

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Lighting the Way**

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## Image of the day

### Lighting the Way



**On Sunday morning the clergy and parishioners of St Dorothea's in Gilnahirk were delighted to renew their fellowship with former rector Lord Eames and Lady Christine.**

“We are grateful to them for sharing their many happy memories and for launching our LIGHT THE WAY initiative. We were reminded that not only is our spiritual renewal of paramount importance but that with God, all things are possible.”

The Rector is the Reverend Ken McGrath.  
[<https://stdorotheasgilnahirk.org/>]



People  
and  
places

St  
Patrick's  
Cathedral  
Team  
support  
Temple  
Street  
hospital

**The Verger at St Patrick's Cathedral Dublin, Colette Garry, and her husband Brian were at Temple Street Hospital recently to present a cheque for a whopping €9,237.**

They raised funds through taking part in Hell & Back, hosting a Coffee Morning at the Cathedral, the 4th of July Concert organised by Master of the Music Stuart Nicholson and from the Cathedral matching the funds raised.

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Choosing to support Temple Street was an easy choice for Colette and Brian. When their daughter Sophie was 2 days old she was rushed to Temple St Hospital for emergency surgery to save her life. She had a 5% chance of surviving. Thankfully due to the amazing Drs , Nurses and staff of Temple St Hospital she made full recovery.

Colette and Brian wanted to give back to Temple St for the amazing care they have given Sophie so they took on the Hell & Back challenge in June along with two of Sophie's aunts Geraldine and Emer Garry. Together they formed Sophie's Warrior's. Sophie went to Hell and back now it was the warriors turn.

The Dean of Saint Patrick's, the Very Reverend William Morton, the Clergy, Management and all the Staff are very proud to have supported Colette and her family in raising money for such a worthy cause.

## **Priest-in-Charge of Drumcliffe Union**

**On Friday 8th September 2023, Bishop Michael introduced the Revd Vicki Lynch as Priest-in-Charge of the West Clare parishes of the Drumcliffe Union of Kilfenora, Ennis, Spanish Point and Kilnasoolagh.**

That day was also the Feast of the Birth of Blessed Mary the Mother of the Lord and the set Gospel reading for that feast day was Luke Chapter 1: 46 – 55, the Magnificat. Using Mary as an example, the Revd Dr Christine O'Dowd Smyth took the ministry of women as the theme for her Sermon.



There was full ecumenical representation from local Catholic Priests, Benedictines and lay members, with four Parish Priests representing their parishes. Fr Tom Ryan PP of Ennis recalled that he had been born and raised in Ennis and could remember past Rectors of the parish in his time who were committed to ecumenism and each of them had enjoyed excellent relationships with the local Catholic churches. Fr Tom welcomed Vicki as the first woman to hold the role of Priest in Charge in the parish and looked forward to working with her.

The Revd Stephen Foster from the Methodist church also welcomed Vicki and pointed out that Vicki had spent seven years as a Methodist Minister in Limerick.



Welcoming Vicki back to these parishes, Diocesan Reader, Stephen Fletcher said the Vicki had been ordained in the church of St Columba's, had conducted the marriage of her daughter in the church and was about to baptise her grandson here and this was very much a church she felt connected to. He pointed out that Vicki had been living and working in various ways in the local communities for nearly 30 years, currently working as Chaplain to Bushypark Addiction Treatment Centre in Ennis and also researching a model of lay pastoral care with the West Clare community and the RC parishes of Mullagh and Miltown Malbay.

He said how delighted and relieved the parishes were when they heard that Vicki was returning to these parishes, and he warmly welcomed her home!

Report by Stephen Fletcher, DCO TLK



## New chaplains for University College Cork

Bishop of Cork and Ross Fintan Gavin and Fr Ger Dunne, Catholic chaplain to University College Cork, as they welcome the arrival of four Focus missionaries to the chaplaincy team.

Pictured (from left) are: Presentation Bro. Martin Kenneally, Miriam Goulding (UCC Chaplaincy), Fr Ger Dunne OP, Aine Lee (Focus), Eva Conroy (Focus), Bishop Fintan Gavin, Sheila Kelleher (UCC Chaplaincy), Brendan Keenan (Focus) and Alanna Keenan (Focus).



## **Cork priest appointed to top post at the Vatican**

**Pope Francis on September 14 named Irishman Msgr Joseph Murphy as Under Secretary of the Section for Diplomatic Staff at the Vatican's Secretariat of State.** Before this, the 55-year-old Cork native was Head of Protocol at the Vatican. “He had first place in French in Ireland in the leaving certificate. Was one of 86 of us who went into Maynooth in September 1986”





## Heritage in stained glass

The artist Edward Burne-Jones was born in Birmingham 28 August 1833. His glass designs for Morris, Marshall, Faulkner & Co were prolific, including these massed angels in the east window at Ugley, Essex. See -

<http://simonknott.co.uk/essexchurches/ugley.htm>

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## **Sunday evening services in Union Theological College Chapel**

**You are warmly invited to term-time Sunday evening services in Union Theological College Chapel, arranged by the College Chaplaincy, beginning on Sunday 1st October at 6pm (refreshments served from 5:30pm), DV.**

These services are open to students and staff from QUB, SUC, UTC, and elsewhere,

indeed, to anyone in the area seeking:

a Welcome that is meaningful,  
Worship that is Reformed and contextual,  
Word - teaching that is faithful and helpful.

For more information, contact Rev. Nigel Craig (Presbyterian Chaplain to Queen's University Belfast, Stranmillis University College, and Union Theological College). [ncraig@presbyterianireland.org](mailto:ncraig@presbyterianireland.org)

## **News reports**

### **World Faiths to run pavilion at COP28**

**Faiths are being formally recognised as essential contributors to the December 2023 United Nations COP28 climate conference in Dubai.**

The UN Environment Programme has encouraged partnerships with faith-based organisations to host the first faiths pavilion at a climate Conference of Parties (COP).

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This space will highlight the role of religious perspectives and values in addressing the climate crisis.

Pope Francis met privately with the Secretary-General of the Muslim Council of Elders and the Special Representative of the United Arab Emirates Presidency in May to discuss the crucial contribution of faith communities. Faiths ran a pavilion at the December 2022 UN COP conference on Biodiversity.

**Rabbi Yonatan Neril, Founder & Executive Director of The Interfaith Center for Sustainable Development writes:**

I am pleased to share with you that The Interfaith Center for Sustainable Development (ICSD) is co-organizing the first-ever robust Faith Pavilion at a UN climate conference, for COP 28 in Dubai, in collaboration with the Muslim Council of Elders, UN Environment Program's Faith for Earth, and other partners. It will offer a range of programming each day of COP 28, from Nov. 30 to Dec. 12, 2023. We are planning to hold 60 sessions at the Faith Pavilion, and additional religion and ecology sessions will be held at other Pavilions and venues.

The Pavilion will promote the active involvement of religious leaders and communities around the world curbing climate change. Faith leaders have a key role to play in addressing climate change and climate justice, which requires deep transformation within society. Given the influence of religious leaders on religious people around the world, the advocacy and action of religious leaders can increase awareness of the urgency of climate action and inspire

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behavioral changes based on moral and spiritual responsibility to curb climate change.

At COP 28 in Dubai, we are working to significantly increase the presence of high-level religious leaders, and at other COPs thereafter. We have also hired a UK-based PR firm to further the communications reach of interfaith engagement at COP 28.

I would also like to share with you this blog post, published today and written by ICSD's longtime board chair, David Miron Wapner. As he wrote, "I strive to do my utmost to meet our common challenge. None of us can do it alone, but each positive act we each perform leads to our collective success."

Following the record flooding in Libya, Greece, and Turkey, we seek your support in elevating the voices of rabbis, priests, ministers, imams, swamis, and monks from around the world who are calling for transformation in human behaviour in order to preserve life on this planet, God's creation. You can help this effort by clicking here to donate.

We will only secure the future of our planet for the next generation when all of us collectively begin to think differently about what we eat, what we buy, and how we live. That shift in mindset is a spiritual challenge to live in God's image, so we are uniquely positioned to shape this public dialogue. With your help, we can make this a reality.

LINK - The Interfaith Center for Sustainable Development:  
<https://interfaithsustain.com/>

## Pope to visit Marseille

**Pope Francis will make a two-day visit to the southern French city of Marseille on Friday and Saturday, to close the 'Mediterranean Meetings' of bishops and young people from across the Mediterranean taking place on 17-24 September 2023.**

Speaking during the Angelus on Sunday, the Pope called the gathering "a beautiful initiative," noting it "winds its way through important Mediterranean cities, bringing together ecclesial and civil leaders to promote paths of peace, collaboration and integration around the mare nostrum, with special attention to the phenomenon of migration."

"It represents a challenge that is not easy, as we see also from the chronicles of these days, but which must be faced together."

"This is essential for the future of all," which "will only be prosperous if it is built on fraternity, putting human dignity and concrete people first, especially the most needy."

The Marseilles visit will be Pope Francis' 44th Apostolic Journey abroad.

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## In the media

### New NI Children's Commissioner

The News Letter reports that the new children's commissioner has praised the "energy, intelligence and enthusiasm" of children in Northern Ireland.

Chris Quinn formally took up the position of Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People (NICCY) yesterday.

Mr Quinn has more than 25 years of experience working in the community sector, including serving as the Director of the NI Youth Forum since 2008.

He is the fourth commissioner to be appointed since the establishment of NICCY in 2003. Speaking about his appointment, Chris said: "I am delighted today to get started as Children's Commissioner. I have great admiration and respect for the office and the work of my predecessors Koulla Yiasouma, Patricia Lewsley-Mooney and Nigel Williams.

"The cost-of-living crisis and lack of an executive in Northern Ireland is exacerbating existing problems for young people in mental health, homelessness, education and poverty. These are some of the issues that I hope to draw attention to and encourage positive and lasting change in."

## **Seismic storm needed to get Stormont return by DUP**

News Letter reports The UK Government needs to produce something “seismic” to persuade the DUP to return to power-sharing in Northern Ireland, a senior party figure has said. Former leader Edwin Poots said what was on the table at present was “nowhere near” enough to convince his party to end its blockade on devolution at Stormont. The party says the deal struck by the EU and UK to reform the protocol – the Windsor Framework – does not sufficiently address its concerns and has made clear it will not countenance a return to devolution until the Government provides further assurances, by way of legislation, over Northern Ireland’s place within the UK internal market.

## **IRA Birmingham pub victims in Belfast**

TUV hosts event at Belfast City Hall for victims of the IRA Birmingham pub bombings

## **Libya flood**

The UN says more than 10,000 people are still missing and 11,300 confirmed dead after the collapse of two dams. In one town outside Marrakech, the recent earthquake has left buildings so unsafe almost the entire population is living in tents. But people retain faith in Moroccan solidarity and hospitality.

## **Russell Brand**

UK broadcasters the BBC and Channel 4 are urgently looking into claims raised in reports accusing the comedian

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and actor of rape, sexual assaults and emotional abuse. Brand denies the allegations and says his relationships were "always consensual".

## **Boris Johnson**

UK government officials were so concerned about the former prime minister's conduct in office they raised the matter with Buckingham Palace.



## **Lough Neagh: Environmentalists hold 'wake' after algal blooms**

BBC - Dozens of protesters are taking part in a 'wake' for the UK's largest fresh water lake, Lough Neagh, to highlight their fears that the lough is dying.



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<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-66835897>

## **Irish university A-level criteria 'disadvantaging NI applicants'**

BBC - The treatment of A-levels in the Republic of Ireland's university admissions system is disadvantaging students from Northern Ireland, a new study suggests.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-66838610>

## **Jewish Voice for Labour steps up pressure on Keir Starmer**

BBC - Campaign group Jewish Voice for Labour (JVL) has stepped up pressure on Sir Keir Starmer over its claim that their members have been unfairly discriminated against by the party.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-66753637>

# **Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books**

## **Rocky Tots supported by MindMatters C of I programme**

Rocky Tots, in Castlerock, is the local parish church's parent/carer and toddler group, creating a point of contact where people can be signposted to other support as appropriate. A group where people can feel safe and included, as well as making new friends and connections across the community.

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Its fantastic work has been supported by the MindMatters COI programme, generously funded by Benefact Trust. You can join the MindMatters team (and many similar projects), See Change and the Archbishop of Canterbury as guest speaker in Dublin on Friday, 20th October, for our conference. Book now for FREE!

To find out more, please go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mindmatters-coi-conference-tickets-600321837777>

## **Pilgrimage unpacked by Archbishop of York**

Archbishop Stephen gave a talk at Carlisle Cathedral this week entitled: Things that I learned on a very long walk – Pilgrimage unpacked. His talk follows in full at:

<https://www.archbishopofyork.org/speaking-and-writing/sermons/things-i-learned-very-long-walk-pilgrimage-unpacked>

## **Apply now for C of I Certificate in Christian Theology and Practice**

Do you want to learn more about the Christian faith, the Bible and theology while studying alongside others who are preparing to serve Christian congregations here in Ireland? The Certificate in Christian Theology and Practice is accepting applications now for a year-long course beginning this autumn. Registered students earn a certificate through the Church of Ireland Theological Institute and accredited by Trinity College Dublin. The programme is open to interested adults with a minimum of Secondary School completion or equivalent. For more information and to apply go to <https://www.theologicalinstitute.ie/exploring-ministry/study/certificate-in-christian-theology-and-practice> or email [admin@theologicalinstitute.ie](mailto:admin@theologicalinstitute.ie) with queries.

# **Church News Ireland**

## Perspective

### Take My Yoke Upon You: Prayer by Methodist Church President

Each month, the Reverend David Turtle, President of the Methodist Church in Ireland, is introducing a theme (along with some helpful resources) focussing in on one of the practices of Jesus, encouraging local churches to explore this practice together.

**At services a few weeks ago, I teased a congregation about how aware they were of the theme which I believe God has led me to this year. Drawing on the words of Jesus in Matthew 11:29, my prayer is that as wholehearted followers of Jesus, we might learn to more fully walk in the way of Jesus, by more fully taking His yoke upon us.**

One of the ways we do that as individuals and as followers of Jesus together is to open ourselves to being 'trained' in the way of Jesus through practices which we know Jesus engaged in. Of course, I'm not saying anything new in emphasising the value of spiritual practices as a 'means of grace' in seeing our daily lives being formed more and more into the likeness of Jesus. That message is as old as the Church itself and is part of our Methodist DNA. Yet I do have a deep desire that we together as a Connexion might rediscover, develop and experiment with some of these practices in the coming months, and so experience more fully the 'easiness' of His yoke.



[IRISHMETHODIST.ORG/LIVING-WHOLEHEARTEDLY](https://IRISHMETHODIST.ORG/LIVING-WHOLEHEARTEDLY)

As an entirely uncreative means of doing this, my hope is that we can focus our thinking, doing and experimentation on one practice each month. That idea in itself is a bit of a nonsense for most spiritual practices, in that, embedding these type of rhythms takes time and works best when shaped around the uniqueness of each of us as individuals and groups of Jesus followers. It's certainly an inadequate

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approach for the focus the month of September which is prayer.

Prayer is something which we could both separate into a multitude of different spiritual practices and which is also what intertwines and holds together each and every practice. At its heart, prayer is communicating with God, which is central to being formed in the way of Jesus. Robert Mulholland describes Christian spiritual formation as “a process of being formed in the image of Christ for the sake of others”; prayer (in all forms) is absolutely core to that. Francis Schaeffer writes that the heart of spirituality is “we are to love God, we are to be alive to Him, we are to be in communion with Him, in this present moment of history.”

Some additional prayer resources are below to help churches and individuals explore and experiment. Further resources for the practices we will consider: Scripture, Sabbath, Service & Generosity, Solitude & Silence, Simplicity, Fasting, Worship & Sacraments, Community & Celebration) will appear on the [Living Wholeheartedly](#) page throughout the year.

Please do look here and draw on other resources you may have this month, but most importantly, seek to develop daily practices of prayer which allow us together to be more and more aware that we live each moment in the presence of God.

<https://irishmethodist.org/living-wholeheartedly/september-prayer>

# 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)