

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – York and Gaia



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The Archbishop of York says -

‘Gaia’, the stunning earth installation was unveiled last week at Beverley Minster. The touring artwork will be there until 1st October. 🌍

Find out more at <http://beverleyminster.org.uk/gaia>

People and places

Invitation to mark 90th Anniversary of St John Ambulance in the Derry area

To mark the 90th Anniversary of St John Ambulance serving the community in the Derry area, you are invited to a Service of Thanksgiving in St Peter's Church, Culmore Road, Londonderry, on, Sunday 17th September 2023 at 4pm

This will be followed by light refreshments in the Acorn Centre adjacent to St Peter's Church and an opportunity to view an exhibition of interesting photographs taken throughout the 90 years of St John Ambulance in Londonderry

An Exhibition of photos and newspaper articles from 1930's will be on display in The Junction, Bishop Street from Monday 11th Sept to Friday 15th Sept 2023

New Organ Scholars at Belfast Cathedral

Two young organists have been appointed to join the growing Music Department team at at Belfast Cathedral.

Darragh Magee will be joining as the Billy Adair Memorial Organ Scholar, and Finn Sloan as the Junior Organ Scholar, both beginning later this month.



Further details about Darragh and Finn can be found on the Cathedral website here:

<https://www.belfastcathedral.org/news/billy-adair-memorial-organ-scholar-appointed>

<https://www.belfastcathedral.org/news/junior-organ-scholar-appointed>

New parish group result of a miracle of engineering - Bishop

History was created in north Donegal on Friday evening when a new parish grouping was inaugurated at a Service of Introduction for the new Priest-in-charge of



the Grouped Parishes of Clondevaddock and Mevagh, Rev Chris Matchett.

The service took place in the Church of Christ the Redeemer on a balmy evening in Rossnakill. Serving and retired clergy from all corners of the diocese joined parishioners from the three other churches now under Rev Matchett's leadership - Holy Trinity Carrigart, All Saints' Portsalon and Leatbeg Chapel of Ease.

The service was led by the Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Rt Rev Andrew Forster, assisted by the Archdeacon of Raphoe, Ven David Huss, the Archdeacon of Derry, Ven Robert Miller, and the Bishop's Curate for the occasion, Rev Sean McClafferty. The sermon was preached by the rector of the Monaghan Group of Parishes, Revd Chancellor Ian Berry, who is a long-standing friend of Rev Matchett's.



Among those in the congregation on this historic evening were Rev Matchett's wife, Ali, and Bishop Andrew's predecessor, Rt Rev Ken Good.

Bishop Andrew said he was delighted to be in Rossnakill to give thanks to God for Rev Matchett's leadership and ministry. "It's a red letter day because it is, in many ways, the inauguration of a new parish group, made possible by a miracle of engineering - the new bridge which brings Carrigart and the Fanad Group together. So, it's a very special evening for the parishes, for Chris and Ali, for the diocese and for each one of us.

"My hope and prayer, this evening, is that we will have a deep sense of celebration, but also a deep sense of the 'Yes' of almighty God, the 'Yes' that's in God's plan for this

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new group of parishes to be together, the 'Yes' that's in God's plan for Chris and Ali to come and serve among you, and the 'Yes' that's in God's plan that we are here as the people of God to serve Him and to worship Him and to know his love and to make His love known in this beautiful part of His creation."

The evening ended with a splendid supper in Tamney Hall, laid on by the parishioners in honour of their new minister. There were speeches of welcome from lay representatives of the parishes, from local parish priest, Fr Charles Byrne, and Bishop Andrew, and a response from the new Priest-in-charge, which began with a few words in Irish.

Clergy wives are normal people claim

Incidentally, there was an amusing moment in church just before the service began, as people were being ushered into their seats. Two ladies were asked by a member of the parish team, "Are you dignitaries?"

"No," one of the women replied, "we're normal. We're clergy wives."

Methodist staff member for Northern Ireland and Co Donegal

The Methodist Church has appointed Paula Lough to help in Northern Ireland and Co Donegal.

Paula says "I am thrilled to be stepping into this new role to accompany and journey with people as they continue to



serve God faithfully in their own contexts. And especially getting to know and working alongside my fellow Methodists in the North Western District – I want to support, encourage, resource and learn from those who are keen to see God move and be part of how He is working amongst the children and young people of the Methodist Church in Ireland.”

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Speaking in tongues at parish fete

On Saturday 2nd September St Dorotheas Parish Church, Gilnahirk, held a huge Garden Fete and the Rector, Revd Ken McGrath had requested that a team from The Church's Ministry of Healing The Mount be present in their Church in case anyone attending would wish to seek personal prayer.

The Churches Ministry of Healing stated - "The sun was out in abundance and I was truly amazed about how many people were mingling outside. Because so many of our team were on otherwise engaged, CMHTM was represented by Jenny and myself.

Do not be overcome by evil, but
overcome evil with good.

Romans 12:21



“We took up our position within the Church. We had agreed that we would work together and the Revd McGrath agreed with our decision. Our time on duty was between 2pm and 4pm.

“We spent the first 40 minutes chatting as no one appeared, but then things came really alive. We had a constant flow of people, each one had their different issues which needed careful responses in prayer by Jenny and myself. It was a wonderful blessing for us both. At the end of our shift, "as I thought", two ladies entered the Church and asked us to pray with them individually.

“We did not know the surprise which was about to present itself.

“As we finished our final prayer with the last lady, she started to pray in tongues, and then eloquently interpreted her prayer into English. It was just one of those beautiful Wow God moments, and was truly a just reward for all which we had taken part in that day.

“At the end of our shift, I was convinced even more, that our Church's Ministry of Healing is a precious gift from God and is being blessed beyond measure. God is truly asking us to carry out his Ministry of Healing on His behalf. When I gazed into the peoples faces after we had prayed with them, it was clear that a real transformation had taken place to their whole persona, which is very hard to explain, except that we are convinced, Jesus Is Alive. Hallelujah.

“Blessings, Wesley and Jenny”.

Sligo church will host an annual harvest thanksgiving service next week-end

The event takes place at Sligo Presbyterian Church from Friday 15th until Sunday 17th September.

Traditionally the annual harvest thanksgiving service sees the church tastefully decorated with produce; this year the doors will be opened for the weekend for a special expanded display throughout the church and hall. This will comprise twenty-eight creative arrangements of flowers, fruit and vegetables, accompanied by thought-provoking and inspirational texts.

The festival will close with Harvest Songs of Praise, featuring rousing seasonal hymn singing and a performance by a choir formed for the occasion. The festival will acknowledge the theme of thanksgiving and promises to be a unique and beautiful celebration of the harvest season.

Sligo Presbyterian Church is located on Church Street, near the Hawk's Well Theatre. The display will be open 5.00 – 8.00 p.m. on Friday, 11.00 a.m. – 7.00 p.m. on Saturday, and 2.00 – 6 p.m. on Sunday. Tea and tray bakes will be available at a cost of €5; there will be an additional opportunity to leave a donation, with all proceeds going to Sligo Social Services. The Harvest Songs of Praise takes place at 7.00 p.m. on Sunday. For further information and group bookings, contact Fiona (mob. 087 101 4058).

Courtesy the Sligo Champion

Save the Date!

The Young Members'
Committee of Connor Diocese

invites you to

A PRE-CHRISTMAS SHOPPING DAY!

*at Kildare Designer Outlet Village
on Saturday 18 November 2023*

cost £45

*(includes return coach travel and a 2-course evening meal plus
tea/coffee)*

*Booking forms are available from
Melanie, Diocesan Younger Members' Rep
at connoryoungmembers@gmail.com*



Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families
Diocese of Connor

Registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland 101658

News reports

Notre-Dame in Paris is due to reopen to the public in December 2024

On April 15, 2019, people in France and around the world held their breath as Notre-Dame cathedral in Paris went up in flames, Bruno Lacombe reports.

More than four years later in July, new oak trusses arrived in the capital by barge on the Seine. Fifteen metres wide, 10 metres tall and weighing seven tonnes, they were lifted away by crane, and will form an essential part of the new roof surrounding the restored spire. The original framework dated back to the 13th century and was known as 'la forêt' (the forest) because of its vast number of beams.

Former army General Jean-Louis Georgelin was the man chosen to oversee the Cathedral's mammoth restoration project, coordinating the worlds of religion, politics and culture, just two days after the night of the fire. A former chief of staff to President Chirac, General Georgelin was also Chief of France's Defence Staff from 2006 to 2010. Did this mission require a military man?

“You will have to ask the president,” General Georgelin told The Connexion, with a smile. He said Emmanuel Macron had three conditions for the position. “It had to be a Catholic; it had to be someone who had worked at the highest levels

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of the state; and someone who knows how to show authority.”

President Macron set an ambitious deadline of five years for the rebuilding, a target the restoration team is proudly on track to meet.

General Georgelin admits the team has had to surmount multiple challenges, presented by French legislation and its many codes governing national monuments, as well as

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CHURCH ROAD
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Saturday 23rd September 10am - 1pm

£10 PER TABLE (BRIC-A-BRAC, CRAFTS ETC)
£5 PER CAR - FIRST COME FIRST SERVE

Indoor tables must be booked in advance
Contact Iris to book
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Set up from 9am
Refreshments Available!
(£2 per person)

employment and public contracts – and all while balancing the interests of the different bodies involved.

“My office at the Elysée Palace has been an important tool to demonstrate the president’s support,” he said, referencing the audacious timeline.

One help was that the project was fully financed in advance with a number of major French fortunes committing €500million within days of the blaze. The necessary €846million was soon covered, thanks to 340,000 donors from 150 countries.

It is a huge task. General Georgelin says he has been able to count on around 40 people who work for the public organisation created to oversee the rebuild, and a total of 1,000 workers throughout France, half of whom are on site – although conditions have complicated the work due to the presence of lead. The requirements for watertight clothing and systematic showers when leaving the site, even for visitors, have been particularly stringent.

He confided that King Charles III had wanted to visit the site, but it did not make the programme due to these safety complications. This was before the King’s visit to France was cancelled due to protests.

Construction on Notre-Dame began in 1163, and the cathedral has played an important role in French history and identity ever since.

General Georgelin laughed as he pointed out that only one king of France was crowned there, in 1431 – the highly

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disputed Englishman Henry VI, at the height of the Hundred Years' War.

The kings of France were traditionally crowned at Reims Cathedral.

In the Middle Ages, as with many French cathedrals, elements of the façade were painted in different colours, but General Georgelin says there are no plans to return it to its former look. Inside, however, many of the frescoes and decorations have been restored to their original colours, as have the stained-glass windows.

He recalls certain crucial stages in the reconstruction, particularly the installation of the keystones, which aroused strong emotions, and “a few tears”. He also shared that he regrets not having been able to meet Ken Follett because of Covid. The Welsh author wrote a book on Notre-Dame in 2019, and his royalties paid to the Fondation du Patrimoine for the Paris cathedral were redirected, with his approval, to the restoration of Saint-Samson in Dol-de-Bretagne, founded by a Welshman like himself.

The final stages are now under way for the roof and the spire, which has been rebuilt to the same 96m height as the one designed by Eugène Viollet-Le-Duc in the 19th century, whose collapse shocked the world. The base of the spire has already been installed, with the upper part due to be added in autumn, meaning the cathedral's famous silhouette should once again be visible by the end of this year.

The cathedral is due to reopen to the public in December 2024.

“It is a challenge that France will win, and it is to France’s credit that it has taken it up and succeeded,” he said.

Visitors to Paris can learn more about the reconstruction project by visiting the ‘Notre-Dame de Paris - from builders to restorers’ exhibition at the Cité de l’Architecture et du Patrimoine.

Archbishop Welby: Israel in turmoil but it’s not an apartheid state

Israel is not an apartheid state, the Archbishop of Canterbury has said.

The Most Rev Justin Welby said that Israel’s constitution was unlike the former regime in South Africa, which was built on a system of apartheid that institutionalised racial segregation.

Instead, the Archbishop said that Israel was a country in “turmoil”, adding: “It remains a risk if the constitution changes to an apartheid constitution, then it obviously would become an apartheid state. But until that happens, I won’t use that word about Israel.”

He made the comments on Wednesday night during a talk at St Martin-in-the-Fields church in central London.

His comments come as Israel is in the midst of a controversial judicial overhaul, spearheaded by Benjamin

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Netanyahu, the prime minister. Critics of the proposals claim that the plans will shatter the country's system of checks and balances and leave the prime minister with too much concentrated power.

The Archbishop, who is known to be critical on political issues such as the UK Government's policy on sending migrants to Rwanda, was asked whether Israel was an apartheid state. He replied: "I know it's going to be an



SOME FELLA FROM THE COLLEGE SAID
A.I. COULD HELP RUN THE FARM, BUT I
TOLD HIM I'M STICKIN' WITH E.I.E.I.O.

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unpopular answer, but there we are. I'm not on many people's Christmas card lists after my work on migration.

"I don't want to use the word apartheid because the apartheid regime in South Africa ... was built on a constitution that in the very fabric of the constitution, set up apartheid.

"Israel's constitution and the demonstrations against what is going on in the law at the moment show that there are huge numbers of Israelis who don't want it to do that.

"I will say that many of the actions by the state of Israel go against the declared values of the state of Israel that are also resisted very strongly by many within the state of Israel.

"It is in a place of turmoil at the moment... The message we get is 'is it unjust what's happening in the settlements?' Yes, it is against international law. It is unjust."

He added: "I grieve to see so many people at loggerheads in Israel, that precious country. I'm grieved to see a coalition that includes far-Right racists and the erosion of some rights of Israeli-Arab citizens."

His comments come after a former head of Mossad, Israel's intelligence agency, said that Israel was imposing a form of apartheid on Palestinians.

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Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Children and Family Ministry in Cashel, Ferns & Ossory



Saturday morning was the first session in connecting and reinvigorating children and families ministry in the diocese. Carolyn Good and Rachael Murphy led a workshop in Old Leighlin Cathedral which launched a plan for 23-24 and gave lots of details on resources and training that are available nationally through the Church of Ireland Children and Family Ministry.

Resurgam's "Fountains of Israel" in Cork

Resurgam, the renowned Irish Choir under the direction of Mark Duley, will be kicking off the festival on Friday 13, October, 7:30 pm. Come along to "Fountains of Israel" in the MTU Cork School of Music Curtis Auditorium featuring

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Johann Hermann Schein's 1623 masterpiece, "Israelis Brünnelein". This event is presented in association with Cork Orchestral Society. Don't miss this incredible performance! Get your tickets now: bit.ly/ecemf23

Fr Denis McBride's 2024 Diary is now available to order

This stunning A5 size, hardback diary features a thought-provoking reflection by Fr Denis McBride on twelve parables of Jesus. Through the parables we learn that inside the story of our everyday life lies the deeper story of our salvation. Click link to purchase your copy - <https://buff.ly/3E53Dhq>

Poem for today

Beannacht - Blessing by John O'Donohue

For Josie

On the day when
the weight deadens
on your shoulders
and you stumble,
may the clay dance
to balance you.
And when your eyes
freeze behind
the grey window
and the ghost of loss
gets into you,

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may a flock of colours,
indigo, red, green
and azure blue,
come to awaken in you
a meadow of delight.
When the canvas frays
in the currach of thought
and a stain of ocean
blackens beneath you,
may there come across the waters
a path of yellow moonlight
to bring you safely home.
May the nourishment of the earth be yours,
may the clarity of light be yours,
may the fluency of the ocean be yours,
may the protection of the ancestors be yours.
And so may a slow
wind work these words
of love around you,
an invisible cloak
to mind your life.

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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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