

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Pope Francis receives Queen's University chaplaincy students

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Pope Francis receives Queen's University chaplaincy students

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People and places



Scouts renew their promise on St George's Day

On Sunday afternoon North West Belfast District Scout held their annual St. George's Day Service, in St Matthews



Church. Thanks were expressed to the Rector/District

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Photo above - some members of the Northern Ireland contingent at the annual Scout service at St George's Windsor

Chaplain, Rev Tracey McRoberts, for leading the service and to Emily Thompson, the Rural Deanery Youth Worker, for giving a very informative talk, which the young people enjoyed. Thanks also to those members of the District Team who took part in the service.

The District were delighted to be joined by the County Commissioner for Belfast, Stephen Mallet.

The District is grateful to the Rector and Select Vestry of St. Matthew's Parish, for the use of the beautiful and unique church.



An Eglantine Easter

Not so long ago they could only dream of gathering together like this – and so it is good to see this photo of the rector, Rev Jason Kernaghan, the choir, servers and parishioners of All Saints' Eglantine, Diocese of Connor, on Easter Day 2022.

Open house support for Derry Cathedral

Creevagh House - the site of a US Navy hospital during the Second World War - is opening its gardens to the public, on Saturday 21st May, to help raise funds for St Columb's Cathedral.

From 1941-45, the hospital treated military personnel including casualties from the 'D Day' landings and the wider Normandy Campaign. It's understood many civilians from the city made their way to the facility for first class treatment, too, during the war years.

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Creevagh House is a late 18th century property and is now home to a beautiful ornamental garden, surrounded by mature and exotic trees.

Gardening aficionados and history enthusiasts can visit the garden between 10am and 6pm on Saturday 21st May.

Admission will cost £5 and all day teas will be available (priced £3). There will be musical entertainment, plant stalls, and a crafts and flower arranging demonstration, and - for history buffs - there'll be evocative photos from the WWII era. All proceeds will go to the Cathedral.



Creevagh House Garden

Open GARDEN 2022

63 Letterkenny Road
Londonderry/Derry BT48 9XQ

will be open on
SATURDAY
21st May
10.00 am - 6.00 pm
Admission **£5**

History with Photographic Details
of Creevagh Camp,
USA WW11 Hospital

Other Attractions
Plant stall
Crafts & Flower Arranging Demo
Re-gifting stall
Musical entertainment
..... and much more!

All day teas £3

 Derry City & Strabane
District Council
Comhairle Chathair
Dhoire & Cheartair
an tSrátha Báin
Derry City & Strabane
District Council

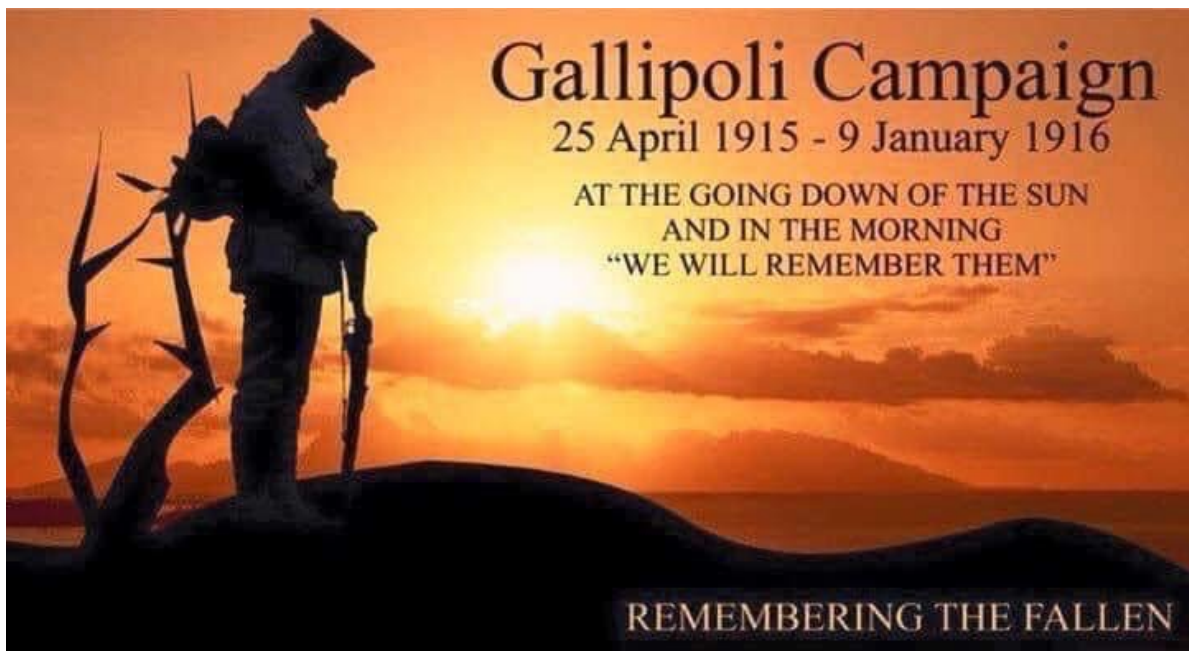
**All proceeds in aid of
Saint Columb's Cathedral**

UNITED STATES NAVY HOSPITAL
LONDONDERRY, NORTHERN IRELAND
BASE ONE - EUROPE
1941 - 1945



THE UNITED STATES NAVY HOSPITAL
ESTABLISHED ON THIS SITE, WAS USED TO HANDLE
WOUNDED PERSONNEL FROM THE NAVY BASE ONE-
EUROPE, AND AS A TRAINING BASE FOR
"FOXY 29", COMBAT NAVY MEDICAL CORPSMEN GROUPS.
THE HOSPITAL WAS USED FOR HANDLING CASUALTIES
FROM "D" DAY JUNE 6, 1944, THE INVASION OF FRANCE
AND THE NORMANDY CAMPAIGN.

MASTERSHIP OF JOSEPH BARHART SARDON
MCPHM, URN, (RET)
2001



ANZAC remembrance in Dublin



Above - Youth representatives from the New Zealand and Australian Communities in Ireland, Benjamin Thompson, Samuel Thompson, Rian Hughes, David Saint, Fionn Bevin. With Lt Gen Sean Clancy, Chief of Staff, Irish Defence Forces.

CONCERT FOR UKRAINE

A musical evening featuring a variety of performers and songs from past and present.

SATURDAY MAY 14TH

7.30PM Rathfarnham Parish Church of Ireland

Tickets available on the door:

€15 Adult **€8 Child (u18)** **€35 Family Ticket (2 Adults + 2 U18)**

Your MC for the evening:
Robert O'Connor

Following the concert (1 hour approx), we would love you to join us for some refreshments in the adjoining Parish Centre.



All proceeds will be going to the initiative launched by the United Dioceses of Dublin & Glendalough to help Ukrainian people arriving in Ireland by setting up a hub and cultural centre in the church of St George & St Thomas, Cathal Brugha St.

Contact Gillian Perdue (gillperdue@gmail.com) for more information or to get involved.



Rathfarnham Parish
CHURCH OF IRELAND

News reports

Pope Francis encourages Irish students to promote culture of encounter

Pope Francis spurred Catholic students from Queen's University in Belfast to cultivate the culture of encounter so as to contribute to building up Ireland's noble traditions of hospitality, reconciliation and fidelity to the Gospel, Lisa Zengarini writes in Vatican News

Pope Francis on Monday received in audience a group of students from the Catholic Chaplaincy at Queen's University in Belfast, Northern Ireland, as they celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Chaplaincy. In his prepared remarks that were handed over to the group, the Holy Father encouraged them to cultivate the culture of encounter in their academic community.

"If we truly believe in Jesus, we must do what Jesus does: encounter others, encounter our neighbours, in order to share with them the saving truth of the Gospel," Pope Francis wrote.

"The Christian faith is fundamentally about an encounter with Jesus Christ"

He noted that building a culture of encounter in the service of God's kingdom is "personally demanding", but at the



Also present were Rev Steve Stockman and Father Martin Magill founders of the 4 Corners Festival

same time exciting, as “it allows us to weave a web of relationships which can make our lives together ‘a genuine experience of fraternity, a caravan of solidarity, a sacred pilgrimage’.

“Building a culture of encounter is not simply about seeing, but looking;

it is not about hearing, but listening; it is not about just meeting or passing people by, but stopping to engage with them about the things that really matter.”

Pope Francis, therefore, encouraged the students to become promoters of this culture of encounter in their academic environment, thus contributing “to building up Ireland’s noble traditions of hospitality, reconciliation, fidelity to the Gospel and steadfastness in the pursuit of holiness”.

A Queen’s Chaplaincy staff member said, “We were honoured to meet with Pope Francis this morning as we celebrate our Golden Jubilee. In an hour-long meeting at the Vatican, Pope Francis engaged in lively conversation with our students, and offered them wise counsel and words

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of encouragement. Our choir, Canticle, concluded the memorable engagement by singing for the Pope an Irish Blessing. We love you Pope Francis!"

Zelensky prays to God to save Ukraine

In a message to mark the Orthodox Easter on Sunday, the Ukrainian president said he was believing "in a new victory for Ukraine" and that "our dawn is coming soon".

President Volodymyr Zelensky admitted that Ukraine was "enduring dark times" but vowed that his country "will not be destroyed by any horde or evil".

He also prayed to the "great and only God" to protect and save Ukraine.

"We are enduring dark times. And on this bright day, most of us are not in bright clothes. But we are fighting for a bright idea. On the bright side. And the truth, people, the Lord and the holy heavenly light are on our side," he said.

Zelensky said the whole country was unified in its prayer for Ukraine to be saved.

"We have all been praying for the last two months. And in the Resurrection of Christ, which symbolizes the great victory of life over death, each of us asks the Lord for one thing. And speaks the same words to heaven.

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"The words of a great and united prayer. Great and Only God! Save our Ukraine!" he said.

Zelensky said that God would not forget towns like Bucha and Mariupol that have been ravaged by the war, nor "all those who survived brutal crimes".

Although Ukrainians are filled with "fury" over the invasion, he asked that God would "turn it into a force of good to defeat the forces of evil."

Zelensky continued, "Dear Ukrainians! Last year we celebrated Easter at home because of the pandemic. This year we also celebrate the Resurrection of Christ not as we used to. Because of another virus. Because of the plague called war.

"Both last year's and the current threat are united by one thing – nothing can defeat Ukraine.

"The great holiday today gives us great hope and unwavering faith that light will overcome darkness, good will overcome evil, life will overcome death, and therefore Ukraine will surely win!

"And on Easter, we ask God for great grace to make our great dream come true – this is another great day – the day when great peace will come to Ukraine. And with it – eternal harmony and prosperity."

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Parishes that left the US Episcopal Church over same-sex stance ordered to hand back property

The South Carolina Supreme Court has ruled that properties held by 14 churches that left The Episcopal Church over its ordination of gay clergy and acceptance of same-sex unions more than a decade ago shall be returned to the denomination and its affiliated diocese in the state.

The court ruled that 14 of the 29 parishes listed in a lawsuit that broke away from The Episcopal Church and later joined the Anglican Church in North America must hand over their properties to The Episcopal Church because they expressly agreed to an Episcopal Church law that places all parish properties in a trust belonging to the national church, the denomination said in a statement.

The other 15 parishes didn't expressly agree to the canon, the court said.

"Their decisions will no doubt bring joy to many in our diocese, but for others, there will be grief in the possible finality of a loss they have been feeling for nearly 10 years," the Rt. Rev. Ruth Woodliff-Stanley, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina, said. "We now walk into a bright future, one in which we will focus on the reconciling power of the Gospel to transform injustice, to heal the brokenhearted, and to build God's beloved community."

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Longtime Episcopalian Steve Skardon was quoted as saying that secular courts don't have jurisdiction over church disputes on theological matters. He called the court's decision "a huge mistake" and a wrong precedent.

"It's going to affect every church in South Carolina," Skardon said. "Now, instead of working things out with church hierarchy, you can just run to the courts."

In 2014, the Rev. Shay Gaillard, rector of The Church of the Good Shepherd in Charleston at the time, said, "The buildings and the land are assets for Gospel ministry. They were paid for by members of this parish, past and present. No outside group should determine their usage," according to The Augusta Chronicle.

The newspaper also observed at the time that about 50 Episcopal churches in the southern and eastern parts of South Carolina had left as they found the national church had become too liberal, especially on the issue of same-sex marriage.

In the media

An Easter like no other at Harold's Cross Russian Orthodox Church

Irish Times

Patience is required to last through Easter services at the Russian Orthodox Church.

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The early Great Saturday Divine Liturgy service lasts three hours and then many return for the midnight service which goes on for a similar length of time.

The church was full for the midnight Easter service, a ritual that culminates in a procession around church grounds and the acclamation “Christ is risen” in the different languages of the congregation.

The Russian Orthodox community in Ireland celebrated Easter this weekend, a week after the western tradition. The two Christian traditions work off different calendars for the calculation of Easter.

The only Russian Orthodox Church in Ireland is in Harold’s Cross in Dublin. The Church of St Peter and St Paul was formerly Church of Ireland, becoming Russian Orthodox in 2001.

[\[https://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/an-easter-like-no-other-at-harold-s-cross-russian-orthodox-church-1.4860686\]](https://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/an-easter-like-no-other-at-harold-s-cross-russian-orthodox-church-1.4860686)

Partner of Army veteran taking human rights case against British Government

Belfast Telegraph

Dennis Hutchings died after contracting Covid-19 while awaiting trial over a fatal shooting in 1974

The partner of a Troubles era Army veteran said she is taking a case to the European Court of Human Rights, claiming discriminatory treatment by the British Government.

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Kim Devonshire, partner of Northern Ireland veteran Dennis Hutchings who died in October last year, said she will “continue Dennis’ fight” and take a case to the Strasbourg court on “behalf of British Army veterans”.

Before he died, Mr Hutchings took a case that veterans were being subject to discriminatory treatment in breach of the Human Rights Act to the European Court of Human Rights

[<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/partner-of-army-veteran-taking-human-rights-case-against-british-government-41585586.html>]

Coalition leaders to discuss housing plan for Ukrainian refugees

RTE News

Latest figures show that 25,173 Ukrainian refugees have arrived in Ireland as of yesterday morning.

Of that number, 16,788 have been provided with accommodation by the State. However, it is expected around 33,000 Ukrainian refugees will have arrived by the end of next month.

[<https://www.rte.ie/news/ireland/2022/0425/1294115-ukraine-ireland/>]

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Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Church of England resources and liturgy to help parishes and individuals mark Platinum Jubilee

On 6 February 2022, the 70th anniversary of her accession, Her Majesty the Queen became the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee. The celebration of the Jubilee will culminate in a special weekend of events (Thursday 2 June to Sunday 5 June) including church services, the Trooping of the Colour, concerts, the lighting of beacons, and other events.

It is hoped that many churches and communities will be able to celebrate this landmark anniversary, and these resources are designed for use in a variety of contexts to help plan local celebrations, perhaps in the presence of elected representatives, service organisations, and representatives of the wider community. The resources include special prayers, an outline Service of Thanksgiving, graces to be said at Jubilee Lunches, and prayers for planting trees as part of the Queen's Green Canopy.

As we prepare to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, The Church of England has produced these resources and liturgy to help us mark the occasion in our churches and communities.

Find out more and download them here:

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<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/liturgical-resources-hm-queens-platinum-jubilee?fbclid=IwAR17qIs9HEceOFbbEmqFm333Xamkn18MOPSh802SugpDEiKfGFLfEI3a7aI>

Connor training for ministry to children and young people

There's still time to sign up for Connor diocese's new leaders training evenings in May. Choose between online or in person and come along to be encouraged and resourced for your ministry to children and young people!

You can join the team in person in All Saints Antrim on the evening of 11th May - sign up here:

<https://newleaderstrainingantrim.eventbrite.co.uk>

Or join the following evening, 12th May online!

<https://newleaderstrainingonline.eventbrite.com>

Poem for today

**May the Lord in his Mercy Be Kind to Belfast
By Maurice Craig.**

Red brick in the suburb, white horse on the wall,
Italian marble in the grand Ciity Hall;
O stanger from England, why stand ye aghast?
May the Lord in his mercy be kind to Belfast.

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We swore by King William, there'd never be seen
An all Ireland parliament at College Green
And at Stormont we're nailing the flag to the mast.
May the Lord in his mercy be kind to Belfast.

This city that harbours our hopes and our fears
Was knocked up from the swamp in the last hundred years;
But the last shall be first and the first shall be last;
May the Lord in his mercy be kind to Belfast

The bricks they may bleed and the rain it may weep
And the damp Lagan fog lulls the city to sleep.
It's to Hell with the future, we'll live in the past
May the Lord in his mercy be kind to Belfast

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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