

Church News Ireland



Image of the day



Temple of Saint Sava in Belgrade

A reminder that the largest mosaic in the world was completed as recently as 2020.

This is the "new Hagia Sophia", the Temple of Saint Sava in Belgrade, Serbia. It was meant to be built a century ago, modeled on the sixth-century church in Istanbul, but was held up by wars, occupation and then the post-war communist regime.

The enormous Orthodox church, with its 70m high dome, is built entirely from reinforced concrete. It was structurally complete in 2004, and work then began to adorn the interior walls with enormous frescoes and mosaics.



The mosaics now span 130,000 square feet and weigh around 320 tons in total.

There are more than 50 million individual pieces covering the interior walls - the combined work of 300 artists over the course of 4 years.

Saint Sava is a mixture of modern and Serbian-Byzantine motifs, and is now a beacon of Serbian faith and national pride. It is the second largest Orthodox temple in the world.

People and places



Bello Duo's candlelit churches concert series

All Saints' Parish, Antrim, will host two of its parishioners – singing sensations Victoria McClements and Conor Taggart, best known as Bello Duo – for a free candlelit concert on December 4.

All Saints' is just one of a number of Connor churches which have taken up Bello Duo's offer of a free concert in the

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weeks before Christmas. There will also be concerts in Mosley Parish Church on November 11, Christ Church, Derriaghy, on November 8, Holy Trinity, Portrush, on November 18, and a Christmas Special in All Saints', Eglantine, on December 5.

Victoria and Connor say the concerts will be filled with spectacular music featuring the world's greatest love songs, a touch of Ireland, and big Classical Crossover hits.

Bello Duo came into being during the Covid-19 lockdown and Victoria and Connor went on to reach the final of Ireland's The Big Deal and have been touring and singing both locally and internationally ever since. They featured in our diocesan magazine Connor Connections in summer 2021 – you can download the article [HERE](#).

Their full concert programme is as follows:

30/10/23 – St Mary's Star Of Sea Whitehouse – Newtownabbey – 7:30pm (Tickets needed. donation welcome)

07/11/23 – Mossley Parish Church – Newtownabbey – 7:30pm

08/11/23 – Christ Church, Derriaghy – Lisburn – 7:30pm

09/11/23 – All Saints' Clooney Church – Derry/Londonderry – 7:30pm

10/11/23 – Finaghy Methodist Church – Belfast – 8:00pm

14/11/23 – St Macartin's Cathedral – Enniskillen – 7:30pm (Tickets needed PM for info)

15/11/23 – Sydenham Methodist Church – Belfast – 7:30pm

18/11/24 – Holy Trinity – Portrush – 7:30pm

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23/11/23 – Kilbride Presbyterian Church – Ballyclare – 7:30pm

04/12/23 – All Saints' Church – Antrim – Christmas Special – 7:30pm

05/12/23 – All Saints' Eglantine – Lisburn – Christmas Special – 7:30pm



Saint Patrick's Cathedral has been officially certified...

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Saint Patrick's Cathedral has been officially certified as a ' Great Place to Work'

Saint Patrick's Dublin say, “We are over the moon to announce that our beloved cathedral is not only a beacon of faith but also a fantastic workplace where creativity, dedication, and passion thrive!

“This achievement is a testament to the incredible team spirit and unwavering commitment of everyone involved - from our devoted management and staff to the supportive community and visitors that surrounds us. We cherish the values of unity, respect, and continuous growth that have earned us this prestigious certification.

“Thank you to each and every one of you who contributes to making Saint Patrick's Cathedral a truly exceptional



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workplace. Together, we create an environment where talents are nurtured and friendships are forged.”

Come and Sing Festival Evensong



A wonderful afternoon was spent last Saturday at Church Music Dublin’s Come and Sing Festival Evensong.

There were over 50 members in the choir under the excellent direction of John Dexter, assisted by David O’Shea on the organ stool.

Church Music Dublin says - Thanks to all who came along to make it such a wonderful event.

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Church Music Dublin's Come and Sing Festival Evensong

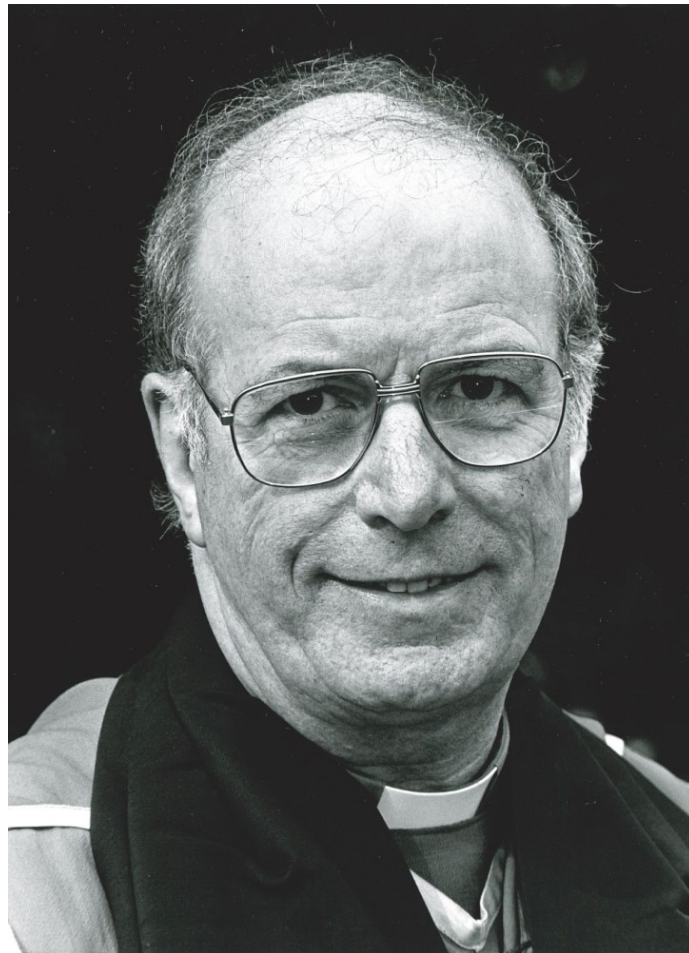
Sponsor a chair for Belfast Cathedral's anniversary



On Sunday June 2 2024, Belfast Cathedral will mark the 120th anniversary of the consecration of the Nave with a service of Celebration and Thanksgiving.

As part of the anniversary celebrations, the Cathedral has launched an appeal to replace the existing wooden chairs of the Nave, which have been in continuous use for 120 years, with new chairs which will be more comfortable and more easily stacked and moved.

Find out how you can sponsor a chair and learn more about the 120th anniversary plans at <https://rb.gy/g4ekg>
Photo shows the crowds who flocked to witness the Consecration of the Nave on June 2 1904.



Bishop Larry Duffy extends sympathy on the death of Rt Rev Gordon McMullan

Bishop of Clogher +Larry Duffy writes, “It is with great regret that I learned of the death of the Right Reverend Gordon McMullan, the former Church of Ireland Bishop of Clogher. During his 6 years in this Diocese from 1980 until 1986 he served with a deep sense of the centrality of compassion and pastoral outreach to people. That pastoral concern also included members of other Christian Churches.

“Throughout his ministry he developed friendships with many people across the community and these contributed to peace building and were greatly valued long after his departure from Clogher.

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“I extend to his family and to Bishop Ian Ellis and the entire Church of Ireland community throughout Clogher and beyond my sincere sympathy and prayers at this time”.

Meeting marks 50th Anniversary of the first Ballymascanlon Talks

The thirty-third meeting of the Irish Inter-Church Meeting took place over 19 and 20 October in Dromantine Conference Centre, Newry.

The theme for the meeting was “Our Reconciling Vision of Hope: Fifty years since the Ballymascanlon Talks”.

2023 is particularly significant for Irish Inter-Church Meeting (IICM) as it is the 50th Anniversary of the first Ballymascanlon Talks, which led to its establishment. The talks brought together Protestant and Catholic Churches across the island of Ireland in the midst of the Troubles.

The IICM was first and foremost intended to be a space for the development of relations between the churches.

After sharing lunch and attending various addresses, representatives joined a service of thanksgiving and reflection as part of the two day meeting. Representatives from across the membership of the Irish Council of Churches, and the Irish Catholic Bishops’ Conference, led the service which was attended by delegates from across the island.



Father Martin Browne (Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity)

Various speakers shared at the conference which explored the context around the Ballymascanlon Talks, including the priorities, challenges and achievements of those early years. There was also a session exploring current dynamics in international Inter-Church Relations.

Father Martin Browne (Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity) discussed recent developments and directions in international ecumenical relations and how they can inform our journey here in Ireland. Father Martin said, “As we celebrate 100 years of the ICC and 50 years of the IICM, we give thanks for those pioneers who took risks and endured criticism for doing what we can do so unselfconsciously today, meeting together. We give thanks that we are no longer strangers to one another, but brothers and sisters, and friends. Perhaps the hopeful vision for the future can be one of still greater closeness and the unity of Christians.”

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Day two of the conference began with Rev Dr Donald Watts of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, who spoke of positive accomplishments by IICM and its initiatives over the years, noting that “we are involved in a dynamic movement rather than a static structure”.

A panel considered current challenges to our vision of a more connected Church in Ireland, as well as areas offering opportunity for closer relationships and collaboration with ICC Vice-President Bishop Sarah Groves, Rev Dr Heather Morris who serves as secretary of Conference for the Methodist Church in Ireland, and Dr Damian Jackson, the IICM joint secretary. In this session the aspect of hospitality

GRIEF & LOSS

REVD PAUL FITZPATRICK



TUESDAY 14TH NOVEMBER



7-8PM



**ST. MARYS COMMUNITY HOUSE,
HAYMARKET, CARLOW
R93 E427**



FREE EVENT

Carlow Town native, Paul Fitzpatrick has recently been appointed as Rector of Carlow Union of Parishes. His life experience, education, and training have enabled him to work and engage in Ministry and Pastoral Care crisscrossing many boundaries.

Paul's journey allows him a unique perspective that encourages travel towards the coal face of acute Trauma. He uses his skillset to shine glimmers of light and hope on what often seems hopeless and is deemed the unreachable and impossible.



www.carlowmentalhealth.ie



was discussed as we aim to move from knowing each other a little to forming trusting relationships, open to change.

Co-chair of the 33rd IICM, Archbishop Eamon Martin of Armagh, concluded the conference with a discussion of the topic, 'What are we to take from this meeting for our coming work'. The Catholic Primate of All Ireland encouraged the audience to contemplate considerations for themselves, for the local Church and for Churches together.

As the audience engaged in thoughtful group discussion, the point of common concern across all groups was the urgent need to meaningfully engage with young people and to include this demographic in future significant gatherings.

News reports

Sister Act finally meets the Pope

Hollywood actress Whoopi Goldberg has shared details of her meeting with Pope Francis last week after more than a decade of trying to arrange talks with him.

The star of Sister Act joked that she might "burst into flames" when she walked into the Vatican.

Sharing a video of her meeting on US talk show The View, she revealed what the pontiff had to say to her.

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He said: "One of the best things you can do for people is to help them to have joy and to make them laugh."

His comments came after he was presented with memorabilia from the Sister Act movies.

After receiving an image of Goldberg as her character Sister Mary Clarence, Pope Francis smiled as he pointed to her red stilettos which accompanied the traditional nun's clothing.

The actress joked that she was doing her bit to "bring the sisters into the 21st century".

Speaking to her co-hosts on the show she said the visit encouraged her not to abandon the Church and that she felt better for the visit.

Catholic aid agency worker killed in attack on Greek Orthodox church in Gaza

The Catholic aid agency CAFOD has spoken of its shock after a member of its staff was among those killed in the attack on a Greek Orthodox church in Gaza.

26 year old Viola who worked for Caritas Jerusalem, was killed along with her infant daughter and husband.

Janet Symes who is CAFOD's Head of Region for Asia and the Middle East told Premier :

“We’re aware that five staff of our partner organisation Caritas Jerusalem, were there at the time. Tragically, one of their staff, a lab technician in one of their centres, a young woman, was killed along with her toddler child and her husband. And we know that her sister and her sister’s two children were also casualties in the attack.

“My understanding is that they were sheltering there at the time. What we do know is that at that centre, they were providing food blankets, medical assistance, and shelter to all those families. Churches, hospitals, schools, are being used now for hundreds of families in each place to try to get some shelter, to find some degree of safety. But as this event shows us, unfortunately, just nowhere is safe at this time.

“Unfortunately, it's civilians who are bearing the brunt of this terrible situation that we find ourselves in.”

In a statement CAFOD said :

“We are shocked to hear from our partner at Caritas Jerusalem that a staff member along with her child and husband were killed when the hall adjacent to the St. Porphyrios Church in Gaza, was struck last night. Her sister and two children were also among the casualties. The hall provided refuge for 411 people and five Caritas staff members were present.

“We extend our heartfelt condolences to the grieving families and all those injured and affected.

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“We stand with the Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem in strongly condemning the attack which claimed the lives of innocent civilians, who were sheltering following thirteen days of airstrikes, and call for an immediate cessation to the violence which is causing such suffering and bloodshed.

“Where they are able to, our partners continue to respond, helping those most in need.

“Please pray for all those who have lost loved ones, have been injured and displaced, and live in fear as the violence continues.”

At least 16 Christians were killed in the blast at the Greek Orthodox church compound in Gaza City. It happened as hundreds of people – many of them Christians displaced from their homes – had been sheltering in the ancient church of St Porphyrius and its buildings.

In the media

Palestinian Christians perplexed by ABC’s statements

Church Times - Palestinian Christians living in the West Bank have said that they are “utterly perplexed” by the Archbishop of Canterbury’s public statements about the “situation in Palestine”, which they describe as “a genocide of the Palestinian people” 09.25 am Friday 26/10/2023

Irish Times - Irish citizens urged to leave Lebanon immediately as Middle East situation deteriorates



Israel in Ireland - Irish-Israeli man Thomas Hand speaks of the murder of his daughter Emily and the abduction of other families by Hamas terrorists.



Scenes of masked men in Belfast's Crown Court

BBC News - The Northern Ireland Secretary has expressed disbelief that masked men appeared in the public gallery of a Belfast court during a murder trial.

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BelfastTelegraph - Chris Heaton-Harris says he 'simply can't believe' scenes of masked men in Belfast's Crown Court.
<https://belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/politics/>

Comment on X - Well, when you allow convicted terrorists on policing boards and devolved Govts, you act all shocked and surprised when they turn up dressed like that in court.



Rainbow in Rome

James Martin, SJ - Congratulations to leaders of the Global Network of Rainbow Catholics [@GNRCatholics](https://twitter.com/GNRCatholics), an umbrella group of LGBTQ Catholic ministries around the world, who met with Pope Francis at the end of his General Audience this morning.

A few hours after this appeared.

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Synod 2023

Synod 2023 - has published a letter from the assembly participants to the People of God expressing the lived experience that has been shared over these weeks. Read more about this "unprecedented experience."



americamagazine.org

America Magazine - Pope Francis wants the synod to be a political community based on faith, not interest. We can accept that our Roman church inherited much from its classical Roman ethos—including its sense of authority, and that is obvious in the Catholic tradition.

Chinese Christian community survey

Church Times - A survey of the Chinese Christian community revealed a 29-per-cent growth in the Chinese

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Church in just two years, with almost 115,000 Chinese Christians currently worshipping in 201 churches in the UK: an increase of more than 25,000 people

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

English For Life



LEARN ENGLISH FOR FREE!

Over **6 Weeks** we will be running an after school **English Language Class** for primary school children (alongside parents/guardians).

Improve or Learn English Language Skills, Make New Friends & Read the Bible Together.

Dates: Tuesdays (7th Nov - 12th Dec 2023)

Time: 3:30 - 4:30pm

Location: St. Elizabeth's Church, Dundonald, BT16 2LP

For More **INFORMATION** & to **REGISTER** visit:
<https://www.stelizabeths.church/englishforlife>

Book Early to Avoid Disappointment



English for life language skills at Dundonald church

The invitation has gone out - "Join us at St Elizabeth's Church to improve or learn English language skills, make new friends, and read the Bible together.

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“Over 6 Weeks (starting 7th Nov) we will be running an AFTER SCHOOL English Language Class for primary school children (ages 4-11) from 3:30-4:30pm each Tuesday.

Please note: This is a 'families learning together' initiative and as such all children must be accompanied by an adult.

There will also be an ADULT English Language Class running in parallel to the children's after school class - starting at 4pm.

If you know of anyone who could avail of this service, PLEASE pass these details on.

For more information on the class (including how to REGISTER), check out our website:
<https://www.stelizabeths.church/englishforlife>

Poem for today

In A Field by Seamus Heaney

Last poem of Seamus Heaney, published ten years ago yesterday in The Guardian

And there I was in the middle of a field,
The furrows once called "scores" still with their gloss,
The tractor with its hoisted plough just gone
Snarling at an unexpected speed
Out on the road. Last of the jobs,



The windings had been ploughed, furrows turned
Three ply or four round each of the four sides
Of the breathing land, to mark it off
And out. Within that boundary now
Step the fleshy earth and follow
The long healed footprints of one who arrived
From nowhere, unfamiliar and de-mobbed,
In buttoned khaki and buffed army boots,
Bruising the turned-up acres of our back field
To stumble from the windings' magic ring
And take me by a hand to lead me back
Through the same old gate into the yard
Where everyone has suddenly appeared
All standing waiting.

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