



## Image of the day

## Leeds Minster

April 24, 2021

## **Bishop Moses makes a virtual visit to Hollywood**



**Bishop Moses Zungo was the special guest at the Hollywood Parish Zoom Prayer Meeting on Wednesday 21 April. The prayer meeting has continued weekly throughout lockdown and Bishop Moses' virtual visit follows that of partners from Uganda, Peru and India.**

The parish has supported Maridi Diocese since the earliest days of the link with Down and Dromore and was able to welcome Moses and Mama Rejoice in person during their last trip in 2019.

“It was such a joy to hear from Bishop Moses in person and to pray for him,” said Revd Ken McGrath, Associate Vicar.

“The story in Maridi is one of incredible faith and resilience and even growth in the face of unrelenting hardship. The local church is so determined to serve their neighbours and to share the gospel at every opportunity. We were humbled by what we heard.”

April 24, 2021

Some areas are still feeling the effects of the floods at the end of last year with the devastation of the cassava crop. Added to this, many grain stores were destroyed by the wildfires in March, not to mention the hardship caused by coronavirus and a weak economy.

Last weekend, however, the diocese experienced yet another blow when unusually strong winds hit the Chaima Christian Institute and caused some structural damage (pictured below). Holywood Parish was closely involved with the building project in Chaima's early days, so this was particularly sad to see.

Despite all of these difficulties, there is good news to report. The diocese is growing, with 9 new parishes created at the last diocesan synod. In March, Bishop Moses ordained 20 deacons, 6 priests and commissioned 6 new lay readers. Around 100 evangelists in their distinctive red shirts have also been released to serve around the diocese.

The Mothers' Union held a conference in February and continue their amazing work with women and families across the diocese. Some of the elderly women from remote areas were unable to make the trip so a small group of leaders plan to travel to stay with them and offer fellowship and encouragement.

Churches will soon reopen followed by schools, and plans are underway to celebrate the Maridi Centenary in January 2022. It is very much hoped that representatives from Down and Dromore will be able to join those celebrations in person.

*Thanks to CMSI's Linda Abwa who facilitated Moses participation and also joined the meeting. Parishes in Down*



April 24, 2021

*and Dromore have given generously to Maridi Diocese as it has responded to the needs both inside and outside the church. £13,000 was raised through our Advent Gift Day.*

## **Three-time All-Ireland medal winner 'Walking with Hope' for marginalised Irish emigrants**

On Sunday, Alan Brogan, former Dublin Gaelic footballer and three-time All-Ireland medal winner, will be 'Walking with Hope' to raise funds for marginalised Irish emigrants. He will be joined by Father Paul Ward and they will begin at midday from the Papal Cross in Phoenix Park. The fundraising walk is in support of the work of the Irish Chaplaincy in London and to raise awareness of the plight of the elderly Irish in Britain, whether living alone, in care homes or in prison.

Alan said, "I am looking forward to my 'Walk with Hope' in support of the unheralded but vital work undertaken by the Irish Chaplaincy in London. For over sixty years the Chaplaincy has reached out to the dispossessed Irish who emigrated to the UK for employment and who today exist on the margins: the elderly Irish, Travellers and prisoners. Many of my generation were born to Irish emigrants in the UK and we owe it to all of them to demonstrate our support at this vulnerable time in their lives."

Ahead of Alan undertaking his five-kilometre walk in Phoenix Park on Sunday, two groups of six have set off from Sacred Heart Church in Kilburn, North London, to walk nine miles

April 24, 2021

via Wormwood Scrubs prison and on to the Irish Embassy to be greeted by the Irish Ambassador to the UK, Mr Adrian O'Neill. Belfast-born Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster Paul McAleenan, is leading another walk from Westminster Cathedral to Westminster Abbey.

## **Tribute to the Reverend John Anderson by the Bishop of Connor**

**Speaking at the funeral service for the Rev John Anderson in St Colman's Parish Church, Derrykeighan, the Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev George Davison, paid tribute to John's sense of commitment, his intellect, warmth of character, wit and devotion.**

These, Bishop George told the private family service, were just a few of the things that stood out about John – things people would be thinking about as they remembered him.

John, who was rector of Billy and Derrykeighan for almost 16 years, died suddenly from Covid-19 on Saturday April 17, having taken ill just over a week earlier.

His remains were received at Billy Church on the evening of Monday April 19, where he rested before being moved to St Colman's, Derrykeighan, the following evening. Both services were conducted by the Rev Malcolm Ferry.

The funeral service took place on the morning of Wednesday April 21 in St Colman's, before John was laid to rest in the adjoining churchyard.

April 24, 2021



Sincere sympathy is extended to John's wife Eleanor, their children Simon, Hannah, and Emma, his mother Jean and his brother Philip. He was pre-deceased by his father Don.

**Text of address by Bishop George Davison at the funeral of the Rev John Anderson : April 21 2021**

Less than two weeks ago, John Anderson wrote these words:

April 24, 2021

*“This is Easter week when we can all have the assurance and the comfort that Jesus Christ left behind an empty tomb. Those who believe in his victory over death know the grave but to be a gate to a fuller life.”*

He was writing in the context of a Facebook post expressing sympathy on behalf of the parish to HM Queen on the death of the Duke of Edinburgh. None of us knew just how poignant those words would be, nor that we would be gathering as we are for John’s own funeral service today.

As we gather as a family, still in shock and grief, I hope that we might simply do two things today.

Firstly, give thanks to God for all that was good and lovely in John’s life, for all that he meant to so many people, but particularly for who he was to you as a husband, dad, son, brother.

But also, that we might listen to that message of resurrection hope that John devoted his life to proclaiming and find hope in the midst of our sorrow.

This morning, I don’t intend to try to tell John’s life story, for you knew him far better than I did, but I do want to pick out just a few things that I think stand out about him, things that I know many people will be thinking about as they remember him.

## **UNSTINTINGLY**

Commitment – John was a churchman to his core. From his early days growing up in St Peter’s in Londonderry (under the tutelage of the late Leslie McConachie) as he grew and matured from boy to man, it was obvious to all that John’s faith and his commitment to Christ and his church was

April 24, 2021

leading him to a lifetime of service in the church. Whether as curate in Magherafelt or Ballymena; as rector here in Billy and Derrykeighan, John gave of himself unstintingly. He did that in every aspect of his ministry, whether he was engaged in big projects like the substantial renovation of this church building; or special events like the visit of HM the Queen and Prince Philip to unveil the statue of Billy parishioner Robert Quigg VC in 2016.

These special projects brought him great satisfaction, but John demonstrated that same commitment in the everyday work of a clergyman, leading his people in worship, sharing in their joys and sorrows and the ordinary business of building relationships visiting people in their homes.

Intellect – John had great appetite for reading and thirst for knowledge. Not just in formal learning, though he showed aptitude for that in his gaining of a BD from Queen's University and an MPhil from the Irish School of Ecumenics in Dublin. But John's thirst for information and learning was an everyday thing – he was never without a book, even this past week in hospital and he was always picking up new information. So it was that his talks and sermons and his conversation were so interesting, peppered as they were with little nuggets of information that he had read and stored away, ready to share at the right time.

## **QUIRKY**

Warmth of character and wit – John had a great sense of humour – quirky at times – that endeared him to many people. So many people have spoken over the last few days about his kindness to them, about his friendliness and his sense of humour, and about how they will always be grateful



April 24, 2021

to John for the way that he has played a supportive part in their lives, whether in difficult days when they have known sickness or bereavement; as he helped them celebrate significant moments in their lives; or simply enjoyed those pastoral calls that he made to them as their minister. John was a faithful priest and pastor and that warmth and wit meant that he was one who touched people's lives deeply.

Devotion – John might have joked with you that he was married to 'Ekklesia' (as he referred to the church) as well as to Eleanor, and he was certainly committed to serving the people of his parishes, but there can be little doubt about his devotion to his family.

From those early glances between a curate and a choir member across the chancel of St Patrick's, Ballymena, through a memorable trip to Edinburgh to get engaged, John's relationship with Eleanor grew and flourished. Over 16 years of marriage he has proved himself as a caring and supportive husband and then when Simon and Hannah and Emma were born, a loving dad too.

But you have been a team, a family whose skills and abilities complemented one another. How would a confirmed technophobe like John have managed without you at his side to record his talks and upload them to Facebook for him over the last year?!

## **ROCK**

You have described John as 'your rock,' the one that you could depend on, but I'm sure that John would be the first to acknowledge that you were his rock too!

April 24, 2021

And when relationships have been so good, so strong, it's all the harder when they are taken away from us. That's why a day like this is so hard, for all of you, his family, who shared life with John so deeply.

I want to share with you a few thoughts from that passage from John 14 that Simon read for us a few moments ago.

Jesus was speaking to his disciples, preparing them for what was about to happen in their lives – a day when they would be suddenly bereaved. They would be shocked and hurting as he was suddenly taken from them and die on the cross on Good Friday.

As he speaks with them, he reminds them of the most important thing that he wants them to remember in that moment. Using the imagery of a great heavenly home, Jesus speaks to them of life beyond the grave – resurrection life – hope and reunion in the place that Jesus himself is preparing for those who trust Him.

As Jesus speaks, Thomas honestly tells him that he doesn't really understand what Jesus is talking about. "We don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Like Thomas, we don't understand all the hows and whys of God's plans and purposes. Why has he taken John from us at this time? No doubt we have been crying out to God, asking him that question in our prayers these last few days. I have no answer to that question today, and truthfully, we probably won't know the answer this side of heaven.

## **COMFORT**

But I take comfort from the words that Jesus speaks to Thomas as he says to him, 'I am the Way and the Truth and

April 24, 2021

the Life, no-one come to the Father except through me.' It's as if he's saying to Thomas, don't worry about that, I've got that covered, you just keep on trusting me, walking with me, and I will get you there.

By his resurrection on Easter Day Jesus demonstrates his power over death and the authenticity of what he says, and brings hope to the lives of his hurting disciples.

Like many others, I have been struck how, though he didn't know it at the time, the last days of John Anderson's life were spent sharing that message of resurrection hope. The thoughts that he shared on the parish Facebook page encouraged people to understand what he believed and had given his life to.

Trusting in the love of his Heavenly Father and the forgiveness and resurrection life that those who look to Jesus find was what John Anderson believed and it is now a reality that he knows in God's nearer presence. It's my prayer that those same things will be ours too, and will sustain us in the challenging days ahead.

## **Meet the Episcopal priest moonlighting as a Mars rover mission scientist**

**When Episcopal News Service recently spoke to the Rev. Pamela Conrad, rector of St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Glen Burnie, Maryland, she was exhausted – but not only from the liturgical marathon of Holy Week or the weary slog of daily life during the COVID-19 pandemic.**



Pamela Conrad poses with the Mars Curiosity rover. Photo: NASA

On top of that, Conrad is a member of the tactical operations team for NASA's Mars rover mission, often working through the night, analyzing feedback from the Perseverance rover as it searches for signs of potential life.

From her living room in Maryland, Conrad connects virtually with scientists around the country and at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Southern California for several shifts a week, monitoring sensors that she helped design as they transmit data about the Martian environment. Among the instruments she works with are the cameras that have sent back over 25,000 photos, including Perseverance's first selfie, which shows the rover and the small helicopter that is



April 24, 2021

expected to take the first-ever powered flight on another planet later this week.

“Every time we get new images, it is such an amazing sense of awe,” Conrad said.

Conrad, 68, has been working for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration since 1999 on projects including the Curiosity rover, which landed on Mars in 2012.

Priesthood is a more recent vocation; she was ordained in 2017 and has continued her scientific work on the side since becoming a rector.

“My full-time job – and I’m very clear about this – is as a priest. And my second thing that I do is the science because the science informs my ministry as a priest,” Conrad said.

She told ENS that the scientific and spiritual worlds have always been intertwined for her, united by a sense of wonder. From an early age, she remembers “being very in touch with the general concept of nature and God.”

“I think that the evolution of me as an explorer with respect to this world as well as other worlds, and also as an explorer of the vast spiritual landscape that’s internal, have both been present, always,” she said.

Conrad traces her interest in space exploration back to the night when she was a toddler and her father pointed out Sputnik – the first satellite launched into orbit – passing overhead, but she took a roundabout route through other professions before arriving at NASA. After training as a musician and working as a video producer, she pursued a

April 24, 2021

graduate degree in geology, focusing on geobiology – the study of how life arises from planetary landscapes. That led to a job at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, where she applied her knowledge of geobiology to the search for life on Mars.

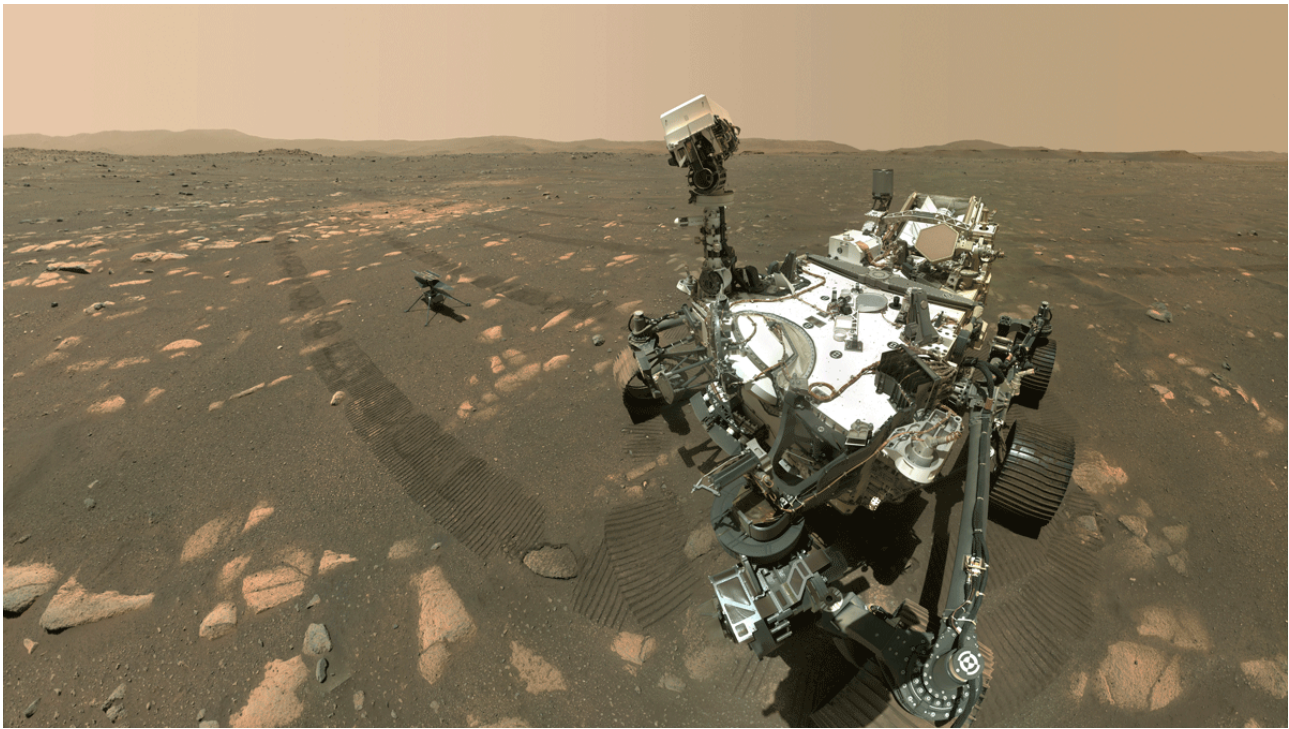
Pamela Conrad speaks at a Nat Geo Live event in 2014.  
Photo: Bill Ingalls/NASA

“[It] was an obvious choice to become involved with Mars right away,” Conrad said, “being our closest planetary neighbor and one that I could reasonably explore in my lifetime with robots.”

But all the while, Conrad was experiencing a parallel calling to return to The Episcopal Church, from which she had “run in horror” as a young woman. In the 1970s, when Conrad was in college and women’s ordination was a disputed issue, the rector of her church in was disciplined for allowing an irregularly ordained woman to celebrate the Eucharist.

“I just said, ‘You know, Jesus would never approve of business this way; I’m just going to go be a free agent.’ And that didn’t work because I kept getting this subtle call back to community, but I didn’t know how that should be manifest,” she recalled.

Two moments of epiphany gave her some clarity. On a trip to Antarctica, she stood and stared at a distant mountain range as the wind pounded her face and “felt all the anger that I had about the church just blow out of me. ... It was a road-to-Damascus moment.” Then, at a rally against Proposition 8 – the 2008 California ballot initiative that banned same-sex marriage in the state – she was



The Perseverance rover took this photo of itself and the Ingenuity helicopter on April 6

saddened by an encounter with anti-gay Christian protesters who were screaming in anger, along with their children.

“I remember thinking, ‘If I had stayed in the church, perhaps I could have been a voice of kindness and love and there wouldn’t be little children yelling,’” she told ENS. “That’s when I thought, ‘I’m going back to church, and I’m going to stay until I can develop my own leadership within the church.’”

At first, she worried what her scientific colleagues would think about her entering the ordination process, but it ended up confirming her call to ministry.

“I was afraid to tell them,” she said. “As it turns out, no one thought it was weird. In fact, they began to come to me in a pastoral sense. And I was surprised. That was a good

April 24, 2021

lesson – that I should not prejudge people, and that we all have the need to connect in community, no matter how nerdy we are. ... I think you always deal with people on a pastoral basis, whether you're relating to them on a science project or you're relating to them in a congregation.”

Now, with her role as a full-time rector, she must balance her participation in the Perseverance mission with the responsibilities of a parish priest. She only takes night shifts if she knows she can sleep in the next day, and she finds a substitute if something comes up, like the recent death of a parishioner.

“It's difficult to draw the line sometimes ... but I have to be disciplined about that, because the pastoral needs of the people in my congregation are my highest priority.”

Conrad is a firm believer in the harmony of science and faith – which she advocates through her leadership role in the North American province of the Society of Ordained Scientists – and sees the search for life on Mars as an affirmation of a God who exceeds human understanding.

Pamela Conrad tests rover technology. Photo courtesy Pamela Conrad

“People often regard humans as the pinnacle of creation. We don't want to consider the possibility that Mom doesn't like us best,” she told ENS. “As Christians, what we have to ask ourselves is, If God can create life here, is God big enough to create life elsewhere? Of course, the answer is yes.”



April 24, 2021

Conrad also sees a role for The Episcopal Church in dispelling the myth that science and religion are incompatible, given its roots in the Anglican concept of faith informed by reason.

“In a time when people are discarding reason in favour of conspiracy theories, or suspicion of science, we can help,” she said. “And I believe that we are called to this moment to help reconcile those two perspectives so that we can ask ourselves, Why wouldn’t we use all the gifts in our disposal, all the processes of learning and knowing? And science is one of those processes.”

She also thinks the church is called to take a proactive approach to the ethics of interplanetary travel and colonization. Given the tragedies brought about by exploration and colonization on Earth, Conrad wants Christians to start thinking carefully about how the human race can ethically expand beyond Earth.

“How can we as a culture do a respectful job of exploring so that we can explore without exploiting?” she asked. “As we become poised to be an interplanetary species – and we will, because exploration is a biological imperative – will we take our Christian selves into that exploration? ... And we as beloved community can play a role in that by articulating it now before we lift off for Mars.”

– Egan Millard of Episcopal News Service

April 24, 2021

## **Books, Broadcasts, Resources and Webinars**

### **RTE Service from Christ Church Bray**

The Rector of Christ Church Bray, the Revd Baden Stanley, will lead a Service of Reflection at 2pm on Sunday April 25 on the RTE News Channel. You can also watch the service on the RTE Player at [www.rte.ie/news/player/live](http://www.rte.ie/news/player/live)

### **Reflections for the Season of Easter**

Archbishop Michael Jackson is offering short reflections on Sundays during the Season of Easter. You can find these reflections on our YouTube Channel from Sunday morning – [youtube.com/c/TheUnitedDiocesesofDublinandGlendalough](https://youtube.com/c/TheUnitedDiocesesofDublinandGlendalough)

### **Belfast Cathedral invite**

You are welcome to join us in person at Belfast Cathedral or online at 11.00am on Sunday 25th April 2021, which is the 4th Sunday of Easter. The service will be a Service of the Word.

The preacher is the Reverend Dr Maithrie White and the service is led by the Dean, the Very Reverend Stephen Forde, and Dean's Vicar, Canon Mark Niblock.

Music will be provided by soloist India Chapman Webb and organist Jack Wilson.

The Anthem is "*The Lord is my Shepherd*" by Howard Goodall.

April 24, 2021

Those attending are reminded to wear face coverings and to follow Covid guidance requirements during and after the service.

For those unable to attend in person the service will be livestreamed.

<https://www.facebook.com/BelfastCathedral/>

## **Big Church Leaders' Breakfast**

An invitation to all church leaders across Northern Ireland to join together online for the Big Church Leaders' Breakfast taking place on Tuesday 27th April 2021.

This event is free. Bring your breakfast to your computer and join the conversation from 8.10am, with the programme starting at 8.30am.

Across the UK, food banks offer vital support to people in crisis. Churches are at the heart of this work....

<https://www.thechurchpage.com/2021/04/23/the-big-church-leaders-breakfast-online-the-trussell-trust/>

## **'Digital Dispatches' featuring all PCI's Global Workers**

NEW SERIES\*- This three minute film gives an update of the work of the Reids, PCI workers in Kenya, who are partnering with the Presbyterian Church of East Africa.

This clip is part of a series called 'Digital Dispatches' featuring all PCI's Global Workers which can be accessed at:

April 24, 2021

[presbyterianireland.org/digitaldispatches](https://presbyterianireland.org/digitaldispatches)

## Thinking about applying for a choral award to the University of Cambridge?

Today at 2pm there's a Q&A webinar in place of the usual Choral Awards Open Day. No need to sign up – just tune in at 2, and put your questions in the live chat!

Link 🖱️ <https://youtu.be/QfOX7j-xoR4>

## Media review

### Pro-life group warns Brandon Lewis of pending judicial review over his plans to impose UN ...

Belfast Newsletter

In a Pre Action Protocol sent to the UK Government, the Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform NI (CBR NI) claim that the current regulations are legally outside the powers of the Secretary of State as they enable him to override the devolution settlement for NI, assuming powers to give orders to any minister, department or health body on abortion.

However all unionist political parties and the Presbyterian Church and Church of Ireland have warned the move seriously undermines devolution.

[[] <https://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/politics/pro-life-group-warns-brandon-lewis-of-pending-judicial-review-over-his-plans-to-impose-un-abortion-recommendations-on-ni-3211604> ]



April 24, 2021

## **ROI blasted for 'cynical' criminalisation of public worship**

The Christian Institute

Church leaders in the Republic of Ireland have slammed its Government for temporarily making public worship a criminal offence. The country's four ...

[[] <https://www.christian.org.uk/news/roi-blasted-for-cynical-criminalisation-of-public-worship/> ]

## **Teacher fair employment law exemption needs addressed, says Foster**

BBC News

The recruitment of teachers is exempt from legislation outlawing religious discrimination in Northern Ireland. That has previously been criticised by some MLAs. The exemption of teachers from fair employment laws "needs to be dealt with", Northern Ireland's First Minister Arlene Foster has said. She made the comments in response to a question from the Ulster Unionist Party assembly member (MLA) John Stewart. The recruitment of teachers is exempt from legislation outlawing religious discrimination in Northern Ireland....

[[] <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-56805201> ]

## **Pointers for prayer**

Almighty God,  
who hast given thine only Son  
to be unto us both a sacrifice for sin,  
and also an ensample of godly life;  
Give us grace that we may always



most thankfully receive that his inestimable benefit,  
and also daily endeavour ourselves  
to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life;  
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Mighty God,  
in whom we know the power of redemption,  
you stand among us in the shadows of our time.  
As we move through every sorrow and trial of this life,  
uphold us with knowledge of the final morning  
when, in the glorious presence of your risen Son,  
we will share in his resurrection,  
redeemed and restored to the fullness of life  
and forever freed to be your people. Amen.

Living God,  
long ago, faithful women  
proclaimed the good news  
of Jesus' resurrection,  
and the world was changed forever.  
Teach us to keep faith with them,  
that our witness may be as bold,

April 24, 2021

our love as deep,  
and our faith as true. Amen.

Creator of the universe,  
you made the world in beauty,  
and restore all things in glory  
through the victory of Jesus Christ.

We pray that, wherever your image is still disfigured  
by poverty, sickness, selfishness, war and greed,  
the new creation in Jesus Christ may appear in justice, love,  
and peace,  
to the glory of your name. Amen.

O God, your Son remained with his disciples after his  
resurrection, teaching them to love all people as neighbours.  
As his disciples in this age,  
we offer our prayers on behalf of the universe  
in which we are privileged to live  
and our neighbours with whom we share it...  
...Open our hearts to your power moving  
around us and between us and within us,  
until your glory is revealed in our love of both friend and  
enemy,  
in communities transformed by justice and compassion,  
and in the healing of all that is broken. Amen.

## Speaking to the Soul

**Honour the LORD with your wealth and with the best  
part of everything you produce. Then he will fill your  
barns with grain, and your vats will overflow with good  
wine.**

April 24, 2021

## Proverbs 3:9-10 NLT

If you have ever supported a charity by getting involved in a door-to-door collection you will, I am sure, have gained deep insights into the different way in which people give their money. A few people just aren't interested and shut the door quickly. Others are clearly eager to get rid of you but are overwhelmed by a desire to be polite and so grab some loose change and quickly pop it in your collecting box. And others thank you for going to the trouble of visiting and joyfully make a contribution. There are many different ways of giving, and here the writer encourages us to give God the best.

It was King David who pointed out that when we give to God all we are doing is giving what he first gave to us. We would never be able to outgive God. It has been wisely said that you make a life out of what you give, not out of what you get, and in our deeply acquisitive society that is a very important insight. Learning how to give is vital if we are to learn to live our lives to the full, and know the blessings that God wants us to experience.

I love the straightforwardness of Proverbs. He has a no-nonsense approach to serving God. He tells us how to live our lives to the full, but also tells us the outcome. He has learnt that if you give generously and put God first in your life, then there will be a wonderful result. It will work differently for us all but we can be confident that if we get our giving right then God will bless us. The fact is that you will never become poor by giving generously.

## QUESTION

[churchnewsireland@gmail.org](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.org)



April 24, 2021

How generous are you in your giving?

## PRAYER

Lord God our Father, you have always been generous to me. Help me to learn how to be generous in every aspect of my life. Amen

