

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Mothers' Union Annual meeting York

Image of the day

Mothers' Union Annual meeting in York



June Butler, All Ireland MU President (left), with World President Sheran Harper (third left) at York Minster

MU representatives from Ireland and from throughout the Anglican Communion met in York last Friday.

After business sessions in the morning and afternoon members processed from the Barbican Conference Centre



to York Minster for Evensong at which the Archbishop of York was the preacher.

York Minster was packed with Mothers' Union members

The Bible lessons were read by Worldwide President of the MU, Sheran Harper from Guyana and

the York Provincial Trustee Catherine Hilton.

Amongst those attending from the C of I were All-Ireland President June Butler, Past All-Ireland Presidents Phyllis Grothier and Ruth Mercer, Heather Ellis, Norma Bell, Geraldine Montgomery, Cathy Doig, Roberta McKelvey, Leslie Bayley, and Jennifer McWhirter.

The Archbishop of York told a packed York Minster that the Mothers Union throughout the world made a massive



The Archbishop of York, Most Rev Dr Stephen Cottrell with World President Sheran Harper and members before the service in York Minster

contribution improving a wide range of issues which was of the essence of the Gospel. The range of issues included education, medicine, social welfare and spiritual commitment.



The congregational singing was outstanding and especially the final hymn, “Now thank we all our God”



People and places





THE CHURCH LEADERS GROUP (IRELAND)

requests the pleasure of your presence
at an ecumenical prayer service to commemorate
the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement

Thursday, 28 September 2023
10:00 a.m.

Waldensian Church at Piazza Cavour
Via Marianna Dionigi 59, 00193 Roma

Co-presiders for the service include

H.E. Archbishop Eamon Martin

Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All-Ireland (Catholic Church)

The Most Rev. John McDowell

Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All-Ireland (Church of Ireland)

Rev. David Turtle

President of the Methodist Church in Ireland

Rt Rev Dr Sam Mawhinney

Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

The Rt Revd Andrew Forster

*Bishop of Derry and Raphoe
and President of the Irish Council of Churches*

The Irish Church Leaders Group are coming to Rome in the coming week, to mark the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement. There is much for which to give thanks, but still much to be prayed for.



Wonderful evening of worship with the Kerygma Choir and Greg Downes in St. Jude's, Belfast

The Gospel was shared in words and music. Kerygma will reprise their programme on Thursday 28 September in St Paul's Castlewella & Bryansford Parish Church. This is a FREE event, no booking necessary.



New Parish Readers for Mid Belfast

At a service held in St Matthew's Parish Church, Shankill, on Sunday September 17, four new Parish Readers were commissioned for the Rural Deanery of Mid Belfast.

They are: Jacqueline Carrigan, for Matthew's; Frank Dillon for Belfast St Stephen's, St Luke's and St Michael's; Gillian Spencer Nicholl for St Mark's, Ballysillan; and Penny Purdy for the Parish of Immanuel.

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Bishops encourage prayer across Ireland for Synod on Synodality in Rome

The Standing Committee of the Irish Bishops' Conference met this week in Columba Centre of Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth.

The main item for discussion was the forthcoming universal Synod on Synodality, which will take place from 4 - 29 October in Rome, on the theme: 'For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission'.

Bishops reflected that, "The Synodal Process is about conversion, and we pray that all participants will be open in mind and heart to what the Holy Spirit wants of each individually, and collectively.

"In light of Pope Francis' comment that 'without prayer there will be no Synod', we encourage people of faith to unceasingly pray to God over the coming weeks at daily and weekend Masses, at home, and in religious communities, to intercede for Pope Francis and for all members of the Synodal Assembly."

Prayer texts have been made available to parishes as well as to the Association of Leaders of Missionaries and Religious of Ireland for the benefit of its members. Bishop Brendan Leahy of Limerick, and Bishop Alan McGuckian SJ of Raphoe, will represent the Irish Church at this global assembly.

In October 2021 Pope Francis convened the whole Church in Synod. Since that time there have been gatherings of the faithful at parish, national and continental levels. Following next month's universal gathering in Rome for the Synod on Synodality, a second universal gathering of this Synod will also take place during October 2024.

The aim of the Synodal Process is to provide an opportunity for the entire People of God to discern together how to move forward towards being a more synodal Church in the long-term.

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Church of Ireland launches humanitarian appeal for Libya

The Church of Ireland has launched a disaster appeal to its parishes in response to the catastrophic flooding in Libya, with an initial £10,000 donation sent from its central Bishops' Appeal funds, Billy Kennedy writes in the News Letter.

The Libyan floods, which were caused by an enormous Mediterranean storm, focused on the city of Derna where almost 4,000 people are known to have died and an estimated 9,000 are missing after huge torrents of rain and debris swept away entire districts.

Some 37,000 people in flood-affected areas have been displaced by the storm. This number highlights the immediate humanitarian crisis for survivors now facing needs of clean water, food, shelter, utensils and clothing, and into the coming months and years – rebuilding, reuniting, and acquiring safe shelter.

The Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal will channel all funds through Christian Aid, whose officials are working with Dan Church Aid (DCA), its ACT Alliance partner, who have had an established presence in Libya since 2011.

This charity provides a confidence that those on the ground have a clear understanding of the situation and how money raised in Church of Ireland parishes can be used most effectively. “We are grateful for the confidence that this gives

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us that all money raised will be used to benefit those in greatest need,” said a church spokesman..

Libya has a very complex political process, with power struggles leading to two opposing governments in the country and this has compounded the challenge of getting aid and support into the country.

DCA is providing medical support, helping to establish shelters to host homeless families, and distributing basic



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items such as blankets and bedding, sanitation and hygiene items and other essentials to these people who have lost everything.

Church of Ireland primate Archbishop John McDowell, calling on his parishes to support the appeal, said: “I thank those involved in Bishops’ Appeal for their prompt reaction in making this provision and I would encourage the members of the church in Ireland to continue to give generously.”

Dublin archbishop Dr Michael Jackson added: “The plight of children, women and men in Libya is unthinkable. It is also a reality. and members of the Church of Ireland working through Bishops’ Appeal have always been generous in responding to devastation and need. I encourage all to pray for and contribute to this appeal.”

Parishes across the 11 Church of Ireland dioceses, north and south, are asked to collect funds for the appeal for the next few weeks, and send all donations directly to Bishops’ Appeal, Church of Ireland House, Rathmines, Dublin 6, D07 CF67.

Church of Ireland Bishops’ Appeal is registered as a charity in Northern Ireland and in the Irish Republic.

Those wishing to give with additional gift aid, or tax relief on gifts over £200, will find relevant information – along with an option to give online – at this link:

<https://bishopsappeal.ireland.anglican.org/give>

Rev. Canon John McKegney

The family of the late Canon McKegney write in Funeral Times

McKegney – 22nd September 2023 (Peacefully) at his home, 2 Magheramenagh Gardens, Portrush, Rev. Canon John Wade McKegney, Born 1947, Deacon 1972, Priest 1973, dearly loved partner of Karen and husband of the late Carol, beloved father of Patrick and Ruth, dear father-in-law of Ashleigh and Stuart, devoted grandfather of Finnian, Joshua, Erin and Gabriel, dear brother-in-law of Hilary and brother of the late Peter.

Friends welcome to attend a receiving Service in Holy Trinity Parish Church, Portrush on Monday 25th September at 4-30pm.

Funeral service in St Mark's Parish Church, Armagh on Tuesday 26th September at 2-00pm followed by interment in the adjoining Churchyard.

House private.

Family flowers only please donations in lieu if desired for Christian Aid and Laurel House (Cancer Unit, Antrim Area Hospital) payable to K G Cheevers and Son, Funeral Directors, 28 Dobbin Street, Armagh, BT61 7QQ.

Lovingly remembered by his sorrowing family and the entire family circle.



Canon McKegney celebrated Holy Communion in Portrush parish. Church on the 50th anniversary of his ordination as a priest

Tributes to Canon McKegney included the following from **Rev Dr Bert Tosh** former head of religious broadcasting at BBC N Ireland - “ Having known John for 60+ years, since Foyle College days, I am extremely sorry to hear this. I produced a number of Broadcast services with him from Armagh and always enjoyed his company and crack. He

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was properly proud of his family and may God give you comfort and support at this time”.

Canon McKegney was a former president of the Railway Preservation Society of Ireland.

One friend, **David Walsh**, posting in Irish Railways Present and Past and other Interesting Railways, wrote: “John was many things to many people. To many of us he was very much committed both to the betterment of current public transport and celebrating its past, including that of his former employer, Londonderry and Lough Swilly Railway, where he worked as a bus conductor.

“He was a committed and respected clergyman in the Church of Ireland, with whom he served faithfully in many parishes in Northern Ireland and as a Synodsman.

“He was also a community man, who was approachable and a firm friend to many, and never afraid to help, support and say his bit.

“Lastly, he was a friend to many and forever spoke with a smile on his face.

“To Patrick, Ruth and Karen, and to his many colleagues and friends, we send our thoughts and prayers at this time.”

Downpatrick and County Down Railways described him as “a true friend of railways and railway preservation across Ireland”.

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In a social media post, the organisation stated: “John latterly served as the chairman of the Railway Preservation Society of Ireland, leading the organisation through some very difficult times during the pandemic.

“Prior to this he had volunteered in various capacities, from making use of his own trademark white beard in a special December role to being the most professional guest presenter in the Belfast winter meetings, due to his infectious enthusiasm and his lifetime of practice at public speaking and keeping people awake from the pulpit!

“John was especially knowledgeable about the Armagh Disaster and appeared many times on television talking about it down the years. He was also not averse to diesel trains, even being spotted at a Downpatrick diesel gala on at least one occasion, and was very fond of the 80 class, and delighted that we managed to preserve two of them.

“Generous with his time, his spirit, and in sharing his collection of photographs from the old days of railways and his native Derry, John was widely respected across all heritage railway organisations in Ireland and beyond. He will be sadly missed by everyone, he was one of life’s true gentlemen.”

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In the media

Barbados attacks Church's £7m slavery reparation offer from USPG

Daily Telegraph - A Church of England charity has offered £7 million in slavery reparations, prompting Barbados to criticise the “unilateral” decision of how much compensation should be paid.

Earlier this month, the United Society Partners in the Gospel (USPG) committed £7 million as a “reparations project” for its ownership of the Codrington Estate, once the site of one of the largest Barbados sugar plantations.

The Anglican mission agency, then known as the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, profited from slave labour on the Codrington Estate between 1710 and 1838, while operating as the Church of England's primary mission agency in North and Central America.

The announcement of the £7 million fund to be spent in Barbados over the next 10 to 15 years was hailed by the USPG as making amends for “its disgraceful links to the slave trade”.

However, representatives from the Barbadian government's national task force on reparations have criticised the payments on the grounds that the USPG did not negotiate with them.

The move comes after The Telegraph revealed earlier this month that Caribbean nations are to formally demand slavery reparations from the Royal family, Lloyds of London and the Church of England for their role in the slave trade and plantation system.

David Comissiong, deputy chairman of the national task force on reparations, said: “We need to point out to the Church of England and all similar institutions that reparations are not about them unilaterally determining what compensation they are prepared to make.”

Trevor Prescod, a Barbados MP, said: “The Church believes that it can do whatever it wants to do, without any respect to the agencies that the government has set up.”

Duncan Dormor, the general secretary of USPG, said: “USPG is deeply ashamed of our past links to slavery. We recognise that it is not simply enough to repent in thought and word, but we must take action, action, working in partnership with Codrington where the descendants of enslaved persons are still deeply impacted by the generational trauma that came from the Codrington plantations.”

A spokesman for the USPG said: “The project has been developed in close partnership with the Codrington Trust in Barbados, who own and manage the estates. Indeed, the programme proposals have come entirely from the Codrington Trust.”

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Courtesy The Daily Telegraph - Eric Williams in Bridgetown, Barbados and Gabriella Sterling in London

University ranked 814th forced to drop ‘world-leading’ claim

Daily Telegraph - Ulster University will replace advertisements describing it as “world-leading” after complaints saying it was misleading were made to the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA), James Crisp reports.

The posters, aimed at attracting new students, said “You are only 10 minutes away from a world-leading university”, and were put up on approach routes to it in Coleraine, Northern Ireland.

One complaint to the regulator accused the university of “blatantly misleading” the public and “plainly false advertising” because it does not lead lists of the world’s top universities.

‘This advertisement does strike me as massively misleading and a naked attempt to deceive’

Ulster is listed in the 600-801 bracket in the Times Higher Education World University ranking, which rates Queen’s University Belfast joint 198th and Oxford first.

The US News puts Ulster University in 814th place in its global ranking, while The Times rates it as the 40th best in the UK.

The Belfast Telegraph reported that a former member of the university's staff made a complaint to the advertising regulator about the posters. "The posters first went up at least two months ago, possibly earlier," he told the newspaper. "I did contact Ulster University about them, but was literally laughed at down the phone," he said.

"This does strike me as massively misleading and a naked attempt to deceive. And in agreeing to replace the advertising, the university has effectively admitted to this."

The ASA said: "We spoke with Ulster University, and they provided assurance that they would amend the advert to make the claim clear and that they wouldn't exaggerate the evidence. As such, we considered the matter closed."

Ulster University is the largest university in Northern Ireland. A spokesman said: "There has not been any formal investigation nor sanction from the ASA... The university is, however, in the process of replacing this ad. The 'world-leading' reference in this ad was based on a number of factors and rankings, and particularly the Research Excellence Framework 2021 rating.

"That independent expert reviewer specifically defines that '97 per cent of Ulster University's research environment is world leading or internationally excellent'."

WHERE ARE WE WITH THIS SYNOD?

A seminar with Julieann Moran, Secretary General of the Synodal Pathway in Ireland and Fr. Gerry O'Hanlon SJ, theologian and writer

Saturday 30th September @ 2.30pm

**Belfast Jesuit Centre, Donegall Street BT1 2FL
(Old School Building beside St Patrick's)**

followed by supper at 6pm and for those who wish, the prayer vigil 7pm at St Patrick's

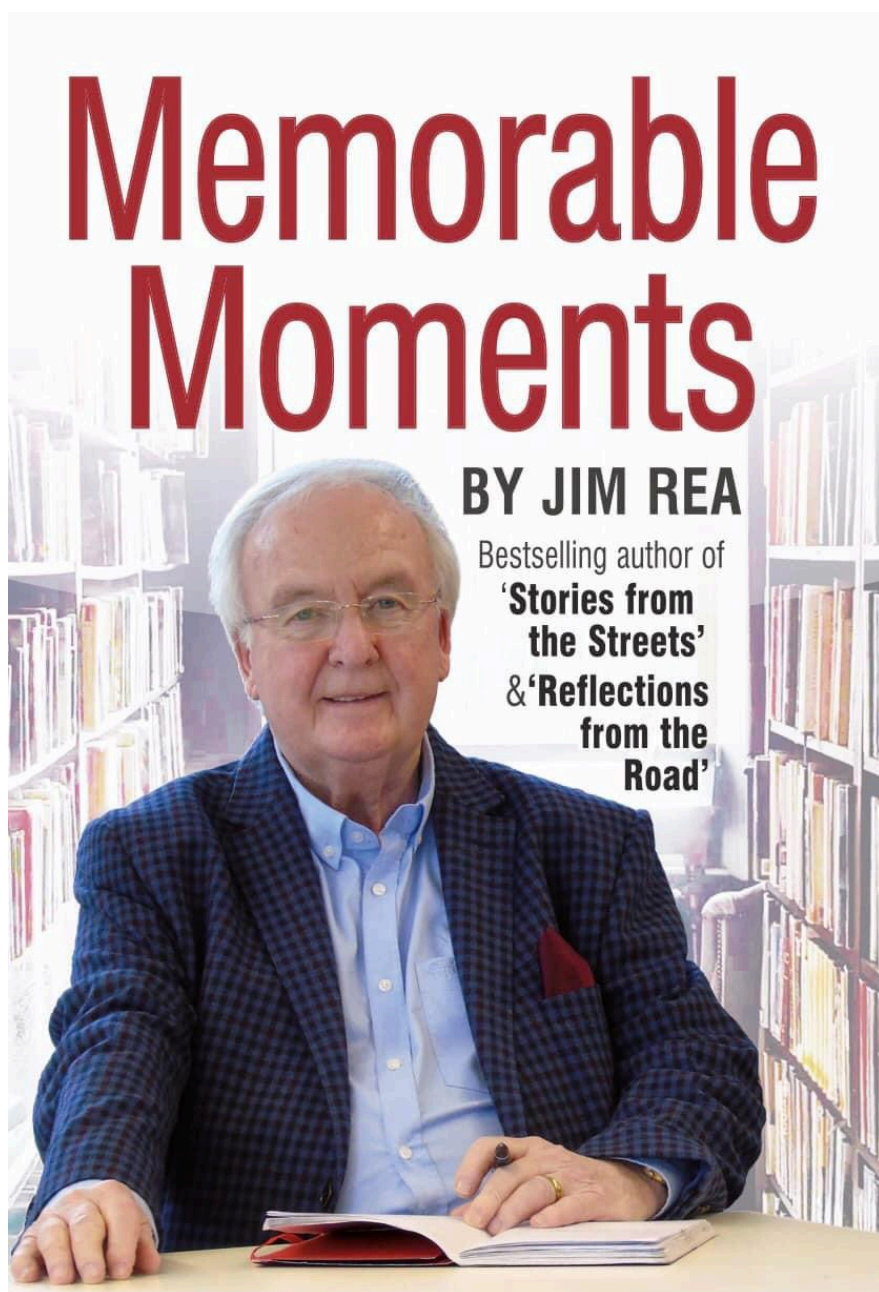
At an afternoon seminar in the Belfast Jesuit Centre, Donegall Street, Julieann Moran and Fr. Gerard O'Hanlon SJ will explore what the synodal process is about, where we are in the process and what we have to hope for in its outcomes.

This will be followed by supper in the Jesuit Centre at 6pm (donation on the day) and the Taizé Prayer Vigil at St Patrick's, Donegall Street.



**Book your place by contacting the Jesuit Centre at
belfastjesuitcentre@gmail.com or Tel: 0770 631 6319**

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



Memorable Moments by Rev Jim Rea - Book launch...

Yesterday Sunday
24th September at
Sydenham
Salvation Army
with an evening of
praise.

Thursday 28th
September
7.00pm - 9.00pm
at East Belfast
Mission.

Monday 2nd
October 8.00pm
at Harvest
Cullybackey
Methodist Church
Saturday 7th

October 11am - 1pm Edenderry Methodist, Portadown

Saturday 14th October 11am - 1pm Shankhill Methodist
Church

Books RRP. £14.95 special price at launch £10.00

All proceeds go to Hosford House, Centenary House, Salvation Army and others supporting vulnerable people.

Seminar on the synodal process

A seminar with Julieann Moran, Secretary General of the Synodal Pathway in Ireland and Fr. Gerry O'Hanlon SJ, theologian and writer - see notice on page 22.

Time: 2.30pm Saturday 30th September (followed by supper at 6pm and for those who wish, the prayer vigil 7pm at St Patrick's).

Belfast Jesuit Centre, Donegall Street BT1 2FL (Old School Building beside St Patrick's).

At an afternoon seminar in the Belfast Jesuit Centre, Donegall Street, Julieann Moran and Fr. Gerard O'Hanlon SJ will explore what the synodal process is about, where we are in the process and what we have to hope for in its outcomes. This will be followed by supper in the Jesuit Centre at 6pm (donation on the day) and the Taizé Prayer Vigil at St Patrick's, Donegall Street.

Book your place by filling in the short form here: <https://forms.office.com/e/PcFA5064B4> or by contacting the Jesuit Centre at belfastjesuitcentre@gmail.com or Tel: 0770 631 6319

New website at Hillsborough Parish

Browse through and see everything going on, listen to last weeks sermon, and much much more.

<https://www.hillsboroughparish.org.uk>

Poem for today

21st September 1870 by Charles Kingsley

Speak low, speak little; who may sing
While yonder cannon-thunders boom?
Watch, shuddering, what each day may bring:
Nor 'pipe amid the crack of doom.'

And yet-the pines sing overhead,
The robins by the alder-pool,
The bees about the garden-bed,
The children dancing home from school.

And ever at the loom of Birth
The mighty Mother weaves and sings:
She weaves-fresh robes for mangled earth;
She sings-fresh hopes for desperate things.

And thou, too: if through Nature's calm
Some strain of music touch thine ears,
Accept and share that soothing balm,
And sing, though choked with pitying tears.

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