

Church News Ireland

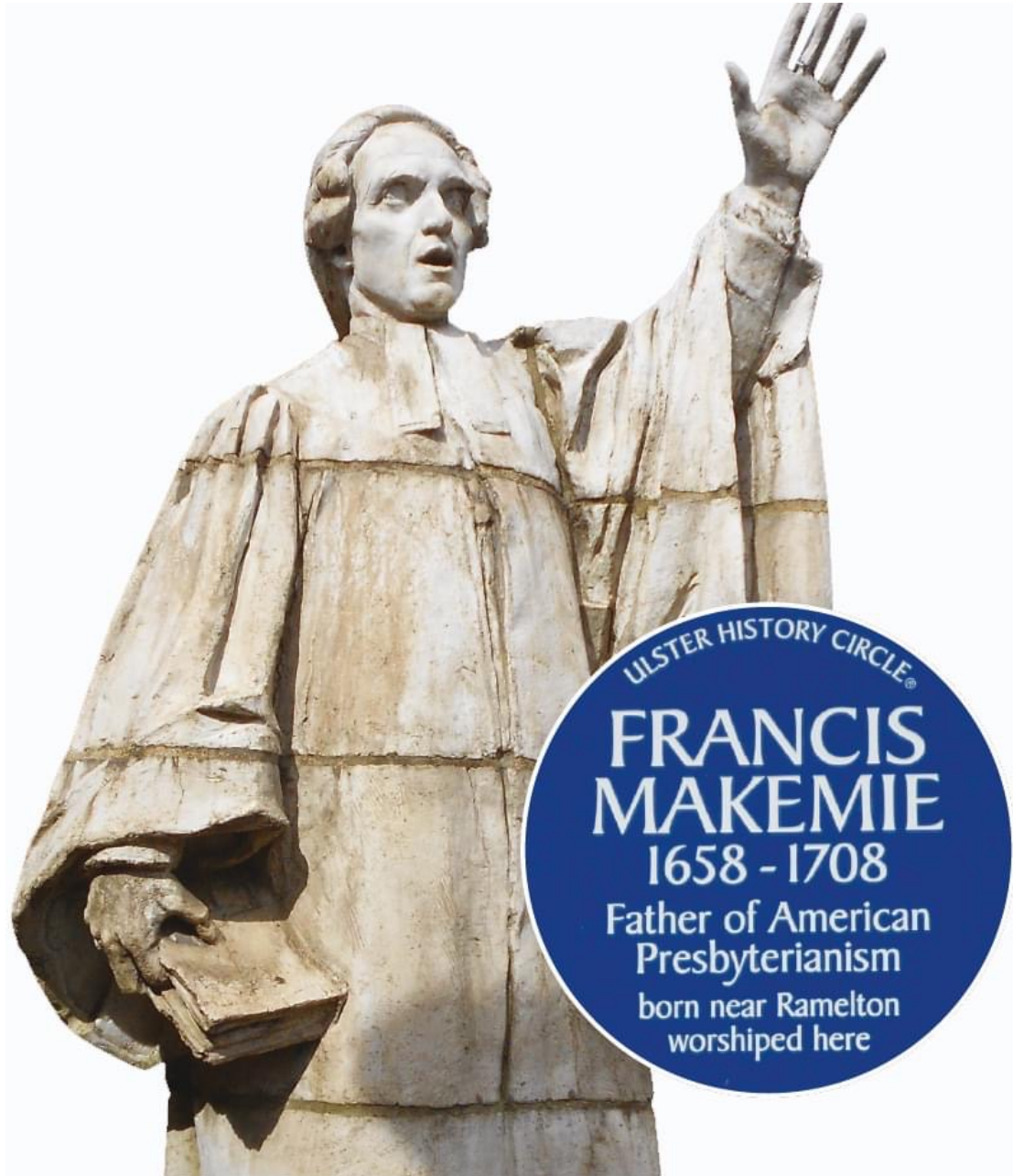


Image of the day – Scots Irish and USA

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Scots Irish and USA - Francis Makemie

Francis Makemie was born in Ramelton, County Donegal, Ireland, in 1658. In February 1676, he enrolled in the University of Glasgow.

He was ordained in Northern Ireland in 1682 by the Presbytery of Laggan at the call for a minister/missionary by Col. William Stevens from Rehoboth, Maryland. Makemie came to the American colonies and traveled in North Carolina, Maryland, Virginia, and New England.

In 1683, Makemie established four Presbyterian congregations, located in Rehobeth, Snow Hill, Princess Anne (Manokin Church) and Salisbury (Wicomico), Maryland. Since Makemie was under the Presbytery of Laggan's direction, these churches often are claimed to be the first Presbyterian churches in America.

“During the 1680s and '90s Makemie had preached and traded in Virginia, Maryland, and the Carolinas while also seeking to unite the various struggling Protestant churches of these areas in a common cause. Anglican attempts to silence him by arrest awakened Makemie to the churches' plight, and, with the help of Increase Mather and other Boston Congregationalists, he resisted the efforts of the Church of England to suppress dissident churches. In 1707 Makemie was acquitted of the charge of preaching on Long Island without a license, and thereafter the provisions of

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Britain's Toleration Act were claimed by all Dissenters in the American Colonies." - Encyclopaedia Britannica

Presbyterian Heritage Center - US site

[<https://phcmontreat.org/bios/Makemie-Francis.htm>]

Francis Makemie of Ramelton – Father of American Presbyterianism, Booklet published by Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland. 2.00 pounds

People and places



THE PRIORY SINGERS

Rejoice in the Lamb

A concert of music by English composers including
Holst, Britten and Chilcott.

TUESDAY 25TH APRIL 2023

Fisherwick Presbyterian Church, Belfast
7.30pm

Tickets £15 (can be booked in advance
or purchased at the door)



Everest climb in aid of Methodist World Development fund

Huge congratulations to Jonah McCrea who has made it to Everest Base Camp.

WDR said, “We are so grateful that Jonah has chosen to fundraise for two of our partners through this epic challenge.

He has raised close to £3,000 already - if you'd like to donate, you can do so here: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/jonah-mccrea2>

“Please pray for Jonah and his dad Ken, as they make their way back down the mountains... Pray for good health, energy and safety.”

Church Brigade leader 'honoured' to be attending King Charles III Coronation



A Carnmoney parishioner and CLCGB leader has spoken of his “disbelief” after receiving an invitation to King Charles III’s Coronation service at Westminster Abbey.

Johnny Conn, a retired teacher now living in Ballyclare, is set to attend the event in London on Saturday, May 6 after recently receiving an invite to the historic occasion.

Mr Conn, who is second in command of the Church Lads’ and Church Girls’ Brigade across Northern Ireland, will travel to the UK Capital on May 5.

Johnny commented: “My initial reaction was one of complete shock. It was so unexpected. I still don’t quite believe it, but feel very privileged to be attending such an historic occasion.



Next month's event will not be the first time the Church Lads' and Church Girls' Brigade officer will have attended a ceremony alongside a member of the Royal Family.

Mr Conn said: "I've not been inside Westminster Abbey, but have been fortunate enough to have attended garden parties at both Buckingham Palace and Hillsborough Castle. I've also been at commemoration services to mark VE Day, occasions when a Royal guest was present.

"In 1980, Her Majesty The Queen reviewed the CLCGB in Windsor Great Park and in 1994 she visited our national headquarters. These were truly special occasions."

Commenting on how "honoured" he is to be representing the uniformed organisation at the key event, Mr Conn added: "I

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feel honoured to be representing the Church Lads' and Church Girls' Brigade. Although not as well known as other youth organisations, it plays an important part in the lives of its members.

"I've been associated with the Brigade since 1970 and am proud to say that I am a former members and current officer.

"This is unquestionably one of the highlights of my time in the CLCGB. So many people in our country have never

North Western District

AN EVENING WITH.....
REV DAVID NIXON

 **THE METHODIST CHURCH**
IN IRELAND

**MCI President
experiences on his
Camino Walk**

**on Friday 21st April 2023
at 7.30pm**

**Omagh Methodist Church
ALL WELCOME!**





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witnessed a coronation and I'm going to be there. I wish Charles III many blessings as King of our great country.”



Inter-Chaplaincy prayer breakfast at Queen's marking GFA 25th

The Catholic, Presbyterian, Methodist and Church of Ireland chaplaincies at Queen's University, Belfast, organised a Prayer Breakfast on Monday.

Student perspectives were given by Inez Murray, Bethany Burrows and Lucas Todd.



An Act of Commitment was led by Chaplaincy students in which participants committed themselves to responsible living and faithful service by striving for all that builds a peaceful society, to seek to heal the wounds of the past and to work for a just society for all.



Northern Irish mountaineer was Duke of Edinburgh's Award supporter

The Northern Ireland Centre of the D of E Award said yesterday, “We were devastated this morning to learn of the death of Northern Irish mountaineer Noel Hanna whilst descending the world’s 10th highest mountain, Annapurna in Nepal.

Noel and his wife Lynne presented Gold Awards for DofE on a number of occasions and in 2012 Noel took a DofE flag to the top of Everest. Noel scaled Everest 10 times and he and Lynne were the first married couple to scale Everest from both the North and South sides. Noel’s down to earth



manner and incredible expertise were an inspiration to everyone he met.

“All our thoughts are with Noel’s wife Lynne and their families at this very sad time,” The Northern Ireland Centre said.

News reports

Gafcon leader calls on Archbishop of Canterbury to repent

In his presidential address to the fourth Global Anglican Futures Conference (GAFCON), the leader of the GAFCON Primates Council, Archbishop Foley Beach, called on the Archbishop of Canterbury to repent.

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"Sadly, with broken hearts, we must say that unless the Archbishop of Canterbury repents, we can no longer recognise him as the 'first among equals' and the spiritual leader of the Anglican Communion," he said.

The fourth Global Anglican Futures Conference (GAFCON) is taking place in Kigali, Rwanda, this week.

Continuing his presidential address, Archbishop Beach also called on the Scottish Episcopal Church, the Church in Wales, the Episcopal Church of Brazil, the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia, The Anglican The



Choir of St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork, are completing an Easter tour in the Netherlands. Photo - in Harlem.

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Church of Canada and The Episcopal Church USA to repent and, "Return to the teaching of the word of God."

This was not said in a vacuum. Archbishop Foley was talking about the need for a modern Anglican Church to be, amongst other things, a "repenting church" – throwing ourselves on the mercy of the Lord.

"He's constantly showing me my sin, and unless I repent, I quench the Holy Spirit in my life and ministry," he said.



Parish of the Three Patrons, Derry - "Great to have so many with us today for Divine Mercy Devotions and the blessing of our new Divine Mercy Shrine in St Brigid's Carnhill. A powerful hour of prayer."

Those gathered were also called on to repent, "Some of us need to repent of our sins, our provincial sin, our church's sin, our personal sins - sexual sins are not the only sins in the Bible."

Archbishop Beach used the rest of his address to paint a fuller picture of what was needed in a modern Anglican church – a repenting church, a reconciling church, a reproducing church and a relentlessly compassionate church.

If those attending can catch this vision of church and live it out as they return to their villages, neighbourhoods and families, it may have an even greater impact than any structural changes to the Anglican Communion that are likely to be discussed later in the week.

Members of the Scottish Parliament must embrace Christ's example of 'servant leadership'

As the focus of Scottish politics remains largely concentrated on the difficulties faced by one party, a minister of the Church of Scotland has reminded MSPs of the "stress and anxiety" felt by thousands of people due to the ongoing cost of living crisis.

Addressing the Scottish Parliament yesterday afternoon, Rev Drew Gebbie told them that life is hard and becoming

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harder for those who are unemployed and on lower incomes.

He said there are so many things for people to worry about such as fuel and energy costs, food prices and the price of clothes.

The minister of Hamilton South Parish Church linked with Quarter Parish Church in South Lanarkshire said foodbanks were reporting that middle income families are now regularly using services "to help them get through the week".

Delivering Time for Reflection, Mr Gebbie said it is "essential" that policy and decision makers demonstrate "strong, wise, and compassionate leadership" to help those struggling to make ends meet.

He urged them to look to Jesus Christ and take inspiration from His "servant leadership" example in order to make a positive impact on people in every corner of society.

The minister belongs to a Church which is committed to ensuring that supporting the most vulnerable people in society is at the "heart of all that it does".

Gospel imperative

Congregations run a wide variety of different projects to support individuals and families who are struggling to make ends meet throughout the year.

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The Assembly Trustees made more than £93,000 available in winter support grants to help congregations turn their buildings into warm spaces during the colder months.

There are 64 designated Priority Area congregations in communities where deprivation rates fall within the bottom 5% across all of the social and economic indicators.

Supporting the most marginalised people is the "gospel imperative of the whole Church, not just the Church in the poorest places, however.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



Service of Recommitment to peacebuilding

Here's the link to the service of Recommitment to peacebuilding, organised by the Corrymeela Community

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and held at Clonard Monastery. Celtic Psalms Photo above) commented - It was a moving service to be a part of.

<https://www.churchservices.tv/clonard/archive/recordings/OxTPuSwf02HRFdD>



Virtual School Tour Taster of St Canice's Cathedral

Dear Teachers...

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As some of you may be planning a school tour or even thinking ahead to next year, here at St Canice's Cathedral we would like to offer you a school tour taster.

On Thursday 20th April at 3.30 pm we are hosting a virtual School Tour Taster where you can meet our Cathedral Manager, Anne Marie and Sarah, our Education Officer, we will talk you through our school tour options and answer any questions you may have.

Zoom link: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74027688699?pwd=ROBwccI4ZnnKool68JDgTBOAcWOe77.1>

Poem for today

Digging by Seamus Heaney

Between my finger and my thumb
The squat pen rests; snug as a gun.

Under my window, a clean rasping sound
When the spade sinks into gravelly ground:
My father, digging. I look down

Till his straining rump among the flowerbeds
Bends low, comes up twenty years away
Stooping in rhythm through potato drills
Where he was digging.

The coarse boot nestled on the lug, the shaft

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Against the inside knee was levered firmly.
He rooted out tall tops, buried the bright edge deep
To scatter new potatoes that we picked,
Loving their cool hardness in our hands.

By God, the old man could handle a spade.
Just like his old man.

My grandfather cut more turf in a day
Than any other man on Toner's bog.
Once I carried him milk in a bottle
Corked sloppily with paper. He straightened up
To drink it, then fell to right away
Nicking and slicing neatly, heaving sods
Over his shoulder, going down and down
For the good turf. Digging.

The cold smell of potato mould, the squelch and slap
Of soggy peat, the curt cuts of an edge
Through living roots awaken in my head.
But I've no spade to follow men like them.

Between my finger and my thumb
The squat pen rests.
I'll dig with it.

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
