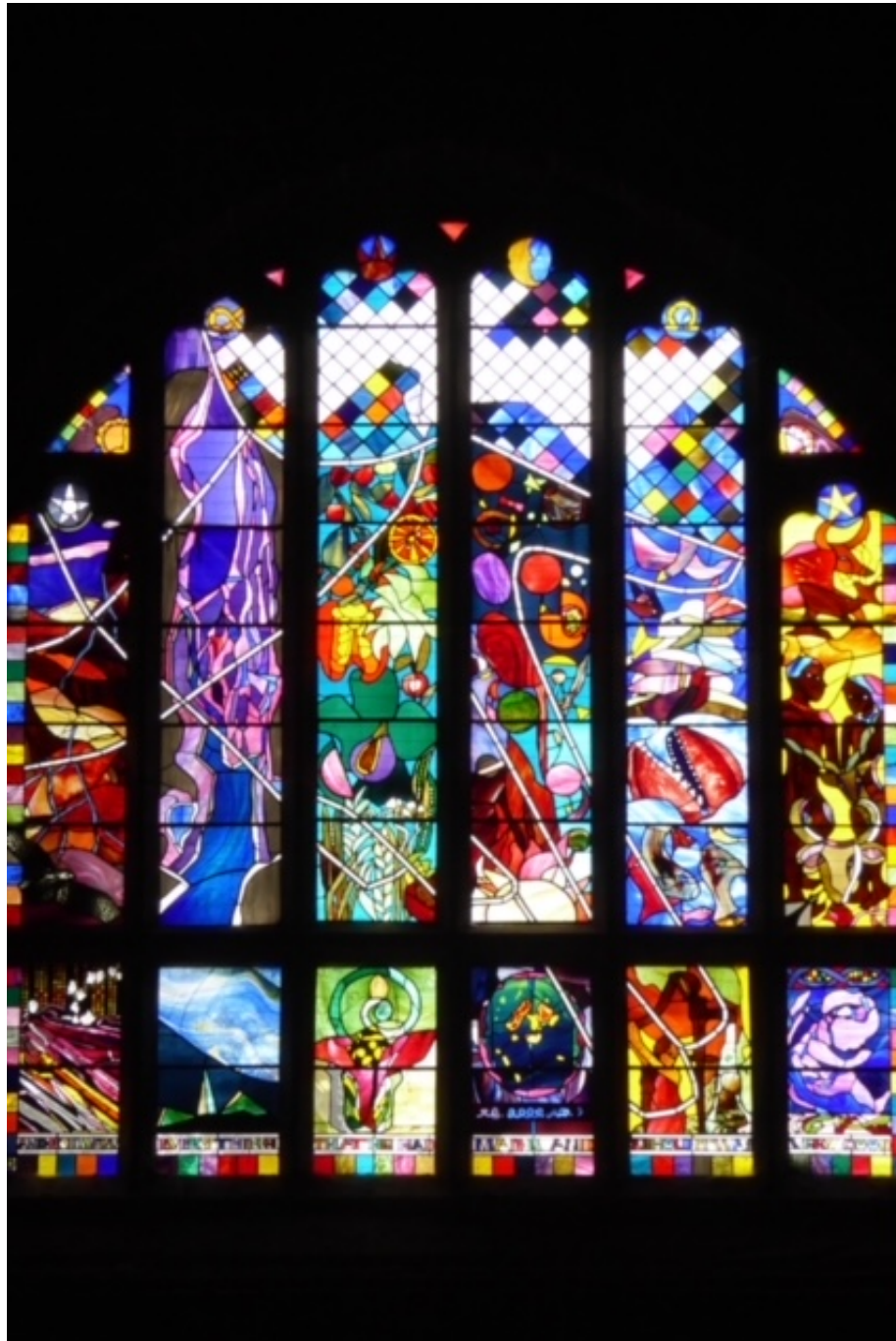


# Church News Ireland

---



**Image of the day – Creation at Chester**

February 14,2023

## Image of the day

### Creation at Chester

“And God saw everything that he had made, and behold it was very good.” The Creation Window in the Refectory at Chester Cathedral by Ros Grimshaw, 2001. Photo by Michael Sadgrove, former Dean of Durham.

Chester Cathedral is a Church of England cathedral and the mother church of the Diocese of Chester. It is located in the city of Chester, Cheshire, England.

The cathedral, formerly the abbey church of a Benedictine monastery dedicated to Saint Werburgh, is dedicated to Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary. St Werburgh St, Chester CH1 2DY

<https://chestercathedral.com/>



CHESTER  
CATHEDRAL

## People and places

### Mossley woman's key role in World Day of Prayer



**World Day of Prayer is a global, women-led, ecumenical movement, which will be celebrated worldwide on Friday March 3.**

The Rev Louise Bowes, Ordained Local Minister in the Church of the Holy Spirit, Mossley, is vice-chairperson of World Day of Prayer.



February 14,2023

Louise has recently returned from a World Day of Prayer workshop in Albania (Photo above). In the Spring issue of Connor Connections, Louise talks about World Day of Prayer and her role in this movement which has been active for almost 100 years.

## Youth Ministry in Saintfield



**Rose Armstrong is the Youth Worker in Saintfield Parish Church, working alongside the Vicar, Revd Chris Pollock, and a small staff team.**

She has been in the role for around six months now and so far has been loving it. “It is such a privilege to work and serve alongside such amazing people who make my role so much easier.”

Rose was asked quick fire questions about youth ministry in Saintfield:



What programmes do you run for the young people in the parish?

In the day to day, we've been working at getting everything up and running as the church as a whole. We've been working on our youth fellowship on a Sunday evening as well as our family service on a Sunday morning. We're making some in-roads into creative teaching and investing well in those who are coming along, both to the Sunday morning and evening activities. I'm working on building intentional relationships with those who are involved as we try to evolve the discipleship aspect of church life. This is the plan for the next few months to expand and grow this newer level of ministry.


What's your most recent initiative?

We're running a youth fellowship on a Sunday night for those who are secondary school age. Each night consists of the expected fun and food as well as faith. At the minute we are going through a series of big questions such as 'Who is God?' and 'has science disproved the Bible?'. These


February 14,2023

sessions have been extremely interesting, and the young people never fail to challenge us with their follow up questions.

*Christ Church Limavady*  
*Presents*



*Seven Towers*  
*Male Voice Choir*



in  
The Parish Hall  
on  
Friday 24th February 2023  
at 7.30pm

Tickets - £10.00  
(Light Refreshments)

Proceeds to  
Church Funds



February 14,2023

It is so clear to see that God is working through this youth group and even how it has changed since the start of the year. God is clearly at work in their lives, and we have been witnessing this through the conversations that we have been having with them each week. Some of our young people have been great in helping with teas and coffees at special events and really getting involved in our church community.

## **250th anniversary of “Amazing Grace” marked in stage play at The Carraig Centre**

**2023 marks the 250th anniversary of “Amazing Grace” – the world’s best-loved hymn and one of the most recorded songs of all time, and The Carraig Centre is delighted to host a performance of the brand-new stage play “Forever Mine” as part of its all-island tour.**

At its heart, Amazing Grace tells the dramatic story of its author John Newton. The original stage play and costume drama, Forever Mine, explores this powerful story through the lens of the two great loves of John Newton’s life – his love for God and his love for “Polly” (his nickname for his wife Mary).

Based on Polly and Newton’s love letters and on letters, diaries and authentic historical writings, Forever Mine is a true story of separation and reunion, death and new life, love, loss and redemption. Although set in the 18th century, this moving narrative will resonate with modern audiences.



The drama also looks honestly at John Newton's role in the slave trade. It traces his slow journey to repentance and his later work supporting the campaign for abolition as mentor to William Wilberforce. Forever Mine also elevates the lesser-known voices of the abolition movement such as former slave and writer Olaudah Equiano and the poet William Cowper.

Forever Mine is brought to life by a stellar cast of professional actors starring Ellis Wells as John Newton,



February 14,2023

Susie Garvey-Williams as Polly Newton, Gideon Assuming as Olaudah Equiano and Ryan Moss as William Wilberforce.

With venues in Munster, Leinster, Connacht and Ulster, the debut tour of Forever Mine will have its finale in Buncrana, on the shores of Lough Swilly, in County Donegal, where John Newton's ship The Greyhound, dropped anchor after a ferocious Atlantic storm in 1748 – the Irish connection to this global story that inspired the play.

For the Carrig performance - Thursday 23rd March 7.30pm  
Price 10 Euro + 1.70 booking fee. For Tickets see –  
[www.carraigcentre.ie](http://www.carraigcentre.ie)

## **Dublin schools' Laudate Festival**

The Laudate Festival took place for the fifth time ever in Dublin.

A diocesan celebration of Catholic primary schools that brings communities, families and parishes together to praise God and take time for reflection, was led by a choir of hundreds of children from 25 Catholic primary schools.

The celebration took place in the Church of Our Lady of Victories on Ballymun Rd, Church of St Therese in Mount Merrion and the Church of the Holy Spirit Greenhills.

# **Church News Ireland**

February 14, 2023

## News reports

### Archbishop of Canterbury addresses concern over global Anglican structures



**In a post-colonial world the Church must find ways of demonstrating unity without one powerful group imposing its values on another, the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby said on Sunday.**

In a presidential address to the 18th plenary meeting of the global Anglican Consultative Council (ACC-18), gathered in Accra, Ghana, Archbishop Justin said that “no one group should order the life and culture of another. Such control is often neo-colonial abuse.”

He made the comments in a section of his speech talking about the instruments of communion – the four bodies that hold the Anglican Communion together: the Anglican Consultative Council, the Primates Meeting, the Lambeth Conference and the Archbishop of Canterbury. He said that when times change so must the Instruments of Communion.

Leading up to his remarks about the Instruments, the Archbishop spoke of the significance of intentional discipleship and noted that it is “lived differently because of different cultures, for we are not the same, although we are one. That is one of the basic reasons why as well as being interdependent we are also autonomous as Provinces.

“There is no reason why one group should order the life and culture of another. Such control is often neo-colonial abuse. Money, power, access to resources should never call the tune, yet such is the lust for power in all human beings – and I include myself, for I sin like everyone else – that one group always seeks to tell another what to do.

“That is why, in a post colonial world, where every day we face more attacks on Christian faith and Christian churches, we have to find marks and signs that show we are one, and yet do not result in the imposition of one powerful group’s values on another. It does not matter whether it calls itself the Archbishop of Canterbury as a focus of unity and an instrument of Communion, the Primates’ meeting, the Lambeth Conference, or any other: any submission to the will of those outside our own Province must be voluntary, never compelled.





The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, beats African drums during a Eucharist Service at Christ Church, Legon in Accra to mark the official opening of the ACC-18 meeting in Ghana

He challenged the ACC members to consider how to bridge the gap between interdependence and autonomy without abuse of power. He told the meeting that the Chicago Lambeth quadrilateral from the 1880s sets out what guides the belief of Anglicans and that the five Marks of Mission (the theme of ACC-18) are what Anglicans do.

The Instruments of Communion he indicated set out how we are organised and are brought together.

The Archbishop shared a brief history of each of the instruments and then continued, “The Instruments have grown and changed over the years. They have responded to

February 14,2023

changes caused by wars, colonialism, decolonising, corruption and failure, heresies and schisms, technological and scientific advance. They have never had either doctrinal or ethical authority, but they have moral force.”

Archbishop Justin spoke of the many changes the world has and continues to face and that the instruments must be “the way forward in mutual help where country comes after obedience to God.”

“My desire is to see Christ glorified in truth, and in my heart of hearts I can say with truth that is what I aim for. I may well get things wrong but let me be clear – before other people outside this room gather to tell me what I must do – I will not cling to place or position as an Instrument of Communion provided the other Instruments choose a new way. The Instruments are just what their name suggests, they exist to serve the call of Christ.”

## **Civic engagement on Moderator’s Dublin and Munster presbytery tour**

**The Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI), Right Reverend Dr John Kirkpatrick welcomed the opportunity to meet An Ceann Comhairle, Seán Ó Fearghaíl TD, and Minister Heather Humphreys TD, the Minister for Social Protection and Minister for Rural and Community Development, as Dr Kirkpatrick undertook his weeklong tour of PCI’s largest presbytery, the Presbytery of Dublin and Munster.**



As a part of his tour of PCI's presbytery of Dublin & Munster the PCI Moderator welcomed the opportunity to visit the OireachtasN and met with An Ceann Comhairle SO FearghailTD who kindly hosted lunch and Minister H Humphreys

Primarily pastoral in nature, to encourage the church on the ground and to hear of the work of congregations in their local communities, the tour began on Sunday morning February 5 when Dr Kirkpatrick preached in Arklow Presbyterian Church. As the week unfolded he visited St Andrews College, Blackrock, and Howth Road National School, which both have close Presbyterian connections.

Social Care has also featured as the Moderator spent time with staff and residents of Tritonville, a complex of sheltered accommodation for older people in Sandymount, Dublin, run in partnership with PCI's Council for Social Witness. During





Tritonville -a place of community and a space to live independently with good support . Growing older has advantages with provision like this.

the week Dr Kirkpatrick also saw the work of the Peacehaven Trust, a group of three homes in Greystones, County Wicklow, for adults with intellectual disabilities. His last engagement will see him in Maynooth, where he will turn the first sod for the new church building this coming Sunday.

Dr Kirkpatrick was accompanied on his visit to Dáil Éireann by Rev William Hayes, minister of Tullamore Presbyterian and Convener of PCI's Republic of Ireland Panel that assesses aspects of government policy and Oireachtas legislation, along with Karen Jardine, PCI's Public Affairs Officer, and Stuart Ferguson, Clerk of the Presbytery of Dublin and Munster.

“As Presbyterians it has always been important for us to play our part, not only in our local communities, but also in wider civic and public life. In July I was honoured to take part in the National Day of Commemoration and welcomed the opportunity to meet President Michael D. Higgins, along with fellow Church Leaders in November. To be welcomed so graciously to the Dáil by its speaker and to have the opportunity to discuss a range of issues over lunch with Deputy Ó Fearghaíl was a real privilege, and I want to thank him for his kind hospitality,” Dr Kirkpatrick said.

“The meeting was part of a tradition of active civic engagement and our ongoing commitment to engage with elected representatives. It was also therefore a tremendous pleasure to have the opportunity to meet Minister Humphreys, Ireland’s senior elected Presbyterian, who joined us for lunch.”

The Moderator continued, “The call to elected office and to leadership in the public square brings with it many opportunities, but also challenges. As Christians we are called to pray for those in authority and so Minister Humphreys, An Ceann Comhairle and members of the Oireachtas, An Taoiseach and the coalition government can be assured of my prayers and the prayers of many throughout our Church.”

“As I said at the start of my presbytery tour, while I am a northern minister, we are one all-Ireland church serving Christ together and that faithful service has been very evident to me as I have visited the presbytery this week,” he said.

February 14, 2023

Dr Kirkpatrick continued his tour of the Presbytery of Dublin and Munster, which covers all of Munster and Connacht and parts of north and south Leinster. He visited Rev Helen Freeburn, the minister of Galway Presbyterian, and also paid a courtesy call on the city's mayor, Councillor Clodagh Higgins.

## Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



### St Canice's Nature Trail

Kilkenny's patron saint, St Canice was a real nature lover. In this nature trail children will learn about St Canice's amazing animal friends and how they helped him

A fun nature trail where kids discover St Canice's amazing animal friend's and the nature surrounding St Canice' Cathedral

#### This tour includes:

- Learn about St Canice and his animal companions.
- Explore the Saint's nature trail in the Cathedral grounds. (Weather Permitting)
- Investigate the Anatomy of the saints animal friends.
- Make a fun sun-catcher based on the saint's animal friends.

**ST. CANICE'S  
CATHEDRAL**  
AND ROUND TOWER

#### Bookings through Eventbrite

**Cost:** €8 per Child  
**Suitable for 5-10 years**  
**Date:**  
Thursday 16th February  
**Tours last 1 hour**  
**Time:** 10.30-11.30



February 14,2023

find peace. Children will explore the Cathedral grounds watch out for our native birds, see where our bee's live, look for signs of nocturnal animal visitors, spot the Cathedral plants and learn their symbolic meaning. In the Cathedral children will see our incredible new icon and discover the story of how a fox and a badger were so important to our history. Using bones our budding naturalist's can understand the saint's animal friends through anatomy. Children will also make a sun-catcher based on the saint's animal friends to take home.

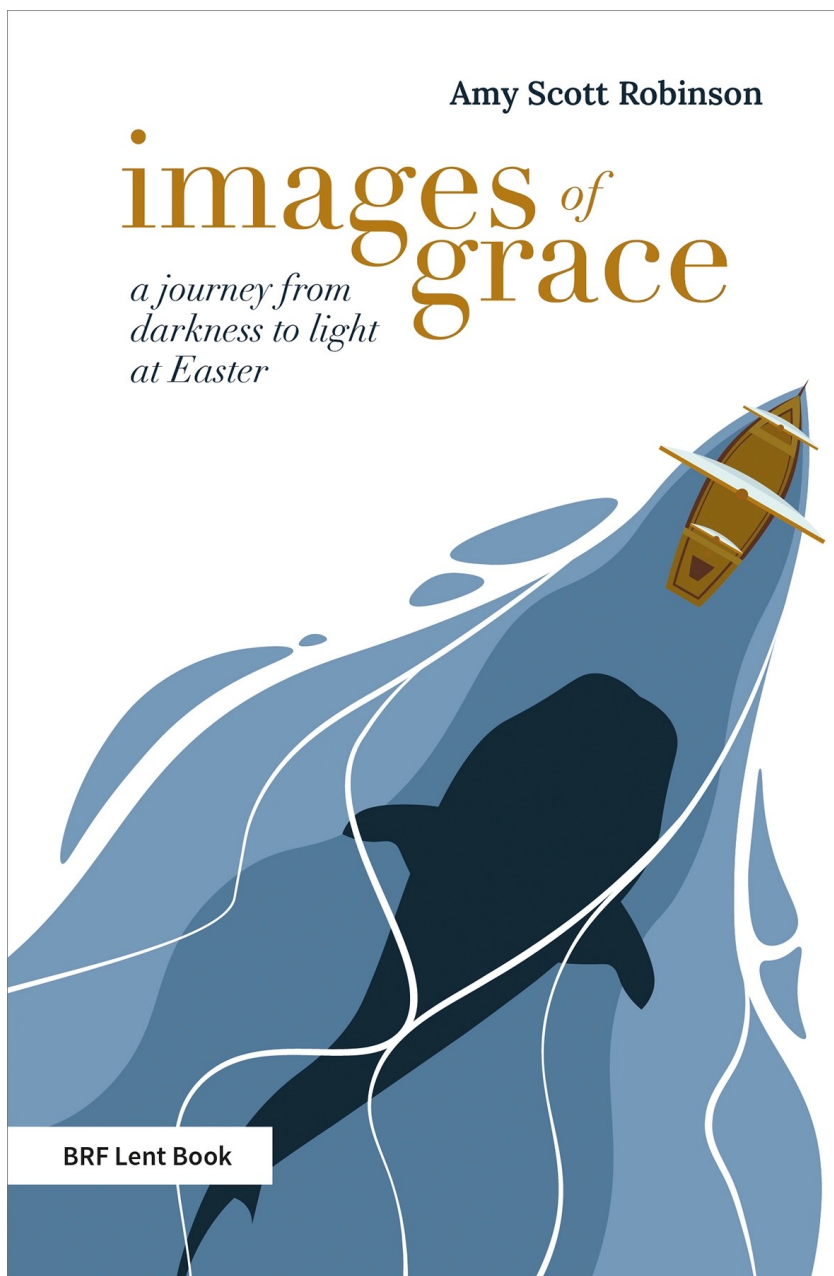
Thursday 16th February at 10.30am, tickets on Eventbrite <https://bit.ly/3JNrYwB>

## **The BRF Lent book for 2023**

**Images of Grace: A journey from darkness to light at Easter by Amy Scott. £9.99**

‘At the heart of the Christian message is a collection of abstract nouns: love; sin; forgiveness; grace. It is quite difficult to explain what the gospel message is without using some or all of those words. But the problem with abstract nouns is that when we use them, we assume that the person we are talking to understands them, and not only that, we assume that they have the same understanding of the word that we do...’

Lent is traditionally a time of repentance, fasting and prayer as we prepare to celebrate our salvation at Easter. Through daily readings and reflections from Ash Wednesday today



Easter Day, Amy Scott Robinson explores different biblical images of repentance, sin, forgiveness and grace, bringing them together in Holy Week as a lens through which to view Christ's work of reconciliation on the cross.

### Endorsements

This book is rich in accessible biblical scholarship and insight. It brings the reader's attention to a variety of passages and it is refreshing to read a Lent Book that encourages the reader to look at a variety of passages from

February 14,2023

across the whole of Christian scripture. The combination of a well-considered reflection, a question and, a suitable prayer for each day make this book the perfect companion for Lent.'

The Rev'd Canon Michael Robinson (no relation!)  
Bishops' Chaplain & Canon Theologian of St Edmundsbury  
Cathedral

'Amy is an expert storyteller, a well of emotion and reflection, and a follower of Jesus with a deep, genuine hunger for the reality of God.'

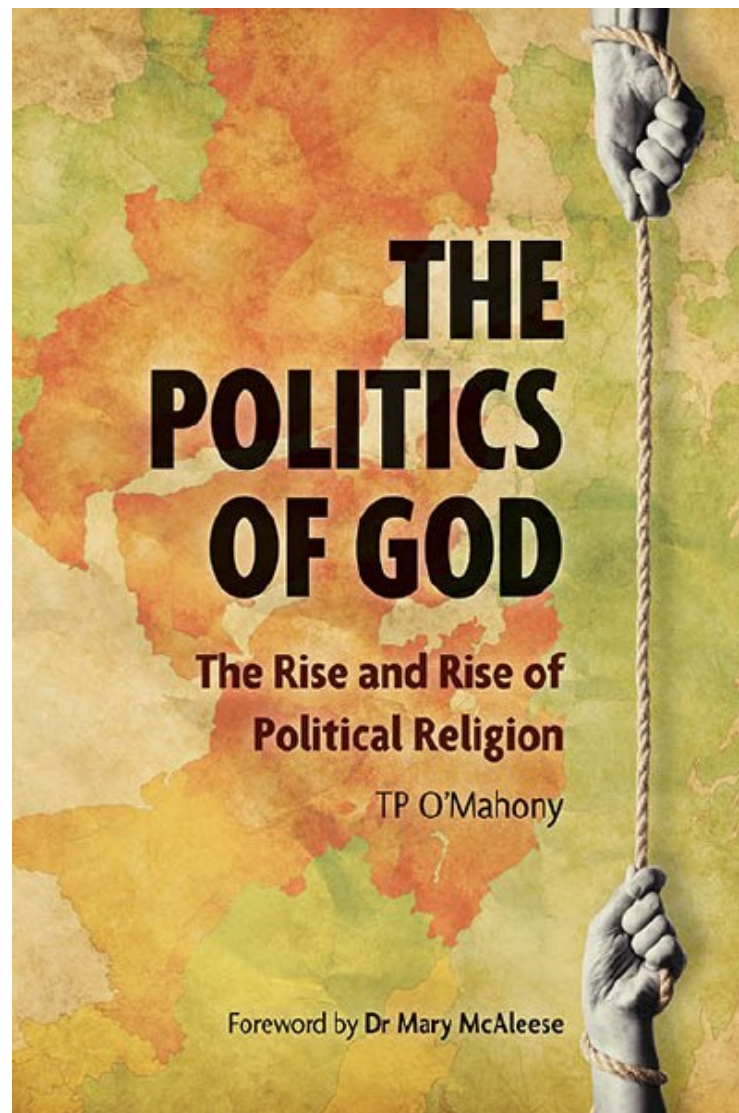
Adrian Plass, author and speaker

## **The Politics of God: The Rise and Rise of Political Religion by TP O'Mahony foreword by Dr Mary McAleese**

About the Book:

In the aftermath of 9/11, which highlighted the dark alliance between religion and violence, there was a new realisation among policymakers around the world of the significance of religion as a factor in global affairs. We are faced with almost daily evidence in newspapers and on radio, television and social media platforms of the capacity of religion to do much good but also to do great harm.

The phrase 'the paradox of religions' has been used to describe this dual effect. The Politics of God: The Rise and Rise of Political Religion examines the rise of political religion and its global impact, particularly in light of the



Russo-Ukrainian War that has caused Europe's largest refugee crisis since WWII.

More so than at any time before in history, it is now recognised that religions, in their beliefs, doctrines and practices, are involved in much that is divisive and harmful. But at the same time they are involved in much that is extremely good.

About the Author:

TP O'Mahony was born in Cork in 1939. From 1967 to 1989 he was religious affairs correspondent with the Irish Press



February 14,2023

and thereafter with the Irish Examiner. As such he covered papal visits to South America, the USA, Switzerland, Ireland and Britain. He has also covered conclaves, synods, assemblies and conferences in Rome, Uppsala and Bogotá.

Published by Veritas

[<https://www.veritasbooksonline.com/the-politics-of-god-the-rise-and-rise-of-politica-9781800970403-48589/>]

## Poem for today

### Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening by Robert Frost

Whose woods these are I think I know.  
His house is in the village though;  
He will not see me stopping here  
To watch his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it queer  
To stop without a farmhouse near  
Between the woods and frozen lake  
The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake  
To ask if there is some mistake.  
The only other sound's the sweep  
Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep,

February 14,2023

But I have promises to keep,  
And miles to go before I sleep,  
And miles to go before I sleep.

## 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](mailto:houstonmckelvey@mac.com)

---