

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – St Mary's Howth

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St Mary's Howth

The first church built in Howth was on the site of Howth Abbey, in Howth village. It was founded by Sightrygg, King of Dublin around 1042. Around 1235, the old church was amalgamated with the church on Ireland's Eye and a new church was built - founded by Luke, Archbishop of Dublin on land granted by Sir Almeric St. Lawrence. Little remains of either of these churches and most of the present abbey dates back to the late 14th century or early 15th century. The church was a collegiate church - served by a collegium of three or more priests. A private house to the south-east of the church was the priests' house. Parishioners worshipped in the abbey until about 1630.

After that date worship was conducted in Lord Howth's private chapel which was situated on the right hand side of the main avenue to the castle.

The Parish is situated at the northern tip of Dublin Bay. Howth was at one time a small fishing village but is now a busy suburb of Dublin. St Mary's Parish Church is situated at the entrance to the grounds of Howth Castle and Deerpark, less than five minutes walk from the Howth DART Station. The Parish covers a wide area including Sutton, Baldoyle and Bayside as well as Howth.

Within the Parish boundary there is a Methodist congregation (in Sutton), a Presbyterian congregation (in

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Howth) and four Roman Catholic congregations (in Howth, Sutton, Baldoyle and Bayside). Ecumenical relations are excellent.

Photography by Gerry Murphy

More at - <https://www.stmaryshowth.com/>

People and places



Cantare Choir generosity

Siobhan Taylor and Rev. Derek Dunn presenting a cheque for Seagoe's Restoration Fund to the value of £400 raised by the Cantare choir at the fund-raising concert in Seagoe

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just before Christmas. In addition to the funds kindly given to Seagoe £500 was donated to the Southern Area Hospice and £400 to Cantare.

Photograph left to right: Siobhan Taylor (Musical Director) Terence (Rector), Phyllis (Hon. Secretary Seagoe Parish), Rev. Derek Dunn (Choir accompanist and Chaplain to the Southern Area Hospice).



Parish Healing Hubs training

Members of the Healing Hubs at Carnmoney and St. Peter's Antrim Road came together on Saturday for Prayer Ministry Training and discussion about how we might develop in the future. The Day was led by Wes Sutton from the Acorn Christian Healing Foundation (who train and oversee our hub), who flew over especially from England. Wes stayed on

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to preach and minister at Carnmoney on Sunday with many people receiving prayers for healing.

The poster for Winter Madness Belfast 2023 features a blue background with white and yellow text and graphics. At the top left, there are five white dots. A large, semi-circular photograph shows a vibrant concert scene with a stage, lights, and a large audience. To the right of this photo is a white hexagonal icon containing a stylized figure. The main title 'Winter MADNESS' is written in a mix of white cursive and bold sans-serif fonts. Below the title, the date '25th february 2023' and time '7.30pm' are listed. The venue 'St. Annes Cathedral' is written in a white cursive font, with a circular inset image of the cathedral building below it. At the bottom left, a woman playing an acoustic guitar is labeled 'WORSHIP Hollie McCullough'. At the bottom center, a man is labeled 'SPEAKER Rev. Scott Evans'. At the bottom right, there are five white dots arranged vertically.

Winter Madness Belfast 2023

Not long to go now until Winter Madness in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast. A packed programme with Scott Evans bringing a powerful message on The Parable of the Prodigal Son. Hollie McCullough will be leading worship so you will not want to miss this. The organisers say "Grab your friends! Tell your youth worker! Come along to the majestic Cathedral in the centre of Belfast as we lift up the mighty name of Jesus and get excited for the festival this summer!" Purchase your tickets via the app:

<https://tinyurl.com/2f4xzu58>

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Mothers Union growth in Enniskillen

Some members of St Macartin's Mothers' Union, Enniskillen along with the Diocesan President Mrs Heather Ellis following a service at which the Dean enrolled twelve new members and welcomed five more members that have rejoined. This brings the total membership of the branch now above sixty. Included in the photograph are the Bishop and the Churchwardens.

Franciscan Sisters new mission house in Drogheda

At a time when many orders in Ireland are contracting as the vocation crisis bites, the Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal have opened a new mission house in Drogheda.

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A Mass and blessing of the mission house by Bishop of Meath Tom Deenihan took place on January 21 and two young Irish women are ready to take up residence in the refurbished community house.

The order celebrates 10 years since opening its convent in the Co. Louth town.



Longford Institution

On Sunday evening Revd. Simon Scott was instituted as the Rector of the Longford Group of Parishes.

Please pray for Revd. Simon, his family and the congregations of the Longford group as they journey together with Christ.

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C of I Primary teachers begin RE Certificate course

23 primary teachers commenced work this week for the RE Certificate course (Follow Me). Teachers will be joining initial online sessions from many different Church of Ireland schools: from Dublin Wicklow Wexford Cork Limerick Donegal Tipperary Roscommon and Laois. The course leader is Jacqui Wilkinson.

Princess Victoria tragedy remembered



Professor Alastair Adair CBE DL (second from right) represented HM Lord Lieutenant at the 70th Anniversary

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Service marking the sinking of the MV Princess Victoria with a tragic loss of 135 lives. The new High Sheriff for Belfast, Cllr Dr John Kyle was also present with the Rev Mark Reid , Mission to Seafarers, and the Dean of Belfast Very Revd. Stephen Forde who preached.

Congratulations to Ireland's newest priest



Congratulations to the newly ordained Fr Michael McCaul, pictured receiving the chalice from Bishop Donal McKeown during his ordination to the Diocesan priesthood in St Eugene's Cathedral, Derry, on Sunday, January 29.



Outstanding generosity by Derry parish

St Canice's Parish Church was in generous mode even more than usual, yesterday morning, as it shared out proceeds from sales at its thrift shop, New Beginnings, and from last Christmas's hugely successful Nativity Scenes Festival in the church.

December's festival – which put on display parishioners' ingenious interpretations of the birth of Jesus – drew hundreds of visitors, who were invited to donate to the Simon Community and to St Canice's Church.

New Beginnings, on the Benbow Industrial Estate, just outside Eglinton village, has been trading for a year and a half. Proceeds are reinvested in the local community through the St Canice's Hall Restoration Appeal – which

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aims to replace the parish hall destroyed in the huge flood five years ago – and by supporting local charities.

The Rector, Rev Canon Paul Hoey, was joined at yesterday's cheque presentation by the coordinator of New Beginnings, Roberta Sinclair, and by its administrator, churchwarden Elaine Way.

Local parishioner, Jennifer Smyth, who was badly injured in a gymnastics accident almost ten years ago, was there with her mother, Pamela, to accept a donation from the Christmas festival proceeds, which will go towards 'Jennifer's Journey to Walk Again'. Amanda Scott collected a cheque on behalf of Simon Community NI, which does sterling work for the homeless in the North West and further afield.





The five charities which benefitted from the New Beginnings proceeds were chosen on a cross-community basis.

The Chief Executive of Methodist City Mission, Liam Milligan, accepted a cheque on his organisation's behalf, while Foyle Search and Rescue's was received by Anthony McMenamin.

Three charities, which weren't represented in person, today, will receive cheques from Faughanvale Parish: they're Londonderry Orphan Society, St Vincent de Paul and Bishops' Appeal.

Canon Hoey thanked all of the charities for doing what they were doing. "Keep at it," he urged them, "and keep inspiring us."

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



Video: Pioneer Ministry in the Church of Ireland

Pioneer Ministry is an initiative of the Church of Ireland to reach those with little or no connection to the good news of Jesus Christ. Emerging from within to encourage, support and release a movement that has the capacity to reach new people in new places in new ways.

This video presents a brief history and background. Rob Jones, the National Director and team leader for Pioneer Ministry in the Church of Ireland, is joined by Bishop Patrick Rooke to explore some of the foundations that have led us to this point as we prepare for the formal launch on Sunday, 5th February 2023.

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Bishop Rooke reflects on three phases of a ten-year journey of developing Pioneer Ministry – an introductory discussion about what it would look like, advocacy, and planning by considering its vision, recruitment, finance and structures.

Pioneer Ministry, as he relates, is part of a calling for each one of us and part of the Church's role in seeking out and reaching those who have little or no connection to church.

www.pioneerministry.org

Administrator - ingrid@pioneerministry.org

Aspects of Synodality

"There is a real sense that people feel that they have gifts to offer" Anna Rowlands reflects on what has emerged in the Synodal process as the Church seeks to renew itself.

Watch interview - youtu.be/1DZXmugRpgo

"Synodality and Evangelisation are the two sides of the same coin" - Cardinal Grech Mario

Full interview - youtu.be/9prpqjiScMg

Handel in Italy - Workshop in Dublin

Dublin, Saturday 25th February, 10am -5pm

Workshop will be at Newman University Church, Saint Stephen's Green Dublin 2.

Organised by the Irish Doctors Choir who state -



In this first of our workshops this year, we begin with Act 1, scenes 1 & 2 of Handel's Samson.

Handel was German, but is regarded as the greatest composer of Italian opera of his day. Formally an Oratorio, Samson has long been regarded as Handel's finest Opera and performed as such.

The first two scenes see Samson getting a break from his enslavement while the Philistines celebrate the festival of Dagon. As his friends visit, he bewails his blindness.

We will be joined by the celebrated soloists, Derry Soprano, Doreen Curran as Micah and Eamonn Mulhall as Samson, and sing the triumphant acclaim of the Philistines, Awake the Trumpet's Lofty Sound and the beautiful chorus of the Israelites, O First Created Beam.

This workshop is open to all. Come along and bring your choral friends and make it a day! Book here:

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<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-samson-project-workshop-one-handel-in-italy-tickets-444010345897>

Perspective

It's Anyone's Guess What Will Happen in Northern Ireland in the Next 12 Weeks - Christopher Caldwell in the New York Times

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak of Britain finds himself in an abyss of public disapproval. Few politicians have done less to get there. His unpopularity (his Tory Party now lags the Labour opposition by 21 points) is mostly a result of things that happened before he arrived in office. There was the budgetary incompetence of his short-lived predecessor Liz Truss. There was the untrustworthiness of Boris Johnson, who led Britain out of the European Union after the so-called Brexit referendum.

Now a detail of Brexit that was mismanaged years ago has landed Mr. Sunak in a serious predicament. It stems from the fact that Ireland remains part of the European Union but Northern Ireland no longer is — and yet the two parts of the island are bound by trade and a 25-year-old peace treaty that helped defuse a terrorist conflict between Protestant unionists and Catholics.

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Those loose ends were tied up in a little-understood clarification of Brexit called the Northern Ireland protocol, ratified in January 2020. It looked like a mere codicil three years ago; now it looks like a serious diplomatic blunder that could threaten Britain's territory and the region's peace.

For almost a year, the Democratic Unionist Party, which favors maintaining Northern Ireland's ties to the British mainland, has blocked the formation of a regional government and demanded that the Northern Ireland protocol be revised. Last Thursday a deadline passed that will require Mr. Sunak's government to schedule new elections within 12 weeks.

A new vote opens the way to unguessable outcomes — an uprising in Mr. Sunak's own party, a move to unite the six Irish counties that are part of the United Kingdom with the 26 controlled by the Irish Republic, even the resumption of the decades of political unrest that roiled Northern Ireland until the end of the last century.

Ireland nearly undid Brexit from the start. It seemed during the 2016 referendum that should Britain "take back control," as the slogan went, it would be able to set its own rules. Instead, there followed three and a half poisonous years in which the country had to negotiate and quarrel its way out of the European Union. "Brexit means Brexit," said the Tory prime minister Theresa May, but it turned out Brexit meant different things to different people.

Ms. May promised — too hastily, in retrospect — to honor the 1998 Good Friday peace agreement among Britain, Northern Ireland's political parties and the Republic of

Ireland. One of the main things the agreement did was to bind together the economies of Ireland's north and south. But adapting that arrangement to a post-Brexit world came at a steep constitutional price for the north. To protect the European single market against smuggling and the transfer of unauthorized goods through Northern Ireland, a customs border would be established between Northern Ireland and Britain. To administer the single market, the European Court of Justice was given authority to interpret E.U. law in Northern Ireland.

This is the core of the grievance that has brought Northern Ireland to the brink of ungovernability. The controversy is often described as a trade dispute in a region torn between two political systems. But that is not right. Politically, Northern Ireland is not torn; it is part of the United Kingdom. And the main problem is not trade; it's that under the pretext of trade, the European Union is laying claim to a territory that does not belong to it.

There is a lack of reciprocity in the treaty that is reminiscent of 19th-century agreements between European powers and their colonies. Why does Britain have none of the prerogatives on E.U. territory that the European Union claims on British territory? After all, the United Kingdom, too, is a single market, just as vulnerable to smugglers as the European Union, and the protocol does not permit analogous customs checks on goods arriving in Irish ports from continental ones.

The larger gripe with the treaty is the role it accords European Union institutions, particularly the European Court of Justice. Many citizens of Northern Ireland worry that they

can now have their laws and social arrangements overruled by E.U. authorities that they had no role in electing or appointing. At the height of the Covid pandemic, the vaccine-strapped European Union tried to use the Northern Ireland protocol to block the flow of vaccines between Ireland and Northern Ireland.

The European Court of Justice proclaims the supremacy of E.U. law over the laws of the various member states. It operates in practice to transfer decision making from national capitals to Brussels. Such actions continue to provoke outrage even in states that belong to the European Union. Britain, it will be remembered, is no longer an E.U. member. And over years of Brexit-related quarrels, the tolerance of Britain's conservative leaders for international regulatory bodies has waned.

E.U. officials often behave as if they do not realize this. Maros Sefcovic, a Slovak diplomat and European commissioner who has been the European Union's point man on protocol negotiations, has spoken of British moves to change the Northern Ireland protocol as a "breach of international law."

But countries leave treaties all the time. If Mr. Sefcovic believes anything that Britain does regarding Northern Ireland threatens international law, then he is laying claim to Britain's sovereign territory — a part of it, moreover, that was within living memory the home to a sadistic, two-sided terroristic conflict that occasionally rose to the intensity of a civil war. If this really is the view of Britain's European neighbors regarding the protocol, then it is a matter of increasing urgency that Britain break free.

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Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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