

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – St Paul's Lisburn Institution**

## Image of the day

### St Paul's Lisburn Institution



Bishop Darren McCartney is greeted by Ven Dr Stephen McBride, Archdeacon of Connor before the Service of Institution as Rector of the parish

**St Paul's Parish Church, Lisburn, was packed on Thursday September 7 for the institution of the Rt Rev Darren McCartney as rector.**

Darren is married to Karen and they have one son. He comes to St Paul's from Clonallon and Warrenpoint with



Kilbroney in the Diocese of Down and Dromore where he had been rector since 2019. The Bishop of Down and Dromore, the Rt Rev David McClay, preached at the service.

Darren spent his formative years in Dundrod, Co Antrim,

growing up close to the Ulster Grand Prix motorbike circuit.



He is part of a close family including parents Jim and Muriel, brothers Don and Duane,

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and sisters Coleen and Laura.

He attended Lisnagarvey High School and later spent eight years as a plant engineer before training for the ministry and taking up a post as deacon-in-charge and then priest-in-charge of St Luke's Anglican Church, Diocese of the Arctic, Canada, in the community of Pangnirtung, Nunavut.

Darren returned to Northern Ireland in 2006 and was a curate in St Nicholas', Carrickfergus, for three years before becoming rector of St Matthias, Knocknamuckley.

In June 2012, during the Diocesan Arctic Synod, he was elected and consecrated Suffragan Bishop of the Arctic and had and Karen moved to Iqaluit, Baffin Island, in January 2013.

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The family returned to Northern Ireland when Darren took up the post of rector of Clonallon and Warrenpoint with Kilbroney. He was also Area Dean for the Mourne, and Warden to the Pioneering Ministers in the Diocese of Down and Dromore.

With thanks to Norman Briggs for the photographs of the Service of Institution.

## People and places

### Carlow Methodists welcome new minister

**There was standing room only in the Methodist Church in Carlow town recently when there was a welcoming service for their newly-appointed minister, Rev Katherine Kehoe.**

“The church was full, packed with people,” said Anton Scheele, a member of the church. “Everyone was looking forward to meeting their new minister.”

Among the congregation were representatives of Catholic Bishop, Denis Nulty and Church of Ireland Bishop, Adrian Wilkinson while Rev Kehoe’s husband, John, their daughters, Patrice and Emily and their families also attended.

Rev Kehoe, née Darcy, hails from Baltinglass and may be a familiar face to many Carlovians as she worked for years in Shaws Department Store before becoming a full-time



Rev Katherine Kehoe is shown with her husband John, Rev Andrew Dougherty (Superintendent of the Southern District Methodist Church in Ireland), Anton Sheele (Society Steward), Edwin Harper (Circuit Steward) and Ida Graham (Church Council) during her 'Welcome Service' in the Carlow Methodist Church. Photo: courtesy of [michaelourkephotography.ie](http://michaelourkephotography.ie)

Methodist minister about 10 years ago. Since then she has held ministries at Tallaght and Lucan Methodist Churches as well as the Arklow and Gorey Methodist Churches. Report. Courtesy Elizabeth Lee of The Nationalist

**New Irish Arts feature in Lisburn Cathedral's 400th**  
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## **RTE Archives recall woman whose ordination was declared invalid by Irish Catholic bishops**

**RTE Archives this week recalled the ordination of a woman as a priest by dissident bishop Pat Buckley was declared invalid by Irish Catholic bishops.**

“Saint Andrew’s Church, a former Protestant church in the County Louth village of Omeath is run by Pat Buckley a former Catholic priest who has been excommunicated from the Roman Catholic Church. In June 1998 Pat Buckley was ordained a bishop by the Tridentine breakaway bishop Michael Cox.

“As Pat Buckley claims he is a valid bishop, he officiates over the controversial ordination of a 67 year old woman who has already taken vows to be a hermit nun in the Catholic Church. The ceremony is concelebrated by Michael Cox.

}London born Sister Frances Meigh explains that during ordination the Holy Spirit ordains the soul because,

It is not the body that is ordained it is the soul, which is why the gender doesn’t matter.

“Following her ordination Sister Frances Meigh is known as Mother Frances Meigh.

“Pat Buckley is forbidden to officiate on behalf of the Catholic Church and immediately after the ceremony



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Catholic bishops reject the ordination of Frances Meigh saying it is invalid.

“Spokesperson for the Irish Catholic Bishops’ Conference Father Martin Clarke makes it clear that Pat Buckley had no mandate or authority to ordain anyone as the Catholic Church does not recognise his consecration as a bishop. He also highlights that Church teaching through the centuries has been consistent,

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“It does not have the power to confer priestly ordination on women and therefore the ordination of Sister Frances Meigh is not recognised as valid by the Church.

“Brothers and Sister in Christ (BASIC) is a group of almost 200 Catholics, including nuns and priests who actively seek the ordination of women. Spokesperson for BASIC Soline Vatinel is critical of Frances Meigh’s ordination as it could have a negative impact on Christian unity,

We don’t want another parallel church to split up the Church and that’s the real danger.”

An RTÉ News report broadcast on 14 September 1998. The reporter is Joe Little.

[<https://www.rte.ie/archives/2023/0901/1402897-woman-ordained-priest/>]

## News reports

### **Albany election signals new course on same-sex marriage**

**After a dramatic day of voting, a strong supporter of same-sex marriage was elected to become the 10th Bishop of Albany — succeeding a bishop whose uncompromising opposition led to the end of his career in the Episcopal Church, Kirk Petersen writes in The Living Church.**

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The Rev. Jeremiah Williamson, currently the rector of Grace and Saint Stephen's in Colorado Springs, Colorado, prevailed on the fourth ballot after a series of votes that revealed a sharp split of opinion between the clergy and the laity. Assuming his election is confirmed by the broader church, he will take leadership of a diocese that has been roiled in conflict for the past five years.

"I believe God has called us together to be one body, to spread the gospel of Jesus, to witness to the power of love

to transcend our differences, to hold our hearts together," Williams told the convention by

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The video link. "I believe that God has called us together to dream with our God into the future. I am so excited to hear your stories, to

build trust, to allow our relationship to blossom.”

Through the first three ballots, Williamson led among the laity, first in a plurality and then in increasing majorities, and ultimately he received just under three-quarters of the lay vote. The Rev. Scott Garno — the most conservative of the four candidates — led in the clergy vote on each of the first three ballots, topping out at 50 percent on the third. But on the fourth ballot, with the slate narrowed to two candidates, one of Garno’s clergy supporters apparently switched sides. Williamson received 56 votes to Garno’s 54, or 51 percent to 49 percent, and was declared the bishop-elect.

Garno, the rector of Saint Stephen’s in Delmar, New York, is well-known among the Albany clergy. He served as president of the Standing Committee, which became the ecclesiastical authority of the diocese after the resignation of Bishop William H. Love in early 2021. A church court found that Love violated his vow of obedience by refusing to accept a change in church policy on same-sex marriage. He now serves as a bishop in the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA).

Williamson and Garno were the two candidates at the opposite ends of the spectrum on the issue of same-sex marriage. All four candidates pledged to adhere to the church’s policy, adopted in 2018 via Resolution B012, that same-sex marriage rites must be made available in every diocese where the practice is legal under secular law.

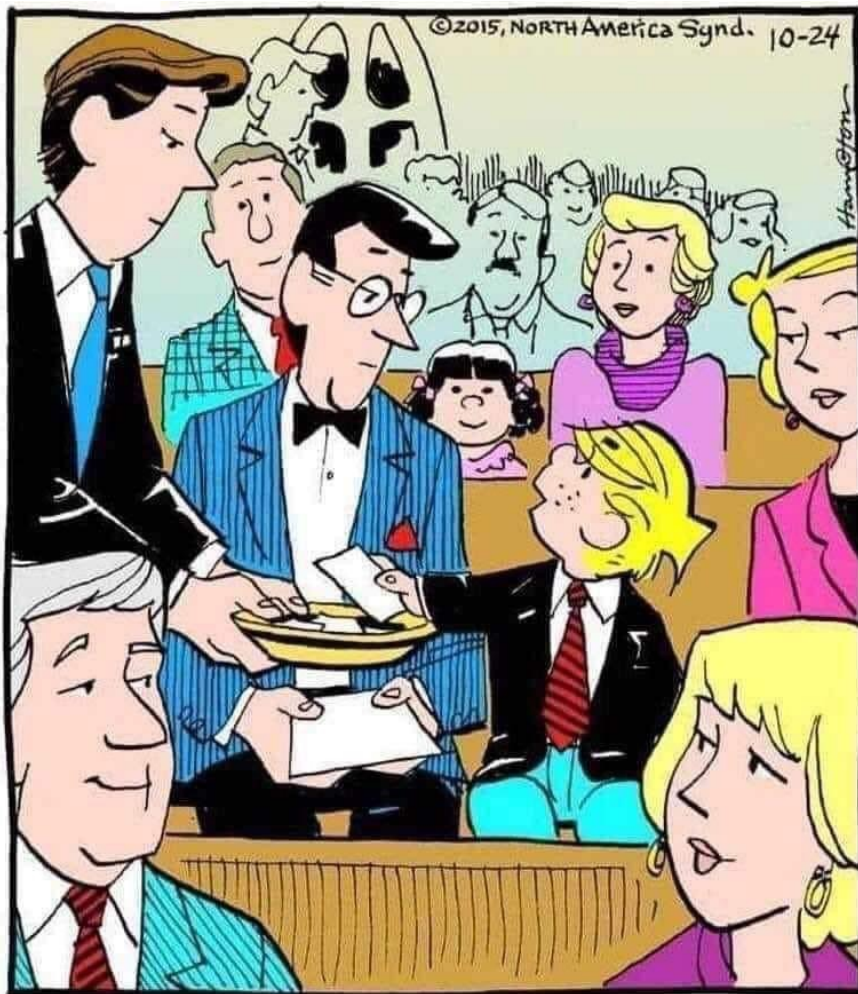
Garno, the only candidate who explicitly stated the traditional view that marriage is a covenant between one man and one woman, nevertheless said he would not stand

in the way of same-sex marriages in the diocese.

Williamson was the only candidate who explicitly supported same-sex marriage, and said he had personally blessed two such unions.

The other two candidates expressed support for church policy without voicing an opinion on the underlying issue. They are the Very Rev. Neal Longe, rector of Saint Ann's, in Amsterdam, in the Diocese of Albany; and the Rev. Geoffrey Ward, rector of Saint Christopher's in River Hills, Wisconsin.

Voting was paused after the third ballot to decide whether all four candidates should remain on the slate. The rules of



"CAN WE GET A REFUND IF THE SERMON ISN'T THAT GOOD?"

order for the convention provided that after the third ballot, any candidate receiving less than 5 percent of the combined lay and clergy vote should be dropped. Longe and Ward had lost support on each successive ballot, and both faced elimination under the rules, but neither withdrew

voluntarily.

A motion to suspend the rule and retain all four candidates failed overwhelmingly. It would have required a two-thirds affirmative vote for passage, but nearly two thirds voted no, leaving only Garno and Williamson in contention.

The clergy in the Diocese of Albany, as a group, appear to be considerably more conservative than the laity — even after the departure of some clergy in the wake of Love’s resignation. This is the opposite of the apparent pattern in the American dioceses of the church as a whole, where more than 90 percent of bishops diocesan support same-sex marriage.

In the ill-fated elections last year in the Diocese of Florida, the laity supported the conservative candidate more strongly than the clergy. The Rev. Charlie Holt won by a comfortable margin in the lay order but barely cleared the majority threshold in the clergy order. A church court criticized the integrity of the election process, and Holt’s election was nullified in July after he fell short of receiving consent from a majority of bishops with jurisdiction and standing committees.

If Williamson does receive the necessary consents, he will be consecrated early in 2024. No date has been announced.

The Diocese of Albany is one of six dioceses in the state of New York, comprising more than 100 parishes and missions spread across an area larger than the state of Massachusetts.

*CNI - The Diocese of Albany and the Diocese of Down & Dromore had a link of almost two decades with mutual visitation of bishops, clergy and laity.*

## **New report reveals nearly a quarter of UK shopping basket at high risk from climate change**

**Research by Christian Aid finds that a significant portion of the fruit, vegetables, pulses and meat products used by households in the UK, Italy and Germany originate from countries vulnerable to the climate crisis - 22%, 23%, and 15%, respectively.**

Bananas, grapes, avocados, coffee and tea are among staples of UK shopping baskets in the firing line as climate impacts bite.

Experts and charities, including Green Alliance and the Fairtrade Foundation, warned action is needed. Christian Aid is calling on rich countries, including the UK, to finally deliver on their pledge to send \$100billion climate finance to developing countries and close the "adaption gap" to ensure farmers can adapt to the changing climate.

Bananas, grapes, avocados, coffee and tea are among staples of UK shopping baskets in the firing line as climate impacts bite. That's the finding in an analysis by Christian Aid, who mapped key food imports and found a shopping basket of goods likely to be hit as the planet warms.

Researchers focused on households in the United Kingdom, Italy and Germany and found that a significant portion of the fruit, vegetables, pulses and meat products—specifically, 22%, 23%, and 15%, respectively—originate from countries with high climate change vulnerability and low climate readiness levels. The authors warn that further warming would mean more harvest-destroying extreme weather events, leaving consumers facing more price rises and empty shelves.

It comes weeks after the UK Government's five-year adaptation plan warned that climate change threatened the UK's national security and food supplies. Last month National Farmers Union President, Minette Batters, highlighted that climate change was causing havoc with food supplies. She said: "I have never known such volatility in the global food system. Climate change is wreaking havoc on food production across the world, with farmers in Southern Europe literally fighting fires while farmers here are despairing as they now must spend thousands of pounds to dry sodden grain."

This was echoed by Alain-Richard Donwahi, a former Ivory Coast defence minister who led last year's UN Cop15 summit on desertification. He said the impacts of the climate crisis combined with water scarcity and poor farming practices threaten global agriculture.

The findings build on 2022 analysis by UK government advisors the Committee on Climate Change (CCC) which warned "risks are rising for international supply chains" and urged the ministers to raise spending on adaptation and "increase capacity building through its overseas



programmes to improve global capacity for climate resilience, including supply chains.”

A typical UK food shop would see 22% of fruit, vegetables, pulses and meat products coming from high-risk climate change countries, found Christian Aid. More broadly, 8 out of 25 UK’s top import trade partners are countries with high climate vulnerability and low climate readiness. These include Brazil, South Africa, India, Vietnam, Peru, Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire and Kenya - where the UK imports the majority of its tea from.

These goods reflect a 5-day diet typical for a 4-person family from the three countries and underscore the risks consumers face in a world where extreme weather is hitting hard. The report comes after the UN warned the world may tip over the 1.5C warming limit agreed by governments in the coming years, which experts reckon will lead to a spate of more serious extreme weather events.

UK supplies of tomatoes, cucumbers, lettuce, peppers and citrus fruits ground to a halt earlier in 2023 as drought hit parts of Spain and Morocco. Rising temperatures are also hitting olive oil supplies, with Lebanon’s famed olive groves deemed at growing risk.

**Patrick Watt, Christian Aid’s Chief Executive, said:** “The UK may be an island but in an ever more interconnected world we cannot escape the damage caused by climate change. Our record on carbon emissions has helped cause the climate crisis. Farmers in some of the world’s poorest countries are now struggling to cope with droughts, storms and rising temperatures.

"The climate crisis is increasingly disrupting the supply chains of the food in British shopping baskets and risks adding to the cost-of-living crisis. The case for action has never been clearer. The UK Government must work with others to provide the financial support needed to help vulnerable communities adapt to a fast-changing climate."

## In the media

### **British Meat Processors - Northern Ireland Protocol**

British Meat Processors Association say companies may have to stop processing New Zealand Lamb in Northern Ireland and move the business to GB due EU rules under the Windsor Framework

### **Donaldson calls for new air link with US to help supercharge NI economy**

Belfast Telegraph - DUP leader working with envoy to revive routes

Sir Jeffrey Donaldson has said he raised Northern Ireland's lack of flights to and from the US with Special Economic Envoy Joe Kennedy III.

### **Rodney Edwards new-look Impartial Reporter**

"Thanks to the dedication of our team of journalists, photographers, and production staff, I'm excited to unveil the new-look Impartial Reporter! A special investigation



shedding light on the effects of poverty in Fermanagh, our new columnists and a wealth of original journalism.”

Big crowd in Enniskillen for the relaunch of Impartial Reporter - going from strength to strength two years shy of its 200th birthday!

## GRA vote of no confidence 'a bitter blow', says Harris

RTE - Garda Commissioner Drew Harris has said he is very disappointed with the Garda Representative Association's vote of no confidence in his leadership, describing it as "a kick in the teeth" and "a bitter blow".

<https://www.rte.ie/news/ireland/2023/0913/1404953-gra-confidence-vote-harris/>

## Perspective

### **‘...for God all things are possible’ – Caroline Brennan as she prepares for Ordination**

My name is Caroline Brennan and I live in Ballinteer, in Dublin, with my husband David and our son Oscar, who, at the time of writing this article, is very excitedly on the cusp of turning twelve. My home parish is Taney Parish, Dundrum, where I have worshipped for approximately twenty–five years, under the care and guidance of three wonderful rectors: Canon Des Sinnamon, Canon Robert Warren and the current rector, the Reverend Nigel Pierpoint. After my ordination, I will be serving as a full–time deacon in Monkstown parish with Canon Roy Byrne. Caroline Brennan.

Prior to beginning my studies at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute, I was a lawyer and more recently, a civil servant. I specialised in family law for the bulk of my legal career. I was called to the Bar in 1999 and have practised as both a barrister and a solicitor in Dublin. In retrospect, now I can see that, my work with family law clients over the years was God’s way of both nudging me towards and preparing me for, ordained ministry. My family law practice allowed me opportunities to be with people during very challenging times of conflict and upheaval in their lives. As I reflect on that time now, in anticipation of ordination to the diaconate, I



realise that God used my professional life to awaken and refine my calling to ordained ministry. I can see now that I was afforded a kind of God's-eye view of the world— those people I encountered in my professional life, were carefully chosen encounters. They were God-given glimpses into people's lives where

God was always present and at work.

Immediately prior to commencing my ordination training I worked as a civil servant in the areas of administrative law and social justice. Part of this work brought me into contact with juvenile offenders. It gave me an opportunity to gain a deeper insight into many of the unseen inequalities and hardships experienced by so many of our young people in Ireland. I was, on many occasions, so very humbled by the innate wisdom and potential of the young people I met, many of whom had had very little formal education because of their life circumstances.

I was often struck too, by the unmistakable sense of God's presence guiding my work and my conversations.

Part of my work as a civil servant also allowed me the opportunity to meet with refugees and asylum seekers living in direct provision centres and emergency accommodation. God gifted me many encounters with remarkable people living within the refugee and asylum seeker system. I have been blessed to encounter people whose faith in God has remained strong notwithstanding their experiences of such unspeakable trauma and suffering in their home countries. I feel that God has gone to great lengths to reinforce in me a strong sense of compassion and service in all these life experiences.

As I embark upon my deacon intern year in Monkstown parish with Canon Roy Byrne and his ministry team, I am naturally, more than a little mindful of the sheer enormity of the responsibility of responding to God's call. I confess I was equally tentative prior to each of my placements throughout my training. Those placements were in Zion parish, Kiltarnan parish and in the parishes of Sandford and Milltown. Each of those placements transpired to be wonderfully formative and taught me something new about God and about myself.

I am encouraged every day when I contemplate the words of Jesus in the Gospel of St Matthew: '...for God all things are possible'. I begin every day by holding fast to these words. I carry them around in my heart, all day, every day. I do so, because to take every next leap in my faith journey, I know I must trust God completely to lead me and to enable and equip me for what lies ahead.

I cannot do any of this in my own power. I feel excited at the prospect of growing in faith alongside the people of Monkstown parish. I am encouraged by the ongoing

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support and prayers of my family, friends and the parishioners of my home parish and by the unfailing guidance and encouragement of the clergy of Taney Parish, both past and present.

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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# 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](mailto:houstonmckelvey@mac.com)