

Church News Ireland



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October 21, 2024

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Image of the day



New icon for Armagh

The Redemptoristine community at the Monastery of St Alphonsus, Dublin welcomed Bishop Michael and members of the Archdiocese of Armagh Pastoral to receive a new Icon commissioned for the Archdiocese of Armagh.

The Redemptoristine community joined the Armagh Pastoral team for a Mass to receive the new Icon commissioned for the Archdiocese of Armagh.

Thanks were expressed especially to Sr Angela who wrote the icon and for the sisters who prayed it into being. The



Archdiocese plans to have a ceremony of dedication in the next few months.

Keep posted for details. for a Mass to receive a new Icon commissioned for the Archdiocese of Armagh.

The Archdiocese thanked especially Sr Angela who wrote the icon and for the sisters who prayed it into being. The Archdiocese plans to have a ceremony of dedication in the next few months. Keep posted for details.

News

Army Cadet Force (ACF) marking 80 years in Northern Ireland



In 2024 the Army Cadet Force (ACF) is marking 80 years in Northern Ireland.





On Saturday morning, to celebrate this massive milestone for the organisation, Cadets paraded through Ballyclare, where the first unit was established.

The parade involved nearly 200 young people and 50 adult volunteers, representing both the 1st and 2nd Army Cadet Force battalions.

One of the adult volunteers on parade was Regimental Sergeant Major Instructor (RSMI), Robby Thompson, who has served over 42 years both as a Cadet and as an Adult Instructor.

RSMI Thompson said: “Over the years the ACF has changed in many ways but what hasn’t changed is that we,

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as a youth organisation, bring young people off the streets, provide them a safe place to train, instil a set of core values and standards and offer them “The Cadet Experience” which fundamentally is FUN – FRIENDSHIP and BELONGING. I am both honoured and privileged to parade today as part of the ACF’s 80th anniversary celebrations”.



Muckamore Mums in May fundraising

On Saturday 21st September 2024, 20 members, together with the Minister, Rev Derek Harrington and family joined together in St Jude's Church Hall for Afternoon tea and fundraising for Mum's and May.



Branch Leader Irene Paget gave a short synopsis of the life, work, and legacy of Annabella Hayes, the founder member of Mothers Union in Ireland. This was followed by the service, which was broadcast on the 7th February 2024 on the anniversary of Annabella Hayes death.

During the afternoon, long service certificates were given to members who had 40 and 50 years of service by our Rector Rev Derek Harrington.

The afternoon was enjoyed by all, and £260 was raised for Mums in May.

Latest Encounter event for women in Down and Dromore

Down and Dromore diocese reports - We had another wonderful morning at our latest Encounter event for women in the diocese.

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About 200 of us gathered in St Donards Church, Bloomfield for worship, teaching, ministry and brunch. Thank you to St Donard's and to Jude Frame from Knocknagoney Parish for leading our worship.

We had two fantastic guest speakers - Jill Boyd who is an elder and part of the teaching team in Christian Fellowship Church, Belfast, and Kath Johnson who helps to lead All Saints Worcester and also works for International Justice Mission UK.

Jill and Kath spoke about how we can break through in dark times by choosing faith over fear and by seeking God's face in prayer. We hope you were encouraged. The next Encounter is on Saturday 22 February in St John's Moira.

Photo gallery at -

<https://www.downanddromore.org/news/gallery/encounter-morning-for-women-october-24>

King Charles begins Australia tour with church service

King Charles and Queen Camilla met large, cheering crowds in Sydney after attending a church service on Sunday, the first event of their Australia tour.

The royal couple were greeted at St Thomas' Anglican Church by the archbishop of Sydney, Kanishka Raffel, and children from the church's Sunday school who waved Australian flags.

Inside the church, the King and Queen signed two bibles, including one that belonged to Australia's first minister and



chaplain of the First Fleet of ships that took convicts from Britain to the penal colony of Australia in 1788.

Outside, the royal couple shook hands and chatted with





families and cheering fans, some singing “God Save the King,” who lined the streets around the church, the public’s first opportunity to meet the King and Queen since they arrived in Australia’s biggest city on Friday night.

Traveling across Sydney Harbour, King Charles visited the New South Wales parliament, marking the 200th anniversary of Australia’s oldest legislature.

Cathedral Calls



The shaping of Solomon

Sculptor, Miss Sophia Rosalind Praeger, working on the Figure Of Solomon on the Pillar Of Wisdom, St Anne's Cathedral Belfast - 1928 (2)

Down Cathedral responds to ongoing Flood Relief Appeal

Community spirit was on show as Downpatrick Railway received a generous donation from Down Cathedral

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The Downpatrick & County Down Railway (DCDR) has received a generous £2,650 donation from Down Cathedral following a highly successful fundraising gala concert held in June, Johnny McNabb reports.

The cross-community concert drew strong support from the community in aid of the railway's ongoing Flood Relief Appeal, and as a symbol for the whole Downpatrick community affected by last year's floods.

In November 2023, the DCDR along with most of Downpatrick town centre was severely impacted by heavy flooding, with rising water levels causing significant damage to its tracks, rolling stock, and heritage infrastructure. The railway, a charitable volunteer-run social enterprise and important local tourist attraction, faced substantial repair costs, with estimates suggesting a need for upwards of £250,000 to cover restoration and preventive measures against future flooding.

The gala concert, hosted within the historic walls of Down Cathedral, featured a diverse programme of music, including performances by Down Youth Community Choir, led by Kyle Bradshaw; the Ballygowan Concert Flute Band, conducted by Mark Douglas; Downshire Brass, under the direction of Professor Michael Alcorn; St Patrick's Choral Society, with arrangements specially written for the event by Geoffrey Cherry, and Ballyblack & Quoile Area Women's Institute combined choir directed by Dr Judith Harper, who was instrumental in the event's organisation.

The cheque presentation was made in the railway's Carriage Gallery, by Dr Judith Harper, along with Brian and

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Wendy Poxon from Down Cathedral's board, who have been longstanding supporters of the railway.

Robert Gardiner, Chairman of the Downpatrick & County Down Railway, expressed heartfelt gratitude to Down Cathedral and the community for their solidarity and support, saying, "We are incredibly thankful to everyone at Down Cathedral, especially Judith Harper, and everyone who contributed to making this concert such a success.

"This generous donation will significantly help with our ongoing efforts to repair the flood damage and protect the railway for future generations. The support we've received truly shows how much the railway means to the people of Downpatrick."

Canon Chancellor of Down Cathedral John Auchmuty added: "This was a very important event in demonstrating to the Downpatrick community that they remain in our thoughts and prayers as they rebuild and look to the future."

Provost of the Cathedral of The Isles , Scottish Episcopal Church

The Rt Rev David Railton, Bishop of Argyll and The Isles will be installed as Provost of the Cathedral of The Isles and welcomed to the Cathedral as Bishop during a special service on Saturday, October 26.

Bishop David was consecrated at St John's Cathedral, Oban on 28 August 2024, and will be installed at the



Cathedral of The Isles, in Millport on Cumbrae during evensong, which will take place at 3.30pm.

Clergy and ministry

Down & Dromore's Suitcase Project

Down & Dromore diocese posted - A wonderful evening with our church plant and outreach leaders The Suitcase Project, Newry Centre of Mission, St Donard's Community Church, Dundrum Braniel Community Church The Gathering St Paul's Castlewellan & Bryansford Parish Church Glen Community Church Moneyreagh Community Church

<https://www.facebook.com/543613874535652/posts/878175567746146>



Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

The next episode of The BBNI Podcast is out now

John Kee, Director at Summer Madness, talks to Bethany about the heart behind it. John shares his experience of youth work and highlights of the 37 years of Summer Madness.

Summer Madness exists to enthuse, equip and engage the youth and young adults of Ireland in the Christian faith so

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that they may be real change makers in their churches and communities across the island: <https://lnkd.in/edgmBZiQ>

Watch & Subscribe or on YouTube:

<https://lnkd.in/ehSM5cX6>

Listen & Subscribe on Spotify: <https://lnkd.in/eDMWJwDE...>

Listen & Subscribe on Apple: <https://lnkd.in/ehCMqpst>



Lambeth Conference Human Dignity webinar

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In case you missed it, the next Lambeth Conference Phase 3 webinar will take place on November 6th and 7th and will explore the Lambeth Call on Human Dignity and how we celebrate the God-given value of each person.

Hear contributions from the Most Revd Kay Goldsworthy, Archbishop of Perth, the Most Revd Ian Ernest, The Archbishop of Canterbury's Personal Representative to the Holy See and Director of the Anglican Centre, Rome, Revd the Right Revd Linda Nicholls, Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Canada, Revd Dominic Misolo from the Institute for Faith and Gender Empowerment (IFAGE) in Kenya, and Thembsie Mchunu from the Mothers' Union in South Africa.

Find out more and register your place here 

<https://bit.ly/3Rk2M44>

Perspective

Remembering Martin Luther King

Reflections for Black History Month from Alexandra Drakeford

This year marks the 60th anniversary of Dr Martin Luther King's historic sermon at St Paul's Cathedral. You may well be familiar with his principles, but allow me to introduce you to his philosophy.

Many say ‘Dr King was a civil rights leader who fought for racial equality.’ This is true, but it is not complete. Dr King was a leader – a civil rights leader, a moral leader, an economic justice and anti-war advocate. He spoke to heal the heart of the world, not exclusively the heart of the American South.

Across the world, our hearts and minds are living in a shared, never-ending battle between our flesh and the Spirit. Dr King was acutely aware of our shared struggle. He knew humans were destructive, so he framed the forces of love and forgiveness as ‘creative weapons.’ But he wanted us to use these creative weapons to destroy the forces of injustice, poverty, and hate so we could build a Beloved Community.

Dr King constantly steered us away from our purely human understanding, to live by spiritual principles. He wanted to bridge the gap between how we live and how we ought to live.

To do this, he acknowledged how weak our own human philosophy and judgment were. He surrendered his mental self-reliance to three principles, and it’s these three principles we’ll reflect on over the coming weeks.

The first is love. not the type of love we think of, but an unconditional love. God’s love – agape. This love, Dr King believed, was the ‘most durable power in the world’.

The second is forgiveness. Because without love, we cannot have forgiveness. And without forgiveness, we will be stuck

in our shame and bitterness, stalling our ability to move forward.

The last is the Beloved Community. The Beloved Community is how Dr King envisioned our shared human experience. He wanted us to recognize our increasing interconnectedness and interdependence in our rapidly changing world. Many principles like love, forgiveness, dignity and justice come together and build the beloved community.

That was the whole point of everything he lived — and died — for. Building the Beloved Community where dignity, justice, and love washed away the sins of poverty, injustice, and hate. But these were not to be washed away by magic or newness, but earned through the active pursuit of redemption and reconciliation.

Alexandra is a young black woman with long braided hair wearing a white dress under a deep blue academic gown with red on the shoulders. She stands in front of Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool in Washington DC, with the Washington Monument in the far background, hazily reflected in the pool.

Alexandra Drakeford is a Frederick Douglass Distinguished Scholar Alumna of American University, Washington DC, 2024 TEDxOxford Speaker, a Martin Luther King Jr. Social Justice Fellow and Co-Chair of the Princeton Prize in Race Relations Washington DC Committee.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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