

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – St Canice's trees up for Christmas



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St Canice's trees up for Christmas

Preparations for the Christmas Tree Festival at St Canice's Cathedral, Kilkenny

News reports

**Cantare Ladies Choir perform charity
Nativity event at Seagoe Parish Church in
Portadown**

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Cantare Ladies Choir is to perform a unique charity Nativity event at Seagoe Parish Church in Portadown tomorrow Friday.

Cantare Ladies Choir, which was founded by its Musical Director Siobhán Taylor, is presenting 'From Waiting for a King to Following a Star,' in St. Gobhan's Parish Church, Seagoe, on Friday, December 2 at 8pm.

This is a unique event in that Siobhán will also be narrating her personal written story on the Nativity with a modern twist. Those present can be assured of an eclectic mixture of music in addition to readings and meditations, both traditional and modern. Courtesy - Northern Ireland World. More at:



Be present, O merciful God, and protect us through the hours of this night, so that we may rest in your eternal changelessness. ~ The Book of Common Prayer



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[<https://www.northernirelandworld.com/news/people/cantare-ladies-choir-perform-charity-nativity-event-at-seagoe-parish-church-in-portadown-3933781>]

Handel's Messiah - Kells 2022

Owen Gilhooly-Miles, with support from Co. Meath Arts Office, present Handel's epic Oratorio 'Messiah' in the beautiful surrounds of St. Columba's Church of Ireland, Kells, Co. Meath, on Sunday, 11 December 2022, 7.00pm

International soloists Mairéad Buicke - Soprano & Anne Marie Gibbons - Mezzo Soprano, are joined by rising stars Seán Tester - Tenor & David Kennedy - Baritone.

Niall Kinsella will conduct the Irish Choral Sinfonia with Cambiata Chamber Choir and Guests including Buvinda Singers.

A unique event for Kells. Tickets from The BookMarket Cafe, Kells or from www.eventbrite.ie

More than just trees at Nenagh festival

The 2022 festival at St Mary's Church of Ireland in Nenagh will have much more than trees and Christmas exhibits, as usual.

The sales table will be full of all sorts of treasures and not just jams and preserves. We have planned for household items, jewellery, toys and much more, as well as the lucky dip for boys or girls (but we are flexible on what each person

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might pick). We also will have a selection of prizes for the raffle.

One of our items for sale that you might want for Christmas presents is the 'Nenagh Union of Parishes St Mary's National School Recipe Book', a collection of favourite recipes from the pupils, parents, and parish community. This was published last year but due to Covid hasn't really had the exposure it deserves for its recipes of everything from soups through special recipes for Christmas. All monies collected will be split between the school and the parish.

The school colouring contest continues with different outline pictures for different school ages from each school that submits entries. Emails will be sent to schools in various locations with an invitation to participate and with dates by which to have mailed in their entries. Winners will be chosen and that will be posted with the winning pictures.

Having a prayer tree is so important for all of us and this will be in the front chancel with the materials to write messages.

And the wonderful teas are back! Being aware of Covid concerns we still have, a few tables will be set up socially-distanced in the back vestry but the other two tables will be on the outside at the back of the sanctuary, again socially-distanced. Make your plans to come for a light meal of sandwiches, cakes and tea.

Hand-sanitisers and masks will be available as needed. We are conscious that Covid and other winter bugs haven't gone away and are planning everything to take this into consideration. Please don't let this stop you from joining us

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for the festivities. These have been a difficult two years for all of us but we are back into the community now and particularly for this Christmas.

The Nenagh Christmas Tree Festival will take place from December 7 to 11 with the times for Wednesday-Friday, 1 – 5.30pm; Saturday and Sunday, 11 - 6pm. The Carol service will start on Sunday at 6.30pm. Report courtesy the Nenagh Guardian.

Annual Chaplains Carol Service at Queen's University Belfast



Queen's University Annual Chaplains

Carol Service

Tuesday 6 December 2022
The Great Hall, 5.00pm

Free admission – first come, first served

An offering will be taken towards the Porter's Toys Appeal

You are warmly invited to the Queen's University Annual Chaplains Carol Service

in The Great Hall on Tuesday 6th December 5pm. Free admission, arrive early.



Healing services in Belfast and Downpatrick cathedrals

Church's Ministry of Healing - Healing service with anointing and laying on of hands Belfast Cathedral 1 pm every Friday.

Tomorrow the Revd John Rutter is the preacher at this service. All welcome.

In Down Cathedral tomorrow Friday (2nd Dec) at 1pm. Healing Service with anointing and laying on of hands. This month the preacher will be Revd. Colin Darling. All welcome.



Ms Brid Horan, Archbishop Michael Jackson, Prof Daire Keogh, Dr Kenneth Milne, the Revd Prof Anne Lodge and Dean Dermot Dunne.

Dr Kenneth Milne – Contribution to history, education and Church recognised by DCU

The contribution made by Dr Kenneth Milne to history, education and the Church of Ireland was honoured on Tuesday past by Dublin City University with the conferring of the award of Doctor of Philosophy (Honoris Causa).

The Doctor of Philosophy (Honoris Causa) is the highest award that DCU can bestow. Dr Milne joins noted figures from politics, sport, literature and industry in receiving it.



Secretary to the General Synod Board of Education Dr Ken Fennelly, Dr Kenneth Milne, and the Revd Prof Anne Lodge Director of the Church of Ireland Centre at DCU.

They include Joe Schmidt, Paula Meehan, Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh, Sonia O’Sullivan, President Bill Clinton, Seamus Mallon, David Trimble, and most recently Seán de Fréine..

Dr Kenneth Milne is a highly respected historian with a particular expertise in the history of Ireland from the seventeenth to the twentieth centuries. In the citation for the award, the Revd Prof Anne Lodge, Director of the Church of Ireland Centre at DCU, said he had made extensive, valuable and unfailingly generous contributions to Irish education, to Irish historical research and to Irish Anglicanism.

“Through his scholarship, his distinguished public service, his dedication to Education, and his commitment to inter–church dialogue, Dr Milne has championed the DCU mission to ‘transform lives and societies’. The awarding of this honour also reflects the store DCU places on Education, History and Theology, and highlights the significance of his research for scholars and students in these disciplines,” she stated.

Prof Lodge noted that Dr Milne’s contribution to history, education and the Church of Ireland extended beyond research and publications and into decades of service “at the coalface”. Dr Milne served as Secretary to the General Synod Board of Education from 1963 to 1974. He served as Principal of the Church of Ireland College of Education from 1977 to 1985. During this time he established the Plunket Museum of Irish Education, a unique collection of educational artefacts, which was housed on the CICE campus in Rathmines from 1990 onwards. He also led the curation of the Kildare Place Society archive – a highly significant trove of primary material detailing a key movement in the history of Irish Education.

She pointed out that in parallel with his professional achievements, Dr Milne is well known for his decades of voluntary service for a wide range of institutions, including the Council of Trinity College Dublin, the Board of Tallaght Hospital, and the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment. He continues to serve as the Historiographer of the Church of Ireland and chairs the Literature Committee of the Church of Ireland Communications Board.



DCU President Prof Daire Keogh, Dr Kenneth Milne and DCU Chancellor Ms Brid Horan.

“Dr Milne wears these lifetime achievements lightly. He is a modest, self-effacing and courteous man, always willing to serve and never expecting to be thanked or made the centre of attention,” Prof Lodge stated.

In response, Dr Milne thanked Dublin City University for the honour. “I greatly appreciate it. Many years ago I attended what was, as I recall, the first conferring ceremony at DCU and little did I think then that one day I would be participating in such an occasion myself. My academic training was as an historian and I practised that trade as a teacher in the secondary school classroom and then in primary teacher education. And, as a teacher and also having other responsibilities in education, it has often occurred to me that while there is an awareness that the

chemistry teacher is handling very sensitive, even dangerous, material, so too is the history teacher, though the explosive potentialities of the subject may take longer to emerge!” he said.

Prof Keogh said the university was delighted to have the opportunity to honour Dr Milne and welcome him formally to the DCU family.

He observed that as a former principal of the Church of Ireland College of Education, which was incorporated into DCU in 2016, it was probably fair to say that he was already part of the DCU community.

“You have done so much to enhance our understanding of Irish History, in particular the history of the Church of Ireland and the history of the development of Education in this country,” Prof Keogh told Dr Milne. “In fact, there are few historians in Ireland who have committed so much of their lives to scholarship. To illustrate this – in 1963, Kenneth wrote a history of his parish church, St Bartholomew’s on Clyde Rd. Remarkably, he returned to the task over 50 years later, and in 2019 published an updated and revised edition of the book, based on newly available source material.”

Brid Horan, Chancellor of Dublin City University, pointed out that Ireland does not have an official honours system and in the absence of that the awarding of a DCU honorary doctorate takes on an additional meaning. “It is an award of national significance reserved for individuals with an outstanding record of excellence in their field and beyond,” she said. “The honorary doctorate is bestowed on those

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who, through their work and achievements, exemplify DCU values, and the DCU mission ‘to transform lives and societies’... We can point to a whole range of Kenneth’s achievements and activities that clearly align with our mission – we can point to his extraordinary record of scholarship as a historian, his lifelong commitment to Education in all its facets, and his dedicated service to church and society.”

Former bishop banned from ministry for life following sexual abuse allegations

A retired Church of England bishop has been banned for life from ministry after sexual abuse allegations were brought against him.

Peter Hullah, former bishop of Ramsbury in the diocese of Salisbury until 2005, agreed to the punishment after two women complained to the Church in 2019.

The allegations were serious enough for the Church of England to refer him to the police. He's decided against contesting the allegations at a Church tribunal and has not been criminally charged.

Although Hullah has not been charged with any offence, it's understood the Archbishop of Canterbury, Most Rev Justin Welby, made the decision to ban him from ministry this summer.

In a statement a Church of England spokesperson offered "an unreserved apology" to the victims.

"We can confirm that Peter Hullah has now been prohibited from ministry for life following a complaint under the Clergy Discipline Measure brought by the National Safeguarding Team," the statement read.

"We would like to acknowledge the courage and offer an unreserved apology on behalf of the Church to those who came forward to share their experience; support has been offered to all involved. The Church expects the highest standards from those in leadership and there can be no excuses when this does not happen.

"We will continue to listen to all those who come forward and to work together to make the Church a safer place for all," it concluded.

A spokesman for Hullah said: "Peter Hullah expresses deep regret to those affected in any way and apologies for any distress caused to anyone involved in this process."

In the media

2021 Census shows less than half of the UK population identifies as Christian.

The Daily Express leads on recently released data from the 2021 Census which shows less than half of the UK population identifies as Christian. It says the figure is a reminder that Britain is in the throes of rapid social change. The editorial in the Daily Mail says Christianity underpins the moral code of our society, and says many will see this latest news as a sad moment. The i says it is the first time

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Christians are in the minority in nearly 1,500 years when the religion first started to spread around the British Isles. The drop coincides with a rise in the number of people saying they have no religion.

Full judicial review hearing will bring 'clarity' to role of police ombudsman: retired officers. - News Letter

A High Court decision in Belfast has been welcomed as a step towards establishing “clear parameters” that will ultimately clarify what constitutes acceptable conduct in respect of the police ombudsman.

On Tuesday, a judge granted leave for the Northern Ireland Retired Police Officers Association (NIRPOA) to seek a judicial review in a case centred on three separate reports by Marie Anderson into Troubles-era killings.

Mr Justice Scofield identified an arguable case that Ms Anderson “overstepped the mark” in some of her findings. The retired RUC officers claim Mrs Anderson was legally forbidden from making findings which effectively branded them guilty of colluding in brutal terrorist murders without proper due process.

Ukraine war: Russia hits out as Pope labels minority ethnic soldiers 'cruel' - BBC News

The "cruellest" troops are generally Chechens and Buryats, Pope Francis told 'America' a Jesuit US magazine.

[<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-63789475>]

Church 'inundated' with requests for help from families who are 'not able to put food on the table' - The Irish Times

‘It’s the anxiousness that you can feel. When you’re anxious, you’re in the moment all the time, you’re living from hour to hour, day to day’, says Fr Kieran McDermott of St Mary’s Pro-Cathedral .

The number of young families requesting help with food and energy bills at St Mary’s Pro-Cathedral in Dublin city centre has increased “significantly” in recent months, according to the church’s administrator.

Fr Kieran McDermott, who is responsible for the church’s pastoral outreach and management, says young mothers are arriving at the church on Marlborough Street to appeal for help, often experiencing food poverty for the first time. [\[https://www.irishtimes.com/ireland/social-affairs/2022/11/28/church-inundated-with-requests-for-help-from-families-who-are-not-able-to-put-food-on-the-table/\]](https://www.irishtimes.com/ireland/social-affairs/2022/11/28/church-inundated-with-requests-for-help-from-families-who-are-not-able-to-put-food-on-the-table/)

PSNI received domestic abuse call every 16 minutes last Christmas - Belfast Live

Stark figures from The Police Service of Northern Ireland over the last few years show a significant spike in domestic abuse incidents over the festive holiday period.

They reveal that this includes psychological abuse with coercive and controlling behaviour creating fear in relationships and homes.

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[<https://www.belfastlive.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/psni-received-domestic-abuse-call-25621196>]

Former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams supports help for poor countries affected by the climate disaster - Guardian

Report that the former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams is calling for rich countries and wealthy individuals to pay into the loss and damage fund to help poor countries affected by the climate disaster. The first steps were taken to establish the fund at the Cop27 conference earlier this month.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/nov/28/rowan-williams-urges-wealthy-to-stump-up-cash-for-climate-fund>

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Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

BBC Report on upcoming Christmas religion programming.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/mediacentre/2022/christmas-religious-programming/>

Advent study on climate and environmental crises.

Homegroups.co.uk has launched a four-week Advent study for small groups, 'Sleepers Awake,' led by Bishop Nicholas Holtam set in the context of the climate and environmental crises.



Architects of Ulster 1920s-1970s: Liam McCormick & The Church of St Aengus, Co Donegal ✨

“The church of St Aengus at Burt in Co Donegal (1964-67) brought unprecedented fame to McCormick. Its circular plan was a new and original concept in Ireland at the time, and it stands as a landmark not only in its physical setting but also in the development of modern Irish church architecture.

Sited on an open hillside overlooking Lough Swilly, its sculpturally treated asymmetrical form integrated perfectly with the mountainous landscape, the circular stone-built walls of an ancient fort, Grianan of Aileach, located on a hilltop above, providing the essential inspiration for the configuration of the design....”📖

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You can read more about the work of Liam McCormick in UAH's latest publication Architects of Ulster 1920s-1970s by Dr Paul Larmour. Available in Hardback and Softback. New photography by Joe Laverty Photography.

For more information on the new book visit:
www.ulsterarchitecturalheritage.org.uk/shop/

The glorious music of Advent, sung by the Cambridge Singers

You can find this playlist of choral pieces across all major streaming platforms.

<https://lnk.to/MusicforAdvent>

Poem for today

The Second Coming by William Butler Yeats

Turning and turning in the widening gyre
The falcon cannot hear the falconer;
Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;
The best lack all conviction, while the worst
Are full of passionate intensity.

Surely some revelation is at hand;
Surely the Second Coming is at hand.
The Second Coming! Hardly are those words out
When a vast image out of Spiritus Mundi
Troubles my sight: somewhere in sands of the desert

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A shape with lion body and the head of a man,
A gaze blank and pitiless as the sun,
Is moving its slow thighs, while all about it
Reel shadows of the indignant desert birds.
The darkness drops again; but now I know
That twenty centuries of stony sleep
Were vexed to nightmare by a rocking cradle,
And what rough beast, its hour come round at last,
Slouches towards Bethlehem to be born?

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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