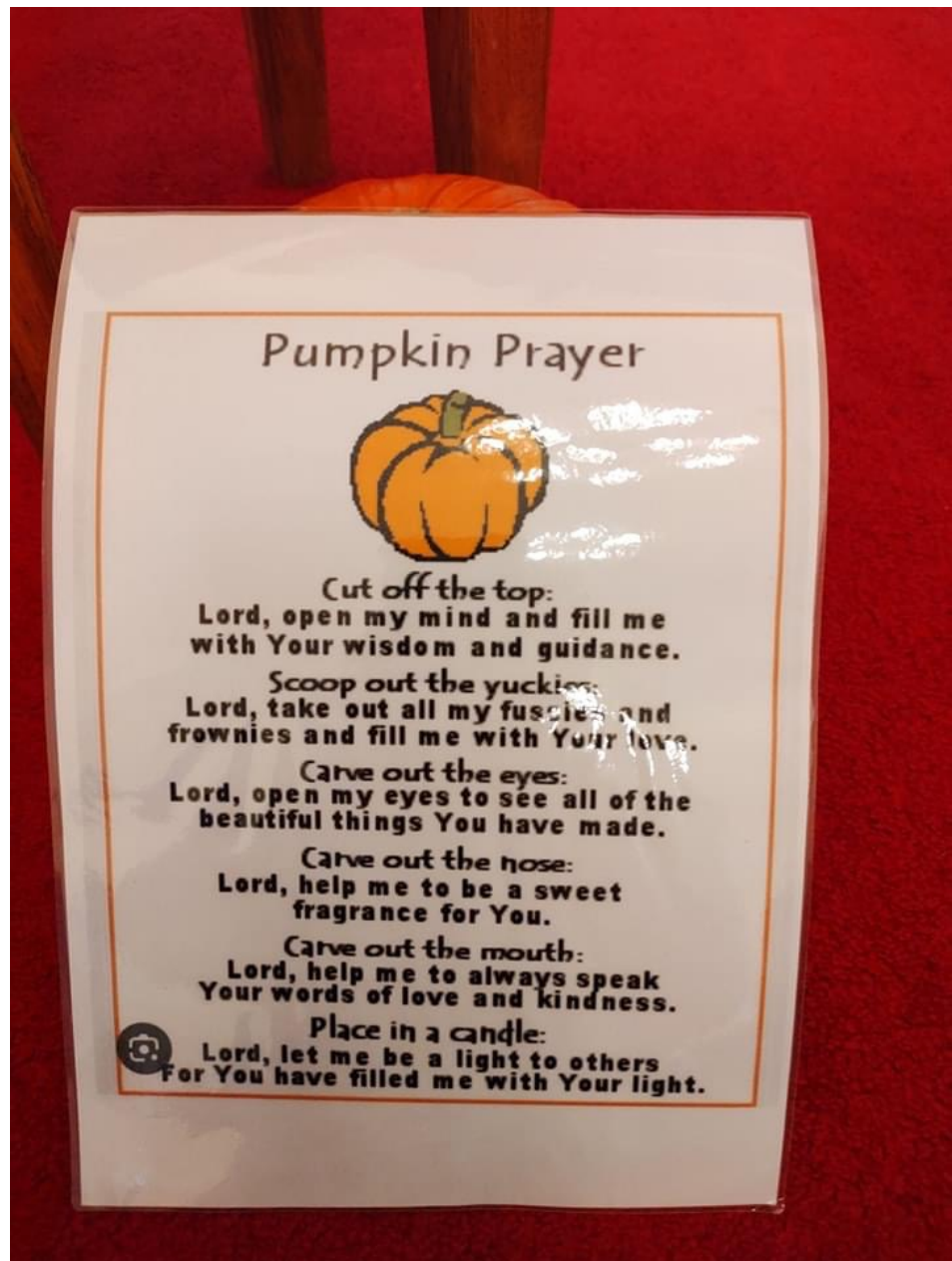


Image of the day – Pumpkin parish

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Pumpkin parish

Pumpkin Parish - otherwise known as Derryvullen North in Clogher diocese held its Harvest Thanksgiving Services on Sunday 15th October.



It was wonderful seeing the church so well decorated and also, as with Castle Archdale, to see the number attending increase compared to other years.

Congratulations and thanks to all who decorated the church, gave items for the food bank, to Florence for the music, to the choir for the anthems and to Alice for the solo, to everyone who provided and served the supper. A special





thank you to the leaders and young people of the Sunday School for all that they contributed to the morning worship.

It was great to welcome the Rev Matthew Topley and his family to the evening service. Matthew is the Curate assistant in Drumglass Parish (Dungannon). During the service he and his wife Erin were presented, by Edna



Ferguson on behalf of the Craft Group, with a box of knitted hats for the neonatal unit of Craigavon Area hospital.

People and places

Kildare Centre of Mission launched

The launch event for the Kildare Centre of Mission has taken place in St Brigid's Cathedral, Kildare.

The service was led by Bishop Pat Storey, Dean Isobel Jackson, Rev Philip McKinley (Lead Evangelist) and Ms Kelley Bermingham (Pioneer Evangelist).

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Prayers were led by pupils from the local Community School. The preacher was Ven Peter Rouch (CEO of Church Army UK and Ireland).

People from all over the island attended, along with people across the dioceses, as well as local community, Garda and political representatives.



Conversations for the Common Good

The Catholic Chaplaincy at QUB this week welcomed Professor Tobias Winright to Queen's for the latest lecture in their 'Conversations for the Common Good' series.

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Professor Winright addressed a full house in Riddel Hall on the Catholic Ethics of War; a topic particularly pertinent for these times. “Thank you Tobias for sharing your wisdom with us, and thanks to all who came along including the Order of Malta Ireland - QUB”.



Commissioning of Church Army Evangelist

At a 75th Anniversary Service in St Columba's at Whiterock Ste Fitzgerald was Commissioned to his role as a Church Army Evangelist in the North Belfast Centre of Mission.

He will work alongside Karen and Stephen W. Canon Jim Carson said - We very much look forward to working with Ste!



Development of the faith of both parish and community life in Derry

Members of the Columba Community and Pastoral Workers of the Derry Diocese along with Training in Evangelisation and Adult Faith Formator, Fr Peter O'Kane at St Anthony's Retreat Centre.

An inspiring and fruitful day forming connections and relationships key to the continued development of the faith of both parish and community life hosted by Leader of our Community, Marguerite Hamilton.

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“Let's continue to use our gifts in unison for great work... Kingdom work! Ephesians 3:19-20”

Called to First Dromore

Ballymena native Keith McIlroy has received the 'call' to his first solo charge at First Dromore Presbyterian Church in County Down.

Married to Hayley, Keith is the proud father of a little girl called Harley and is currently serving as the Assistant Minister at Ballyweaney Presbyterian Church near Cloughmills, Co Antrim. Although he made a commitment to Christ as a young boy, Keith recalls that he came to genuine saving faith in the Lord while working in the movie Industry in California.

Archbishop of Dublin on Bombing of al-Ahli Hospital, Gaza

“Pray for peace and that the dignity and life of every single person in the Land of the Holy One be respected.” Archbishop Michael Jackson released the following statement on the evening of the occurrence:

Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza City has been bombed with devastating consequences.

As many will know, al-Ahli is run by our friends in the Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem. According to news reports hundreds of people have been killed in this attack.

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Earlier today we heard from a clerical colleague in Jerusalem that up to 5,000 people had sought refuge in the grounds of al–Ahli as they believed it to be a safe place and the hospital still had a supply of water and electricity from a generator. However, he understood that these people had left following a rocket attack on Saturday.

The hospital is located in the evacuation zone in northern Gaza but staff have not evacuated as there are patients in the hospital who could not be evacuated. We heard that both staff and patients were terrified.

Our friends in the Diocese of Jerusalem have asked for our prayers and our voices at this time. I urge you now to pray for all the people of Gaza and of Israel. We pray for peace and that the human dignity and life of every single person in the Land of the Holy One be respected.

I also urge all people who have a voice in the political arena to raise it now on behalf of all who are living in terror, grief, trauma and facing death.

Synod quotes from Rome

+A missionary synodal Church has a duty to ask itself how it can recognize and value the contribution that each Baptised person can offer in mission, going out of himself/herself and participating together with others in something greater," Instrumentum laboris no. 54.

+How can we live the call to be a Listening Church that embodies co-responsibility in mission?

+ "The first question regarding mission asks what the members of the Christian community are really willing to hold in common, starting from the irreducible uniqueness of each member," - Instrumentum laboris no. 53

+ "Mission is not the marketing of a religious product, but the construction of a community in which relationships are a manifestation of God's love and therefore whose very life becomes a proclamation," Instrumentum laboris no. 52

In the media

Hamas's attack was motivated only by hate - Vernon Bogdanor

Rishi Sunak was right to call the atrocities a pogrom. We're now fighting a war in defence of our civilisation

"We should call it by its name," Rishi Sunak told the Commons on Monday, speaking of the Hamas atrocity. "It was a pogrom". He was right.

A pogrom is violence specifically directed at members of an ethnic group or religion, as occurred frequently to Jews living in Eastern Europe; in Nazi Germany, where they were a prologue to the Holocaust; in Iraq in 1941 and Syria in 1947. Many Israelis are descendants of those who experienced these pogroms. So October 7 was a chilling reminder of dark days in Jewish history.

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But the atrocity should not have been a surprise to those who have consulted the Hamas Charter, which claims that its “enemies” have taken control of “the world media” and “were behind the French Revolution and the Communist Revolution”. The French Revolution occurred long before the Zionist movement was formed, so the “enemy” can only be the Jews.

This enemy, the Charter continues, have used their money to form “secret organisations” that “serve the Zionists’ interests, such as the Freemasons, the Rotary Clubs, the Lions” (sic!) They were also “behind World War I” and “behind World War II”. Even worse, they then suggested “the formation of the United Nations”.

It is clear, according to the Charter, that “the Zionist plan has no limits” since it is expounded in the Protocols of the Elders of Zion, a well-known anti-Semitic forgery from Tsarist times. The Charter could in fact have been written by Hitler or Goebbels.

Some of the “useful idiots” – to use Lenin’s term – who have demonstrated against Israel may be unaware of the Charter. It would be charitable to believe that Jeremy Corbyn, the former Labour leader, who previously called Hamas members his “friends” and claimed that it was “dedicated towards ... bringing about long-term peace and social justice and political justice in the whole region”, was suffering from sheer ignorance.

But demonstrators who call for a Palestine “from the river to the sea” – a slogan which means the elimination of Israel –

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have no such excuse. They clearly share the aims of Hamas.

The activities of Hamas have nothing whatsoever to do with Israeli “occupation”, since Israel evacuated Gaza in 2005; nor with the failure of the two-state solution, which it opposes. Indeed, the Charter explicitly states that “so-called peaceful solutions and international conferences” are “in contradiction to the principles of the Islamic Resistance Movement”.

Many criticisms can, no doubt, be made of Israeli governments, as in any democratic state. But even if Israel had been led by the Archangel Gabriel, it would not have prevented the atrocity.

Hamas is the enemy not only of Jews, but of the Palestinians themselves. Israel hoped that when Gaza was evacuated it would become an economic powerhouse. Had that happened, many Israelis would have been prepared to withdraw from most of the West Bank. The purpose of Zionism, after all, was to provide a homeland for Jews, not to rule over another people.

But Gaza chose a different path, electing Hamas in 2006; and when, in 2017, an Israeli minister said he would help build Gaza economically if it renounced terror, Mahmoud al-Zahar, a Hamas co-founder, said that if Gaza had wanted to be like Singapore, it would have done so already. So withdrawal in 2005 to the pre-1967 boundary led not to peace, as Western liberals fondly imagined, but rockets. Few Israelis will now take the risk of creating another Gaza on the West Bank.

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Palestinians might ask themselves what the extremists have ever achieved. Rejection of Israel in 1948 and 1967 led only to Israel expanding her territory; while intifadas and terrorism have served to unite Israelis around hard-Right policies.

Privately, many Arab governments will agree with Israel that Hamas must be crushed. They will appreciate that it is now a tool of Iran, and will be more frightened of Iran than of Israel. But Hamas poses an even wider threat. The late Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks once said that anti-Semites are never just anti-Semites. It is not as if Hitler, Stalin and Hamas loved and love everyone who is not Jewish. They didn't and don't.

Anti-Semitism, Sacks continued, was the best warning sign we have of a threat to liberal civilisation. So the war against Hamas is not just a war for the security of Israel, but a war in defence of that civilisation.

Vernon Bogdanor is a professor of government at King's College London. Courtesy Daily Telegraph 18/10/2023

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Down & Dromore New film tells church planting story

“Watch our new film which celebrates 10 years of the current phase of church planting in Down and Dromore and looks to the future. With contributions from Bishop David



McClay, Bishop Harold Miller, and some of our pioneer leaders”.

https://www.downanddromore.org/news/2023/10/new-film-tells-our-church-planting-story?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=facebook

HOW TO BE AN INCLUSIVE CHURCH
Online Workshop November 23rd 7.30 pm

THANKS!

HOW COME THAT ONE DOESN'T HAVE HELIUM?

YOU'LL SEE.

YOU'LL SEE.

How to include, support, create places of belonging for, and spiritually grow children, young people and young adults with additional needs.

With Kay Morgan-Gurr,
Co-Founder of Additional Needs Alliance

@wawawiwacomics

wawa wiwa

Church of Ireland + Board for Ministry with Children & Families

Online Children's Ministry Workshop

23rd November at 7.30pm.

We will be chatting with Kay Morgan-Gurr about ways in which we can creatively make our church buildings, services and activities places of belonging and spiritual growth for children with additional needs.

Sign up now: <https://bit.ly/3Fm93FH>

Pioneer Ministry is a growing movement in the C of I

Pioneer Ministry is a growing movement within the Church of Ireland to reach those with little or no connection to church.

“Much has been happening to communicate the vision since it's formal launch in February of this year. As part of this vision we are now looking to start identifying the first of the new full-time funded pioneers and also accepting applications for new funded pioneer ministries”.

The first intake of these funded pioneers will be in Autumn 2024, but the selection of these people will start in each diocese over the next few months.

If you are interested in becoming a Church of Ireland pioneer minister, or in developing a new funded pioneer ministry, please get in touch with us to register your interest.

We would love to hear from you. We as a pioneer leadership team are here to help , support and guide you through this

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process as we work with each Bishop and their associated diocese.

Much more comprehensive information will be available during November at www.pioneerministry.org and you also can register your interest by emailing info@pioneerministry.org.

Perspective

Praying for the birthplace of the Abrahamic faiths and for all its people

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry

We have all been invited in the last few days to join with Archbishop Hosam Naoum and the Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem, as well as Pope Francis and Archbishop Justin Welby, to pray fervently for all those who have been hurt, harmed, or killed in this conflict.

My heart aches when I remember visiting al-Ahli hospital in 2018 during Holy Week to meet the medical teams and all the people of that remarkable ministry. They were passionately committed to anyone who had need.

I know personally how faithful Episcopalians are in praying. During my surgery and recovery, you have prayed for me and for my healing, and I am more grateful and thankful than words can say.

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Right now, I ask you to pray fervently for the birthplace of the Abrahamic faiths and for all its people. Pray for those who have been hurt, harmed, or killed—regardless of who they are or who did it.

Pray also for the leaders and people of the entire region, that they will remember God's mercy, and that they will find the way to a just peace where all may live in safety and security as God intends.

Pray this week for President Biden, that he may be an advocate for immediate humanitarian access for those who desperately need food, water, and medicine—and for comfort and consolation for those who have been displaced and those who are grieving loved ones.

Please join me in praying:

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and forever. Amen.

Prayers for the World, Book of Common Prayer, p. 815.

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Poem for today



The Cloths of Heaven by W.B. Yeats

HAD I the heavens' embroidered cloths,
Enwrought with golden and silver light,
The blue and the dim and the dark cloths
Of night and light and the half-light,
I would spread the cloths under your feet:
But I, being poor, have only my dreams;
I have spread my dreams under your feet;
Tread softly because you tread on my dreams.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

CNI Events

See Saturday's first special issue of CNI Events

Church News Ireland

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