

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Ordination of Latvian priest in Dublin

The Revd Imants Miezis (centre) with Archbishop Lauma Zusevica and Archbishop Michael Jackson and the Revd Andris Habakuk, Dean Emerita Ilze Kuplens Ewart and the Revd Robert Marshall.

People and places

Church history made at Dublin ordination

The congregation at Christ Church Cathedral's Eucharist on Sunday morning (April 3) witnessed a small bit of history.

The Revd Imants Miezis was ordained to the priesthood for the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church Worldwide, the first time such cooperation has taken place between Churches of the Porvoo Communion in Ireland.

Imants was ordained by the Archbishop of the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church Worldwide, the Most Revd Lauma Zusevica and the service was celebrated by the Archbishop of Dublin, the Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson.

The Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church Worldwide (LELCW) is a Lutheran denomination with a presence in Latvia, Ireland, Sweden, Germany, the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada and the United States. The Church was originally established by refugees after the Second World War when Latvia was occupied and incorporated into the Soviet Union.

It is a member of the Porvoo Communion of Churches which is made up of Nordic and Baltic Lutheran Churches which have bishops and the Anglican Provinces of Ireland,

April 7, 2022

Scotland, Wales and England. The Porvoo Agreement was signed 20

years ago and its bedrock is the recognition of ordained ministry by its member churches and their people along with shared initiatives in parishes and dioceses.

Sunday's ordination of Imants brought together two member Churches, the LELCW and the Church of Ireland, in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin. In a short legal ceremony after the service, Archbishop Jackson gave Imants a license to officiate so that he has authority to exercise priestly ministry in both the Latvian Church and the Church of Ireland in the Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough.

Imants trained in the Church of Ireland Theological Institute by means of an individual learning agreement with the Latvian Church Worldwide.

Commenting after the service, the Archbishop said: "It is a great delight to see the Porvoo Agreement come to life in this way. We in the diocese wish Imants all that is best as his ministry continues to unfold".

In her sermon, Archbishop Zusevica said that the day of Imants'

ordination had been long awaited. "We are so grateful that we can gather here in happiness as envisioned in the Gospel reading of the Sermon on the Mount," she stated. She said that Latvians could understand what the people of Ukraine were going through and acknowledged that in everyone's everyday lives they encountered struggle. She said that Imants could tell others how to reach God in times of doubt, fear, struggle and darkness.

April 7, 2022

Afterwards Imants noted that there were more than 25,000 Latvians living in Ireland so ordination was very important to him.

Derry and Donegal's Slí Cholmcille to feature in BBC documentary

Donegal and Derry's stunning landscape and spiritual heritage will be broadcast to a global audience when a BBC Two documentary featuring Slí Cholmcille airs this Friday April 8 and for the next two Fridays at 9pm.

For centuries pilgrims have followed the holy footsteps of religious visionaries around the world in search of their own spiritual alignment. Now, Donegal and Derry are inviting pilgrims at home and abroad to explore the northwest's wild and rugged landscape as Slí Cholmcille aims to take its place among the great pilgrimages of the world

Entitled "The Pilgrimage: The Road to the Scottish Isles" the documentary will see seven celebrities embark on a Pilgrimage through Ireland and Scotland. Over fifteen days, beginning in Donegal, the seven pilgrims followed in the footsteps of Saint Columba, seeking out his legacy as a key figure in early Irish and British Christianity who helped spread the faith from Ireland to Scotland and beyond. The celebrity pilgrims taking part in the programme are interior designer and TV personality, Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen, who describes himself as a non-conforming pagan; England cricketing legend, Monty Panesar - a practising Sikh; actress, Louisa Clein, who is Jewish; TV personality Nick Hower - an agnostic with Catholic roots; TV presenter and

April 7, 2022



A BBC Two documentary featuring Slí Cholmcille will air this Friday, 8th April. Ahead of the documentary airing this weekend, Charlie McConalogue, Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, TD visited Gartan, the birthplace of Colmcille and met with the Slí Cholmcille committee and members of the local community. L-R are Brian McGarvey, Bishop Alan McGuckian, Charlie McConalogue, Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, TD, Anne McGowan, and Seamus Neely. Photo - Clive Wasson.

podcast host, social media influencer, Scarlett Moffatt - a Christian; comedian, Shazia Mirza - a Muslim; and Paralympian, Will Bayley - a lapsed Christian.

April 7, 2022

Ahead of the documentary airing this weekend, Charlie McConalogue, Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, TD visited Gartan, the birthplace of Colmcille. He said: "It's wonderful that Slí Cholmcille is being promoted to a global audience in this way.

See www.slicholmcille.org.

Report and photo courtesy the Derry Journal

New Principal for Belfast Bible College

Belfast Bible College has announced the appointment of a new Principal, Rev. James Burnett.

Having read Theology at Oxford University and Politics, Economics and Philosophy at Queen's University, Belfast and Cambridge University, Rev Burnett is currently the minister of Lowe Church Belfast and comes with considerable experience of Christian service – in leadership, teaching, pastoral ministry and mission activity.

Commenting on his appointment Dr Norman Morrow, Chair of the College Board said, "We are delighted to welcome Rev. Burnett as our Principal. As a college, our goal is to equip 21st-century disciples through theological education that is orientated towards a lived-out faith that impacts the world. Our new Principal is ideally placed to help us realise that goal and, in a wider sense, enable the College to serve the church in communicating the gospel and offering a Christian perspective on the contemporary issues facing society."

April 7, 2022

Asked about his new role Rev Burnett said, “I am absolutely thrilled and extremely excited to become the new Principal. Belfast Bible College has an excellent track record in theological education and missional impact, typified by an illustrious list of graduates, and I look forward to playing my part in leading an incredibly talented staff and Christian education hub.”

Cork plan to upgrade houses for Ukrainian families raises €200,000 in two weeks

Church of Ireland bishop Paul Colton helped draw up plan to raise up to €400,000

Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross Dr Paul Colton has paid tribute to people who rallied around to donate money and help renovate eight historic houses in Mitchelstown to cater for families fleeing the war in Ukraine, Barry Roche writes in the Irish Times.

The bishop said people had responded with great generosity when he and diocesan secretary Billy Skuse put out an appeal two weeks ago to try and raise €300,000-€400,000 to do up the vacant houses at Kingston College in the north Cork town.

“We saw what was happening in Ukraine – people fleeing the horror of war there and ending up as refugees, and I said to Billy it was unconscionable to have these houses in Kingston College lying idle, so we immediately drew up a plan to upgrade the houses,” Dr Colton said.



“We reckoned we needed between €300,000 and €400,000 to do up the eight houses, which were in varying states of disrepair. I was told that I would never get that sort of money but we sent out an appeal and within eight days we had raised over €200,000, so we’re well on our way.”

They hope to be able to accommodate at least eight families in the renovated houses and possibly more, if those coming

April 7, 2022

include members of extended families who want to live together.

The eight houses are located throughout Kingston College, a community of 30 small terraced houses, grouped around a large square with a chapel in the centre, which were built by James, fourth lord baron Kingston, in 1761 to cater for former tenants on his estate.

Self-contained unit

Mr Skuse said the houses were mainly occupied by retired people from all walks of life and from all parts of Ireland and beyond. While the houses are not identical, each is a separate self-contained unit with its own garden.

“Those images have made it very immediate for people, and it’s seeing those sorts of scenes that we thought we had consigned to the last century happening on our continent today in 2022. It’s had a huge impact on people and that’s why they have responded with such generosity and kindness.”

Be part of Discovery Gospel Choir’s ‘pop up’ community choir

Would you like to be part of Discovery’s ‘pop up’ community choir?

Tour the world through music, song, dance and story with Discovery Gospel Choir, Ireland’s leading intercultural choir.

April 7, 2022

Building connections through music,
song, dance and stories.



Our Ireland Discovery Workshops Starting Saturday 9th April

To register your interest contact
ourireland@discoverygospelchoir.com



Sing, move and play with them as you learn about world cultures and share your own. Discover new and exciting ways to engage with the world and those around you as you immerse yourself in music and song.

The Workshops

Adults of any age and ability are very welcome to take part in Discovery's Our Ireland workshops. The workshops are funded by the St Patrick's Festival and TikTok Creative Fund and so are free of charge. The purpose of these workshops

April 7, 2022

is to create a pop up choir that will perform two songs with Discovery at their concert on May 6. These workshops will include a mix of music, drama, dance, activities, exploration and preparation to sing with Discovery.

They will aim to fulfil the choir's motto "Discover Beauty in Everyone" through:

- Exploring diverse new music, languages and cultures.
- Building bonds by learning to sing international music together in preparation for a performance.

The workshops will take place over three day, in the Church of St George and St Thomas, Cathal Brugha St, Dublin 1 from 2–5pm.

The dates are: Saturday April 9th/ Saturday April 23rd/
Monday (Bank Holiday) May 2nd

Children are welcome to come along and engage in some crafts while you participate in the workshop.

Places are limited and are allocated on a first come first served basis.

Register your interest by emailing
ourireland@discoverygospelchoir.com

Dona Nobis Pacem: A Concert for Ukraine

On Good Friday, 15 April 2022, a special concert – Dona Nobis Pacem: A Concert for Ukraine – will take place at Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, in response to the

April 7, 2022

Irish Red Cross' Ukraine Appeal to aid those affected by the ongoing attacks on Ukraine and to support displaced families seeking asylum in Ireland.

Tickets are on sale now at stpatrickscathedral.ie/ukraine for anyone wishing to show their support through their contributions to a night of beautiful peaceful programming. Proceeds go to the Irish Red Cross, who will be taking donations in the Cathedral on the evening for those in need of urgent assistance.

The Cathedral choir will perform one of the best loved choral works of all time, Requiem by Gabriel Fauré, alongside works by two other Parisian composers, Maurice Duruflé and Louis Vierne. The choir will be accompanied by Master of the Music, Mr Stuart Nicholson, the Organist and Assistant Master of the Music, Mr David Leigh, and Mr Jeffrey Ledwidge on bass.

The evening will be graced by People's Artist of Ukraine, Olga Chubareva (Lady Opera), who will be performing a Prayer for Ukraine, Myroslav Skoryk's Melody and Andrew Lloyd Webber's Requiem Pie Jesu. An opera singer, professor and doctor of philosophy, Olga Chubareva was forced to leave her homeland due to the war in Ukraine, where her son and home are at the very epicentre of the fighting in Bucha.

Dr William Morton, Dean of Saint Patrick's Cathedral, is delighted that the Cathedral is hosting the concert in support of the Ukraine Crisis Appeal of the Irish Red Cross, and is most grateful to Mr Nicholson, Mr Leigh, Mr Ledwidge, the members of the Choir, and Professor Chubareva for their



support with this initiative in response to what is a major humanitarian crisis in Ukraine.

Dean Morton remarks: “Over the last 800 years the ancient walls of Saint Patrick’s Cathedral have witnessed generations of people who have come in times of trouble to seek refuge, to seek hope and to seek reassurance, and to offer their prayers for those who need them most.

April 7, 2022

“I’m appealing to the people of Dublin, and of Ireland, to come along to this concert, and by standing steadfast in solidarity with our neighbours in Ukraine, to show the world the resilience, the tolerance and the neighbourliness that make us what we are, and, at the same time, to raise some money to respond to the plight of those struggling so hard in the cruel face of war and aggression.”

Speaking ahead of the event, the Irish Red Cross’ Head of Fundraising, Mr Charles Lamson, notes: “The Irish Red Cross is grateful for the support of St. Patrick’s Cathedral on Good Friday. We are continuing to provide urgent assistance to those caught up in the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine – with the country itself as well as in the surrounding region and here in Ireland. This support simply could not be done without out the overwhelming generosity and empathy of so many people. Thank you for thinking of us on this special day.”

Ahead of directing the evening, Stuart Nicholson says: “The Cathedral’s Music Department regularly gives concerts in aid of charity, whether local, national or international. Having seen the horrifying scenes in Ukraine and the mass exodus of refugees, we really wanted to do what we could help the relief by doing what we do best - perform.

“We decided to include Fauré’s much loved Requiem in our concert for Ukraine. Not only is it one of the most recognisable pieces of choral music ever written, it is also unlike many of the larger scales settings of the Requiem Mass which tend to lean towards the dreadful days of judgments, ultimately about finding peace.”

April 7, 2022

The Book of Peace will be available for all to sign, and donations to the Irish Red Cross can be made either by cash or card on the night. We hope to welcome you so that we might share this evening of peace together through a beautifully assembled selection of incredible music.

Belfast Cathedral concert aids Dean's Lent Sitout for Ukraine

Belfast Cathedral has expressed a huge thank you to everyone who donated the £1,000 total raised at last Friday evening's concert at Belfast Cathedral for the Dean's Lent Sitout for Ukraine.

The concert featured the Belfast Cathedral Children's Choir who were joined by the junior singers of "Songbirds" and the Belfast School of Music's Chorale, all directed by Matthew Owens and India Chapman-Webb.

The total raised so far by the Ukraine Appeal is now an amazing £49,000. The Dean of Belfast and his helpers will be on the steps of Belfast Cathedral from 12 noon to 3pm on Wednesday 6th April, to receive further donations in support of Christian Aid and Habitat for Humanity's life changing work for those who have fled the horrors of Ukraine's invasion.

Choral focus in Holy Week

Palm Sunday, 10th April at 8pm: Rathfarnham Parish Choir will sing John H. Maunder's Olivet to Calvary [D14 TN93]

April 7, 2022

Wednesday in Holy Week at 7.30pm: Sandford & St Philips' choral scholars will sing John Stainer's The Crucifixion in Sandford Church, D06 A9P8

The **virtual performance of The Crucifixion**, filmed and recorded in Sandford Parish Church in March 2021 is still available at the following link
<https://youtu.be/ohLErgRwZUU>

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



A Hidden Gem on the Ancient Hill of Armagh

April 7, 2022

No 5 Vicars' Hill, the former Armagh Provincial and Diocesan Registry, is celebrating its 250th anniversary this year. Registry Officer, Dr Stephen Day, will give an online talk about No 5 on Tuesday 5 April 2022 at 7.30pm.

To book a place for Stephen's online talk, please go to <https://armagh-robinson-library.arttickets.org.uk/armagh-robinson-library/2022-04-05-a-hidden-gem-on-the-ancient-hill-armagh-diocesan-registry>

For further information, please e-mail admin@armaghrobinsonlibrary.co.uk or telephone 028 37523142

Founded in 1772, a year after the nearby Armagh Robinson Library and located just opposite the west door of Saint Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral, it is a small, hidden gem of a building.

Outside, its appearance blends in perfectly with the other buildings of this pretty terrace of George II and George III houses. However, inside, the building consists mainly of two large domed rooms. These were ideal for the storing and safekeeping of important documents, including the valuable medieval Registers which Archbishop Robinson had deposited there in the late 18th century. The building also facilitated the diocesan and metropolitan administration encouraged by the Archbishop and his successors.

This Grade A listed building was restored and opened to the public in 2011 and the two rooms now contain treasures which Archbishops Robinson and Beresford donated to the Library, as well as many other historical and religious

April 7, 2022

exhibits which assist in the understanding of the rich history of Armagh and the surrounding area.

Stephen was appointed to the post of Registry Officer in 2010 to promote both the building and contents of No 5 and he looks forward to letting more people know more of this deceptively spacious building.

Book on faith journey of writer CS Lewis by bishop of Offaly

'Peace Apart: Lasting Impressions of C.S. Lewis', is the title of a new book by Bishop Fintan Monahan, Bishop of Killaloe which was launched online on Tuesday 29th March.

The book, which is published by Veritas, was launched by Father Conor McDonough OP, a Dublin-based and Galway-born member of the Irish Dominican Province. Father McDonagh, who ministers at St Saviour's Church in Dublin's north inner city, and teaches in the Dominican House of Studies, has been a fan and student of the work of C.S. Lewis for many years.

A local launch will be held in Ennis on April 6 in the Cathedral after the 11.00 am Mass. Fr. Brendan Quinlivan, Killaloe Diocesan Communications Director will launch the book and Bishop Fintan will be present to sign the new publication.

Peace Apart: Lasting Impressions of C.S. Lewis is an insightful introduction to or reacquaintance with this



outstanding literary and spiritual figure. Bishop Fintan Monahan gently guides us through the life and work of C.S. Lewis, from his childhood in Northern Ireland and his experiences of loss and war at a young age to his years as an academic in Oxford, his time spent with the Inklings and his career as a world-renowned author, touching on all the magic, imagination, loves, losses and great friendships along the way.

In a unique and accessible way, the author explores Lewis' faith journey and its twists and turns, through which he was transformed from a young man of lost faith to a man of deep faith and an apologist. He also explains why Lewis' writings, both fiction and spiritual, continue to resonate and inspire today.

April 7, 2022

This is Bishop Monahan's third book in a series on people whose lives and literary works have inspired him. The other books in the series are *A Perfect Peace: Newman, Saint for Our Time* (2019) and *Peace Smiles: Rediscovering Thomas Merton* (2020).

Cover design of the publication is by local Ennis artist, Harry Guinnane, the foreword is written by the Church of Ireland rector in Ennis, Rev. Kevin O'Brien. The publication which costs €10 is available from Veritas or from the Parish Office in Ennis or at various local bookshops. Acknowledgment - Offaly Independent

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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