

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Archbishop of Canterbury in Kyiv

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Archbishop of Canterbury in Kyiv

The Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop in Europe Robert Innes travelled to Kyiv for a three-day visit this week.

The trip was organised to show solidarity with the people and churches of Ukraine as they face ongoing Russian bombardment and a profoundly difficult winter.

While in Kyiv Archbishop Justin Welby and Bishop Robert met leaders of Ukraine's churches, including members of Christ Church Kyiv, to hear their accounts of what the country is going through and understand how the Church of England and the Anglican Communion can continue to support them.

They also met Ukrainian refugees and internally displaced people and see the work of churches and charities providing support to them.

Archbishop Justin said, 'The people of Ukraine have shown extraordinary courage in the face of Russia's illegal, unjust and brutal invasion. This visit is about showing solidarity with them as they face a profoundly difficult winter. I look forward to meeting church leaders and local Christians in Kyiv and learning how we can continue to support them amidst the ongoing devastation, loss and destruction of this war.'



Archbishop Welby with two members of the Anglican church in Kyiv

Bishop Robert added, ‘I am very grateful to have this opportunity to travel to Ukraine to show my personal support for our brothers and sisters in Christ here at this difficult and painful time. It is inspiring and humbling to see how members of our chaplaincy here at Christ Church in Kyiv continue to carry out their work and serve God in the face of the traumas of war. Archbishop Justin and I are here to show solidarity with all the churches in Ukraine as we continue to pray for a peaceful and just end to the war. I want to thank everyone here for making us so welcome.’

Archbishop Justin and Bishop Robert visited the Polish capital, Warsaw, on their way to Ukraine. While there, they met Ukrainian refugees and visited Ukrainian House, a support centre for migrants that has been turned into a crisis

centre supporting refugees since the Russian invasion. And the Archbishop also met the Apostolic Nuncio to Poland, Archbishop Salvatore Pennacchio, to hear about the Roman Catholic Church's extensive work supporting Ukrainian refugees in Poland.

Speaking afterwards, Archbishop Justin said, 'It was deeply moving to meet Ukrainian refugees in Warsaw and hear their stories. In this season of Advent, we remember that Jesus was born into conflict and persecution - and became a refugee when his parents fled violence and persecution to seek safety in Egypt.

'I urge Christians in the Church of England and around the world to keep praying for the people of Ukraine in this Advent season - along with all people caught up in conflicts around the world - and offering our solidarity and support in every way we can.'

Bishop Robert was also moved by his time in Poland, 'It was inspiring to see the work of our chaplaincy in Warsaw and the Ukraine House,' he said. 'I thank them for the incredible work they – and others around our diocese – have been doing to support refugees who have fled Ukraine since the conflict began.'

The diocese in Europe will be giving everyone the opportunity to gather online during December to remember the people of Ukraine in prayer. Three special Advent services are being organised for Wednesday 7th, Wednesday 14th and Wednesday 21st December. They will follow a similar style to the online services held during Lent

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which were attended by people across the diocese and beyond.

Canterbury and Moderator to join Pope on ‘historic’ visit to South Sudan

The Archbishop of Canterbury and the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland will accompany the pontiff next February.

The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland and the Archbishop of Canterbury are to join Pope Francis on a “historic” pilgrimage of peace to South Sudan.

They have been invited by President Salva Kiir Mayardit and will meet with him and his five vice-presidents in Juba, the country’s capital.

The visit had been due to take place in July but was postponed due to the Pope’s ill health, and will now take place from February 3-5 next year.

During the trip the three spiritual leaders will also meet local church representatives, civil war victims living in a camp for displaced people and will lead a large open-air prayer vigil for peace.

The visit, described as an Ecumenical Pilgrimage of Peace, aims to renew a commitment to peace and reconciliation and stand in solidarity with millions of ordinary people who



The Archbishop of Canterbury (left) and the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland will travel to South Sudan

are suffering amid continued armed conflict, violence, floods and famine.

Pope Francis said: “I think of South Sudan and the plea for peace arising from its people who, weary of violence and poverty, await concrete results from the process of national reconciliation.

“I would like to contribute to that process, not alone, but by making an ecumenical pilgrimage together with two dear brothers, the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.”

South Sudan gained independence from Sudan in 2011.

Rt Rev Dr Iain Greenshields, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, said he feels privileged to be taking part in the visit.

He said: “I am delighted that our prayers have been answered and Pope Francis’s health has improved to enable this vitally important visit to go ahead.

“I am genuinely humbled at the opportunity to support our brothers and sisters in South Sudan in the search for peace, reconciliation and justice.

“It is a privilege to be joining the Holy Father and the Archbishop of Canterbury on this historic Ecumenical Pilgrimage of Peace to South Sudan and we come as servants of the Global Church.

“We call on all people in South Sudan to give expression to Jesus’ words that, ‘Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called the children of God.’”

The pilgrimage was promised during a spiritual retreat at the Vatican in 2019 which involved the three Christian denominations and political leaders from South Sudan.

Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby said: “After much waiting, I am very pleased that this historic visit to South Sudan with Pope Francis and the Moderator of the Church of Scotland will be taking place.

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“Together we share a deep desire to stand in solidarity with the people of South Sudan, to review and renew the commitments its leaders made at the Vatican in 2019.

“We pray for the Holy Spirit to be at work throughout and after this visit, bringing the peace promised by Christ. Please pray for the people of South Sudan.”



Celebrate Christmas with The Three Tenors at St Nicholas Church, Galway

Celtic flavoured with a blend of classical and good humour

It's the fabulous mix of carefully selected popular and inspiring songs beautifully arranged and sung with passion

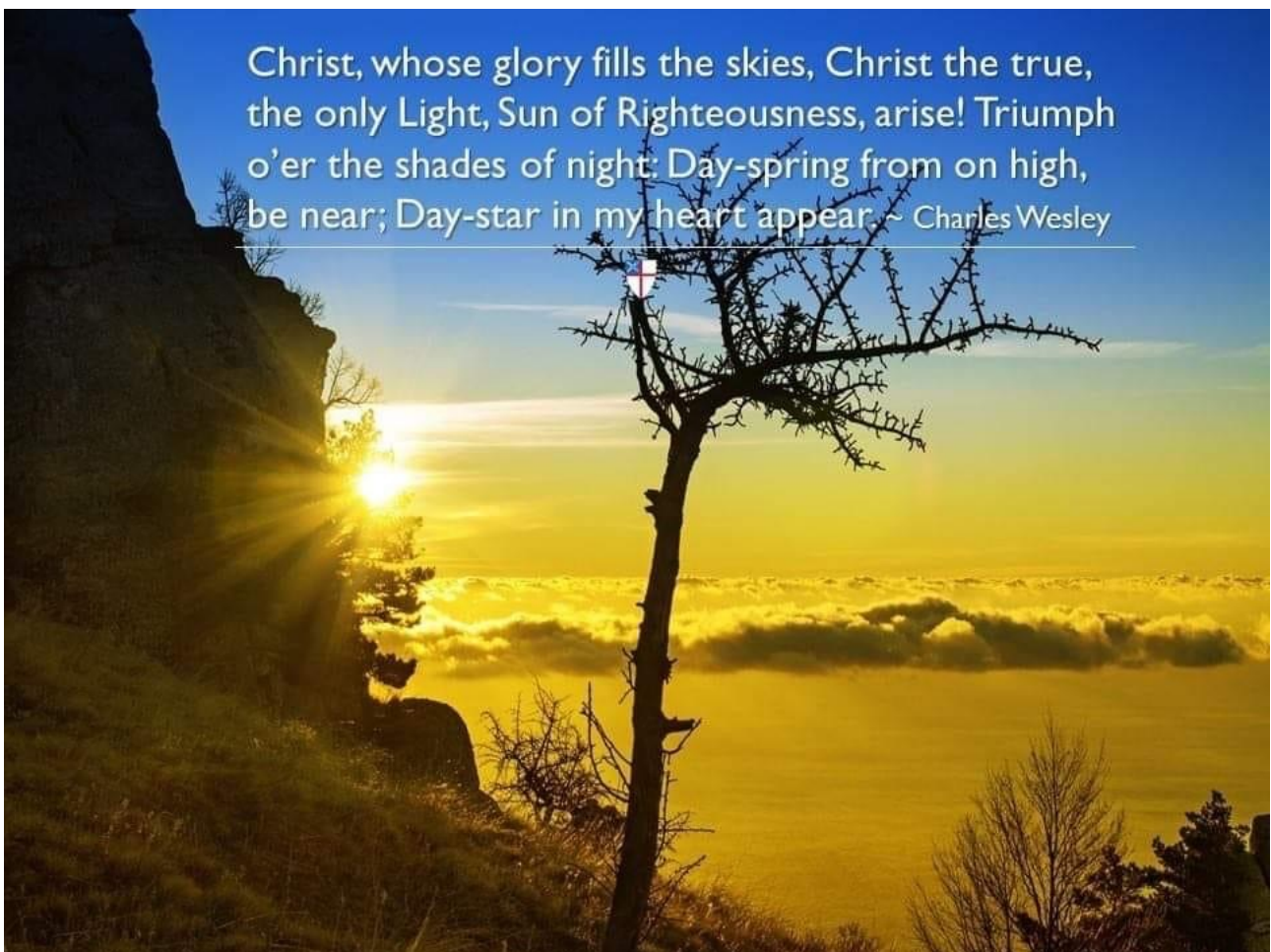
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that draws in people, who can easily connect with the three warm engaging singers Paul Feery, Conor Gibbons and Philip Fagan.

Creating a storm around the country and beyond, The Three Tenors Ireland are well established and are the only Irish trio to perform annually for over ten years in such prestigious venues as the National Concert Hall Dublin (with big fan President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins attending), Cork Opera House, Dublin Castle, and Belfast Lyric Theatre.

In October 2021, a sold-out performance took place in historic St. Patrick's Cathedral Dublin city.

In 2012, they performed for the 50th International Eucharistic Congress in the RDS and in Croke Park



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Stadium and were selected by the Irish Government to headline the 1916 Centenary State Reception in Dublin Castle. The trio have also performed in various churches and cathedrals in Dublin, Cork, Kilkenny, Armagh and Galway.

Don't miss this Christmas night to remember in St Nicholas Church on Saturday, December 10 at 8pm. Tickets are on sale from Spar on Mainguard St, Holland's Newsagents Eyre Sq or online via www.eventbrite.ie
Courtesy The Galway Advertiser

Buncrana set to host Christmas Tree Festival

More than 25 Christmas Trees created and decorated by local community groups, youth groups, schools, businesses, artists and crafts people will form a festive trail around Buncrana this year.

The Buncrana Christmas Tree Festival is back once again and will run from Friday 9 to Sunday 11 December, featuring beautiful Christmas trees displayed in St. Mary's Oratory, Christ Church (Church of Ireland) and in The Exchange Community Centre in Castle Avenue.

Venues will be open from 11am to 6pm on Friday and Saturday and from 2 – 6pm on Sunday.

Follow the trail starting in the Oratory for a beautiful, inspiring and meaningful celebration of Christmas and of all that is positive about the community.

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Buncrana Christmas Tree Festival is organised jointly by Buncrana Churches Together and The Exchange.

This year's theme for the Christmas Tree Festival is "The Gift" considering how each group contributes to the community in different ways and remembering the gift of the first Christmas. Watch out for the Gift of Opportunity created by Buncrana YouthReach, the Gift of Dreams created by Buncrana Foroige Club and the Gift of Poetry created by the Creative Writing Group.

Enjoy trees made of unusual materials from golf balls and wooden pallets to orange slices and old garda uniforms. There will be trees that are beautiful, creative and fun as well as trees that are poignant, thought-provoking and challenging.

The trail is a wonderful way to take time out from the busyness of Christmas. It is suitable for all ages.

Download the full programme from www.exchangeinshowen.ie/

Christmas crafts and music will be available at The Exchange on Saturday afternoon.

The Christmas Tree Festival will also feature three special Christmas events in locations across Buncrana.

The first event will be Carols at Christmas with the North West Opera on Friday 9 December at 7.30pm in Christ Church featuring all the festive favourites led by Ann Jennings. (Retiring collection).

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A Quiet Christmas will take place at The Exchange, Castle Avenue (upstairs) on Saturday 10 December (at 6pm). This will be a short reflection featuring poems, prayers and readings for anyone who is grieving or finding things difficult this Christmas time – a time to acknowledge the pain of loss and to remember loved ones.

The festival finale will be a Christmas Carol Concert on Sunday 11 December at 7.30pm in St. Mary's Oratory featuring The Gateway Singers, The Carndonagh Brass Band, Crana College, Scoil Mhuire, the Wee Glee Singers and more.

Courtesy The Derry Journal

Dublin Gospel Choir to spread festive cheer in Bray

One of Ireland's most prolific and uplifting acts, the Dublin Gospel Choir, is coming to Bray this December.

The Mermaid Arts Centre will host an evening of festive favourites and sounds from gospel greats on Friday, December 9 to put everyone in the mood for Christmas.

This is the choir's only performance in County Wicklow, and is part of a limited Christmas tour around Ireland.

Dublin Gospel Choir shows are renown for getting the crowds off their feet and singing along. In the past they have performed with artists as diverse as John Legend, Take That, Duran Duran, Damien Rice, Outkast and Ennio

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Morricone and their annual slot at Electric Picnic is nothing less than legendary.

The choir is made up of a group of performers with a shared love of music and the joy it can bring. The choir can energise audiences with powerful voices and rich harmonies – whether they are performing as a small ensemble or full 40-piece choir. With sell-out shows year after year, early booking to see the group is a must.

ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, ARMAGH

THE ST. ANNE TRUST

Carolfest 2022

ST ANNE'S CATHEDRAL, BELFAST

ST PHILIP & ST JAMES, HOLYWOOD

Gallagher Insurance | Risk Management | Consulting

Belfast City Council

arts council LOTTERY FUNDED

St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh

Thursday 1st December 2022 at 3.30pm

Hardy Memorial Primary School
Saints and Scholars Integrated Primary School
& St Malachy's Primary School

Tickets are €22 full price, €20 concession price. The show lasts roughly two hours.
Courtesy Bray People

25th Anniversary of Mothers' Union Quiet Day in Ballydehob

Hilary Dring, President of the Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, writes:

For more than 25 years members in Ballydehob/ Aughadown Mothers



Union branch have organised an Annual Quiet Day open to everyone from across the diocese. Each year the message about the date would arrive, branches were informed, and members and friends invited. Faithfulness is a wonderful attribute; it is indeed one of the fruit of the Spirit mentioned in Galatians 5:22. We take this opportunity to thank all those who have been involved over the years; many of them are no longer with us. Their legacy lives on.

Each year the gathering in St. Matthew's Hall near Church Cross offers a wonderful opportunity to take some time out of our busy lives to recalibrate at the beginning of the year. The Quiet Day has always been in January but, as with so many other events in recent times, COVID got in the way. So, on Wednesday 5 th October almost 30 members and friends met for a wonderful day of renewal and fellowship. Our speaker was former Diocesan President, Patsy Devoy, well known and much loved by our members. Patsy was the speaker at the very first Quiet Day on 15th January 1996 and so it was very appropriate that she should



be invited to facilitate this special occasion. She chose gratitude as her theme and shaped the day around Psalm 139, especially focussing on the words “For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.”

Each of us has a very personal and special story to tell, a story unique to us. Patsy shared some of her special story, relating memories from her own life, as she reflected on who and what has shaped her into the person she has become.

We each then had time to think about our own special story and to reflect on the things for which we are especially grateful. She said that this remembering "...might sometimes make us think of people we need to forgive...or are in the process of forgiving! Or sometimes we may think of someone of whom we need to ask forgiveness."

Patsy then shared some stories from a book called 'Fearfully and Wonderfully Made' by Philip Yancey and Paul Brand. We were encouraged to think about our faith journeys and who/what has helped us along the way so far. She remembered former Bishop Roy Warke coming to Carrigrohane to share some of his faith journey; she described how Bishop Roy spoke his experience of a gradual process of coming to faith rather than a 'light-bulb' moment. This was very encouraging to hear. A reminder yet again that every person's story is unique to them, and no journey is better or less important than another.

We finished the day using Psalm 139 as the framework for our prayers and then joined the Archbishop of Canterbury as we listened to him reading the prayers for the 28 th of September on the Lectio365 App which also used some words from Psalm 139. LECTIO365 is a wonderful App which has prayers for morning and evening each day; the morning prayers end with this prayer –

Father, enable me to live this day to the full, being true to you in every way.

Jesus, enable me to give myself away to others, being kind to everyone I meet.

Spirit, enable me to love the lost, proclaiming Christ in all I do and say. Amen

Our thanks go to the local members who organised the day with tea and coffee, soup for lunch and a beautiful 25th anniversary cake for the special occasion. Everyone who came was delighted to share in fellowship and friendship on the day, catching up with people we hadn't been able to see for quite some time; a reminder again that Mothers' Union is about reaching out into our communities and parishes and about being friends to and supporting one another.

In the media

Immigrant Council warns refugee protests will drive wedges of division in communities - Irish Examiner

Up to 70 people attended a protest in Fermoy on Wednesday evening against newly-housed asylum seekers at a former convent in the town.

Protests such as those in Fermoy and East Wall in recent days will drive wedges of division in communities and re-traumatise people arriving, according to the Immigrant Council of Ireland.

The council's chief executive, Brian Killoran, appealed for calm in localities where communities are frustrated, and urged the Government to increase its level of planning for people fleeing to Ireland.

[<https://www.irishexaminer.com/news/munster/arid-41019572.html>]

Ukraine war: Zelensky aide reveals up to 13,000 war dead - BBC News

Mykhailo Podolyak, an adviser to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, said between 10,000 and 13,000 troops had died.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-63829973>

Qatar: 'Heartbreak' at Ulster University's campus plan - BBC News

The chairperson of Ulster University's (UU) LGBT society has said she is "heartbroken" at the university's plans to open a campus in Qatar.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-63828310>

Suicide deaths in Northern Ireland increase as one in every three was someone aged under 30 - Belfast Live

The number of suicide deaths in Northern Ireland has increased and is the highest since 2015, new statistics show.

The latest figures for 2021 revealed there were 237 suicide deaths, an increase of 8.2% from the previous year and one in three of those deaths were someone aged under 30.

<https://www.belfastlive.co.uk/news/belfast-news/suicide-deaths-northern-ireland-increase-25637525>

Suella Braverman reappointment sets dangerous precedent - MPs - BBC News

The reappointment of Suella Braverman as home secretary - after she broke ministerial rules - sets "a dangerous precedent", MPs have said.

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<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-63825127>

Police misconduct hearings 'should be in public' - BBC News

Changes to police disciplinary processes should be considered, including holding officer misconduct hearings in public, a review by the Policing Board has suggested.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-63798130>

Poem for today

Desert Places by Robert Frost

Snow falling and night falling fast, oh, fast
In a field I looked into going past,
And the ground almost covered smooth in snow,
But a few weeds and stubble showing last.

The woods around it have it - it is theirs.
All animals are smothered in their lairs.
I am too absent-spirited to count;
The loneliness includes me unawares.

And lonely as it is, that loneliness
Will be more lonely ere it will be less -
A blanker whiteness of benighted snow
With no expression, nothing to express.

They cannot scare me with their empty spaces

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Between stars - on stars where no human race is.
I have it in me so much nearer home
To scare myself with my own desert places.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

The publication of Church News Ireland is overseen by Very Rev Dr Houston McKelvey OBE, QVRM, TD. He may be contacted at houstonmckelvey@mac.com