

Church News Ireland



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Image of the day



New Mothers Union Chapel

The All Ireland Council was held in Christ Church Cathedral last Saturday. The day began with a Holy Communion service followed by the dedication of the new Mothers' Union chapel, the Lady Chapel, by the Archbishop of Dublin, The Most Reverend Michael Jackson. The Dean and the



Ven Dr Stephen McBride, All Ireland MU Chaplain, also took part.

Ish Lennox, Faith and Church Relations Manager from Mary Sumner House, the London based international centre for the MU, gave a very thought provoking address to the meeting in which she spoke about "Faith" which she presented as Friendship with God - Accountability - Integrity - Thinking before we press the send button - Humour

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Presentations were made to June Butler as she finishes her term as Provincial President of All Ireland, Iris Suitor, the outgoing Zonal Trustee, and Kay Clarke, the incoming Provincial President.

A presentation was also made to Jacqui Armstrong who has completed ten years leading the Mothers' Union campaign against Gender Based Violence.

The results of the recent elections for All Ireland Unit Coordinators were announced.

Fundraising & Communication ~ Revd. Canon Jennifer McWhirter

Action & Outreach ~ Mrs Margaret Jacob

Faith & Policy ~ Mrs Clare Stewart

Finance & Central Services ~ Mrs Brigid Barrett

News

Storm Ashley failed to dampen Dunfanaghy

Storm Ashley failed to dampen spirits – or the Spirit – in Dunfanaghy, last Sunday, as the Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Rt Rev Andrew Forster, and the Rector, Rev David Skuce, led a Service of Confirmation for local children.

The first named storm of the season lashed Ireland's northernmost county – cutting power to many homes,



making driving conditions hazardous for motorists and forcing the cancellation of a number of sporting fixtures – but it didn't prevent Confirmation services going ahead at Holy Trinity Church in Dunfanaghy or at St John's Church in Ballymore.

The service in Holy Trinity was one of the highlights in a year in which the church has been celebrating its 150th anniversary. *Photo – Moses Alcorn*

Dalkey Parish holds cafe to help people talk about death

“Talking about death won't kill you.” So says the Rector of St Patrick's Parish Dalkey, the Revd Ruth Elmes who will facilitate her Dublin parish's first Death Café on Friday November 8 at 7.30pm.



A Death Café is a group directed discussion on death with no agenda, objectives or themes. It is a discussion group rather than a grief support or counselling session. There are no “experts” at a Death Café. People gather in a café type setting, eat cake and enjoy café-type drinks and discuss death. The objective is to increase awareness of death with a view to helping people make the most of their (finite) lives.

‘This event is an opportunity to speak of what is often the unspeakable – being in a space to leave your affairs in order to help your loved ones in planning and working on your behalf,’ Ruth explains.

“I find that those who know the wishes of a loved one will cope better in the initial stages of loss,” she adds. “Would your nearest and dearest know who your solicitor is? Where will a will be found? What music and readings you would like

if you wished for a church funeral or better still, what you definitely wouldn't like. If you wanted a retiring collection in aid of the Church of the Spaghetti Monster or the parish? – I would recommend the parish obviously. The Death Café will have templates to make this all easier and all your family needs to know is where to find it.”

This event is open to all and starts at 7.30pm on November 8. People are invited to bring friends and family for a different night out. Booking ensures enough tea, coffee and cake availability as well enough chairs to sit on to enjoy it.

Questions are welcome and encouraged in advance of the event but of course they may be asked on the night. Ruth has organised a friendly undertaker who will be present to answer questions.

“There are no ‘silly’ questions,” she emphasises.

“Believe it or not. This is an event that incurs much laughter and merriment as a different than the norm for a night out.”

Book your spot on November 8 at 7.30pm by contacting the parish office on 01–2845941 or through email dalkeyparish@gmail.com. The event is free but donations will be taken for the Kevin Bell Repatriation Trust.

Four churches harvest for food bank

On Tuesday afternoon representatives from the four churches near Limavady - Aghanloo, Balteagh, Carrick and Tamlaghtard in Derry diocese - delivered food to the LCDI Social Inclusion Programme food bank. The food and



supplies were collected as part of the four churches Harvest celebrations.

Too soon for border poll on Irish unity Archbishop of Armagh says

The Archbishop of Armagh has said now is not the time for a

border poll on Irish unity due to the current state of political flux on the island of Ireland and Europe, Chai Brady reports in The Irish Catholic. October 24.

His comments came before a new poll published on Tuesday revealed that support for the union dropped below 50% for the first time.

The figures published by The Irish News, contained in the Northern Ireland General Election Survey 2024, showed support for Irish unity at 33.7%, an increase of more than five percentage points over the past five years. Some 14%

of people said they do not know and 3.7% refused to say regarding the constitutional question.

Speaking to The Irish Catholic Archbishop Eamon Martin said: “I think the Good Friday Agreement asks for that conversation to happen with regard to how and when a border poll will be held.

“I think that at the moment, if you look at the relationships, we’ve just literally got a fledgling assembly back up and running, we have a new government in Britain, we have elections coming up in the Republic of Ireland, we have a new commission being established in Europe – I think this is not the time for a border poll. However, I think the conversations towards having some decision-making about this issue can begin and have already begun,” said.

Archbishop Martin said the Churches in the North could be part of the conversations around a united Ireland and border poll, as “one of my big regrets is that at the moment it’s extremely difficult for a Northern unionist or loyalist to become in any way associated with the conversation about a shared island. So you would question whether or not this is the time to be springing a border poll”.

He added: “We saw in Brexit, if you hold the poll before you’ve had a discussion about the implications, you’re into chaos. We’re in the situation that we’re eight years following the Brexit vote and people are only now beginning to realise the implications of having voted for Brexit.

“I would hate the same thing that happen over a border poll. Therefore, I think the front loading before a border poll is

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much more important to do than to try to pick up the pieces after you've held one."



International Commission for Anglican - Orthodox meets in Boston

The International Commission for Anglican–Orthodox Theological Dialogue (ICAOTD) met in Boston this October and was hosted by the Huffington Ecumenical Institute at Hellenic College Holy Cross.

During this significant gathering, members of the Commission discussed critical theological issues, built on previous statements, and endorsed a new agreed statement on organ donation.

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The Commission also celebrated the 50th anniversary of Anglican–Orthodox theological dialogue with a special symposium.

To read the full communique and learn more about the outcomes of this important meeting, please follow the link below: <https://bit.ly/40hn5DZ>

Learn more about Anglican–Orthodox theological dialogues: <https://bit.ly/4dYS5vO>

Cathedral Calls



From St Brides to St Brigid's

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The Kildare team were delighted to welcome Anglican clergy from the Diocese of London and beyond to the cathedral on Thursday for a tour and midday celebration of Eucharist.

The visit arose from the cathedral's special connection with St Bride's Church, The Journalists' Church, Fleet Street, London and its inspirational Rector, Rev Canon Dr Alison Joyce (centre), whose Brigid 1500 sermon is still talked about!

Mission Link Launch Service in Raphoe

Launch Service for Diocese of Derry and Raphoe's new link with the Diocese of Kondoa, Tanzania. Sunday 27th October at 7pm in St Eunan's Cathedral Raphoe.



Louis Fields has returned to St Columb's Cathedral music department and Cathedral Choir

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Come along and hear from Bishop Andrew and Bishop Given about this exciting new partnership.

Belfast choral services

Choral services this weekend celebrate the music of Charles Villiers Stanford and his students Ernest Moeran and Charles Wood:

Sunday 27th @ 1100 am: CATHEDRAL EUCHARIST

Stanford: Communion Service in C and F
Elgar: Ave verum corpus
Elgar: Imperial March

Sunday 27th @ 330 pm: CHORAL EVENSONG

Radcliffe: Preces and Responses
Moeran: Evening Service in D
Wood: Summer ended
Parry: Elegy

Remembrance at Cathedral Church of St Paul, Springfield, Illinois

Seven years ago Deacon Jerry Raschke was awarded the French Legion of Honor for his service in the European Theatre during World War II.

Deacon Jerry served in the United States Air Corps and flew as a gunner in the B-26 bomber. He was shot down three

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times but took to the skies again because, "That is just what you did." Deacon Raschke was a true American hero.

Deacon Jerry was taken home to be with the Lord this January when he was 99 years old. He is interred in the Cathedral Columbarium. May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.



Founded 1168
**SAINT MARY'S
CATHEDRAL**
LIMERICK

Lunchtime Concerts Autumn 2024, 1.15pm

Tuesday 22nd October

Catherine O'Carroll (soprano) and Irina Dernova (piano)
Music by Faure, Vaughan Williams, Sanderson and John Ireland

Tuesday 12th November

Students on the MA in Classical String Performance (UL)
Music by Haydn, Schubert, Janacek, Dohnanyi, Bowen and Mozart

Tuesday 19th November

Kirsten Corbett (violin) and Peter Barley (piano)
Music includes Cesar Franck's Sonata for violin and piano (1886)

Tuesday 26th November

Celia Donoghue (clarinet) and Ethna Tinney (piano)
Music by Saint-Saens, Messenger and Debussy

For details on all of the musical events held in Saint Mary's Cathedral please log onto www.saintmaryscathedral.ie

Admission to the concerts is free (with a retiring collection)

Clergy and ministry

Gustavo Gutiérrez - commitment to a more just and compassionate world

It is with deep sadness that we acknowledge the passing of Gustavo Gutiérrez, a prominent theologian and visionary in the pursuit of justice and liberation.

His groundbreaking work in liberation theology, which emphasizes a preferential option for the poor, transformed Christian theology by connecting faith with social action. This movement continues to inspire generations around the world.

Gustavo Gutiérrez resonates with another liberation theologian. It is deeply intertwined with the critical thinking of Paulo Freire.

Both Freire and Gutiérrez believed in the transformative power of education and theology as tools for liberation. Freire's emphasis on critical pedagogy—awakening consciousness to challenge structures of oppression—resonates with Gutiérrez's call for the Church to advocate for the marginalized.

Together, they taught us that faith and knowledge are never neutral; they must be used to serve the oppressed.

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

The All Ireland Mothers' Union President and
Trustee Board warmly invite you to

**The Big
Hymn Sing**

Praise will be led by the Clare Chorale
Address by The Most Rev'd. J.F. McDowell, Archbishop of Armagh

Date: Saturday 16th November 2024
Time: 2pm
Venue: St. Patrick's Parish Church, Ballymena

 **FESTIVAL BRASS** 
36th (Ulster) Division PRESENTS The Royal Dublin Fusiliers

SONGS OF PRAISE

• COMMEMORATING THE WORLD WAR ONE ARMISTICE •

SUNDAY 10th NOVEMBER 2024 - 7.30pm

St. Mark's Church, Dundela  St. Marks
(220 Hollywood Road, Belfast BT4 2DR) Parish of
Dundela

With Special Guests

PENRHYN PREPARATORY SCHOOL CHOIR
Conductor - Patricia Devlin

FESTIVAL BRASS
Conductor - Alan Corry

FREEWILL OFFERING IN AID OF THE POPPY APPEAL


LEST WE FORGET



October 26, 2024

In this spirit, we mourn the loss of Gustavo Gutiérrez, but we also celebrate his enduring legacy that lives on in the continued struggle for justice, equality, and dignity for all.

His prophetic voice will remain a guiding light for those committed to embodying a faith that acts in solidarity with the most vulnerable, echoing Paulo Freire's conviction that liberation is a collective process requiring courage, reflection, compassion, and unceasing action.





VESPERS BY CANDLELIGHT
Sunday 17 November, 7.30pm
Banana Block, BT4 1HE

experience the timeless beauty of
Rachmaninov's All Night Vigil

sung by Cappella Caeciliana
conducted by Matthew Quinn

**BAN
ana**
BLOCK

 THE NATIONAL
LOTTERY

 arts
council
of Northern Ireland

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Let us continue on the paths they have forged, keeping their wisdom close as we pursue our shared commitment to a more just and compassionate world.

Peruvian Dominican priest Gustavo Gutiérrez died on 22 October aged 96. Born in the heart of Lima, wheelchair bound for much of his six teenage years, half Quechuan half Hispanic, he became known as the father of Liberation Theology. His thinking is the key to understanding the most important current ideas in Catholicism worldwide since the 1960s. To celebrate Gustavo's life is to celebrate a key contributor to a gradual but vitally important change in the life of a global Church and its 1.36 billion members in the last half century.

From the condition of Latin America when he was writing, and Catholic tradition, came his vision of 'el quehacer teologica' theology's task. He posed foundational questions that lay behind the re-discovery of the Church's "preferential option for the poor" understood as its principal pastoral concern: "How do we convey to the poor that God loves them?" and "How to speak out of the suffering of the innocent about God?"

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

The publication of Church News Ireland is overseen by Very Rev Dr Houston McKelvey OBE, QVRM, TD. He may be contacted at houstonmckelvey@mac.com

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www.churchnewsireland.org

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