

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Advent universities

December 9, 2024

Image for today - Advent universities

News -

Organ group thank you to Sean Rafferty on his final tune
Invitation to the Mass of the Rooster
Archbishop Martin in Notre Dame: "I pray for people of France, and of Ireland" - Moderator's visit to Poland

Cathedral Calls -

Royal School Armagh's Nine Lessons and Carols
The Guards' Chapel, London

Clergy and ministry -

Lay Funeral Ministers complete training
Fit for the Purpose 2024 at C of I Theological Institute
Happy 93rd Birthday Fr Fonsie

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books -

Castlewellan Candlelight Christmas Concert
4 Corners Festival 2025 launched
New exhibition of Harry Clarke's stained-glass

Perspective -

Katherine Meyer is a modern saint imo Duncan Morrow writes

In the media -

Presbyterian church accused of singling out LGBT people - BBC News
Presbyterian minister resigns following enquiry over LGBT+ events - Irish Times

Speaking to the soul -

Short reading and a prayer daily on this site



Image of the day – Advent university

Great to see so many students from across the city sharing in this late night event of prayer and praise at Belfast Cathedral. Glad the red vibe added something special.



Organ group thank you to Sean Rafferty on his final tune

The Chair and board of the Northern Ireland International Organ Competition sent warmest regards to Dr Sean Rafferty MBE.

They said Sean was “a champion of emerging talent and culture, not least in NI, as he presents his final In Tune today on BBC Radio 3, after close to 3 decades.

“We thank him sincerely for being such a trusted voice and wish him well for ventures new!

Invitation to the Mass of the Rooster

Every year for the 9 days before Christmas, 16-24 December, the folk at St. Vincent De Paul Parish invite you to their, ‘Misa De Gallo.’ (Mass of the Rooster.)

It is a wonderful tradition in the Philippines and is continued by the Filipino Diaspora wherever they may be.

“This year on Christmas Eve we welcome Bishop Alan for the first time as our main Celebrant.

“We extend a warm invitation to all from across the Diocese and beyond!

“Every Blessing. Fr. Vincent Cushnahan PP.”

Archbishop Martin in Notre Dame: “I pray for people of France, and of Ireland”

Representing the bishops and people of Ireland, and on the invitation of Archbishop Laurent Ulrich, Archbishop of Paris, the Primate of All Ireland, Archbishop Eamon Martin, on Saturday past attended the reopening Mass and ceremonies of the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris, following its devastating fire of 2019.

Reflecting in the restored Cathedral, Archbishop Martin said, “Locus iste a Deo factus est, This place was made by God! Let us rejoice and be glad in it!”



Archbishop Martin continued, “Here in the Cathedral of Notre Dame, I thank God for those who helped save this 850-year-old cathedral from total destruction, and to all those whose talents and resources have helped to restore it. Praise God for the gifts of artists,

craftspeople and musicians whose skills truly enhance our worship and lift our eyes up to the Transcendent.

“Today I am honoured to represent the bishops and people of Ireland, and am joined by bishops from Europe and by civic leaders from around the world.

“On this day of renewal, I pray for the Universal Church. I pray for the faith to grow stronger in Ireland, in France and

December 9, 2024

everywhere – beginning in our own hearts. Notre Dame Our Lady, Mother of the Church, Pray for us.

Moderator's visit to Poland



December 9, 2024

The Moderator, Dr Richard Murray is in Poland for a 4-day visit to Kraków to give encouragement and support to a new Presbyterian denomination, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Poland.

Today, Monday, he will also make a poignant journey to Auschwitz. Presbyterian Moderator,

Right Reverend Dr Richard Murray's four-day visit to Kraków is to give encouragement and support to a fledgling Presbyterian denomination - the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Poland (EPCP). They have just four congregations.

During their one year in office, Presbyterian Moderators make an overseas visit to continue to build relationships, and strengthen ties with PCI's global partner churches and mission organisations. In recent years they have spent time in Kenya, Hungary and Ukraine, Jordan and Malawi.

During his visit, Dr Murray will be hosted by Rev Sashko Nezamutdinov, the lead pastor of Christ the Saviour in Kraków, one of the four Presbyterian churches that form the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Poland. The other churches are in the capital, Warsaw, where there are two, with another in Gdansk in the north of the country on the ...

.... Speaking before he left last week, Dr Murray said, "The primary focus for my visit is to build and deepen our relationship with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Poland, which is very much a new partnership. It is also about encouraging mutual support and learning from one another. I am excited to be meeting Sashko again and Rev



Sashko Nezamutdinov, the lead pastor of Christ the Saviour in Kraków at the Irish Presbyterian Church Assembly

hearing the vision that he has for helping people come to know the Lord.

“While they are a fledgling denomination with only four congregations in a country with a population of around 40 million people, they have a big vision for church planting. With six student ministers in training and, as of yet, no congregations for them, this is surely a mark of their passion for the Gospel and intent to build Christ’s Kingdom. At the same time, they don’t have anything that resembles a traditional church building, instead they meet in shops and other vacant buildings,” Dr Murray said.

December 9, 2024

Cathedral Calls



Festival of
NINE LESSONS
AND CAROLS

THURSDAY 12TH DECEMBER, 7.30PM
ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, ARMAGH
WWW.ROYALSCHOOL.COM

Royal School Armagh's Nine Lessons and Carols

You are warmly invited to Royal School Armagh's annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, a cherished tradition in their school calendar.



At the Guards' Chapel, London prior to a service supporting Veterans' mental health charities.

December 9, 2024

Experience the true spirit of the season as talented pupils, under the guidance of the Music Department, deliver an unforgettable evening of readings and carols. This special event is not to be missed - join them and celebrate the joy of Christmas together.

Thursday 12th December, 7.30pm. St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh

Check out their virtual service from 2021:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O8NTSPDtQNw>

Bring your friends and family!

Clergy and ministry



Lay Funeral Ministers complete training

December 9, 2024

On an afternoon last week 21 candidates representing 10 parishes from across the diocese of Down and Connor completed the Lay Funeral Ministry training program. They will be commissioned by Bishop Alan in January.

“Thanks to our trainers Fr Paul Byrne and Anne McDermott and our trainers in training Deacon James McAllister, Carole Martin and Peter McAllister for their insight, wisdom, guidance and generosity.

“The final words of thanks go to all the candidates for stepping forward and saying “yes”. Their ministry will be a great blessing to the parishes they serve. Please keep the new Lay Funeral Ministers in your prayers”.





Fit for the Purpose 2024 at C of I Theological Institute

Fit for the Purpose 2024: A total of 36 students were in attendance for the fifth cycle of the Certificate in Christian Theology and Practice which took place from 29th November to 1st December 2024 at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute.

December 9, 2024

The programme, entitled 'Fit for the Purpose', took as its theme a personal and biblical exploration of various matters to do with vocation.

The lead facilitators were Dr Christina Baxter, former Principal of St John's College, Nottingham, Revd Canon Dr Maurice Elliott, Director of CITI, Revd Ruth Noble, Revd Danielle McCullagh, Andrew McNeile and Andrew Brannigan.



Happy 93rd Birthday Fr Fonsie

Wishing Fr Alphonsus (Fonsie) Doran C.Ss.R a blessed and Happy 93rd Birthday.

December 9, 2024

Fr Fonsie is a member of the Redemptorist community in Clonard Monastery. Fr Fonsie is much loved and respected by the people who attend Clonard Monastery, a pleasant, prayerful and upbeat man he lifts the hearts of all who meet him. May God continue to bless you abundantly. Ad Multos Annos.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



Castlewellan Candlelight Christmas Concert

Get into the holiday spirit with a magical Candlelight Christmas Concert featuring the incredible talents of Margaret Keys, Fr Eugene O'Hagan, and a string orchestra.

December 9, 2024

Join them at St Malachy's Church in Castlewellan, Northern Ireland on Sunday, December 22nd at 7:30 PM for an evening filled with beautiful music and festive cheer. Also performing will be guest choirs and local musicians. Don't miss out on this special event - get your tickets now!



4 Corners Festival 2025 launched

The programme for 4 Corners Festival 2025 was launched at the Seamus Heaney Centre at Queen's University Belfast .



It was a wonderful evening of poetry, comedy, and challenge, with anticipation for the events ahead.

The Festival programme is a variety of arts, discussion, connection, performances, activity and more. This year's theme 'Home?' invites you to explore the profound meaning of 'Home' in our beloved Belfast. Find out more on the festival website and book your tickets -

www.4cornersfestival.com

<https://www.4cornersfestival.com/festival-years/2025-festival/>



‘Harry Clarke is one of Ireland’s most celebrated artists. He had a short life. I hope we’ve done him proud’

Dr Siobhán Doyle, curator



New exhibition of Harry Clarke’s stained-glass

A new exhibition showcasing six of Harry Clarke’s stained-glass panels, including some of his earliest known works, has opened at the National Museum of Ireland at Collins Barracks.

December 9, 2024

The exhibition, Harry Clarke's Stained Glass, will run for at least two years and brings together panels not previously displayed in the same place before.

Three of them have travelled from Crawford Art Gallery in Cork as it closes for its ambitious redevelopment project.

Siobhán Doyle, curator of glass, ceramics, and Asian collections at the National Museum of Ireland, praised Harry Clarke as "a fascinating character".

Perspective

Katherine Meyer is a modern saint imo Duncan Morrow writes -

Katherine Meyer is a modern saint imo. Gracious, clear and actually Christian. Much more than I am-without exaggeration. I am in awe.

I fear that the central Presbyterian Church in Ireland, on the other hand, now acts as a bitter, angry- not to say misogynistic and homophobic- mob. Notwithstanding its paraphernalia of kangaroo courts and totally abandoned commitment to freedom of conscience for all believers.

Thanks to secular law, burning at the stake and church-sanctioned crucifixion in the name of the crucified has been stopped. But I have genuinely no doubt it would be on the Church House agenda were it not so. Seriously, it is that bad.



This is rampant, nasty, vindictive cruelty by a narrow group of persecutors drunk on their own self righteousness and probably congratulating themselves on their divinely sanctioned expulsion. Masquerading laughably as victims, they destroy lives and good people, unchallenged by institution, human decency or the holy spirit.

They should come for me: this cannot be dealt with as a matter under their persecuting codes, but done in the light. Lynching should not be afforded the cover of darkness. They won't-too embarrassing to try to justify hate in public .

The PCI has stopped being a church: I suspect the majority of people who would have been habitual Presbyterians a generation ago have now left, so the PCI doesn't speak for the majority of people of 'Presbyterian heritage', let alone Protestants. Others live in their congregations and communities which remain places of faith hope and love in a secular world that needs all three. And give with a

December 9, 2024

generosity and joy that is both profound and humbling. They have to retreat from official PCI, hoping the hatred-masquerading as Christianity- will go away, though. But a historically critical constituency in the north of Ireland is dying here. Almost unnoticed. Happy to meet to discuss exit routes from the PCI. Important to save Christianity at Christmas. The gospel of love beyond death remains paramount imo.

Thank you Katherine.

In the media

Presbyterian church accused of singling out LGBT people

BBC News by Robbie Meredith

The Presbyterian Church has been accused of an "obsessive preoccupation" with sexual identity and of singling out LGBT people.

The claim was made after a Presbyterian minister resigned after being investigated for attending the 2024 Pride parade in Dublin.

Reverend Dr Katherine Meyer was ruled by a church court to have failed to "yield submission in the Lord to the courts of the Church".

December 9, 2024

A Presbyterian Church spokesperson said the resignation of anyone from the Church was "a matter of regret". More at -

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c983ed87Invo>

Presbyterian minister resigns following enquiry over LGBT+ events

Irish Times

<https://www.irishtimes.com/ireland/social-affairs/2024/12/06/presbyterian-minister-resigns-following-enquiry-over-lgbt-events/>

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

Church News Ireland

www.churchnewsireland.org

December 9, 2024

**Link in Monday through Saturday from
early morning**

Please recommend to your friends