

Church News Ireland

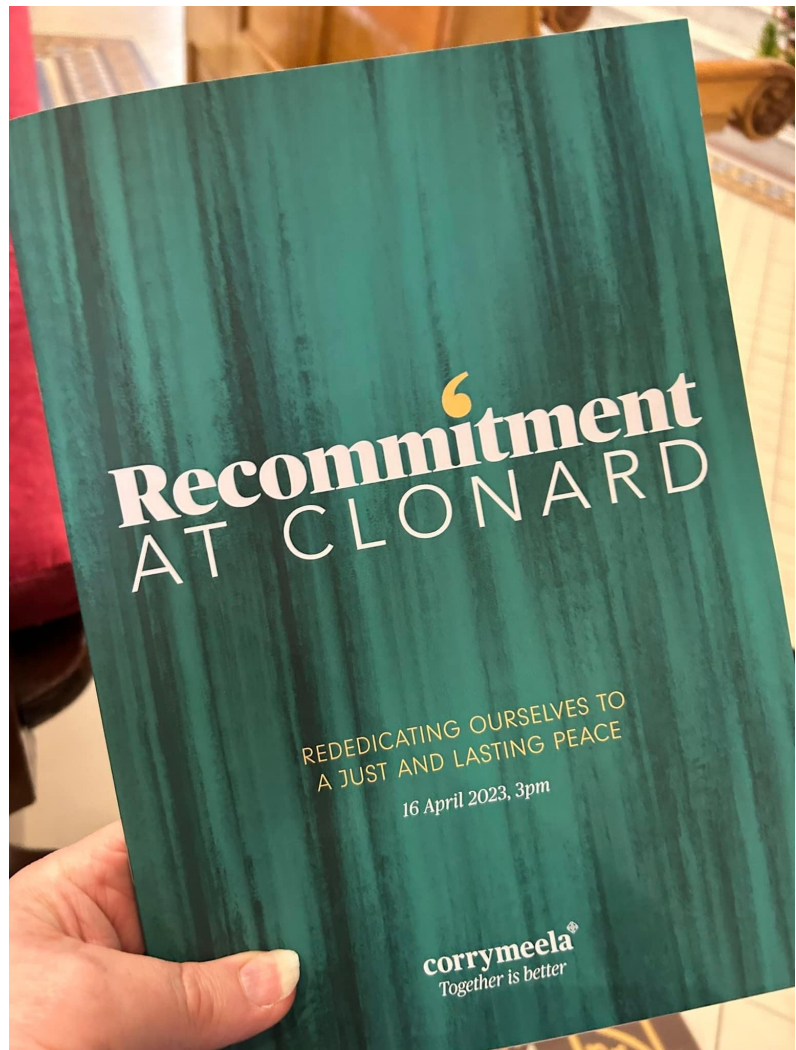


Image of the day – Corrymeela at Clonard Good Friday Agreement recommitment

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Corrymeela at Clonard - Good Friday Agreement recommitment

The Corrymeela Community marked the 25th anniversary of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement by holding a re-dedication to peace service at Clonard on Sunday.



The service reflected on the peacebuilding journey and the life and light which continues to be shared.

On the 25th anniversary of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement, those present we asked to recommit themselves to its underlying principles and to the ongoing need for reconciliation.

Quotes from the Agreement itself resonated in the liturgy.

“We believe we have an opportunity for a new beginning.

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“The tragedies of the past have left a deep and profoundly regrettable legacy of suffering. We must never forget those who have died or been injured, and



their families. But we can best honour them through a fresh start, in which we firmly dedicate ourselves to the achievement of reconciliation, tolerance, and mutual trust, and to the it

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It was the voices of young people which were the most powerful and prophetic protection and vindication of the human rights of all



“We are committed to partnership, equality and mutual respect as the basis of relationships

within Northern Ireland, between North and South, and between these islands.”

It was a gathering attended by a number of significant people like Simon Hoare MP, Joseph Kennedy the US Special Envoy (page 3), the Rev Harold Good and Geraldine Smyth, and the Archbishops of Armagh. See page 11.

However, it was the voices of young people which were the most powerful and prophetic. See page 11

<https://www.corrymeela.org/events/227/peace-matters-25-years-since>

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People and places



Scouts NI Training the Trainer

It was a great weekend at The Dunadry for Train the Trainer. A great chance to network, build new friendships and learn a lot along the way.

It was exciting to see the new Training Team members get validated and deliver training to scouting's amazing volunteers, helping them equip our young people with skills for life

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A huge thank you to The National Lottery Community Fund for providing the funding to allow the delivery of this weekend and Media Training in June.



Thanksgiving for replacement of church roof at Woodvale Methodist

A special Service of Thanksgiving for the replacement of the church roof at Woodvale Methodist Church was held on Sunday morning, led by Rev David Nixon, President of the Methodist Church in Ireland and Mr Tom Wilson, Lay Leader.

Folk joined for lunch in the church hall after with clergy and members of other local churches joining the events following their own morning services.



Fantastic Farmer's Choir at Second Ballyeaston

A thoughtful and inspiring service for rural and farming communities both here and around the world was held on Sunday evening in Second Ballyeaston Presbyterian Church.

Beautiful scripture readings, uplifting hymns and song led by the fantastic Farmer's Choir and an excellent personal insight into the challenges and opportunities for the farming community from David Wright, Northern Editor of the Irish Farmers Journal.



It really was a very special night of fellowship, prayer and thanksgiving. Thanks was expressed to the Church team for all their hard work in organising the service and for their wonderful hospitality. It really was appreciated.

An online version of the service is available on the Church's website so please check it out if you can.

www.ballyeaston.org

Warm welcome to Downpatrick for Fergus Collins

The Editor of BBC's Countryfile Magazine, was walking Saint Patrick's Way last week for a feature in the major publication.

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Here he is stamping his passport.

His guide was Duane Fitzsimons of the St Patrick's Centre.

The Centre is hosting A Private Audience with Hugo Duncan on Thursday 20th April at 7.30pm. Tickets are £10.00 Call



02844619000.

www.saintpatrickcentre.com

Carnmoney parish breakfast after sunrise service at the zoo

A fabulous early morning breakfast was provided at Carnmoney for at least 80 people returning from the ecumenical Easter sunrise service at Belfast Zoo.

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A great team got up really early to make it happen!





Archbishops share the light at Clonard

In Clonard Monastery yesterday hundreds joined Archbishop John McDowell, Archbishop Eamon Martin and US Consul Paul Narain in recommitting themselves to sharing the light of peace today.

As we share light with one another, and bear the light of hope and courage into the world, we rededicate ourselves to the achievement of reconciliation, tolerance and mutual trust, to the protection and vindication of the human rights for all.

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Mrs Jane Wells
MBE DL
represented HM
Lord Lieutenant of
Belfast on the
opening day of
Agreement25 at
Queen's University,
Belfast and
attended the award
of the Clinton civic
leadership medal to
women who have
made a significant
contribution to
peacebuilding with
Lady Trimble.



Clones cultural event remembers patron saint St. Tighernach

St Tighernach's Parish Church stands prominently at The Diamond in Clones and on Tuesday, 4 April it was the focus of a special event to commemorate patron saint of the town.



Pipers from the Graham Memorial Pipe Band Clontibret lead the parade in Clones.

St Tighernach was Bishop of Clogher from 506-549AD and the cultural event marks the anniversary of his death.

Mr Walter Pringle, of Clones Community Forum, organisers, introduced the service in the church where musical items were provided by the Different Keys Community Choir and the Graham Memorial Pipe Band, Clontibret.

There were a number of talks, the first by Anne Corley, from Clones Community Forum on St. Tighernach and the second by local historian, George Knight on St. Erc's Hermitage, Slane.

The Bishop of Clogher, the Right Revd Dr. Ian Ellis gave an Easter homily and made reference to the Christian images of crosses and referred to the High Cross in the centre of Clones which dates from the mid 9th century. Like many



Bishop Ian Ellis giving the address in St. Tighernach's Church.

other crosses it has illustrations of biblical scenes such Daniel in the Lion's Den as well as Adam and Eve.

“Because they are retained today speaks so much for their cultural significance so that people can be inspired to faith,” he said.

Following the church service, the ensemble from Graham Memorial Band led a parade of people dressed as monks carrying lanterns followed by the congregation to the Round Tower graveyard, assembling close to the Sarcophagus, where St Tighernach is said to be buried.

Everyone attending were invited for refreshments in the Cassandra Hand Folk and Famine Centre.

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The ceremony in the graveyard beside the Round Tower in Clones



Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry - in dialogue with Religious News Service

Roxy and Katelyn are joined by the Most. Reverend Michael Curry to talk about the Holy Week liturgy, leading amid deep difference, and Jesus...lots of Jesus.

Sometimes going through the motions is the whole point.

On this episode, which dropped amid Holy Week, Roxy and Katelyn reflect on the beauty, meaning, and mystery they

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have found in the church liturgy. Instead of feeling rote, the rhythms and prayers of the church have become nourishing for us. Kind of like a favourite meal. They are joined by the Most Rev. Michael Curry, the presiding bishop of the



Episcopal Church, the American branch of the Anglican Communion. He talks about his approach to evangelism, his hopes for the church as it could be facing schism, and how he tries to ask 'what would Jesus do?' even when the answer is rather annoying.

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Guest: The Most Rev. Michael Curry is presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church, the first person of colour to serve in the role. He is an author, activist, and appeared on the global stage as he officiated at Prince Harry and Meghan Markle's wedding in 2018.

[<https://religionnews.com/2023/04/06/our-churchiest-episode-ever-presiding-bishop-michael-curry/>]



St Hilda's, Kilmakee - Sunday morning service

Link for Second Sunday of Easter

16th April 2023

https://youtu.be/O_N7XzaWRoc

Merging churches to further the mission of God

An insightful comment and policy from the Methodist Church in England and Wales.

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Many circuits – perhaps most – are grappling with questions around the long-term sustainability of their smaller churches. With the minimum size of a Local Church now twelve, more churches are faced with making discernments about their future: whether and how to merge with another church or churches, and what will happen to their buildings if they do. There is clear guidance in place for the legal process of bringing two or more churches together to become a multi-site Local Church, but how should circuits go about approaching these decisions? And what might a multi-site Local Church look like?

Conversations with lay and ordained leaders who have already gone on this journey with their churches have revealed a number of key principles.

[\[https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/news/the-methodist-blog/merging-churches-to-further-the-mission-of-god/\]](https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/news/the-methodist-blog/merging-churches-to-further-the-mission-of-god/)

Coronation prayer booklets

Prayer booklets are available for those who want to commit to pray for King Charles before his coronation. Beginning on Easter Day through to Coronation Day, the booklet provides a daily theme, reading, reflection, and prayer. Or sign up for emails.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/coronation/churches>

Perspective

St Thomas

The Lord is not looking for perfect Christians; the Lord is not looking for Christians who never doubt and always flaunt a steadfast faith. When a Christian is like that, something isn't right.

No, the adventure of faith, as for Thomas, consists of lights and shadows.

Otherwise, what kind of faith would that be? It knows times of comfort, zeal and enthusiasm, but also of weariness, confusion, doubt and darkness.

The Gospel shows us Thomas' "crisis" to tell us that we should not fear the crises of life and faith. Crises are not sins, they are part of the journey, we should not fear them.

Many times, they make us humble because they strip us of the idea that we are fine, that we are better than others. Crises help us to recognize that we are needy: they rekindle the need for God and thus enable us to return to the Lord, to touch his wounds, to experience his love anew as if it were the first time.

Dear brothers and sisters, is better to have an imperfect but humble faith that always returns to Jesus, than a strong but presumptuous faith that makes us proud and arrogant. Woe to those, woe to them!

(Regina Caeli, II Sunday of Easter, Divine Mercy, 24 April 2022)

Poem for today

St Thomas by Malcolm Guite

We do not know... how can we know the way?"
Courageous master of the awkward question,
You spoke the words the others dared not say
And cut through their evasion and abstraction.

Oh doubting Thomas, father of my faith,
You put your finger on the nub of things

We cannot love some disembodied wraith,
But flesh and blood must be our king of kings.

Your teaching is to touch, embrace, anoint,
Feel after Him and find Him in the flesh.
Because He loved your awkward counter-point
The Word has heard and granted you your wish.

Oh place my hands with yours, help me divine
The wounded God whose wounds are healing mine.

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