



**Image of the day -
The banners are back in St Patrick's Cathedral**

People and places

The banners are back in St Patrick's Cathedral

An exciting day today as conservator Rachel Phelan reinstated the banners of the Knights of the Order of Saint Patrick to their places above the choir stalls. The banners were moved during roof works to keep them safe. This work will continue tomorrow and then the nave will look more like its old self!

Parish response to Carrickfergus refugees

In response to the negative online and social media comments about asylum seekers staying in a local hotel, the parishioners of St Colman's and St John's decided to put together little welcome packs of toiletries and hygiene products for these unfortunate people, to send the message that we love them, we welcome them and we pray for them.

Thank you to all parishioners for your kindness and support.

Melissa, Irish Methodist new Mission Partner

World Mission Partnership is pleased to share news of a new Irish Methodist Mission Partner. Melissa Newell will begin her overseas service in early 2022. The daughter of

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Irish Methodist Minister Rev. William & Janette Newell, Melissa has lived in various places across Northern Ireland and has been working as a French and Spanish teacher for the past three and a half years and is also a Methodist Local Preacher.

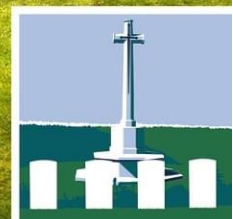
+ Read the article on website: www.irishmethodist.org/news/introducing-our-new-mission-partner

Pray for Melissa

- As she prepares to move to study for a Semester in Cliff College England and as she waits to hear where she will serve from 2022.

- For her friends and family in this period of transition.

Largest group of Second World War air force dead in Northern Ireland lie in Irvinestown



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In the small town of Irvinestown in County Fermanagh lie the largest group of Second World War air force dead in Northern Ireland.

The nearby Lough Erne became a base for RAF Coastal Command flying boats fighting in the Battle of the Atlantic. Airmen of Coastal and Bomber Commands killed in crashes were brought here for burial. 73 Second World War servicemen are commemorated at Irvinestown Church of Ireland Churchyard by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

They are joined by three servicemen from the First World War for died at home or elsewhere in the United Kingdom and were brought home for burial. Learn more: <http://ow.ly/jmll50FJYL2>.

Film of Lambeth Conference Bishops' Conversations

The second round of Lambeth Conference Bishops' Conversations start this week (from 3 to 5th August). Discussions explored what it means to proclaim the good news in the 21st Century.

In this film, some bishops share what it means to Proclaim Good News in their setting.

Bishop Pradeep Samantaroy from Amritsar, North India, shares how during the Pandemic, proclaiming the good news involved rooftop services, so that his community could

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meet for worship together, but socially distanced on the safety of their own rooftop.

Bishop Mary Irwin-Gibson from Montreal shares what it means to have hope - even when situations around you can feel hopeless.

Archbishop Kay Goldsworthy from Perth shares that the work of reconciliation with the indigenous people of Australia and how to reach out to the next generation with the gospel are important priorities in her area.

Bishop Samy Shehata from Egypt shares how the church in Cathedrals in Cairo and Alexandria have developed cultural centres where Muslims and Christians can gather to dialogue, learn from and listen to one another.

Find out more here: <https://www.lambethconference.org/programme/the-bishops-conversations/monthly/august-2021/>

Death of Dr Muriel McCarthy former Keeper of Marsh's Library

The death has taken place, on July 28 2021, of Dr Muriel McCarthy former Keeper of Marsh's Library and Honorary Lay Canon of St Patrick's Cathedral Armagh. She was also a recipient of the Lord Mayor's award, Member of the Old Dublin Society and Gold Medallist. Her funeral took place in the Carmelite Church, Whitfriar's Street on Tuesday August 3. The service was attended by Archbishop Michael



Jackson, chair of the Governors and Guardians of Marsh's Library. He has written an appreciation below -

I had the privilege of attending the Funeral Service of Dr Muriel McCarthy, Keeper of Marsh's Library and Honorary Lay Canon of St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh.

It was a warmhearted occasion that showed how it is possible, in the midst of continuing Restrictions resulting from the on-going prevalence of COVID-19, that happiness and fulfilment in the maelstrom of tragedy and loss can still be expressed and enjoyed, not only by all present but by all joining us nationally and internationally. The service took place in The Carmelite Church, in Whitefriars Street, Dublin.

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2. It is the church in which Muriel and her husband Charles, who sadly pre-deceased her and whose loss she felt profoundly every day, worshipped since the early 1980s. This gave a tangible sense of personal and domestic intimacy to yesterday's service.

Dr Muriel McCarthy was described by her son Justin, speaking on behalf of the family, as a devoted mother to her children and as an inspiring grandmother to her grandchildren. Justin spoke for all family members in saying this. Dr Muriel McCarthy was described by Professor Ruth Whelan as faithful, feisty and fun. She was also described by the latter as a national treasure. Tribute was rightly paid to Anne Simmons who worked with her as a colleague and friend over many years and supported her in friendship in recent years in a way that is highly valued by all members of the McCarthy family.

Every generation brings what it brings to the momentum of change in the society of which it is part. Muriel did this with flair and faithfulness in her time as Keeper of Marsh's Library and was honoured for this by state and church and university.

The celebrant chose as The Gospel St Luke 4.16–21. This is the passage of Holy Scripture in which Jesus comes to the synagogue in Nazareth, reads and interprets a Scripture which he humbly states is fulfilled in the hearing of the listeners and for which he is ultimately crucified. The celebrant's point was that this Scriptural passage is about reading and interpreting Scripture in each and every generation and that the emphasis on reading was entirely appropriate to Muriel and her life's work and passion.

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+Michael Dublin & Glendalough

Dr McCarthy died peacefully surrounded by her loving family in the extraordinary care of all the Nurses and Carers of Newtown Park House Nursing Home. She was predeceased by her loving husband Charles, her twin Mairéad and brothers Liam and Seán. She will be deeply missed by her daughters, Paula, (Panczenko), Martina (Kealy) and her son Justin, sons-in-law Brian and Russell and daughter-in-law Justina, her loving grandchildren Caroline, Susan, Richard, Julianne, Charlie and Max, and her best friend Ann Simmons and brother-in-law Nicholas (Furlong), nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

The service is available to watch at <https://www.whitefriarstreetchurch.ie/>

Reports

Church of Scotland reacts to "shocking" drug related deaths figures

The Church of Scotland has expressed sadness after new figures revealed that 1,339 people died of drug-related deaths in 2020.

The rate is a 5% increase on the previous year and the highest on record.

CrossReach, the operating name of the Church's Social Care Council, provides services for people suffering from

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substance misuse in Inverness, Glasgow, Stornoway, Edinburgh and Dundee.



In the garden of Springburn Parish Church in Glasgow, each cross represents someone whose death was connected to drug use in 2018.

Calum Murray, director of Adult Care Services for CrossReach, said: "These latest drug-related deaths statistics are shocking when we remember each of these deaths is a tragic loss to many families and friends across Scotland.

"Our sympathies lie with them.

"While distressing, the figures are not surprising as they result, in part, from years of under-investment in substance use services."

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The Scottish Government announced earlier this year that £250 million will be spent on addressing drugs related deaths over the next five years.

No reversal in the trend could have been expected before now as the statistic pertaining to 2020 must be seen in the context of previous underinvestment.

Mr Murray said: "I welcome the swift responses made by Health and Social Care Partnerships and Alcohol and Drug Partnerships to increased Scottish Government funding announced earlier this year.

"CrossReach is actively collaborating with Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership and NHS Highland in particular, to offer more recovery routes to as many people as possible, who need our support.

"We are increasing bed capacity and staff, recruiting those with experience of addiction whose expertise we value greatly.

"It is encouraging to see the increased availability of Naloxone to more people, particularly paramedics whose life-saving responses in this regard augments that of our staff over several years now.

"Commissioners (statutory agencies) cannot reverse the trend of the last seven years in a few months but I am confident that the new funding, if sustained, together with using charities such as CrossReach to help, will reduce the number of unnecessary deaths."

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In May this year, the General Assembly expressed "alarm" at Scotland's drug deaths rate which is higher per capita than any other European country.

Commissioners instructed CrossReach to work in collaboration with the Faith Impact Forum to hold the Scottish Government to account on its promise to reduce drug deaths and to ensure that the appropriate resources are put in place

‘Save the Parish’ campaigners have Synod in their sights

A campaign to elect members to the C of E General Synod under a “Save the Parish” banner was launched in London on Tuesday evening, with a warning that this was “the last chance to save the system that has defined Christianity in this country for 1000 years”.

The move was welcomed by a Church of England spokesman, Madeleine Walker writes in The Church Times.

In his remarks at the campaign launch, in St Bartholomew the Great, Smithfield, in London, the Rector, the Revd Marcus Walker, spoke of the need for a “co-ordinated campaign” that would unite Anglicans across traditions, transcending debates about women’s ordination and same-sex marriage.

A keynote speech was delivered by the Revd Dr Alison Milbank, Canon Theologian of Southwell Minster, who drew on the book that she co-wrote with Canon Andrew Davison,

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For the Parish (SCM Press) (Books, 26 November 2010). She argued that, since the 2004 report Mission-shaped Church, “the Church of England has totally capitulated to market values and managerialism. . . There has been a tendency to view the parish like some inherited embarrassing knick-knack from a great-aunt that you wish were in the attic.” The pandemic had been “an opportunity to expedite further the demise of traditional church”, she feared.

Although, in theory, a “mixed ecology” was operating (News, 30 May), “resources are being drained from the parish system”, she warned. Most of the Strategic Development Fund money had gone on resource churches, “without any appreciable benefit or sharing with the parish around”. (A General Synod question last month revealed that about 30 per cent of funding had gone to churches supported by the Church Revitalisation Trust, a charity based at Holy Trinity, Brompton, in London).

“We are at crunch time,” Canon Milbank said. “Are we the C of E with its reformed Catholic character, its sacraments, orders, and liturgies, and its parish witness, or are we a Nonconformist sect? There are hard decisions to be made in a Church during a period of secularisation and atheism, but they should be taken by those who love the Church of England. Indeed, even marketing will tell you that you cannot promote a product in which you do not believe.”

Courtesy, Church Times, Aug 5, 2021



Team GB Olympic swimmer thanks God and his family church

Team GB swimmer Daniel Jervis has thanked God and his family church for their support during his Olympic participation.

"I want to thank my village, obviously, of Resolven and I want to thank my church, Sardis Baptist Church, Ammanford church in Ammanford, who have really been supportive of me and everyone back home has been praying for me.

"I am proud of many things in my life, but the thing I'm most proud of [is that] I'm a Christian and obviously, God was with me tonight, and I'm just really grateful to be representing him," Dan Jervis told the BBC just after he finished his last race of the games.

The 25-year-old from Resolven in Wales was baptised in Sardis Church, where his father, Jonathan Jervis is a deacon. Last month, Jervis told the BBC programme Sunday Worship he was brought up in a Christian household and recalled a moment where he felt the presence of God.

"I remember in the 2016 Olympic trials and everything was going well. I was going into the final and I remember a feeling of God being very close to me just before my race.

"I was thinking to myself there's a reason why I feel he's very close to me right now - because I'm ready to do this. In

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the race, it didn't go well. My race plan fell apart completely. When I got home, I remember thinking to myself, what just happened?

"It took me a few weeks to realise that I was feeling the presence of God more strongly than ever because I think he knew that I could not deal with this on my own," Jervin said.

He continued: "When you are in the presence of God it is not a weird feeling, you feel very calm and safe. I pray before every single race. I don't so much pray to win, and he knows that."

"There is a particular verse from the Bible that is my favourite, and which stays with me. It is on the back of the Bible that my church gave to me and I have it tattooed on my arm. It is Deuteronomy 31 verse 6: "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid and do not be terrified before them, because the Lord your God is going with you. He will not abandon you and he will not forsake you."

Jervis finished fifth in the final of the 1500 metres freestyle event but said he's determined to come back stronger next time.

"I wanted the British record. I mean, I was kind of going into this race, not thinking about the time but deep down, I wanted the British record and that's held by a Welshman, and it's going to be beat by a Welshman mean soon. I wanted it to be tonight. But, you know, it'll be sometime in the future."

Poem for today

Ireland by Francis Ledwidge

I called you by sweet names by wood and linn,
You answered not because my voice was new,
And you were listening for the hounds of Finn
And the long hosts of Lugh.

And so, I came unto a windy height
And cried my sorrow, but you heard no wind,
For you were listening to small ships in flight,
And the wail on hills behind.

And then I left you, wandering the war
Armed with will, from distant goal to goal,
To find you at the last free as of yore,
Or die to save your soul.

And then you called to us from far and near
To bring your crown from out the deeps of time,
It is my grief your voice I couldn't hear
In such a distant clime.

Pointers for prayer

Pray for the of children in Zambia during this time. Many children have no access to learning as schools have closed due to the containment measures put in place to avoid the



spread of C-19. Families are struggling & cannot afford the cost associated with online learning.

Gracious Father, who gives to us bread from heaven, hear us when we hunger and cry out to the one who is the bread of life. Renew us by your gift and restore us by your presence. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Gracious Father, who gives to us bread from heaven, hear the cry of all who hunger this day and who long for the gifts that renew and restore life. Renew our concern for your creation and for all who inhabit the earth. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Gracious Father, who gives to us bread from heaven, hear us when we thirst and long for living water. May all who thirst drink deep from the rivers of living water. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Gracious Father, who gives to us bread from heaven, hear the cries of those who long for clean water and who live in

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parched lands. May all who thirst find living water for daily life. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Gracious Father, who gives to us bread from heaven, hear our cry to the one who is the bread of life: give us this bread always. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Pray the news -

For the Church in Scotland, other churches and agencies working to reduce the number of drug deaths - see this issue page 8

Give thanks for those who are responding to serve with the churches abroad; Pray for Melissa

- As she prepares to move to study for a Semester in Cliff College England and as she waits to hear where she will serve from 2022.

- For her friends and family in this period of transition. See page 2

Speaking to the Soul

Do everything without complaining and arguing, so that no one can criticize you. Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people.

Philippians 2:14-15 NLT

Complaining has always been a part of life. Sometimes we need to complain but as a way of life it can be very destructive. It has been wisely said that complaining doesn't

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solve problems, it only attracts them. Complaints were clearly a feature of the church in Philippi and Paul is eager that they should stop. His comments remind us of the people of Israel during their 40 years in the wilderness. Even though they had observed God miraculously leading them out of slavery in Egypt it wasn't long before the complaints began.

Complaining and arguing are destructive in every way. Paul challenged his readers to live in such a way that they couldn't be criticised, because that could only damage their Christian witness. Paul had no illusions about how hard this would be. His description of the world being full of crooked and perverse people was clearly based on his own personal experiences. He knew how tough life in the world was, and he could see that if the Philippian Christians lived out their faith in the way that he had described they would shine like bright lights. They would stand out from the people around them. No doubt they were often tempted to withdraw from the world but Paul insists that their calling was to be in the world.

I remember as a teenager attending Christian conferences and holidays and thinking how wonderful it would be if I could have stayed there. I found it very hard to get back into normal life after those precious times. But I had to learn that God has not called us to cut ourselves off but to live our lives in the midst of people who think and act very differently from us. Tough as it may be, we need to play a full part in the life of our communities praying that, miraculously, we might be able to shine the light of Christ in our dark world.

QUESTION

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In what way are you able to shine for Christ in your daily life?

PRAYER

Lord, forgive me for those times when I am prone to complain and argue. Fill me with your Spirit today so that I will be able to shine for you however tough life might be.
Amen

